



Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation
A Member of the Virgin River Presbyterian Fellowship
Serving Southern Utah since 1988

Partner Congregation to the Evangelical Baptist Church of Dorogobuzh, Russia



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Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Ralph Clingan

Pastor

Dick Higgins

Visitation Pastor

Ruth Ann Horvath

Clerk of Session

Candy Hurlbut

Susan Holecheck

Church Secretaries

Barbara McConnell

Music Director

Stephen Talley

Organist

Rev. Dolores Wiens

Prayer Chain

Chris Schleter

Website / Newsletter Editor

(A Very Different) Christmas is Coming

As usual, December will be a VERY busy month but, unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions will prevent us from celebrating in person. Never fear! With Zoom we will be able to gather virtually for many of our usual activities.

Rev. Ralph began his annual Advent lesson series on November 30th. These lessons, using a Kerygma curriculum, will continue on December 6th, 13th and 20th. All lessons will be held via Zoom. Please email Rev. Ralph for an invitation.

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing restrictions on social gatherings, Rev. Ralph, Cindy and Jeff have had to cancel their annual open house this year.

During worship on December 13th, we will dedicate our pledges for 2020. Then at 11:30 am, at the beginning of Sunday Fellowship, we will hold our Stated Congregational Meeting to approve the Terms of Call for Rev. Ralph and, possibly, elect officers for next year. In order to ensure that we have a quorum for the meeting we ask you, even if you have not been participating in fellowship, to please join us on the 13th for this important meeting.

At 7:00 pm on Christmas Eve we will anticipate the birth of our Savior with our Candle Light Worship via Zoom. We will be praying, reading Scripture and singing our favorite Christmas hymns and carols. We'll even have several soloists who will perform from the comfort of their homes.

We hope you will join us in celebrating this most joyous season!

Rev. Ralph Announces Status of Annual Tacky Tie and Ugly Sweater Contests

With the coming of Advent and the fact that we will not be worshipping together, Rev. Ralph has officially decided to cancel, for the first time in fifteen years, the annual Reverend Ralph's Tacky Christmas Tie Contest. However, there is good news! The Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest will go on via Zoom at Sunday morning fellowship. But wait, there's more!

In place of the Tacky Christmas Tie Contest for the first (and, hopefully, only) time we will have a Christmas Mask Contest. The three categories for entries will be: Most Festive, Most Creative and Most Humorous. All entrants are encouraged to display their entries at the four Sunday Zoom fellowship hours during Advent. Winners will be declared on Sunday, December 20th with prizes to be awarded. Rev. Ralph is greatly looking forward to seeing your entries in the weeks ahead.



Prayer Concerns

"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it" John 14:13-14

Peter Safrano	Ed Mansfield
Cheryl Mansfield	Mary Peterson
Emily Penzari	Matt Fine
Ron Smith	Gloria McGilloway
Jan Hirschi	Nick Miller
Josie Marsh	Barbara Schultzman
Arlene Prinselaar	Mary Laubscher
Dave Contreras	

Caregivers in our area, state and nation
Our partner congregation in Dorogobuzh, Russia
Those Serving Our Country

Welcome New Members

If you are interested in joining our fellowship, please see Rev. Ralph or Session Clerk Ruth Ann Horvath

January Newsletter Deadline

December 23, 2020

Worship Schedule

Sunday by 10:30 am
Worship
Sermon Network

11:30 am
Virtual Fellowship
Zoom

Ruling Elders Monthly Scriptures

Each month at our stated Session meetings, our Minister of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders are invited to share any scripture that has spoken to their hearts in the previous month as part of their report. Rev. Ralph encourages our congregation, as part of their prayer life for the congregation, our Session and Pastor, to review their selections and continue to uphold them and one another in prayer.

