



The Profile

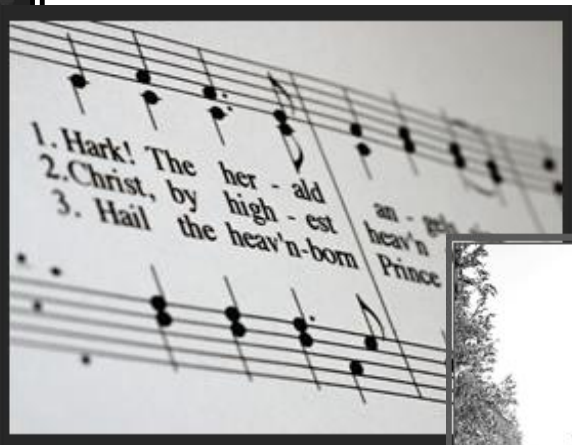
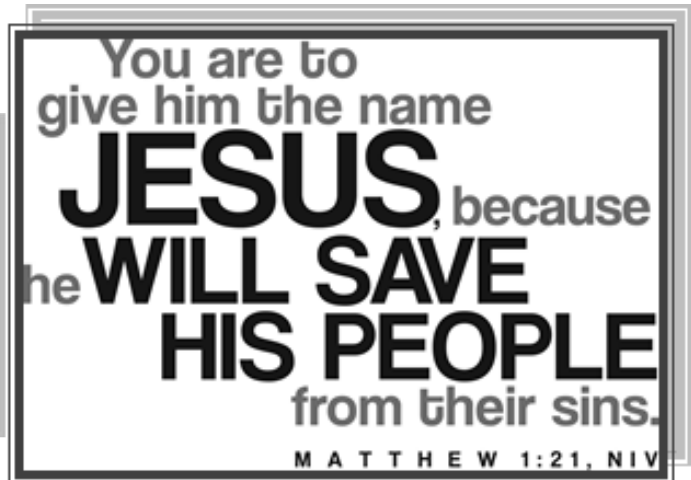
December
2019

Pastor: Rev. Rodger Allen
Music Director: Susan Farris
Administrative Assistant: Jeanette Levellie
Custodian: Cheryl Clark
Email: office@parispresbyterian.org

Scripture tells us much about preparing ourselves for and then receiving the Christ Child, fresh and new each year.

May the joy of Christ be with you throughout the Advent/Christmas Season!

-- Revs. Laurie and Rodger





SANCTUARY CHOIR NEWS

We are now in the season of Advent, and each Sunday we will be lighting one or more candles of our Advent wreath. There will always be an insert in the bulletin so the congregation can participate as well. Please do so, and join in the anticipation of the arrival once again of the Christ child, our Savior.

Surely your calendars are now marked for the Community Advent Service, to be held in our sanctuary on December 8 at 3 p.m. We have approximately 40 in the choir this year, representing ten area churches. There will also be bell choirs, a brass ensemble, organ, and flute. This is the 42nd year for this unique service – amazing! Please come.

No specific plans have been made yet for caroling to our shut-ins, but most likely it will occur on Sunday, Dec. 22.

As always, we look forward to the quiet beauty and joy of our 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service. That service provides the perfect amount of stillness and peace to allow the entrance of the baby Jesus into our lives and our world once more. May it be so for each of you.

---Susan



FOR YOU DURING ADVENT

The season of Advent, when we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus, runs from December 1 to December 24 this year. We have a variety of Advent daily devotional booklets displayed on the table in the hallway, and invite you to take your pick! We also have daily open-a-window Advent calendars for the children. Or here is another option: Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is offering a daily online devotional. You can find it at: www.pts.edu.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Please remember, as you send your Christmas cards this year, members and friends of the Paris Presbyterian Church who are at least temporarily unable to join us for worship.

Margie Taflinger
Paris Healthcare Center
1011 N. Main St, Room 300
Paris, IL 61944

Betty Dahlin
Life's Journey Sr. Living
705 Kenton St., Paris, IL 61944

Alice Sprague
305 S. Jefferson, Paris, IL 61944

Ilse Smilie
2 Crawford Ct. , Paris, IL 61944

MANY ADVENT EVENTS TO GET YOU IN THE SPRIT OF THE SEASON

DECEMBER 8 AT 3 P.M.

You will surely enjoy the beautiful concert being presented by the Community Advent Choir, in a worship setting. Several of our choir members are involved. Bell choirs and a brass ensemble will also be featured. What a great way to continue preparing during this Advent season! JOIN US for this special service here at our church.

