

Chapel Bells



November/December 2014

Here's an article from a UCC pastor named Lillian Daniel, that I thought you'd like. It's called: Advent and Christmas – Can't We Do Both?

As we enter the busy Christmas season, it remains Advent inside the church. Outside, the decorative colors have been red and green since before Thanksgiving. Inside the church, the color of the Advent season is a deep and rich blue.

Advent is the season of preparation for the birth of Christ. The music changes, as it does in the other solemn season of Lent, from major to minor keys. You will hear hauntingly beautiful Advent hymns with the themes of getting ready, preparing, and waiting.

Outside Christmas music is playing already, and at full blast everywhere you go. I know I am always excited to get to hear my favorite all time silliest Christmas lyric ever written: "Giddy up, jingle horse, pick up your feet" (from "Jingle Bell Rock"). Admit it, you can't say that lyric out loud and not smile. Just typing it puts me in a good mood. But that's a very different mood from the Advent tone of quiet meditative worship.

Out at the malls you are supposed to be preparing for Christmas by shopping. In the church you are supposed to be preparing spiritually so that when we celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas Eve, God can really do something, since your heart will be ready.

I have never been an extremist about Advent. I don't want to say that what is happening out in the culture is awful. After all, I love Christmas and all the fun of preparing for it, from the cookies to the music. I even like doing a little Christmas shopping, especially when I am operating on the "one for you and one for me" principle of commerce. Just another sacrifice I am willing to make to boost our economy.

But the key is to balance all that cultural Christmas hoopla with the quiet spirituality of Advent. It's why we really need regular worship in this season. We need to be reminded that the real preparation is not about cooking, or shopping or wrapping gifts. The real preparation is about asking the hard questions of our **spirits**.

Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there someone you need to apologize to? Is God calling you into service or a new work in his name? Is there someone you should invite to church in a season when many people are searching? Is there someone in your life who needs you to pray for them? Is there anyone who doesn't?

This is the preparation that Advent calls us to fill our December days with – prayer, attention to the state of our souls, and acts of kindness, mercy and justice.

You don't have to choose between Christmas and Advent. Just make sure you pay attention to both.

Keep that in mind, as we move through this holiday season.

Blessings, Melissa



November Dates

- Tues. Nov. 4:** Norrisville FREE Election Day
Spaghetti Dinner 4-8pm
- Tues. Nov. 11:** Norrisville Church Council 7pm
- Wed. Nov. 12:** Norrisville FREE Senior Lunch
12 noon
- Thurs. Nov. 13:** St. Paul Church Council 7pm
- Wed. Nov. 19:** Norrisville UMW 7pm
- Sat. Nov. 22:** St. Paul Christmas Bazaar/
Cookie Walk/Sandwich Sale 9am-2pm
- Mon. Nov. 24:** St. Paul UMW 7pm
- Wed. Nov. 26:** Community Thanksgiving Eve
Service 7pm at Salem Lutheran Church in
Jarrettsville
- Sun. Nov. 30:** First Sunday of Advent
Decorating Party @ Norrisville, after
worship



December Dates

- Sun. Dec. 3:** St. Paul & Norrisville UMW
Christmas Dinner Out, 6pm @ Mason Dixon
Family Restaurant in Shrewsberry
- Wed. Dec. 4:** Norrisville will serve the NHHS
Class of '54 Christmas Party
- Sat. Dec. 13:** Norrisville Christmas Breakfast
7-10am
- Sun. Dec 14:** St. Paul Christmas Brunch,
after worship
Barn Service at the Goods,
2533 Bradenbaugh Rd, 6pm
- Sun. Dec. 21:** St. Paul Fruit Basket
Extravaganza, after worship
- Wed. Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Services
3pm Family Service @ Norrisville
7pm Candlelight Service @ St. Paul
9pm Candlelight Service @ Norrisville

News from our new CLM

Greetings, I am Denise H McGhee and I am a CLM. A CLM stands for Certified Lay Minister. This is a designation given to persons who have gone through 2 years of training after having been certified lay speaker for over 2 years. It is someone who is called by God to pastor and minister to a congregation in a variety of ways. Some CLM's do hospital work, some teach, some fill pulpits, as each CLM has been called to a specialized ministry.

I was going through the process of becoming a local pastor when the CLM program became available, and I saw this was a perfect fit for me, as for 10 weeks a year, I pastor a campground church in Virginia, so being a CLM gives me that flexibility. My calling is to assist a pastor in a church that would like to offer their congregations different ministries. I also promote an animal ministry, as I believe God has blessed us with His creatures as well as people to help us on this journey. This ministry helps those who are grieving a lost pet, prayers for a sick pet or prayers for a new pet. It includes an animal blessing and fair held yearly. I also have facilitated a GriefShare program and would like to assist in starting one at this charge if there are those who would like to come work along side of me.

My husband Rick and I have been married for almost 38 years and we live in Forest Hill with my sister. We have 4 adult children and 7 grandchildren. We have lived in Harford county most of our lives. We have 2 dogs, 3 cats, a bunny and fish. We love to travel and we have a camper and my sister and I love bird watching. I hope we have some things in common and I would love to talk with and get to know you and join both churches as God's family worshipping and serving God.

Denise McGhee

The Society of St. Andrew Advent Devotions

They have downloadable ebook versions, and PDF versions of their Advent devotions, with a devotion every day during Advent. Go to <http://endhunger.org/advent.htm> to download.

If you would like a paper copy, please ask Melissa, or our secretary, Jen Herbert.

