



# 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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## December, 2021

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### In This Issue

- 1 The Merry (and Busy) Month of December Kicks Off; Rev. Ralph Announces Annual Tacky Tie and Sweater Contest
- 2 Prayer Concerns; Ruling Elders Monthly Scriptures; Welcome New Members; Newsletter Deadline; Worship Schedule; Volunteers; Treasurer's Report
- 3 Rev. Ralph's Food for Thought
- 4 Prayer Corner; Strand of Pearls Prayer Chain; Healing Prayer Offered Weekly
- 5 Buildings; Christian Education; Congregational Growth & Care
- 6 Deacons; Fellowship; Mission/Outreach
- 7 Session News; Soup Kitchen; Stewardship;
- 8 Women's Bible Study & Fellowship; Worship & Music;
- 9 December Lectionary; January Lectionary; Congregation News
- 10 December Calendar
- 11 Regularly Scheduled Activities; Building Fund Update; Church Contact Information/Leadership

## Church Staff

**The Rev. Dr. Ralph Clingan**  
Pastor

**Ruth Ann Horvath**  
Clerk of Session

**Candy Hurlbut**  
Church Secretary

**Barbara McConnell**  
Music Director

**Stephen Talley**  
Organist

**Rev. Dolores Wiens**  
Strand of Pearls Prayer Chain

**Chris Schleter**  
Website / Newsletter Editor

## The Merry (and Busy) Month of December Kicks Off

As usual, December will be a VERY busy month. Beginning on November 28<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday of Advent, with the kickoff of Rev. Ralph's Annual Tacky Tie and Sweater Contest and culminating on Christmas Eve with our traditional worship service, there is something in December for everyone.

Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Ralph, Cindy and Jeff will host their annual open house from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Plan to bring a beverage and something to share and join everyone in the joy of the holiday season.

On Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our Stated Congregational Meeting after worship to elect officers for next year and approve the Terms of Call for Rev. Ralph for 2022.

Also on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, the choirs will perform their annual Christmas concert in our Sanctuary. The choirs will perform a portion of the concert during worship that morning. This is a wonderful program and we hope you will all join us.

Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> we will dedicate our pledges for 2022 and, following worship, we'll hold our annual potluck Christmas Celebration in Conklin Hall. Bring hors d'oeuvres or snacks to share and we'll sing some Carols of the season.

At 7:00 pm on Christmas Eve we will anticipate the birth of our Savior with our Candle Light Worship, and we'll wrap up the Christmas season with worship on December 26<sup>th</sup> when Daniel Flores will be preaching.

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

## Rev. Ralph Announces Annual Tacky Tie and Sweater Contest

Consider yourselves warned. Once again in 2021 Rev. Ralph is challenging the men of the congregation to find and wear to church the TACKIEST Christmas ties they can find and the women of the congregation to wear their TACKIEST Christmas sweater. The winners will receive a special prize.

All women's entries must be publicly identified as being "Tacky" to avoid any unfortunate misidentification of a treasured family or handmade heirloom. Ladies, you can pick up a sticker from Peggy to indicate that your sweater is, in fact, an entry into this year's contest.

We can't wait to see what you've found!



### 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

Gloria McGilloway	Margaret Ramquist
Jan Hirschi	Ed & Cheryl Mansfield
Josie Marsh	Molly Bass
Shirley & Don Wilson	Bob Moeller
Janice Klein	Brian Hurlbut
Cheryl & Joe Borden	Ann Hogan
Marena Fosler & Family	
The family of Chris Wheeler	
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, 2021

### Worship Schedule

**8:30 am**  
**Children's Sunday School**  
**via Zoom**

**8:45 – 9:00 am**  
**Morning Prayer and Communion**  
**Sanctuary**

**9:00 – 9:45 am**  
**Adult Education**  
**CE Building**

**10:30 am**  
**Worship**  
**Sanctuary**

**11:45 am**  
**Fellowship Time**  
**Conklin Hall**

### 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	Philippians 3:12-14	Pressing on
Elder Ruth Ann Horvath	Revelation 11:15	Forever and ever
Elder Leslie Lintz	Proverbs 3:5-6	Paths Straight
Elder Alan Paige	Psalms 34:5	Look to Him
Elder Chris Schleiter	Matthew 18:2-4	The greatest
Elder Bill Somplatsky-Jarman	Psalms 25:1-10	Know your ways
Elder Eric Westland	Galatians 6:9-10	Do good
Elder Barbara McConnell	James 1:2-4	Let it grow
Elder Gloria McGilloway	1 Chronicles 16:34	Give Thanks
Elder Alicia Kitzman	Colossians 3:12-14	Forgive one another

