



Henderson United Methodist Church

2004 Camphausen Avenue
 Erie, Pa. 16510
 Phone 814-453-6041
 Pastor Mary Stewart 814-897-0991
 Cell 814-881-9141
 Email: mcstewart@roadrunner.com

Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:45

Henderson Happenings

November/December 2015

Pastor's Message...

"Building on a Strong Foundation"

2015 Charge Conference

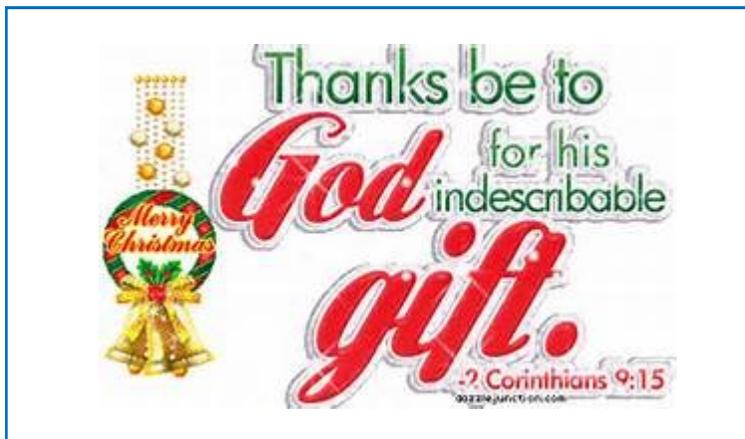
State of the Church—Pastor's Report

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)

It is a joy and privilege to be back with Henderson and San Juan praising and serving God together. Both churches were blessed for three years by the ministry of Pastor Ray Speakman. He brought a variety of gifts and the insight and experience of a seasoned pastor. Upon my return it was delightful to see new faces, familiar faces and so many smiling faces. God has blessed me with a second chance at San Juan and Henderson.

Bishop Bickerton tells us that we are appointed not to a church but to a community. An appointment to the Erie: Central charge is truly a ministry to a congregation that extends beyond the doors of a building. The Henderson and San Juan congregations are located in one of the poorest areas of the city. The church facilities are bordered on one side by a public housing community to the north and the largest public housing community of the city is several blocks to the east. The poverty level of the residents immediately to

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the east of the churches is 50.8% and those west and south of the churches have a poverty rate of 24.2%.¹

The surrounding neighborhoods are racially and ethnically diverse. There are families that represent diverse faith traditions including Muslim and Buddhism. In addition, many families are recent immigrants with language being a challenge. Our outreach programs are extended to all; therefore, we must try to understand varying cultures, traditions and special needs.

Both churches are addressing and struggling with poverty. San Juan, in a collaborative ministry with the Erie City Mission, holds a five-day a week free lunch program which 50-70 people are served each day. We also offer a vacation Bible school specifically for neighborhood children. Henderson sponsors a food pantry that serves 50-70 families every two weeks. We offer monthly food boxes for senior citizens and a six-week (4 days a week) summer program for neighborhood children.

We are aware that many of the issues we encounter are symptoms of a deeper, complex problem. Henderson and San Juan are trying to offer hope. We are trying to create a sense of community that will foster mutual care, respect, and worth for all individuals. One of the five areas of focus for our Conference is *Ministering with the Poor*. The key word is "*with*." Members of Henderson and San Juan are the marginalized and poor. We struggle with the same concerns as our neighbors; some of us are stuck in the cultural limitations of poverty. However, we have hope and joy through our faith in Jesus Christ. We are passionate about learning what it means to be a disciple. We want to share the hope and love we have found. The problem is that we do not always have the resources to reach out effectively in spreading the Gospel. Therefore, we need the support of the larger community of believers who can work *with* us in ministry.

In order to do the ministries we are called to do, the congregations need a strong foundation of faith. The work can be exhausting, the disappointments discouraging, and the challenges overwhelming. It is only through the empowerment of God, the example of Jesus Christ, and the encouragement of God's Spirit, that we can reach the goals set before us. Recently, a friend of our congregations, Pastor Rick Crocker, affirmed our work and stated how we were being anointed by God. The recent gifts from businesses and individuals from the community are a sign of God's grace. May we in turn be an instrument of God's grace to those in our neighborhoods and beyond.

I look forward to the coming year as we continue to grow our ministry on the strong foundation which is Jesus Christ our Lord. May we grow in our understanding of God's grace and respond with renewed passion and energy.

Blessings of Grace,

Pastor Mary

¹"Erie, Pennsylvania (PA) Poverty Rate Data," 2013 < <http://www.city-data.com/poverty/poverty-Erie-Pennsylvania.html> > (accessed August 28, 2015).

November BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Randy Tate
- 6 - Billy Johnson
- 9 - Patricia Lunger
- 10 - Tom Granger
- 11 - Javan Johnson
- 13 - Ginnisue Juliano
- 16 - Amanda Carpenter
- 16 - Amie Kowalczak
- 17 - Sharaya Jones
- 23 - Gabrielle Snider
- 26 - Jane Myers
- 27 - Beth Lockwood
- 27 - Jessica Phillip
- 28 - Margaret Harrison
- 28 - Cheryl Witherspoon

B I R T H D A Y

H A P P Y

December Helpers:

- Announcer – Wanda Brunner
- Scripture – Mary Adams
- Greeter – Michelle and children
- Ushers- Walter and Youth
- Counters – Carl/Sandy Stewart

January Helpers:

- Announcer – Mary Adams
- Scripture – Michelle
- Greeter – Ruby
- Ushers- Walter and Youth
- Counters – Margaret/Kathy



FOR:

Cynthia Drew and Ronnie Drew, Carei,
 Sandi Williams, Ruby Hull, Kate Drew
 All victims of violence
 Pastor Jane Myers at Fairview Manor
 Kathy Fuller
 Barbara Carpenter's father
 Jane Hackenberg's Mother and for Jane
 All of our volunteers
 Our city, state and country

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. [1 John 5:14]



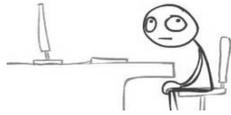
Welcome to the world:

Priscilla Yilu Chen
 Daughter of Frank and Darya Chen
 Sister of Mingdao and Yile
 Granddaughter of Dave and Jane Hackenberg
 Born Friday, October 16, 2015 at 8:26AM
 Shenzhen, China
 3.3 kg or 7 lbs 5 oz
 50 cm or 19 1/2 inches
 Thank God for this precious gift!



Random Thoughts**“Just do it”**

Satan loves to distract us all day long so we don't pray. Somehow we are deceived into believing that in just a few more minutes or when we finish the next task we will pray. Then the day is over again and as we begin to pray, we drift off to sleep. Throughout my life, finding time to pray has been a challenge. Perhaps it is one of your challenges, too. I recently realized yet again that all these good things crowding out prayer time are not really so good, because they keep me from talking to God. So even spending all our time serving the Lord can become sin because sin is what pulls us away from the Lord.



Years ago, my prayer time was in the evening. When I moved to China the afternoon worked best. Lately God has called me to an hour of prayer first thing in the morning. But I want to check my phone and email messages! I want to do other things first! I am a morning person so most of my energy is in the morning. If I need to defrost the refrigerator or do any big jobs, morning is prime time for me. And on the days I teach, I need to get going to class. But the Commander has spoken and knows best. So I've been struggling to give Him the best portion of my time when I am most alert and fresh. My precious morning.

In the Old Testament when they sacrificed animals, they gave Him the best animals. Certain portions, the choice parts of the animals were offered up. God deserves our best time, not our leftover time or when we can squeeze Him in. After all, it's all about Him. Finding time to pray is too much of a challenge. So make time to pray. Give Him the best time of your day, and you will pray.

Be smarter than Satan. Let nothing deter you. Pray.

~Jane Hackenberg

The Church Mouse

I probably could come up with an excuse for being late with the November birthday list but I won't even go there. I will however take the time and this space to wish all those born in December Happy Birthday. May you close out 2015 in praise and remembrance of Christ our Savior whose birth we celebrate this month.

Happy Birthday to All

Dec. 1—Louise Smail
 Dec. 4—Sydney Williams
 Dec. 4—Frank Farley
 Dec. 4—Caron Williams
 Dec. 6—Katie Dine Owens
 Dec 9 – Josh Jones
 Dec. 10—Krystle Shields
 Dec. 11 – Jonathan Barnett
 Dec. 16– Ashlee Montero
 Dec. 18– Kathy Fuller
 Dec. 19– Mary Ann Applebee
 Dec 19 – Doug Kowalezak
 Dec. 22- Johnathan Johnson, Jr.
Dec. 25– Celebrating the birth of Christ Jesus
 Dec. 29– Tyler Farley
 Dec. 30– Alyssa Ramos
 Dec. 31- Harry Retzer



Pastor Jane Meyers celebrated her 94th birthday on November 26th at Fairview Manor. A few members from Henderson UMC visited with PJ on the 27th and enjoyed cake and ice cream with

her. They reported her in good spirits and enjoying talk about the happenings in our lives. If Pastor Jane made a difference in your life during her years at Henderson, take some time to visit her. You'll be glad you did and I know that she will enjoy your visit.

