NOVEMBER 2022

Ph: (717) 257-1270 | www.marketsquarechurch.org



Dear Market Square Beloveds,

After 120 Marketplace columns and 500 weekly Beacon Light issues, I am writing for the final time in what may be the finest church newsletter in America. (For that, I thank Kari Hultman, our newsletter designer, and all of you through the years who have taken the time to write so well about the extraordinary life of this congregation.)

It is required by our presbytery of all retiring pastors that we convey the following message to our congregations, so I do that here. It is especially important in my circumstance as Lori and I will be remaining in Harrisburg, at least for a while. The statement surely does not mean that I shall cease to care in my heart for the members of this congregation, who have been like family to me, after November 20. Rather, the presbytery's intention is to enable a retiring pastor's successors to have fair opportunities to develop their own relationships, leadership styles, and ministries with the congregation unfettered by previous pastors. Here is the presbytery-mandated agreement that both the session of our church and I have signed and to which we both have agreed to abide:

I will not be a sounding board for any complaints and concerns about church leadership or issues in the congregation.

I will not accept any pastoral responsibilities including weddings, funerals, or baptisms within the congregational life of Market Square Presbyterian Church, even if those events do not occur at Market Square, except by explicit invitation that originates from the moderator of the session.

Now to what I really want to say to you as I conclude my pastorate at Market Square:

A friend from Western New York recently sent to me the following blessing written by the Irish poet and priest, John O'Donohue, and, as the weeks continue to count down, it has framed my approach to retirement. Having embraced so fully the active pastoral life for the last forty-three years, it is not without some trepidation that I move on from it now. But O'Donohue helps:

BLESSING FOR RETIREMENT

—John O'Donohue

This is where your life has arrived, After all the years of effort and toil; Look back with graciousness and thanks On all your great and quiet achievements.

You stand on the shore of new invitation To open your life to what is left undone; Let your heart enjoy a different rhythm When drawn to the wonder of other horizons.

Have the courage for a new approach to time; Allow it to slow until you find freedom To draw alongside the mystery you hold And befriend your own beauty of soul.

Now is the time to enjoy your heart's desire, To live the dreams for which you've waited, To awaken the depths beyond your work And enter into your Infinite Source. As I try to do as O'Donohue suggests, I will do it with a heart full of gratitude for what we have shared these last ten years. They haven't been perfect years because perfection eludes us, including and especially me. But they have been extraordinarily good years and a time I will remember with great joy for the prophetic, hospitable, theologically and socially progressive, community-engaged, and inclusive church Market Square seeks to be, and largely is, in the world today.



Pastor Thomas A. Sweet

And, oh, the worship! You have accorded me completely the freedom of the pulpit to proach as the Spirit has led me; you have

to preach as the Spirit has led me; you have created an atmosphere of tradition without stuffiness or fear of innovation; and you delight in some of the finest church music anywhere. I will miss it here!

I want to thank Lori publicly for her constant and indefatigable support of me and the ministry of our church. Not even once in ten years has she begrudged me the time church leadership requires. More than that, she has been a significant partner in ministry, giving unstintingly of herself in so many ways - Movie Nights, Room for the Inner Way, Women's Retreats, and serving as the Curator of our Arts on the Square Art Gallery - among the most visible. Of the two of us, she will be the hard one to replace.

And the staff of the church! I love the staff we have put together. We are so well-served by each member of it and we have been good together. It has been a kind of "Beloved Community" in miniature and so I express my full-throated gratitude to Kim, Ki Nam, Tyler, Nancy, Michelle, Newman, Jen, Judd, Sean, Ollie, Madeline, and Justin.

I leave with confidence that you will continue to proclaim and live the good news of the gospel in the same spirit of courage, creativity and commitment that has marked this congregation from its earliest days until now. It will stand as one of the great privileges of my life to have been able to serve as one of the pastors of Market Square Presbyterian Church in the city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

My benediction on your lives remains as it always has been:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be and abide with each of you and with all those whom you love, and with all those whom nobody loves, save for God, this day and forever.

Amen.

Lori and I will remember you always, Market Square, and we will hold you in our hearts for the rest of our lives. Thanks and thanks and ever thanks!

With deepest gratitude and abiding love,

Tom (& Lori)

Pastor Kim Wadlington

Moving Ahead with Star Words!

No, it's not time for epiphany yet but I've been thinking about my star word more lately and trying to embrace its daily call to me. My word this year was "wonder" and it's a great reminder to be more open and curious as I go through my days. One of the ways I encourage people to approach star words is to start with a dictionary. According to the Oxford Dictionary, wonder, in its noun form means, "a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable." In its verb

form it means, "to desire or be curious to know something."

Checking for how the word is used in the Biblical text gives more insight. "Wonder" is used very often to describe God's work among us and even in Psalm 139 by the psalmist to describe herself as created by God, "I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." This invites me to be curious about what God is doing today and to be curious about those around me who are also wonderfully made by God.

For me, a big part of being wonder-filled is to ask questions, but specific kinds of questions. Questions that come from a wonderfilled posture are open to broad answers, they invite deeper learning, they invite creative approaches without getting to the practical too quickly, they move us into heart space as much or more than they involve rational and logical thinking. We can ask these kinds of questions of the Biblical text, about ideas for ministry, of the people with whom we're in relationship, about anything and everyone who comes before us.

