

Westgate Fitness

December, 2019



2235 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-394-1071

Activities this month...

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 12/5 ABW Meeting
- 12/8 Bake Sale
- 12/9 Board Meeting
- 12/18 AB Men's Breakfast
- 12/22 Christmas Cantata
- 12/22 Lancaster Brass Quintet
- 12/24 Candlelight Christmas Eve



Adult Bible Study Sunday 9:15 a.m. led
by Pastor Robert

Choir Practice Thursdays, 10:00 AM

Men's Breakfast every 3rd Wed of the
month

American Baptist Women's Meetings-
First Thursday

Women's Bible Study Tuesday
mornings

Winter Events

Greetings in the Name of our LORD !

Waiting for the Lord: Read Luke 7:18-23

What is Advent? Unfortunately for so many it's a season that brings on tension and stress as we get ready for Christmas. Imagine how the conversation would have possibly gone if Archie Bunker had ever talked about Christmas with his son-in-law, Michael. Michael says to Arch, *"Well, what is Advent anyway Arch? I bet you don't even know what it is."* Arch replies, *"Of course I know what it is—it is in the Bible, Meathead. Add vent means that you Add up all your hostile feelings and then Vent them on somebody. And you know, Meathead, its people like you that makes me look forward to Advent."*

Advent is not a time to Add to our reasons to Vent. Advent is a time of waiting, a time to prepare our hearts and minds to meet Jesus Christ. Waiting is often difficult to do. The other day I made a poor choice on the line I chose at the grocery store—by the time I realized it was too late—frustration set in—I was in a hurry. We have all had to wait. At the doctor's office, the minutes tick like hours. We all wait—hear the Psalmist / Psalm 130:5 *"I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning."*

Hear the cries of the Jewish people waiting for freedom from Roman oppression. See the scruffy John the Baptist waiting on God to bring justice and repentance as he preaches in the wilderness. Look at nervous Joseph as Mary's breathing becomes heavy in a makeshift maternity ward with animals for attendants since there was no room in the inn. And look at the early church—a band of would be Christians darting in and out of catacombs for their sacred rituals, dodging Roman soldiers—waiting for this resurrected Jesus to come back any minute.

It is in our blood to wait and watch. What are we waiting for this Christmas? For some we are just waiting for the holiday to be over. I believe everyone is waiting for something: perhaps a new break-through for a health problem we or someone close to us is having; a better financial situation; more clarity in a relational matter; an election; a solution to a family matter which has become complex. What are we waiting



for? It often depends on our age and stage in life. Children await something entirely different than what adults wait for. When we are children we often have one thing in mind—for instance we await Christmas presents under the tree and often the bigger the better. But looking back I now know it wasn't all about the presents themselves—it was also the realization that someone cared, that I belonged to a family, that someone knew my name.

Some get impatient with feeling they don't belong. Some await a reprieve from loneliness. Many wait for that sense of belonging—and not just at Christmas. To belong. To be recognized. A certain Governor had stopped in a little country restaurant for something to eat. While eating he asked impatiently for some more butter. The waitress who had a mind of her own and wanting to make a point said: *"I don't believe I will bring you any more."* The Governor said, *"Ma'am do you know who I am?"* She said, *"No, who?"* He said *"I am the governor of this state."* And she said *"Well do you know who I am?"* He said *"No. Who?"* *"I am the keeper of the Butter."* It just illustrates that we want to be recognized for who we are. Perhaps in our deepest self that is something we long for this Christmas. We're all waiting for something. We wait and we wait.

At our higher spiritual level what we are really longing for at Christmas is new life, new vision, a new beginning in Jesus Christ. But it's so very important that we realize we are not the only ones waiting. There is someone else waiting too. It is God. Perhaps it's time to ask ourselves what God may be waiting for not just during Advent but at all times?

