

The Marketplace

FEBRUARY 2024

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



Dear Market Square Beloveds

I've never considered myself a nostalgic or terribly sentimental person, but the past year has made me more wistful than usual. It's not surprising, it's been a year of unanticipated change and much of the change has been hard. I've often poo-pooed nostalgia as something that holds us back and is more divisive than helpful, so I was intrigued when one of my favorite NPR podcasts, 1A, had a segment on nostalgia, "How Nostalgia Can Carry Us Through Tough Times." (If you want to listen to it you can find it here: <https://shorturl.at/rNOPS> hosted by Jenn White and produced by Haili Blassingame).

The podcast builds on a quote from Psychologist Clay Routledge, "Nostalgia's greatest—and perhaps most underappreciated—power is its capacity to help us plan our futures. When we struggle to figure out what path to take in life, nostalgic reflection focuses our minds on personally meaningful life experiences and the people with whom we shared those experiences, giving us direction on how to move forward." But the podcast also includes discussion on how "nostalgia can become a dangerous desire to return to a past that wasn't all that great."

Here I'm summarizing some of what I learned from listening to the podcast, (especially given my "nostalgia is more destructive than constructive stance!") "Nostalgia is neither good nor bad. It's a human emotion that we all experience to one degree or another. It's a way for our brains to stabilize an uncomfortable situation. It contains a sense of loss because we're nostalgic for that which we no longer have but it can also help us pull positively from experiences we've found worthwhile. Nostalgia can be personal or historical and it's not only individuals that are prone to nostalgia, but communities too. Historical nostalgia can be for a time you did experience or even a time that you perceive or believe was better than what you're living now.

Nostalgia is harmful when we let it drive us to go back both metaphorically and sometimes as literally as we possibly can. The cost of nostalgia comes when we romanticize the past or willfully ignore the costs that came with the benefits. Communally, it's especially harmful when we forget that not everyone had the same experience in the past. As much as possible, looking at the past through other perspectives than our own is necessary, especially when we're longing for the past which is always more complicated than we remember or can know from only our point of view.

But nostalgia is helpful too. It aids our well-being by helping us remember that each time is a fixed moment in space and that in the future, we have the capacity to recreate some of those past feelings for which we long. Yes, the future is unknown, which is both scary and exciting, but it also gives us the opportunity to build better lives. To face the unknown adventure of the future, we need



Pastor
Kim Wadlington

tools and resources to help us make decisions and choices about what to prioritize. These cherished memories and moments can help us move forward with purpose and confidence because as we examine our memories, we can learn what is most important to us, which can help us move forward. Nostalgia reminds us of what gives our life meaning. In short, nostalgia is not helpful when we try to go back to exactly what we had – a past love, a past job, a past time; it is helpful when it enables clarity to move us forward.

A few questions enable us to probe our nostalgia carefully, so it can yield results that are helpful: "What exactly am I missing about that experience or time? What do I think was better in the past? On what was that freedom or past happiness dependent? How can these answers help me understand what might be helpful in the future?"

I don't have to tell you that all these concepts apply to the church too. Many are nostalgic for what we perceive to be the best days of the church gone by. I'm learning to examine those feelings more carefully and not to dismiss them too quickly. Examining that time, whatever time you perceive it was, with the above questions in mind can help us understand what's most important to us as a community of faith. As we look back, and work to strip away the trappings of those times, we get down to what was foundationally important about who and how we are as God's people. In my sermon when we ordained and installed church officers, I said that the best days of the church are ahead of us. This isn't to demean what's gone before but to say that with God there's a lot to be excited and joyful about regarding the future. The only day we have is today, but we can live with hope for what's to come as we learn from what was valuable and beneficial about this congregation in the past.

Save the Date

Save the Date for the second round table conversation with the Transition team on Sunday, February 25, following worship.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will take place following worship on February 18, 2024. The purpose of the meeting is to hear and act upon a report from the officers of the corporation, to receive 2023 annual reports and to review the 2024 church budget.

