



Henderson United Methodist Church

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Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:45

2016 Issue 5

Henderson Happenings

Nov/Dec 2016

Pastor's Message...

We are in a season of uncertainty. Our world is filled with hate and violence, our current political climate is unbecoming of a country founded on faith, communities of faith are struggling with theological differences—all of these shake the foundation on which our lives stand. So where do we turn. Recently, I discovered on on-line devotion-al written by Joe Stowell*. I would like to share with you his Christmas message of hope:

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." Psalm 42:5

We talk a lot about hope.

We hope the weather will be good for our family vacation. We hope that our favorite team will win the Super Bowl—or at least make it to the big game! We hope that we get just what we want for Christmas.

But for many of us, hope lacks a sense of certainty. It is more like a wish—something that we want to happen but have no way of knowing that it ultimately will. So we keep our fingers crossed and “hope” that everything will go the way we want it to.

The reality is that often life doesn't turn out the way we hoped it would. Hope is a fragile commodity. When life is disappointing, our optimism is replaced by feelings of discouragement and hopelessness. Before long we run the risk of becoming cynics who believe that there is nothing in which we can confidently hope.

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Change your clock,

Turn clocks back 1 Hour before going to bed Saturday night or yall gonna be really early for church on Sunday November 6, 2016

CHANGE your batteries

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This was the landscape of life when Jesus entered the world. The prevailing mood of Israel was anything but hope. The once proud nation was now a puppet state of the pagan Roman Empire. The common person lived under the defeating burden of the exaggerated requirements of the religious establishment. Centuries before, they had been promised a deliverer who would restore Israel to its former glory, but it had never happened.

Into this sense of cynical hopelessness, true Hope was born. But the tragedy of that first Christmas was that very few realized the hope that had been introduced. Hope for the forgiveness of sins. Hope for a bright future—forever. Hope for God's presence and power in daily living. Hope that would enable us to forget the past and set our sights on stuff that doesn't disappoint. A hope that, because of Jesus, is a certainty and not just another wish to be dashed on the rocks of reality.

I love the honesty of the psalmist who said, "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?" We've all been there. But let's not stop there. Keep reading! "Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God" (Psalm 42:5). Rejoice that Jesus came to give you something better than the disappointments of life on planet earth. And when by faith you embrace Him and all that He promised, you can have a hope that is no longer a fingers-crossed wish that you harbor in your heart, but rather a confident, courageous optimism that is rooted in the certainty of His Word.

Pin your hopes on Jesus this Christmas—you won't be disappointed!

YOUR JOURNEY...

- *What are you hoping for today? How about tomorrow? Are your hopes rooted in temporal things, or eternal?*
- *In what way did Jesus bring hope to the world when He arrived?*
- *In what way does Jesus bring you hope personally? Share the hope. Tell a friend about Him today!*

(*Joe Stovell serves as the President of [Cornerstone University](http://www.cornerstoneuniversity.edu) in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Cornerstone supports his web ministry, Strength for the Journey, which features daily devotionals, video devotionals, and weekly messages with downloadable study guides. <http://getmorestrength.org>)

May this Christmas season bring true hope and peace to our hurting world and country. May this hope and peace be the foundation on which we live, love and serve our awesome God.

Blessings, *Pastor Mary*

Devotional by Jane Hackenberg

Years ago one of our cars was in a wreck. The front end had to be rebuilt, but we always had trouble with front end alignment after that. It seemed it often needed a trip to the garage to be readjusted. In the same way I have noticed that when I go into Lake Erie to jump in the waves, I look out to shore later only to discover that my beach bag is not where I think it should be. I have drifted way down from where I got in the water. I need to adjust where I am or I will get out of the lake far away from where I entered.

We live in a world that pushes and pulls us off course. The cares of this world and the many voices around us along with life in general get our attention off what is the most important. Someone told me this summer that no one drifts upstream to holiness. How true! As imperfect people we need to be alert as to how we live our daily lives. Hebrews 2:1 tells us: "We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away." We need to be intentional about daily Bible study and spending lots of time with Jesus. We need to stay on track. We need to press on. We need to make God-honoring choices.

In China, when children are running a race the audience yells in Chinese what sounds to me like: "Jie Oh, Jie Oh!" Literally translated it means: "Add oil" which means keep going, come on, you can do it. So my brothers and sisters across the world, I encourage you today. Look true north, stay the course and add oil! No other life is worth living.

Meeting Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Betty, Mary, Kathy and I had the privilege to see the bishop on Oct 22nd.

Pastor Mary, Jesus, Ana and Daisy were there also. Betty got her picture taken with the bishop and her husband Reverend Raphael Koikoi.

