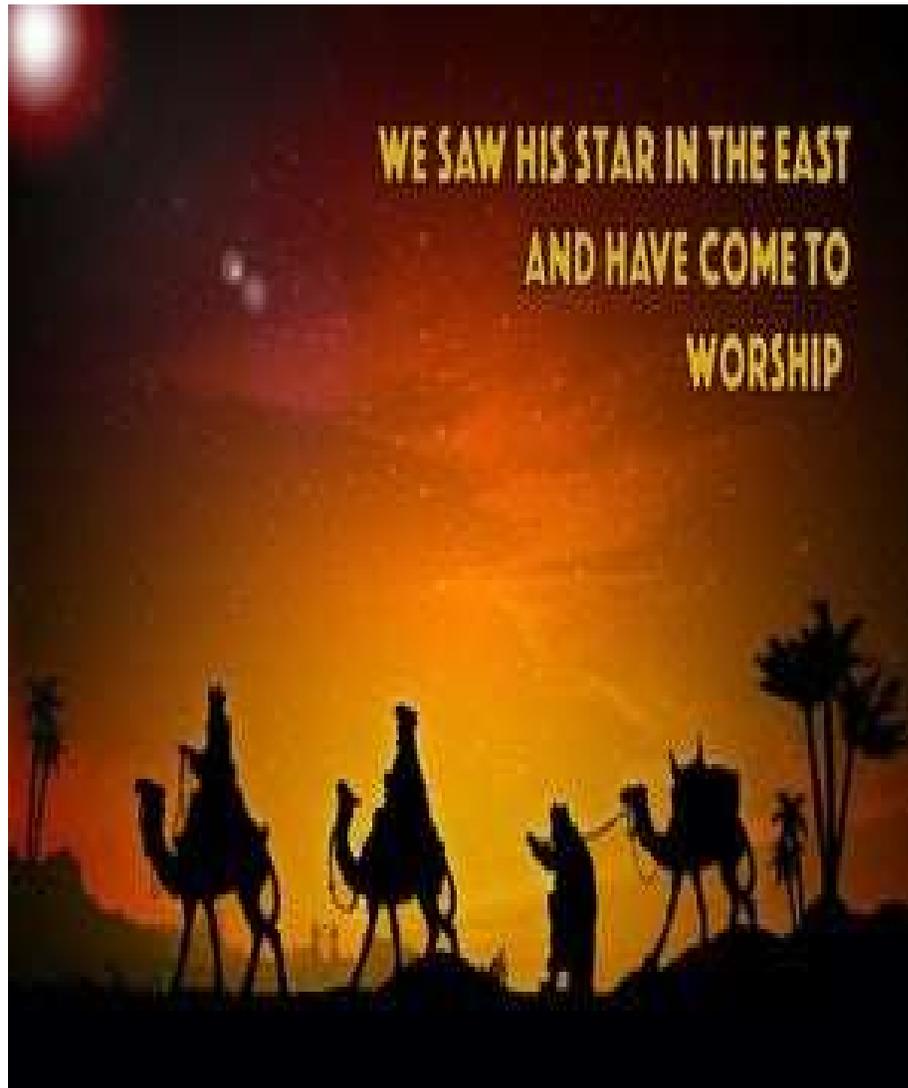


Grace Community Presbyterian Church
January 2, 2022



Songs of the Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-12

Thought for Meditation:

“Home for the three wise men and for us is not the manger where the light is gentle and God is a child. Peace is there, the peace that passes all understanding, but it is not to be ours yet for a while. We also must depart into our own country again, where peace is not found in escape from the battle but in the very heat of the battle. For outlandish creatures like us, on our way to a heart, a brain, and courage, Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning – not home but the place through which we must pass if we are to reach home at last.” *Frederick Buechner*

Prelude

Gesu Bambino

Yon

Welcome and Announcements

Doug Marshall

* Call To Worship

Cathy Brady

L: The shepherds went from the fields to Bethlehem;

P: They went to worship the baby Jesus.

L: The Magi came from the east;

P: They came to worship the newborn king.

