

Welcome to...



We're glad you're here!

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Wesleychurchbethlehem



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What's up in worship?

Today: The first of a two-part series, today we explore Jesus' early years in the Temple, when according to his parents, he belonged with them taking the trip back to Nazareth. They looked for him, but did not consider where to find him. We do that too. We seek the living God, and sometimes He's hard to find. But He's always where He needs to be!

Next Week: Following up with part two, Epiphany shows us where to find Jesus; that is, how God has been working in our lives before we even realize it — or following the star in terms of a new direction God wants us to take; or following the star in terms of discernment. What decision, new project, new relationship or adjustment do we need to follow through on that will ultimately bring honor to the name of Christ?

Worship Alert!

**Back to two services next week, January 6th: 9 and 11 AM.
Have a Happy and safe New Year celebration!**

Today's Community Connections:

- If you are interested in providing fresh flowers for worship, please sign up at the *Connections Corner* table. (See bullet point below.)
- Feel like you missed something? The *Connections Corner* table can help. Head across the atrium and get the information you need just under the tv monitor.
- **Don't receive our weekly e-news? Please email Sue Kiefner at: SueK@wesleychurch.com to get on the list, or sign up at the *Connections Corner* table.**
- **If you were not able to participate in our worship service last week, and would like to offer a "conspiracy card" (and estimate of 2019 giving to Wesley Church), the card and accompanying letter are available on the *Connections Corner* table.**
- The office will reopen on January 2. In the case of pastoral emergency, please call Bob or Pastor Andy. Those numbers can be found on the church's phone message.
- **YOUTH! - JANUARY EVENT....WHAT? Youth Winter Blast Retreat. WHERE? Gretna Glen Camp in Lebanon PA. WHEN? Saturday, January 26 to Sunday, January 27. WHY? To grow closer to God and to one another. COST? \$50 (Cost is not a barrier. If the cost is a concern, please let Brian know.) RSVP to Brian or any youth leader by January 20 (More details and info on sign-up forms coming).**
- **JANUARY YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS: WHEN? January 6 and 20 6-8PM. WHERE? Fellowship Hall.**

Wesley Church Staff

Pastor Andy Krpata – Ext 13
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Office Administrator
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Children's Choirs Heather Hunter
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Child Care Coordinator
Keranie Whipple
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Today's morning schedule:

10:00 – Blended worship
Hospitality is offered in the atrium.
No Sunday School.

Church office hours are
from 9 AM-3 PM weekdays
during the school year.

† invites all to stand, if able.

Blended Worship Order

December 30th, 2018; 10:00 AM – The First Sunday after Christmas

Prelude Christmas Bells (arr. by L. McKechnie) Becky Graybeal, piano

† **Welcome and Greeting** Bob Keiderling, Minister of Discipleship

† **Opening Hymn** Sing We Now of Christmas #237, United Methodist Hymnal (UMH)

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52 Sara Capwell, reader

Children's Message Pastor Andy

Congregational Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Bob

Whether offering your prayer aloud or keeping it confidential, please continue to fill out the blue cards and place them in the offering so that the prayer team may continue to faithfully do its work. Thank you!

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem #230, UMH

Message "Seek" Pastor Andy

Musical Response Joseph's Lullaby (F. P. Green & R. Schulz-Widmar) Brian Graybeal, soloist

Go to sleep my Son / This manger for your bed / You have a long road before You / Rest Your little head

Can You feel the weight of Your glory? / Do You understand the price?
Or does the Father guard Your heart for now / So You can sleep tonight?

Go to sleep my Son / Go and chase Your dreams / This world can wait for one more moment / Go and sleep in peace

I believe the glory of Heaven / Is lying in my arms tonight
But Lord, I ask that He for just this moment / Simply be my child

Go to sleep my Son / Baby, close Your eyes / Soon enough You'll save the day
But for now, dear Child of mine / Oh my Jesus, Sleep tight

A Christmas Carol Communion Please see the insert.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

All are welcome to receive communion in the United Methodist tradition. We receive by method of intinction. Ushers will guide you into forming lines in the aisles. The servers will hand you a piece of bread which you may dip into the cup, and then return to your pew. Please bring forward with you your Sign-in Cards / Prayer cards (available in the pew racks), as well as your morning offering. Both can be placed in the offering plates as you come forward to receive communion.

Music during Communion: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (arr. by P. Keveren)

Community Connections (Please see front of bulletin) Andy and Bob

† **Closing Hymn:** He Is Born #228, UMH

† **Benediction**

† **Postlude:** How Great Our Joy! (Arr. by B. Wolaver) Becky

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas is a season of praise and thanksgiving for the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, which begins with Christmas Eve (December 24 after sundown) or Day, and continues through the Day of Epiphany. The name Christmas comes from the season's first service, the Christ Mass. Epiphany comes from the Greek word *epiphania*, which means "manifestation." New Year's Eve or Day is often celebrated in the United Methodist tradition with a Covenant Renewal Service. In addition to acts and services of worship for the Christmas Season on the following pages, see The Great Thanksgivings and the scripture readings for the Christmas Season in the lectionary.

Use the colors of white and gold and materials of the finest texture for paraments, stoles, and banners. Signs of the season include a Chrismon tree, a nativity scene (include the magi on the Day of Epiphany), a Christmas star, angels, poinsettias, and roses. Gold, frankincense, myrrh, and three crowns are appropriate on the Day of Epiphany (January 6 or the Sunday nearest).

Copyright: None. This article is slightly expanded, 2013, by the General Board of Discipleship to indicate the dates for the celebration of Epiphany and the timing for the celebration of Christmas Eve.

