



# The Mustard Seed

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

Matthew 17:20

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

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**DECEMBER 2018**

## **LES IS MORE**

Merry Christmas! The incarnation – God becoming one of us in Jesus – never ceases to amaze me.

I have been thinking a lot lately.

Like a lot of you, I was taught that the sole purpose for Christ becoming human was to die for our sins.

But this seems to discredit most of his life – this nullifies his teachings and miracles and general outlook on life.

What if - in addition to dying for our sins – Christ became human in Jesus to show us how to have a relationship with God the Father and with each other? What if human beings were becoming too concerned with keeping the law, thinking that was the way to know God?

I will never cease to be amazed that two natures are united in one person – Jesus, fully human AND fully divine. Like many of you, I was taught that God cannot dwell with sin – and I know that Jesus is sinless, but what about each of us? How do we receive the Holy Spirit? Is there a Teflon shield lining my soul?

I have been thinking a lot lately – about becoming child-like in order to receive the kingdom. Children marvel at every little thing in this world – they understand very little. And what they do not understand must be brought about by....magic. And if children cannot understand, they simply have to accept by faith.

I admit that I do not understand the incarnation. I accept it by faith. And in this faith I know that God is definitely pro-human. For me.

May the sheer joy of the incarnation be yours this year.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Leslie

## NEWS FROM THE SESSION

The Session held its regular Stated Meeting on November 18, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. Here are some highlights from the meeting.

Through the end of October, operating income is 4% behind budget for the year but regular giving is ahead of last year's giving by 4%. Operating expenses are favorable to budget by 10% for the year. The Session would like to thank the congregation for continuing to give faithfully to support the operation of the Church.

The Business Team reported that budget discussions have begun for 2019. The team also reported that the decision has been made to remove the chestnut tree near the back of the sanctuary building due to the liability of the burrs that drop on the ground. A tree of a different variety will be planted on the church grounds to replace it. Overhead lights in the sanctuary hallway and kitchen have been converted to LED lights and the kitchen ceiling is being insulated.

The MOE Team presented the book God of the Big Bang, How Modern Science Affirms the Creator to be used by Mike Jones' Sunday School Class. The book was approved by the Session.

The Christmas Joy Luncheon has been scheduled for Sunday, December 9.

The next stated Session meeting is Thursday, December 13.

**Jennifer Bingham**  
Clerk of Session

## KUDOS FROM THE SESSION

This month the Session would like to recognize Bobby Hausman and Mike Case for all the work they've done making improvements to the sanctuary building and the fellowship hall. They've worked diligently to replace the overhead lighting with LED lights and to insulate the ceiling in the kitchen. We can't thank you enough for your dedication and hard work!

## WELCOME VISITORS

Bill Adcox  
Melody Renshaw  
Mary Polat  
Don & Vi Prosser  
Judith Johnson  
Melody Bonee

## FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2019 Flower Calendar will be posted soon. Sign up for the date/s you would like to place a plant or flowers in the sanctuary during worship.

You can place flowers or a plant in honor or in memory of someone or a special event. Please let the church office know what you would like to have printed in the bulletin

## LITURGIST NEEDED

We still need volunteers to serve as the liturgist during worship on Sunday mornings. This is a great opportunity for you to participate in worship and anyone can do this! All materials are provided so that you just have to read your part to lead worship. You can choose whether or not you want to lead the Children's Sermon; it is NOT a required part of the liturgist's responsibilities.

To volunteer, please reply to the church office, or contact Renee Dugger ([ireneedugger@gmail.com](mailto:ireneedugger@gmail.com)).



We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of Julia Halterman who died on November 5, 2018.

## THANK YOU

● Thank you to everyone that showed up to help paint the large classroom and clean the windows in the sanctuary building.

● Also, thank you to the Presbyterian Women for purchasing new blinds for all of the windows in the sanctuary building. Funds raised at the Salad Luncheon and the Bake Sale at the Craft Fair were used.

● Thanks to the Barnlofters for all of the food donated to our Food Closet.

## SNACKS FOR TULIP GROVE ELEMENTARY

We are still collecting items to fill the snack bags that we provide for the children at Tulip Grove Elementary School. Items needed are juice boxes, fruit cups, chewy granola bars, pudding cups, fruit bars, and cheese crackers (no peanut butter please). **Place items in the box provided in the narthex.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2018</h1>						<b>1</b>  9:00 am - 1:00 pm - Barnlofters 10:00 am - Hanging of the Greens
<b>2</b> 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Communion 12:15 pm - MOE & BT 7:00 pm - A.A.	<b>3</b> 10:00 am - Good Sam 11:00 pm - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	<b>5</b> 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	<b>6</b> 10:00 am - Day Circle 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	<b>7</b> 10:00 am - Food Closet 6 - 8:00 pm - Breakfast Set up	<b>8</b> 7:00 am - 1:00 pm - BSA Pancake Breakfast 4-6:00 pm - Barbie Doll Club 8:00 pm - Christmas Party at the Bengtson's
<b>9</b> 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Noon - Christmas Joy Lunch 7:00 pm - A.A.	<b>10</b> 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	<b>12</b> 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	<b>14</b> 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Cantata 7:00 pm - A.A.	<b>17</b> 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts	<b>19</b> 10:00 am - Good Sam 6:00 pm - Supper 6:30 pm - Children, Youth 6:45 pm - Adult Study 7:30 pm - Choir	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	<b>21</b> 10:00 am - Food Closet	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 7:00 pm - A.A.	<b>24</b>  10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 7:00 pm - BSA #263	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm - Barnlofters	<b>28</b> 10:00 am - Food Closet 7:00 pm - Venture Crew	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 7:00 pm - A.A.	<b>31</b> 10:00 am - Good Sam Noon - A.A. 6 pm - Midnight - Barnlofters 7:00 pm - BSA #263					