L: We come from our busy lives;

P: We come to worship Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

* Hymn of Praise

As With Gladness Men of Old

#290

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and fear hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ... *Silent Prayer of Confession.*

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: Who is like our God, who forgives our sins?

P: God does not stay angry but delights in showing mercy.

L: God does not stay angry but casts our sins into the sea.

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and free.

ALL: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

* Passing of the Peace

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Please pass the peace of Christ to your neighbors in the pews and introduce yourself to those you do not know.

* Glory Be To The Father

#813

Special Music

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt (Schalk)

Chancel Choir

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12 (page 835)

Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church this morning. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship in Cana Hall after the service. Your hosts will be John and Cindy Irvin.

C.S. Lewis – Adult Sunday School Class

When: Sundays @ 9:00 AM 1/9, 16, 23, 30

Where: Library

He was one of the most published authors of the 20th century and a professor of medieval literature at Oxford and Cambridge. He was a man who loved drinking beer at the local pub and smoking his pipe, yet was (and still is) an icon of the Evangelical church. He was raised a Presbyterian, became an atheist, and then accepted Christ as an adult. Learn more of his story and how his writing encourages and challenges us to grow in our faith.

Help Wanted: Worship Committee will be taking down the advent decorations on Saturday, January 8 at 9:00am. All help will be appreciated.

Mask Update: The session discussed the increasing number of COVID cases in western PA. There will be no drastic actions at this time (i.e. not cancelling worship), however we do want to encourage people to be careful and take precautions when needed. The one “change” we are making (which is noted on signs at the entrance doors) has to do with masks. The signs used to ask people to wear masks if they are not vaccinated. The signs now say: **If you are not vaccinated, or you have cold / flu symptoms, PLEASE WEAR A MASK. This will help keep others safe.**

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to give the Pastor a call or come by the office.

Directory updates: We are still working on updating the Membership List. There are two draft copies (both the same) of the Membership List in the Narthex. Please take a couple minutes and review your contact information. Make any corrections on one of the draft copies, and don't forget to add your email address. Thank you in advance.

TODAY'S MUSIC: “Where Shepherds Lately knelt” was written by Lutheran pastor, editor, and hymnist Jaroslav Vajda (1919 –2008). He did not write his first hymn until age 49. From that time until his death, he wrote over 200 original and translated hymns, found in more than 65 hymnals worldwide.

Dr. Carl Schalk worked closely with Dr. Vajda for 40 years on some 26 hymns (today's anthem is one of those). Schalk thought of Dr. Vajda as “a good friend and talented poet...’Jary’ had a remarkable ability to fashion a striking new image [and] to reshape an older one, recreating it in a way which brought fresh insight and new understanding,..One is always struck by the strong theological thrust of Jary’s texts...Ultimately, the texts of Jaroslav Vajda are a sign to God’s people — a sign of hopefulness, expectation, and promise that the Holy Spirit still gives us songs to sing along our pilgrim way until the time when all our singing is joined to the last great song of the Lamb in eternity.”

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word, I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred, but there is room and welcome there for me, but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said: sweet newborn babe, how frail! and in a manger bed, a still, small voice to cry one day for me, a still, small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare: a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me, a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