These types of questions keep us from moving too quickly to judgment or to expressing our own opinions on things. They also keep us from making decisions too quickly without allowing time for those who are more flexible or more adept at dreaming to be a part of decision making. I am one who likes to have things decided and I can become too business like at times so a stance of wonder is an excellent corrective for me. Holy Spirit knew what she was doing in giving me this word!

A wonder-filled posture can feel uncomfortable for some of us. Being wonder-filled takes vulnerability. In the interim training course I took in November 2021, we read a book by Susan Beaumont entitled, How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going. Beaumont also reflects on wonder, saying, "Wonder is the ability to suspend judgment and to hold competing thoughts and values in tension. Wonder arrives when we acknowledge that experience is always larger than our ability to interpret it. We hold our interpretations more loosely and ponder the interpretations of others.*" I take her statement to mean in part that a wonder filled posture acknowledges our need for one another, especially when approaching institutional and communal questions. No one of us has all the whole picture, all the ideas or all the answers!

We're headed into a transitional time. A time in which wonder will serve us all well. So let's wonder together, about one other, about the church and God's call on our collective life, about how we best serve God in Harrisburg, and about whatever else you wish to approach with wonder. Let's expect to be surprised by one another and by God; filled with admiration for one another and for God. If this all makes you nervous, don't worry. We will make decisions, we will get where we're going, we will attend to business, but we

can do so in a way that is perfunctory or in a way that makes space for Holy Spirit to accompany and speak to us. I hope and trust that we'll choose the latter!

p.s. If you've been thinking about your star word too, let me know! It would be great to have some of you share those reflections when we do get to Epiphany in January. Thanks!

*Beaumont, Susan. How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season. An Alban Institute

HOW TO LEAD When You Don't Know Where You're Going Leading in a Liminal Season SUSAN BEAUMONI Book, Rowan & Littlefield. 2019. p 40.

Market Square Presbyterian Church Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 11, 2022 following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Meeting Purpose: To elect officers for the class of 2023.

All active congregation members present at the meeting are eligible to vote.

Note from the Personnel Committee to the Congregation:

Thanks to Tom for his summary of the "gracious partings" agreement. Tom has explained the purpose of the agreement – to enable the Church and its leadership (current and future) to look ahead, to make decisions, to exercise leadership, and to develop relationships that are not encumbered by attachments to the preceding pastor. To that end, we agree not to seek Tom's advice or counsel, even though we would value his opinion, counsel and comfort regarding challenges that we may confront. In the example of Jim Brown, we have a model of the how the transition from one pastor to another ought to be handled – with grace, forbearance, deference to the "new" pastor, but offering supportive professional engagement on invitation. Tom Sweet will follow Jim Brown's example, and we will respect his withdrawal from the active life of Market Square Church, even as we express our profound gratitude for his decade of leadership and dedication to God's work among us.

David Lehman, Chair

Worship and Preaching Schedule for November

Our English language worship services are broadcast live from our sanctuary every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. The broadcast is available on radio stations 960 AM and 102.9 FM as well as through the radio button on our church website **www.marketsquarechurch.org** If you miss the Sunday morning live broadcast, the rebroadcast is available on the front page of our website under the "Past Services" tab beginning late Sunday afternoon and then can be accessed there throughout the week.

Livestreaming of the 11:00 a.m. service also is available to members who are unable to be present in the sanctuary by clicking on the link in the "Members Only" section of the church website (with prior admittance by the webmaster). An edited version of the service will be available later that day for the general public on the Market Square YouTube channel at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRVosTxjDYUzyJju4k7Lfeg

Korean language sermons are posted on the Korean Ministries YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH6wErNFfDWz41-3DHUMzHg

November 6 - All Saints Sunday

9:30 a.m. Korean Language Worship in the Chapel The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching

11:00 a.m. English Language Worship in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Thomas A. Sweet preaching The Sacrament of Holy Communion Ritual of Gratitude and Remembrance

November 13 - Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Korean Language Worship in the Chapel

The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching

11:00 a.m. English Language Worship in the Sanctuary

The Reverend James D. Brown preaching

12:00 p.m. Harvest Pie Reception for Jim and Nina Brown

November 20 - Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

9:30 a.m. Korean Language Worship in the Chapel

The Reverend Gil Nam Roh preaching

11:00 a.m. English Language Worship in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Thomas A. Sweet preaching for the last

time at Market Square

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

12:00 p.m. Farewell Program and Reception for Tom and Lori Sweet

November 27 – First Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Korean Language Worship in the Chapel

The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching

11:00 a.m. English Language Worship in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Kimberley D. Wadlington preaching

Help Our Friends Keep Warm This Winter

It is hard to believe that winter is almost upon us and once again we will be getting ready for snow and colder weather. In order to help those in need, the deacons will be collecting gloves, hats, and socks to share with our Community Breakfast members and those in our community who need warmth this holiday season. Men's and/or women's hats and gloves can be dropped off at church or ordered using the following link:-https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/YQYCIIRF2ICT?ref_=wl_share. Items will be shipped to my house and then delivered to the church. The deacons greatly appreciate your support of this wonderful ministry and we look forward to providing the gift of warmth to our community friends.