### Thanks to our Volunteers

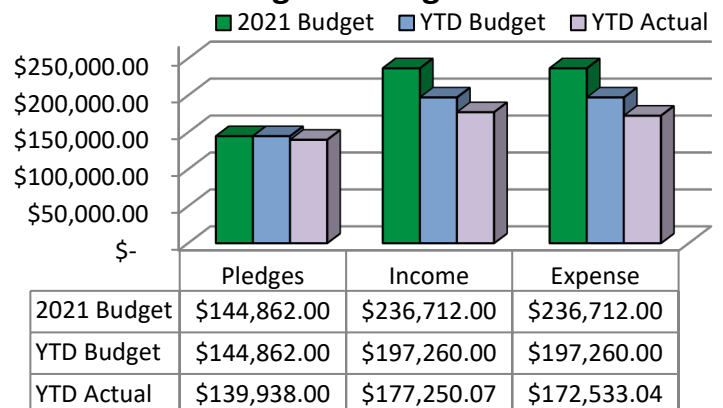
Flowers		Nursery
<b>December</b>		
December 5	Donna Beasley	<b>Cancelled due to COVID</b>
December 12	LaVerna Metzger	
December 19	Donna Beasley	
December 26	Chris Schleiter	
<b>January</b>		
January 2	<i>Available</i>	via Zoom
January 9	<i>Available</i>	<i>Available</i>
January 16	<i>Available</i>	<i>Available</i>
January 23	<i>Available</i>	<i>Available</i>
January 30	<i>Available</i>	<i>Available</i>

Signup for Flowers on the board between the Narthex and Conklin Hall or on our Website [gpscsq.org](http://gpscsq.org)

### Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of October 31	
Month of October	
Receipts	\$ 20,738.05
Expenditures	\$ 15,171.11
2021 YTD Budget vs Actual	
YTD Budgeted Receipts	\$ 197,260.00
Actual Receipts	<b>\$177,250.07</b>
YTD Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 197,260.00
Actual Expenditures	<b>\$172,533.04</b>
Fund Balances	
General Fund	\$ 29,666.97
Building Fund	\$ 55,990.30
Memorial Fund	\$ 3,734.50
Reserve Fund	\$ 45,658.66
Russia Mission Fund	\$ 8,123.05
Bequests	\$ 74,304.47

### 2021 Budget Through October 31



## Rev. Ralph's Food for Thought

*And they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. When they had seen Him, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it were amazed about the things which were told them by the shepherds. **But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.** And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.*

*Luke 2:16-20 (NASB)*



It's not a bit surprising that Mary does not respond to the shepherds' story of what they had seen and heard in the fields with either surprise or doubt. After all she had been advised of who this child is and what has happened with His coming long before the first kick was ever felt.

Now, in the accounts of the shepherds all that has been said and promised has been verified, confirmed to a degree. Luke tells us that her reaction was to keep all these ponderings of faith and amazement treasured in her heart. For then, I am sure, she was far from clear as to how this was going to all play out, what the future would hold for the babe in her arms. I don't believe I am conjecturing when I surmise that for Mary, whatever that future might be, she believed God's promise for tomorrow and trusted God with whatever that may be.

We can learn a lot from Mary. We tend to think and act more like the shepherds. We hear the ancient story and are filled with joy and amazement and we return to who we are and where we came from with a great story to tell.

If we follow Mary's example, we see Christmas as only a signpost to what is coming. Believing God's promise from the past to our future salvation, treasuring the message, promise and vision in our hearts. For in so doing we go forward in faith and anticipation. Not really knowing how all this is going to work out, but trusting our Lord with it all, including ourselves. And in so doing we leave Bethlehem and travel the road to Jerusalem and Calvary; we leave Christmas with our sights on Easter. And in so doing will never go back or be the same again.

