



The Announcer

January 2017

Florence Hollinger, Co-Editor

Cynthia Oberholtzer, Co-Editor

Rev. Carlotta Madison, Pastor

Our Vision is to be the church that displays the love of Christ and connects with people of all walks of life through our ministry, creative services, discipleship and outreach.

Our Mission is to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and share God's love with others.

In This Issue

Our Mission – Our Vision.....	1	A New Project	4
Lectionary.....	2	Central District Information	4
Liturgists & Readers	2	The Creation	5
Fellowship Hour.....	2	James Weldon Johnson	8
Birthdays	3	The Meaning of the Snowman.....	8
Women's Group Christmas Project.....	3	Salvation Army Food Collection.....	9
Bible Study	3	Tab Collection	9
Committee Meetings.....	3	Forteniters Toiletries Collection	9
Thank You.....	3	Calendar	10
Women's Group Meeting.....	4		

*The New Year lies before you like a spotless track of snow;
be careful how you tread on it for every mark will show.*

Anonymous

Lectionary Readings

January 01, 2017 [White]

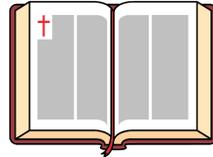
Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795)

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12



January 15, 2017 [Green]

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11 (UMH 774)

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

January 07, 2017 [White]

1st Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29 (UMH 761)

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

January 22, 2017 [Green]

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (UMH 758)

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

January 29, 2017 [Green]

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15 (UMH 747)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

January 2017 Liturgists & Scripture Readers

(Tentative Schedule)

January 01, 2017

Anne Taylor & Ed Schulz

January 08, 2017

Dennis McCoy & Eileen McCoy

January 15, 2017

Bill Gildea & Tedd Didden

January 22, 2017

Beth Sheridan & Jaye Eliasson

January 29, 2017

John Keenan & Linda Keenan



**Fellowship
Hour**

January 1, 2017

February 5, 2017

March 5, 2017

April 2, 2017

Finance

Staff

Chancel Choir

Church Council

Fellowship Hour is the first Sunday of each month. Please arrive before worship to set up, provide simple snacks and clean up after fellowship time.

January Birthdays



01	Jonathan Beerer
02	Bernard Linarello
09	John Keenan
11	Margaret Beerer
24	Nicholas Kniezewski
24	Zachary Kniezewski
26	Jason Schulz
27	Barbara Printz

Women's Group Christmas Project

Thanks to everyone who donated new pajamas and toys for the Salvation Army for Christmas distribution. A special thanks to Ginny Williamson who delivered everything to the Salvation Army.

Bible Study

We have recently started a new study of the historical inquiry of **How Jesus Became God**. In the series of 24 video lectures, Professor Bert D. Ehrman will be explaining the process by which the divinity of Jesus was first conceived by his followers, demonstrating how this conception was refined over time to become the core of the Christian theology that has shaped our civilization.

Professor Ehrman is the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He completed his undergraduate work at Wheaton College and earned his M.Div and Ph.D from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Our study leader, Bill Gildea explains and elaborates on each lesson.

We meet every Sunday morning at 8:30 AM in the Annex. Please join us!

Committee Meetings

The Trustees meet the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Annex. Church Council meets the third Monday at 2:00 PM in the Annex. If you have any concerns, this is the place to state them. Both committee meetings are open to the congregation, although voting privileges are limited to committee members. If there is a change in either schedule an announcement is usually made in church the preceding Sunday.

Thank You

A huge thanks to everyone who helped decorate our sanctuary for the Advent season and Christmas. Again many hands made light work. In a small amount of time, our sanctuary was transformed. Special thanks to Beth Sheridan for organizing the purchasing and the arranging of the poinsettias. Our church looked wonderful.

Ginny Williamson

Women's Group Meeting

The Women's Group will meet at 12:30 pm on January 04, 2017 in the annex.

