

THE GLEAM

December 2017

The Newsletter of the Baden United Methodist Church

Pastor's Ponderings



The season of Advent is once again upon us. It is the time of the year that Christian tradition encourages the followers of Christ to “prepare for the coming of the newborn King.” Although I enjoy the season, in the back of my mind I’ve always thought that it’s a

little silly. It seems odd to me that we celebrate His coming as a human infant every year, almost as if it was happening for the first time, again. Is there more to “preparing for the coming of the Messiah” than decorating trees, exchanging presents, singing favorite carols and enjoying festive feasts?

I understand the comfort of long-practiced traditions. We human beings need occasions to relive familiar experiences. These times provide a sense of security and stability in an ever-changing world. They remind us of deeply cherished memories, reaffirm fundamental beliefs, and help us to find safe and quiet spaces, if only for an evening or a day or two, before life rushes back in like the restless sea.

There was only a little fanfare on the first Christmas. The coming King, the Savior of the world, was born in a lowly stable; some donkeys and sheep got to witness the “main event”. There was a choir of angels that gave a few shepherds the “greatest show on earth”. (Oh, how I wish I had been there to hear that!) Then the shepherds went looking for the newborn King through the dark streets of Bethlehem. The Scriptures tell us that they found the child and his mother, just as the angel said. And there was a bright star – two aligned planets probably, something only those who studied the

stars would recognize as something significant. No spectacular fireworks, no Macy’s parade, no candlelight worship services; seemingly, no big deal.

But the angels said something very important to the shepherds. They said, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

The reality is that Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world more than 2000 years ago. He lived on earth as a human being for about 33 years. The first thirty years of Jesus’ life were spent growing up and becoming a carpenter in the town of Nazareth. Then, He was baptized by His cousin, John the Baptist. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, He travelled and preached for three years, doing miracles and proclaiming the Good News – the Kingdom of God was near! According to the will of the Heavenly Father Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. Three days later He rose from the dead, declaring once for all victory over death. Shortly thereafter Jesus ascended to His rightful place at the right hand of God the Father, reassuming all the power that was His before the Incarnation.

The Lord’s coming into the world was **HUGE NEWS**; however, it wasn’t important at the time, but IT’S IMPORTANT NOW! Why? Because Jesus’ work on earth is now done: His three years of ministry, His sacrifice on the cross, and His victory over death. The world didn’t need to prepare itself for the birth of the newborn King, but, the world, including you and me, needs to prepare for the coming of the **RESURRECTED and GLORIFIED KING**.

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Baden UMC Special Notes & Requests

Pastor' Pondering Continued from Page 1

The Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year. The focus on love, joy, giving and peace is always welcome and encouraging. **But the important message is that we need to prepare our lives for the coming of the King – not the infant, but the Infinite; not the child, but the Chosen One; not the manger, but the Messiah; not jingle bells, but the Judge.**

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THAT?

Let me invite you to join your brothers and sisters in Christ at Baden United Methodist Church as we prepare our lives for the coming of the King through worship, prayer, study, service, giving and witness. And when the King arrives may **He say to each of us, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"**

Sincerely in Jesus' Name,



Pastor Jim

Special Notes

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families that have lost loved ones

Richard Foster - July 20, 2017
 Betty Smith - August 5, 2017
 Carol J. Tylosky - October 10, 2017
 Jim Smith - October 14, 2017

Our thoughts and prayers are with these families, especially during this holiday season.

Congratulations to Tyler and Sarah on the arrival of their first child, a son, Grayson Edward Volk. He was born on July 22 and baptized on October 15, 2017.

Congratulations also to the Heinz family, Jared and Jenn, who added to their lovely family on October 16 with the birth of Jace Rowan Heinz.

Wedding bells rang for two happy couples.

Nicholas Thomas McClure married Amber Lee Feltenberg on August 5, 2017 and Elizabeth Gall married John Edward Toolis II on October 14, 2017.

Our best wishes are extended to both of these couples. May God bless their marriages.