Chris Baldrige, Chair, Board of Deacons



Farewell Celebration for the Sweets

The farewell celebration honoring the retirement and celebrating the ministry of Tom and Lori Sweet will take place on Sunday, November 20 following worship. You are invited to submit tributes, poems, special photographs, etc. to be included in a Remembrance Book to be given to Tom and Lori.

Submissions can be sent to Nancy at sheets@marketsquarechurch.org or mailed to Marianne Flickinger's address (174 Kelley Court, Grantsville, PA 17028). The deadline is Friday, October 28. A farewell purse will also be collected and presented to the Sweets on November 20. If you wish to contribute, make your checks payable to Market Square Presbyterian with "Sweet purse" in the memo line or you may contribute online through the church website.



Dear friends,

Ah, November! A month when we post on social media what we're thankful for. While it is nice seeing what everyone is thankful for and having a break from all the political posts, why can we not recognize what we are thankful for more often? I am so thankful to work at Market Square; this church is truly a blessing in many ways. I am so thankful for my family and friends and my support system. I am so thankful for our amazing volunteers who help make this ministry so wonderful. Every day, I thank God for the many blessings He has shared with me.

All Saints Sunday is November 6, and the Sanctuary

Choir will sing a congregational favorite, "Sing me to Heaven." One
of my favorite Sundays of the church year as we remember the
saints who have gone before us. Jumping ahead to November 20th,
the Market Square Ringers will be ringing, and the Sanctuary Choir
will be singing lots of great music for Tom Sweet's Retirement
Sunday. And then it's really hard to believe that the following Sunday,
we will be entering the season of Advent!!!

I invite you to our next Arts on the Square program. On **Friday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m.**, we will welcome violinist Andrew Sords accompanied by pianist Elizabeth DeMio for their program **Romance of the Violin**. Andrew has performed with nearly 300 orchestras and his performances have been hailed as "utterly radiant." It promises to be a beautiful evening and I hope you will join us. Please visit the church website for tickets.

We as a church family will be experiencing a time of change and transition. For many, the uncertainty makes us nervous; however, there is certainty, and the certainty is that God's love is with us, and God will get us through this time. It is important for us to worship together weekly, to keep being a beacon of hope on the square, to support one another, and to keep on serving. Market Square is truly a special place and will remain special.

On a personal note, it has been an absolute joy getting to work with Tom Sweet over the past $5 \frac{1}{2}$ years. From planning worship together, to hearing his powerful sermons, to the comradery in the office suite

November 20th Nursery and Elementary Sunday School

So that all people may be present in worship for Tom Sweet's last Sunday, there will be no Nursery or Elementary Sunday School during the worship hour. Children of all ages are welcome in worship that Sunday (every Sunday!). Grab a worship bag from the narthex, bring some quiet toys for play in the pews, and join in as we celebrate Tom and Lori Sweet.

Stewardship

YTD Actual Pledges	·	·	·	÷	÷		.\$348,170.00
YTD Budget Pledges				i	i		.\$348,750.00
Deficit							.\$ 580.00



Tyler Canonico *Minister of Music*

(and Taco Amigos!), it has been an honor working with him. I am grateful God arranged for our paths to cross and I am grateful for our friendship that has blossomed from working together. So may the church and community say, Tom Sweet – thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for everything you have done for us. Thank you for your ministry, your inspiration, your compassion, your love, and your leadership. Enjoy retirement and that cute grandbaby! Thank you!

May you and your loved ones have a blessed Thanksgiving this month, and remember all that you have to be thankful for.

Peace and love, **Tyler**

Sanctuary Choir Repertoire for November:

November 6 (All Saints Sunday) – "Sing me to Heaven" by Daniel Gawthrop and "Give Us the Wings of Faith" by Craig Phillips

November 13 (23rd Sunday after Pentecost) – "And I Saw A New Heaven" by Edgar Bainton and "Steal Away" arranged by Joseph Jennings

November 20 (Christ the King/ Tom's Retirement) – "Let the People Praise Thee, O Lord" by William Mathias and "Jesus, Springing" by Bob Chilcott

There are several surprises for the program following worship!

November 27 (Advent I) – "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" by Leslie Betteridge and "Keep Your Lamps" arranged by Andre Thomas

Market Square Members in the Community



The Burg recently profiled an initiative in which Deacon Jennifer Turner-Long and daughter Olivia are involved in combatting food insecurity. See the article from the November issue of *The Burg*.

https://theburgnews.com/in-the-burg/mini-but-mighty-community-members-find-a-tiny-way-to-combat-food-insecurity-in-their-neighborhoods



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 7:30 P.M.

Brahms • Beethoven • Bloch • Franck



Andrew Sords, violin Elizabeth DeMio, piano

MARKET SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

20 S. Second Street • Harrisburg

Tickets \$15, available at the door or in advance at www.marketsquarechurch.org/concerts.

Parking included in the adjacent public Market Square Garage. For more information: canonico@marketsquarechurch.org.

Congratulations to Legacy Award Winners Michelle Simmons (she/her) & Trum Simmons (he/him)

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and personal dedication over a significant period of time in furthering the work of LGBTQ+ communities in Central PA.