The group meets the first Wednesday of every month at 12:30. No books, no dues, no particular format.

You bring your own "brown bag lunch." Coffee, tea and water are provided.

This is a Christian fellowship gathering that takes us wherever the conversation leads.

Sometimes there is a selected topic and sometimes there is a lot of general discussion.

All women, all ages are welcome.

Can't attend every month? That's okay. Join us whenever you can.

A New Project?

It's been a long time since we published our last cookbook. The culinary skills of the Asbury congregation are remarkable, as we have all enjoyed during our Fellowship Hours.

Will you share the recipes for these treats and create new pages for our cookbook?

There are still some copies of the cookbook available for anyone who does not have a copy.

We will "publish" the insert ourselves.

Any favorite recipe, not already in the book, would be a great addition.

I am looking for your ideas.

Marilynn Ziegler

Central District Information

January 8-14, 2017 EPAUMC Week of Prayer

The Eastern PA Conference will help lead off a more than yearlong United Methodist prayer vigil in 2017 by being the second conference to gather daily, even hourly in many places for a full week of prayer together. Our urgent cause for prayer could be the very future of the denomination.

January 8-14, 2017, is Eastern PA's week to participate in the Council of Bishops' **Praying Our Way Forward** Initiative. We are asked to pray for "the church's effectiveness in fulfilling our mission of making disciples and for the outcome of the work of the Commission on a Way Forward."

Below is a prayer guide for you to use during this week. This is only a guide and you are encouraged to pray according to what the Holy Spirit lays on your heart.

In addition, there will be a Concert of Prayer (a concert of prayer involves a variety of elements, including Scripture readings, songs, testimonies, poetry and prayer) at Lima UMC, 209 N. Middletown Road, Lima, PA 19037 on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 PM for an opportunity for the Eastern PA conference to come together to pray for this Commission.

Sunday, January 8

"...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 1 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

As we begin a week of prayer let us humble ourselves before God and ask Him to forgive us for the ways we have not been a church pleasing to Him. We will only survive as a denomination when the people accept a spirit of humility and prayer to permeate the ministry of the church.

Prayer: God forgive us where we have not been a church that has shown Your love and mercy to those in our churches and in our communities around us. Help us to humble ourselves before you and seek Your

direction, wisdom and knowledge to navigate the difficult waters that are ahead of us. May we be a people who is obedient to You and You alone.

Monday, January 9

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3

It is only by being in unity with the Spirit of God, listening to the Spirit’s voice, centered on God, that we will be united in our decisions. Then our decisions will come with a sense of peace that will bring us together in unity.

Prayer: Lord God, we come to you desiring unity and peace. We ask that you would speak to our hearts and those involved in the Commission so that unity will prevail and not division. May we all come forward with a sense of peace that the right decisions will be made for our denomination.

Tuesday, January 10

“And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them” Psalm 78:72

The United Methodist Church is led by Bishops. May our Bishops be like David and shepherd us with integrity of heart and skillful hands. May their wisdom come from above and may they be obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Lord, we lift our Bishops up to you. May you invade their hearts in such a way that they can only desire to serve you with integrity and with the wisdom and knowledge they hear from You. Help them to be skillful leaders and obedient to what you place on their hearts for this denomination. Speak to them clearly, Lord.

We especially lift up the Bishops who will be serving on the Commission on a Way Forward. Help them to hear clearly from You what You desire for the denomination. (Pray for them individually):

Bishop Ciriaco Francisco (Phillippines) Bishop

Grant Hagiya (USA CA)

Bishop Eben Nhiwatiwa (Africa Zimbabwe)

Bishop Gregory Palmer (USA OH)

Bishop Robert Schnase (USA TX) Bishop Debra

Wallace-Padgett (USA AL)

Bishop Rosemarie Wenner (Germany) Bishop

John Wesley Yohanna (Africa Nigeria)

Wednesday, January 11

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3)

God has called men and women into a life of serving through ordination. God has appointed them to serve in the church and outside in the world as leaders but has also called them to live a life worthy of the calling. May they be always open to God’s leading and direction and be prayerfully asking for God to speak to them so that they may respond in obedience.