Next Marketplace Deadline: Sunday, February 11, 2024. Please email articles and photos to both Nancy Sheets and Kari Hultman. sheets@marketsquarechurch.org and khultman@comcast.net

Adult Education Opportunities 9:15 a.m. Sunday Morning

February 4th: 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act



Pastor
Allison Smith

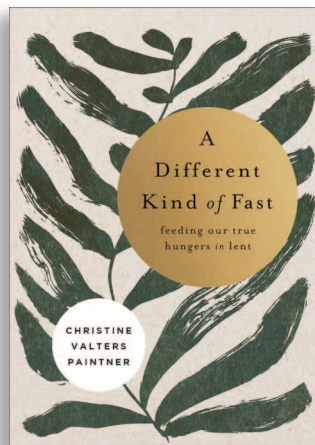
It's been 60 years since a bipartisan Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, followed a year later by the Voting Rights Act, and finally the Fair Housing Act. What were the events that triggered the civil rights movement nearly a century after the Civil War? Who were the major players that made this landmark legislation possible? Is the fight for human equality over or are there new challenges ahead? John Taylor will lead a slide presentation.

February 11th- March 24th
Lenten Book Study

If you are interested in deepening your Lenten practice with the support of others at Market Square a book study is a great way to begin. This Lenten season we will be engaging the book *A Different Kind of Fast: Feeding our True Hungers in Lent* by Christine Valters Paintner. Pastor Allison, Kevin Burrell, and Elizabeth Terry will lead a discussion-based class beginning on the week of Ash Wednesday and concluding on Palm Sunday. We'll focus on one chapter per week. Get a copy of the book and join us for as many weeks as you can! Below you can read more about the book in the description below from the jacket cover.

"Fasting is not just the physical practice of giving up food. Fasting can also be a way to combat our culture of endless distractions and busyness. Fasting is an act of letting go, of making more internal space to listen to the sacred whispers of our lives. Join Christine Valters Paintner, online abbess of Abbey of the Arts, on a spiritual journey through seven different kinds of fasts, including fasting from control, from our attachments, from our grasping, and more. When we practice these fasts, we can discover unexpected spiritual gifts, as well as answers to deeper questions, leading us to ask: "What is my true hunger?"

Perfect for Lent, or any period when a deeper intention to clarify your true hunger is needed, *A Different Kind of Fast* helps us enter our hearts, stripping away old patterns and habits. Featuring striking woodcuts from artist Kreg Yingst, the book draws on the wisdom of the desert elders, Paintner offers practical contemplative practices like lectio divina, breath prayer, visio divina, meditation with desert wisdom, contemplative walks, and creative rituals. As we fast from rushing, planning, being strong, holding it all together, seeking certainty, and control, we can softly reorient ourselves toward that which nourishes and fulfills us, for the reflective Lenten season and beyond."



*"By the gift of the Holy Spirit, we can listen closely to the whispers of the Divine with our own soul, in our own experiences, and in our own interpretations of God's love in the world."*¹



During the four Sundays of February in the Room For the Inner Way, we will listen for the whispers of the Divine within our souls: that is to say, our spirits, our deep inner beings.

We do this with the spiritual practices of prayer, meditation, silence, and the sharing of our daily lives. Halfway through the month, on February 18 and 25, the First and Second Sundays in Lent begin. On those weeks we will begin to view Lent from a unique perspective. Instead of the usual Lenten practices as rituals of penitence and fasting, we will expand this view. Come and join us! We meet 10:30 – 10:50 a.m. in Rm. 421 off Geneva Hall.

Something New in the RFIW: We have placed a **Private Prayer Request Box** on the bookcase to offer to anyone who might need prayers for themselves or another the opportunity to write a prayer request, either anonymously or signed. Place it in a sealed envelope (provided) and place it in the box. Rev. Anne and Elizabeth will privately read the requests and offer the prayer. Additionally, we have organized a series of **Devotional Cards** and placed them in a container for use in the RFIW when a guided session is not being offered.