The theologian Helmut Thielicke has renamed the parable of the prodigal son. He calls it *"the parable of the waiting father."* The waiting father never gives up on us. He is waiting there for all of us wise men and women to wise up, all of us shepherds to wake up, and all the animals, and all creation, and all the heavenly hosts to come around, not just to a manger but to who Jesus Christ, Emanuel, really is: the waiting father. Now what do we suppose He is waiting for? Do you suppose he's truly waiting for you?

He told me to tell you!

Faithfully,

Pastor Robert Zimmerman

“Linger Longer”

Please stay!

for coffee and snacks or meals, good conversation,
for church growth, for fellowship.

All but the last Sunday of the month we hold a food & fellowship gathering after worship. If you would like to host a Linger Longer, please see sign-up sheet.

Linger Longer Hosts

12/1	All Congregational
12/8	
12/15	Cora Stump
12/29	Cookies & Hot Chocolate

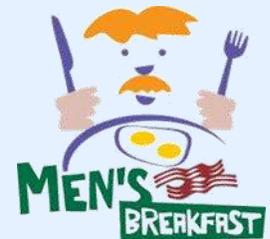


Host Help Needed

See Linger Longer
sign-up sheet in the narthex
to host future socials.



Adult Sunday School Classes
with Pastor Robert at
9:00am, in the Fellowship
Hall.



AB Men's Breakfast

Join us the third Wednesday
each month at 9:30 am for a
casual men's breakfast at the
Country Table in Mount Joy.

Lancaster Brass Quintet



Christmas Concert

December 22, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Join Us! Westgate Baptist Church

Traditional and Sacred Christmas Music mixed with some Jolly Holiday Favorites

With our pianist, Anne Nye, on the French Horn.

2235 Harrisburg Pike

Lancaster, Pa 17601

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Christmas Poinsettia Orders

We are ordering poinsettia plants to be displayed in the sanctuary December 22th for the Christmas Cantata and Candle Light services. You may order one or more in either color (red or white), then take it home for your own display after the evening service. \$8.95 each.

Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins. Please give your form to Cindy Ferris, along with your payment, by Sunday, December 15. If you write a check, please make it out to Westgate Baptist Church. Please submit payment with your order. Thank you, Cindy Ferris

Hopevale Commemoration Sunday

An Invitation

In response to the 75th Commemoration (in 2018) of the Hopevale martyrdom in the Philippines in which missionaries of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (now International Ministries) died heroically for their faith, the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches (CPBC) approved a resolution to designate the Sunday nearest to December 20 (the anniversary date of their deaths) as Hopevale Commemoration Sunday. This action of the CPBC Board was inspired “by the thought that we need to preserve faith stories and traditions that connect us to the Hopevale event so that we will not lose track of its rich meaning and significance in our lives as Baptists. Furthermore, we want to inspire and educate future generations on the life, faith, struggles, hopes, and triumphs of our Hopevale Martyrs, so that they may become faithful to the heavenly vision of doing God’s mission in the world.”

Accordingly, CPBC has invited the American Baptist Churches USA to join them in this annual observance, which demonstrates the strong bonds of spiritual friendship between us. The ABCUSA Board of General Ministries blessed this initiative in March 2019. In commemorating this anniversary each year, ABCUSA is affirming, along with Filipino Baptists, our common missiological identity and our mutual support and solidarity in doing God’s mission.

Recognizing that December 20 is just before Christmas and thus many churches may not be able to dedicate a portion of the Sunday service closest to that date for Hopevale, we are encouraging churches to commemorate it at whatever event or service that fits their schedule best in December or January. Please note: there is no offering connected to this commemoration.

It is meant to serve as a historical memorial event, and to inspire new generations of American Baptists to be faithful witnesses for Jesus Christ. The Hopevale story is inspiring, calling us all to a higher level of sacrificial devotion and service.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer,
General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA



CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE PROJECT – 2019

WATER STREET RESCUE MISSION



Water Street Rescue Mission, established in 1905, offers a variety of services to people in Lancaster. Yearly, on Dec. 24th, Water Street serves a community turkey dinner to approximately 350 needy people. On Christmas day, they provide a delicious meal to homeless people who are residing at the Mission shelter.

