

The View

Madison Presbyterian Church
January 2024

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is now the New Year. Not sure I'm going to take down the Christmas Tree. Maybe it'll just turn into one of those "Holiday Trees" - going from Christmas, to Valentine's Day, to Irish Spring.

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran isn't going to have much to de-deck. Along with other Christian Churches in the Promised Land, they decided they weren't celebrating Christmas this year. As their pastor Munther Isaac said, "Oh Christmas will come. You cannot stop Christmas from coming," but while their hearts are open to the Christ child, they find they simply cannot celebrate with the hatred and war all around them. The only thing they did set up was their nativity, here in a vignette of Christ child born among bombed out buildings. Jesus is still here. Here in this awfulness. Rev Munther says, "Christmas in Palestine. The Child under the rubble. Immanuel God is with us in our pain and suffering. God in solidarity with the oppressed. The child of Bethlehem is our hope. For the children... and all victims of wars."



If we pay attention to our Bible, which I hope we do, we find things aren't all that swell for Jesus immediately following the singing angels and wide-eyed shepherds.

Herod is out for him (*Mt 2:3*). The Magi are WARNED by God that they need to go home by another way if they don't want to end up a head on somebody's platter (*Mt. 2:12*). Then there's Joseph. Poor weary Joseph can't just go home to his house and his shop like he thought he'd do after he paid his taxes. He also is warned in a dream that he must take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt. (*Mt 2:13*)

And so - don't let this be lost on you - The Holy Family crosses the border to save their lives. Not only are they strangers in a strange land, they are Jews crossing out of the Promised Land back into the place where their ancestors once were slaves

because now it's safer to be an outsider. And after that (*Mt. 2:16-18*) is the horrible image of Herod ordering the killing of babies so there'd be no competition for his throne. So the Holy Family stays in the land of Pharaoh until Herod is dead. And because Archelaus, the son of Herod, then rules in his father's stead, they don't go back to Judea, but to the region of Galilee, and the town of Nazareth.

As "People of the Book", we pray for peace. We don't want to choose which family member we'd save out of a burning building. We know our Jewish brothers and sisters have suffered horribly. Horribly in the past, and now, with another wave of anti-semitic threat and violence, suffering again with the fear that the very thing everyone swore would never happen again, seems to be happening again.

We know innocent Palestinians have been through the unimaginable as well. Our Muslim brothers and sisters who have lived in peace and participation with Jews and Christians find themselves at the border of Egypt with no other place to go. No place to go but Pharaoh's land to escape the bloodshed of their babies and the devastation of their homes.

This is what Jesus was born into, and this is what Jesus was born for. To save us from ourselves, really. To save us from the evil, sinful human who regards other humanity as less than, especially when we are the human doing the regarding. To save us from the sin of family fights that turn into lives lost. To save us from the sin that puts anyone in a place of vulnerability to death because of their age, race, gender, nationality, language, religion or orneriness.

I have nothing good to say about terrorist organizations, wherever they pop up, Kentucky or Gaza or the Moon. I understand protecting one's family from such people. I also know nothing I say here is going to change one terrorist's mind.

So I say to you, little flock, who are charged with "metanoia" (Greek for changing one's mind; often translated in English as "repenting") the Savior whose birth we celebrate was born for this. For love in the unloveliest of times to the unloveliest of people. A love that carries us past death and into the eternal light of Life and Love. And he told us, to coin a phrase, that "love is all there is."

So may we remember through all the seasons, that we were born and born again for this: Love. Despite Everything.

Blessings,

Pastor Karen

Pastor Karen Contact Information



My cell is 540-414-3193 Saturday through Thursday 9am-7pm.

My Sabbath is Friday. Emergencies only on Fridays, please.



EMERGENCIES call any time. PLEASE call or text directly if you or your loved one goes to the hospital, as soon as possible. Do not assume I know.



Office hours M, W, Th from 9 to Noon AND when you want to see me.

I am HAPPY to make afternoon, evening, or weekend appointments.

My time will flex to accommodate you.

If you want to drop by to see me instead of making an appointment, I will always be glad to see you. Just know you may have to wait if someone else has scheduled



Heidi Piper, Church Administrator

I am in the office 8:00am - 1:00pm Monday through Thursday. Please leave me a message on the phone or send an email if there's anything I can help with. If you have changes to your Address, Phone, or Email please send updated information to office@madisonpresbyterian.com.