Michelle Simmons (she/her) is a former Executive Director of Common Roads, during which time she founded the first GSA Summit. After launching the Summit at HACC, the organizers partnered with Dickinson College to build the Summit

into one of the largest regional convenings in the country. Michelle also was on the team that shepherded the merger of Common Roads with the LGBT Center of Central PA, and she subsequently served on the first board for two terms. Michelle currently is a member of the LGBT & Allies Committee and co-chair of the Anti-racist & Racial Justice Task Force at Market Square Presbyterian Church (MSPC).

Trum Simmons (he/him) taught at HACC for over four decades, during which time he was faculty adviser to Allies, the LGBTQ student organization that, among other successes, hosted the college's first Drag Show, performed in the Rose Lehrman Arts Center. As senior professor of English and Journalism, Trum developed and taught the highly successful course Introduction to LGBTQ Studies. A longtime member of MSPC, he served on a working group tasked with rewriting the mission statement and successfully advocated for adding LGBTQ-inclusive language to the statement. He also served two terms on the board of the LGBT Center and currently is chair of the LGBT & Allies Committee at MSPC.

LGBT Center, FAB 2022



OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

As we return to more solid footing in our in-person worship, the Worship, Music, and the Arts Committee has elected to include lay leadership in Sunday morning worship. As we did before Covid, members of the congregation once again will be asked to participate as liturgists each week.

The committee is seeking a volunteer to recruit and schedule liturgists for each Sunday. This is a task that can be accomplished via phone or email and can be organized weeks in advance. Please contact Nancy Snyder (or the church office) if you would be interested in filling this important role.

PREPARING THE SANCTUARY FOR ADVENT

The Worship, Music, and the Arts Committee is seeking volunteers to assist in "greening" the church for Advent. We will be meeting on the first three Saturdays of Advent (November 26, December 3, December 10) at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary to place scheduled decorations. We would appreciate members who are nimble enough to climb ladders, and those who have decorative skill. If you would like to be part of this festive crew, please contact Nancy Snyder or the church office.

Children's Education

Many thanks to our dedicated teachers for their continued presence to our children in Sunday school and nursery during the worship hour. Last month's newsletter included an invitation to participate in this important ministry and I find I need to issue that invitation again this month. Additional teachers for Sunday school and to work with our paid care provider in the nursery are needed. Keith Camilli, our Children's Ed Committee leader, or I can answer your questions about what this ministry entails but I promise that your own faith will be nourished by it!

Continuing to follow the lectionary, November's lessons for children use Psalm 145 to reflect on a life grounded in personal and communal praise of God, the prophet Isaiah who shares a vision of a world healed where God's love and justice are made real for all people and all Creation, and finally, multiple texts for Reign of Christ Sunday (aka Christ the King Sunday) for exploring various images of the God who reigns over us but who has been actively involved in our lives throughout human history. Together the children and our teaches will ask, "How do we see God, and how can we speak of God?" This will be preparation for Advent when we ponder anew the God who comes incarnate in the Christ child.

I'm always amazed at how curious, articulate, and focused our Sunday school children are when I talk with them during children's sermons or after worship. Our teachers express the same about the time they spend with them during Sunday school. Reflecting on how to witness to our faith with children is always a learning experience. Please consider if it's a ministry that you're called to participate in as well!

(KDW)

Session Activities – October 18, 2022 Update

By Jonelle Darr, Clerk of Session

On October 18, 2022, Market Square's Session agreed to:

Refugee Resettlement

1. Agreed to co-sign a one-year housing rental lease for the Afghanzada family. Background: The Afghanzada family consists of seven members; a mother and father, two sons, a daughter, and two nephews. The youngest is 16 years old. Housing remains a problem. Currently, the seven-person family resides in a one-bedroom apartment with a loft. They have had difficulty securing a larger apartment not due to insufficient income (all male family members have jobs), but due to their lack of credit history. By agreeing to co-sign a rental lease, the family will be able to secure living quarters that are better suited to their family size.

Intertwined Faith Community

2. Send Kevin Long \$1000 in recognition of his work at Market Square while he attended seminary, and also to support the new faith community that he has been called to create, Intertwined Faith Community ("Intertwinedfc). Background: Intertwinedfc (http://intertwinedfc.org) is part of the Presbyterian Church USA's 1001 New Worshiping Communities initiative (http://www.onethousandandone.org) and its mission is to explore the intersection of faith and the environment.

Mission and Stewardship

- **3.** Use Market Square's Christmas Eve offerings to benefit the church's homelessness initiatives.
- **4.** Collect the Christmas Joy Offering on December 18, 2022. Background: As directed by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 50% will be distributed to the Board of Pensions assistance program, and 50% will be distributed for leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related schools/ colleges equipping communities of color.

Finance

1. Reactivate the "Christian Education Fund" to receive a donation from the Atwood Bible Class, with the fund to be administered by the Adult Education Committee for the purpose of furthering adult Christian education at Market Square Church. Rationale: The Atwood Bible Class no longer meets. The remaining members want to give their saved offerings (about \$1,600) to benefit adult Christian education to be used as the committee determines. A fund is needed so that offerings do not go back into the general budget at the end of the year. The "Christian Education Fund" was deactivated in 2011 by Session.

