**2017**

**Gerrardstown Good News**

**Stir Up O Lord!**

 By Pastor Karen

November is the month that shouts – WAKE UP! Christmas is only weeks, instead of months away, Thanksgiving and all the challenges and blessings is merely days away, and the old year is passing quicker than I realized. November wakes us up and might even stir us up!

Two years ago this Fall I was faraway in Wales, UK, on a retreat with a group of folks from Jacob’s Well. Several of those in attendance were pastors in the UK. As pastors do, we began to ‘talk shop.’ What was everyone planning for Advent, Christmas and such? Someone brought up ‘Stir Up Sunday.’ Being an American Presbyterian I had no clue what this mysterious Stir Up Sunday was.

In the UK, the Sunday before Advent starts, which is 5 weeks before Christmas day, there is a very special project that families and even church families take part in – mixing and stirring the Christmas Pudding! On this last Sunday of the liturgical year, which is Nov. 26t this year, the opening words of the Book Of Common Prayer are read in worship: ‘STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.’ (Book of Common Prayer <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/book-of-common-prayer/collects-epistles-and-gospels/the-twenty-fifth-sunday-after-trinity.aspx>)

And so this day of the year became the time to participate in the ancient ritual of preparing the Christmas pudding. Here is a website address with a recipe you might want to try- <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/1159/classic-christmas-pudding>

I think whether we begin our Christmas Puddings or our Christmas tree decoration, shopping or other family and church traditions we also need to be aware of what our Lord is stirring up within us. What good works are we taking part in to bring goodness, sweetness and love to our world? Have we considered giving a gift to someone less fortunate than us this Christmas? Have we thought to offer help to those nearby who are widows, live alone or need a helping hand? Are we stirred to give up old grudges or the bitterness we carry so we can receive God’s love and grace offered to us from our Lord Jesus who went from the manger to a cross to bring us wholeness and forgiveness? Is God stirring up inside of us a hunger, a greater desire to know who God’s Son Jesus is and what his birth, life and death mean, apart from the hubbub of commercialism that threatens to overwhelm?

I prayerfully invite us to consider what our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus would like best of all from us this year in the form of good works. What will glorify Him and bring peace on earth in a tangible and real way right here in the panhandle of West Virginia?

Happy Thanksgiving from our house to yours!

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**Nov. 1,8,15,29 – 6:30pm GPC Music Team (choir)**

**Nov. 6 – Elder Training at 7pm in the Hall.**

**Nov. 11 – Faith Community Coalition for the Homeless *Keep the Faith* *5K Color Run* at Poor House Park.** Registration starts at 10am Run starts at 11am

**Nov. 22 – Community Thanksgiving** **Meal** 4:30pm-6:30pm (**No community dinner Nov.28**)

**Nov. 23 – Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Nov. 28 Presbytery Meeting** in Stanton, VA.

**Faith Community Coalition** lists the free meals in the Martinsburg area on their website. Here is their

updated list (June 2017) – please share if you know someone for whom this would be useful.

<https://faithcommunitycoalitionforhomeless.com/blog/page/2/>

Every Day: (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

UNION RESCUE MISSION 608 W. King Street

7:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 4:30 PM Sunday breakfast @ 8:00 AM lunch 12:30

304-263-6901

wdannyc@yahoo.com

Monday: (Dinner) 5:30 PM

IMMANUEL’S HOUSE

713 Buxton Street

304-596-1155

Tuesday : (Dinner) 5-5:30 p.m.

HEDGESVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

St. Joseph’s Catholic Church

Parking Lot 336 S. Queen Street

Tuesday: (Lunch) 11:15 -noon

DESTINY CHURCH

115 N. Raleigh Street

304-267-4489

Jimtiger567@frontier.com

Second and Fourth Tuesday (Dinner) 4:30 – 5:30 PM

CHURCH OF THE BRETHEN

136 E. Moler Ave

304-267-4135 pastoreddy@moleravenue.org

Third Tuesday (Dinner) 5:00-6:15 p.m.

BETHEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

2010 Tavern Rd.

304-267-8694

Last Tuesday of the Month 4:30pm-6:30pm

Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church

372 Dominion Rd.

Gerrardstown, WV 25420

304-229-2316

Third Wednesday (Lunch) 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

GERRARDSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

110 Dominion Road

Gerrardstown, WVa

Last Wednesday of each month (Dinner) 6:00 -7:00 p.m.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

220 W Martin Street

304-263-9215

umctrinity@comcast.net

Thursday: (Dinner) 5:00-7:00 p.m.

CHRIST REFORM CHURCH

117 E. Burke Street

304-267-8678

2nd Thursday: (Dinner) 5:00-6:30 p.m.

HEDGESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

201 S. Mary Street, Hedgesville, WV

304-754-8793

http://www.thehedgeumc.org

Friday: (Dinner) 4:00 -5:30 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

315 W. King St.

304-263-5722

firstfamilywv@yahoo.com

2nd Saturday 8-10 a.m.

PIKESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

25 Payne’s Ford Rd.

304-263-4633

Saturday: (Lunch) 12:00 -12:45 p.m.

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

220 W. Burke St.

304-267-4542

calvaryum@frontier.com

4th Saturday only : (LUNCH) 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 W. Martin St.

304-263-9291

ChurchOffice@stjohnsmartinsburg.org



If you are in need of prayer or would like to pray for someone, please join us on Thursday Nov. 1st or Thursday Nov. 16th in the Sanctuary of GPC for “Come And Pray.” This is a time to share concerns and lift them in prayer together. Often in scripture we see Jesus taking Peter, James and John with him when he was headed to a home to pray for someone. Together we join our faith as we seek our Lord Jesus who scripture said is the ‘yes and amen’ to all God’s promises.

Thank you to Session, the Congregation and Children’s church for surprising me with the wonderful notes of Grateful Thanks, a gift card and a beautiful paper weight for Pastor Appreciation month! I am blessed to be the pastor of this loving and caring congregation!



Thank You also to all who came to enjoy and/or helped at the 1st Annual Halloween Family Fun afternoon! We had a wonderful time!

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**Here are the highlights of the October 2017 Session Stated Session Meeting:** Session approved an honorarium for Lydia Griffiths, the YAV who brought the message on World Communion Sunday, approved the Moffett Grant Application for community dinners, and a contract to fix the hall kitchen drain for $600.

Pastor Karen reported the Handicap bathroom still awaiting final inspection. Stephen Zurenda reported for Worship that the next communion dates in 2017 are first Sunday of Advent which is first Sunday in December and the single service on Christmas eve at 4pm. Glen Sherrard reported for Buildings and Grounds that the work was done on the drain with some extra work that wasn’t charged to us. He is still waiting for radiator to be fixed for manse and working on railings for steps in basement and up to balcony.

Session approved a new study that elders will begin in November by reading a book suggested by Pastor Karen *Success Is Who You Are*  written by Sam Adeyemi. Dates for elder training were suggested.

Session approved a Special Session meeting Nov. 4th at 4pm to consider the baptism of Blythe Riley Giron daughter of Aaryn and Chad Giron. Session approved the last two bushes be removed from the front of the church with the understanding the boxwoods will be allowed to regrow in front of Session house, the laurels will be trimmed at the appropriate time and a new landscaping plan will be developed for the church with the goal of being more manageable and less labor intensive for upkeep.

Joe Sturm came with the financial report for Session and a 2018 budget worksheet for Session to use. Session approved inviting Adam Stewart, our financial advisor to our next meeting for financial update and will begin to look at the detail of the new budget for 2018. Collection from the EPMC Music Fest which was designated for Faith Community Coalition for the Homeless was $137.25.

**Active Session Members:** Harriet Kopp, Clerk, Glenn Sherrard and Stephen Zurenda.

**Mission Made Possible by You!**

**Rescue Mission is in need of hot and cold beverages.** Please bring and place in the barrel in the Lecture Room.

**EPMC Music Fest collection for Faith Community Coalition for the Homeless totaled $137.25!** Thank you to all who participated, attended or contributed!

**The Keep the Faith 5K is Saturday Nov. 11th at Poor House Park.** This event raises money for the Good Samaritan Clinic and Faith Community Coalition for the Homeless. The following donations are needed: warm socks, making chili for the chili cook off, or monetary donations to help with supplies for the event. Please bring to worship on Sun. Nov. 5th



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**To keep up with events or sermons online visit our webpage at gerrardstownpc.com**

**and**

**Like us on Facebook at Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church Life**

Its that time again! Sunday Nov. 5th daylight savings time comes to an end. Please remember to turn your clocks back and enjoy and extra hour of sleep!

See you in worship at 11am to give praise and glory to God!



**Thanksgiving prayer for the family**

Lord God,

I give you all the members of our family. You know them all so well and love them all. I ask that you would cover us with a rainbow of hope.

Hope that draws us together to work out our differences.

Hope that helps us to celebrate together and care for one another.

Hope that rides like a banner in our lives and watches over us wherever we go.

Hope that overcomes adversity and gathers strength to overcome.

Hope that guides us and gives us vision for our future alone and together.

Hope filled with love.

Hope that fuels faith.

Hope that breathes peace.

May our family live in you

Underneath your promises.

Amen.

(a prayer of thanks from www.lords-prayer-words.com)