A very Merry and Blessed Christmas to you all!

*In Christ,  
Rev. Ralph*



### **\*\* Home Communion \*\***

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

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

With the federal laws that govern the privacy of medical records, hospitals no longer are 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.

## Prayer Corner

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



Advent reminds me of hospitality and that reminds me of my sister. Darlene was hospitality personified; her doors were never locked. There was always coffee on the stove and room for one more at the table. People were constantly coming and going at Darlene's house. She was never too busy to listen to someone who had a story to tell or who needed a shoulder. Darlene's Christmas Eve Feast of the Seven Fishes was well known in our small town and her house was full of joyous people until well past midnight. She was at her happiest when her house was full of family and friends with plenty of good food on the table.

Genesis 18:2-5 tells us that in Abraham's day, a person's reputation was largely connected to his hospitality - the sharing of home and food. Even strangers were to be treated as highly honored guests. Meeting another's need for food or shelter was and still is one of the most immediate and practical ways to obey God. In Roman's 12:13b, the Apostle Paul tells us, "Practice hospitality." Darlene honored and obeyed God through her hospitality and was dearly loved by those who were fortunate enough to know her.

In Hebrews 13:2 the writer reminds us, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some people have entertained angels without knowing it." I am convinced that she did and that now she is one of the heavenly hosts.

*Gloria McGilloway*

1976 was the year that my parents retired and permanently moved to Florida. (We did keep two rooms at the back of our home, where they spent the summers with us in Upstate New York). The cold and snowy December after their move, Mom and Dad had driven up to spend the holidays with us. Since Mom had been the organist at our church for more than 20 years, she was asked to play the organ for Midnight Mass. Joe was unable to attend, so Dad and Mom, our three children and I left for church in time to prepare the choir and organ, around 11:00 pm. The service was beautiful, filled with heavenly music, joy, love . . . and outside, SNOW. The snow started about the time we got to church. Apparently, it snowed all thru the service. By the time we left to return home the wind was blowing and drifts were forming. Dad was confident we could make it because he had put snow tires on the station wagon before he left Florida. We got about four miles from church, but we were still four miles from home when we got stuck. On this dark back road there were no houses around. Dad tried to get us out of the drift but there was no going forward or backward. Dad got out and scouted ahead of us. To his amazement, he found the road was essentially blown bare of snow just 10 feet from the drift. Dad said he was pretty sure he could get us through, although the drift was 6 feet tall. He maneuvered the car; we moved a little, but we were still stuck. At that point, Mom, the two older kids and I got out to push. We got nowhere! I suggested for our next try, to push as hard as we could while saying the Lord's Prayer loud enough for God to hear us. He heard! God laid his hand on ours and we were able to push the car to the other side of the drift and we got home safely for Christmas. Since that time, the Lord's Prayer has been my go-to prayer; it always brings me peace and confidence that He is with us in all things.

*Cheryl Borden*

## Strand of Pearls (aka, the Prayer Chain)

Pearls on our Strand continue to pray actively for those for whom requests have been made 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](mailto:revdfw@icloud.com), and indicate whether you wish the request to remain confidential. Otherwise, it will be included in the GSPC prayer list in the newsletter.

*Rev. Dolores Wiens*

## Healing Prayer Offered Weekly

Following our Healing service which was held in November, Healing prayer and anointing will now be offered every Sunday morning at the conclusion of the Worship Service in the Chapel. Rev. Dolores Wiens and Carolyn Barnett will be available in the Chapel to offer healing prayer for all who desire it. Due to the very positive response and feedback we have received following our Healing Service, a Healing Service will take place in the spring on a date yet to be determined.



## Buildings

It's been another quiet month, thankfully. We are now comfortably through the AC season and the buildings are in good shape.

The Building and Grounds committee got back together for the first time since we shut down and we had a very productive meeting. We discussed long-term maintenance needs, especially those for the CE building and even came up with a couple new major projects to improve what we already have. More on those later.

We did have some citizen stuff our empty dumpster with a mattress and all sorts of other junk. I don't know why anyone would do that as it is just as easy to drive it out to the landfill for free. Anyway, I want to thank Jeff Clingan for helping empty it down so the dumpster could be emptied.