The scriptures for November were:

Rev. Ralph	Psalm 130	Hope in the Lord
Elder Ruth Ann Horvath	Matthew 5:6-10	Merciful
Elder Leslie Lintz	Isaiah 55:8-9	My ways
Elder Alan Paige	Isaiah 40:31	New Strength
Elder Chris Schleiter	James 1:5-6	Ask of God
Elder Bill Somplatsky-Jarman	Zephaniah 3:18-20	I Will Save
Elder Jan Hirschi	Proverbs 3:5-6	Trust in the Lord
Elder Eric Westland	James 2:18	Faith and Works
Elder Barbara McConnell	Philippians 4:8-9	Good Work
Elder Gloria McGilloway	Philippians 4:1-7	Firm in the Lord

Thanks to our Volunteers

Flowers		Nursery
December		
December 6	If you ordered flowers, we will use your flowers during a service once we resume worship services.	Canceled
December 13		
December 20		
December 27		
January		
January 3	If you ordered flowers, we will use your flowers during a service once we resume worship services.	Canceled
January 10		
January 17		
January 24		
January 31		

Signup for Flowers on the board between the Narthex and Conklin Hall or on our Website gpscsq.org

Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of October 31 Month of October

Receipts	\$ 16,370.05
Expenditures	\$ 15,885.62

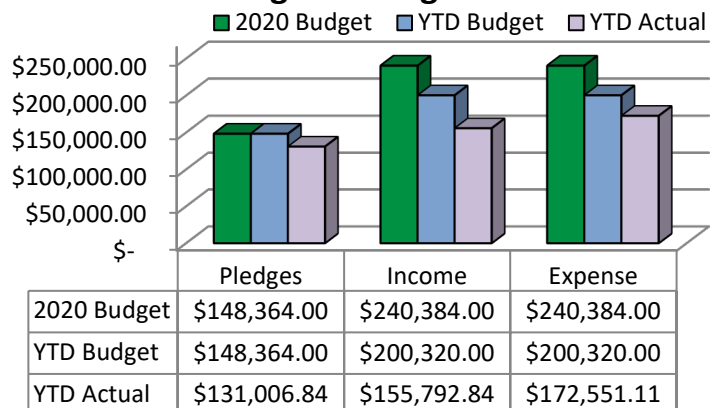
2020 YTD Budget vs Actual

YTD Budgeted Receipts	\$ 200,320.00
Actual Receipts	\$155,792.84
YTD Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 200,320.00
Actual Expenditures	\$172,551.11

Fund Balances

General Fund	\$ 24,442.62
Building Fund	\$ 49,100.14
Memorial Fund	\$ 3,116.45
Reserve Fund	\$ 45,578.49
Russia Mission Fund	\$ 8,773.05
Bequests	\$ 84,023.95

2020 Budget Through October 31



Rev. Ralph's Food for Thought

In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock at night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And so the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army of angels praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among people with whom He is pleased."

Luke 2:8-14 NASB



The Gospel of Luke's account of the Nativity offers a dramatic scene during a traumatic time. In the dark of night suddenly the light of hope breaks upon a world during dark times bringing the message of hope: "Do not fear, for 'good news of great joy which will be for all people.'"

Like those shepherds, we find ourselves living in the midst of a dark night during traumatic times. And like those shepherds we, as well, have received good news of great joy of a coming vaccine, of a brighter and new day for all people.

Christmas itself a season of joy that comes from the hope we see in the face of this newborn child we know as Christ the Lord. But Hope can be a funny thing. We can put it on a shelf and use it as needed or take hope into our hearts and lives and live as people who are lost and found in this Hope.

As Christians we profoundly are called to live the latter, knowing who has sustained us through the night and called us into the light of new day. That our Lord has provided and continues to provide, even when it is still dark out. But we know that the dawn is coming for the day is His and so are we.

The shepherds heard and saw the living Hope in the night sky. They could have isolated themselves in their fields or gone to see the newborn Savior for themselves.

Luke tells us, they responded with the words, "Let us go and see."

This Christmas what shall we do?

A very Merry Christmas and a certain to be Happier New Year to you all!

*In Christ,
Rev. Ralph*

**** Home Communion ****

If you have difficulty getting to worship and would like to have the Visitation Pastor or Pastor serve you the Lord's Supper at home, please call the church office (628-9158).