See ya



Jesus said in Matthew 25:36, “I was sick and you visited me.”

United Methodist Women

On Friday October 16, 12 women attended our annual retreat at Olmsted Manor. Our leader was Pastor Mary and our study was on from "Broken to Beautiful. It was taken from the story about Jesus meeting the woman at the well. We worked in covenant groups and made a ceramic piece with beach glass, ceramic tiles, colored stones. Next year's retreat will be October 9, 10, 11. It's never too soon to start planning and paying.

Women's Christmas Gathering

In lieu of a women's Christmas party we have decided to have a gathering at Claytopia. This gathering will be on Sat. Dec. 5. I will get back to you with specific time and cost. At Claytopia you choose an item to decorate. We have been there before and everyone seemed to enjoy it. This event is open to any women 18 and over.

Christmas

We are preparing for the Christmas season by getting food boxes ordered, planning a Christmas party, books for kids, the Angel tree, and gifts from Santa's helpers. There is plenty of work for elves to do.

On Sunday, Nov. 30 we are going to have a pot luck lunch at 12 and decorate the church for Christmas. We will have crafts for people who are interested.

Sympathies are extended to the Drew and Chenault family on the passing of Marc Chenault.

December News**Thanksgiving Dinner**

On Sunday, November 22nd, we had our annual combined worship service and dinner with our brothers and sisters from San Juan. We had a wonderful worship service understanding that Jesus is the only truth we need. Pastor Mary showed a video on the Syrian Refugees. Our Advent offering will go to UMCOR to help the

refugees. Afterwards we enjoyed a wonderful meal and fellowship together. Thanks to all that helped set up and clean up. Thanks to Michelle who came up with cute silverware holders.

Christmas Party

We will be having our children's Christmas party on December 20th @ 11:30. We are planning to have a tureen lunch before the party. Hope you all plan to attend.

Christmas Gifts.

We have received 200 books from Books For Kids that will be given to the children of the families from our food pantry as well as our church children. The children will also receive a wooden toy from Santa's Elves. Our church children and some children from the community will receive a gift from the "Angel Tree" from the Moose Club.

Thanks to all the elves who have helped pick out and transport books, pick up and transport wooden toys, make Angels for the Angel tree and a special thanks to Pastor Mary and Jim and the east side Moose Club whose members purchase these gifts for our children.

Sunday School

Michelle and Melissa are now teaching Sunday School. If your children are not attending encourage them to come and participate. Looks like they are doing some fun things.

Brown Bag Sunday

On Sunday, November 22nd, First United Methodist had a brown bag offering which they annually give to our food pantry. Thank you to Margaret for picking the food up and to the volunteers who helped to unload the food.

~Mary Adams

Church Helpers for December – Announcer – Wanda Greeter – Michelle Scripture – Mary Usher- Walter and Youth Counter – Carl / Sandy	
Office hours are M – W- F 10 am to 1pm & Emergency Food non-food-week 12 – 1pm	
1 st Tuesday	Food Pantry Volunteer meeting 10 am - Advent Study 1 & 7 pm
2 nd Wednesday	Pick up perishables 9 am Food distribution 12 -2
3 rd Thursday	
4 th Friday	Food pick up 9am Girl Scout Daisies / Brownies 5 -7 Jr & Cadets 5:30 -7:30
5 th Saturday	Claytopia UMW 10-12
6 th Sunday	Sunday services 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am
7 th Monday	
8 th Tuesday	Advent Study 1 & 7 pm
9 th Wednesday	
10 th Thursday	
11 th Friday	Food pick up 9 am Girl Scout Daisies – Brownies 5-7
12 th Saturday	
13 th Sunday	Sunday services 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am Christmas Party San Juan
14 th Monday	
15 th Tuesday	Food Pantry volunteer meeting 12 -1- Advent Study 1 & 7 pm
16 th Wednesday	Pick up perishables 9 am Food distribution 12 -2
17 th Thursday	
18 th Friday	Food pick up 9 am Girl scout Daisies – Brownies 5-7 Jr & Cadets 5:30-7
19 th Saturday	Christmas Dinner at San Juan
20 th Sunday	Sunday services 9:30 am Sunday school 10:45 am
21 st Monday	
22 nd Tuesday	Advent Study 1 & 7 pm
23 rd Wednesday	
24 th Thursday	
25 th Friday	Christmas Day No office hours no scouts
26 th Saturday	
27 th Sunday	Church 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Pastor on Vacation until 1/2/16
28 th Monday	
29 th Tuesday	Food Pantry volunteer meeting 12 -1
30 th Wednesday	Pick up perishables 9 am Food distribution 12 -2
31 st Thursday	
Jan 1 st Friday	New Years Day No hours no scouts
hendersonumc@gmail.com 814-453-6041 www.hendersonunitedmethodistchurch.com	

Not a Silent Night

Witness the life and ministry of Jesus Christ through the eyes of Mary.



Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this study, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion

and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary.

The five sessions are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Beginning with the End | 4, Mary, Full of Grace |
| 2. The Piercing of Mary's Soul | 5. It was Not a Silent Night |
| 3. Amazed, Astounded, and Astonished | |

The study began Tuesday, November 24 and will continue through December 22. It is offered at two times: 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Ministry Building.

"Beyond Bethlehem"—Advent Calendar

How do we look beyond the secular focus of Christmas when we are bombarded constantly with Santa Clauses and enticed to buy, buy, and buy (often beyond our means)? I know that I am tempted to get "just one more toy or piece of clothing for my grandchildren. Certainly, the desire to give to others is commendable, but do we overdo it to the point that we are creating a culture of "I need, I need, I need." (...and thus wrongly blurring the line between needs and wants.)

In his video "Beyond Bethlehem" Pastor Mike Slaughter, put faces on the victims of Syrian refugee crisis. He shows men women and children caught in the cross fire between ISIS and Asaad; between terrorism and a tyrannical ruler. For years families have been living in desperate circumstances with seemingly no way out. Their wants are certainly needs: medical care, clean water, sanitation, adequate housing, enough to eat and certainly a place where they can raise their children free of gunfire.

Yes, each of us has opinions about the political aspects of the refugee crisis. However, our Christian response needs to focus on the consequences to God's precious children. The forced movement of people is a manifestation of the brokenness of our world. Refugees, people who cross international borders, and internally displaced persons, those displaced in their own country, too often have to endure the most of failed diplomacy, unjust policies and injustice in relationships.

Adam Hamilton, author and pastor, writes, "I'm reminded that Jesus was a refugee whose family sought asylum in Egypt shortly after his birth. Mary and Joseph fled Bethlehem after another tyrannical ruler, Herod the Great, sent troops to slaughter the children of Bethlehem. It is this part of the Christmas story that I find most compelling right now – when God came to this earth, he came as a child fleeing the horrors of tyranny, living as a refugee for the first years of his life."

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How can we help those in need? Christ compels us, and our aspirations as a nation demand that we do something. I am asking you this Advent season to support the **United Methodist Committee on Relief** which is providing aid and support for not only Syrian refugees, but refugees in many places around the world. Find attached to this newsletter an Advent calendar to help guide your giving. Each day you are asked to give in response to the need of our brothers and sisters. Use a jar, container or the bank provided in worship to collect your daily offering and bring it with you to Christmas Eve worship. Together we can make a difference!

Pastor's Message

December 2015

Every Advent season I am confronted with my personal holiday practices. I tend to over spend especially when it comes to my grandchildren. Every store advertisement seems to convince me that they absolutely need this "new" toy. Before I realize it, I have enough "stuff" for the entire neighborhood. I believe that my motivations are good—I love my grandchildren. But in the long run am I doing what is best for them.

This year's Advent study focuses on the life of Jesus through the eyes of his mother Mary. It began by looking at "Black Friday" shopping. Adam Hamilton writes: "...It's a story of Christmas run amok, and it is symbolic of something bigger—a kind of amnesia, illustrating how ordinary people forget the real meaning of Christmas."

It is during this Advent season we are asked to refocus ourselves on what the birth of this baby in Bethlehem is all about. Hamilton explains: "...Let's remember the hope and promise that come from him. Let's remember who he called us to be and what he called is to do. Let's remember the mission he gave us as we seek to live as Christ-followers." Advent calls us to prepare ourselves spiritually to celebrate the birth of the Savior.

Certainly, mothers, fathers, grandparents and the community celebrate the births of new babies in their lives. In each of these newborn blessings is hope and promise. Mary responded to the news of the upcoming birth of her child with praise, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." And so should we with each child placed in our care.

This baby born over two thousand years ago, however, came to change the world—which he did and continues to do. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, we also prepare for his second coming when he will bring a new heaven and new earth. It is only the son of God who has the power and the love to make all things new.

The "stuff" we buy on Black Friday, will pass away but the Word lives on forever.

My hope for you is that among the tinsel and blinking lights, the wrapping paper and decorated cookies, you can find the peace and hope that only Jesus can bring. Blessings to you and your family for an awe-filled, hope-filled. Christmas season.

Blessed Christmas!!

Pastor Mary