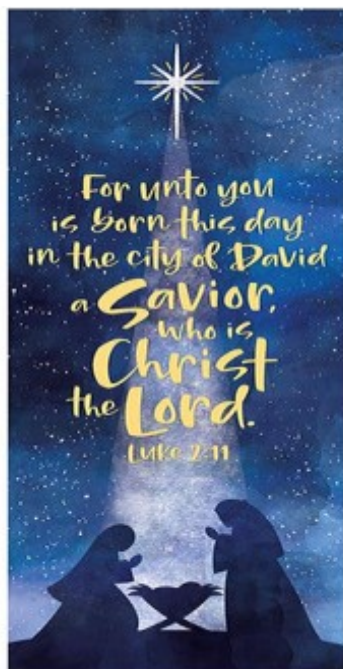


The Episcopal Church  
in  
Gettysburg, PA

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# The Episcopal Epistle

## From the Priest in Charge The Rev. Jim Strader-Sasser



Christ Healing the Sick", by Rembrandt (c. 1646-1650).

*Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus responded, "Go, report to John what you hear and see. Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them. Happy are those who don't stumble and fall because of me." (Matthew 11: 2-6)*

*"You do not become good by trying to be good, but by finding the goodness that is already within you and allowing that goodness to emerge." (Eckhart Tolle, A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's purpose*

I suggest that our theme for this year's Advent is to intentionally center ourselves on what is present, pleasant or otherwise, what's going on Now – at this moment! This intention is important for us because it is

quite easy to be swept away by anxiety associated with future needs and desires. Similarly, we may adversely connect to past failures and unmet expectations.

The hustling, consumptive pace of the Holiday Season stimulates these unhealthy neurological, psychological, and spiritual tendencies. Remaining grounded in the moment keeps us alert and attentive.

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I mistakenly (?) used the example of preparing a Thanksgiving Dinner for a large group of people in my First Sunday of Advent homily. As it turned out, parishioners who mentioned that they experienced some discomfort for hosting a significant number of people deemed that the discomfort was good for them. They prepared for the meal, solicited help. They realized that they wanted the Thanksgiving experience to be a shared and joyous experience for everyone gathered around the table. I heard them say that the experience was “excellent” and “wonderful.”

Uneasiness is good as it indicates that we care. We’re attending to what is happening now and taking action upon it.

I perceive that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent’s Gospel (as noted in this article’s opening) offers insight on John’s dismay. Jesus of Nazareth is not achieving John’s expectations. Jesus is not inbreaking God’s Reign of Righteousness through repentance and divine power. Moreover, John has literally placed his faithful life on the line for God. He is imprisoned in a dark, lonely, and painful prison cell in and beyond the building’s walls. No wonder he is disappointed. Yet, his frustration evidences his faithfulness. He perhaps doesn’t comprehend what the Messiah’s true Reign as Christ will become. Christ “now” establishes a reign overthrowing injustices, comforting the suffering, and establishing global compassion rather than conflict.

Both John the Baptist and/ Jesus of Nazareth, lived out their faithful, courageous mortal lives from moment to moment. Did they experience nervousness. Indeed! We read such words expressed out of John’s mouth in this passage. We will hear Jesus

offer similar uncertainty while he is alone in the Garden of Gethsemane. Eckhart Tolle would likely say that both Jesus and John allowed goodness to emerge. Their courage has profoundly reshaped and recreated the world that they lived in 2,000 years ago. Their examples shape our world too.

Thus, I return to the notion of being present – now. If we, like John the Baptist, are disappointed in how God is showing up in the world perhaps we, like him, need to reconsider what Christ’s Reign is and how we live into it.



Fred Rogers: Look for the Helpers

Fred Rogers (Mr. Roger’s neighborhood) articulated the need for us to “[look for the helpers](#).” Where are Jesus’ gifts of healing being offered? Are we there? Are we – like Jesus’ and John the Baptist’s disciples witnessing such sacrificial examples of Emmanuel’s loving Gospel. Prince of Peace is especially able to help ... and does. A question for our continued consideration is, what (additional) help may our neighbors seek, whoever they may be? What’s our “brand” of Christianity? Are we able to courageously connect with God’s people as John the Baptist and Jesus the Christ did in their communities and broader creation. Blessings along The Way, Jim+

## *Sunday School*

Sunday school will take a small break from classes, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup>, Returning January 11<sup>th</sup>



### *Choral Director/Organist*

We are pleased to announce that the parish's leadership welcomes Cathy Elkiss D.M.A.'s return to Prince of Peace. She will begin her ministries as the parish's Choral Director and Organist on February 1, 2026. We'll have more information to share in the January 2026 newsletter. For now, many thanks to Cathy for her commitment to this parish community. Thanks as well to the Search Committee who sought her out and brilliantly managed the search process.

