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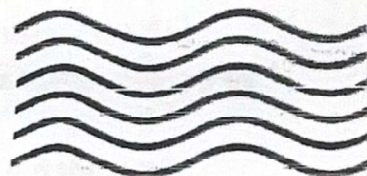


If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

PITTSBURGH PA 150

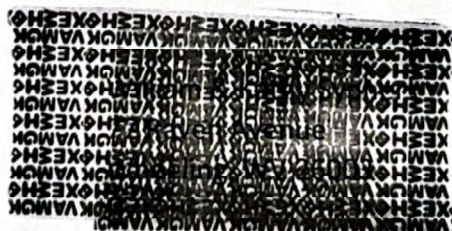
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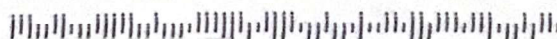
**BETHLEHEM UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

45 Chapel Road

Wheeling, WV 26003-4815



26003-263977



WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45 a.m.

COMMUNION with our C.O.M. approved Bill & Kathy Syphers, or a
Presbyterian, Lutheran or Episcopal Minister each Sunday Worship Service
Church Phone: 304-242-4407 (No Fax) ~ Email: secretary@bupcwheeling.org

Web Site: <https://bupcwheelingwv.org>

>>>>CHURCH STAFF<<<<

Music Director & Organist ~~ Cliff Elliott

Custodian & Grounds Keeper ~~ Dan Burns

Treasurer ~~ Eydie Garvin

Secretary, beginning January 13th, Bill Syphers will be BUPC Secretary

A pastor search committee inquired of a prospective preacher, "Why did you leave your last church?"

He replied, "Sickness and fatigue! Church members were sick of me and I was tired of being their pastor!"

have faith

Winter Wonder

The ermine mantle covering earth
Deftly hides the world once more
As shapes and forms begin to emerge
That have never been seen before.

Branches drip with mother-of-pearl
And diamond frost a rainbow makes
As icy castles and sparkling stars
Are mirrored in shimmering lakes.

And in this transformed magic land
Coated with soft and silent snow,
God's creatures leave a tiny trail
That vanishes into the woods below.

Eva Marie Ippolito

As long as the earth lasts,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
Summer and Winter, and day
and night shall not cease
Genesis 8:22



JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
	DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1	2	3	4
5) 10:45 a.m. Worship Service EPIPHANY (NO COMMUNION)	6 Epiphany	7	8 New Year's Day	9) 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast	10	11
12) 10:45 a.m. Worship Service	13	14	15	16	17	18
19) 10:45 a.m. WORSHIP Service CONGREGATION MEETING Deacons mtg.	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (USA)	21	22	23) 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast	24	25
26) 10:45 a.m. Worship Service	27 7:00 p.m. Session	28	29	30	31	6 - First Quarter 13 - Full Moon 21 - Last Quarter 29 - New Moon

God Always Answers Prayers

Our prayers aren't always answered
The moment that we ask,
And they're not always answered in order;
Sometimes the first is last.
Know that God has a reason
For doing things His way.
We may not understand them now,
But we surely will one day.
He sees the things that we cannot see,
Yet knows that we fret and fuss;

So let us wait patiently and see
What life has in store for us.
Be thankful for a loving God
No matter what's to be.
Let's put our faith and trust in Him,
And He will lead us to victory.
Remember that our prayers are answered,
When we go through life's hard tests.
Know that God hears them all
And answers them for our best.