*2024 Flower Calendars
are posted in the Narthex.
Send flower dedications for the
bulletin to
office@madisonpresbyterian.com
or call the office at (540)948-6972.*



Madison Presbyterian Church

PIN: 22871 Presbytery: James ([150298](#)) Synod: Mid-Atlantic ([150](#))

Christmas Thank Yous!

To the Decorating Team: Mary King, Elizabeth Anne Storey, Bobbie Carroll, Audrey Sarate, Malcolm Davis, Heidi Sage, Bon Beatty, Mary Haught, Jill Quinley, Jane Lamar, and Nick and Joyce Humphrey.

To the St. Nick Workshop Elves: Kim Barnes, her daughter and granddaughter; Bobbie Carroll, Mary McLearn, Sharon Carter, Jane Lamar, Mary and Frank King.

To the Choir for the Cantata: Elizabeth Anne Storey, Director, Andrew Johnson, accompanist; Dianna Allen, Jeanne Bruton, George Carroll, Dana Edelman, Joyce Humphrey, Nick Humphrey, Mary King, Art Pearson, Audrey Sarate, Berta Storey, Sam Strahan; and the readers: Eli Johnson, Frank King, Jane Lamar, Morgan McKinney, Owen McLearn, Ruth Miles, Heidi Sage, and Tim Woodward.

The Children's Choir: Jane Lamar, Director, Andrew Johnson, accompanist; Owen McClearn, drum soloist; Logan Lamar, Abigail McLearn, Jack McLearn, Charlotte Woodward, and Hazel Woodward.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for your lovely expressions of sympathy following the death of my father, Richard Henn.

You are a great comfort to me, and I appreciate your compassion.

Many Blessings, Pastor Karen

St. Nicholas Workshop - December 9, 2023



A Fun time was had by all!

Christmas Cantata



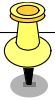
Welcome New Members!

On December 10th we welcomed new members Holly and Tom Thomas and Yvonne "Bon" Beatty.

Holly, Tom, and Bon, with joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to this family of faith. May we be a blessing together in the ministry of Christ. Amen!



Pictured: Tom & Holly Thomas, Bon Beatty, and Jean Pearson, Clerk of Session



Save the Date!

Elders and team leaders, please submit your annual report to Heidi in the office by **Friday, January 19.**

The Annual Meeting and pot luck will be held immediately following the worship service on **Sunday, January 28.**



Attention Women of the Church!



Join the Presbyterian Women for the 2023-2024 bible study, which meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. The bible study this year is titled Sacred Encounters - The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts. The study books are on the table outside the church office in the Fellowship Hall. Please pick up your book and either check your name off of the list or add your name to the list. This lets us know who to contact in case of any day or time changes. All are welcome, whether or not you have participated before!! Any questions contact Sharon Weakley.

Thank you!!

Earth Care Pledge

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

1. Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.
2. In **education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.
3. Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.
4. Our **outreach** will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.



Counters January 2023 - March 2024

January	February	March
Elizabeth Anne Storey	Sue Strahan	Heidi Sage
Nancy Preston	Sam Strahan	Allan McLearen

The Card Group makes greeting cards for nursing home residents and church members that are home bound, and for other occasions. They meet Fridays, January 5, 12, & 26 in the Fellowship Hall at 10am. All are welcome to join!

The Brown Bag Book Study will be starting back after the new year. The group meets the 1st (1/3) and 3rd (1/17) Wednesdays at 11AM. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Carroll at 540-948-9922.

Choir Practice meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Choir Room.

Breakfast Buzz will be meeting on the third Friday, January 19th.

Presbyterian Women meet the 2nd Wednesday each month at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

Lenten Study will begin in February.
Bible Study will resume after Easter.