### *Vestry Elections*

In accordance with the By-Laws of The Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace, Clerk of the Vestry, Jan Mansir, announces the results of the Vestry Election held on Sunday, November 23, 2025. Congratulations to Eve English, Kay Hoke, and Heather Swope who will comprise the Vestry Class of 2028.

*Jan Mansir*



## *29<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg Tuba Carol Fest*

**12/05/24**

**Time: 7 p.m.**

Gettysburg Tuba Carol Fest  
1 Lincoln Square  
Gettysburg, PA

Tuba, sousaphone, euphonium & baritone horn players gather from everywhere to perform carols in front of the beautiful Gettysburg Hotel on Lincoln Square in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Come experience 30 minutes of the most beautiful Christmas sounds one might ever hear. The public performance takes place at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Ben Jones

## Decorating Committee

Christmas Decorating will take place on Tuesday, December 23 at 10:30 AM. Anyone with greens that can be cut and brought is appreciated, if you have greens but need someone else to cut that might be arranged as needed. Please contact Margaret Finafrock for both of these options and if you have any questions.

*Margaret*



## Cat and Dog Product Donations

We continue our monthly ingathering of products for the two no kill shelters in the area we are supporting: Forever Love in Gettysburg and the Helen Krause Animal Foundation in Dillsburg. When you go to the grocery store think about "God's Little Ones" and pick up a can or two or a bag of cat or dog food to help these shelters feed, rehabilitate and find good loving homes, "Forever Homes". We thank everyone for the very generous outpouring of support on Sunday, November 24th. The bin was filled once again and Lee has picked the products up for delivery to the shelters. He expresses his sincere thanks to everyone who donated. The bin will be in place for the next scheduled intake date, December 29th .

## Advent Tree & Stars to Support Persons Living with Cancer



We will again be making the *Stars for the Advent Giving Tree* fundraiser supporting the Adams County Cancer Center here in Gettysburg. The stars will be on the tree on the first day of Advent.

By collecting congregational donations based on these stars during Advent, we will purchase individual \$25 Giant gift cards for presentation to cancer patients in need over the holidays. Parishioners should make their Star gifts in the form of cash or a check to "*Prince of Peace*," with the memo line "Stars for Cancer." Please return your donations to the church by Monday, December 15th so that the cards can be delivered in time for Christmas. For more info. please contact Barbara House. Make sure you get your stars early before they disappear.



## Stewardship Update

### “Share Love and Shine Light”

On Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, Father Jim blessed the pledge cards received to date, but if you have not yet submitted a card, the treasurer’s office will continue to accept pledges for 2026. Feel free to contact the church office if you need a new card.

The committee is delighted to report that **as of December 1<sup>st</sup>, we have received 71 pledges**. This well surpasses our original goal and will allow the budget committee to reduce the amount needed from investment income to meet our 2026 budget needs.

This helps to ensure the long-term vitality of Prince of Peace.

**Thank you to all those who have pledged so far and have helped to *share love and shine light* throughout this stewardship season. We are grateful and inspired by the spirit and generosity of this parish!**

We will provide final details on the campaign at the annual meeting in January. In the weeks preceding the meeting, the committee will once again be holding a silent auction to supplement this year’s campaign!



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## ***Franklin Friends***

Thank you to all those who have donated non-perishable food items to *Franklin Friends* this fall. This group provides meals and snacks to children at Franklin Township Elementary School who may not have access to sufficient food over the weekend. We have had a wonderful response from parishioners in September, October, and November!

Prince of Peace will continue to collect food for this program throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Using the food list included here, we have committed to gathering donations and dropping them off on the 4th Thursday of each month (with some alterations to accommodate holidays). Please note our December delivery date (**Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>**) is early due to Christmas.

