

Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

January 2021

Pastor's Corner



Happy New Year!

2021 has begun! I'm certain that we are all looking forward to the good news this year will bring.

In January, there will be new entry way carpeting. We will hold our Annual Meeting on Jan. 10 both in person and by zoom. New officers will be elected, 2 proposed by-law changes will be voted on and we will share and remember the ministries and mission that happened in 2020. In January, our sermon focus is on the Promises of God from the Psalms. These Psalms will remind us that God is present and moving in the world. And how Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises. "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ." (2 Cor.1:20)

Early 2021 may be the same as we've experienced these last few months but with God, we will persevere. We look forward to the corona virus vaccine, to snowy days, and to more sunlight. We look forward to having coffee hour and singing all the verses of our worship hymns. We look forward to all the opportunities we'll have to gather outside and in the sanctuary. We don't know what the future will bring but this we do know: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

I am so grateful for all the ways you have been patient over the last 10 months. You've been gracious about changes, mistakes and less than perfect audio/tech issues. Thank you for your willingness to wear masks, sing 1 verse of a hymn and sit apart from other people. I know this has been hard on all of us. But we can hang on, stay strong and keep following Jesus. Jesus said: ***"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."*** (John 16:33 New Living Translation)

Blessings and love
Janet

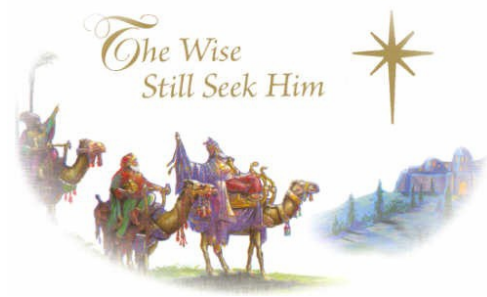
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January Birthdays



Karl Scott	1/03
Nisha Humphrey	1/10
Esme Scott	1/11
Michael Anderson	1/19
Tom Bronson	1/24
Ed Moya	1/24
Sue Page	1/24

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The Atheist in the Woods



An atheist was walking through the woods, thinking to himself,

"How beautiful the animals are!"

"How majestic the trees are!"

"How powerful the rivers are!"

As he walked along the river, he heard rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned and saw an 8-foot grizzly bear charging towards him. He ran along the path as fast as he could, but when he looked over his shoulder, he saw that the bear was closing in on him.

He kept running, but when he looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. Then he tripped and fell on the ground. The bear was right on top of him with his right paw raised to strike him. At that instant, the atheist cried, "God help me!"



Time Stopped.

The bear froze.

The forest was silent.

A bright light shone upon the man and a voice from the sky said, "You've denied my existence for all these years and have taught others that I don't exist. You've even credited creation to a cosmic accident. Why would you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Are you now a believer?"

The atheist looked into the light and said, "Well, I would be hypocrite to suddenly ask You to treat me as a Christian now, but could you, maybe, make the BEAR a Christian?"

"Very Well," said the voice.

The light went out.

The sounds of the forest resumed.

The bear lowered his right paw and brought both paws together. He bowed his head, and

said: "Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive from Your bounty through Christ our Lord, Amen."

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From PCUSA website:

## Epiphany is January 6<sup>th</sup>

Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.

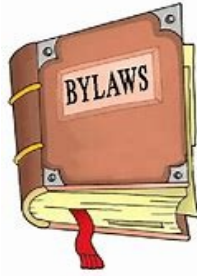


An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 94-95) The word "epiphany" (from the Greek epiphaneia or theophaneia) means "appearance" or "manifestation" of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.

For Christians, Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity. The Christmas stories of the birth of Immanuel declare the divine entry; Epiphany extols the revelation of God to the world in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

In our celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of Light in darkness. ... Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God's true Light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation, God in flesh, leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God's gift of grace and salvation for all persons. Some call this ongoing epiphany the work of Christmas.

## Bylaw Changes/Additions Up for Vote at Congregational Meeting January 10



### Change:

#### Section 4

The Nominating committee shall consist of ~~six (6)~~ **five (5) active members, including both men and women, and giving fair representation to the entire congregation.** Two ~~(2)~~ members shall be designated by the session, one (1) of whom shall be named by the session as moderator. **One (1) elder member actively serving on session shall be designated and named by the session as the moderator.** One (1) member shall be designated by and from the board of deacons. The other three (3) members shall be chosen from the members of the congregation who are not currently active elders or deacons. Each member shall have one vote. The pastor shall be a member, serving ex-officio and without vote. G-2.401

