

The Episcopal Church
in
Gettysburg, PA

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From the Priest In Charge The Rev. Jim Strader-Sasser



Happy are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you, and condemn your name as evil because of the Human One. Rejoice when that happens! Leap for joy because you have a great reward in heaven. Their ancestors did the same things to the prophets. How terrible for you when all speak well of you. Their ancestors did the same things to the false prophets.
(Luke 6: 22-23, 26).

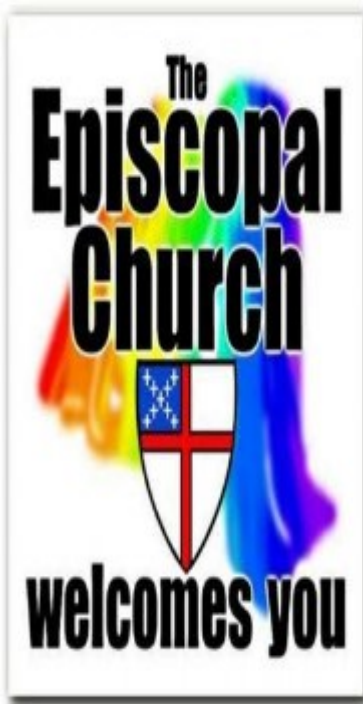
Photo by [Gabrielle Henderson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Don't you just love other people when they condemn, judge, or insult you? If you do, you should spend more time with people who support, complement, and treasure you. All of us should be open to receiving another person's objective critique or impression of what we say or how we show up in the world. Conversely, a wise priest once said to me that it is important to "consider the source" when choosing to accept, decline, or adapt to what

another person is saying as well as what their intention was in that moment of offering their viewpoint.

I raise this point because one might think that Jesus is telling his disciples (and us) to cherish ridicule, suffering, and impoverishment. That's true to some extent. We acknowledge and honor Jesus' horrific suffering, bodily harm, and ultimate execution. Many Christian martyrs and saints traveled and travel the same sort of distressing human

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pilgrimage. We offer thanks for Christ's sacrificial life, death, even as we rejoice in Christ's resurrection. Nonetheless, I would not use either "happy or blessed" to define such human realities. Does God delight in evil empires or prejudicial communities imposing dreadful circumstances upon marginalized people and communities? Living a "sacramental" life – as Jesus the Christ did – offers us a divinely inspiring, holy, and transformation witness. In some ways, as St. Paul says we must allow aspects of ourselves to die so that Christ will live in us. (Galatians 2:20). And, we must likewise prophetically reject the atrocities presently occurring.

Biblical translators generally define the Greek term [makários](#) (μακάριο) as equivalent in English to happy or blessed. Someone was (is) blessed when they possessed (possess) secular wealth, power and prestige in Ancient Greece and contemporary America. Jesus, in Matthew 5 and Luke 6 assuredly redefines the meanings of happiness and blessedness. He is quite clear that becoming one of his followers is not about gaining many possessions or seeking favor for self-serving purposes. Rather, a follower of Christ, seeks to help the world around them before benefitting themselves.

I suggest that terms such as joyous, fortunate, or favored are more suitable. Happiness, at least to me, is often temporal, fleeting. A new car is only new for some limited amount of time. A relationship primarily based upon initial, external impressions is often

superficial. A relationship deepening our understandings of ourselves, other people, and God's Creation is more meaningful, joyous.

Mahatma Gandhi is attributed as saying: "Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony," God favors prophets because they speak courageously about the suffering and injustice they observe around them. Some might say that striving to live fully into the Beatitudes is impossible. Difficult, absolutely! Achievable with God's help and presence on a daily walk w/ Christ? That seems like a joyous path for a Christian and her or his communities to seek.



Author, speaker, activist, and theologian [Brian McLaren](#) . recently [wrote](#) about the traditions that cultural communities carry on, from generation to generation. These are sustained and evolving ideas and practices – what he calls *treasures*.

McLaren states:

“Like everything in this universe, traditions are constantly changing, even if the change occurs at a glacial pace. ... Sometimes they change for the worse.

We have no choice as to the tradition

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into which we were born. As we grow older, we must decide: Is this inherited tradition life-giving, death-dealing, or a mix of both? If it is in an unhealthy condition right now, is it improvable or salvageable? Does participating in it perpetuate harm? Is it time to migrate to a new spiritual tradition?"