**** Pastor's Note Regarding Hospital Visitation ****

Please be advised that, due to COVID-19 restrictions, I am unable to visit anyone in any of our area medical facilities. Once things return to normal, please keep in mind that with the federal laws that govern the privacy of medical records, hospitals are no longer allowed to give out any information regarding patients to visitors, including clergy. Unless a visitor requests a specific name, the hospital desk is not allowed to give out any information, including religious affiliation.

If you or a family member is hospitalized please alert the Pastor, your Deacon or the church office. Otherwise, we will not be informed of your presence in the hospital and will be unable to assist or offer pastoral care.

PRESBYTERIANS TODAY'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL

Thanksgiving is upon us in this year that has been quite unsettling. We hope you and your families are well and staying safe. The Presbyterian Church (USA) would like to express their deep gratitude for your faithful support of God's mission in the world. Together we are the church witnessing to the love and hope of Christ in a world that so needs that message.

This year the Presbyterians Today Advent Devotional is online and can be accessed through this direct link: www.pcusa.org/2020advent. May you find inspiration and a time for opening space to welcome Christ anew into our hearts and our world this year.

Advent and Christmas at a Glance

Week 1

Candles of joy despite all the sadness

Reflect: Where in life can you spread some joy to others? What does that joy look like ?

Nov. 29, First Sunday of Advent,
Matthew 25:1-13

Nov. 30, Luke 20:1-8

Dec. 1, Isaiah 1:21- 31

Dec. 2, Isaiah 2:1-4

Dec. 3, Luke 20:27-40

Dec. 4, 1 Thessalonians 4 :1-12

Dec. 5, Isaiah 4:2-6

Week 2

Candles of hope where despair keeps watch

Reflect: What leads people to despair?

How can we get better at identifying early signs of despair? What ways can hope turn despair around?

Dec. 6, Second Sunday of Advent,
Luke 7:28 - 35

Dec. 7, Psalm 40

Dec. 8, Luke 21 :29 - 38

Dec. 9, John 7:53- 8:11

Dec. 10, Isaiah 7 :1- 9

Dec. 11, Psalm 13 -0

Dec. 12, Luke 22:31 - 38

Week 3

Candles of courage for fears ever present

Reflect: What does courage look like? Who are those in your life that have exemplified courage? What can you learn from them?

Dec. 13, Third Sunday of Advent,
John 3:22-30

Dec. 14, Isaiah 8:16-9 :1

Dec. 15, Luke 22:54-69

Dec. 16, Mark 1:1-8

Dec. 17, Matthew 3:1- 12

Dec. 18, Ephesians 6:10-20

Dec. 19, Revelation 20:1-10

Week 4

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days

Reflect: Think about a time when amid a storm in life you found a sense of peace. Where did it come from? Who was the angel perhaps who brought it to you?

Dec. 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent,
Luke 1:5-25

Dec. 21, Revelation 21:9- 21

Dec. 22, Isaiah 31:1 - 9

Dec. 23, Psalm 147:1-11

Christmas Eve

Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens

Reflect: On this holy night, mentally drop all of the burdens you are carrying at the side of the newborn's cradle. Imagine the streams of light coming from heaven, surrounding you with grace.

Dec 24, Luke 2:1-14

12 Days of Christmas

Candles of love to inspire all my living

Reflect: The season of Christmas has begun. For each of these 12 days, write down one way you will show God's world, and those in it, the love of Christ.

Dec. 25, Titus 3:4-7

Dec. 26, Acts. 6:1-7

Dec. 27, Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 28, Psalm 2

Dec. 29, John 7:37-52

Dec. 30, Isaiah 25:1-9

Dec. 31, John 8: 12-19

Jan. 1, Colossians 2:6- 12

Jan. 2, Hebrews 11:1-12

Jan. 3, John 6:41-47

Jan. 4, John 14:6-14

Jan. 5, John 15:1-16

Epiphany

Candles that will burn all year long

Take action:

Epiphany comes from the Biblical Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning "appearance" or "manifestation". Christ has appeared to us and his divinity has been revealed. Start an Epiphany journal in 2021, recording daily where it is you have seen Christ's light.