Once again we will have our church doors and a Christmas message of hope at the: **HOLIDAY IN THE PARK** (Twin Lakes Park) yearly light festival. Don't miss out on warming your heart for the holidays. Each year more and more lights are added.

DECEMBER 15 AT 2 P.M.



The Sonshine Puppeteers are working on their annual Christmas

musical to be presented December 15 at 2 p.m. in the assembly room.

This year's musical is entitled "Waiting for Christmas: Celebrating the Heart of the Season." It is comprised of two puppets whose characters serve as the story's narrators and the choir members who, along with the audience, are waiting for Christmas to arrive. The music is catchy, the characters are appealing, many of the songs are familiar, and the theme and tone of the play are superb. As usual, light refreshments will be served following the presentation.

All of these are reasons that you should mark your calendars now to attend.

Please come to support your puppet teams—and invite some friends. The team has worked so hard! Also, the production is in the afternoon, so you don't even have to get out after dark! You will be rewarded by a wonderful performance, and your puppet team members will be delighted that you are there!

DECEMBER 22 AT 9:00 A.M

All-Church Christmas Party is FUN! FUN! FUN! with our own talent joyfully entertaining us to begin a fantastic Christmas week. If you would like to play an instrument, tell a story, or sing a song, please let music director Susan Farris know.

DECEMBER 24 AT

11 P.M.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service is so meaningful. It features wonderful special music and the telling of the Christmas Story



through a series of lessons read from the Bible, as well as a candle lighting ceremony sung to "Silent Night." What a way to bring in Christmas day as we finish at midnight (An offering plate will be available, with all gifts going to the Paris Ministerial Fellowship Assistance Fund). If you are willing to take a reading, please tell Rev. Rodger. All ages are welcome to read.



**“GOOD
NEWS
OF
GREAT
JOY”**

2019 Christmas Joy Offering

It has been the Presbyterian tradition to give a special offering during the Advent season for over 70 years. This offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the PC (USA) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. Those who are helped by the offering:

1) Retired pastors and church workers and surviving spouses through the Board of Pensions receive 50% of this offering. The Board recognizes that some church workers don't make enough to save adequately for retirement. By offering them income supplements, they can live modestly and independently.

2) The PC (USA) has long promoted education through establishing and supporting racial/ethnic colleges and schools. They receive the other 50% of this offering. The Christmas Joy Offering provides much needed scholarships to racial/ethnic colleges including schools like Cook College and Theological School in Tempe, AZ and Knoxville College in Knoxville, TN.

You can give by using the envelopes provided in the Sunday bulletins December 15 and 22, or the envelopes on the big table in the hallway, or by marking any envelope “Christmas Joy Offering.” Please make out your check to Paris Presbyterian Church, and write “Joy Offering” on the memo line.

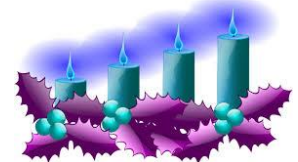
THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

December brings two of the most well-known and treasured seasons of the Christian worship year:

ADVENT begins on December 1 and runs until December 24. In this season before Christmas, we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ anew into our lives.

Favorite Scripture texts include Isaiah 7:14: “Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, God is with us;” and John the Baptist’s words in Luke 3: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.”

We remind ourselves that “getting ready for Christmas” doesn’t mean only shopping, wrapping, decorating, baking and sending cards; but also examining our hearts and lives to make sure we are prepared to greet the Lord when he arrives. In worship the main feature of this season is the lighting of an Advent Wreath.



CHRISTMAS is also a season, not just a day, in the worship calendar, running from December 25 until January 6.

Now we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and the beginning of God’s saving activity in Jesus of Nazareth.

The Bible stories we concentrate on are Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:1-12, and John 1:14: “The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” Or as one of the favorite carols puts it, “Christ was born to save!”





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS – 2019
Deacons Fundraiser

_____ I/We will give \$ _____ to the Deacon’s Fund with the understanding that the poinsettia will be delivered to a special person.

_____ I/We will give \$ _____ to the Deacon’s Fund and would like to take a poinsettia to a special person following the Christmas service.

The poinsettias cost \$20.00 each; any gift above that goes to the work of the Deacons.

Please note: the deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 15th.

If your gift is a memorial or in honor of a loved one, please list the person(s) below for inclusion in the Christmas bulletin.