Rev. Anne Ross and Elizabeth Terry

1 Barker, Amy Valdez, "Journal for Preachers," Lent 2024

The Souper Bowl of Caring

is just around the corner! The Elementary Education Committee is looking for donations that will help to keep our Food Pantry stocked with all the necessary food items to serve both our refugee families working with the ISC and our homeless guests. This year we're encouraging financial donations, since our storage space is limited due to the recent flooding in the lower level.



You can bring cash on February 11th to put in the Souper Bowl donation kettles our youth will have. You can also donate online by using the "Souper Bowl" button on our website's homepage: www.marketsquarechurch.org or at tacklehunger.org.

If you do donate food items please remember, no glass containers!

Thank you so much for your generosity. Our Food Pantry serves anywhere from 50-80 people per week; these gifts make a huge impact on our community.

Allison

Children's Prayer Breakfast

All the children of the church are invited to bring their parents or grandparents to our monthly pancake breakfast on **February 11, at 9:15 a.m.** in the Youth Room! We'll gather for some delicious chocolate chip pancakes, made by our renowned pancake chef, Keith Camilli, and enjoy a lesson about the season of Lent and the weeks leading up to our celebration of Easter. Hope to see you there!



Worship and Preaching Schedule February 2024



Our English language worship services are livestreamed from our sanctuary every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. and can be viewed on our homepage. A live audio-only broadcast of the service 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 audio broadcast, a 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.

Korean language sermons are posted on the Korean Ministries YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/45nhp3er>

February 4 – 5th Sunday after the Epiphany and The Sacrament of Communion

- 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 Kim Wadlington preaching

February 11 – Transfiguration 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 Kim Wadlington preaching

February 14 – Ash Wednesday and The Imposition of Ashes

- 7:00 p.m. English Language Worship in Geneva Hall
The Reverend Allison Smith leading worship
A more contemplative service to be held in
Geneva Hall

February 18 - 1st Sunday in Lent

See article below for more information about our Lenten series

- 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
Baptismal Remembrance
The Rev. Kim Wadlington preaching

February 25 – 2nd Sunday of Lent

- 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 Allison Smith preaching



"Dying and Rising" through Lent

As Allison and I read through the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) texts for Lent we noted that Lent begins on a different note this year. Not only is Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day, but because Mark's gospel is so immediate and even terse with its words, the time Jesus spends in the wilderness is truncated to two verses. A *lengthier* account of Jesus' wilderness time usually begins our Lenten wandering, but this year, in Mark's gospel, we're reminded that the Spirit sends Jesus into the wilderness immediately following his own baptism. That connection between baptism and the wilderness drives our reflections during Lent this year.

Jesus rises out of the waters of baptism and a voice declares from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." As we rise to new life out of the waters of baptism, God's voice also calls us "Beloved" and in baptism is the beginning of our own life of dying and rising, dying to all that is not of Christ and rising to that which is of Christ. Baptism isn't magic, it's the beginning of a life-long relationship with God through Christ, the beginning of our transformation as Christ's disciples, and the beginning of our relationship with our siblings in Christ in the church.

The first Sunday of Lent will begin with a communal baptismal remembrance. It's an opportunity for each of us to remember that we're baptized, that we're God's beloved children, and to renew our commitment to life in Christ and the exploration of discipleship which that entails. On successive Sundays in Lent, we'll explore what the texts call us to set aside (dying), so that new life in Christ can take further hold and deepen (rising). Allison, Tyler, and I hope to offer a meaningful experience of our Triune God this Lent through our worship, prayer, and study. (KDW)

Stewardship

YTD Actual	\$ 478,945
YTD Budget	\$ 465,000
Surplus	\$ 13,945



Our Church Family

DEATHS

Lee Hartwick on January 17

Harvey Schlouch, Allen's father and Cheryl Clark's
father-in-law, on January 10



Dear friends,

It is hard to believe, at least for me, that we will be entering into the season of Lent this month. I am excited about our journey together because Kim, Allison, and I have planned what we feel will be a moving season. Lent is always special as we remember the events leading up to Jesus' last days on earth. I try to select music that I think will evoke the vast array of emotions we may experience throughout Lent.