(McLaren, 2025)

God's Spirit intends for a saintly Christian life to be life-giving – transformational. Devoted acts of loving-kindness manifest the sort of life that God sends us out to do. Brene' Brown says: We can choose courage, or we can choose comfort, but we can't have both. Not at the same time." She goes on to say "We don't have to do it all alone. We were never meant to." (Brown, 2015)

The Church of our time in human history requires courageous, prophetic leaders and saintly communities to live into Christ's Gospel. May we at Price of Peace in this time of tremendous transition and uncertainty seek out such efforts to love God and love our neighbors much more than we seek fulfilling our own desires.

Blessings along The Way, Jim+

Vestry Elections

The annual process of identifying, selecting and voting to fill three seats on the parish's vestry is now active. The parish's outgoing members are: Sarah Bair, Nancy Lilley, and Ben Kennedy are acting as the vestry's nominating committee in

accordance with the parish's bylaws.

The nominating process ends on Nov. 9th. Anyone interested in being a candidate should approach Sarah, Nancy or Ben to let them know of your interest and/or informing them of someone you believe would be an excellent vestry member. (NOTE: I suggest that you speak with that person to let them decide whether they are willing to serve and wish to contact the nominating committee on their own). Sarah's, Nancy's, and Ben's preferred email addresses are available by reaching out to Marrie in the office. Of course, should you see one of them around the parish, you can reach out to them that way. FYI, a rather detailed list of vestry responsibilities is located [here](#). Candidates should be "parishioners in good standing." A Communicant in Good Standing is defined in General Convention Canon [I.17.3](#):

The slates of candidates' bios and photos will be prominently posted soon after Nov. 9th. Thus, if you wish to serve on the vestry you should commit to sharing a photo and a short biography of your life as a Christian. Please include leadership roles you have and/or are (been) involved in a faith community as well as those in the secular/professional roles.

Congregants will elect three new parishioners to serve on the vestry during 8:00 am and 10:15 am worship services on Nov. 23rd. Parishioners may also submit absentee ballots prior to Nov. 23rd. I will offer reminders during upcoming worship services of the ongoing nominating process. Please prayerfully consider the vestry election

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process as it moves forward and the candidates who are offering their experience and faithfulness to serve the parish.



Make Your Own Advent Wreath

The Season of Advent is soon upon us. This is an invitation to *all parishioners* to come to the Undercroft on Sunday, November 30, 2025 in between the services and after the 10:15 am service to assemble and take home your own fresh greens, table Advent Wreath. A sturdy base, greens, and Advent candles will be available to make your own wreath. It is a great time for fellowship and fun as we make our way to the Nativity. If you are unable to stay but would like some or all of the makings of the wreaths, we will have some “kits” available for you to take with you. For more information and/or if you have fresh greens to donate, contact Sarah Bair at bairsd@gmail.com or Barbara House at bghhouse@aol.com



Stars for the Advent Giving Tree

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 donations from the congregation 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 information, please contact Barbara House, 717-576-7674 or bghhouse@aol.com. Make sure you get your stars early before they disappear..



Silent Auction

As part of this year's Stewardship Campaign, there will be a Silent Auction in January! What is a Silent Auction? Those who want to bid will register for a bidding number (so that the person remains anonymous) and use that number to bid on items! The friendly competition is fun, and you may not know WHO you are bidding against! When the bidding is over - the last number on the bid sheet for the item WINS!! Bidding will start before the 8:00 service on January 11, 2026, and conclude at the start of the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026. All members of the parish are invited to contribute an item or service to be bid upon! Suggestions for donations: a home cooked meal delivered to the winning bidder's home, detail the winning bidder's vehicle, mow the winning bidder's grass for a month, artwork, decorative items, homemade baked goods or crafts, themed gift baskets... the options are endless! All ways we can Share Love and Shine Light. Please email a description of your donation (and a photo if possible!) to Heather Swope any time (hswope@gmail.com) between now and January 7th. All items (except for homemade baked goods) need to be given to Heather by January 7, 2026. Any questions? Email Heather or text her at 717-253-0781. **All proceeds will go toward the Stewardship Goal for this season.**

Book Club

The monthly meeting of the parish BOOK GROUP will be on Saturday, November 1, in the Stahle Parlor at 11 a.m. The book for this month is Bruce Feiler's *Where God Was Born: A Daring Adventure Through the Bible's Greatest Stories*. All passionate readers are welcome to join us. Meetings typically are held on the first Saturday of the month @ 11am. Please visit our table at the

ministry fair on November 2, where you can browse all the books we have read in the past year. Questions? Contact Kay Hoke or Sonya del Tredici.

Great time at Craft Swap



What a fun time we had at the PoP Women's Group Craft Swap. Lots of great exchanges of craft ideas and the makings. Thank you all for participating. The leftover craft items, as agreed, were taken to Transitions Health for their use with both the in-house residents and the Adult Day Care. Again, thank you for your enthusiasm. The staff at Transitions Health truly appreciated the donations

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, October 26th. 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

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scheduled intake date, November 30th.