Shirley Hile Powell



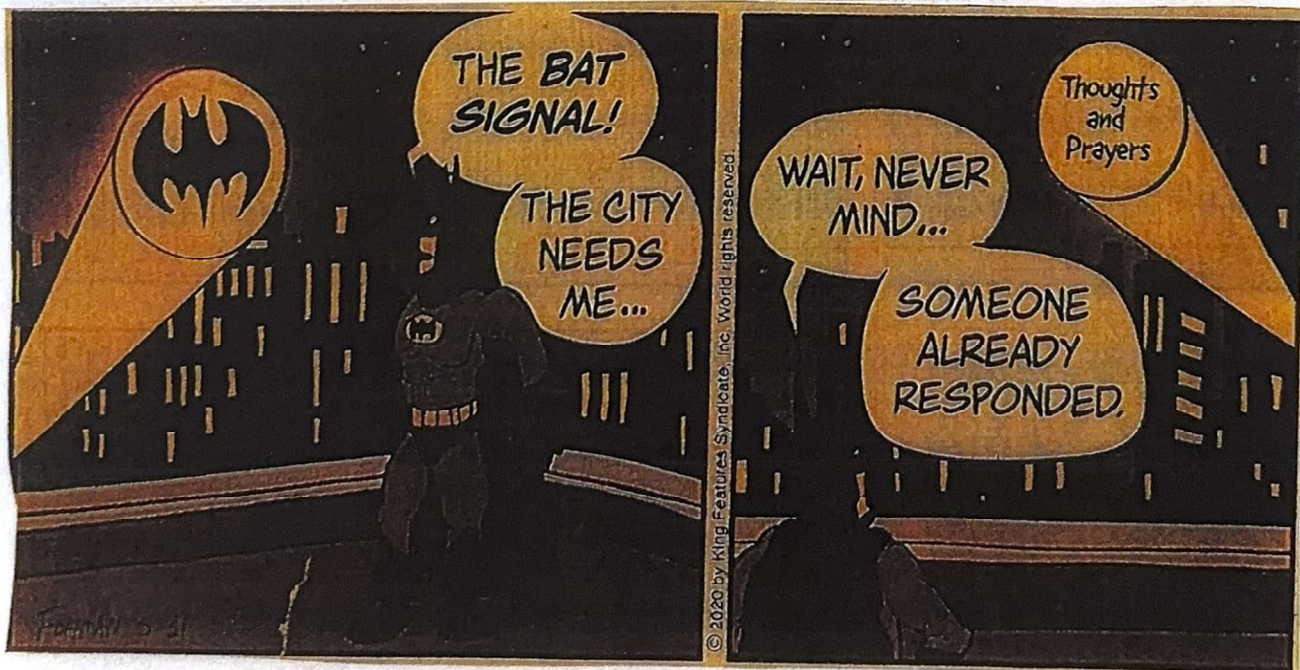
Many years ago, this church had a prayer chain. A concern was shared then that concern was shared with the members of the prayer chain and each person prayed. Could we do the same today? Getting the message out to pray for a concern or need is possible through cellphones. A quick text and all who want to participate can. An email can go out too for those that prefer that method. It is possible, but it requires a sacrifice on everyone that participates. The moment you receive the prayer request, you must take a moment and pray. It doesn't have to be a long lengthy prayer. Just a prayer for the person and their need or situation.

Is God calling you to be a part of the prayer chain at Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church?

If so

Text Kathy at 304-650-4289 and type in reply: Prayer Chain and your name

Email her at ksyphers@comcast.net with your name and prayer chain in the subject line.



SESSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 25, 2024

A meeting of the Session of the Bethlehem United Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) was held on Monday, November 25, 2024 in the Church Library.

The meeting was moderated by Rev. Alan Jeffries.

The meeting opened with prayer at 7:00 PM.

It was determined that a quorum was present.

ELDERS PRESENT: Eydie Garvin, Bob Mengeu, Bill Syphers, Jody Werner, Bob Young

ELDERS EXCUSED: Sue Johnson

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's reports for October, 2024 were presented for review and placed on file.

MINUTES: Minutes of the October 28, 2024 Session meeting and November 10, 2024 congregation meeting were presented for review. Eydie motioned to accept the minutes. Bob Young seconded and the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: OUR OFFERING TO GOD THROUGH SERVICE

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE: Eydie Garvin

1. Eydie presented the budget for 2025.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Bob Mengeu

1. Bob reported that the furnace repairs had been made.
2. The speakers and microphones in the Sanctuary have been adjusted.
3. There is a tree that needs to be removed in the front yard.

