



MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Quarterly News

105 N. Sproul Rd., Broomall, PA 19008 • (610) 356-1098 • www.marplepc@gmail.com

October - December 2021

Topics

- Hello Letter
- Prayer and Devotional
- Fellowship Activities and Events
- Special Recognitions
- Altar Flowers



Hello dear friends,

We hope that this newsletter finds you healthy and well. The last few months have been incredibly full and it is a pleasure to recount some of the events we've had including **Marple Presbyterian Church's 186th Anniversary**. The mild fall weather gave us a great opportunity to host our first-ever **Trunk or Treat**. Children of the congregation and the surrounding community came by in costume to play games, paint pumpkins, and collect lots of candy. Thanks to all who participated in making the event such a success!

We also saw the start of our **NEW Pop-Up Thrift Shop** which has been a great opportunity for people in our church and surrounding community to sell gently-used clothes and other items as well as to shop for some household necessities at a deep discount. It has been a great success already and we are looking forward to more **Pop-ups** in 2022.

Over the course of the fall, we also had a great group of volunteers continue to gather several times to support **Kids Against Hunger**. There was also a generous outpouring of support and donations for the **Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County**. The organization had experienced a dramatic rise in calls over the course of 2021 and it was a

great blessing to deliver so many supplies. Our congregation's generosity did not stop there! In December, even more donations came in for our annual **Angel Tree Project**. Christmas gifts of all shapes and sizes were delivered to the **Family Management Center** for all the homeless guests staying at the facility during the holiday season.

With a significant rise in Covid cases around the holidays, we have shifted back to offering more virtual programming at the church. Thanks to volunteers, lots of hard work, and special editing skills, we had a wonderful Virtual Christmas Pageant premier on Christmas Eve. Keep your eyes on the bulletin for upcoming virtual events, especially on Tuesdays. From conversations on theology and contemplative photography to book discussions and virtual tours of medieval cities, there will be a variety of great events to enjoy. Hopefully I'll get to see many of your smiling faces online soon!

Peace in Christ,
Lesa Tanner

*P.S. If you'd like to offer feedback or contribute to the newsletter, please let us know! You can reach out by email at marplepc@gmail.com or call the church office at **610-356-1098**.*





Prayers

One of the ways deacons help to care for the congregation is by praying. We pay special attention each week to the Prayers of the People during the service and pray continually for the church. We also encourage you to reach out to us if

you have any additional praises or concerns that we can be lifting up in prayer. Feel free to email marplepresdeacons@gmail.com or reach out to Pastor Karen and she can pass along your request.

Devotional

As you take time to deepen your relationship with God and continue your spiritual journey, we want to share some thoughtful devotionals that we appreciate and have found encouraging. Below is an excerpt from the **Our Daily Bread** devotional online.

Brave Your Storm

[Fix your] eyes on Jesus, . . . so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2-3

Scripture & Insight: Hebrews 12:1-3, 12-13

It was the evening of April 3, 1968, and a fierce thunderstorm was lashing through Memphis, Tennessee. Weary and feeling ill, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. hadn't intended to give his planned

speech in support of the striking sanitation workers at a church hall. But he was surprised by an urgent phone call saying a large crowd had braved the weather to hear him. So he went to the hall and spoke for forty minutes, delivering what some say was his greatest speech, **"I've Been to the Mountaintop."**

The next day, King was killed by an assassin's bullet, but his speech still inspires oppressed people with the hope of "the promised land." Likewise, early followers of Jesus were uplifted by a stirring message. The book of Hebrews, written to encourage Jewish believers facing threats for their faith in Christ, offers firm spiritual encouragement to not lose hope. As it urges, *"strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees" (12:12)*. As Jews, they would recognize that appeal as originally coming from the prophet Isaiah (*Isaiah 35:3*).

But now, as Christ's disciples, we're called to *"run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2)*. When we do so, we *"will not grow weary and lose heart" (v. 3)*.

Certainly, squalls and storms await us in this life. But in Jesus, we outlast life's tempests by standing in Him.

– By: *Patricia Raybon*

Upcoming Fellowship Activities & Events

January 30: Youth Group
Virtual Game Night
Discord, 4pm - 7pm

February 8: *The Gifts of Imperfection* Book Discussion
Part 1 | Zoom, 7pm

February 12: Pop-Up Thrift Shop
Fellowship Hall, 10am - 4pm

February 15: *The Gifts of Imperfection* Book Discussion
Part 2 | Zoom, 7pm

February 22: *The Gifts of Imperfection* Book Discussion
Part 3 | Zoom, 7pm

ONGOING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Joys & Concerns Chat
Zoom, Every Tuesday,
Wednesday, Thursday, 3PM

**Additional events will be coming to the calendar this spring so keep your eyes on the weekly bulletin for more information! We anticipate further activities to be announced like Kids Against Hunger, Yoga, Paint Night, Crafting Tutorials, Adult Youth Group, and more.*

Special Recognitions

New 2021 Members:

Patti Gwartz
Austin Smith
Nate Tanner
Brian Walden
Ryan Walden

2021 Baptisms:

Harper Cheyenne Walden

2021 Weddings:

Sean & Susan Greene
Ed & Fabiana Wandling

50 Year Member Recognitions in 2021:

Jeannine Ansky • Helen Cotumaccio

We need your permission to include additional personal events in the newsletter, so if you'd like to have the birthday or anniversary of yourself or a loved one included, please let us know. Feel free to reach out to the church office or send an email to marplepc@gmail.com.

Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are available for purchase in honor of or in memory of someone special. Kindly let us know which Sunday you would like to have your flowers and we will have them on the chancel to

honor the individual, anniversary, birthday, etc. of your choosing. The cost for altar flowers is **\$40/pair**. Altar flowers consist of two arrangements. You are welcome to take them both home or opt to have one

or both donated to friends of the deacons. To order or to request additional details, please reach out to the deacons by email at marplepresdeacons@gmail.com or call the church office at **610-356-1098**.