Prayer: Lord we thank you for the calling into ordination that you have placed on men and women. We pray, that for as long as they serve You, that they will continue to grow deeper in their relationship with You. May they be open to Your voice and guidance and may you provide them with the gifts that they need to lead Your people.

We especially lift up those clergy who will be serving on the Commission on A Way Forward. Help them to hear clearly from You what You desire for the denomination. (Pray for them individually)

Rev. Jorge Acevedo (USA FL) Rev. Brian Adkins
(USA CA)

Rev Tom Berlin (USA VA) Rev. Helen Cunanan
(Phillippines)

Rev. Jessica LaGrone (USA KY) Rev. Thomas
Lambrecht (USA TX)

Rev. Julie Hager Love (USA KY) Rev. Mande
Guy Muyombo (Africa DRC)

Rev. Casey Langley Orr (USA TX) Rev. Donna
Pritchard (USA OR)

Rev. Tom Salsgiver (USA PA) Rev. Jasmine
Ross Smothers (USA GA) Rev. Alfiado S.
Zunguza (Africa Mozambique)

Thursday, January 12

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain

conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:1-4)

God has called all of us to live a life of humility, tenderness and compassion towards others. He does not want us to follow our own ambitions but to be obedient to Him alone. May we all look to God for the help we need to live such a life.

Prayer: God thank you for who You are and all that you mean to us. Help us to be obedient to Your Word and Your calling on our lives to live in humility and considering others before ourselves. In a world where this is hard to do, help us in this area of our life to be more Christ-like toward others.

We especially lift up those laity who will be serving on the Commission on A Way Forward. Help them to hear clearly from You what You desire for the denomination. (Pray for them individually)

Jacques Umembudi Akasa (Africa DRC) Matt Berryman (USA IL)

Mazvita Machinga (Africa Zimbabwe) Patricia Miller (US IN)

David Field (Switzerland) Aka Dago-Akrib

Dave Nuckols (USA MN) Leah Taylor (USA TX)

Hortense (Africa Cote d'Ivoire)

Alice Williams (USA FL)

Scott Johnson (USA NY) Myungrae Kim Lee (USA NY)

Friday, January 13

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

Our one desire should be to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and that all that we do will bring glory to Him. May the Commission be strong followers and lovers of Jesus as they discern what is the best way forward for our denomination.

Prayer: Lord, may we please be a people who desire to grow in all ways closer to You and to be desiring Your presence and plan for our lives. May all who are serving on the Commission on a Way Forward desire Your grace and knowledge as they discern and listen to You in discussions and making decisions. May all be open to Your voice and to listening intently to You in all the meetings that will take place.

Saturday, January 14

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.” (John 15:16)

God has chosen us all to bear fruit. May that be our desire. May we be a witness of good fruit to the world as decisions are made on behalf of our denomination.

Prayer: Lord God may we show the world that we are here to bear fruit, fruit that will last. May the decisions that are made align with Your Word and Your desire for us to bear fruit to a hurting world. May we solve our differences with grace and love and show the world that we can come together in peace. May we truly be a witness of love no matter what decisions are made. Help us to move from a place of disharmony to a place of unity and love. May Your Spirit be present in all of the meetings that take place and may that presence be a witness of Your love and grace to us.

“The Creation --- A Sermon”

And God stepped out on space,
And He looked around and said,
“I’m lonely...I’ll make me a world.”

And for as far as the eye of God could see,
Darkness covered everything.
Bleaker than a hundred midnights
Down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled.

And the light broke.
And then darkness rolled up on one side
And the light stood shining on the other.
And God said, “That’s good.”