Jan. 6, Matthew 12:14-21

Buildings

Building use continues to be, as expected, very light. I did a complete walkthrough the other day and everything seems to be holding up well.

We are still waiting for parts to arrive so our HVAC contractor can make some modifications to our heating and air conditioning systems. Evidently, we're not the only ones thinking along these lines.

Other than that, just a little project here and there.

*Blessings,
Eric Westland*

Christian Education

Good Shepherd Friends, the Advent season has begun. As you probably noticed on page 4 of this issue of the newsletter, with 2020 being a particularly challenging year, Presbyterians Today has decided to make its annual Advent Devotional available on the web. This year's devotional is built around Howard Thurman's famous poem "I Will Light Candles This Christmas." It will take you through Advent, the 12 days of Christmas and end with Epiphany on January 6th. Have a look at the devotional at www.pcusa.org/2020advent.

I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

Bill Somplatsky-Jarman

Deacons

As we begin the Advent season, your Deacons pray for you to continue to have love, joy and peace. God bless us all.

Remember we are here to help if you need us. Please call your Parish Deacon with any special needs or questions.

John and Peggy Graber are our contacts for the Deacon Shed which is full of items you may need. We have everything from walkers to crutches to wheelchairs to raised toilet seats. If you need anything from the shed, please give John a call at 801-541-7444, and he'll work with you to get you what you need.

You are cared about and prayed for even though we can't meet together.

*In Christian love and fellowship,
Your Deacons*

Fellowship

Conklin Hall, the Kitchen and Pantry are all clean and ready for our restart, whenever that may be. It gives me a strange feeling to stop in to check on things while knowing that the date is still a mystery. I look forward to the Sunday when we can once again enjoy fellowship in person.

Please consider joining in on our virtual fellowship via Zoom every Sunday at 11:30 am! No need to stay for the hour – just sign in to let us know how you are doing. Contact Rev. Ralph for the access information.

*With love through Jesus Christ,
Gloria McGilloway*

Mission/Outreach

On November 6th, nine of us (yes, we stayed under the COVID-19 limit of 10 people and wore our masks) gathered in a socially distanced Conklin Hall to pack shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We had a great time and packed 81 shoe boxes. Adding in the 25 boxes packed by individuals in the congregation we delivered a total of 106 boxes to our drop off location on November 21st. Thanks to all who participated this year. If you want to get an early start on 2021, we have some empty boxes left over!

Rev. Ralph received an email from Pastor Sergei at the end of October with photos of the church's progress of adding an indoor toilet to the church building. Sergei said that they were well into the project but they had a problem: they didn't have enough money to purchase the actual toilet! He asked if we could help them with purchasing both the toilet and Christmas presents for the children. Knowing how much Gloria McGilloway enjoyed the outhouse in 2018, Rev. Ralph and I were a bit hesitant to do anything that might take that blessing away from her but after prayerful deliberation decided that we would send some money. Session approved the expenditure of \$750 from the Mission

Mission/Outreach, continued

Set-Aside funds and Rev. Ralph and I added another \$250 to bring the total to \$1000. We have heard from Sergei that he has received the money and he wanted us to thank each member of the congregation for our continued support. He also wished everyone a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

In this time of difficulty for so many in our community our year-end contributions to local charities will take on additional meaning. We'll be making those donations at the end of December and I will let you know who received them in the January newsletter.

Stay safe and have a wonderful, if different, Christmas season!

*Peace and Blessings
Chris Schleiter*

Parish Health Ministry

THIS WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS ... almost. Our faith and endurance have been challenged beyond all boundaries in these past months and yet, we are here, by the grace of God and the skill and knowledge that has been endowed to our medical community and then to us. We have learned so much about the virus among us! While we have been focused on all things COVID, a tireless and dedicated group of scientists and medical explorers have continued looking for ways of providing a better quality of life for those afflicted with certain non-CVOID-related diseases.