Governance

- **2.** Hold a congregational meeting following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 11, 2022 for the purpose of electing officers for the class of 2023.
- **3.** Appoint Sandy Bell, Wilmer Henninger and Jane Murray as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the December 6, 2022, 7:00 p.m. Carlisle Presbytery meeting.

As of October 18, 2022, the Clerk's report listed 472 active members on the church rolls. If you have any questions about Session activities, you may talk with me, a Session member, or one of our pastors.

Our Church Family

Sue Watts' brother, Rey Woof, died on September 30.

Edward Fox, father of Ed Fox, died on October 5.





November 6, 13, 20, 27, 2022 10:35-10:55 a.m. following adult forum and before worship on the 4th floor off of Geneva Hall

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to MSPC Session for agreeing to the creation of the Room for the Inner Way many years ago. And thank-you to Marty Shifflett and Elizabeth Terry for helping to create the space and support the idea. I have loved every minute of it! It is so close to my heart. I am so glad to know it will continue on with Elizabeth Terry's guidance and with all who gather in the room to inspire each other, pray, and heal.

We have been blessed with so many people who have led sessions and participated over the years. We have sat in silence, blessed our bodies, said the rosary, created art as prayer, prayed with drums, read poetry, anointed each other, meditated to music, journeyed in guided meditations, released our fears, prayed our desires, prayed with "Mary," explored our Star Words, and deepened our understanding of the Lord's Prayer. The list goes on. I will carry the prayers and memories with me always.

For me, the Inner Way is necessary to "know thyself" and to develop inner skills and build relationship with God and with each other that can help us to be resilient, calm, loving, and centered as we do our "outer work" in the world. May the RFIW thrive in the years to come.

I will be leading the Room in November until Tom and I depart. I don't have a theme (yet) because I want the freedom to allow spirit to guide me - perhaps visit some old favorite prayer experiences or offer something new — all in the spirit of the Inner Way.

Elizabeth will lead on November 27.

In peace, Lori Sweet

JIM AND NINA BROWN RETURN

We are excited to announce that Jim and Nina Brown will return to Market Square for the second weekend in November with Jim preaching at the 11:00 a.m. service on November 13. A Harvest Pie Reception following worship that day will give the congregation an opportunity to greet Jim and Nina again.

Jim preached at my installation service at Market Square early in 2013 and also returned another time during the middle part of my pastorate. For those newer to Market Square, Jim was my immediate predecessor here and had a much-appreciated pastorate between 1997-2011. Jim and Nina both made significant contributions to the life and history of Market Square that will be a part of our congregation as long as it lives.

Jim and Nina also have been good friends across the years to Lori

and me and it seemed right to us that, as we prepare to take our leave, we invite them back in these days of celebration, transition, and hope. Jim and I, though we may have different styles, have been one in our commitment to progressive Christianity, to ministry in our city, and to the God in whom we live and move and have our being. Nina, like Lori, was instrumental in helping to make congregational life here hospitable, warm, inclusive, and musical!

Thank you, Jim and Nina, for agreeing to come back. We are looking forward to it all! **(TAS)**



Debbie and Roger Olson were blessed to spend about an hour with Rebekah Anderson who just started serving as Associate Pastor at the Presbyterian Church of Okemos in Okemos, MI. Rebekah grew up at Pine St. PC where the Olsons were members for many years. They remember Rebekah as a toddler and saw her blossom

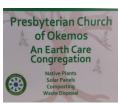


into a beautiful young servant of Christ. She loves the church she is serving. She thanks MSPC for the support, prayers, and encouragement while she was at Princeton Theological Seminary and for the beautiful robe MSPC gifted her. The Okemos PC is an Earth Care Congregation and was able to place a solar bank on the property where cars passing by can see it and know the church's position on the climate crisis and the importance of being environmentally conscious. The Olsons met Rev. Lisa, the senior pastor at Okemos PC, who our own Rev. Kim Wadlington knows through a prayer group they are both in. It was SO wonderful to be with Rebekah if even for a short time. She will be ordained on Saturday, October 22.

CONGRATULATIONS, Rebekah. And much love to you!



Above left is The Reverend Lisa Schrott, who is head of staff at the Presbyterian Church of Okemos.







Harvest Pie Reception

You are invited to a Harvest Pie Reception after worship for Jim and Nina Brown, November 13.

Please come to our annual delicious Harvest Pie festival this year, which will be a week earlier than usual as we incorporate it into a reception for Jim and Nina Brown. Jim will be preaching Sunday, November 13, which seemed the perfect opportunity to celebrate both events together.

For our talented congregational pie bakers, Autumn weather and harvest fruits are traditional pairings, but your contribution of a favorite dessert pie will be welcome, no matter its season. We hope to have a minimum of 23 pies contributed, and not just by the women!

A Post-It note as to your pie flavor and whether or not it has nuts in it or is glutenfree would be greatly appreciated. Please bring your pie to the kitchen before worship, already sliced if possible, and be certain

your name is on the pie plate if you want it back.

As before, plated pie slices will be arrayed on tables to dazzle the eye and tempt even the fussiest palate! KEEP CALM AND EAT PECAN PIE

Plan to come and enjoy some pie, each other, the Browns, and salute Tom Sweet, who brought us the Harvest Pie celebration as he savors his favorite – pecan pie!