On Friday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m., Jonathan Walker-VanKuren will present his concert, *Songs My Mother Taught Me*, which is a celebration of African American history through spirituals. As a recitalist, he prides himself on his interpretation of art songs and the stories they portray. Additionally, Jonathan loves African American Spirituals and is a strong proponent of their inclusion in classical recitals. I have had a rehearsal with Jonathan, and I can strongly say that you will be moved by his singing, his interpretation, and the beauty and power of the music. The concert is free, and I hope you will join us for what will be a special evening.

Open Loft Choir returns on Sunday, February 11. Join the choir and me in the loft at 10 a.m. on the 11th to learn the music for worship. We will be glad to have you with us. 😊 The Open Loft Choir is for those who love to sing in a choir, but cannot regularly commit to being in the Sanctuary Choir. This choir is also for those who might be interested in joining the choir, but want to check us out first!

We know that February 14 is Valentine's Day, but this year Ash Wednesday falls on the 14th. I hope you will make dinner plans for after the service or another time in the week, because we have a beautiful service planned.

Looking ahead to March, we will welcome **The Furman Singers** to Market Square on Tuesday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m. Since 1946, this



Tyler Canonico
Minister of Music

outstanding choral group from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, has captivated audiences with diverse repertoire that spans centuries, explored a range of styles and languages, and conveyed the human experience through one of the most powerful mediums: song.

The **Sanctuary Choir** is also busy preparing for our Palm Sunday concert, *A Lenten Journey from Darkness to Light*. Please note that this concert will now begin at 6:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. More on this concert in the March edition.

Peace and love,
Tyler

Sanctuary Choir Repertoire for January:

February 4 (Fifth Sunday after Epiphany) – “Ain’t-a That Good News” by William Dawson and “The Paper Reeds By the Brooks” from *The Peaceable Kingdom* by Randall Thompson

February 11 (Transfiguration of the Lord) – “Prayer for Transfiguration Day” by John Weaver and “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” by Stephen Cleobury

February 14 (Ash Wednesday) – “Create in Me” by Terre Johnson and “Dust I Am” by Mark Miller

February 18 (First Sunday in Lent) – “This Is My Beloved Son” by David Evan Thomas and “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” by Kenneth Dake

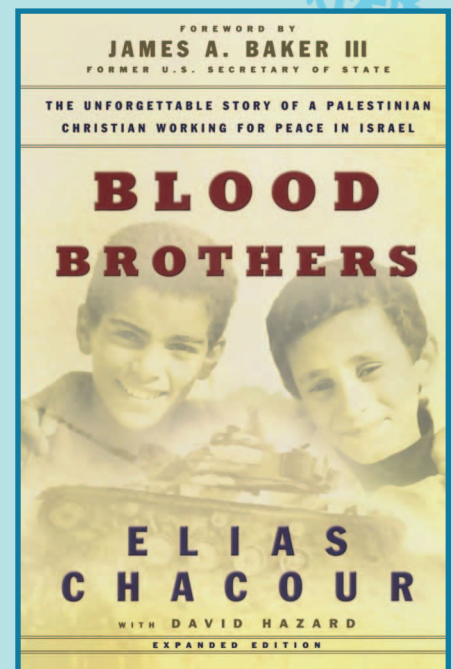
February 25 (Second Sunday in Lent) – “Jesus, So Lowly” by Harold Friedell and “O Lord, Increase My Faith” by Orlando Gibbons

Blood Brothers: A Life Changing Book

A small book was a life changer for me. It was in Fellowship Hall in the early 90's when Carol Williams, an exceedingly wise Elder and early peacemaker at Market Square, handed me a copy of **BLOOD BROTHERS** and encouraged me to read it, although my focus at that time was on U.S. involvement in Central America. I had grown up fascinated by the founding of Israel as a home for Jews, but I knew nothing of the narrative of the Palestinian people, the very people of Jesus' childhood and ministry.

