

Pastor's Message

"Take Responsibilities for Your Feelings"

"The Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world" (1st John 4:4)

"The Boss put me in a mood. No he/she didn't. You put yourself in a bad mood. This situation has me frazzled and out of sorts. No it hasn't. You've let the situation pull you down. The kids are making me irritable. They may be misbehaving, but no one can make you irritable without your permission.

Peace 101 says that God is greater than your challenges. You are no one's pawn. In spite of a world gone wacko, you can remain at peace. Miss this truth, and you open the door to anxiety. If your peace is contingent on circumstances, you open the door to a horde of anxieties. Being happy is a choice. It's something you teach yourself to be.

Your peace does not depend on people, which is good, because they are fickle. Your peace does not depend on the government, which is good, because rulers come and go. Your peace does not even depend on a peaceful home; this is good, because kids tend to misbehave. Peace—long-lasting peace—depends on God. With Jesus Christ living within you by the power of the Holy Spirit, you can take control of your thoughts before they take control of you. Remember to read the above verse as needed, over the next few days and weeks" (Max Lucado p. 30-31 of Less Fret, More Faith).

This month we await the coming of the Prince of Peace into our world and our lives. Make room for the Christ child in your midst, in your heart, and in your daily routine. It is not always easy to be in the right frame of mind, but life can go much smoother when you are focused on the right purpose and direction. The difficulties do not weigh you down as far; when you remember that you are not alone, and remember that there is something greater to which you are striving for. As we continue in the season of giving and family time, with kids home from school and activities galore, remember that you are in charge of your attitude and your sense of peace this season.

Let us pray this prayer from Max Lucado: *Lord, I confess that I have chosen worry instead of peace. I have chosen irritation rather than calm. Time after time I give into my flesh rather than renounce it. Have mercy on my weary heart. By your Spirit give me the strength to abide in you rather than dwell on my earthly circumstances. Remind me today that my inner peace does not depend on temporal situations or fickle people but on you, my unchanging and loving Creator and God. AMEN*

Blessings and Peace for your journey,

Pastor Nate

Worship Schedule this month:

December 3rd – (Theme of Worship: Where are you God?) This is the first Sunday in Advent, we welcome Paige Troxell in worship with us as we hear the missionary work she has been a part of in the Dominican Republic. We will share in a fellowship time during the Sunday School hour, all are welcome.

December 10th – (ToW: Messengers of Hope) Isaiah 40:1-11; 2nd Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8. Normal Sunday School to follow worship.

December 17th – (ToW: Shouts of Joy) 3rd Sunday of Advent. Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1st Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28. The Praise Group will join us in worship. Normal Sunday School to follow worship.

Thursday, December 21st: **Blue Christmas Service @7pm.** All are welcome to join in this special service offered on the longest night of the year.

December 24th – (ToW: Birthing a Promise) 4th Sunday of Advent. During our 9:15 AM worship we will enjoy the musical 365 Days of Christmas Each Year, put on by children of all ages.

Join us for our Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 PM with bells and dance and carols. As we welcome the Christ child among us.

December 31st – (ToW: Long-Awaited Gift) First Sunday after Christmas Day. Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40. Sunday School time will be a combined gathering of all ages as we prepare for the new year with hopes and dreams and resolutions of what is to come.

Looking Ahead a Little Further:

January 7th - (ToW: Defining Moments) This is the first Sunday after Epiphany and we celebrate the baptism of Christ. Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7; and Mark 1:4-11. Join us for our First Sunday fellowship following worship.

Junior Church

The Junior Church or Children's Church option on a Sunday morning after the children's time has been well received and attended. Children ages K-6th grade are welcomed to attend and receive a story, activity, craft time, and snack during a portion of the morning worship time that is on their level and compliments the messages that are being shared in worship.

If you are interested in helping with the leading of these weekly gatherings of our young people please talk to Sue Enders or Kara Druckenmiller to receive info. This is an option that we hope will better educate and improve the worship experience of our young people. This also will help to return the nursery to an option for ages newborn thru kindergarten. These activities are at the discretion of the parents, if you feel your children need to stay in church that is acceptable and up to you.

Christmas Musical

The All Church Christmas Musical is called **365 Days of Christmas Each Year**. It will occur on Sunday morning Dec. 24th during the worship time. We will continue to practice after Sunday School during the first 3 Sundays of December and will have our only dress rehearsal run through on Sat. Dec. 23rd from 10-12. Please join us as much as you can for practice so we are prepared to present this program to our church family.

Blue Christmas Service

On the evening of Thursday, December 21st @7pm we will again host a service that is sometimes called Blue Christmas and sometimes called the darkest night service. This is a service for those struggling to find the joy and hope in the holiday seasons. The 21st is also the longest night of the year (winter solstice). We will gather in a reflective and somber service that can help participants work through some of the pain and loss that they may be feeling. We will offer a time of anointing for healing of body, soul, and mind. We will light candles of remembrance for those we miss, while also listening for God amidst our struggles. It is open to all who would like to come, so please invite friends, neighbors, and family members to join us on this evening.

Consistory Update

Consistory met this month to address the ongoing business of the church and several special items.

- The **search committee** for the **music director** is in place and efforts are underway to identify a candidate but so far none have emerged.
- A draft of the **2018 budget** was presented by the Deacons and reviewed and discussed by Consistory. Budget will be approved by Consistory at the December meeting and presented to the full congregation in January.
- Plans for preparing the **Narrative budget** were also discussed. We will need input from teams and committees to share stories about what happened in 2017, photos, and plans for 2018.
- An initial slate of **candidates for the four open Consistory positions** was presented by the nominating committee. We will continue to keep nominations open until the December election.
- **Security at the church** was discussed in light of the recent church shooting incident in Texas. Dreisbach needs to develop a plan to deal with such a possible incident but also to deal with other disasters such as a fire. A committee is being developed to review our current situation and prepare recommendations.

