



The Pastor's Ponderings . . .

January 2020

“In the ‘Fullness of Time!’”

But *when the fullness of time had come*,
God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
in order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.

And because you are children,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying, “Abba! Father!”

Galatians 4:4-6 (*Emphasis added*)

“*But when the fullness of time had come.*” It would be easy to pass over this phrase, which may feel abstract and difficult to grasp. But this phrase is actually quite significant – it signifies that there were key events and much preparation behind the exact timing of Jesus’ birth. Indeed, before the heavens and earth were created, God’s plan to reconcile humanity was already in place:

He [that is, Jesus] was destined before the foundation of the world,
but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

Through him you have come to trust in God,
who raised him from the dead and gave him glory,
so that *your faith and hope are set on God.*

I Peter 1:20-21 (*Emphasis added*)

And so – for *those whose faith and hope are set on God* – this reality provides a firm foundation for the work and worship of Lower Brandywine as we live into our 300th Anniversary Year. That is to say – as Oswald Chambers has written, concerning finding God’s will for our future – “The disciple who abides in Jesus *is* the will of God, and his [or her] apparently free choices are God’s fore-ordained decrees. Mysterious? Logically contradictory and absurd? Yes, but a glorious truth to a saint.”

May we – then – more and more fully abide in Jesus, day-by-day and minute-by-minute, as we live into the future God has prepared for us. And – as we do so – we will be blessed to take our part in God’s eternal plan to reconcile humanity by becoming a light to others in the fullness of time!

Dave Lovelace

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY**Year A****Second Sunday of Christmas—January 5, 2020**

Jeremiah 31:7–14

Psalm 147:12–20

Ephesians 1:3–14

John 1:(1–9) 10–18

Epiphany of the Lord—January 6

Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14

Ephesians 3:1–12

Matthew 2:1–12

Baptism of the Lord—January 12

Isaiah 42:1–9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34–43

Matthew 3:13–17

Sunday, January 19

Isaiah 49:1–7

Psalm 40:1–11 1

Corinthians 1:1–9

John 1:29–42

Sunday, January 26

Isaiah 9:1–4

Psalm 27:1, 4–9 1

Corinthians 1:10–18

Matthew 4:12–23

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| 01/02 | Jacob Jury |
| 01/03 | Kristin Armstrong |
| | Erin Walther |
| 01/04 | Paul Kenton |
| | Alex Schwendeman |

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| 01/07 | Hunter Witmer |
| 01/09 | Dirk Vander Laan |
| | Dara Main |
| 01/16 | Molly Kenton |
| | Adrienne Underwood |
| 01/18 | Susan Latimer |
| 01/21 | Janis Kumpf |
| 01/22 | Dennis Witmer |
| 01/24 | Hunter Firment |
| | Hanna Firment |
| 01/26 | Xande Robertson |
| | George Salmons |
| 01/27 | Paul Haldeman |
| | Jack Vander Laan |
| 01/28 | Carey Kaiser |
| 01/29 | Carolyn Hooper |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 01/01 | Barbara & Jonathan Sypher |
| 01/14 | William & Martha Marsey |
| 01/29 | David & Barbara Heckman |





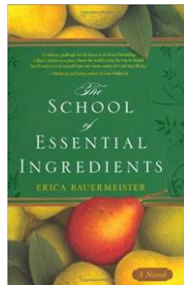
Brown Bag Bible Study (Pastor Dave)

Studying: The Book of Acts

Brown Bag Bible Study meets **Thursdays at 11:30 AM**. We begin with lunch at 11:30 a.m., which may be truly “brown bagged” or ordered from our wonderful caterer, Betsy Coons. Indeed, many of us have a standing order with Betsy – to enjoy her specialty of the day!

Book Club (Susan Latimer)

The Book Club will meet Wednesday, January 8th at 5:30 at Tavern 52. This month we are reading Erica Bauermeister’s book, **The School of Essential Ingredients**. See you there!



Sunday Morning Bible Study (Dave Robertson)

We meet **Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM** in the Teen & Tween Room. All are welcome!

Sunday Morning Topical Study (Don Coats)

The Adult Topical Class meets **Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM** in the Social Hall.

Appreciating Christianity is greatly enhanced after viewing the human global quest for spirituality over the centuries.

We are returning to Huston Smith’s, **The World’s Religions** because the information is so rich we could not assimilate it all in the first run! We will review his book, a small section at a time, and listen to the author being interviewed by Bill Moyers.

Those interested in may contact Don Coats at doncoats@verizon.net or just show up at 9:00 on Sunday and join the fun. All are welcome!