Memorial/In Honor:

Signed:

Thanks for your participation!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 Charles Ruff
- 2 Ryan Clawson
- 3 Jane Asher
- 4 Debbie Bengtzel
- 5 Serena (Hoff) Rush
Jillian Hebermehl
- 14 Caitlin Blair
Zane Blair
- 17 Isaac McVicker
- 18 Melany Kimball Waggoner
Christie Russell
- 21 Morgan Jipp
- 22 Jane Blair
Brad Boland
Kathryn Franklin
- 24 Ken Gough
- 26 Carol Colliger
- 27 Kathy Smilie
Fred Kreckman
- 29 Michael Hebermehl



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- 15 John & Vicki Meger
- 24 Alvin & Juanita Kimball
- 27 Robert & Jani Howrey



CHURCH FAMILY OF THE WEEK

Our "Church Family of the Week" program gives us a chance to lift up a different family

(group or individual) of our congregation each week, include them in our daily prayer for our families and friends, and to send cards or greetings or in some other way to let them know we are glad they are part of our church family. The "Church Family of the Week" is listed in our Sunday bulletins. If you missed one or more of those recent announcements, I'll bet those families wouldn't mind if you prayed for them this week. Those recently listed are:

*Betty Dahlin
Life's Journey Senior Living
705 Kenton St., Paris*

*Ilse Smilie
2 Crawford Ct., Paris*

EXPLORING OUR FAITH

The four Gospel accounts of Jesus' life (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) each present the coming of Jesus in a different way. The Monday evening "Exploring Our Faith" discussion group will be looking at those descriptions in its meetings leading up to Christmas, using the study "Christmas Accounts in the Gospels." The group meets from 5:15 to 6:30 (and some of us go out to dinner together after). Our December get-togethers are scheduled for December 2 and 9.

THANK YOU'S

"Presbyterian Church,

Thanks for your generous contributions to the Paris Lions Club, your local arm of a worldwide organization. Businesses like yours have helped us continue a 57-year tradition of service to our community. We are proud to say nearly all our administrative costs are funded through member dues so your donations can go where needed most:

- ♥ Vision, cancer, and diabetes research to meet our goal of better treatments and possible cures
- ♥ Humanitarian services often not covered by governmental agencies
- ♥ Vision and hearing assistance through free screenings, free eyeglasses, free hearing aids, and other tools
- ♥ Youth programs involving literacy, health, service, camp and holiday experiences, and safety programs
- ♥ Other programs including hunger relief, environmental efforts, disaster relief, and more."



Please see the bulletin board for thank you cards from two of our college students, for church scholarships. They include: "Thank you for the scholarship. It is greatly appreciated. Brittany Scott." "Special thanks to all of you. Love and miss my church family. Morgan Jipp."



Every December the Salvation Army encourages a variety of individuals and organizations to “ring the bell” by collection buckets; all the money goes to help people in need here in the Paris area. Our church’s turn this year is Saturday, December 21 from 9:00 to 5:00, inside the doors of Rural King. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway. We have divided the afternoon into one hour shifts; please consider signing up for one.



Our next issue of “The Profile” will cover both January and February. If you have events or information you’d like included, please contact the church office by Thursday, December 26.

No More New Year’s Resolutions

By Jeanette Levellie



I never make New Year’s resolutions. I’m too hard on myself when I break them--which I always do. This leads to guilt—a waste of time. So I set goals instead, and post them on my bedroom wall, where I see them every day.

My goals have changed over the years.

It was once important to me to look younger than I am, and be known as a classy lady. Now I just try to hide the gray hairs, and treat people with kindness. I figure they may not notice my age or the label on my purse, but they’ll remember if I make them feel special and important. Which they are. Everyone is.

I can’t name the date and time this radical change took place. I recall no dramatic moment in time when I heard God speak in thunderous tones: “You are focusing on the shallow. I hereby change your heart, so you are more interested in character than image.”

But a gradual shifting of my priorities happened when I began to notice how few people are genuinely happy and fulfilled. The ones who have a spring in their step and a light in their eyes, are happy with themselves. They maintain a sweet, abiding relationship with Jesus. They are not as affected by their circumstances or the negativity all around them as they are their faith in the living God.

I don’t notice how that kind of people look; I just feel good when I’m around them. And I want to make other people feel that sense of goodness when they share the same spot in the universe with me. So I decided to focus on my attitudes instead of my looks, on how I treat others instead of worry what they think of me.

Not that I won’t be still working on getting rid of wrinkles and grey hairs when I’m a hundred and two. But hopefully I’ll be so sweet by then no one will notice.