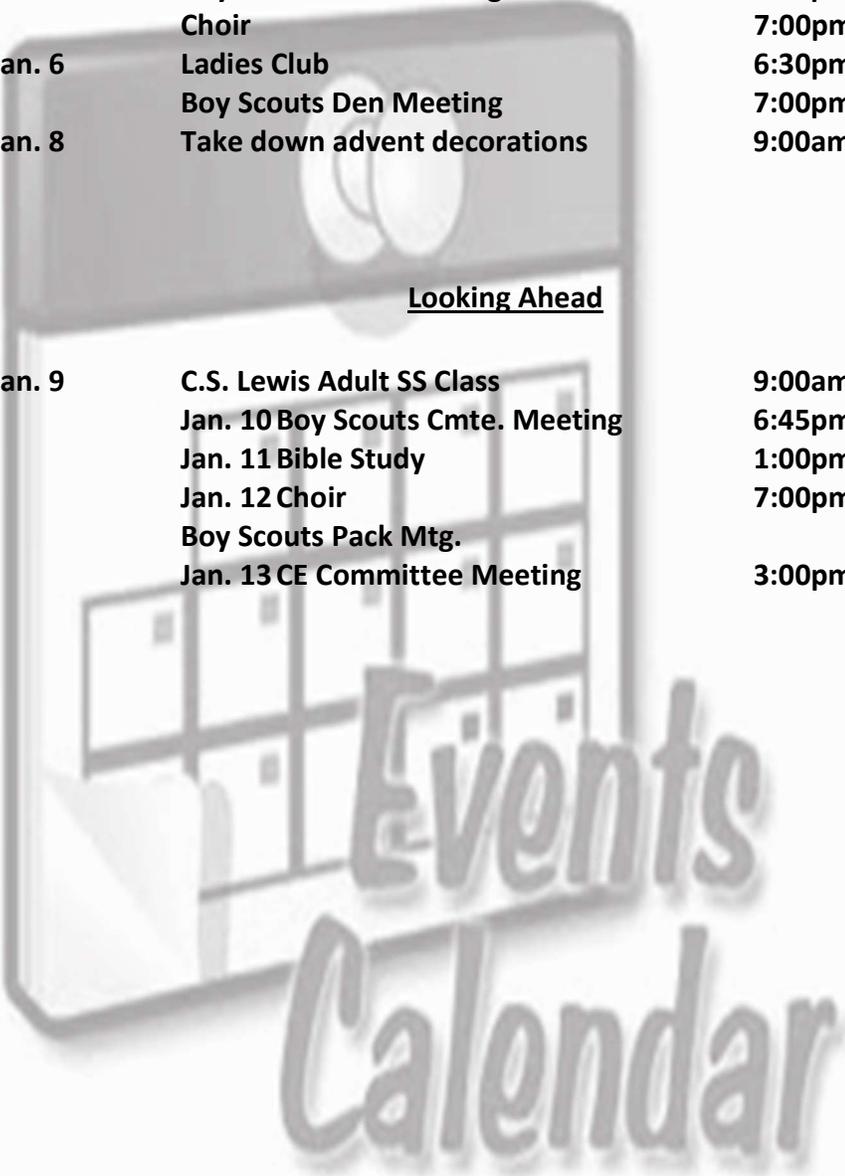
Can I, will I forget how love was born and burned its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me, to die, to live, and not alone for me?

This Week's Calendar

Jan. 4	Bible Study	1:00pm
Jan. 5	Boy Scouts Den Meeting	5:00pm
	Choir	7:00pm
Jan. 6	Ladies Club	6:30pm
	Boy Scouts Den Meeting	7:00pm
Jan. 8	Take down advent decorations	9:00am

Looking Ahead

Jan. 9	C.S. Lewis Adult SS Class	9:00am
	Jan. 10 Boy Scouts Cmte. Meeting	6:45pm
	Jan. 11 Bible Study	1:00pm
	Jan. 12 Choir	7:00pm
	Boy Scouts Pack Mtg.	
	Jan. 13 CE Committee Meeting	3:00pm



**Events
Calendar**

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
(724) 339-9661
Website: www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Worship Service is at 10:00am

Church Staff:

Pastor: Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor
doug@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Secretary: Wendy Stein Clark
secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Christian Ed.: Bill Ludwig (interim)
Organist: Kenneth McGeary
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zunich

Elders

Cathy Brady*
Dave Briscoe*
Arch Carroll
Cathy Christoforetti
Michael Cochenour*
Martha Gumbert
David Highfield
Dan Howard
John Irvin*
Henry Kedzierski
Val Lester*
Lew McNay
Glenn Nordmark*
Stephanie Tutka*
Cathy Vitari**

*Denotes Chairman
**Clerk of Session

Deacons

Darlene Artman
Rich Artman
Gary Barbiaux
Judy Barbiaux
Kitty Berkley
Margie Bistline
Beulah Brown
Jackie Chickerella*
Cindy Irvin
Linda Johnson
Terri Ludwig
Connie Markle
Judy Sulitz
Mary Ann Walter
Lou Walter

*Denotes Moderator