Then God reached out and took the light in His hands,
And God rolled the light around in His hands
Until it made the sun.
And He set that sun a-blazing in the heavens.

And the light that was left from making the sun
God gathered it up in a shining ball,
And flung it against the darkness
Spangling the night with the moon and stars,
Then down between
The darkness and light
He hurled the world.
And God said, "That's good."

Then God himself stepped down...
And the sun was on His right hand,
And the moon was on His left,
The stars were clusters about His head,
And the earth was under His feet.

And God walked, and where He trod
His footsteps hollowed the valleys out
And bulged the mountains up.

Then He stopped and looked and saw
That the earth was hot and barren.
So God stepped over to the edge of the world
And He spat out the seven seas..
He batted His eyes, and the lightning flashed;
He clapped His hands, and the thunder rolled,
And the waters above the earth came down.
The cooling waters came down.

Then the green grass sprouted,
And the little red flowers blossomed,
The pine tree pointed his finger to the sky,
And the oak spread out his arms.

The lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the
ground,
And the rivers ran down to the sea,
And God smiled again,
And the rainbow appeared,
And curled itself around His shoulder.

Then God raised His arm and He waved His hand
Over the sea and over the land,
And He said, "Bring forth! Bring forth."
And quicker than God could drop His hand

Fishes and fowls
And beasts and birds
Swam the rivers and the seas,
Roamed the forests and the woods,
And split the air with their wings.
And God said, "That's good."

Then God walked around,
And God looked around
On all that He had made.
He looked at His sun,
And he looked at His moon,
And He looked at His little stars.
He looked on His world
With all its living things,
And God said, "I'm lonely still."

Then God sat down
On the side of a hill where He could think;
By a deep, wide river He sat down
With His head in His hands,
God thought and thought,
Till He thought "I'll make me a man"

Up from the bed of the river
God scooped the clay
And by the bank of the river
He kneeled Him down.
And then the great God Almighty
Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,
Who flung the stars to the most far corners of the
night.

Who rounded the earth in the middle of His hand,
Like a mammy bending over her baby,
Kneeled down in the dust
Toiling over a lump of clay
Till He shaped it in His own image.

Then into it He blew the breath of life,
And man became a living soul.
Amen.

James Weldon Johnson

James Weldon Johnson



James Weldon Johnson was born in Jacksonville, Florida on June 17th 1871. His mother, Helen Louise Dillet Johnson was a native of Nassau, Bahamas. She was a teacher and musician. His father, James was also educated and held the position of headwaiter at an exclusive Jacksonville hotel.

James and his brother, John Rosamond, who later became a composer, were educated in the public school system. In 1889, at the age of 16, James enrolled in Clark Atlanta University. While studying for a Bachelor degree he also completed graduate course work. During those years he was an active and respected member of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity who gained a reputation as a very effective

speaker. He knew he would work for advancement of the black community; but when he graduated in 1894, he did not know that his was to be an important and **multifaceted** career.

James and his brother moved to New York City to become part of the art movement of that time. John composed music, James wrote the lyrics **[Song Writer]**. They had some successes on Broadway around the turn of the century. While in New York, he took an active role in Theodore Roosevelt's presidential campaign in 1904. In 1906, President Roosevelt appointed him consul **[Diplomat]** to Venezuela and Nicaragua. He married New York native Grace Nail in 1910, and returned to New York City in 1913. It was the era of the Harlem Renaissance and he became involved in writing poetry, novels, anthologies and other literary works, as well as collecting and publishing the works of others **[Publisher]**.

This phase of his life led to his being the first Afro-American professor to be hired at New York University. **[Educator]**, and later to become a professor of creative literature and writing at Fisk University. And finally, he attained the pinnacle of his career as a **Lawyer [and Civil Rights Activist]** when he became involved in federal level legal issues and challenges which were detrimental to black people throughout the country. In conjunction with legal activities, he was elected to the office of executive secretary of the NAACP; a position he held for ten years. During his tenure, membership in the organization grew, particularly throughout the southern states.