BY-LAWS: Committee is not active at this time.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Sue Johnson.

MEMBERSHIP: Bill Syphers

MISSION/OUTREACH: Bill Syphers

1. Bill mentioned that Bethlehem Elementary School was still short of their goal for playground improvements. Eydie motioned to donate \$2500 from the Steele Fund to the school. Bob Young seconded and it passed.

NOMINATING: Committee is not active at this time.

PARISH LIFE: Jody Werner

1. "Carols and Cocoa" will be on December 15, 2024. Choir members from Bethlehem Elementary and Ritchie Middle Schools will be there to entertain.
2. She will have donuts and coffee for the "Hanging of the Greens."
3. She will set something up for the Epiphany service and the congregation meeting to be held on January 19, 2025.

WORSHIP: Bob Young

1. The "Hanging of the Greens" will be on November 30, 2024.
2. Epiphany service will be on January 5, 2025.
3. Bob reported that he had pulpit supply through the middle of December. The Elders and Deacons will conduct the Christmas Eve service.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

CHURCH RECORDS:

Communion:	November 3, 2024	<u>29</u>
Home Communion:		<u>1</u>
Deaths, New members, Baptism, Marriages	none	

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bill motioned to adopt the budget for 2025 as presented previously to the Session and to the congregation, with the exception of a change in salary for the custodian. Bob Young seconded and the budget for 2025 was passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Eydie Garvin was elected treasurer for 2025. Jody motioned and Bob Young seconded.
2. Bill Syphers was elected Clerk of Session for 2025. Jody motioned and Bob Young seconded.
3. The Session approved Communion to be served on the first Sunday of each month, and on Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2025. Eydie motioned and Jody seconded.
4. Bill motioned to raise the custodian's salary by \$600 per year. Jody seconded and it passed.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER: The meeting was closed with prayer at 7:55 PM. The date for the next regular Session Meeting is January 27, 2025 in the Church library.

A country church was located so far out in the country that for many years there was no electricity. Finally, an enterprising company offered electricity to the area.

At one of the business meetings of the church, someone stood and said, "I make a motion that our church buy a chandelier."

The most cantankerous member of the church, who always voted "a'gin" anything for which everyone else voted, made the following plea: "I hope we don't vote to buy a chandelier. After thinking long and hard on this situation, I have come up with three reasons why we should forget about buying a chandelier. In the first place, if we bought a chandelier, nobody would know how to

spell it. In the second place, nobody in this church knows how to play it. And, besides all that, we need lights!"



JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

7th Jimmie McCamic

8th Mariah Werner

9th Tony Werner

9th Peggy Foster

ANNIVERSARY

19th Tony & Jody Werner

I'll Await... YOUR RETURN

By GEORGE CONTOS

I know the time is coming...

Again...

When you will be gone and only the fond memories of today will linger.

I looked into your smiling face this morning and touched your gentle hand.

...and as I kissed your warm cheek, I sighed... sorrowfully... because soon you will slip away as you did so many times before.

Oh how I will miss the mornings we spent together...

Under a cheerful sky...

With blue clouds and dainty daffodils..

Just you and I...

And the love we gave each other.

Somehow the nights won't be the same, the wondrous nights, the cool nights, the happy nights with winking stars and a peekaboo moon and a sightless breeze that danced merrily around us.

I know deep down, I've grown to love you more.

Each passing year brings us closer.

As long as my eyes can see and my ears can hear and my hands can feel I will know the many joys you bring to me.

I can't help but miss you again when you leave, suddenly, and the cold overtakes me.

When the branches shed their leaves and a blanket of snow covers the ground and the blue sky turns to gray...and when the birds fly south and the flowers die and I stand without you...will I suddenly realize there is emptiness instead of your warmth, your love, your everything.

As before, I will wait patiently, understandably and longingly, for the time you return...a time again when my arms reach out and you are there, in a blade of grass, a rose, a ray of sunshine, a gentle breeze.

I'll know it's you when I glance deep into your eyes and greet you, my lover, my happiness,

MY SUMMER!