As told in this little book, **BLOOD BROTHERS** by Elias Chacour opened my eyes and my heart through his family's experience in 1948, when young Israeli soldiers forced the large Chacour family and the surrounding villagers to take to the nearby hills for a couple of weeks. It was at that time that his father explained the horrors of the Holocaust to the family and empathized that the Jews 'are our blood brothers, who also need a safe place to live, and we will not hate them.' I was captivated and began to look for a way to visit both Palestinians and Israelis who were living the realities of having to share that very small land. As many of us are seeking greater understanding of the tragic events in Israel and Palestine today, this is a good place to learn about that significant period. A copy of **BLOOD BROTHERS** is available in our MSPC library. Abuna Chacour, who became Archbishop of the Melkite Catholic Church in Israel, remains an active bridge-builder working with Palestinians and Israelis, even now in his mid-80's, and I've been privileged to meet with him several times.

Margee Kooistra



SONGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

Jonathan Walker-VanKuren, tenor

Tyler A. Canonico, collaborative pianist

A celebration of African-American history through spirituals by an acclaimed educator and singer of jazz, musical theatre, art song, and opera.



**Friday
February 9, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

Free-Will Offering (Suggested Donation \$15)

UPMC
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

arts
ON THE
Square
Market Square
Presbyterian Church

www.marketsquarechurch.org • www.facebook.com/artsonthesquareMSPC
For more information, visit www.marketsquarechurch.org/concerts.
Parking is provided by the church in the adjacent public parking garage.



The MSPC Anti-Racism
Task Force Presents

**Dr.
Kimeka
Campbell**

February 24

10:00AM - 1:00PM

Presented By:
Market Square
Presbyterian Church
20 S. 2nd St.
Harrisburg



To Register

Email:

sheets@marketsquarechurch.org

Phone:

(717) 257-1270 Ext 10

**Join us for a free discussion, open to all, on the centrality
of African Americans in the 19th Century and how these
civic and church leaders strategized to resist injustice.**

Free Parking Available in Market Square Garage

A Season of Waiting

By Donna F. Wenger

We are now past that season of waiting--ADVENT. We finally got to have Christmas (which by now, when this is published), is two months ago in the rear-view mirror. But don't worry. We will soon (in about 10 months) have another a season of waiting.

The church of my childhood was not one to observe the liturgical year. So, it was with some puzzlement that, after having joined Market Square Presbyterian Church, I slowly adapted to the concept of seasons of the church year. Including Advent. And I am fine with certain parts of Advent, but recently I have begun to develop a fear that in our rigid adherence to the concept of strict liturgical waiting--no singing ANY Christmas carols--we are ceding to the commercial market all the joy of Christmas.

In the past, I have had conversations--not arguments--with some of our pastors suggesting that there are available carols that could be sung without breaking that Advent message. And sometimes we could even sing some of those carols **BEFORE** Christmas Day. Here's an example "*Once in Royal David's City*."

But--NO. Our services during Advent continue to draw on the repertoire of Advent hymns--most of which are in a minor key, and are usually sung in unison. I guess to appreciate the import of that last description, you need to know that I am an alto, through and through, and I love--make that **LOVE**--to sing in four part harmony. "O Come, O Come, Emanuel" or "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" just doesn't put me in a Christmas spirit.

So what, you might think or even say out loud. Here's what--how many Christmas Carols did you hear this year? If you were in commercial establishments you likely heard quite a few. Both sacred and secular. We have ceded to the commercial establishment's ownership of Christmas. By the time we got around to singing carols, we had very few Christmas hymns sung in church. Of course, many of us heard a greater number in the various wonderful Christmas performances--such as from our choir's Carols By Candlelight Christmas concert, or other choral groups.

There are a many Christmas hymns and carols that I know almost by heart--because as a child, I sang them over and over. I recognize that to some extent singing carols and hymns in public, non-religious settings, has dwindled partly out of a sensitivity that not everyone is Christian. But, surely, in church we could sing Christmas carols before Christmas Eve or Day.