Questions? Contact Jane Murray via email at jem@dalmally.net

One Nation Under God?

You may have noticed that the topic of whether or not the U.S. is a Christian nation is very much in the news. There are some people in the U.S. who are pushing hard to undo the First Amendment, especially where it applies to separation of church and state. The concept of separation of church and state takes a regular beating from some folk--pointing out, correctly, that the term "separation of church and state" does not appear in the Constitution. The drum beat is loud for CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM. But do we **REALLY** want the U.S. to erase the lines that separate church and state? Would we really want the U.S. to be a Christian nation in the sense that we would govern as a theocracy?

A quick note here, about definitions. *Theocracy* is generally defined as "a form of government in which god or a deity is recognized as the **supreme civil ruler**, the God's or deity's laws being interpreted by the ecclesiastical authorities."

Some years ago, I read an article entitled "Theocracy in America." The author gave a sense of what life could be like were the U.S. a theocracy. The author grew up in Utah, with her family being non-Mormons. While she had many thought-provoking observations, here's one thing she noted:

"As you might imagine, being a Utah Gentile can be tough. In fact, living as a non-Mormon in Utah may be the closest a white person can come to understanding what it's like to be a minority in this country. . . It's not that Mormons are bad people. They aren't. They have a church welfare system that is without rival, and their family focus makes Utah a safe place to grow up. . . But the cultural differences between Mormons and Gentiles are significant."

The author pointed out that her family was one of only a few non-Mormons in their neighborhood. They were regularly besieged by Mormon missionaries trying to convert them or trying to collect the tithe church members must give to the church. Neighborhoods are divided into wards, by the church, and houses where non-Mormons live are marked with Xs so people know a "Gentile" lives there. Gentile is the term Mormons use for anyone who is not Mormon, including--ironically--anyone who is Jewish.

So, what would the U.S. be like if we were a theocracy? Is the Utah experience instructive? Utah, of course, is not technically a theocracy—they gave up that approach to government (along with polygamy) when they were admitted to the United States. It is striking that even though Utah gave up being a theocracy, there are ways in which the pressure is on non-Mormons. Some years ago our family visited Utah. While we were touring the Beehive House where Brigham Young lived, we were offered to take post-cards so we could request more information on being Mormon--we all declined. As we left the tour, one young Mormon missionary, pressured us and when we still declined, she sniffed "Oh, non-believers."

The early history of our country did feature some colonies that functioned as mini theocracies. Settlers from England fled religious persecution and intolerance, only to set up places in New England that duplicated those same conditions. I have always been struck by the irony of those first English Puritans who came to the New World to escape religious persecution ended up persecuting others in the name of religion. The Middle Colonies (including Pennsylvania) were a bit more tolerant, at least toward other religions. By the time the colonies came together to form the union, the concept of not having a state established religion had taken hold.

Whatever the framers of the Constitution had in mind, they clearly intended to prohibit the kind of intolerance that they had experienced that drove them to seek a new place in which to live. The language of the first amendment--Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;

or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances--makes it clear (at least to me) that the founders of what became the United States did **NOT** want a theocracy.

The particular genius of the United States is that, while the majority may rule, the Constitution also builds in a strong protection for the minority. It is that genius that is lost in those countries that are theocracies. The minority is not protected, and in the worst of circumstances is totally subjected by the power of the majority. And it is what would be lost were Christian Nationalism to prevail and take hold of the entire United States. I am unalterably opposed to the U.S. ever moving to being a theocracy. Keep church and state apart. The inch-by-inch erasure of that invisible line that separate church and state is one of the greatest threats to the particular genius of the United States.

Donna Wenger

Exploring the World of Prayer

You might ask to what end do we practice prayer? As Brother Roger of the Taize community said, "we are called to live lives as signs of contradiction" in our society. Where do we get the courage to speak out for peace and justice, against racism and homophobia? We need a contemplative mind in order to do compassionate action, according to the Center for Action and Contemplation in New Mexico.

One way to transform our minds and hearts is through prayer and meditation. Centering prayer is a wordless, imageless contemplative practice. Father Thomas Keating is the founder of the centering prayer movement.

Many of the benefits of centering prayer are reaped in commitment to action that comes at times when you are not in prayer.

The intention of this prayer is to be still and know God's presence. This prayer is staying in silence for a period of time; twenty minutes is recommended.

Secondly, choose a word that reminds you of God. This will be your sacred word.

Find a comfortable position in your chair.

Ask the Holy Spirit to be present to you. As your mind begins to wander repeat your sacred word. As other thoughts arise just gently return to your word.

When your time is over be grateful for the time of silence and presence. What is the hardest part of the prayer? What part seemed effortless? How did it feel to move from thoughts to silence?

Distractions are to be expected during this prayer. Each time we return to our sacred word we declare to our mind we want to be connected to God so each return is a kind of reprogramming our mind.

Peace be with you!

