

Our sole purpose is to glorify God, proclaiming through word and deed the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. We trust God's Spirit to lead and nurture us in all our community and congregational endeavors. We desire that all who come through our doors find deeper faith, larger hope, and more complete love.

**Service For The Lord's Day
Third Sunday of Advent
13 December 2015**

We Assemble to Worship

RINGING OF THE BELLS
BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" Arr. Smith/Hustad
Melissa Fulton, Pianist; Neal Sinclair, Organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

** THE CONGREGATION GATHERS
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP
"People, Look East" BESACON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE-*Hope for Those Who Are Watching*
Congregation Responses in **Bold**
Neill, Susan, Spencer & Jase Westerbeek

CONGREGATIONAL REFRAIN: HYMN 314 "Christ, Be Our Light"
Congregational Chorus (Sing the refrain each time with the choir.)

Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting:

This morning we light three candles. The first candle reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The second candle is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The third candle awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we wait our Savior's promised coming.

REPEAT CONGREGATIONAL REFRAIN "Christ, Be Our Light"

Let us pray together: **God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory. We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today. We confess that at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory. We stand in awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Now let us join together in the prayer that our Lord taught us,
Our Father Who Art in Heaven

* HYMN 107 "Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn" REJOICE

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Marsha Prestage

Let us pray: **Gracious God, forgive us when our hopes and dreams become little more than wishful thinking. We hear your constant words of grace but are still overcome by the world's cruel realities. Remind us this is a season of miracles, a season of joy, a season of rebirth, a season of transformation. Help us to look beyond our own expectations and discover the endless delight of your creative imagination.**

* Silent Confession

* KYRIE ELEISON *Lord, have mercy upon us;*
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-

People: By grace you have been saved and raised up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-6)

All: For by grace we have been saved through faith.

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

We Proclaim the Word

FIRST LESSON: Luke 3:7-18 NT 60

** HYMN 188 "Jesus Loves Me!" (first verse)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "Sharing the JOY of Christmas!" Ms. Lou
(Children age 4 - grade 1 depart for worship readiness with leader Lou Johnson)

ANTHEM "Christmas Sanctus" Susan and Lee Dengler

SECOND LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20 OT 877

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "God's Lullaby of Life" Dr. Moran

* HYMN 266 "Joy To The World!" RICHMOND

* APOSTLES' CREED (Traditional) (Hymnal) Page 35

PASTORAL PRAYER

We Respond to God

OFFERTORY "The Nativity" Arr. Sprunger

(*Visitors, please fill out cards in pew rack and place in offering plate.*)

* DOXOLOGY (Hymnal) No. 606

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We Go Forth to Serve

* HYMN 302 "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers" LLANGLOFFAN

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

"While We Are Waiting, Come" WAITING

* THE TAKING OF THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

* POSTLUDE "The Hallelujah Chorus" Handel

* Those who are able, please stand

** Seating of worshippers

The **Christmas Joy Offering** is being received this morning.
(Please use the envelopes provided.)

We welcome our visitors today. If you wish more information about this congregation or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), please speak with the minister. New members are received by 1) Re-Affirmation of Faith; 2) Transfer of Membership; and 3) by Profession of Faith and Baptism.

We are happy to welcome Neal Sinclair and Melissa Fulton as musicians for our worship service today.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND GREENERY ARE GIVEN TO THE
GLORY OF GOD BY THE SEASONAL FLOWER COMMITTEE

December ushers are: Edwin Danford, Anthony Sessoms,
Wes Cowand, Tim Howard, Stan Mertz, Scott Prestage

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: **REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

HOSPITAL/ASSISTED LIVING

Doc Fields - Southwood; Rm. 403

OTHERS:

Angie Prucha - (Daughter of Edwin Danford)

Billy Kerr - (Brother-in-law of Dorothy Sue Faison)

Minson Sessoms - DUKE (Father of Deborah Hall)

Beth White - (Mother of Jody White)

Wilma Gaylor - (Sister-in-law of Alice Rose)

Roland Heath - (Father of Jeff Heath)

AT HOME

Barbara Kerr

Martha Dunn

Jean Parker

Ted Lockerman

Tami Warren

Annabelle Fetterman

Susan Bristow

Don Hollingsworth

Kathy Wall

December

- 13 - 6:00 p.m.- **Christmas Joy Program**
(ALL participants should arrive no later than 5:30)
- 15 - 10:00 a.m.- Newsletter / Staff Meeting
- 16 - 6:30 p.m. - Youth: Christian Food Bank of Salemburg
- 20 - 11:00 a.m.- Worship (*Sunday School weekly at 9:45 a.m.)
Service of Lessons/Carols/Bells
- 2:30 p.m. - Caroling & Refreshments: See Info. Below

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

Copies of **These Days**, January – March 2016, are available in the Narthex.