In Our Hearts and Prayers

General, Long-term, and Special Health Concerns

Dorothy Werbecki, health concerns

Joellen McNeil, health concerns

Nancy Elliott, health concerns

David Waites, health concerns

Camden Brown, eye/health concerns

John Adams, health concerns

Nancy K. Mumley, health concerns

Eydie Garvin, health concerns

Kathy Butler, health concerns

Kitty & Ron Patrick, health concerns

Nancy Hostutler, health concerns

Anita Marvin, health concerns

Jerry Hinton, health concerns

Bob Mengeu, surgery

NURSING HOME & RETIREMENT HOME

Dorothy Werbecki, Continuous Care Center, Room 248,
236 Hullihen Place, Medical Park, Wheeling, WV 26003

Peggy Foster, Good Shepherd Nursing Home,
159 Edington Lane, Wheeling, WV 26003

Craig Garvin, Peterson Healthcare & Rehab Center,
20 Homestead Avenue, Wheeling, WV 26003

Tom Hostutler, Moundsville Healthcare Center, Room 404,
2200 Floral Avenue, Moundsville, WV 26041

Don Hinton, Continuous Care Center, Room 155
236 Hullihen Place, Medical Park, Wheeling, WV 26003

Nature Awakens

Snowflakes falling on the ground,

Skaters gliding all around,

Red-nosed children on their sleds,

Soft, warm blankets on the beds.

Winter clothes are the attire,

Marshmallows roasting by the fire,

Angel figures in the snow,

Rudolph's red nose all aglow.

Trees and flowers take a rest,

Birds delay feathering nests,

Nature waits for God's command

To waken from the sleeping land.

The Creator sets the moment,

When Nature, in an instant,

Knows that Wintertime is through

And all life must spring anew.

Darlene La Rose Skiff

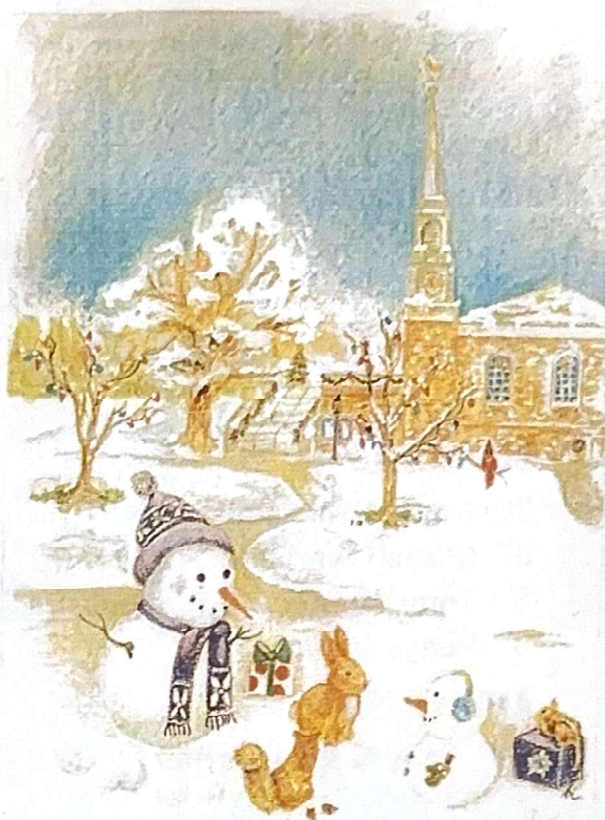
January's Quiz:

◆Food, Food, Food

1. Who was famous as an eater of locusts?
2. What four faithful young men refused to eat the rich foods of the king of Babylon?
3. Who traded his bread-and-lentil stew for his brother's birthright?
4. Who had a baker who made pastries for him?
5. What incident in David's life caused people to bring him all manner of foods to eat?
6. According to the Law, what was the Passover meal to be composed of?
7. What old man was deceived when his son dressed in goatskin gloves and presented him with a meal of cooked goat?
8. Who served cheese, milk, and veal to the Lord when he made his appearance in the form of three men?
9. What did Ezekiel's edible scroll taste like in his mouth?
10. What judge of Israel cooked an angel a meal that included a pot of broth?
11. In what book of the Bible is Canaan first described as a land flowing with milk and honey?
12. What prized animal was killed for food when the prodigal son returned home?
13. In what country did the Hebrews feed on cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic?
14. When Jacob's sons made a second trip to Egypt, what food did they bring with them as a gift for Joseph?
15. What prophet, who was a herdsman and fruit picker by trade, had a vision of a basket of ripe fruit?
16. Who ate honey out of a lion's carcass?
17. What miraculous food resembled coriander seed?
18. What prophet purified some deadly stew and a water supply?
19. Who cursed a fig tree for not bearing fruit?

Maybe

it's only coincidence,
But man's best friend
can't talk!



DECEMBER QUIZ:

◆Under the Influence

1. What husband, the victim of David's adulterous scheming, was made drunk by the king?
2. What man was seduced by his daughters while he was drunk?
3. Who dropped dead as a stone on hearing bad news the morning after being drunk?
4. What virtuous man, who later married a virtuous woman, fell asleep in a heap of grain after eating and drinking?
5. Absalom wanted to avenge the rape of his sister, Tamar, so he waited until the rapist was very drunk. Who was this drunk, later slain by Absalom's men?
6. This king of Israel, who ruled barely two years, was assassinated while drunk. Who was he?
7. What Syrian king was getting drunk at a time when he was supposed to be making war on the Samaritans?
8. Nehemiah waited until this Persian king was softened up with wine before he asked the king to let the Jews return to their homeland. Who was the king?
9. What Persian queen refused to obey her drunken husband's order that she appear before his besotted guests?
10. Job's sons and daughters were so busy eating and drinking that they failed to notice that disaster was about to strike. What killed them?
11. The arrogant Babylonian king Belshazzar, drunk at his feast, committed an outrage when he asked for new drinking vessels to be brought in. What were these vessels that led to so much trouble for the king?

Under the Influence (Answers)

1. Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:13)
2. Lot (Genesis 19:30-36)
3. Nabal, Abigail's husband (1 Samuel 25:36-37)
4. Boaz, husband of Ruth (Ruth 3:7-14)
5. Amnon, Absalom's half-brother (2 Samuel 13:28)
6. Elah (1 Kings 16:9)
7. Ben-hadad (1 Kings 20:12-19)
8. Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 2:1)
9. Vashti (Esther 1:3-12)
10. A great wind storm (Job 1:13-18)
11. Vessels from the temple of Jerusalem (Daniel 5:1-5)

TO MAKE MIRACLES HAPPEN from a message delivered by NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

(Into each of us, God has built reservoirs of tremendous power that have never been released)

The miracle principle is one of the most wonderful truths known to man! It has probably revolutionized the lives of more people than nearly any other human experience. Expect a miracle—make miracles happen. Keep your mind alert every day for great and wonderful things to happen. And as a result, great and wonderful things will tend to happen. Always think of the best, never the worst, unless by your thinking you make the worst into the best. What your mind thinks of constantly will tend to happen.

A miracle is a cast of the mind, which is described in a marvelous statement from the 62nd Psalm: "Wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him." Expect great things from God and great things will come. This is the basic principle known as the miracle principle. Those who live on this principle have miracles popping up in their lives constantly.

So, how can one go about expecting miracles and causing miracles to happen? The number one thing is to have a tremendous faith, an in-depth faith, a faith that is so positively strong that it rises above doubt. Doubt always gets in the way of faith. But if you train yourself to have faith in depth, it will release an astonishing power in your life to produce miracles. There is a certain type of person in this world known as the believer, who sweeps everything before him. He takes hold of life with a profound authority. So, how deep is your faith? Get it deep, so that you can face any difficulty and conquer it.