The Mission has a great need for canned goods to feed the people they serve. Your contributions of #10 cans of vegetables/fruits (approx. 108 ounces/can) would be appreciated. These large cans are available at most large grocery stores.

The cans will be collected on Dec. 1st, 8th and 15th. All contributions should be at the church no later than Sunday, Dec. 15th. The cans will be delivered to Water Street during the week.

There are two ways for you to participate this year:

1-Purchase canned goods and bring to the church. Drop them off at the Angel Tree in the Narthex.

2-Give a monetary gift toward purchasing the cans and a volunteer will purchase them for you.

You can write a check out to Westgate Baptist Church or donate cash. Please designate on your envelope that the gift is for the Water Street Rescue Mission.

See Joan Williams or Janet Whitehead if you have questions.



**Feeding the
Community**



ABW Ministries

Our next ABW meeting is:
Thursday, January 2nd at 1:00
No December meeting or caroling.;

ABW WESTGATE 2019-20 PROJECT

The women of ABW Westgate Baptist Church are starting a new project this year and YOU can help by donating used terry cloth washcloths and towels. We will then be using the terry cloth and also flannel fabrics to make LuoPads for women and girls in developing countries. LuoPads are a handmade feminine hygiene product.

Without access to feminine hygiene supplies, women in developing countries can't leave their homes, and some even find themselves shunned during this sensitive time. Young girls can miss 20 percent of the school year! LuoPads can restore their dignity by helping them reclaim control of their lives and take charge of their health. It also gives our ministry partners the opportunity to tell these vulnerable women that Jesus loves and values them.

So, thank you in advance, as we begin this new project to help and empower women and girls around the world 🌍!

Cora Stump will be leading this project; contact Cora with any questions.

Westgate ABW will hold a Christmas Bake Sale on Sunday, December 8, 2019 after church. This Bake Sale will help benefit the 2020 ABW Region Project: Brighter Days for Brazilian Youth. The ABW of Pennsylvania and Delaware hope to raise \$15,000 for this project of renovating, decorating and opening a thrift shop in Vitoria, Brazil. Many needy youth live on the streets of Vitoria facing poverty, homelessness and a most difficult life on the streets. The International Ministry project leaders for Brighter Days for Brazilian Youth are Corene and Philip Smith. You can read more about this project on the church bulletin board.

Your donation of baked goods and purchase of baked goods will help the youth of Vitoria, Brazil. Get ready to stock up for your Christmas celebrations with cookies, pies, cakes, pizzelles and more. 🍪🍰🎄🎂

Thank you in advance for your support

Many blessings.
Pet Rust and the Ladies of ABW

Parish Resource Center Events

2160 Lincoln Highway East #18, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 17602, United States

Who We Are

Parish Resource Center was founded 42 years ago in Lancaster. We exist to help organizations which, although diverse in size, mission, and geographical location, seek to serve the common good in their community.

Our approach is practical. We share resources and ideas by providing programming to churches and nonprofits.

Our aim is to increase the capacity of organizations' staff, volunteers, and boards so that they can more effectively deliver their goals and mission.

Upcoming Classes

A Conversation: Forgiving Medical Debt

January 15, 2020 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

"Medical debt destroys the financial stability of large segments of America's most vulnerable communities: the sick, the elderly, the poor, and veterans. It also targets the middle class, driving many families who are barely getting along into poverty. Medical debt isn't the result of bad decisions. It's a debt of necessity." *RIP Medical Debt*

Join us for an informational meeting to discuss the possibility of forgiving \$39 million of medical debt in Lancaster County. We will be partnering with [RIP Medical Debt](#), an established, national organization that has been buying and forgiving medical debt since 2014. They have provided us with the numbers for Lancaster County: **\$39 million of debt available for purchase for \$39,000**. Please bring your questions and concerns as we brainstorm how churches in Lancaster County can significantly impact our neighbors in such a practical way! If you are unable to attend this meeting but interested in the initiative, please contact us. We will share the outcomes of the conversation with everyone interested in seeing this accomplished in Lancaster or interested in copying this work in other locations.

