December Greetings!  

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

What beautiful words to begin the Christmas season. There is something about music that warms the heart and bolsters the soul. Isaiah’s words can be found in Handel’s Messiah. I miss singing the intricate passages that weave the story of God from Genesis to the Gospel. Watch the news sources for there is usually a local performance at this time of year. I am sure that you will enjoy it.

As the secular Christmas shopping season begins with all the hustle and bustle, please remember to stop and listen for that voice, to watch for the signs and to pray that your heart is ready for the coming of the King. Hallelujah! He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Amen.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Janet
Circle Of Concerns

Our Deepest Sympathy: We wish to extend our sympathy to Rev. Michael Erwin and family on the death of his father, M. Barry Erwin, on November 29, 2016 in Columbus, Georgia. There will be no formal service. A visitation is scheduled for Thursday, December 1 at Conner-Westbury Funeral Home 1891 W McIntosh Rd, Griffin, GA 30223.

In Our Prayers

Jim Bourne	Albert and Melody Bricker	Vivian Gates
Tony Dempson	Anna Filbert	Jean Fischer
Donna Howe	Steve Howe	Tyler Howe
Jason	Kathy	Sharon Krohn

Our Shut Ins

Arlene Metz	Arletha Southwood
West River Health Campus	Solarbron Terrace
714S. Eickhoff Rd.	1501 McDowell Rd.
Evansville In. 47712	Evansville In 47712

Nancy Scherer	Marian Saalweachter
West River Health Campus	Healthsouth Rehab
714 S. Eickhoff Rd	4100 Covert Ave.
Evansville In 47712	Evansville, IN 47714

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

5th Annual Cookie Walk
Sunday, December 11th
Immanuel United Church of Christ
5812 Ford Road N.
Mt. Vernon In..

St. Peters Has A New Web Page

St. Peters UCC has a new webpage. Point your browser to www.stpertersuccparker.com

On the webpage you will find information on church events, church history, Daily devotions, Links to other websites.

Prayer request can be made via the church webpage.

In the future the newsletter will be sent out via email to anyone who request it.
**Church activities**

**Last Sunday Lunch and Christmas Party December 11th after church**

Please bring a covered dish & a $2 gift and we will play dirty Santa.

**St. Peter’s is once again adopting a family for Christmas.** We have a family of 7 ages 0-21 yrs old.

- Girl 1 month old
- 0-3 months
- Boy 3 yrs
- Old 3T shirt
- 2-3T pants
- Girl 9 yrs
- Old 7 pants
- 7-8 shirts
- Woman 19 yrs
- Old L shifts
- M jogger or yoga pants
- Woman 21 yrs
- Old XS small-small shirt
- size 0 pants

We would also like to get something for mom & dad. Please bring items or cash/ gift cards to church by December 18th. We will collect food items for the family also. Box is in rear of the church.

**Thank you to our Advent wreath liturgists and candle lighters**

November 27\textsuperscript{th} Jeanne Johnston and Beth Russell

December 4 Gene and Sue Wolf

December 11 Glenn, Jennifer Saalweachter and Macen

December 18 Randy and Cathy Winternheimer, Ethan and Romeo

**Christmas services**

Come and join us on Sunday mornings as we count down to the birth of Christ.

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 4pm on Saturday Dec. 24\textsuperscript{th}.

Christmas Day is on Sunday this year. We will have an abbreviated service of songs and memories. Please think of your favorite Songs and memories.

**FILL THE ARK**

We have pledged to Fill an Ark for Heifer Project International. The children are collecting spare change to fill a quart jug to go towards this project. You may help by contributing your spare change or by giving a contribution to this project. Be sure to designate Fill the Ark on your giving envelope or on your check.

Help us help Heifer supply animals and education to our neighbors throughout the world.

**MEROM CAPS FOR BENCHES**

We continue to collect bottle caps and container lids for Merom Camp and Retreat Center. Our goal is to purchase a bench for the camp. 400 pounds of plastic plus a fee of $225 will purchase a gray bench. Other colors are available for an upcharge of $50. The drop box is located in the fellowship hall directly behind the sanctuary. Acceptable caps are from juice, milk, soda, sports drinks and water, as well as, lids from butter/margarine, cottage cheese, ice cream buckets, medicine bottles and lids, peanut butter lids and soaps/shampoos. Not acceptable are lids from carry out containers, pumps or straws.

Anyone interested in a movie night at church?

Please contact Pastor Janet if interested.

We will need ideas on movies, Dates and snacks or meal.

Pastor Janet is interested in started a bible study/book study.

Anyone interested please let Pastor Janet Know and what would be a good time and day of the week.

**Poinsettias:** Anyone who wishes to purchase a live poinsettia plant in memory of or in honor of someone please let Pastor Janet or Cathy know. We will use them to decorate the altar this Christmas season. Poinsettias are $14

Need orders by Dec. 11th
Council Meeting 11-10-2016

Meeting was called to order by Randy Winternheimer. Pastor Janet gave the opening prayer. Minutes of the last meeting, the Financial Secretary’s report and the Treasurer’s report were presented and approved as read.