*Blessings  
Eric Westland*

## Christian Education

Advent is upon us. There is a beautiful Advent Devotional available for free at [www.pcusa.org/2021advent](http://www.pcusa.org/2021advent). Published by Presbyterians Today, "Come to Bethlehem and Be Nourished: Advent's hunger gives way to Christmas fulfillment" will combine scripture, the poetry of Howard Thurman, the spiritual practice of breadmaking and sharing, and reflections on recentering our lives as we await the birth of Jesus.

The Adult Sunday School is embarking on the Winter 2021-2022 study of The Present Word. This quarter's theme is "Justice, Law and History." The first segment will explore "God Requires Justice" and how Christians rely on God's Law in administering justice. The second unit will focus on "God: the Source of Justice" in the lives of God's people and the gift of the Law. The final segment is "Justice and Adversity," a look at situations in the Bible where justice seems absent. Please join in the discussion on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am.

*Bill Somplatsky-Jarman*

## Congregational Growth & Care

The CPR Course for the Non Professional, which was held on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, was a success, according to our committee member, Charlotte Phipps, who organized the event. The fifteen attendees not only learned about saving lives, but also shared the experience in a non-threatening and informative way. This class is held every two years and provides the opportunity for re-certification to both those who have previously participated and others who might be first-timers. Make a note - the next class will be in November, 2023. We look forward to seeing you!

This Christmas season will look quite a bit different from Christmas of 2020. The news media are full of reports and suggestions and warnings about venturing out in the coming weeks as we seek reconnection with family and friends. As we gather, it will be meaningful for us to confirm, in-person, that our relationships and traditions have survived our time apart.

A thought for your holidays — During the past months, we have been made aware of how genetics and the existence of preexisting conditions might impact the course of a disease process in our bodies. In the event of illness, being able to provide information about your family's medical histories could prove important and possibly alter the course of treatment or outcomes. If you don't already have this history, what better time to gather such information than when sitting around, reliving old memories with loved ones during the holiday? Many conditions, like heart disease, diabetes, asthma, hypertension and cancer, bear a genetic component. Because some relatives may feel uncomfortable with a discussion of medical conditions, the topic could be included as part of a sharing of old family recipes and photos. Knowing one's family history can be both reaffirming and potentially life-saving.

Keep safe this holiday and we wish you all a Blessed Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year.

*Alicia Kitzman*



## Deacons

"For unto us a child is born, a son is given...And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

We pray that you will have a hope-filled Advent season as you prepare your hearts and lives for His coming!

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.

*In Christ's service,  
Vicky Westland*

## Fellowship

Thank you to all who assisted with our Thanksgiving Luncheon, and to those of you that were able to join in the celebration of all of our blessings. The food was delicious and the fellowship was wonderful.

Now we can look forward to our Christmas Brunch which will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please bring hors d'oeuvres or snacks to share and we'll sing some Carols of the season. What a perfect way to kick off the week of our Savior's birth!

Time sure seems to be flying by, so let's continue to enjoy our outstanding fellowship gatherings.

*Blessings  
Gloria McGilloway*

## Mission/Outreach

The CROP walk was, as always, a great success. About 85 members of our community from numerous faiths walked to raise money to alleviate hunger in our area and around the world. Final numbers including online donations are not in yet but as of November 23<sup>rd</sup>, our walk raised more than \$4,300, more than \$1,000 of which will go to Solomon's Porch for their food box distribution and Sunday Feast. Thanks to everyone who walked or donated and a special thanks toCarolynn Thomas and Gloria McGilloway for staffing our refreshment table. We even got a \$10 donation there! Next year's walk will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> so start getting in shape now.

Operation Christmas Child was also wildly successful. Together we packed and delivered 132 shoeboxes this year. We also delivered 21 boxes packed by the Red Mesa Fellowship. We are following 20 of the boxes packed at our packing party in early November so we can see where they go. We'll keep you posted. Next year let's pack 150 boxes!



Thank you for all you do to support our Mission programs.

