



The Mustard Seed

"... If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed,
nothing shall be impossible to you."

Matthew 17:20

The newsletter of The Hermitage Presbyterian Church, 421 Highland View Drive, Hermitage, TN 37076

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DECEMBER 2017

LES IS MORE

This year will be our first Christmas together as pastor and congregation – I can't wait!!!

It is too easy to forget what exactly we are worshiping! We are not worshiping our family get-together. We are not worshiping the gifts we are giving and our own "feel-good-generosity." We are not worshiping the candles, nor the church building.

We are worshiping God – God's breath-taking, mind-blowing plan of salvation – God who became human in Jesus (*read Philippians 2*) – the Incarnation – With-Us-God, the Author and Perfecter of our salvation!

Baby Jesus, who grew to adulthood, who healed and brought life, who taught us how to live with God and each other, who was killed by the worldly powers, who defeated death and the power of sin – Jesus, the Christ - is nothing and no one less than sheer grace and God's gift to us.

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of *His* government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

---Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV)

Have a blessed Christmas season!

Yours in Christ,

Leslie

NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The Session held its regular Stated Meeting on November 19, 2017 following worship. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

Session agreed to offer the small chairs that have been stored in Fellowship Hall to another church in the Presbytery who has the need for them. The Presbytery newsletter often publicizes items that other churches do not currently use. Session also will offer the letters from our old sign that we will not be able to use.

Preparation for the 2018 Budget is currently in the works. Session is hoping that the number of pledging units and the monetary amount being pledged will surpass that of 2017.

December Session will be December 17 at 1:30 p.m. This will allow everyone involved to participate in the caroling that is being planned for after worship that day.

Kathy Johnson submitted her resignation as Elder, Class of 2018, and Clerk of Session due to relocating to Indiana. Hank Sweetman, Class of 2018, will fill in as Clerk through June 2018.

Kathy Johnson
Clerk of Session

HANGING OF THE GREEN

Saturday, December 2
10:00 a.m.

Make plans to come and help decorate the sanctuary building and the fellowship hall for the season of Advent. We will start at 10:00 a.m. There will be doughnuts and juice to give you energy. All help is welcome!

WELCOME FRIENDS

Robert Hay, Jr.
Brenda Cox
Lori Lastine
Lou De Young

FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2018 Flower Calendar is posted and ready for you to sign up to provide flowers/plant in the sanctuary during worship. Sign up now so you can get the dates you would like!

LITURGIST NEEDED

We are in need for people to sign up to be the liturgist on Sunday morning. This is a great opportunity to participate in your church and anyone (even youth) can do this! All materials are provided so that you just have to read your part to lead the worship. You can choose whether or not you want to lead the Children's Sermon; we welcome you to do this, but it is NOT a required part of the liturgist's responsibilities. Please reply to the church office, or to Renee Dugger (Ireneedugger@gmail.com) to volunteer or for more information.

FOOD CLOSET FOOD OF THE MONTH

Throughout the month of December, HPC will be collecting *peanut butter and/or jelly* for our Food Closet. We greatly appreciate your generosity, either by donating purchased food items or monetary donations that enable us to purchase needed supplies for the food closet. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you would like to help.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to man the Food Closet on Fridays 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

THANK YOU

To HPC family,

Ernest and I appreciate the prayers, food, cards and calls during my recovery from knee surgery.

We are truly blessed to have such a loving, caring church family.

Love,

Ernest & Gloria

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2017</h1>					1 10:00 am - Food Closet	2 10:00 am - Hanging of the Green
3 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Communion 7:00 pm - A.A.	4 10:00 am - Good Sam 11:30 am - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	5 7:00 pm - BSA District Roundtable	6 10:00 am Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	7 10:00 am - Day Circle followed by Christmas Lunch at Monell's 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	8 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	9 7:00 am - Noon - BSA Pancake Breakfast
10 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Noon - Christmas Joy Luncheon 7:00 pm - A.A.	11 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	12 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	13 10:00 am Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	14 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	15 10:00 am - Food Closet 6:30 pm - Barbie Doll Club	16 8:30 - Noon - Barnlofters 6:00 pm - Dinner Club Christmas at the Bengtsons
17 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 1:30 pm - Session 7:00 pm - A.A.	18 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	19 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	20 10:00 am - Good Sam 7:30 pm - Choir	21 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	22 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	23
24 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Christmas Cantata 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 	26 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	27 10:00 am - Good Sam 7:30 pm - Choir	28 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	29 10:00 am - Food Closet	30
31 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 7:00 pm - A.A.						



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- 03 **Matt Dugger**
- 09 **Sandi Camacho**
- 11 **Sandra Riggan**
- 12 **Renee Dugger**
- 15 **Martha Hathaway**
- 19 **Midge Missimer**
- 21 **Colin Harris**
- 23 **Cheryl Harnack**
- 24 **Kevin Kwitkowski**
- 27 **Emily Morrison**
- 28 **Bob Richie**
- 29 **Robyn Richie**
- 30 **Jeff McCann, Sr.**
- 31 **Elizabeth Cantrell**

In order to keep our birthday list accurate & up-to-date, let the office know of any corrections & additions.

DECEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Dec. 03 Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
- Dec. 10 Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
- Dec. 17 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
- Dec. 24 Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
- Dec. 31 Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

GIFT BASKETS FOR OUR FAMILY CONNECTIONS

On Sunday, December 10, the Christmas Joy Covered Dish Luncheon will be held after worship service. DO NOT forget to bring some of your favorite dishes to share.

The Gift Baskets for our family connections will be put together after the Christmas Joy Luncheon. Please bring your donations for the baskets and plan to stay for a few minutes to help put the baskets together. We will be preparing about thirteen baskets. Thank you for your help.

LIVE – LAUGH– LEARN

Thank you Linda McCann, Sandra Jost, Pat Gillie, Kathy Johnson, and Diane Thurston for our beautiful winter decorations. Also, thanks to Sandra Byrd and Malinda Burns for lunch and Donnie Williams for desserts. A wonderful day of fellowship was had by all. Thanks again.

OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	Year-to-Date Income over (under) Expense
Regular Giving	\$ 16,432	\$ 152,732	
Operating Expenses	\$ 14,899	\$ 140,119	\$ 12,613
Mission & Other			
Designated Giving	\$ 8,762	\$ 57,421	
Mission & Other Expense	\$ 20,648	\$ 50,939	\$ 6,482
TOTAL ALL GIVING	\$ 25,194	\$ 210,153	
TOTAL ALL EXPENSE	\$ 35,547	\$ 191,058	\$ 19,095

Jeff McCann, Sr, Treasurer

MEMORIAL BRICKS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

We are still taking orders for Memorial Bricks to be placed around the fountain. This could be a great Christmas gift! Order forms are located in the narthex. You can purchase a brick in honor or in memory of someone or just as a celebration. We get free shipping with an order of ten or more bricks. Right now we have four ordered. Place your order now!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to everyone that filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, donated items to be put in boxes filled by us, and/or made donations for the shipping of filled boxes. We were able to deliver 64 boxes for distribution to children that are in need all around the world!

THANKSGIVING DINNERS FOR TULIP GROVE FAMILIES

In our continuing effort to reach out to our community, we were able to provide five Tulip Grove Elementary School families a full Thanksgiving meal this year. Without our help these families might not have had a true Thanksgiving celebration. This project was made possible because of funds raised from the Craft Fair. This is just another one of the outreach projects by our church to the surrounding community.

BARNLOFTERS FOOD DONATION

Thank you to members of the Barnlofters for the huge amount of food and monetary donations they collected for our Food Closet. Thanks to them all of our shelves are overflowing. This enables us to keep filling bags for those in need! All contributions are greatly appreciated.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Every year during this time, we turn our eyes toward Bethlehem and anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ. Through him we receive the indescribable gift of God's grace. This year, we take time during the Advent and Christmas season to consider the gratitude we feel. It's out of this gratitude that we turn to support church leaders who dedicate their lives in service to Christ and the church. It's out of youthful wonder that students at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges look forward to a life of faith, worship, and Christian leadership.

With Christ at the center this holiday season, we can follow in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.

Funds from the Christmas Joy Offering help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible workers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and their families, and to qualifying retired church workers and their families.

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for racial ethnic students built on a foundation of Christian values. The Offering benefits Menaul School and Presbyterian Pan American School, two secondary schools that ready students for a path of higher learning, as well as Stillman College, where graduates are prepared for lives of leadership and service.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we can share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people, and their families.

We will take the Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 10, followed by a covered dish luncheon.

Please give generously.

FELLOWSHIP AND MORE

The Advent and Christmas season at Hermitage Presbyterian Church is a time of wonder, worship, giving, and fellowship. We hope you will join us for the following activities at church.

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| Saturday, Dec. 2 | Hanging of the Green – Help decorate the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for Advent and Christmas, 10:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 6 | Wednesday Night Supper and Study, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Dec. 7 | Day Circle, 10:00 a.m., followed by Christmas luncheon at Monell's |
| Sunday, Dec. 10 | Christmas Joy covered dish luncheon. After the luncheon stay to help fill fruit and goody baskets for our members at home. |
| Wednesday, Dec. 13 | Wednesday Night Supper, Study, and Christmas Cookie Swap, 6:00 - 7:30p.m. |
| Saturday, Dec. 16 | Dinner Club Christmas Party at the Bengtsons, 6:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, Dec. 17 | Caroling at McKendree Healthcare Center after worship. Session, 1:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, Dec. 24 | Christmas Cantata, 11:00 a.m. during morning worship. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m. |

NOTE: No Lunch Bunch this month.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS, STUDY, AND YOUTH, 6:00 P.M.

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| Dec. 06 | Spaghetti & Meatballs
Salad
Garlic Bread
Dessert | Dec. 13 | Catered by Cornerstone Cafe
Country Fried Steak
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Salad/Rolls
Christmas Cookie Swap |
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