Here are a few examples: all of these are in our current hymnal **Glory to God. # 116--The Snow Lay on the Ground; #12--O Little Town of Bethlehem; #129--Lo, How a Rose; #137--He Came Down; # 140--Once In Royal David's City; ssand # 144--In the Bleak Midwinter.**

I have a friend who periodically attends church at Market Square. After my urging my friend to attend church the Sunday before Christmas Eve--here's what my friend asked: "Are you going to sing any Christmas carols?" And I had to answer--no, no we will not be singing Christmas Carols. That friend did not attend church that Sunday. A missed opportunity!

I get the theology. Here's what a former pastor preached on Advent. "The work of these weeks before Christmas...the time the church calls Advent--is a season of pregnant hope and possibility. It is not so much to prepare for the birth of the baby that happened long ago but to welcome the Christ in us in ever deepening ways. It is a time to get the nursery of our hearts and the manger of our minds ready to engage the ministry of Christ in us more completely and creatively than ever before."

Yes, I get that. BUT meanwhile, the commercial world has co-opted all the joyful meaning that is wrapped up in our long-term memories. And we long to sing about that meaning.

What we offer instead is "Here's Christmas Eve. Sing away. Here's Christmas Sunday." Yay--a couple of familiar much loved carols. And then--whoosh...off to the visit of the Wise Men (or Three Kings). And next the baptism of our Lord. By then, Christmas songs are tucked back into the folds of our song memory banks. We'll hear them again piped over commercial loud speakers in public places. But not in the sanctuary of our church. Not until, that is, we get all the way through Advent.

From the Trustees

Water, water everywhere... I hasten to note that there is no problem drinking any of the water Market Square has to offer, *but* there has been unwelcome water in places around the church!

The first instance is in the education wing of the church's lower level. A lever on the HVAC system was out of place and caused hot water to leak throughout the areas. The system itself worked as designed – had the lever been in proper position this wouldn't have happened and even out of place, system safety measures limited the flow to a depth of 3-4 inches.

Thanks go to Tuan Bui of the ISC, who first noted the flooding, and to Facilities Manager Victor Morales, who contacted a friend who was able to immediately position drying fans used by his carpet cleaning company. Reynolds Restoration, a local firm whose business is water remediation and restoration, was subsequently called to assess the damage and quickly begin a comprehensive dry-out, including demolition of areas where water permeation was significant. By 'press time' that process has largely been completed; the second phase will include restoration and replacement of flooring, some walls, shelving, etc. Adjusters are also working to assess the insurer's liability for a submitted claim.

More recently, with substantial rains Harrisburg experienced in early January, roof leakage has occurred in the hallway leading to Geneva Hall. Thanks to Tyler for first noticing and, again, to Victor for placing containers to accept the water. Ironically, we had slate roof experts repair and replace about 175 slates earlier this autumn, so this water leakage came as a particular surprise. Phyllis Mooney, **House Committee** chair, has been in touch with the firm and we hope to see their further repairs within the next week. Relatively speaking, our slate roof is not especially old when compared to their typical longevity.

The House Committee has tackled a lot of other projects, including repair and restoration of two sets of exterior doors – and, if you haven't seen the chapel recently, its redecoration has resulted in a more inviting and safer space for use of the congregation.

Four additional notes: First, an update on the vital repair of exterior brick and

Welcome New Members!



Marty and Lucy Schlenker, Jeff and Karen Row, Betsy Cobb, Ed and Kate Allgood

Ed and Kate Allgood

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Betsy Cobb

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Jeffrey and Karen Row

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Karen's cell: 717-557-9060
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Marty and Lucy Schlenker

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Lucy's cell: 682-227-4251
Lucy.schlenker@gmail.com
Marty's cell: 817-374-2762
Marty_lucy@yahoo.com

stonework mentioned some months ago. Bid documents are being finalized to seek proposals for the work. Having "tested those waters" (no pun intended) some months ago, we know that this work will not be inexpensive. More to come!