*Peace and Blessings  
Chris Schleiter*

## Session News

Session held their monthly meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Here is a synopsis of the action that was taken:

- Approved vacation dates for Rev. Clingan December 25-31, 2021, and January 28-February 5, 2022.
- Accepted the report of the Nominating Committee of a slate of Elders, Deacons, and 2022 Nominating Committee, set the date for a Stated Congregational Meeting on December 12, 2021, at 11:30 am to act on the Report of the Nominating Committee, present the 2022 Budget, and accept the 2022 Terms of Call of the Pastor.
- Set a Joint Elder-Deacon Training for Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 11:45 am in the CE Building.
- Authorized the use of \$350 of the Mission Set Aside Funds to pay for suggested donations for the remainder of the Operation Christmas Child boxes for which we currently do not have funds.
- Authorized the purchase of a new desktop or laptop computer to use for video streaming services at a cost not to exceed \$1,500 to be paid from Bequests.
- Accepted and agreed to the terms of the "Policy Procedure on Sexual Misconduct Presbytery of Utah" and The Presbytery of Utah Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy."

The next meeting of the Session will be Sunday, December 12, 2021, at 12:00 Noon in the CE Building.

*Ruth Ann Horvath, Clerk of Session*

## Soup Kitchen

Our church "crew" participates in the Soup Kitchen the first Monday of each month. During November our church donations included 200 pounds of food and supplies plus a \$150 donation. Volunteers included Ruthanne Skinner, Ruth Ann Horvath, Josie Kellejan, Alan Dull and Patti Lusby. Cooking in the Switchpoint kitchen we serve over 100 hungry folks each month which is always just as much a blessing to the volunteers as it is to those who enjoy their lunch. A menu of meatloaf, green salad, fruit salad, potatoes, green beans, rolls and dessert 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

Christmas is just around the corner, and I am looking forward to celebrating with everyone! It's a good time to start thinking about the upcoming Christmas Joy Special Offering.

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Please consider making a donation to this very worthy cause.

Thank you to all those who have submitted pledges and offerings. Your generosity helps keep us thriving. As of November 21<sup>st</sup> we have received pledges totaling \$91,132 or about 54.4% of our needs for next year. Thanks to everyone who has pledged. If you haven't yet submitted a pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. Remember that a pledge is a commitment but if circumstances change they can always be modified. Pledges help us to plan for next year. We will dedicate our pledges on December 19<sup>th</sup> and we thank you for your continued support.

*Blessings  
Leslie Lintz*

## Women's Bible Study & Fellowship

### **Communal Lament**

In our second monthly study this fall on October 25<sup>th</sup>, we learned that despite differences of our opinions regarding local, national or world problems, as Christians, lament gives us common ground. Our study's example: though there are individual disagreements about gun control, we can look past our disagreements to the pain we may share about lives lost senselessly to gun violence.

When we lament, we move from suffering to faith. A visible communal lament can take the form of a protest or march. A Christian lament addresses God, describes the injustice to God, states our trust in God, calls for Him to act, and states our assurance that God will hear our lament as we wait and see whether God will act.

The subject of a New York Times article from June, 2019, gives us an example of a contemporary lament: Christians participating in Hong Kong's protests against closer ties with mainland China. (Hong Kong's Christians have long played an important role in the politics of the semiautonomous Chinese territory, on issues like religious freedom, democracy, and human rights.) Though Catholics and Protestants make up only about one in nine people in the city of 7.5 million, the influence of Christianity in the protests was striking, providing a source of inspiration and solace.

Rather than sitting at home in air conditioning, Hong Kong Christians believed that Jesus would be out there helping people. They provided food and shelter at demonstrations and condemned efforts by police to break them up. Many protesters, even those who are not religious, embraced the teachings and messages of Christianity to denounce a proposed law to allow extraditions to mainland China.

Protesters spoke of "loving thy neighbor" and winning a battle of "good versus evil." Youth groups held prayer circles to call for peace and redemption for the police. The hymn, "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord" became an unofficial anthem of the demonstrations, echoing from bridges and makeshift shelters.

Such a communal lament no doubt brought strength to those who prayed it or sang it, as it moved them from suffering to faith.

Pebble Mowery will lead our study in December and Gay Cunningham will lead our study in January.

