

PASTOR WADE'S MUSINGS

The close of another year is fast upon us. Just like in previous years, we stand at the crossroads reviewing the past and looking forward to the future. New Year's Eve brings forth a time of reflection, contemplation, renewal, and hope.

For many of us, the passing of another year comes just like any other day. While some of us make resolutions to make changes in our lives, very often we slip back into living each day on autopilot.

The coming of a New Year is a great opportunity to bring some intentionality in our life. And the intentionality that I'm thinking about doesn't involve some huge monumental change that might seem insurmountable. Just a small degree of intentionality inside our relationships, our work, and in daily interactions can be the very thing that turns the rudder in the ship of our life.

Consider that when we come to crossroads in our lives that we have a great opportunity to affect change by not only going in the right direction, but also taking steps that God tells us to take. Jeremiah 6:16 provides that direction straight from God himself:



CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday, Jan. 1

Happy New Year!

Sunday, Jan. 3

9:30 am. Adult Bible Study, Children's Choir followed by Children's Sunday School classes
10:30 am. Worship
12:30 - 2 pm. Youth Group

Saturday, Jan 9

9 am - 5 pm Threadbare Ladies

Sunday, Jan 10

9:30 am. Adult Bible Study, Children's Choir followed by Children's Sunday School classes
10:30 am. Worship

Monday, Jan. 11

10 am. Monthly Bible Study @ Riverwalk
7 pm. Faith Singers

Tuesday, Jan. 12

6 pm. Council Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 13

1:30 pm. Lectionary Study

Sunday, Jan. 17

9:30 am. Adult Bible Study, Children's Choir followed by Children's Sunday School classes
10:30 am. Worship
BIG MEETINGS - ALPHA

Thus says the LORD:

"Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ASK for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and WALK in it, and find REST for your souls."

There it is. There's that intentionality coming right from God. If you were to be intentional about anything this coming year, I encourage you to follow the "Good Way" that God provides. Three steps will get you paving the way toward something life-changing. Simply ASK, WALK, and REST. God will take care of the rest.

May God bless your steps as you stand at the crossroads this New Year's Eve, as God guides you everyday into the future that is planned for you.

See you in Worship.
Happy New Year.
~PW

Monthly Bible Study

Monday, January 11, 2016

At Riverwalk Condo Community Room

10:00 am.

Jane Urish will present Lesson 4 & provide refreshments.

Monday, Jan. 18

10 am. Chatty Stitchers

7 pm. Faith Singers

Wednesday, Jan. 20

1:30 pm. Lectionary Study

Saturday, Jan. 23

9 am. - 5 pm. Threadbare Ladies

Sunday, Jan. 24

9:30 am. Adult Bible Study, Children's Choir followed by Children's Sunday School classes

10:30 am. Worship

Monday, Jan. 25

7 pm. Faith Singers

Wednesday, Jan. 27

1:30 pm. Lectionary Study

Sunday, Jan. 31

9:30 am. Adult Bible Study, Children's Choir followed by Children's Sunday School classes

10:30 am. Worship

ANNUAL MEETING

12:30 - 2 pm. Youth Group

**ANNUAL
REPORTS DUE
SUNDAY,
JANUARY 17,
2016**

**ANNUAL
MEETING IS
SUNDAY,
JANUARY 31,
2016**

Big Meetings - Sunday, January 17

Alpha Team Committees - Deacons, Church Life, Shawnee Children's Program, Personnel

Committee meeting should begin with members of each committee checking in/with each other and praying for the members of the group and their prayer concerns.

Committee chairs should inform the pastor a week or two in advance if there are items that need to be directly addressed by the pastor.

January Birthdays

- 4 Madge Stubbs
- 7 Laurie Camper
- 8 Dr. David Steiner
- 9 Pam Gutman
- 15 Joya Haithcock
- 16 Jenny Paetsch
- 16 Margaret Buckles
- 17 James Winslow
- 18 Jill Nichols
- 19 Junann Smith
- 21 Kelly Cooper
- 25 Britnee Guice
- 26 Tom Greenland
- 30 Wade Pond

OMG (Obeying my God) YOUTH GROUP (tentative calendar)

January

3rd - 12:30 - 2 pm. @ church (LLL)

17th - The 18th UCC Winter Break

Overnighter - 7 pm. - 7 am.

Van Wert YMCA. 7th grade & above event. \$20. See FB page for details.

31st - 12:30 - 2 pm. @ church (LLL)

What is Per Capita in Faith Christian Church?

Each year as we pass our annual budget, there is an item that is marked as Per Capita. It is something that is often overlooked, rarely mentioned and frequently misunderstood. Per capita is a once per year contribution that is over and above your normal giving.

In essence, per capita is a set amount of money per member that congregations pay to the larger church. Because we share in the benefit of the Presbyterian Church USA's (PCUSA) and United Church of Christ's (UCC) system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.

Per Capita funds are funds that are dedicated to go to the larger governing bodies of our denominations, funding their missions and providing monies for their functional operation. Without these funds, the PCUSA and the UCC would not exist.

Why should we pay Per Capita?

The funding of per capita helps our denominations to be staffed with leadership and support staff. It also provides for funding for committees and missions. Therefore, when that leadership is needed, for instance in the process of helping find a pastor, committees, staff and resources are available to guide the congregation in that process. When special activities are held, such as conferences, annual gatherings, youth events, health fairs, etc., per capita provides the funds that help keep these ministries operational as well.

So what does that mean for me and our church?

Our church pays these fees each year in support of our denominations. However, there has not been a concerted effort in recent history to educate and ask our membership to pay their individual amounts to the church (which is how the system has been designed to function).

In an effort to maintain our budget and our ongoing support of our denominations (which continue to support us as well) we are asking that each member of the church make an intentional and dedicated contribution to the church for per capita funds.

How much is per capita and who pays it?

Very simply, the amount is \$28.62 per member. A member of the church is any individual of the church that has been received into the church by any of the following methods:

Baptism/confirmation.

Affirmation of faith in front of the congregation.

Letter of transfer from another church.

So if there are three members in your household, two parents and a child for instance, your per capita amount to the church is \$85.86. Feel free to break up the funds in payments if needed.

Help the church to continue its mission and connectional relationships with the broader church by paying your per capita. Be sure that your funds are marked (either on a memo line of a check or on an envelope) Per Capita.

If there are any questions, please contact Howard Hunt or Pastor Wade

An Invitation from Jenny Paetsch - A Shower for Baby Paetsch

"My mom is having a baby shower for me in January, and I wanted to let you all know that you're welcome to attend. It's a boys and girls together party, so everyone's invited. It's **January 16** (12 Noon) at Butternut Springs Program Center in Valparaiso, IN. It's a far drive, especially in the winter, so please don't feel bad if you can't make it, but as my extended family I wanted you to know that you're welcome to join us.

Jenny is registered at Target baby register & 31. RSVP to Jenny's mom by January 10 at tomijean52@comcast.net or 312-802-1486.

PS, mom's older girls are hosting, and will be hanging out with any littles that attend."