On June 27th 1938, James Weldon Johnson departed from this life in a tragic accident. He and Grace were vacationing in Maine and on that fateful day, the car Grace was driving was hit by a train. She survived, he did not. More than 2000 people attended his funeral in Harlem. His ashes were interred in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn.

The Meaning of the Snowman

The **white snow** represents God's forgiveness of our sins.

The circular **snowballs** show the everlasting life God promises us.

The **carrot nose** shows us that God has given us the Earth and all living things.

The **black coal mouth** reminds us to give God praise.

The **scarf** keeps us warm, just as God's love does.

The **top hat** reminds us to honor God above all things.

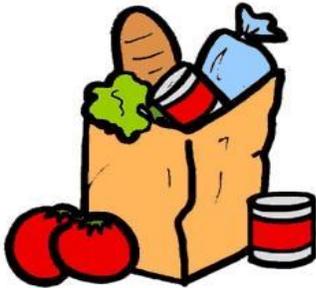
The **twig arms** are open to hold us the way God does when we need him.

Submitted by Shirley Jefferis



Salvation Army Food Collection

Thanks to everyone who continues to contribute to this ongoing project. After a blessing by Pastor Carlotta at our Sunday services, the baskets are packed up and delivered to the Salvation Army by Ginny Williamson. This is a continuing outreach project organized by our Women's Group. Please continue to donate the items on the list. The donation basket is located in the Narthex.



Keep saving twist off tabs from canned foods, soda cans and pet food cans.

***For the benefit of the Shriners Children's
"Love to the Rescue"
Hospital Transportation Program***

Again, many thanks are extended to everyone who is saving can tabs for this ministry. As you already know, the tabs are donated to the Shriners for use in their children's hospital transportation fund, or more specifically, as the Shriners call it, the *Shepherd's Unit Transportation Fund for Shriners Hospital, Pull-Tab Collection Program*.

Items Needed

Peanut Butter and Jelly
Cereal- Boxes or Bags
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Boxed Mac and Cheese
Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Pasta or Rice
Hamburger or Tuna Helper
Pancake Mix and Syrup
Juice
Toilet Paper / Paper Towels
Baby Food and Diapers- all sizes
Napkins
Liquid Laundry Detergent
(Unscented)
Toiletry Items

Canned Items

Soups- Stews- Fruit-Vegetables
Tuna (packed in water)

Forteniters Toiletries Collection

The "Toiletries Box" in the Pine Street vestibule is an adjunct to the annual dinner. There is an on-going need for grooming products which can be distributed to the group's members. These personal grooming items include: combs, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, shaving cream, shampoo, deodorant, emery boards, nail files and clippers, bobby pins, chap stick, bar soap, hand and body lotion, talcum powder, etc.,(but no nail polish, that would require an acetone based remover.) **THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS THAT NONE OF THE PRODUCTS CONTAIN ALCOHOL** .If you have any questions as to whether a certain product is suitable or not, speak with Linda or John Keenan before you make the purchase.

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:15 am Worship New Year's Day	2	3 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	4 12:30pm Women's Group	5 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	6	7
8 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	9	10 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	11	12 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	13	14
15 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	16 7:00 pm Trustees Martin Luther King Day	17 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	18	19 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	20	21
22 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	23 2:00 pm Church Council	24 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	25	26 7:30 pm Cub Scouts	27	28
29 8:30 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	30	31 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Cub Scouts				

The deadline for the next Announcer is **January 15, 2017**

If you've something that you would like included in the Announcer, submission is easy.

Email the item to Florence at copyme124@hotmail.com or to Cynthia at cyntober@aol.com.

Please include "Announcer" in the subject Line.

If you don't have access to a computer, hand deliver to Florence or drop your item in her mailbox located in the Pine Street vestibule.

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