

Interim Pastor's Pen

Rev. Dwight Basham

Post-Christmas Ordinary Time



How do you feel after the Christmas season has ended? Sad? Relieved? Lonely? Frustrated? Bloated? Excited that there are only 359 days from January 1 until Christmas 2020?

Post-Christmastime can be kind of a letdown as we “undecorate” the Christmas tree and put away the ornaments for another eleven months. No more Christmas music. All the anticipation, now gone. As much as we might want to live out of celebratory moments, however, time doesn’t stand still.

Remember C. S. Lewis’ description of Narnia under the White Witch: “always winter and never Christmas”? We need to be careful we don’t have a longing for the opposite—a life that is “always Christmas and never winter.”

Churches that follow a liturgical calendar move from the season of Advent/Christmas/Epiphany and enter “Ordinary Time,” which is significant for the fact that most of the church year is spent in Ordinary Time (at least 33 weeks, including the time between Pentecost and Advent). In other words, most of the Christian life is lived apart from the feasting of the Christmas season.

The same was true for Jesus. After the hubbub of a manger birth, awestruck shepherds, a star, and magi bearing gifts, about thirty years of ordinary life awaited. Learning and practicing a trade. Growing in how to love his siblings and honor his parents. Plumbing the depths of Scripture. Luke describes it this way: “Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

Jesus was not simply marking time; each day was a significant opportunity to grow in love for God and neighbor. Each day was a flagstone on the path to complete the work the Father had given him. It is no different for us.

It may be winter and no longer Christmas, but each day is charged with significance. Perhaps like me, you hear the psalmist whispering in your ear as you move into the new year, “Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12).

–Adapted from M. Emler, “(Un)decorating the Christmas Tree”

As you anticipate the work your heavenly Father has given you, here are some ways to add purpose to your days in 2020:

Daily Bible Reading and Prayer: As you begin the new year, I would like to encourage you to read and pray through God’s Word on a daily basis in order to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). You can select from a variety of Bible reading options available on our church website: <https://www.ardenpres.org/bible-reading-plans>.

Elder Nominations: Beginning in January, the church Session will receive elder nominations for three consecutive Sundays: January 12, 19, and 26. As you prayerfully consider potential nominees, keep in mind that each prospective officer should be an active male member who meets the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Specifically for the office of elder, consider men who are already demonstrating the gift of shepherding care among our flock.

January 12 Congregational Information Meeting: Members of our Session, Diaconate, and Staff will provide helpful updates as we look forward to God’s continued faithfulness and blessings in 2020.

January 12 Pastor Search Committee Fellowship Lunch: Members of our Session and Search Committee will be available to answer questions about the search process and/or the McGowan & Associates consultant assessment.

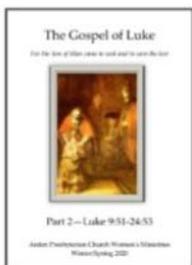
Spring Sermon Series: Who Is Jesus? (Gospel of John)

Happy New Year in the Year of our Lord 2020!

Dwight

Women's Ministry January Highlights

Winter/Spring Bible Studies



Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study: The Gospel of Luke, Part 2

Luke 9:51-24:53

- ◇ Beginning January 7, 9:30-11:30 AM, Fellowship Room (lower level sanctuary building)
- ◇ Our first lesson will include a recap of Part 1 for those just joining us
- ◇ Loving childcare provided
- ◇ There is no cost and reading/discussion guide is provided

MidWeek Ladies Study: The Wisdom of God—Seeing Jesus in the Psalms and Wisdom Books (Nancy Guthrie)

- ◇ Beginning Wednesday, January 8, 6:15-7:15 PM, Fellowship Room (lower level sanctuary building)
- ◇ Continuation of the fall study, but newcomers are welcome to join!
- ◇ DVD and Discussion
- ◇ Nursery, Children's Catechism, and Youth Program/Activities
- ◇ Cost: \$10 includes book and study questions



Recommended Reading in the New Year

If you are looking for something challenging and encouraging to read this year, consider one of these:

Instruments In the Redeemer's Hands, Paul David Tripp

People in need of change helping people in need of change—Tripp's manual for helping believers to offer biblical counsel and support to one another.



Peace Making Women, Barthel and Dabler

Biblical hope for resolving conflict

In His Image, Jen Wilkin

10 Ways God Calls us to Reflect His Character (10 communicable attributes of God)

The Songs of Jesus, Timothy Keller

A year of daily devotions in the Psalms

The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment, Jeremiah Burroughs

Still applicable today, this is a classic Puritan work on promoting peace and contentment in the hearts of believers during what Burroughs called "sad and sinking times"

A Small Book About Anger /A Small Book About Anxiety, Edward T. Welch

These two small but powerful 50-day devotionals help uncover hidden heart issues such as anger and anxiety and offer the biblical remedy for dealing with these issues. Filled with scripture and very encouraging!

Read Through The Bible in 2020

Pick up a chronological reading guide in the welcome center!

There are a number of other plans for reading through the Bible available on the Arden Pres website:

<https://www.ardenpres.org/bible-reading-plans>



We can hear coins rolling around in our banks! Offering will continue to be collected each Sunday



through the end of our church's 2020 Missions Conference which is Sunday, March 1. We will open our banks and see how we will be able to help others.

K-1 Sunday School having fun making a heavenly host!



Thank you Mrs. Dean and the Children's Sunday School Choir for blessing us in song during worship December 8 as well as at the Sounds of Christmas Concert. It was a precious reminder of our REAL gift!