Bishop told us of her first day and her first official act as the new bishop was to set the dress code. She wondered is that my job really? Well after she thought about it she came up with the Dress Code for all Western Pennsylvania Methodists

WPA Chic

And she explained what it is.

No matter the outward attire that you wear, make sure you adorn your

Compassion

Kindness

Humility

Gentleness

and Patience when you get ready to leave the house

Her other transition that she shared with us was coming from Baltimore to Pittsburgh

She sported the Steelers Jersey and whispered "I'm sorry" to her family in the front row.



She may be a short lady but she has a large personality and we welcome her as our bishop.

Food Pantry Report

We are servicing an average of 86 families a month. Some coming once others coming both give outs. We plan the menu in advance to give out food that complements each other to make a meal or two. When at all possible a meat or an alternative is given along with fruits, vegetables, pasta, bread, dairy and sweets. Second Harvest has given us state grants to obtain items that in the past cost us. We budget that grant money to last until June 2017. We have received paper products and non food items which our families are very grateful.

Important dates to remember

Nov 2nd at 9 am we are picking up perishables for distribution at 12:30 – 2:00pm

Nov 16th we will be distributing our "thanksgiving give out". We plan to have turkeys and all the ingredients for you to cook your own dinner.

Nov 30th we will pick up perishables at 9 am for distribution at 12:30 – 2 pm

December we will have food pantry on the 14th along with our Senior Food Box distribution. The senior boxes will come at 10 am. Our food pantry will open at 12:30 as usual. Those getting both will have to bring lots of muscle.

We have been blessed with the Times Newsies Christmas Box again this year but we do not know when they are going to give it out. Those that signed up in September and October will receive a letter from us with a date and time to pick it up. You must bring the letter to receive the box.

Our Dec 28th distribution will emphasize the New Years day Dinner, so we hope for Pork and Sauerkraut.

We can always use volunteers on food pick up days or distribution days. Please call Margaret at 814-453-6041 if you wish to help.

If you live between East Avenue and McClelland Ave and make less that \$343 a week (single person) you may sign up with us to receive food. Call the church office for more information.

Margaret Harrison

Random Thoughts



Birthdays

November

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



December

- 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

Prayer List



Kate Drew, Lois Henderson, Wanda Brunner, Ruby Hull, Sandy Stewart, Sandy Williams, Prayers for our Pastor, church, our city, state and federal government officials that they put God in the decision making processes because all things are possible when God is consulted and heeded to. Prayers for all voters that we will make wise choices on who will lead our city, state and country into the future.

And my God will meet all your needs according his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

The Church Mouse



Please and Thank You

Where has all the respect gone? Not saying that I wish all things were like they were back then but oh how I miss some ways of the good old days. The days when Mickey would have opened the door for Minnie and allowed her to enter the cupboard ahead of him so that she could get first pick of whatever goodies might be available seem to have disappeared at times. Now it's every mouse for himself and when he gets his fill and there are no leftovers for other crumb snatchers, so be it. Even when Mother Hubbard goes to the cupboard it might not be for you know who but only for herself.

There was a time when Mickey opened that door for Minnie and said “after you my lady”, Minnie might have replied “Thank you”. Now she might just keep on stepping and throw her head up in the air like she doesn't even care. Times, they are changing and not always for the best.

A very wise mouse once told me that if I had any skeletons in my closet I should not try to be the “big cheese”. I won't call any names but there sure are a lot of skeletons running around. Just in time for Halloween. Every mouse for himself!

I'm gonna pause right here and say “Thank you Jesus”. You might be wondering why I would do that. Just a few minutes ago my computer took a hit and attempted to reboot but failed a few times before I was able to shut it down and bring it back up. I started sweating and the hair on my hairless back stood straight up as I feared I wouldn't get this article finished and forwarded to press. As I pound out these last few words on the keyboard and thank God for his divine intervention as please, please, please went through my mind, I now say thank you, thank you, thank you.

God is in the midst of everything we do or don't do. He doesn't need to be asked, he just does what is needed. We need to thank him at all times and in all things.



Family Night**November 11, 2016 6-8 p.m.****and
OperationChristmas Child**

We have joined the Girl Scouts in a Christmas outreach project. Operation Christmas Child provides gift boxes for children around the world.

Our goal is to pack 50 boxes (boxes will be provided). Items are due Sunday, November 6. The committee will sort the items during the week and then on Friday, November 11 we will have a Family Night with pot luck supper and then join in packing the boxes for shipping. Please see Mary Adams for information about the pot luck supper and Michelle Retzer concerning items for the boxes.

*Advent Study**"A Different Kind of Christmas"*

Help us cast a vision of living and giving like Jesus, beginning with the Christmas season and continuing through the year. This five-week study will help us see the traps and discontentment of consumerism and the call of God to live generously to fulfill God's mission in the world.