In a recent issue of AARP The Magazine, an article discussed the medical breakthroughs for 2020 which might influence the course of many known diseases. It is possible for diabetics to have transplants of islet-cells from cadavers to replace their own non-functioning, insulin-producing cells. There are new therapies targeted especially for the care of those with HER2 breast cancer and prostate cancer patients have found new hope in discoveries which demonstrate disease progression may be influenced by suppressing the production of hormones or preventing their effect on cells. Stem cell-based renal implants slow progression or can even improve vision in those with age-related macular degeneration. Ablation of damaged heart tissue with radiation is being investigated and may replace the more traditional, longer and more invasive current procedures employed for restoring normal heart rhythm. And relief may be available for those with COPD or emphysema by way of implantation of a tiny valve into the lungs to boost breathing.

It is difficult not to become mired in the uncertain present, as in the in the film, "Groundhog Day," when each day was like the one before. However, God has promised to make all things NEW. Restored physical and mental well-being can to be had by trusting in His promises. We of Parish Health Ministries wish you a blessed holiday season and healthy, hopeful, NEW YEAR!!

Alicia Kitzman

Prayer Corner

"And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." Matthew 21:22



In 2007 I was laid off from my job as a result of the economic downturn. We were a single income family and didn't have much in savings. I was devastated when it happened, but I believed God would take care of me and I set out to get another job. A few weeks later, I accepted a job 55 miles away for 80% of my previous salary. When my first check was deposited, we had less than \$50 in the bank. It was humbling, yet I was grateful.

The hour-long commute twice a day wasn't so bad. I had long talks with my dad in the mornings and I listened to dozens of audiobooks in the afternoons. Sometimes I just drove in silence. I had time to appreciate the beautiful Iowa landscape and watch as the corn went from tiny seedlings to harvested gold. One afternoon, as I was enjoying the sunset, I felt an indescribable sense of peace and well-being sweep over me. It was so intense I had to pull over and stop. Tears welled in my eyes as the happiness and contentment enfolded me. The intensity ebbed after a short time, although the joyous feeling remained, and I was able to drive again.

I remember that day when things are uncertain, or I am weary. The day I felt God tell me, "Yes, Child, I will take care of you." The tears of joy return; and I am grateful.

DeEtte Delaney.

Prayer Corner, continued

Cluster of Prayer and Praise continues via Zoom

The Cluster of Prayer and Praise will meet via Zoom on December 9th at 1:30 pm. All are welcome. Call or text Rev. Dolores at 630-890-8343 to request a Zoom invitation.

Rev. Dolores

Prayer Chain

The Strand of Pearls folks are actively praying for prayer requests as they come in. Updates and thanksgivings are appreciated and will be passed on. Please call, email or text **your** requests to Rev. Dolores at 630-890-8343 or revdfw@icloud.com, and indicate whether you wish the request to remain confidential. Otherwise, it will be named in the GSPC prayer list.

Rev. Dolores Wiens

Session News

Session held their monthly meeting on November 8, 2020. Here is a synopsis of the actions taken in November:

- Adopted a resolution modifying the allocation to the pastor's 2020 Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan to \$4,350, moving \$350 from his annual expense allowance to the Health Reimbursement allowance.
- Approved to place 10% (\$1,000) from a bequest into the Mission Set Aside Fund.
- Approved to terminate employment of one church secretary effective December 31, 2020.
- Approved the expenditure of \$750 from Russia Mission Fund as a donation to Pastor Sergei and his church for Christmas gifts for the orphanage and fixtures for the new bathroom in the church building.
- Approved the expenditure of \$1,000 from Mission Set Aside Fund to provide postage and final items for Operation Christmas Child boxes for this year.
- Scheduled the Stated Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2020, at 11:30 am via Zoom to consider the 2021 Terms of Call of the Pastor and any other actions that may be necessary.
- Discussed reopening of Worship and other Church activities with agreement to proceed with caution and consideration of the recommendations of the State of Utah, Presbytery, and Local Health Departments. Due to increased number of cases of COVID-19 in Southwest Utah, Session agreed to continue with the current virtual Worship Services, Zoom Bible Studies and Zoom Fellowship Hour and Zoom Christian Education Classes for both adults and children.

Next meeting of the Session will be Sunday, December 13, 2020, at 12:30 pm via Zoom.