Pastor’s report-Pastor Janet gave an update on her parents. Her mother will be returning to her home on November 21st. Pastor Janet will visit the shut-ins early in the week as she will be going to Vanderbilt for a recheck with the specialist on the 18th.

Old Business

1) The CROP walk was good. It was a hot day with 90 walkers. The CROP results should be in by the end of December. Pastor Janet will give a report on the total raised.
2) 4HisPraise concert on 11-12-2016
   The group will be here at 5 pm to set up and do a sound check.
3) Swing set-insurance will be called
4) Community Thanksgiving Service 11-20-2016 will be held at Zoar UCC. Pastor Janet will be giving the message that evening. The Offering is to be split between the food pantries.
5) Advent—we will need readers and candle lighters for the advent wreath.
   Christmas is on Sunday this year. Christmas Eve service will be at 4 pm. Christmas Day will be a shorter service of songs and memories.
6) Food Pantry hours need to be listed on the website. Pastor Janet put this information on the church sign. Most of the phone calls we receive concern the food pantry.
7) We may be able to obtain a chair lift for around $500-$600.
8) Hearing aid system-call Rev. Michael Erwin for information
9) Annual meeting will be 11-20-2016 with last Sunday lunch and hanging of the greens.
   Glen will get the budget to Randy for the meeting. We also need council members.
10) Decision was made to give $1750 to God’s Storehouse.
11) Pest Control-Randy will call
12) Men’s restroom is on hold for now
13) We are still looking at can openers and coffee makers.

Next Meeting is Dec. 3 at 8:30 am.
Daily Lectionary Readings for December 2016

Dec 1
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  Isaiah 4:2-6  Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

Dec 2

Dec 3

Dec 4

Dec 5
Psalm 21  Isaiah 24:1-16a  1 Thessalonians 4:1-13

Dec 6
Psalm 21  Isaiah 41:14-20  Romans 15:14-21

Dec 7

Dec 8
Psalm 146:5-10  Ruth 1:16-18  2 Peter 3:1-10

Dec 9
Psalm 146:5-10  Ruth 4:13-17  2 Peter 3:11-18

Dec 10

Dec 11
Isaiah 35:1-10  Ps 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55  James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 12
Psalm 42  Isaiah 29:17-24  Acts 5:12-16

Dec 13
Psalm 42  Ezekiel 47:1-12  Jude 17-25

Dec 14
Psalm 42  Zechariah 8:1-17  Matthew 8:4-17, 28-34

Dec 15

Dec 16

Dec 17

Dec 18

Dec 19
1 Samuel 2:1-10  Genesis 17:15-22  Galatians 4:8-20

Dec 20
1 Samuel 2:1-10  Genesis 21:1-21  Galatians 4:21-5:1

Dec 21
1 Samuel 2:1-10  Genesis 37:2-11  Matthew 1:1-17

Dec 22

Dec 23

Dec 24

Dec 25

or

Dec 26
Psalm 148  Wisdom 4:7-15  Acts 7:59-8-8

Dec 27
Psalm 148  Proverbs 8:22-31  1 John 5:1-12

Dec 28

Dec 29

Dec 30
Psalm 20  Isaiah 26:1-9  2 Corinthians 4:16-28

Dec 31
Psalm 20  1 Kings 3:5-14  John 8:12-19

Readings for New Year's Eve
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## December 2016 Birthdays

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| Jesus Christ |
ACROSS
1 the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the ___ (Acts 27:41)
5 Because thy lovingkindness is better ____ life (Ps 63:3) KJV
9 two brethren, Simon called ____, and Andrew his brother (Matt 4:18)
14 Adam and Eve both ate from the ___ of good and evil (Gen 3:12-13)
15 lest he ____ thee to the judge (Luke 12:58) KJV
16 they will long to die, but death will ___ them (Rev 9:6)
17 But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ___ (Heb 9:26)
18 Ailments (Ps 73:5)
19 So Joseph bought some ___ cloth, took down the body (Mark 15:46)
20 He was crying, and she ___ sorry for him (Exod 2:6)
21 ___ yourselves with humility (1 Peter 5:5)
23 he that endureth to the ____ shall be saved (Matt 10:22) KJV
24 Come thou and all thy house into the ____ (Gen 7:1) (KJV)
26 and found it to ___ a talent of gold (1 Chr 20:2)
28 sold your people for a pittance, gaining nothing from their ___ (Ps 44:12)
30 You lie on ___ inlaid with ivory and lounge on your couches (Amos 6:4)
31 In ____ it shall be made with oil (1,3) (Lev 6:21)
35 drew his bow at random and ___ the king of Israel (IKing 22:34)
36 there before me was a man riding ___ horse (1,3) (Zech 1:8)
38 to Ephesus, ___, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia (Rev 1:11)
40 Why make ye this ___, and weep? (Mark 5:39) KJV
41 till he should pay all that was ___ unto him (Matt 18:34)
42 a ship, and went over the ____ toward Capernaum (John 6:17)
43 said to me, _____ going to make you fruitful (1,2) (Gen 48:4)
44 the crags are a refuge for the ___ (Ps 104:18)
46 For my yoke is ___ and my burden is light (Matt 11:30)
47 I have made you a tester of metals and my people the ___ (Jer 6:27)
If you really ___ me, you would know my Father as well (John 14:7)