Operation Christmas Child

Believe it or not, a shoebox can teach about God's love. So, once again, we will collect shoeboxes filled with items for needy kids across the globe for Christmas. Mark your box boy or girl, and ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14, and fill it with gifts. Please include \$7 in the box for shipping and other costs. We will collect the boxes in church to deliver them. Collection date will be determined later, but this is a great way to teach your kids and grandkids about giving, and it's a way to talk about the meaning of Christmas before all the hype starts to happen in our lives. See [samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) or <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box> for more information.

Here are the suggestions:

Toys: Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls, toy cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

Non-Liquid Hygiene Items: toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc.

Accessories: t-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

A Personal Note: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may be able to write back.

Do Not Include: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Griefshare Program Starting

Griefshare is a biblical, Christ-centered 13 week program that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally known grief experts, and real-life stories of people, followed by group discussion.

Too often, we tend to stuff our grief instead of allowing it to do the God-given work for which it is intended. Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. In a confidential atmosphere, you will find encouragement, comfort and help grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member or friend.

You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief, and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal and renewing your hope for the future.

Our grief share program will start soon, and is open to church folks and folks from the community, so pass the word that we have a group starting soon. Cost is the price of the workbook, with scholarships available. If you need childcare during the program, let us know. Any questions or to register, call Denise McGhee, CLM (410-652-4099, dmcghee4@verizon.net)



Christmas Bazaar & Cookie Walk

Saturday, November 22

9 am - 2 pm

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Sponsored by the School Band

Local crafters, Cookies, pit beef and fellowship!

Spaces available. For more information call Dawn on 410-692-4051.

Barn Service

This is a simple service to take us back to how Christmas really started -- in a barn. Bring your longjohns, a lawn chair if you don't want to sit on a bale of straw, and warm mittens, and hear the story and the song without all the hype and commercialism. Bring a friend or 2, maybe those who are down on the whole Christmas season.

Sunday, December 14, at 6.m. at Don and Carol Good's, 2533 Bradenbaugh Rd. Just look for the big star in the sky, like the wisemen did.



Habitat for Humanity News

Habitat Susquehanna, which serves Harford and Cecil counties from their office in Bel Air is re-activating their Faith Relations Committee, with representatives from local churches, to help get the word out about finding eligible families, recruiting volunteers, and more. Here are some facts that you many not know:

Families who meet the qualifications, which include volunteering many hours on their own home as well as others, are always needed.

Habitat not only builds new homes, but also does rehab, renovations and complete rebuilds.

There are 13 Habitat organizations in Maryland, and Habitat Chesapeake is larger (serving Balto city, county, Anne Arundel and Howard Counties), but our Habitat serves more families!

An interfaith build (with all the volunteers coming from local churches) will begin soon, hopefully in the Bel Air area.

Habitat always needs prayers for their volunteers, funding, the families that they serve, and their employees -- including our own Michaelann Meehan.

And, we need someone from our charge to serve on this committee. Please let Melissa know if you're interested.

If you have any questions about this ministry, Michaelann is the one to ask! Or, you can contact Board Member, Pastor Shannon Sullivan (shasullivan@gmail.com). See habitatsusq.org for more info.



Thanksgiving is right around the corner and it's time to send those pictures you would like to appear in our "Thanks" giving slide show. Send those pictures to: Alex Robey at St. Paul anrobey@zoominternet.net and Katie Smith at Norrisvillekinska01@gmail.com



Boy Scout Troop 809 is selling 2015 Chick-fil-a Calendars

Not only do you get a Cow Calendar, but each calendar comes with a food card worth approximately \$35 (each month you receive a pre-selected food item for free) Each calendar costs \$8. They make great gifts for relatives, teenagers, teachers, bus drivers, etc.

The cards are good at any Chick-fil-a location, except airports and college campuses.

To purchase your calendar, please contact Kyle or Nathan Robey (SP) at 410-692-4051.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings each morning, thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are many who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank you Lord, that I can see. There are many who are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off the effort of rising, thank you, Lord that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, and tempers are short, thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced, thank you, Lord for the food we have. There're many who have no job.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish my circumstances were not so modest, thank you, Lord, for the gift of life.

Author: Unknown



thank
you!

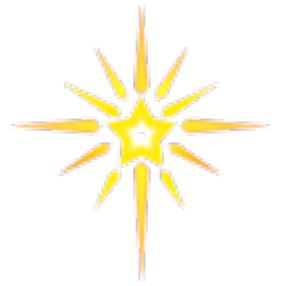
Just a note:

We just want to thank everyone who helped us through a difficult time at the death of my mother. Our family, and my dad, felt loved and supported by both St. Paul and Norrisville, and our greater community. You are a great church family!

Thanks, Melissa and Tom and the family

The Christmas Star

Poet: [Julie Hebert](#), © 2012



Christmas is a magical time,
For young and also old.
The season brings so much to see,
And so many stories are told.

The biggest story of the holiday,
Is of the Christmas star.
Sitting out on Christmas Eve,
We are reminded who we are.

Christmas is about one thing.
Not presents or of toys.
Christmas is of joy and peace,
And happy family noise.

Christmas is the spirit of happiness,
And of being with those you love.
It is a time to give thanks and show your love,
And in times of need, look up above.

Christmas became because of one,
And we have him to thank.
Next time you see that star shine bright,
Say a prayer for Jesus sake.

The Christmas star is a presence,
One in which is a thrill.
Although it seems impossible now,
He stands among us still.

Melissa McDade, Pastor
Norrisville Charge
2434 Bradenbaugh Road
White Hall, MD 21161

Norrisville Charge Worship Times

St. Paul: Worship at 8:15 am, Sunday School for all ages following worship
Located at the corner of St. Paul Church & Telegraph Rds, off Rt. 136

Norrisville: worship at 9:30 am, Sunday School for all ages following worship
Located on Church Lane (west of Norrisville Rd), near Norrisville Elementary School