An acquaintance of mine by the name of Louis was one of the toughest cases I ever handled in my whole life. I would tell him what I thought he ought to do to correct his situation. He would go out and then come back and say, "I tried it, and it didn't work." I gave him many suggestions and finally said "Louie, I have told you all I know, and when you work it, and it doesn't work for you, why don't you go and see some of the ministers up Fifth Avenue, and see what they can tell you? Maybe one of them can help you."

He came back about six weeks later and said "I've seen them all, and none of them knows any more than you do." "Well," I said, "the situation is really worsening, isn't it?"

One night, I was walking to my car, parked at the side of the church, to take a trip to Allentown, PA, to make a speech. I hadn't put my speech together and I figured I would work on it while I drove to Allentown. I wanted peace and quiet. But when I got to the car, who should be standing there but Louie. He asked, "Where are you going?" "Allentown," I replied. "I'll go with you," he said. "Uh, no, please. . . ." But finally, I relented. "Okay, Louie, we'll make a deal. You drive the car to Allentown and don't say anything to me because I want to work on my speech. On the way back from Allentown, I'll talk to you."

Well, he kept his promise pretty well. We went to Allentown, I made my speech and, by this time, it was about ten o'clock. We started back, driving through New Jersey. At about midnight, Louie told me he was hungry. Since I felt the same way, I said, "Let's find a hamburger stand." We stopped at a place along the way, found a couple seats at the counter, and he was still asking me, "Why does everything go wrong with me? You preach in the pulpit and write in books that life can be wonderful, but it's never been wonderful for me. What's wrong with me?"

And then, as we sat there eating our hamburgers and drinking coffee, all of a sudden Louie brought down his fist on that counter, making the coffee leap out of the cup and the silver rattle. And he shouted so that everyone could hear, "I've got it! I've got it!" "Well, quiet down," I said. "What do you have?" "I've got the answer to myself." Everyone in the restaurant was looking around, but Louie couldn't have cared less. "I can see that the reason everything goes wrong with me is that I am wrong, myself!" Well, I never knew a hamburger to have such an effect on a human being in my life!

We went outside and, as we stood in the moonlight, Louie walked all around waving his arms and saying, "Isn't it wonderful? In one flashing moment of self-realization, you see yourself! I see that I'm my own worst enemy. I've been thinking wrong; I've been acting wrong; and therefore everything has been going wrong. But, now I see myself as a child of God. I see my possibilities. "with the help of the Lord, isn't life going to be great for me!" All the way back to New York, he inspired me by the lilting exultation of his spirit. And miracles began happening in Louie's life, one miracle after another. He would phone me and say, "Norman, get a load of this. Isn't this terrific?"

Let me tell you something, when you really get aboard spiritual vitality and get away from your weak, defeated self, things really begin to happen. I remember Louie as a happy, radiant, tremendous, victorious spirit who created miracles in his life. That same thing can happen to anyone who will go for it. As a matter of fact, I really believe a miracle is built into every human being. When Almighty God created you, do you know what He did? He built the miracle principle into you. Have you let this miracle principle realize itself by allowing it to come forth? One of the greatest things we must always remember is that a human being is far greater than he thinks he is.

I know we all have periods of depression, of let-down, of defeat. But remember this, for it is the most powerful fact about life: In you are reservoirs of power that have never been released. And in the name of God, isn't it a pathetic and tragic thing for a man or a woman to go through life and never realize himself or herself, never to feel the sense of exultation and upthrust and power? That is why we live, to feel the sense of mastery over ourselves and over life. That is the greatest thing that can happen to you. Don't perform that greatest of all crimes; don't go through life inhibiting your powers. Realize the marvelous experience of the upward lift of these mystic forces that can get under any problem you have and lift it up with incredible ease and force.

Expect a miracle---make miracles happen, by believing in God, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, believing in your country and believing in yourself. Always remember: You are packed full of potential miracles put there by One who knows you better than all else---the good God, the Creator who made you. God love and bless you every day, all the way.

by Rev. Norman Vincent Peale

*for the joy of the Lord
is your strength*



*May God Bless You
in the New Year*