*Vicky Westland*

### **Worship & Music**

"To prepare our hearts for Christmas, we must cultivate the spirit of expectancy." Welcome to our Advent season as we prepare for the coming of Christ!

Our Advent season at our beautifully decorated church is filled with worship services and concerts. Please mark your calendar for the annual Christmas concert to be held at our church at 7:00 pm on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be a concert of Christmas music performed by the Bell and Chancel choirs along with special duets and solos by Leslie and David Lintz, Vicky Westland, and Dr. Ka-Wai Yu. It is a program you will not want to miss!

A candlelight Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 pm. There will be joyous music to welcome the Christ Child by the Chancel choir, organ, and brass.

The Interfaith Council will hold the annual "Prayer Over the City" on New Year's Day at 12:00 Noon at the Tabernacle. Many churches in our community will be represented and will offer prayers for our new year.

"The story of Christmas is the story of God's relentless love for us all."

*Merry Christmas!*  
*Barbara McConnell*





## Lectionary Readings for December

Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Sunday, December 5 Second Sunday of Advent	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Sunday, December 12 Third Sunday of Advent	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Sunday, December 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46-55 or Psalm 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96:1-13	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Saturday, December 25 Nativity of the Lord / Christmas	<i>Christmas Dawn</i> Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97:1-12 <i>Christmas Day</i> Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98:1-9	Titus 3:4-7  Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)	Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20  John 1:1-14
Sunday, December 26 First Sunday of Christmas	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

## Lectionary Readings for January

Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Sunday, January 2 Second Sunday of Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9) 10-18
Thursday, 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 9 Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Sunday, January 16 Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Sunday, January 23 Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Sunday, January 30 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30

## Congregation News

### **Sad News**

We were saddened to learn of the deaths of Chris Wheeler and Rod Fosler. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

### **Children's Sunday School to Resume in January**

After enduring COVID for 21 months, Children's Sunday School will return to meeting in person in the CE building on January 9, 2022, at 10:30 am. We look forward to being back together!

## December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	<b>2</b> 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am IHOP in Washington 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm	<b>3</b> 12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	<b>4</b> 2:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal pm
<b>5</b> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Soup Kitchen Sunday</b> 8:30 Children's Sunday am School via Zoom 8:45 Prayer Service am 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Communion am Worship 11:45 Fellowship am <b>12:00 Session/Deacon</b> <b>Noon Meeting</b> <b>12:00 Worship</b> <b>Noon Committee</b> <b>Meeting</b> <b>3:00 Open House @</b> <b>pm Rev. Ralph's</b> <b>Home</b>	<b>6</b> 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm <b>6:00 Kerygma Bible</b> <b>pm Study with Potluck</b>	<b>7</b> 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ First Watch 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph <b>6:30 Grief &amp; Loss</b> <b>pm Support Group</b>	<b>8</b> 11:00 Women's Bible am Study @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	<b>9</b> 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am IHOP in Washington <b>1:15 Growth &amp; Care</b> <b>pm Committee</b> <b>Meeting</b> 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm	<b>10</b> 7:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Bishop's 12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	<b>11</b> 2:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal pm
<b>12</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30 Children's Sunday am School via Zoom 8:45 Prayer Service am 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am <b>11:30 Stated</b> <b>am Congregational</b> <b>Meeting</b> 11:45 Fellowship am <b>12:00 Session Meeting</b> <b>Noon</b> <b>7:00 Choirs' Christmas</b> <b>pm Concert</b>	<b>13</b> 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm 6:30 Advent Study pm	<b>14</b> 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ First Watch 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph	<b>15</b> 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble <b>6:00 Stephen Ministry</b> <b>pm Supervision Group</b> <b>Meeting</b>	<b>16</b> 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am IHOP in Washington 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm	<b>17</b> 12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	<b>18</b> 2:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal pm
<b>19</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30 Children's Sunday am School via Zoom 8:45 Prayer Service am 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship am 11:45 Fellowship - am Christmas Celebration <b>11:45 Blood Pressures</b> <b>am Taken</b>	<b>20</b> <b>11:30 Women's Bible</b> <b>am Study &amp;</b> <b>Fellowship</b> 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	<b>21</b> 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ First Watch 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph <b>6:30 Grief &amp; Loss</b> <b>pm Support Group</b>	<b>22</b> 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	<b>23</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am IHOP in Washington 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 7:00 Men's Bible Study @ am Bishop's 12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon <b>7:00 Christmas Eve</b> <b>pm Worship</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> 2:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal pm
<b>26</b> 8:45 Prayer Service am 9:00 Adult Education am 10:30 Worship - Daniel am Flores preaching 11:45 Fellowship am	<b>27</b> 1:00 Shawl Ministry pm	<b>28</b> <b>9:30 Calendar</b> <b>am Coordinating</b> <b>Council Meeting</b> 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ First Watch 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph	<b>29</b> 11:00 Women's Bible Study am @ Starbucks Cafe - Barnes & Noble	<b>30</b> 11:00 Men's Bible Study @ am IHOP in Washington 3:00 Exercise with Rev. pm Ralph 3:45 Chancel Choir pm	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b> 12:00 Al-Anon Meeting Noon	