The Reverend Jennifer McKenna

AFGHAN REFUGEE FAMILY NURTURING

September 2022 Monthly Report

Housing — A realtor contact provided some much-needed rental guidance, and we also learned of a new direction to pursue. Regarding renting, landlords look for a gross income of at least four times the monthly rental. The maximum rental then would be \$1,800 month for the Afghanzadas, who are looking for at least three bedrooms. While they still want to remain in Mechanicsburg, they said they don't need to stay in the Mechanicsburg School District. Pending Session approval, Market Square church could be co-signer on the lease. We pursued one rental to no avail, and the realtor found no possibilities, but we have learned of another possibility — buying a house! The family may be eligible for house-buying assistance programs. To that end we learned that they have their social security cards, which mortgagers require, and they're on parole status in the process of becoming Permanent Residents.

Picnic — Five of the family members (mother, father, daughter, son, nephew) attended the Market Square church picnic, along with interpreter and case manager Jamaludin (Jamal) Ahmadzai, Dr. Phuong, Chris Filipovich (volunteer coordinator), and two other Pine Street volunteers. It helped everyone put names with faces, allowed us all to meet and share in a wonderful meal on a beautiful day, and allowed Roger and Audrey to get some questions answered.

Jobs — Parwiz is no longer working at the convenience store but is working part-time with Door Dash and Uber.

Recreation — We spoke with Tom of Joerg's American Karate Studio in Mechanicsburg. They used to give kickboxing lessons but are now closed. He said he's not aware of any true kickboxing studios in the area anymore, and he's been here in the field for 43 years. As far as general martial arts training, he highly recommends West Shore Academy of Martial Arts. Their website shows they have a Cardio Kickboxing program, which is probably not exactly what the men are looking for, but we passed on the contact information in case they might be interested or if they're interested in martial arts in general.

Technology — In reviewing a needs assessment completed in July, we learned that Hosna Arefee, the project manager for the Afghan Placement Assistance program, was making sure that every Afghan refugee household is equipped with functional technological equipment and has applied for the Affordable Connectivity Program. We talked to Hosna about both issues and learned the following:

- The ISC provided a laptop to Sadia, the teenage daughter in school. Since the family now has two laptops, the ISC feels that's sufficient. They (the ISC) need to keep a supply of laptops for future needs. It's up to us to provide more laptops if we think they should have them.
- The desktop that is not working came from OIC and was in working order when it was provided. We are trying to coordinate schedules this week between Parwiz (the son who speaks excellent English) and someone who works in computers and has volunteered to go to the house to evaluate the problem. If necessary, we will involve Jamal.
- The processing of the application for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is complete. She's not sure when the fee reduction will begin. It should reduce it from around \$40 to \$9, she said.

Summary of Current Family Needs

1. Housing remains the top priority. We will first learn about the feasibility of the family buying a house. If that turns out not to be possible for them, we'll aggressively pursue renting. As soon as we

know which direction we're going, we'll let you know so you can also keep your eyes peeled.

- 2. Technology we hope to have the desktop issue resolved this week. Also, since online access is so critical to life in the United States, we may be pursuing more laptops for the family.
- **3.** Transportation and financial as needs arise, we'll send out email notifications.

Family needs are assessed and brought to our attention either through the International Service Center or via case manager Jamal who was assigned by the ISC.

We thank you for your continuing interest in supporting and helping the Afghanzada family.

Roger Olson, Co-chair, Market Square Church housedoctr@hotmail.com. (717) 571-0124

Audrey Light, Co-chair, Pine Street Church alight206@comcast.net. (717) 649-7068

BISTRO 2022

November means SOUP. And SOUP means Bistro! 2022 marks the 33rd



annual Bistro event, a soup, bread, dessert meal/fundraiser that benefits Help Ministries of Christian Churches United. **December 4** is the date of this year's Bistro, but before Bistro can happen, we have to make stuff.

Here's how you can participate: We'll make four big batches of wonderful **soups** on 4 consecutive Saturday mornings (Oct 29/Nov 5, 12, and 19). Want to help chop, saute, or stew? You may sign up using this link: **ttsu.me/cp34tv**

Bakers: Want to make a loaf of your finest **bread**, some **muffins**, some delicious holiday **cookies** or **brownies**? Here's your link! **ttsu.me/wzntzj**

Would you like to help on the **DAY of Bistro** in the kitchen or serving in Fellowship Hall? This link's for you: **ttsu.me/dmvseh**

If you're not inclined to use sign up links, go ahead and send me an email at AliceAnneSchwab@gmail.com or feel free to give me a call at 717-576-2500. I'll link you up!

There's one more great opportunity to support the 2022 Bistro and that is by participating as a Table Sponsor. **Table sponsorships** are \$130 per table and each contribution of \$130 entitles you to a pint of each of the four delicious soups. If Table Sponsorship is your thing, you may send a check including "Bistro" notation so that we know to count you in as a Table Sponsor.

Alice Anne Schwab



Advent 2022

Advent begins this year on November 27th and our theme for Advent this year is "From Generation to Generation." We're using liturgy, art, and thematic guidance from A Sanctified Art, a ministry which seeks to support churches in integrating art and creativity into their spiritual practices. Focusing on Mary's Song of protest and praise in Luke 1 the group was moved by Mary's faithfulness and the ways God's story connects all of us:

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation. (Luke 1:48b-50)

So this Advent series will focus on both the human interactions and events recorded in the Gospels, as well as the cosmic prophecies in Isaiah which witness to the larger scope of God's activity from generation to generation. Jesus' lineage found in Matthew, Mary, Joseph, and Elizabeth will all inform us as we contemplate what it means to be Advent people: those watching and waiting and participating in what God is doing in and through the incarnate word. Jesus the Christ.