Social Butterflies and Moths

We have found that our church has so many wonderful activities that there doesn't seem to be a need for a specific group for "Seniors" and that's a good thing. As a result it was mutually agreed to discontinue the Social Butterflies and Moths at this time. Thank you to all who have participated.

Janet Johns

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those in need of prayer

Fran Zimmerman
 Jeffrey Sloppy
 Pastor Jim
 James Kunzmann
 Chris Braner
 David Myers
 Roger Clark
 Dawn Shioely
 Debbie Wydek
 Bill Collins
 Hugh McCreery
 Jerry & Barb Ferguson
 Chris & Heather Ream

Melissa Jones
 Fred & Sue Ramsey
 Valarie Onnofri
 David Myers
 Jacey Brown
 Leigh Ann Nalepa

Being mindful of our friends' and loved ones' privacy and personal choices the church can only publish Prayer Requests when permission has been granted by the person.

Those who lost loved ones

Families of:
 Jim Smith
 Carol Tylosky
 Betty Smith
 Richard Foster
 Elizabeth Hughes
 George Ballas
 Lou Gardner
 Dick Ganter

Those in the military

Isaac Jones
 Mickey Futato
 Luke Heilig
 Cpt. Patrick McCreary
 Zach Adams
 Spc. Jeanette McDonald
 Spc. Josh Peters

Those in assisted living

Miriam Bennett
 Dorcas Moore
 Anna-Margaret Decker
 Marge Tillery
 Gwendolyn Smith

Children's Christmas Play & Dinner

"A Christmas to Believe In"

Christmas Play & Church Family Dinner

December 10

During the Sunday worship service the congregation will be treated to the annual children's Christmas play. The play this year is called "A Christmas to Believe In." Two modern day characters share their beliefs or "disbeliefs" in the traditional Christmas story, while the performers act out the holy events on stage and interact with the modern characters. The present day characters soon discover what is really true, whether you believe or not and that because it is true and no one can ever take it away from you!

Following the play everyone is welcome to join in a time of food, fun, and enjoyment in Fellowship Hall where a delicious pot luck dinner will be served. Watch for more details in the bulletin or call the church office.

Breakfast with Santa



Saturday, December 2
 Fellowship Hall
 Doors open at 8:00 AM

Breakfast served from 8:15 - 9:30
 Santa arrives after 9:00 Leaves at 11:00
 (Busy time of year)

Cost: \$5.00 per person; 2 and under free but must have a ticket.

Tickets will be sold in advance from Nov. 1 - 30 before and after the 10:30 Church Service, from Dian Sherin or by contacting Bill or Nancy VanDeCar @ 724-869-9461.

Breakfast will be pancakes, sausage, fruit cup, juice, hot chocolate or milk, coffee or tea. PS - Mrs. Claus, the Elves, and Mary will join us too!

Holiday Memories



Holiday Happenings



Time to Deck the Halls!

We will be decorating our church for Christmas on Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m.. Concentration will be on the sanctuary, narthex and chapel café. We eagerly invite those who are willing to help make our church festive for the holiday season to come and join in. Many hands make quick work and having friends together doing this makes it fun. This is your invitation to take part in a joyous time – come and join us!

Questions- See Paula Hazelwood

Christmas Choir

A choir is being formed to sing at the Christmas Eve Services. Those interested in participating should contact Pastor Jim or Donna Brynczak. The group will practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM beginning on November 29. A brief meeting was held following the worship service on November 26.



Christmas Candy Sale



Delicious Holman Candy is being sold for the holidays. Each individual of the church has the opportunity to help raise money for the Capital Improvement Fund by participating in the Christmas Candy Sale. Ask your friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives. The more candy sold the larger the profit for the Improvement Fund. The sale will run through December 10 and the candy will be delivered on December 16 and 17 after the worship service. Make checks payable to Holman's Candy. Pick up a sales packet in the entryway, or talk to Bill Alberts for more information (724-869-2213).



To beautify our church and honor your loved ones, please consider ordering a Christmas poinsettia this year. Each poinsettia can be dedicated in honor or in memory of a special loved one in your life. The cost is only \$6.75, and are available in Red or White. Each pot is 6 1/2" high and will be wrapped in gold foil. All orders and payment are due to the church office by Sunday, December 3. Poinsettias can be taken home after the 7:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

Always Caring, Always Sharing . . .