Ruth Ann Horvath, Clerk of Session

Soup Kitchen

Our church "crew" participates in the Soup Kitchen the first Monday of each month. This month our church donations included 20 pounds of food and supplies plus a \$150 donation. During the month of November volunteers included Eliza Elwood, Josie Kellejan, Nancy Higgins, Vicky Westland and Bill Thomas. Cooking in the Switchpoint kitchen we served over 100 hungry folks which is always just as much a blessing to the volunteers as it is to those who enjoy their lunch. A menu of taco soup, rolls, green salad, fruit salad and yogurt was served. Those who are hungry in St George continue to come to the Soup Kitchen for our "to go" meals. Questions about the Soup Kitchen experience? ContactCarolynn Thomas 435-817-8288.

Carolynn Thomas

Stewardship

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful weather, staying safe, and staying healthy! As we begin the holidays (!) we are all still adjusting to the new normal and finding new ways to stay connected safely. The Church continues to do fairly well financially considering our current circumstances. Our total revenue is way below budget but, because we are not spending as much money, we still have not had to tap into our reserves. With the coming of the new year, however, that may change. Please remember that you can continue to make donations of pledge payments and loose offerings through the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church website (gspcsg.org) or mail donations to the Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 1499, St. George UT 84771-1499. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Stewardship, continued

The Treasurer's report for October appears on page 2, and our Building Fund report is on page 11.

As I reported last month, we do have a major challenge on the horizon. In formulating the budget, we first evaluate and define our expected expenditures. Next, based on the current year and historical data, we estimate how much we can expect to receive in loose offerings. The difference is what we need in pledges to fund the operation and missions of the church. For 2021 we need \$144,862 in pledges to fully fund the budget. As of Sunday, November 22nd, we have pledges totaling just \$61,504 or 42 percent of the amount we need. If you are able to pledge we request that you make your pledge as soon as you can. You can pledge by filling out your pledge form and returning it to the church to the attention of the Financial Secretary. You can also pledge at our website, gspscsq.org (go to Stewardship then Pledge Support and click on General Fund Pledge on the right). You can also email your pledge to our Financial Secretary, LaVerna Metzger, at finsec@gspscsq.org. Without knowing how much pledge income we can expect it is difficult to determine how much we can safely spend. We will dedicate our pledges during worship on December 13th.

Leslie Lintz

Visitation Pastor

I hope and pray this finds all our church members safe and feeling well, even with a bad case of cabin fever that we are all sharing at this time. I continue to try to visit by telephone and would urge all our members to call other church family, it means so much to be remembered particularly at this time.

Dick Higgins

Worship & Music

The Advent season is here, and although our building is closed, our church remains open! Our recorded weekly worship service is available on our website, www.gspscsq.org early each Sunday morning.

Even though our choirs are not able to present their yearly Christmas concert, special prerecorded music from previous years will be presented during the December 20th worship service. Thanks to Zoom, we WILL have a Christmas Eve service! The Christmas story and scripture readings will be presented and soloists will be performing from their own homes! We encourage all to join our service by sending an email to Rev. Ralph for an invitation.

We send you Christmas greetings and may you feel the spirit of Christ in your hearts and the love that surrounds us.

Barbara McConnell

Congregation News

Salvation Army Accepting Donations

Dick Higgins writes: I'm sure you have been thinking fondly of me standing up each Sunday asking for volunteer bell ringers. Although I can't do that this year, I do have something to ask of you. The Salvation Army is not going to have as much donated this year because of fewer Red Bucket locations so, if possible, please remember those in need in our community and send a donation to the Salvation Army, 803 South Bluff St., St. George, UT 84770. Thanks, and God Bless and stay safe this Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Congregational Meeting December 13th

We will hold our Stated Congregational Meeting on December 13th at 11:30 am via Zoom. This meeting will take a few minutes from the beginning of our regular weekly fellowship time. The purpose of the meeting is to hear and act on a report from the Nominating Committee, if any, approve the Terms of Call for Rev. Ralph for 2021 and transact any other business that is appropriate for a Congregational Meeting. We need as many members as possible to join us since, in order to hold a legal meeting, we need a quorum to be present. If you can attend, please email Rev. Ralph at RevRalph1@msn.com and he will send you an invitation.