Venue: [Parish Resource Center](#)

Address: 2160 Lincoln Highway East #18, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 17602, United States



Parish
Resource
Center

Birthdays & Anniversaries for December

Anniversaries



12/15/1967 Blaine & Carol Proper
12/19/1970 Bill & Ruth Hannum
12/30/1961 Duke & Carol Gabriel
Jack & Angela White



Birthdays



12/1 Leroy Tebie
12/4 Snow Bell
12/6 Elizabeth Hildebrand
Grace Shirk
12/8 Cora Stump
Diana Rushemeza
12/13 Christian Saw
12/19 Sharon Amey
12/21 Joseph Rushemeza
12/24 K'lu Moo
12/29 Ivy Sweigart
12/30 Marianne Edgell



Music Notes

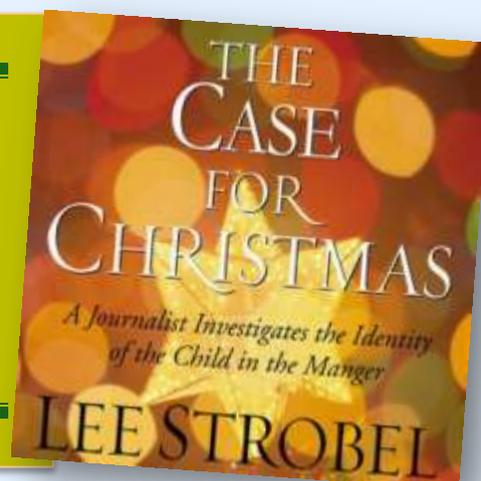
Choir practice Thursdays,
10:00 am to noon.

See Amy Y. if you would like
to join the choir.

Women's Bible Study

meets

Tuesday mornings, at 9:15 am,
We are doing a holiday min-study with
"The Case for Christmas"



"WHO IS DOING WHAT?"

Ushers' Schedule

12/1 Jess Crookshank & Dan Chure
12/8 Bill Hannum &
12/15 John & Ruth Hessen
12/22 Snow Bell & Richard Adams
12/29 Marie Mohn & Blaine Proper

Greeter
Carol Proper

Sound Engineer
Sam Ombongi

Communion Coordinator
John Hessen

Counters' Schedule

12/1 Rachel Stump & Sam Ombongi
12/8 Richard Adams & John Hessen
12/15 Cindy Ferris & Janet Whitehead
12/22 Rachel Stump &
12/29 Marie Mohn & Ruth Hannum

Nursery

12/1 Cora Stump
12/8 Rachel Stump
12/15 Gertrude Mokuia & Emelia Bossman
12/22 Ruth Hessen
12/29 Cindy Ferris



Children's Message

12/1 Marie Mohn
12/8 Rachel Stump
12/15 Ruth Hannum
12/22 Pastor Robert
12/29 Cindy Ferris

Children's Church

12/1 Sarah Tebie & Janet Whitehead
12/8 Christine Zelem & Emelia Bossman
12/15 Ivy Sweigart & Summer Guntz
12/22 Christine Zelem & Kayleen Martin
12/29 Ivy Sweigart & Summer Guntz

Westgate Baptist Church Events December, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Communion Sunday 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30AM Linger Longer		9:15 AM Women's Bible Study		10:00 AM Choir Practice		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30AM Linger Longer	6:30 pm Board Mtg.	9:15 AM Women's Bible Study		10:00 AM Choir Practice		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30AM Linger Longer		9:15 AM Women's Bible Study	9:00AM AB Men's Breakfast	10:00 AM Choir Practice		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Christmas Cantata & Worship 7:00 Christmas Concert Lancaster Brass Quintet		7:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve	<div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; transform: rotate(-2deg);"> <i>Christmas</i> </div>			
29	30	31				
9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:30 AM Linger Longer Hot Cocoa & Cookies		9:15 AM Women's Bible Study New Year's Eve				