- 03 **Matt Dugger**
- 09 **Sandi Camacho**
- 11 **Sandra Riggan**
- 12 **Renee Dugger**
- 13 **Sophia Boshears**
- 15 **Sarah Bartlett**
- 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

December 02 Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36  
 December 09 Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6  
 December 16 Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18  
 December 23 Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)  
 December 30 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

## FOOD CLOSET FOOD OF THE MONTH

Throughout the month of December, HPC will be collecting *boxed cereal/oatmeal* for our Food Closet. We greatly appreciate your generosity, either by donating purchased food items or monetary donations that enable us to purchase need supplies for the food closet. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you would like to help hand out food bags to those in need in our area.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We turned in 67 filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to everyone that returned filled boxes, donated items to fill boxes or donated money to help with the shipping costs. Also, thank you to everyone that helped put together boxes with donated items.

## THANKSGIVING MEALS

This year we were able to provide complete Thanksgiving meals for five families at Tulip Grove Elementary School. This is a mission project that we have undertaken for several years. The funds to purchase the food came from proceeds from the Artisan Craft Fair.

## CHRISTMAS JOY LUNCHEON

On Sunday, December 9, the Christmas Joy Covered Dish Luncheon will be held after worship service. DO Not forget bring some of your favorite dishes to share with your church family.

The Gift Baskets for our family connections will be put together after the Christmas Joy Luncheon. You can help by donating items such as hot chocolate packets, herb teas, Christmas candies, cookies, snack crackers, travel size hand lotions, note cards, and postage stamps. 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 twelve baskets. Thank you for your help.

## FELLOWSHIP AND MORE

**It's the holiday season!** Plan to join us for the many activities in the life of the church during this most wonderful season of the year.

Saturday, Dec. 01	Hanging of the Greens, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 02	First Sunday of Advent
Wednesday, Dec. 5, 12, 19	Prepared Supper, 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, 6:45 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 06	Day Circle, 10:00 a.m., followed by Christmas lunch celebration
Saturday, Dec. 08	Church Christmas Party at the Bengtson's home
Sunday, Dec. 09	Christmas Joy Luncheon, following worship
Sunday, Dec. 16	Christmas Choir Cantata
Monday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Wednesday, Dec. 26 and Jan. 02	<b>No Wednesday Night Supper or Bible Study</b>

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

Dec. 05	Sloppy Joes Macaroni and Cheese Cole Slaw Dessert	Dec. 12	Chicken and Dressing Peas & Carrots Cranberry Salad Rolls, Dessert
Dec. 19	Whitt's BBQ Cole Slaw	Potato Salad Baked Beans	Christmas Cookie Swap

## ADVENT SEASON

**We invite everyone to join us in this season of Advent!**

December 1: Hanging of the Greens, 10:00 a.m.  
(Coffee and Doughnuts provided.)

December 8: Christmas Party at the Bengtson's House, 6:00 p.m.  
(Everyone is invited.)

December 9: Christmas Joy\* Luncheon, 12:00 p.m.  
(Bring a covered dish to share.)

December 16: Christmas Cantata, 11:00 a.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.  
(Candlelight Service.)

December 25: Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day

\*The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken on Sunday, December 9. The offering is traditionally received during the Advent Season.

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

You are invited to come help decorate our church for the Advent season on Saturday, December 1, at 10:00 a.m. There will be coffee and doughnuts to all who come.

## POINSETTIAS

You can order poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary during Advent in memory or in honor of someone. The price of the poinsettias is \$8.00 each. Order forms are available in the narthex or call the church office.

## OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u> <u>Income over</u> <u>(under) Expense</u>
Regular Giving	\$ 21,696	\$ 185,912	
Operating Expenses	\$ 16,197	\$ 158,136	\$ 27,776*
Mission & Other			
Designated Giving	\$ 2,362	\$ 15,296	
Mission & Other Expense	\$ 842	\$ 12,050	\$ 3,246
<b>TOTAL ALL GIVING</b>	<b>\$ 24,058</b>	<b>\$ 201,208</b>	
<b>TOTAL ALL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 17,039</b>	<b>\$ 170,186</b>	<b>\$ 31,022</b>

**Jeff McCann, Sr.**  
**Treasurer**

*\*this amount includes \$25,829 in bequests*