**Please continue to look for the donation boxes in the back of the church.**

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation you can make a check out to Franklin Friends and can be dropped off with your monthly drop off or mailed to

Franklin Friends  
C/O Flohrs Church  
PO Box 32  
McKnightstown, PA  
17343

### ***Food Items to support the Franklin Friends Program***

**There will be boxes in the back of the church for donations. Contributions can be made at any time, but we will deliver**

**what we have collected on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.**

### **Entrees (Individually Packed)**

Beans & Franks

Chicken and Tuna Salad

Chef Boyardee Individual Cups

Mac and Cheese Individual Cups

Lipton Cup Soup/Crackers

Jif to Go with Deli rounds

### **Individual Servings of:**

Fruit Cups

Vegetables

Applesauce

Small Boxes of Raisins

### **Snack Foods (Individually Packed)**

Pretzels

Goldfish

Fruit Snacks

Granola Bars

Pudding Cups

### **Breakfast Items (Individually Packed)**

Cold Cereal

Shelf Stable Milk

Oatmeal

### **Drinks (Individually Packed)**

Juice

Hot Chocolate Packets

## ***A Festival of Lessons and Carols***

**Saturday, December 13, 2025**

**4:00PM**

Mark your calendars to come and hear the beloved scripture, carols, and music of the Brass Ensemble from the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College. Plan to join us for this hour of hearing the Christmas story told through scripture, and join in the singing of some familiar Christmas carols.



## ***Mark Your Calendars***

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events at Prince of Peace:

**Friday, December 5th 7:00 PM**

Tuba Fest Lincoln Square

**Saturday, December 6th 11:00 AM**

Book Club Stahle Parlor

**Tuesday, December 9th 9:30 AM**

Quilt Bee Upstairs Conference Room

**Saturday, December 13th 4:00 PM**

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, December 14th 12:00 PM**

HSMCS Winter Gathering

Michaux Brewing Company

**Tuesday, December 23rd 10:30 AM**

Decorating for Christmas– All are Welcome

**Wednesday, December 24th 6:00 PM**

Christmas Eve Eucharist

**December 25th– January 4th**

Office Closed– No Noon Eucharist

# **Merry Christmas!**

The parish office will be closed from Dec. 26th through until Jan. 4th

### **SERVICE SCHEDULE SUNDAY WORSHIP**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### **WEDNESDAY**

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

*Help us keep our records up to date.  
Have we missed listing your birthday or  
anniversary in the past?  
We may not have the information in our  
database. Please contact Marrie at the  
office*



**December 1**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36  
Psalm 25:1-9

**December 8**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

Malachi 3:1-4  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6  
Canticle 16

**December 15**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18  
Canticle 9



**December 22**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45,  
Canticle 15 (or 3)

**December 29**  
**First Sunday after Christmas**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Psalm 147: 13-21  
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7  
John 1:1-18

**The Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace**

P. O. Box 3005, 20 W. High St.  
Gettysburg, PA 17325-3005  
Telephone: 717-334-6463

**The Rev. James Strader-Sasser**  
Priest-in-Charge

**The Rev. Pamela Cooper-White PhD**  
Priest Associate

**The Rev. Richard A. Ginnever**  
Priest Associate

**Marrie Sanders**  
Parish Administrator  
[princeofpeace@gettysburgepiscopal.org](mailto:princeofpeace@gettysburgepiscopal.org)  
**Tim Back, Sexton**

**Office Hours:**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER



### DEDICATIONS

Prince of Peace is now accepting Christmas altar flower dedications, which will appear in the Christmas bulletins. Any amount you wish to contribute will be gratefully received and will go toward our Christmas decorations or the Christmas Special Music Fund. Please note: you must turn in your dedication(s) by Monday, December 16th, to appear in the Christmas bulletins. (Donations can still be turned in after that date, but it may not be possible to include the dedications in the bulletin.). All donations should be dropped off in the offering plate or church office, or mailed to the church office (P. O. Box 3005, Gettysburg, PA 17325). Thank you!

I have enclosed a donation for the

☐ Christmas Decoration Fund

☐ Christmas Special Music Fund

By: (Please PRINT your name and phone number)

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Dedication: (“In loving memory of...” “In thanksgiving for...” etc.)

(Please PRINT)

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