The CARES Act and Charitable Contributions

Through the CARES Act, each taxpayer can deduct \$300 of 2020 contributions to charitable organizations from their taxes even if they take the Standard Deduction. While we hope your giving is not predicated on a tax deduction, getting your contributions in before the end of the year might just reduce your tax bill. For more information go to www.irs.gov/newsroom/how-the-cares-act-changes-deducting-charitable-contributions.

Lectionary Readings for December

Date	First Reading / Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Sunday, December 6 Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
Friday, December 25 Nativity of the Lord / Christmas	<i>Christmas Dawn</i> Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20
	<i>Christmas Day</i> Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]	John 1:1-14
Sunday, December 27 1st Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

Lectionary Readings for January

Date	First Reading / Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Sunday, January 3 Second Sunday of Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9) 10-18
Wednesday, January 6 Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, January 10 Baptism of the Lord	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29:1-11	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Sunday, January 17 Second Sunday after the Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Sunday, January 24 Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Sunday, January 31 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

More Congregation News

2021 Terms of Call for Rev. Ralph

In order for us to pay Rev. Ralph in 2021 the IRS requires that his Terms of Call be approved prior to the start of the year. We will vote on this important matter at the Stated Congregational Meeting on December 13th. Below are the proposed Terms of Call for 2021, which are unchanged from 2020.

Salary	\$36,898.00	Dental Insurance	\$906.00
Housing	\$38,277.00	Disability Insurance	\$1,128.00
Pension	\$6,390.00	Reimbursable Expenses	\$7,000.00
Medical Insurance	\$20,298.00		

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		9:30 am Calendar Coordinating Council Meeting via Zoom 11:00 am Women's Bible Study via Zoom 6:30 pm Grief & Loss Support Group - CE Building	11:00 am Women's Bible Study via Zoom			
6 Second Sunday of Advent	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30 am Children's Sunday School via Zoom 9:00 am Adult Education via Zoom 10:30 am Worship via Zoom 11:30 am Virtual Fellowship via Zoom 8:30 am Children's Sunday School via Zoom	1:00 pm Shawl Ministry via Zoom 6:00 pm Kerygma Advent Study via Zoom	11:00 am Women's Bible Study via Zoom 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Group Meeting	11:00 am Women's Bible Study via Zoom 1:30 pm Cluster of Prayer and Praise via Zoom		7:30 am Men's Bible Study via Zoom	
13 Third Sunday of Advent	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30 am Children's Sunday School via Zoom 9:00 am Adult Education via Zoom 10:30 am Worship via Zoom 11:30 am Stated Congregational Meeting via Zoom 11:45 am Virtual Fellowship via Zoom 12:30 pm Session Meeting via Zoom	1:00 pm Shawl Ministry via Zoom 6:00 pm Kerygma Advent Study via Zoom	11:00 am Women's Bible Study via Zoom 6:30 pm Grief & Loss Support Group - CE Building	11:00 am Women's Bible Study via Zoom			
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30 am Children's Sunday School via Zoom 9:00 am Adult Education via Zoom 10:30 am Worship via Zoom 11:30 am Virtual Fellowship via Zoom	1:00 pm Shawl Ministry via Zoom 6:00 pm Kerygma Advent Study via Zoom	11:00 am Women's Bible Study via Zoom	11:00 am Women's Bible Study via Zoom Newsletter Deadline	Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship via Zoom	Christmas Day 7:30 am Men's Bible Study via Zoom	
27	28	29	30	31		
8:30 am Children's Sunday School via Zoom 9:00 am Adult Education via Zoom 10:30 am Worship via Zoom 11:30 am Virtual Fellowship via Zoom	1:00 pm Shawl Ministry via Zoom	11:00 am Women's Bible Study via Zoom	11:00 am Women's Bible Study via Zoom	New Year's Eve		

PLEASE NOTE:

Rev. Ralph will be on vacation from December 25th through December 31st.