A **congregational meeting** will be held on **December 17th** immediately following the worship service to elect consistory members for next year. **Openings exist for one elder, one trustee, and two deacons.** Briefly these positions have the following responsibilities:

- **Elders** are responsible for spiritual development in the congregation, including supporting worship.
- **Trustees** are responsible for the physical management the church property.
- **Deacons** are responsible for the financial and organizational development in the congregation.

It's also important to note that Consistory positions provide overall leadership to the church. At times, members of the Consistory will step up to lead specific ad hoc or standing committees to see that teams are organized and work gets completed to advance the mission of the congregation.

In Christ,
Richard Stup, Consistory President

Live Nativity

We have been asked to be a part of the Live Nativity in Mifflinburg this year on **Thursday, Dec. 14th from 7:00-9:00 pm**. If you are willing to be a part of this would love your help and your families help. This is a great part of the activities and ministry that goes on during the festival in Mifflinburg.

1st Annual Veterans Christmas Remembrance Celebration

The 1st Annual Veterans Christmas Remembrance Celebration will take place on December 16, 2017 @ 10AM. The community is invited to sponsor a wreath that will be laid at each veterans' grave buried in the cemetery at Dreisbach UCC in Lewisburg. The goal is to spread patriotism and commemoration, during the Christmas season, for the ultimate sacrifices these veterans made for our country.

Wreaths will be placed following a celebratory program led by Master of Ceremonies, LT COL (Retired) Andy Mahoney of the Bucknell Military Science program. State Representative Fred Keller is also anticipated to participate as well as other local military and Boy Scout representatives. Patriotic music and light refreshments are also being planned. Wreath sponsors are invited to participate in the celebration by placing the wreath at the respective gravesite(s) following the program. This event is free and open to the public.

Shoe Box Gifts

The boxes have been wrapped but we are still in need of items to fill them. Sue Leitzel and Pam Spangler will again head up the Christmas Shoe Box collection, a special mission project. There is a signup sheet and box in the back of the sanctuary for the collection of various items for the shoeboxes. If you prefer to let them do the shopping monetary donations are always welcome.

Bethany Children's Home Gifts

We will again be supporting the kids and ministry at Bethany by buying gifts for the Christmas holiday. There is a list of suggested gift ideas posted on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. We will collect the gifts Sunday, December 10th. Thank you for your support of these young people and the life changing ministry that Bethany provides.

Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club Food Drive

The Mifflinburg Kiwanis Club is asking for your assistance in the collection of nonperishable food items for needy families in the local area this Christmas season. Your food contributions may be placed in the marked boxes in the overflow of the sanctuary. As in the past, your donation will be greatly appreciated.

Meetings

A brief congregational meeting to elect consistory for 2018 will take place after the worship service on **December 17th**.

The next meeting of the **Prayer Shawl** group will be **Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m.** We are currently making hats for shoeboxes. All are welcome.

The **Membership Committee's** next meeting will take place on Monday, **December 4th at 7:00.**

A joint meeting of **Consistory and the Investment committee** will take place on **December 6th at 6:30** to explore Dreisbach CARES. We will be joined by Stephanie Rader-Titzel from the Penn Central Conference.

2018 Offering Envelopes

The 2018 offering envelopes are available for pickup in the back of the sanctuary. If you or a family member was missed please contact Pam Pfirman.

Thanks From Our Members

Don Girton wishes to thank my Dreisbach Church family for all the prayers, cards, calls and well wishes received during his recent hospitalization and rehab. Special thanks to Pastor Nate for his calls and visits and to the Prayer Shaw committee for the Shaw. All was greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank the members of our congregation and Pastor Nate for the prayers, phone calls and meals following my recent surgeries. Your prayers, caring thoughts and concerns during my recovery are all greatly appreciated. Dreisbach is a great family who is always willing to help anyone in need.

Thank you again, Selega Robenolt

Sincere thanks for the cards, phone calls, prayers, and visits over the last five months with my surgery and recovery. Also thanks to Pastor Nate for his visits and to those who brought delicious meals for me after I returned home. It is wonderful to have such a caring and loving family at Dreisbach.

Feeling blessed, Mabel June

Thank you for all your hospital visits & prayers for our beloved husband and Father.

It was such a blessing to us when his pain and suffering subsided and he left this earthly home to be with our Lord in Heaven.

Sincerely, Charlotte, Charlene, Robin & Crystal (The Neitz Family)

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl. Also for all the prayers as I continue this unknown journey.

Deb Baker

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Remember the following people in your prayers as they celebrate special days this month.

1	Mariah Noll	19	Scott & Pam Eberhart
5	Barb Gabel		Bob & Elaine Young
	Tim Snyder		Scott Eberhart
	Linda Ruhl		Marie Hallock
6	Evelyn Troxell		Gary Willow
7	Clint Rockey		Ashley Chappell
9	Marjorie Kuhns	20	Barbara Buchholtz
10	Brian Barber	21	Terry & Judy Willow
	Chad Willow	25	Julie Rockey
	Deb Pfirman	26	Mike & Ruth Romig
	Melissa Stup		Rebecca Stup
	Kara Druckenmiller	29	Quincy Amabile
11	Lori Leitzel	30	Tammy Pierce
12	Andrew Beckley		Cindy Barber
13	Kyle Swartzlander	31	Sue Leitzel
14	Marlene Gotshall		Maddie Metzger
16	Larry & Carol Snook		
18	Shirley Strawser		

If you know of any additions or corrections to the birthday and anniversary list, please give or email them to Pam Pfirman.