## PLEASE NOTE:

Rev. Ralph will be on vacation from December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please contact Rev. Dolores Wiens (630-890-8343) with any pastoral concerns.

This calendar is subject to change. Always check the church website [gpscsg.org](http://gpscsg.org) for the latest information.

## Regularly Scheduled Activities

**Soup Kitchen Sunday** – Contributions of food, supplies and cash – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each Month  
**Women's Bible Study and Fellowship** – last Monday of each month at 11:30 am in Conklin Hall  
**Al-Anon Meeting** – Friday at 12:00 Noon in the CE Building

<b>Shawl Ministry</b>	Monday	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Conklin Hall
<b>Exercise with Rev. Ralph</b>	Tuesday	3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Conklin Hall
	Thursday	3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Conklin Hall
<b>Men's Bible Study</b>	Thursday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	IHOP
	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	7:30 am to 8:30 am	Bishop's in Sunset Plaza
<b>Women's Bible Studies</b>	Tuesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	First Watch
	Wednesday	11:00 am to 12:00 Noon	Barnes & Noble Cafe
<b>Choir Rehearsals</b>	Thursday	3:45 pm Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	Saturday	2:00 pm Bell Choir	Sanctuary



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> we have received pledges towards our third campaign totaling **\$56,100** and additional cash donations of **\$54,235** giving us a total for all three campaigns of **\$305,398** or about **79.4%** of our **\$384,000** goal.

While we are not currently conducting a Building Fund campaign, we do need donations to the Building Fund in order to ensure that our buildings and grounds are kept in good condition. Please consider a donation to the Building Fund to help us reach our goal.

### Church Contact Information

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

Information on Stephen Ministry [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)



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### Church Leadership 2021

#### Session

Class of 2021	Ruth Ann Horvath	435-922-5271	Clerk of Session
	Gloria McGilloway	610-349-6045	Fellowship
	Chris Schleiter	435-619-2843	Mission/Outreach
Class of 2022	Leslie Lintz	412-403-9980	Stewardship
	Barbara McConnell	435-862-4822	Worship
	Alan Paige	435-703-9272	Grounds
Class of 2023	Alicia Kitzman	595-670-4861	Growth & Care
	Bill Somplatsky-Jarman	502-689-6030	Christian Ed
	Eric Westland	435-625-1399	Building

#### Deacons

Parish	Deacon	Phone
Deacons	Vicky Westland	435-414-1960
	Moderator	
Bloomington Hills	Sandy Paige	435-703-9272
East Bloomington	Peggy Graber	801-541-7444
Green Valley	Marjorie Bayle	435-699-4985
Hurricane	Sue Lundgreen	775-368-3054
Old St. George/Dixie Downs	Ruthanne Skinner	541-510-5660
Pine Valley	Tineke Ingold	435-574-3614
Red Cliffs	Ann McLuckie	435-680-1062
Santa Clara/Ivins	Tom & Vici Noble	435-673-4232
Sun River	Mona Johnson	408-621-8144
Washington	Ka-Wai Yu	812-340-2184

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**The newsletter is also available on our website [gspcsg.org](http://gspcsg.org)**