Let her be as the loving ___ and pleasant roe (Prov 5:19) KJV

ey are all mute dogs, they cannot ___. (Isa 56:10)

there is one ____ to the righteous, and to the wicked (Eccles 9:2)

I am a ____, born in Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 22:3)

he was three days without sight, and neither did ____ nor drink (Acts 9:9)

How do ye ____ that I may answer this people? (1King 12:6) KJV

t the __ and warrior, the judge and prophet (Isa 3:2)

from the hand of the wicked, from the ___ of evil (Ps 71:4)

____ or a sheep and its young (1,3) (Lev 22:28)

And Israel vowed _____ unto the LORD (1,3) (Num 21:2)

the ___, the monitor lizard, the wall lizard (Lev 11:30)

a certain centurion's servant, who was ____ unto him (Luke 7:2)

Thy servant slew both the ___ and the bear (1 Sam 17:36) KJV

and the ____ shall cry to his fellow (Isa 34:14) (KJV)

sent me from Kadesh-barnea to ____ out the land (Josh 14:7) KJV

under oaks and poplars and ___ (Hos 4:13) KJV

They put a ___ in his right hand and knelt in front of him (Matt 27:29)

Pharisees began to ____ him vehemently (Luke 11:53)

stagger (Isa 28:7)

With boughs in hand, join in the ____ procession (Ps 118:27)

Your servant went into the ___ of the battle (1 Kings 20:39)

the wedding ___ was filled with guests (Matt 22:10)

When we got to Rome, Paul was ___ to live by himself (Acts 28:16)

All the birds of the air ___ in its boughs (Ezek 31:6)

Two sons were born to Eber: One was named ___ (Gen 10:25)

saying, ___, Eli, lama sabachthani? (Matt 27:46)

melody (1 Cor 14:7)

Genesis garden (Gen 2:8)

____ your heart and not your garments (Joel 2:13)

Sounds of a snake (Job 27:23)

For thou, Lord, art good, and ____ to forgive (Ps 86:5) KJV

foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, ___ or straw (1 Cor 3:12)

Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and ___ (Matt 15:21)

put an end to sin, to ___ for wickedness (Dan 9:24)

honey producer (Isa 7:18) (KJV)

erlier, before (Josh 20:9)

in holy fear built ___ ___ to save his family (2,3) (Heb 11:7)

holy and reverend is his ____ (Ps 111:9)

who will stone you and ____ you to pieces (Ezek 16:40)

the whole herd ____ down the steep bank into the lake (Matt 8:32)

call on your god ___ he will take notice of us (Jonah 1:6)

he was ____ at that saying, and went away grieved (Mark 10:22)

one ____ lamb of the first year without blemish (Lev 14:10)

Be careful that no one ___ you by riches (Job 36:18)

He will ____ many countries and sweep through (Dan 11:40)

Am I a sea, or ____ (1,5) (Job 7:12) KJV

A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting ____ (Prov 21:6)

would not walk in ___, because the Jews sought to kill him (John 7:1) KJV

Jesus went through all the ___ and villages (Matt 9:35)

The owl will nest there and lay ___ (Isa 34:15)

Which ____ shadow of things to come (3,1) (Col 2:17)

Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and ____ (Dan 2:14-15)

even if I washed myself with ____ (Job 9:30)

Do not those who plot ____ go astray? (Prov 14:22)

in a manger, because there was no ___ for them in the inn (Luke 2:7)

foul weather to day: for the ____ is red and lowring (Matt 16:3)
Chicken Stew with Herb Dumplings

**Ingredients:**
- 2 cups sliced carrots
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 1/4 cup or less diced green peppers
- 2 cans (14oz each) of chicken broth
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup water
- 3 boneless skinless chicken breast, cut in half
- 1 tsp dried basil leaves
- 3/4 tsp dried rosemary
- 1/4 tsp dried tarragon
- 3/4 to 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper

*Herb Dumplings: (recipe is doubled already)*
- 2 cup biscuit mix
- 1/2 tsp dried basil leaves
- 1/2 tsp dried rosemary
- 1/3 tsp dried tarragon
- 2/3 cup reduced fat (2%) milk

**Directions:**

1. Layer the chicken breasts along the bottom of a slow cooker. Layer on top the carrots, onion, green peppers and celery. Next add all the spices, leaving out the flour. Stir in chicken broth. Cover and cook on high 3 hours.
2. Stir flour in 1 cup of water until smooth. Stir into slow cooker. Cover and cook 1 hour or until vegetables are tender and chicken is no longer pink. For Herb Dumplings: combine biscuit mix and herbs in small bowl. Stir in milk to form soft dough. Spoon dumpling mixture on top of stew with a scoop or spoon. Cook, uncovered, 30 minutes. Cover and cook 30 to 45 minutes or until dumplings are firm and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Serve in shallow bowls.