Arden Presbyterian



Parents, are you ready for another Friday night out while the children stay in? Our next Children's Ministry Fellowship is planned for Friday, January 24, from 6:00—8:30. It is for ages birth through grade 5. Please bring a packed lunch for children up to age four; kindergarteners and up will have cheeseburgers, chips and milkshakes. We will also serve concession snacks during the movie. Kindergarteners and older will design their own cars for their viewing pleasure at the drive-in.



In order for us to plan correctly, please RSVP on the church website at the link below to let us know if your child/children will plan to attend.

<https://forms.gle/wW3uJwngPHp4qxoY9>

Second semester catechism begins Wednesday night, January 8. Hope to see you there!

EVERY CHILD HAS A STORY



ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS

Please accept our heartfelt thank you to all who supported this year's Angel Tree Ministry. Through your generosity we were able to serve 37 children., representing 17 families. Each family received gifts for the children, a caregiver gift card, a turkey and food basket in the name of the incarcerated parent, but the caregiver and prisoner know that our church was providing these items through the Angel Tree Ministry. During the visits, the Gospel of Christ, is shared with those present, as well as age-appropriate literature and a time of prayer for the family.

A special note of gratitude goes to the many volunteers who sorted, packed, decorated, sat at registration tables, and delivered these gifts. It truly is a church-wide ministry.

And just as you have blessed these families, we wish you a most blessed 2020.

Mrs.Sue Baker and Mrs.Dorothy Callaway

SUPER Saints

On the Menu:

Beef Stew
Crusty Bread
Garden Salad
Winter Pudding

(Sustained **U**nder the **P**ower of the **E**ternal **R**edeemer)

To the saints who are ... faithful in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 1:1)

Luncheon

Come join us for a special time of good food, fellowship and a guest speaker presentation!

Thursday, January 23, 2020 – 12:30pm – Multipurpose Room

Guest Speaker: **Gretchen Batra (AARP)**

Children's Ministry Birthday's

Freddie Pressley 1/2

Lillian Brooke 1/23

Alayna Barnette 1/13

Graham Roberson 1/26

Lily Malloy 1/21

Brice Moore 1/29

Can you match the Homebound Friend to the picture?

Eloise Greenwood

Eloise Norton and Reagan Moore

Sara Hart

Edith Reems and Pastor Dwight

Angie Zuiderhof

Jeanne Aardema

John and Elizabeth Hubbell

Our Homebound Friends love to get phone calls, cards, and visits!



YOUTH MINISTRY



The last youth group of the year was a blast! Shout out to Greta and Jonathan for a close-fought battle during the Elf breakfast game





FEBRUARY 14th-16th



Winter



RETREAT



Ridge Haven, Brevard | \$139



**FUN
GAMES**

**BIBLE
DEVOTIONS**

**GREAT
LOCATION**



6th-12th grade

REGISTER BY JAN 15TH AT

<https://www.ardenpres.org/youth-ministry>

JANUARY 2020 PRAYER CALENDAR

Praying for the kingdom of God all over the world

GO, PRAY, SEND

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Our Church

The World

1. God's Sr. Pastor for APC	*APC's Mission Conference 02/26-03/01/20*
2. Deacon Kenneth Dupee.....	Doug & Rachel Flaherty- Intervarsity
3. Elder Tony VunCannon.....	Nathan & Lori Francis - Church Planting/ MNA
4. Deacon Larry Kidd.....	Jim & Carin Frederic - New York/ MTW
5. Pastor Dwight Basham.....	Mission to the World Medical Ministry
6. Deacon Zach Holcomb.....	New City Christian School- Matt Fuller
7. Ladies Bible Study.....	Rob & Mary Lee Herron - App State Univ./RUF
8. Mid-week at APC.....	Ed & Vicki Germann - International Students, Inc.
9. Elder Sammy Johnson	Third Millennium Ministries - Greg Duble
10. Arden Presbyterian Church.....	*Scott & Ruth Hill - Cherokee/ MTW*
11. Elder Steve Jennings	*Joel & Cindy Hylton - Prague, CZ/ Serge*
12. Call to Prayer	Faith Promise
13. Deacon Bill Miller.....	David & Marcia Jones - United Kingdom/ MTW
14. Elder Jim Wilde	*Scott & Brooke McMinn - Jefferson City, TN/YL*
15. Pastor Church Committee	Keith & Ruth Powlison - Peru/ MTW
16. Our Session & Deacons	Asia Minor Partnership - Pastor Yuzvey
17. Elder Kees Auer.....	Bill & Suzanne Scott - Clarkston, GA/ MTW
18. APC Adult SS/Teachers.....	Belarus Christian Ministry - Pastor Nikitenko
19. Pastor Gabe Malloy.....	Mission to North America > Church Planting
20. Deacon Garrett Pittman	*John & Elizabeth Sexton - Medical Ministry/MTW*
21. Elder Monty Baker	Andrew & Trish Shank - West. Carolina Univ./RUF
22. Elder John Dean	Jeff & Caroline Thompson - Univ. of Georgia/ RUF
23. Super Saints	Trinity School of Theology - Dr. Apam Vashum
24. Deacon Mike Neese	New Direction Ministries - David & Bridget Walls
25. Small Groups	*Gary & Lois Watanabe - Japan/ MTW*
26. Pastoral Intern David Livernois	*Ron & Queta Shaw-Mission Conf Keynote Speaker*
27. Mercy Ministry	Donnie & Kara Williams - Global Muslim Ministries
28. Nathan Francis/Church Plant	Mountain Area Pregnancy Services
29. Elder John Paschall	Tom & Lucy Wright - West Africa & Haiti/ MTW
30. Youth Ministry	West African Reformed Mission - Jim Weaver
31. Elder Bill Resh.....	Kate Anderson - Western Carolina Univ. - RUF31

GO, PRAY, SEND

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Psalm 46:10-11