### Addition:

#### Article VII On Electronic Meetings

**Members may participate in meetings of Session, Deacons, and committees of Community Presbyterian Church in St. Maries by means of communication which allows for simultaneous aural communication, such as teleconference or videoconference. Any member participating in a meeting by such means shall be able to vote and be deemed present for the determination of a quorum. Congregational gatherings may also be conducted as virtual meetings, providing that simultaneous aural communication is accessible to all voting participants.**

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How Moses Crossed the Red Sea

A mother asked her nine-year-old son what he learned in Sunday School that day. He said the teacher told them how God sent Moses behind enemy lines to rescue the Israelites and lead them out of



Egypt. When they got to the Red Sea, the army built a pontoon bridge and everyone walked across safely. Then they saw the Egyptians coming, so Moses radioed for reinforcements. Bombers came and blew up the bridge, so the people were saved.

His mother asked, "Is that really what the teacher said?"

"No," he replied, "but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it."

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## Installation of New Elders and Deacons January 17<sup>th</sup> (by Zoom and In Person)

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Advent Bags!

Eighteen families received an Advent gift bag by Nov. 29 (the first Sunday in Advent). Each bag contained a Christmas candy count-down, a family Christmas bingo game, faith questions to discuss, a Christmas tree craft and a devotion booklet. Younger children received a manger sticker scene and story book about the birth of Jesus. They were very well received, especially the candy count-down! Thank you to all who donated candy, to Rayna, Sharon, Pam, Beverly, Bonnie A and Shirley W. for making the candy count-downs, to Sandy for printing off the gift tags, writing the instruction card and to Jane for donating cellophane and ribbons.

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### From Rayna Farrell, Christian Ed.

The Mountain Movers have been meeting. Pastor Janet read a thank you to the church on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> for the new additions provided for their room. You, our generous congregation, are invited to check out the changes to their new room (previously the nursery).

Pastor Janet organized a Christmas play for our youth to present virtually during the December 20<sup>th</sup> service. It was a joint effort between Pastor Janet, our Mountain Movers and their leaders, our Sunday School children and their parents who videoed the actors. It was a wonderful program and much appreciated by the congregation. If you missed the video, you can find it on the CPC YouTube channel.

Contributed by Penny Carpenter  
Have fun!



## Can you Name That Tune for each Bible character?

Here is a humorous and instructive quiz to test your biblical knowledge. Match each biblical personage with his or her appropriate theme song.

Examples: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's song would be "Great Balls of Fire!" while Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar's would be "Cold Comfort." Answers will follow next month.

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|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1 Absalom             | "Blinded by the Light"                   |
| 2 Adam and Eve        | "Coat of Many Colors"                    |
| 3 Cain                | "Crying Over You"                        |
| 4 Daniel              | "Do It Now, Do It Good"                  |
| 5 David               | "Hair"                                   |
| 6 Esther              | "I Could Have Danced All Night"          |
| 7 The Good Samaritan  | "I Feel Pretty"                          |
| 8 Jezebel             | "I Got You Babe"                         |
| 9 Job "I'm Sorry"     | "I'm Sorry"                              |
| 10 John the Baptist   | "The Lady is a Tramp"                    |
| 11 Jonah              | "Let's Hear It for the Boy"              |
| 12 Joseph             | "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"                |
| 13 Lazarus            | "Losing My Head Over You"                |
| 14 The Magi           | "Psycho Killer"                          |
| 15 Mary Magdalene     | "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"      |
| 16 Methuselah         | "Rebel, Rebel"                           |
| 17 Moses              | "Starry Starry Night"                    |
| 18 Noah               | "Stayin' Alive"                          |
| 19 Paul               | "The Second Time Around"                 |
| 20 Peter              | "Shadow of a Doubt"                      |
| 21 Pharaoh's Daughter | "Strangers in Paradise"                  |
| 22 Salome             | "The Wanderer"                           |
| 23 Samson             | "Why Is Everybody Always Picking on Me?" |
| 24 Thomas             | "A Whale of a Tale"                      |

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Sunday school children were asked to draw their rendition of the Christmas story. Most of the kids drew manger scenes to include the shepherds, angels, the star, the baby Jesus in the manger as would be expected. Little Jimmy proudly showed his picture of a jetliner. There were 4 distinct faces looking out the windows.

When the Sunday school teacher asked Jimmy to explain the drawing, he said it was the "flight out of Egypt." He pointed to the one face and said "that is Joseph," another face was Mary, the little face of course was Jesus.

The teacher asked him who is the face in the front of the plane. Jimmy replied, "It's Pontius, the pilot, of course."