Please contact Dick Higgins (435-879-0253) or Anne Patten (773-4307) with any concerns.

In the unlikely event that we resume in-person activities during December, please check the church website gspcsg.org for the latest information on what events will be held via Zoom and what events will be held live.



Regularly Scheduled Activities

Soup Kitchen Sunday – Contributions of food, supplies and cash – 1st Sunday of each Month **(Canceled)**
Women's Bible Study and Fellowship – last Monday of each month at 11:30 am in Conklin Hall **(Canceled)**
Praise & Prayer – second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary **(Via Zoom)**

Shawl Ministry	Monday	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	(Via Zoom)
Exercise with Rev. Ralph	Tuesday	3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	(Canceled)
	Thursday	3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	(Canceled)
Men's Bible Study	2 nd & 4 th Friday	7:30 am to 8:30 am	Via Zoom
Open Bible Study	Sunday	5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	(Canceled)
	Thursday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	(Canceled)
Women's Bible Studies	Tuesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Via Zoom
	Wednesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Via Zoom
Choir Rehearsals	Tuesday	2:00 pm Bell Choir	(Canceled)
	Thursday	3:45 pm Chancel Choir	(Canceled)



Building Fund Update

When we took out our mortgage, we estimated that we needed \$384,000 in order to pay off the mortgage and have the resources to meet our needs for maintaining and improving our facilities. Now that our mortgage has been retired, we have turned our attention to several major maintenance items and improvements that need to be addressed over the next several years. These projects, totaling more than \$145,000, need to be funded. We still need your help.

Through November 22nd we have received pledges towards our third campaign totaling **\$56,100** and additional cash donations of **\$37,530** giving us a total for all three campaigns of **\$288,693** or about **75.0%** of our **\$384,000** goal.

Thanks to everyone who has made a pledge to the third campaign. If you haven't pledged, please prayerfully consider making a pledge to help us ensure that our facilities remain in top notch condition and to allow us to make some needed improvements.

Church Contact Information

Office Hours	Wed 9:15 am – 1:00 pm
Office Phone/Fax	435-628-9158
Office Email	office@gspcsq.org
Pastor's Office Hours	Mon to Thu – 9:15 am – 10:30 am
	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
	2 nd & 4 th Weeks by Afternoon Appointment Only
Pastor's Cell	435-705-1867
Pastor's Email	pastor@gspcsq.org
Prayer Chain	Rev. Dolores Wiens 630-890-8343
Music Director	Barbara McConnell
Website	gspcsq.org
Newsletter email	newsletter@gspcsq.org
Website / Newsletter Editor	Chris Schleiter
Information on Stephen Ministry	www.stephenministries.org

Church Leadership 2020

Session

Class of 2020	Jan Hirschi	435-680-1012	Church Growth
	Bill Somplatsky-Jarman	502-689-6030	Christian Ed
	Eric Westland	435-625-1399	Building
Class of 2021	Ruth Ann Horvath	435-922-5271	Clerk of Session
	Gloria McGilloway	610-349-6045	Fellowship
	Chris Schleiter	435-619-2843	Senior Ministries
Class of 2022	Leslie Lintz	412-403-9980	Mission/Outreach
	Barbara McConnell	435-862-4822	Stewardship
	Alan Paige	435-703-9272	Worship
			Grounds

Deacons

Parish	Deacon	Phone
Deacons	Virginia Hunt – Moderator	714-955-1167
Bloomington Hills	Sandy Paige	703-9272
Dixie Downs/Santa Clara	Tom & Vici Noble	673-4232
East Bloomington	Vicky Westland	435-414-1960
Green Valley	Marjorie Bayle	435-699-4985
Hurricane	Russ & Luisa Estlack	275-6365
	Sue Lundgreen	775-368-3054
Ivins	Mona Johnson	408-621-8144
Old St. George	Jeff Clingan	435-705-8692
Pine Valley	Tineke Ingold	574-3614
Red Cliffs	Ann McLuckie	680-1062
Sun River	Candy Hurlbut	435-879-9394
Washington	Ka-Wai Yu	812-340-2184



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