Sunday School for Grades K – 5 (Barbara Sypher)

Meets every Sunday *except* Communion Sunday, at **10:15 AM during January** in rooms 4 & 5.

LIFT for Grades 6-12 (Pastor Emma with Becky and Sean Kennedy)

Living in Faith Together



We meet most Sundays at **5:00 PM**. A detailed calendar is available. You **DO NOT** have to be a member of LBPC to participate. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

01/12 Guest speaker Rabbi Michael Beals. This is a combined meeting with Confirmation! **5 – 7 PM** in the Social Hall. Dinner provided!

Women’s Group (Joan Wysham)

Meets the **second Tuesday** of the month at **Noon**. The January meeting is **Tuesday, January 14th**.

Just Desserts

January’s gathering will be on **Friday, January 17 at 7:30 PM** at the home of Joanna Kelly.

Pollinator Garden Club (Don Coats)

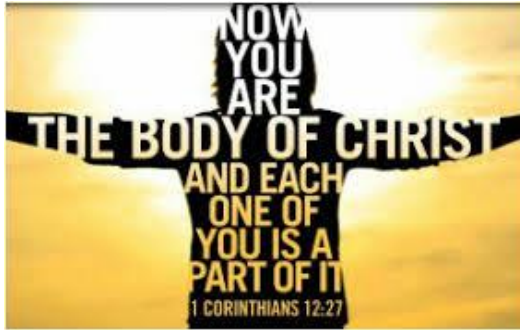
The Pollinator Garden Club is taking a break for a few weeks. Stay tuned for any special meetings that are scheduled for the future.

Book Study (Sandra Borrer)

Reading: **Yes, And...Daily Meditations** by Richard Rohr

Meetings are held on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at noon**. This is a fascinating study! All are welcome!





LBPC Committees

Missions (Shirley Pritchard)

The Mission Committee meets monthly on Wednesdays. January's meeting is on **Wednesday, January 15th at 11:30 AM**. We will share lunch together. Hope to see you there!

300th Outreach (Nancy Day)

A notice will be sent out concerning the next meeting.

300th Anniversary (Ed Nass)

A notice will be sent out concerning our next meeting.

Pastoral Care (Judy Thorpe)

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, January 16th at 10:30 AM**.

Property & Cemetery (Larry Murphy)

Our committee meets the third Monday of each month. However, due to the holiday December's meeting is **Monday, January 20th at 6:30 PM**.

Finance and Administration (John Danzeisen)

Our committee meets the third Monday of each month. However, due to the holiday January's meeting is **Monday, January 20th at 7:00 PM**.

Session

Session meets the fourth Monday of each month. However, due to the holiday January's meeting is **Tuesday, January 21st at 7:00 PM**.

*We would like to say a special
THANK YOU to all who gave
flowers, and the gift of their time in
decorating the sanctuary for
Christmas!*



Look for these sign-up sheets posted in the
Social Hall!

2020 Flower Donations

LBPC Birthday Cake Baking for 01/26/2020



Annual Congregational Meeting

January 26, 2020

*Annual LBPC Birthday Party
immediately following!*



A reminder that LBPC is scheduled to deliver Meals on Wheels **January 6 – 10**. Mark your calendar!

*Join Us for Just Desserts
Friday, January 17th
7:30 PM
At the home of Joanna Kelly*



What is the Annual
Congregational Birthday Celebration?

It's one day a year that we celebrate EVERYONE'S birthday! It takes place after the congregational meeting which will be on January 26th.

What do we do?

East lots of cake! There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers to bake a cake for a specific month. Tables will be set up around the Social Hall, which may be decorated, if you wish. *Get creative!* It's a fun time and great way to celebrate with your church family. You don't want to miss it!

LBPC COOKS A Group Cooking Event

We are working on a date for January! Stay tuned for more information!

LIFT and Confirmation will have a combined meeting on Sunday, January 12th at 5:00 PM. Join us in the Social Hall for dinner followed by a discussion with our special guest speaker, Rabbi Michael Beals.

2020 Pledge

Generations of generosity...

That is what Elder Ed Nass spoke of when he presented his Moment for Mission concerning our 300th Anniversary. Making an annual pledge is one way we can express our gratitude to those that came before us and preserve this place of worship for future generations.

We are happily accepting pledges for 2020. Pledge forms are available in the church office, or you may contact Linda Natali at linda.natali@comcast.net.

I have given up the idea that there is an opposition-free church out there. But I have gained something else - an appreciation for the gift of opposition. When it comes, I learn something about my motives. When it comes, I get to test my courage.