EPIPHANY REFLECTIONS

Epiphany

Many of us were introduced to Epiphany through the familiar silhouetted-image of Three Wise Men bearing gifts as they followed the Great Star by night. In some cultures, Epiphany is known as the *Day of the Kings* (*Dia de los Reyes*). It is also known as Twelfth Day or Twelfth Night, reflecting an old custom of giving a gift for each of the days from December 25 to January 6 for the 12 days of Christmas. The day has special meaning for a number of reasons. Several branches of Christianity celebrate the birth of the Christ Child on [January 6](#) or [January 7](#)

The word *epiphany* means *appearance* or *manifestation*. Popular usage likens *epiphany* to words such as *eureka* or *aha!* Use of this word by some English speakers conjures images of having a light bulb turned on, or of being able to see something that was once hidden from view. The texts for the Sundays after the Epiphany dramatize the many ways that we people came to understand who Jesus was, through his baptism, the miracle at the wedding, or through that bodacious declaration in his hometown synagogue! But, this ever-widening circle of revelation began 'outside the circle' of Judaism, so to speak, with the Magi.

WESLEY PRAYER CONCERNS AND JOYS

December 30, 2018

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done."

Philippians 4:6 New Living Translation

Dec. 23rd

Ed & Wendy Beaujon for friend Rich Wisnaski who had surgery to remove cyst on pancreas; Pathology report negative; 1/3 pancreas, spleen, & gall bladder removed. Need prayers for healing & rapid recovery. **Melissa Day** for stomach surgery. **Sandy Kereczman** for Andy with open heart surgery Dec. 27th. **Meg & Keith Ksenzakovic** ask prayers for the world, the USA & Wesley Church. **Nicole Lockhart** thankful to have family together for the holidays & praying for safe travels for Maia & for F & M Women's basketball team for trip to California this week. **Frank Madura** asks God's healing for Chuck, Joe, Mary & Dennis – all with cancer; God's wisdom as my mother's caregiver; God's guidance for all seeking employment. **Gayne Marriner** for continued prayers for ease of pain for Beverly. **Kasey Renowden** Continued prayers for Brenda & treatment for brain cancer; for Karen & Jacque dealing with cancer; thanks for those who are healing & prayers for those beginning or in midst of treatments. **Wendy Smith** asks prayers for friend who lost her father. Prayers are needed for **Forrest Taylor**, **Feuerstein family**, and **Joe & Sharon Shultz family**.

JOYS AND PRAISES:

Carolyn Miller gives praise for **Wayne** able to go back to work and Larry is cooking & baking again – from his wheel chair! **Frank Madura** gives praise to God for His forgiveness and the church & support and services.

CONTINUED HEALING /PRAYER CONCERNS:

Melissa Day, new health cares. **Kelly Hines'** father, Parkinson's disease. **Tom Keel**, foot surgeries & rehab. **Bob Keiderling's** sister, Pat with chemo. **Andy Kereczman**, cancer. **Bill Mains**, prostate cancer. **Beverly Marriner**, pain relief. **Carolyn & Larry Miller** prayers for healing. **Chuck & Wendy Stehly** for **Jeff**, brain cancer; for **Ivelisse**, breast cancer, & **Jennifer Grube**, battling cancer. **Frank Vitali**, cancer. **Diana Rivera**, serious eye problems.

THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP

Alexandria Manor Forrest Taylor
Abington (Easton) Sylvia Thele
Gracedale Jane Sandt, Dorothy Coolin
Kirkland Village Barbara Guldner

At Home George & Martha Danner, Naomi Jones
Moravian Village Agnes Smith
Sterling Heights Peggy Jacobson
Traditions of Hanover Marian Jeffery
Westminster Village Shirley Beiseigel

WESLEY CHURCH MINISTRIES: Our teachers and facilitators; Good Grief: Men's & Women's Small groups; TEACHRWanda; Visitation/Stephen Ministry; We've Got Your Backpack Day; Backpack Buddies; Cancer Support Groups; Wesley Community Garden; Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot; and UMC Leadership.

WESLEY LEADERSHIP TEAMS:

Committee on Nominations and Leadership: Pastor Andrew Krpata, Lenore Mohr, Mike Maticavage, Chris Jacobsen, Brian Graybeall and Christy Hume.

Committee on Staff/Parish Relations: Dave Siegfried, Andrew Krpata, Mike Maticavage, Karen Marmaras, Meg Ksenzakovic, Liz Lewis, Mike Krom, and Jaimee Walters.

Board of Trustees: Rich Chambers, Jeff Rose, Deb Silliman, Andrew Krpata, Frank Madura, Kim Krupka, Craig Hume, Lisa Jacobsen, and Doug Jantzi.

Committee on Finance and Stewardship: Jim Hunter, Peter Marmaras, Andrew Krpata, Mike Maticavage, Karen Marmaras, Dave Siegfried, Rich Chambers, Sharon Schultz, Wayne Muffley, Anita Dalske, Aaron Hook, Bob Sopko, and Matt Dietz.

Church Council: Christian Lockhart (chairperson), Mike Maticavage (Lay Leader), Karen Marmaras (Lay Member to Annual Conference), Chris Foster (Alternate to Annual Conference), Jason Walters (Social Justice Ministries) and Sue Kiefner (Outreach & Ministries).

Also included in Church Council are the chairpersons of our administrative committees.

We ask that you please **update** your prayer request information at **least every two weeks**.
This ensures that your request will remain on the Prayer List. Thank you.