Diocesan Convention 2025

The final convention of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania was held on October 17th and 18th in Scranton Pennsylvania as a joint convention with the Diocese of Bethlehem. Those attending from Prince of Peace were Fr. Jim, Trish Jones Burke, Charles Saltzman and me. It was an interesting procedure, as both dioceses had to open and close their respective conventions, but we were meeting as one body, with over 350 people in attendance.

For our diocese, Bishop Scanlan called the meeting to order using the gavel which had been used to call to order the first convention of the diocese 155 years ago.

The diocesan office was going through their archives and came upon that gavel, so it was used to open and close this final convention of our diocese. Bishop Kevin Nichols called the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem to order during this opening session as well.

During the opening session various groups made presentations, which included a film presentation and question and answer period presented by the Youth and Young Adults of the dioceses. Other groups which made presentations during this opening session included the Legal Process Working Group, the Mission Grant Working Group, Campus Ministry, Beloved Community Commission, and Social Justice Ministries Working Group. The session before Evening Prayer ended with the unveiling of the new logo and shield

for The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna, shown here.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE
Susquehanna



The evening ended with the “Bishops’ Address”, which actually ended up being a question-and-answer conversation between Bishop Scanlan and Bishop Nichols, giving us all an insight into each of their personalities. This was followed by Compline at St. Luke’s Church nearby.

On Saturday morning the meeting began with the opening of the Eucharist with the Liturgy of the Word, through the first two readings. The service was bilingual, switching between English and Spanish. After the second reading, the business of convention was begun, which included the official reports of number of delegates from each diocese, Special Rules of Order, presentations of the resolutions and the 2026 budget. We then broke from the convention business for reading of the Gospel, the sermon, Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, the Prayers of the People and The Peace. We then broke up for lunch followed by the return to the business meeting, which included the elections for the various positions which were open.

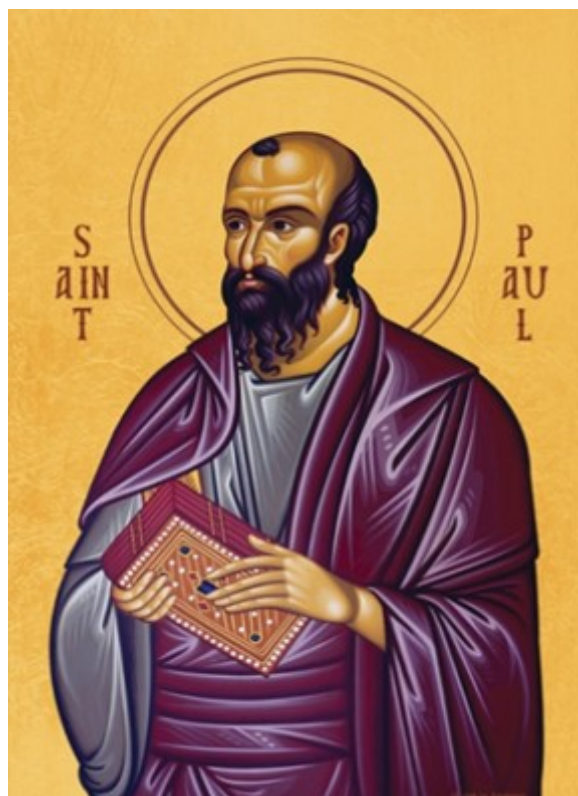
The voting was all done on our cell phones,

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or other electronic devices for those without a smart phone, and the results were available very quickly. After the conventions adjourned, the service continued with the Holy Communion.

I attended my first diocesan convention in 1973 when I was five months pregnant with our son and have been honored to serve as a convention delegate numerous times over these five+ decades. Conventions tend to be the same, but they all offer differences as well. Those first couple of conventions which I attended in Vermont always included a University of Vermont professor who would offer up a courtesy resolution, either in Latin or Greek, so it was always a highlight. In those first few years it also gave me a chance to see my father, who was a delegate from my original home parish; he and our parish priest became very close friends. I definitely found this year's convention of interest, as well as instructive. During the wait times during balloting and the tabulation, Sandy Millien, Canon for Reconciliation and Community Engagement with the Diocese of Bethlehem taught us some basic Spanish words. She had particular fun teaching the bishops Spanish words.