Next, the **Safety & Security Committee** is about to proceed with installation of electronic security updates within the church after very successful training occurred last autumn on the use of AEDs, CPR, first aid, and in the event of an active shooter incident. The **Investment Committee** continues to monitor the endowment funds and is in the beginning to develop a program that can help church members consider planned giving for Market Square's long-term sustainability. Finally, the **Budget Committee** submitted to Session a balanced budget for its consideration.

Tom Darr



Rescheduled Movie Night at Market Square!

Truly, Madly, Deeply will be screened on **Friday, February 2, at 6:45 p.m. in Geneva Hall.** Join Dr. Caffier for a brief introduction and discussion following the 1990 film starring the late Alan Rickman and Juliet Stevenson.

arts ON THE Square Gallery

Market Square Presbyterian Church



Artist Elaine Wilson

Impressions: Watercolors by Elaine Wilson



Reception co-host Ashley Robinson and Interim Pastor Kim Wadlington

Over fifty Market Square members and friends joined artist Elaine Wilson in Geneva Hall on January 14 to open her watercolor exhibit "Impressions." Elaine's exquisite paintings will be on view **through Easter Sunday, March 31.**

Event photos were taken by John Robinson. The exhibit is sponsored by John Robinson in memory of his sister Rachel Bair.



Market Square Parking/Events staffer Steve Jackson with Exhibit Coordinator Beth Hager



Reception co-host Joe Robinson



Market Square's Louise Poorman provided beautiful music for the event.



Lincoln's Pastor

Abraham Lincoln never joined a church, but while in Washington, he and his family attended New York Avenue Presbyterian where the pastor was The Rev. Phineas Densmore Gurley. Gurley was an Old School Presbyterian who would have a significant influence on Lincoln's religious thinking.

Gurley had been educated at Union College and Princeton Theological Seminary. He was a theological conservative. Lincoln liked Gurley because he preached only the gospel and left politics out of his sermons.



Lincoln would spend more Sunday mornings at New York Avenue than at any other church during his adult life.

Gurley's preaching goal was to appeal to his listeners' reason and intellect. The pastor was convinced that intelligent people would more willingly accept God by examples of his love and less by fear of eternal damnation.

The Lincolns - Abraham and Mary - and the Gurleys - Phineas and Emma - became close friends. Many times, the Gurleys dined at the White House. When 11-year-old Willie Lincoln died of typhoid fever in February 1862, it was Gurley who consoled the grieving family. When the Gurleys' daughter Fannie married a young army lieutenant, the Lincolns were among the wedding guests.

As Lincoln lay dying in a rooming house across the street from Ford's Theatre, Gurley rushed to his bedside and remained with him until the end. Gurley presided at the funeral service and accompanied Lincoln's body and the body of Willie Lincoln on the long train trip back to Illinois.

After Lincoln's death, Gurley was elected moderator of the Old School Presbyterians and worked toward the reunification of the Old and New School branches, which had been divided over theological differences for more than 30 years. Poor health forced Gurley to vacate his pulpit in February 1868, and he died the following September. He was just 51.

John Taylor

Session Activities: January Activity Update

By Jonelle Darr, Clerk of Session

Market Square's Session is responsible for the church's mission, governance, and programs. Pastor Kim Wadlington moderates the Session. Current Ruling Elders may serve up to two consecutive, three-year terms. Members are:

Terms Expiring in 2024	Terms Expiring in 2025	Terms Expiring in 2026
Sandy Bell (1 st term)	George Blashford (1 st term)	Cindy Bendroth (2 nd term)
Kevin Burrell (1 st term)	Beth Cate-Freeman (1 st term)	Kristin Cassell (1 st term)
Keith Camilli (1 st term)	Jonelle Darr (2 nd term)	Dale Laninga (2 nd term)
Morgan Dame (Youth - 2 nd yr.)	Theresa Elliott (1 st term)	Dave Lehman (2 nd term)
Andrew Hunter (1 st term)	Beth Hager (1 st term)	David Volkman (1 st term)
Jane Murray (1 st term)	Nancy Snyder (2 nd term)	
Jong Hwan Yi (2 nd term)		

Mission Review

1) Approved selection of five core values for the church's work: Faith; Community; Compassion; Justice; and Service.

