

# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*The Community Church Serving Northeast Philadelphia*

10901 CALERA ROAD □ PHILADELPHIA, PA 19154

REV. OLIVET J. BROWN, PASTOR

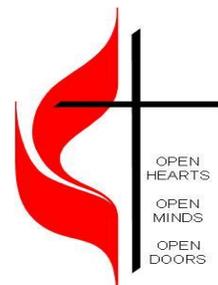
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## THE STAFF

**JANUARY, 2020**

**“Try to be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud.” – Maya Angelou**



### REFLECTIONS

With Thanksgiving taking place during the last week of November this year, it seemed like Christmas came faster than anticipated. Good Shepherd was not caught off guard however, and we began the season by decorating the narthex and Sanctuary on November 30<sup>th</sup>, in anticipation of the holidays. Our festivities began with our Advent Potluck dinners on Wednesdays, followed by our annual Cookie Walk and Breakfast with Santa on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Once again, a scrumptious assortment of cookies went on sale during the breakfast, thanks to the efforts of our enthusiastic mission team who coordinated this event. During the breakfast, most little ones were delighted to have their pictures taken with Santa, while they conveyed their Christmas gift wishes. Good Shepherd’s volunteers prepared and served a delicious pancake breakfast with the trimmings, and we thank them for their efforts.

To further celebrate our Savior’s birth, we hosted our Live Nativity on December 15<sup>th</sup>. A variety of animals surrounding the stable gained the attention of young and old alike, and volunteers dressed as Mary, Joseph, the wise men, and a shepherd offered a realistic touch to this scene. Those who preferred to escape the cold were treated to hot cocoa and cookies indoors, as well as a narration of the Christmas story. We’re grateful to the volunteers who helped with this event that creates heightened awareness of our presence and goodwill throughout the neighborhood.

Speaking of goodwill, I believe that at Christmas people tend to think more about doing something special for others than during any other holiday or occasion. Some people donate to churches, foodbanks, or various organizations, yet there are also other simple gestures that can be offered and continued throughout the year. For example, an easy way to show kindness is to smile at someone and acknowledge them as a person. This can include cashiers, waiters, waitresses, trash collectors, delivery people, etc. Your smile could be the nicest thing that happened to them all day. In the spirit of goodwill while driving, when I come to a stop-sign, I enjoy allowing the driver of a car (and sometimes several cars) in oncoming traffic to cross an intersection or make a turn ahead of me. I tend to do this even more during the holidays when people are in more of a hurry. Another simple way to promote goodwill is to allow someone to go ahead of you in a check-out line in a store. Recently while doing last-minute Christmas shopping, a cashier opened up a new lane, and the person behind me, with a cart filled to the brim, edged her way to get in front of me. She saw that I only had a few items in my hand, but never offered to allow me to go ahead of her. In contrast, my sister, who lives in western Pennsylvania, conveyed a story to me about her experience in a grocery store just before Christmas. As she waited in line with her cart, she noticed a man behind her who had only a bouquet of flowers in his hand to purchase. She told the man to go ahead of her, and when the person with a full cart who had been ahead of my sister saw this, she also told him to go ahead of her so he wouldn’t have to wait. They noticed that the man had paid for his flowers, but also purchased 2 gift cards, however they didn’t think anything of it. When the other woman and my sister unloaded their carts, the cashier announced to them that the man with the flowers had purchased 2 gift cards of \$50.00 to be used towards their grocery orders! This gentleman will never know just how much that meant to my sister and the other woman in line.

If only we could bottle the “Christmas spirit” and drink from it all year long...Last, but certainly not least, is consider taking the time to pray for those in need of support. A suggestion I read about is if you aren’t in a place where you can pray out loud or speak privately by phone, just type up a brief prayer and text it to them until you can talk further. It will bless someone to know you are thinking of them, and your words will bring them comfort. - **Paula Direso, Editor**

# Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

The people of the United Methodist Church of The Good Shepherd

**JANUARY, 2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>7:15 - Chancel Choir 7:30 - Boy Scouts Troop 385</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 - Cub Scouts Pack 385</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 – Men's Breakfast 12:00 - AA Wood Hall 12:00 - Chancel Choir (if needed)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:00 - Praise Service 10:00 - Chinese Worship 10:30 - Trad. Worship/ Children's SS 4:00 - AA Meeting 6:30 - Cad. G.S. Troop#9744</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 - Zumba</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 - Trustees 7:30-Alanon/Alateen</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:00 - Bible Study 6:00 - Prayer &amp; Fellowship 6:30 - Girl Scouts Troop 9552</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:15 - Worship Comm. 7:15 - Chancel Choir 7:30 - Boy Scouts Troop 385</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 - Cub Scouts Pack 385</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00 - AA Wood Hall 12:00 - Chancel Choir (if needed)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00 - Praise Service 10:00 - Chinese Worship 10:30 - Trad. Worship/ Children's SS 4:00 - AA Meeting 6:00 - Live Nativity 6:30 - Cad. G.S. Troop #9744</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30 - Alanon/Alateen</p>	<p>15 <b>STAFF ARTICLES DUE</b></p> <p>1:00 - Bible Study 6:00 - Prayer &amp; Fellowship 6:30 - Girl Scouts Troop 9552</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:15 - Chancel Choir 7:30 - Boy Scouts Troop 385</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 - Cub Scouts Pack 385</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:00 - AA Choir Room 12:00 - Chancel Choir (if needed)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00 - Praise Service 10:00 - Chinese Worship 10:30 - Trad. Worship/ Children's SS 4:00 - AA Meeting 6:30 - Cad. G.S. Troop #9744</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 - Church Council 7:00 - Zumba</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12:30 - Ruth Circle 7:30 - Alanon/Alateen</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:00 - Bible Study 6:00 - Prayer &amp; Fellowship 6:30 - Girl Scouts Troop 9552</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:15 - Chancel Choir 7:30 - Boy Scouts Troop 385</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 - Cub Scouts Pack 385</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:00 - AA Wood Hall 12:00 - Chancel Choir (if needed)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00 - Praise Service 10:00 - Chinese Worship 10:30 - Trad. Worship/ Children's SS 4:00 - AA Meeting 6:30 - Cad. G.S. Troop #9744</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 – Board of Directors St. Luke's Day School of Good Shepherd 7:00 - Zumba</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30 - Alanon/Alateen</p>	<p>29</p> <p>1:00 - Bible Study 6:00 - Prayer &amp; Fellowship 6:30 - Girl Scouts Troop 9552 7:00 - Lydia's Circle</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:15 - Chancel Choir 7:30 - Boy Scouts Troop 385</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 - Cub Scouts Pack 385</p>	

# THE STAFF

**PASTOR'S INSIGHTS:**

**JANUARY, 2020**



## **Our Pain can be our Purpose**

While reading through the book of Isaiah, I had a moment of enlightenment that invited me to pause and reflect on intimate encounters with the Lord. This moment of illumination came at a time of personal and vocational challenges as I sought the guidance of God. This introspection took me back to moments of profound personal loss and pain.

At the tender age of 8, my oldest sister and best buddy, along with three other family members, drowned at sea during a school picnic. Upon receiving the news, our mother stood straight as an oak tree and said: "Lord, give me the strength." That was her prayer. Then she said to me, "Get me my shoes so I can go and get my child." I never saw her cry. Dad did the opposite; he fell on the ground, in the dirt, and wept as he kept saying, "Help me, Lord."

Still, at this moment, while writing this article, the remembrance of that day is as poignant as if it just happened now. The tragedy was devastating for our family and the entire community. Nevertheless, that day I came to know the Lord as a comforter, the one who wrapped his arms around us and assured us it would be okay. Also, the value of each other, community, and the importance and power of prayer were and are etched in my being.

Then as a young mother, I came to know Jesus as a healer while lying in a near-death comatose condition. Medical personnel advised my husband to make plans for burial as I was not going to make it. Praise God, I am still here, though our baby girl did not survive. Through this, the Lord was my Comforter, Healer, Restorer, and Deliverer. I observed that sometimes, the very thing that caused us much pain is the source of our most significant potential. These painful episodes have equipped me to serve as a source of assistance for the wounded soul and a catalyst for **prayer**. It is a delight to observe God's sovereign power.

As we move into a new year and a new decade, I desire to continue working with you to give God the very best, for kingdom building and His glory. As Christ-followers and members of the United Methodist Church, we are committed to serving with fervent **prayers**. Therefore, I challenge each one to do an introspection and make a firm decision to seek God's will. Abort selfish and divisive ways that hinder soul transformation and growth. We desire an A-team to give excellence to the Lord Most High. Come, bring the best and let us erect an active, faithful, welcoming community. **What is your purpose?**

**"Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men,"**  
**(Colossians 3:23)**

Have a fruitful and joyful New Year.

*Pastor Olivet*

YOU KNOW WE HAVE A



Are you the head of a committee or work group? Are you planning a church event? Would you like information about your committee, group or event placed on the church website to be available to all members, neighbors and the world? If so, please e-mail this information to **our new e-mail addresses which are as follows:**

[webservant@umcgoodshepherd.org](mailto:webservant@umcgoodshepherd.org). Our church website address is: [www.umcgoodshepherd.org](http://www.umcgoodshepherd.org).



**EDITOR'S CORNER**

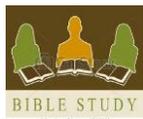
Thank you for your monthly contributions to the "Staff." In order to enter and edit your articles for each month's edition, **PLEASE** submit your information by the **15<sup>th</sup>**

**of each month.** If you prefer you may e-mail your articles to: [secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org](mailto:secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org).

If you prefer to receive an e-mailed copy of *The Staff*, rather than a paper copy, please notify the secretary at the e-mail address listed above.

We ask that you take a moment following the service that you attend, **to pick up your copy of *The Staff*, otherwise your name will be removed from the distribution list.** If you no longer desire to receive this document, please let me know so we can save on time and resources.

**The Wednesday afternoon Bible Study**



meets in the choir room **at 1:00 PM.** Everyone is welcome to attend, so please consider joining this wonderful group and inspiring study.



**PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP in The Upper Room. It is an Essential Appointment.**

Come join us for one hour of kneeling before the Lord, as we meditate on the Psalms and share with each other each **Wednesday 6:00 to 7:00 PM.** We will resume on 1/8/20.

**READING AND RELIGION**

**Contributed by: Phyllis Brock**

**5 Minute Calm: A More Peaceful, Rested, and Relaxed You In Just 5 Minutes A Day**  
by Adams Media Corporation



Sometimes you just need 5 minutes. This book helps you learn to relax your anxious mind and release tension in your body through quick and easy mindfulness exercises and techniques. Through guided breathing, meditation, visualization, and more, you'll find a place of calm. If you're facing a frazzled morning at home, a hectic day at work, or a daunting project deadline, this on-the-go stress-reducing guide can help you relax for a few minutes, find a moment of peace, and get back to your day.

Our **United Methodist Men's Breakfast** will resume again on **January 4, 2020 at 9:00 AM.** Please join the group and bring your appetite!



**TRUSTEES** will meet on **Tuesday, January 7th at 7:00 PM.**

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE** will meet on **Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM.**

**UMW will not meet in January.** Mark your calendar for **February 13<sup>th</sup>** for the next meeting to be held at **7:00 PM.** We hope you will join us!



**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet on **Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.**

**RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on **Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, at 12:30 PM in the choir room.** Please bring your lunch, following which we will have our meeting. We hope to see you there.



**LYDIA'S CIRCLE**, our circle for today's working women, will meet on **Wednesday, January 29th at 7:00 PM**. Any questions, please call Jeannette at 215-539-7716.



**JANUARY**

15<sup>th</sup>- Rob & Eileen Sattelmeyer  
16<sup>th</sup>- James & Janis Jones

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ST. LUKE'S DAY SCHOOL OF GOOD SHEPHERD**

Our first meeting will be held on **Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the choir room at Good Shepherd**. If you cannot make it (or have any questions) please reach out to Rosemarie Gross at: 215-868-5304.

**LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!**

We are in need of volunteers to serve as Lectors for the 10:30 AM Sunday services. Please don't be shy and consider this request by writing your name on the sign-up sheet posted near the flower chart on the bulletin board.



New voices always welcome! We have two slots open for each Sunday, and each volunteer will read one selection that will be offered in enlarged print for easier reading.

**TRUSTEE REPORT FORMS**



If you notice something that needs repair or attention around the church, there are Trustees Report Forms on the baker's rack in the Narthex that can be filled out. Please place them in the basket near the forms on the baker's rack.

**COMMITTEE LEADERS**

As of 1/1/20 there will be some new committee leaders assuming their responsibilities. If you are a chairperson of a committee, kindly notify the church secretary **as soon as possible** when your meetings are scheduled, cancelled or re-scheduled. Either call the church office: 215-632-1929 or send notification via e-mail to: [secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org](mailto:secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org). This will help to maintain accuracy on the church calendar which is necessary when preparing the bulletins and *The Staff*. If you would like to advertise something in *The Staff*, please provide your articles via e-mail, or leave your request in the church office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. **Also, don't forget to check your mailbin in the church office.** Thank you for your co-operation.



**JANUARY**

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1- Amelia Sango      | 9 - Robert P. Gurtcheff |
| 10 - Mousa Dassama   | 11 - Joshua Calhoun     |
| 13 - Erin Kellogg    | 17 - Dwayne Hallman     |
| 17 - Walt Philippi   | 17 - Maurice Samuels    |
| 24 - Anna T. Strohm  | 30 - Joyce Booth        |
| 31 - Douglas Caristo | 31 - Dorothy Meaney     |



If you would like to include your name on the STAFF BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY LIST, please write your name and the day and month you were born, or your anniversary date on a slip of paper and leave it in the church office on the secretary's desk or send an e-mail to [secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org](mailto:secretary@umcgoodshepherd.org).

## **C\*O\*L\*L\*E\*C\*T\*I\*O\*N\*S**

Do you know we collect the following items?

1. Aluminum Tabs – McDonald's House – Helps to keep the cost down for the parents of the children hospitalized.
2. Eyeglasses – Delivered to the Lion's Club.
3. Non-perishable food for our food bank. There are collection baskets for these items in the narthex.

### **IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY:**

Thank you for all you do to keep us safe!



*Christine Bader  
Daniel Bader  
Nolan Bader  
Keith Busby  
Mousa Dassama, Jr.  
Christopher Kuehl  
Evan Kuehl  
Reilly Kuehl  
Taylor Sestito  
Ryan Sutch*

### **EXPRESS YOUR LOVE WITH FLOWERS**

Please help offset church expenses so we may



continue to add beauty to the altar, by dedicating a floral arrangement for the Sunday services. Two slots are open each Sunday, and many slots are

not yet dedicated. **Each vase of flowers for the altar is \$15.** You can honor a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or special occasion, or dedicate a vase in memory of someone. Forms and envelopes are on the bulletin board in the hallway near the Narthex. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office, or leave a message for the secretary at 215-632-1929.