Adult Education Series

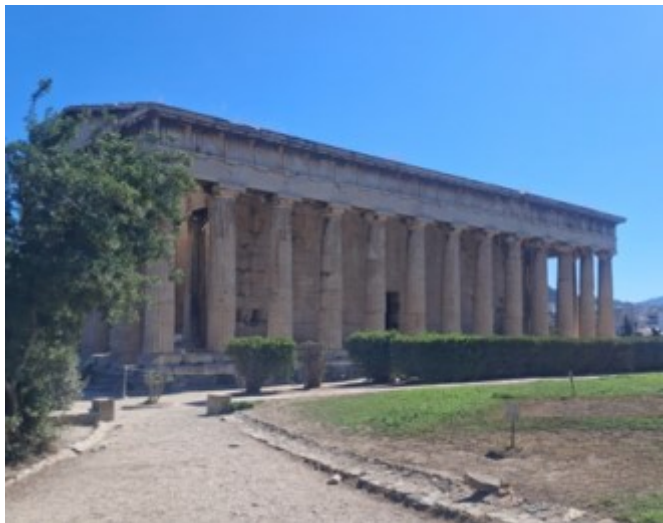
St. Paul— Considering who Paul may have been in contrast into making him into someone else

Adult Education Series: You can learn a lot about (Saul) Paul by talking with a variety of historians, theologians, preachers, and everyday people. Lots of what they say about this “weird” 1st Century CE Descendant of Abraham and Christ follower depends upon what context and biases they bring with them. Much also depends upon what the Pauline Epistles and Luke’s Acts of the Apostles may and may not say – in Paul’s day and the days since then until now. Thus, it is critical for folks who are interested in Paul to form an objective, challenging interpretation of who the “Jewish” apostle to the Gentiles was as well as who he has

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become throughout Christianity's evolving history.



To that end, Jim will offer a three-part online (Zoom) Adult Education Series beginning on Tuesday, Nov. 11 @ 7pm and occurring on the following two Tuesdays (Nov. 18th and Nov. 25) at the same time in those evenings.

The series offers participant a chronological pilgrimage with Paul and an interpretation of his ministries through an array of “hermeneutics”- including Jim’s as informed by a reading of many texts about Paul. Jim will also include some cool photos and stories from his travels around Greece earlier this year.

For more details, reach out to Jim @ fatherjim@gettysburgepiscopal.org or (717) 334-6463

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday November 7th, Book Club
11:00AM Stahle Parlor

Sunday November 2nd, Ministries Fair
Church Supper 3:30 PM

Saturday November 9th, 16th, 23rd, John
Fair Story Sharing 1:00 PM

Monday November 10th, Vestry Meeting

Monday November 24th, Please have all
submission for Dec issue of Episcopal
Epistle to Marrie by Nov 24th and the Jan
edition by Dec 18th.

Wednesday November 26th, Office will
close at 12:00 on Observation of
Thanksgiving and will reopen at 9 AM on
December 2nd

Wednesday November 30th, Advent
Wreath Making after both Services

Saturday December 13th, Service of
Lessons and Carols at 4:00 PM

Wednesday December 24th. Christmas Eve
Celebration

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

Nov 2	Katie and Tom Keilholtz; Sonya Del Tredici, Ben, Spencer and Paul Kennedy; Sandra Keyser and Ken Williams; Carol and Roy King;
Nov 9	Helen, Graham and Joshua Larkin; Jean-Marc and Stephanie LeDouaron; Nancy and Mike Lilley; Jan Lindquist
Nov 16	Sharon Magraw; Darcy Maier; Jan and Les Mansir; Becky Clark and Jim McGowan Laura, The Rev. Cathy and Dan McKinney; Amado Mesa;
Nov 23	Jane Miller and Regina Sampson; Marlene and Steve Mitchell; George Muschamp; Charles Nussbaum; Patrick and Patty O'Brien; Charlotte and Paul Oswald; Sarah Pagano
Nov 30	Jeanette Lippy and James Petty; Valerie and Roger Petty; Beverly, Will, Abraham, Solomon, Sara and Ira Posner; Holly and Scott Purdy

**NOVEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

3rd	Roger Petty	16th	Spencer Kennedy
10th	Linda Corson	17th	Meredith Szczesny
	Jeff Bair	21st	Tim Walker
11th	Andrew Boyd	28th	Sara Posner
	Sam Carlson	29th	Carolyn Finafrock
12th	George Muschamp	30th	Abraham Posner
15th	Mike Carlson		
	Jim Fouts		



November 2
All Saints Sunday
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

November 9
Pentecost 22
Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 16
The Last Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 23
Last Sunday after Pentecost
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

November 30
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44
Psalm 122



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

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

**The Rev. Pamela Cooper White Ph.D.
Priest Associate**

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

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Tim Back, Sexton**

Office Hours:

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