Don't forget that the church still has copies of the GMPC Cookbook available,
More Delectable Blessings ~ they make great gifts! Cost: \$12 each or 2 for \$20.

The **Stewardship Committee and the Treasurer** greatly appreciates everyone's prompt response in pledging to the 2016 budget. If you have not pledged, please consider doing so at this time. Pledge Cards are available in the Narthex and outside the Church Office.

GMPC's **Christmas Joy Program "The king meets The King"** will be held tonight, December 13th at 6:00 p.m. (We ask that all participants arrive by 5:30 p.m.) in the GMPC fellowship hall. A reception, coordinated by Mariana Sanderson, Mary Carol Todd, Natalie Berendt & Committee, will follow. GMPC's children, youth & adults will come together, under the direction of Susan Bristow, to bring us the Christmas message thru this year's fun stage performance. *Please bring one canned good/ staple item or toiletry item, per person, for our Christmas food/supply drive in support of U CARE, Inc.

If you would like to sing or play for worship during Advent (or any time), please see Ms. Tew or Mrs. Sinclair. We'd especially welcome youth performers at the 5 pm Christmas Eve Service.

YOUTH MISSION OPPORTUNITY: (Sorting & packing food bags at the Christian Food Bank of Salemburg.) Sr. & Jr. High Youth meet on the Wednesday prior to the 3rd Saturday, monthly, at 6:30 p.m., in the GMPC parking lot. **Next opportunity: December 16, 2015.**

CAKES NEEDED: GMPC will assist the Community Resource Council, again this year, by participating in the *Christmas Dinner for Inmates* event for the *Sampson Correctional Institution*. GMPC has been asked to donate 12 cakes. We ask that all participants please deliver their donated cake to the GMPC kitchen by 2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 17th. *Please be mindful that plates, etc. holding the cake will not be returned. Most requested by inmates: Chocolate Cake. Please contact the church office to sign up. Thank you in advance!

MISSIONS: Christian Food Bank of Salemburg, every third Saturday, monthly, bags of food are given to those in need beginning at 9:00 a.m. What you can do to help: *Volunteer Your Time! Donate Food Items!* **Next Food Bank: December 19, 2015.**

December 20th — Service of Lessons/Carols/Bells, 11:00 a.m. Our traditional program of scripture and music to ring in the Christmas season.

There will be **NO Worship Readiness on Decemebr 20th.** The Worship Readiness class will remain in the sanctuary, with their parents, for the Service of Lessons/Carols/Bells.

GMPC's Youth invites you all to join them on December 20th for Caroling & Refreshments. We will meet in the fellowship hall at 2:30 p.m., gather into groups to go caroling in the community, before returning to the church at 5:00 p.m. for more caroling with the GMPC Choir as we enjoy refreshments. Feel free to join us for the community caroling only or the choir caroling & refreshments only or both as your schedule allows. *To help with providing refreshments please contact Lou Johnson. Thank you.

December 24th—Christmas Eve Communion Services,
5:00 p.m.: A service of scripture, special music, and carols.
11:00 p.m.: A short traditional candlelight service.

GMPC and the GMPC Handbell Ensemble will join with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 110 W. Main St., Clinton, for an Epiphany service on Wednesday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. We invite you all to join us, as we gather, to celebrate this Christian holiday.

BIBLE STUDY: will resume on Wednesday, January 13th with Dr. Moran. The 10:30 a.m. study will continue to focus on the lectionary. The 7:00 p.m. study will be on "The Gospel of Luke: Good News for All," a kerygma study. Please sign up, for the evening study, in the narthex or outside the church office. Cost of study material: \$20.00. Mark your calendars.

A **Columbarium Development Committee** is being formed to explore the development of a columbarium here at GMPC. If you would like to serve as a member of this committee please contact Dr. Moran or the church office to share your willingness.