Worship

2) Learned that only a few people have called the church office regarding Session's decision to end the radio broadcast of the church's 11:00 a.m. worship service in March 2024. Each caller has asked how to get connected to the church's livestream service.

3) Ordained five people for the office of Deacon on January 14, 2024: Kate Allgood; Karen Blashford; Carlette Queeley; Judi Shepler; Caleb Stelle.

Ecology Action

1) Approved the Ecology Action Subcommittee's (EAS) request to use the sanctuary and sanctuary-level bathrooms as a gathering place for Pennsylvania Action on Climate/March on Harrisburg (PAC/MH) on February 6, 2024 and March 19, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Membership

1) Removed Dor Amol from Market Square's membership rolls. He joined on April 16, 2006. Dor no longer attends church and we do not have up-to-date contact information for him.

2) Held a Special Session meeting to receive a new member, Kate (Novak) Allgood.

3) Held two special Session meetings to examine incoming church officers for the Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, and Session. All were approved for service.

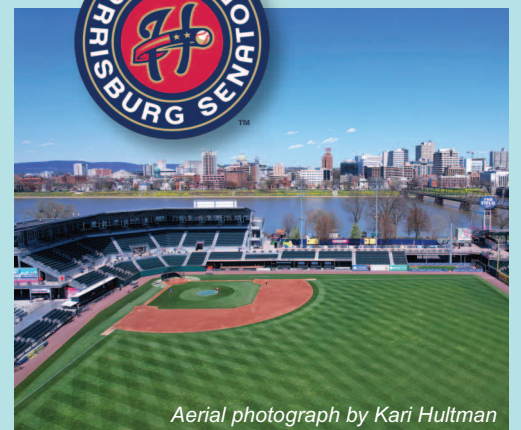
Organizational

1) Welcomed two new Session members: Kristin Cassell and David Volkman. Both have served on Session in the past.

As of January 16, 2024, there were 446 members on the church membership roll. If you have any questions about Session activities, you may talk with me, a Session member, or one of our Pastors.

Baseball Picnic

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 23. That's the date for Market Square's 11th baseball picnic outing. Our hometown Harrisburg Senators will be playing the Hartford Yard Goats. A fun afternoon at the ballpark plus all-you-care-to-eat hamburgers, hot dogs, barbecue chicken, baked beans, pasta salad and more. You'll have a chance to sign up as the date draws nearer.



Aerial photograph by Kari Hultman

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Kimberley D. Wadlington, *Interim Pastor/Head of Staff*
wadlington@marketsquarechurch.org

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

Allison R. Smith, *Supply Associate Pastor*
smith@marketsquarechurch.org

Anne M. Ross, *Pastoral Assistant for Congregational Care*
amross0611@gmail.com

James D. Brown, *Pastor Emeritus*

Jennifer McKenna, *Spiritual Director*
revjim@gmail.com

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

Ellen B. Hunt, *Minister of Music Emerita*
ellenhunt@ruthhunter.com

Ethan J. Draper, *Organ Scholar*
draper@marketsquarechurch.org

Peter Yardley-Jones, *Artist-in-Residence*
email@peteryardleyjones.com

Michelle Sheaffer, *Financial Administrator*
sheaffer@marketsquarechurch.org

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

Victor Morales, *Facilities Manager*
morales@marketsquarechurch.org

Jose Maldonado, *Custodian*

Lizzie Camilli, *Nursery Caregiver*

Steve Jackson, *Parking/Events Staff*

Art Miles, *Community Breakfast Resource Person*

Ollie W. Silver, *Sunday Sexton/Events Staff*
ollie.silver@aol.com

Newman Stare, *Audio Visual Technician*
nleeaudiotech@gmail.com

Andrew Hunter, *Sound/Livestream Technician*
hunterandrew2314@gmail.com

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Below: Ordination of new officers on January 14 and laying on of hands.

At left: Kate Allgood, Pastor Allison Smith, and Anna Johnston.

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 the Homepage and
the church's YouTube channel.

**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.