

But how different is a life in which somebody trusts completely in the Lord. A life like this equals a tree that is planted directly at a water spring. A tree like that does not have to be concerned. It knows: "Whatever comes I will be provided with everything I need even in droughty years.". In other words: A human at the spring of life – a man that relies on the Lord and lives after God's order and who is connected to Jesus does not have to be concerned. Even in difficult situations that may even be caused by own mistakes we can trust in the Lord. In days of sickness, old age, "when heat comes" or "a year of drought" scares we do not have to resign because we have roots at the spring of living water (Jeremiah 17:13).

A man like this is blessed and "bears fruit". Who trusts in the Lord will not only be blessed but also be a blessing to others. Let us stay reminded to that by the fir needles of Christmas trees.



Christmas Season Worship Services

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve Morning Worship - 10:45 unity service in Sanctuary. No Sunday school for kids, no nursery, but wiggle room available. There WILL be Kids Praise.

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Service for Children & Families, 5 pm

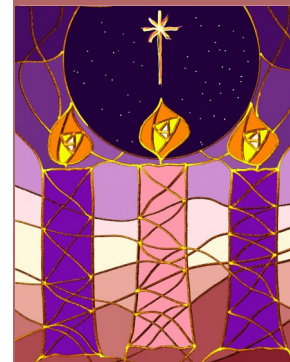
Traditional Christmas Eve Services with Chancel Choir, harp and oboe, 8 and 11 pm

Wiggle room for children provided at 5 and 8 pm services.

Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve Morning Worship - "A Christmas Carol Communion Service" with Rev. Kimberly Greway, 10:45 unity service in Sanctuary. No kid's Sunday School, no nursery and no Kids Praise. Wiggle room available.

December 17, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME ! If you are a visitor or new to Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church—we're glad you're here. Please sign the attendance sheet in the pew. Worship at our church is a joyful, prayerful, music-filled, traditional experience. We worship to glorify God and build up the community of believers to live in this world as followers of Jesus Christ.

The **8:30 am** service meets in Sanner Chapel, immediately inside the front entrance of the church, and the **10: 45 am** service is in our beautiful sanctuary. Kids Praise, a special worship service for ages 3 - 3rd grade, takes place during our 10:45 Sunday service. More information:

www.mlumc.org or 412-531-7131.

TONIGHT: Community Christmas Caroling and Dinner

Gather to sing Christmas carols at homes in the church neighborhood and nearby apartments on **Sun. Dec. 17th**. It starts with dinner at 5 pm in Asbury Center, then caroling at 6, and back to Asbury Center at 8 for hot chocolate and cookies. Don't forget to dress for the weather and bring a flashlight.

Register with Kim Rhoton, krhoton@mlumc.org.



Christmas Day Dinners

Reach out to members of our community who may be in need of a good meal or are alone on Christmas Day. Help provide a holiday ham dinner, held from 1 to 4 pm at Castle Shannon Presbyterian Church on Poplar Ave. The meal is free of charge and is served at the church as well as delivered. *(continued next page)*

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church

OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS
3319 W. Liberty Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15216 412-531-7131 mlumc.org
Reverend Thomas Q. Strandburg, Pastor tstrandburg@mlumc.org



(Christmas Dinners continued)

Ways you can help: 1) Volunteer on Christmas to serve meals. Call Bob Stokes at the church to tell him you are coming. 2) Make a cash contribution. Checks should be made out to FPCCS with "Christmas Dinner" in the memo line and sent to the church. 3) Donate a fruit pie which you should deliver directly to First Presbyterian and not to MLUMC. For safety reasons, please do not donate pumpkin pies or pies with egg or cream filling. Pies may be delivered on Christmas morning or prior to that, but you should notify the church so workers are able to keep a count and receive the pies.

Volunteer contact phone # -

Bob Stokes, 412-760-3574

Pie donation phone # -

**First Presbyterian Church,
412-561-0401**

Check donation mailing address:

**First Presbyterian Church of
Castle Shannon
3636 Poplar Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15234**

If you know someone who needs a place at the table of a Christmas meal, or who needs a meal delivered, contact First Presbyterian Church: 412-561-0401 between 8 am- 4 pm

Small Study Groups Are Forming in January

Our church is undertaking an exciting new ministry by creating a variety of small groups.

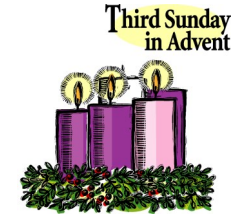
Advent Study - Bishop George Bashore has conducted three sessions of his Advent study on the Biblical background of the Messiah. The last session will be held on Wednesday, December 20 at 9:30 AM in Wesley Hall. Everyone is welcome.

New Testament Study - Clark Remington will begin leading a New Testament study on January 8 in his home. This group will meet monthly through May in the evening for a light dinner, viewing a DVD and discussion.

Book Study - Rob and Jane Spicher will lead a monthly group that will begin Friday, January 26 at 6:30 in their home with dinner. This group will discuss Max Lucado's latest book, "Anxious for Nothing...Finding Calm in a Chaotic World."

Men's Group - On Saturday morning, January 13, a men's group under the leadership of Matt Baker will begin holding monthly meetings at the church.

We hope many of you will decide to join one of these interesting new ministries. You may sign up at the desk in the vestibule where a group leader can assist you.



Each year the W PA Conference and Eastern German Conference create daily Advent and Christmas devotionals for use in our homes and churches. We have chosen devotionals from each week.

Rev. Richard C. Russell, Retired Pastor

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will belike a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. (NIV)

Many times we go through times of spiritual drought. Times when God seems so far away and we wonder how we are going to get through whatever is happening. It is not an uncommon experience, it happens to most Christians at some time or another. Jeremiah was familiar with Spiritual wastelands. He spent 40 years telling people to turn to God and was, for the most part, ignored. It must have seemed like nothing was right for him. But he writes to us, "Be confident in God, have faith, and even in the dry times, you will bear fruit." Having gone through times in my life where I was injured and down, and thought nothing was happening, later found that my time of being down, led people to see my faith in God. It sounds like a contradiction, but it is true, the spiritual dry times are the often the times when our witness does the most good. Never lose faith in God's hand, it is there whether you see it or not.

Hold on, and go forth with confidence in God.

Prayer: God, please give us faith that knows you are supplying us even when we don't see your feel you around us. Amen.

Pastor Gerhard Künzel, Rodewisch/Auerbach

What happens to a tree that does not have rootage we can see very well when setting up a Christmas tree the next days. After a couple of days the shiny green fir needles slowly become grey and after even more days they fall down. The tree is withered. But it is not about the rootage. The right placement is at least as important. A thorn bush in the desert may be deeply enrooted but he will need much strength to stay alive and fertile. That is the same with humans who only trust in other people or themselves because no one can live by itself, says Jeremiah. The quick withering of many trees is therefore not only a consequence of the heat - which many trees are exposed in the desert - it is also a consequence of water shortage.