— John Ortberg

Have a maintenance issue that needs to be addressed?

We have a form for that!

The Property Committee is recommending a new process for reporting and tracking maintenance, repairs and upgrades performed at LBPC. They are asking the congregation to submit a form either to the office or directly to a member of the Property Committee. If you submit your request to the office, we will forward it on to the Property Committee. From there, Property will work with F&A and Session to determine the necessity, timing and funding for the project.

Below is the proposed form. Thanks for your cooperation!

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| PROPERTY REPAIR REQUEST FORM | |
| SEND TO: Don Coats (doncoats@verizon.net), Bruce Webber (bdwebber@gmail.com), or Larry Murphy (lpm@veroshores.net) | |
| DATE: _____ | REPORTER'S NAME: _____ |
| EMAIL & PHONE # _____ | |
| REPAIR ISSUE _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |



| Start Date | Start Time | Subject |
|-------------------|------------|---|
| 01/01/2020 | 12:00 AM | Office Closed |
| | 12:00 PM | Al-Anon (Sunday School Room 4) |
| 01/04/2020 | 11:00 AM | Van Leeuwan Memorial |
| 01/05/2020 | | Second Sunday after Christmas/MFM 300th Anniversary |
| | | Sacrament of the Lord's Supper |
| | 10:00 AM | Worship Service |
| | 11:00 AM | Nth Day of Christmas Potluck |
| | 11:00 AM | Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation |
| 01/06/2020 | | Epiphany of the Lord |
| | | Meals on Wheels |
| | 7:00 PM | Al-Anon (Sunday School Room 4) |
| | 7:00 PM | Alateen (Teen & Tween Room) |
| 01/07/2020 | | Meals on Wheels |
| | 12:00 PM | Richard Rohr Book Study |
| 01/08/2020 | | Meals on Wheels |
| | 12:00 PM | Al-Anon (Sunday School Room 4) |
| | 7:00 PM | Book Club |
| | 7:30 PM | Sr. Choir Rehearsal |
| 01/09/2020 | | Meals on Wheels |
| | 11:30 AM | Brown Bag Bible Study |
| 01/10/2020 | | Annual Reports due to church office |
| | | Meals on Wheels |
| 01/12/2020 | | Baptism of the Lord/Sacrament of Baptism for Elizabeth DiMarco |
| | 10:00 AM | Worship Service |
| | 11:00 AM | Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation |
| | 5:00 PM | LIFT and Confirmation |
| 01/13/2020 | 7:00 PM | Al-Anon (Sunday School Room 4) |
| | 7:00 PM | Alateen (Teen & Tween Room) |
| 01/14/2020 | 12:00 PM | LBPC Women |
| 01/15/2020 | 11:30 AM | Missions Committee |
| | 12:00 PM | Al-Anon (Sunday School Room 4) |
| | 7:30 PM | Sr. Choir Rehearsal |
| 01/16/2020 | 10:30 AM | Pastoral Care Committee |
| | 11:30 AM | Brown Bag Bible Study |
| 01/17/2020 | 7:30 PM | Just Desserts @ Kelly |
| 01/19/2020 | | Second Sunday after Epiphany |
| | 10:00 AM | Worship Service |
| | 11:00 AM | Fellowship: Coffee and Conversation |
| 01/20/2020 | | Office Closed |
| | 6:30 PM | Property Committee |

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|--|
| | 7:00 PM | Al-Anon (Sunday School Room 4) |
| | 7:00 PM | Finance & Administration Meeting |
| | 7:00 PM | Alateen (Teen & Tween Room) |
| 01/21/2020 | 12:00 PM | Richard Rohr Book Study |
| | 7:00 PM | Session Meeting |
| 01/22/2020 | 12:00 PM | Al-Anon (Sunday School Room 4) |
| | 7:30 PM | Sr. Choir Rehearsal |
| 01/23/2020 | 11:30 AM | Brown Bag Bible Study |
| 01/26/2020 | | Third Sunday after Epiphany |
| | 10:00 AM | Worship Service |
| | 11:00 AM | Annual Congregational Meeting |
| | 11:30 AM | Annual Congregational Birthday Celebration |
| 01/27/2020 | 7:00 PM | Al-Anon (Sunday School Room 4) |
| | 7:00 PM | Alateen (Teen & Tween Room) |
| 01/29/2020 | 12:00 PM | Al-Anon (Sunday School Room 4) |
| | 7:30 PM | Sr. Choir Rehearsal |
| 01/30/2020 | 11:30 AM | Brown Bag Bible Study |



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