I appreciate the work of A Sanctified Art for their wondering and their dreaming. Here's more about the theme from them directly:

We are invited to look at the characters in our scriptures and wonder: What did each character pass on or contribute? How did each character participate in God's liberation and love? Which characters try to thwart God's justice and what can we learn from them? What is our role now? What is our generation's task? What will we carry forth, and what should we leave behind?

The root word of "generation" is "gen" meaning "origin" or "birth." Our theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in your community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are you planting for the future?

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. In the midst of narratives, policies, and rhetoric designed to divide us, what does it look like to practice belonging to one another? The work of God is always unfolding— in and through us. This Advent season, how will we carry it forth?

On November 27th we begin with reflections on, *From Generation to Generation...There's room for every story*. I hope you'll find our Advent worship a meaningful way to draw close to God and come away with greater insight into your own place in the generations of God's people.

(KDW)

2022 Advent Devotionals will be available

beginning on November 13th. From Generation to Generation: An advent devotional is filled with art, poetry and reflections for

the season of Advent. You can pick up a hard copy at the church or access an edevotional on our website in the member's only section.

The devotional dovetails with our worship theme and offers opportunity for individual reflection and prayer.



Please help us shape some of our Advent Candle lighting liturgy

From Generation to Generation – that's our theme for Advent this year. With Mary we contemplate the scale and scope of the good news of the gospel, the gospel she herself was a part of bringing forth. In her song of protest and praise, Mary sings, "Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed: for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. God's mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation."

Because each of us has a story and each of us is also part of the unfolding story of what God is doing in the world, we wish to offer an opportunity for you to help shape our liturgy for the season. Will you respond in a word or phrase to each of these questions? We'd like your responses placed in the offering plate, sent to the church office, or placed in the atrium baskets by November 13th please.

What brings you hope?

Of what are you afraid?

What brings joy into your life?

What makes you feel connected? What makes you feel loved?

Fill in the blank: "My story is _____

Market Square Presbyterian Church 20 South Second Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Justin Greene, Parking Attendant

Lizzie Camilli, Nursery Caregiver

Ollie W. Silver, Sunday Sexton / Events Staff

Sean Meara, Sexton espressosean@gmail.com

Michelle Sheaffer, Financial Administrator sheaffer@marketsquarechurch.org

Nancy D. Sheets, Ministry Support Administrator sheets@marketsquarechurch.org

Peter Yardley-Jones, Artist-in-Residence

Ellen Hunt, Minister of Music Emerita

Tyler A. Canonico, Minister of Music canonico@marketsquarechurch.org

Jennifer McKenna, Spiritual Director

James D. Brown, Pastor Emeritus

Judson C. McConnell, Pastoral Assistant for Member Care iuddmcconnell@amail.com

Ki Nam Lee, Pastoral Supply for Korean Ministries kinlee21c@gmail.com

Kimberley D. Wadlington, Pastor wadlington@marketsquarechurch.org

Thomas A. Sweet, Pastor sweet@marketsquarechurch.org

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ADULT FORUM IN NOVEMBER

(The Adult Forum meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Geneva Hall on the Fourth Floor. Childcare is available during the Forum. A broad array of topics is presented and discussed in the Forum – biblical and theological, social justice, the arts, the life of the Christian in the world, etc. There always is time for interaction with the day's presenter(s) and thus the Forum is a wonderful opportunity to nurture the faith Christ gives to us as we live together toward the Beloved Community. Please join us!)

NOVEMBER 6- ALL SAINTS SALON WITH LORI & TOM

Market Square celebrates All Saints Sunday today and, in this Forum, Tom & Lori will invite a conversation around death, dying, living, heaven, ancestors, saints, and what to make of it all!

NOVEMBER 13 – A CONVERSATION WITH JIM & TOM

Jim Brown's and Tom Sweet's pastorates have covered the last 25 years at Market Square. Jim and Tom will share a conversation with plenty of time for questions and answers from those in attendance.

NOVEMBER 20 – NO ADULT FORUM TODAY

NOVEMBER 27 – ADVENT ADVENTURE – KIM WADLINGTON

Join an intergenerational Advent Forum to explore your own generations of faithful ancestors and share stories with one another. More details to come in the weeks ahead, so keep your eyes peeled to the Sunday bulletins and the weekly *Beacon Light*.

Sunday Services

Korean Language Service—9:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Sermons on YouTube (link on the church website's Worship page).

English Language Service—11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Broadcast live on the radio (link on the church website's Homepage) and livestreamed on YouTube (link on the church website's Members Info page).

The 11:00 a.m. service is broadcast on WHYL 960 AM, 102.9 FM, and posted later in the day on our website: www.marketsquarechurch.org.



OUR MISSION

To proclaim and live the Good News of Jesus Christ by welcoming friend and stranger alike into our diverse and inclusive family of faith regardless of race, class, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or worldly condition of any kind as we celebrate our gifts, work for justice, peace, and a sustainable environment, reach out in mission, and witness to God's transforming love.