This five-session study features Mike Slaughter, Lead Pastor of Ginghamburg United Methodist Church and popular author of "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday". Each 10-15 minute video inspires viewers to approach Christmas differently and be transformed in the process.

The study will be held on Tuesdays at 12:30 and 7:00 p.m., so pick the time that fits your schedule.

Sessions include:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Expect a Miracle | Tuesday, November 15 | 4. Jesus' Wish List | Tuesday, December 6 |
| 2. Giving Up on Perfect | Tuesday, November 22 | 5. By a Different Road | Tuesday, December 13 |
| 3. Scandalous Love | | | |

Two books are available to enhance the study:

"A Different Kind of Christmas: Living and Giving Like Jesus" \$7.00 (highly recommended)

This book of devotional readings is designed to draw your entire family into closer fellowship with God as you respond to this Christmas season and the call of God to live generously all year around. The devotional includes thirty short readings, Scripture, prayer, and stories about helping others at Christmas.

"Christmas Is Not Your Birthday: Experience the Joy of Living and Giving like Jesus" \$9.00

Every year, we say we're going to cut back, simplify, and have a family Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season—Jesus. But every year, advertisements beckon, the children plead, and it seems easier just to indulge our wants and whims. Overspending, overeating, materialism, and busyness rob us of our peace and joy and rob Jesus of his rightful role as the center of our celebration.

See Pastor Mary for more information and to receive study books.

Worship Opportunities for November:



Sunday, November 6
All Saints Sunday
 9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Lectionary: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149 or Psalm 150; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

Sunday, November 13

*Twenty-Sixth Sunday
 after Pentecost*

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Lectionary: Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12 or Psalm 118; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19



Sunday, November 20

Reign of Christ Sunday/Thanksgiving Sunday

11:00 a.m. Combined Worship at San Juan



Guest Preacher:
 Rev. Matt Judd
 Dinner to follow.

Lectionary: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100; Philippians 4:4-9; John 6:25-35

Sunday, November 27

First Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Lectionary: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122;

Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44



Worship Opportunities for December:

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School



Lectionary: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Lectionary: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Children's Christmas Program

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:45 a.m. Children's
 Celebration in Ministry Building

Lectionary: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25



Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Candle Lighting Service

7:00 p.m. Worship

Lectionary: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20



Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

9:30 a.m. Worship
*Children are welcome to come in
 PJs and bring favorite
 Christmas present.*

Lectionary: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14



NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Church Helpers : Greeter - Margaret Announcer - Wanda	
Scripture – Kathy Usher- Walter and Youth Counter – Margaret & Mary A	
Office hours are M – W- F 10 am to 2 pm & Emergency Food non-food-week 12 – 1pm	
1 st Tuesday	Girl Scouts at San Juan 5:30 – 7:30 pm
2 nd Wednesday	Food Pantry 12:30 – 2 pm
3 rd Thursday	
4 th Friday	
5 th Saturday	UMC Cooperative Ministry Meeting at San Juan 9 am Sanctuary cleaning - Sydney
6 th Sunday	Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am in the Ministry Building
Daylight savings ends	
7 th Monday	Sort items for Operation Christmas Child Boxes 10 am Ministry bldg
8 th Tuesday	Election Day No office hours
9 th Wednesday	
10 th Thursday	
11 th Friday	Family Night Pot Luck Dinner 6 pm Pack Operation Christmas Child boxes
Veteran's Day	
12 th Saturday	Nurture Meeting 10 am Sanctuary cleaning - Sydney
13 th Sunday	Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am in the Ministry Building
14 th Monday	Delivery of girl scouts mag-nut sale this week
15 th Tuesday	Girl Scouts at San Juan 5:30 – 7:30 pm
16 th Wednesday	Food Pantry 12:30 – 2 pm
17 th Thursday	
18 th Friday	Two in One with Carl Williams 10 am
19 th Saturday	Finance meeting 10 am AD Council meeting 11 am Sanctuary Cleaning - Carl
20 th Sunday	Combined Worship at San Juan 11 am Christ the King Sunday Dinner after services bring a dish to share Pulpit exchange
21 st Monday	
22 nd Tuesday	Girl Scouts at San Juan 5:30 – 7:30 pm
23 rd Wednesday	
24 th Thursday	Thanksgiving No office hours
25 th Friday	No office hours
26 th Saturday	Sanctuary cleaning – Margaret
27 th Sunday	Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am in the Ministry Building
1 st Sunday of Advent	
28 th Monday	Senior Food Boxes 10 – 2 pm
29 th Tuesday	No girl scouts no school
30 th Wednesday	Food Pantry 12:30 – 2 pm
December Church Helpers: Greeter – Michelle Announcer – Mary Adams	
Scripture – Wanda Ushers – Walter & Youth Counters – Margaret & Wanda	
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