Jackets & Shoes for the Homeless

Nemorio Ramirez is heading up a collection drive for new and gently worn winter jackets and shoes for the Hot Metal Bridge Homeless Ministry on the Southside of Pittsburgh. Men's jackets and men's and women's heavy shoes for the cold months are desperately needed.

The Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community keeps a care closet with clothes, shoes and supplies needed for those living outdoors. If you have any questions contact Nemorio at 724-266-2093.

We Care Ministry

The We Care Food Pantry continues to serve nearly 90 families in the area with much needed supplies each month. The food pantry is a member of the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank and serves people in the Baden and Conway area. Donations and volunteers are a vital part of the ministry. Without them the pantry would not be able to survive. Food donations and helpers come from many local churches and organizations, making this truly a community ministry. The We Care Ministry is grateful and give thanks for all, who participate. Contact Esther or Ed Hallas (724-242-0204) to donate or volunteer.

Dance! Dance! Dance!



Holiday Break begins 12/20/2017

All are welcome to join in this activity of fun & dance.

No prior experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn and move.

Each Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM.

Questions: Contact Nancy VanDeCar (724-869-9461)

Opportunity to Serve

The church continue to serve on the third Sunday of each month, at the Salvation Army Center in Beaver Falls. The volunteers serve dinner to needy people of the area. This service project is open to anyone who would like to be involved. The group leaves the church by 1:45 p.m. and returns around 5:00 p.m. The workers may bring cookies for dessert to add to the meal they are serving. Talk to Pastor Jim if you are interested in helping.

White Gifts

Opportunity To Help Those In Need



During the advent season, donations will be collected for those dealing with an unexpected pregnancy. These gifts will be placed under the Sanctuary tree and are traditionally wrapped

with just white paper. If you have any questions, contact Sally Bramble 724-770-0369.

Suggested White Gift Items

diapers	sheets, crib size
unscented diaper wipes	child size nail clippers
A & D ointment or Butt Cream	infant towel &
pajamas, sizes newborn to size 5	wash cloths
bottles.	toddler proof hard cover
baby shampoo and baby lotion	or washable books
blankets including crib size	body lotion & manicure
pacifiers	sets for mothers
sippy cups	
socks, 0- child size 10 shoe	

Busy Bees

The needles and scissors of the Busy Bees have been very busy on Thursday mornings, since September. The ladies are making lap quilts for area hospitals and nursing homes. Several will be given out during the Christmas season. Extra hands are always needed to cut and assemble the blankets. No quilting experience is necessary. If you would like to help talk to Betty Holcomb or Susan Schaeffer.

Always something happening at Baden UMC

Vacation Bible School
Hero Central - July 24-28



Rally Sunday
September 17



Always Something Happening at Baden UMC

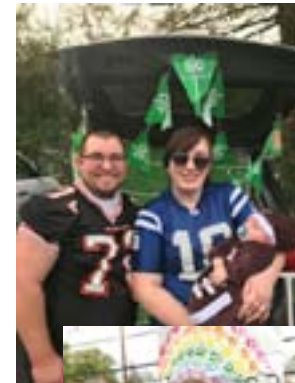
Recognition of First
Responders October 8



"Soup Ladies"
Fund raiser - October 20



Fall Festival
October 21



Open to the Public
Invite your friends &
neighbors

Menu Items

Pancakes, Eggs,
Sausage, Ham,
Homefries, Biscuits &
Gravy, Coffee Cake,
Cereal, Juice,
Coffee & Tea



After Church
December 3

11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

Everyone is welcome
All proceeds benefits
Baden Capital Improvement Fund

Come Hungry
Take out
available

Cost

Adults: \$8.00
Children:
Age 6-12 \$4.00
5& Under: Free

Baden United Methodist Church
420 Dippold Ave.
Baden, PA 15005
Rev. James G. Young, Pastor

Schedule of Services

Saturday (Come As You Are Service): 6:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m. (Traditional Setting)

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services

10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