January Communion Servers and Pew Guides

Berta Storey	Dana Edelman
Mike Willis	Allan McLearen
Heidi Sage	



On Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month, **the outside ring is Wine, the inside is Juice.**

January Liturgists and Greeters

January 7	Matt McLearen	Linda Sadler
January 14	Mary Ann Hankla	Heidi Sage
January 21	Audrey Sarate	Mary Ann Hankla
January 28	Jill Quinley	Tim Woodward & Family



Social Services Needs for Families for January



Needs of the Month:

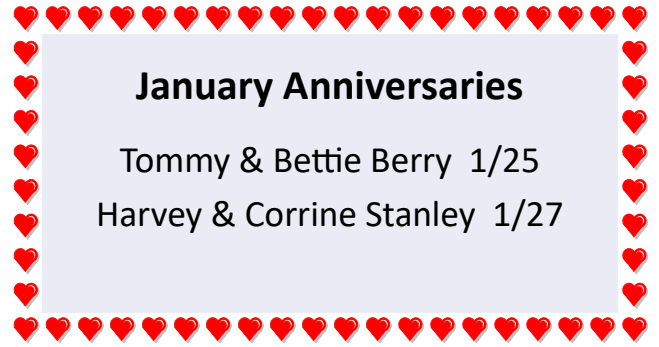
Single serving size canned vegetables, fruits, meats, or soups with pop-up lids, packs of pudding or Jell-o cups, crackers, small jars of peanut butter & jelly, or packs of raisins.

Please place your donations in the red container in the Fellowship Hall.
Items will be taken to Madison Social Services to help neighbors in need.



January Birthdays

- Darren McKinney 01/02
- Morgan McKinney 01/03
- Beth Kloker 01/05
- Kaleb Dooley 1/15
- Jan McKinney 01/23
- Elizabeth Haines 01/28
- Alexandra Spencer-Lowell 01/29
- Judith Carter 01/31



January Anniversaries

- Tommy & Bettie Berry 1/25
- Harvey & Corrine Stanley 1/27

6 Simple New Year's Resolutions



- ◇ Recycle and Upcycle
- ◇ Use a reusable water bottle
- ◇ Turn off lights and devices when not in use
- ◇ Reduce Winter thermostat setting
- ◇ Shop local and bring your own bag
- ◇ Adjust water heater to 120*



Breakfast Buzzzzzzzzzz

Join the Christian Education team for a pot luck Breakfast and Fellowship on Friday, January 19 at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall, as they welcome discussion on the year to come!



If you have any questions, please contact Frank King.

Here's an EPA link with resources on donating and upcycling old batteries and cellphones

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/electronics-donation-and-recycling#where>

Where to Donate or Recycle

Manufacturers and retailers offer several options to donate or recycle electronics. You can search for options on the following organizations' websites:

[Call2Recycle](#)

[Earth911](#)

[GreenerGadgets](#)



Madison Presbyterian Church
 PO Box 297, 1236 Fishback Road
 Madison, VA 22727
 540.948.6972
www.madisonpresbyterian.com

Pastor: Karen Allamon Church

pastorkaren@madisonpresbyterian.com

Administrator: Heidi Piper


office@madisonpresbyterian.com

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:00 – 1:00



JANUARY 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>December 31, 2023</i>	1 Office Closed	2	3 Book Club 11am Choir 7pm	4	5 State Garden Club 9am	6
<i>Happy New Year</i> 2024						
Communion 7 Worship 10am AA 5:30pm	8 Quilt Guild 6:30pm	9 Session 6:30pm	10 Pres Women 10am Choir 7pm	11	12 Card Group 10am	13
14 Worship 10am AA 5:30pm	MLK Jr Day 15 	16	17 Book Club 11am Choir 7pm Woman's Club 7pm	18 Garden Club 11am	19 Breakfast Buzz 9am	20
21 Worship 10am AA 5:30pm	22 Quilt Guild 6:30pm	23	24 Choir 7pm	25	26 Card Group 10am	27
28 Worship 10am Annual Meeting & Pot Luck 11:30am AA 5:30pm	29	30	31 Choir 7pm	February 1	2 Card Group 10am	3

Epiphany of the Lord—January 7: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14; Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12

Sunday, January 14: 1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20); Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; John 1:43–51;

Sunday, January 21: Jonah 3:1–5, 10; Psalm 62:5–12; 1 Corinthians 7:29–31; Mark 1:14–20;

Sunday, January 28: Deuteronomy 18:15–20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1–13; Mark 1:21–28