

# THE CROSSROADS

January 2019

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

- Proverbs 3:5-6

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## ONE BLOCK NORTH AND WORSHIP AT KENMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## WHAT IS EPIPHANY?

January 5, 2017 by Religion News Service

You thought the holidays were over.

Technically, no — not until Jan. 6, when Christians all over the world celebrate Epiphany. In some places, the day is known as "Three Kings Day" after the wise men, or Magi, who, the Bible says, brought the infant gifts and proclaimed him the Son of God. In other places, the day is known for giving gifts, for extremely cold baths and for biting into babies. Let us 'splain ...

## What do you mean, the holidays are not over?

Maybe you've heard of "The Twelve Days of Christmas?" Besides being a catchy or crucifying little ditty, depending on your point of view, the title refers to the period between Christmas Day, when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, to Epiphany, when they mark his manifestation — "incarnation," in some Christian traditions. In fact, the word "epiphany" is drawn from the Greek and means "manifestation."

The period refers to the story in Matthew that tells of some kings who followed a star in the East to find the baby in the manger. They brought him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Ten points to you if you can name the kings (*Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar*) and 10 more points if you know what myrrh is (a scented oil).

# But didn't the wise men visit Jesus on the night of his birth? Like in the church Christmas pageants?

Who knows? The Bible isn't exactly a timetable. In fact, the Bible says nothing about the number of kings, their robes, turbans or crowns they wear in every Christmas pageant in the world, nor does it say they rode on camels or how they learned the star would lead them to a baby in Bethlehem. People have just filled in all those blanks since Epiphany became a church feast in the second century, making it one of the oldest of Christian celebrations.

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#### "ONE BLOCK NORTH AND WORSHIP" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

## How is Epiphany celebrated?

That depends on where you are and what kind of Christian you are. Most U.S. Protestants mark the day on the Sunday closest to Jan. 6 and it is usually limited to that day's church service and sermon. But it opens the church's "season of Epiphany," a time when sermons and lessons focus on the miracles of Jesus; the season ends on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday (this year on March 1), the start of the Lenten season.

Catholics also celebrate Epiphany on the actual day, and Pope Francis will deliver his annual Epiphany homily during Mass in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The following Sunday, many Catholic priests will deliver homilies that focus on Jesus' baptism. Eastern Orthodox churches, too, focus heavily on Jesus' baptism at Epiphany, with priests in places such as Russia, Bulgaria and Greece tossing crucifixes or crosses into the water, which devotees then dive for. Some Orthodox churches, which use a different calendar to mark their liturgical year, celebrate Epiphany on Jan. 19 and won't take the dive until then.

## That sounds bracing.

### Are there any Epiphany traditions that don't involve becoming a polar bear?

You bet. First, some Christians give gifts all over again on Jan. 6. In Spain, children leave their shoes outside in the hopes they will be filled with candy and presents if the youngsters have been good. Naughty ones are told they'll get only clumps of coal.

In Italy, children receive gifts on the Epiphany morning from a witch known as "La Befana." The story goes that the wise men visited an old woman when they were looking for Jesus and invited her to come along. She was too busy. Then the shepherds stopped at her shack and extended their invitation. "Sorry, too busy!" Since then, she flies through the air in search of the Christ child, leaving gifts for other good children in her search. Meanwhile, Venetian gondoliers mark the day by dressing in drag and cruising down the Grand Canal.

In Spain, Mexico and other Latino countries, Jan. 6 is "Dia de los Tres Reyes Magos," or Day of the Three Wise Kings. To celebrate, people make a "roscon de reyes," or king's ring cake, a pastry with a tiny figurine of a baby baked into the

dough. The idea is that the baby will be revealed in a slice or a bite of bread, just as Jesus was revealed as the Son of God to the kings.

Catholics in New Orleans have taken the king cake to a new level. Bakeries all over the city offer elaborate, frosted, fruit-filled confections, all baked with a plastic baby on the inside. Customers eat them throughout the season of Epiphany, indulging right up to Ash Wednesday. Like plastic beads, hurricane glasses and "golden" doubloons tossed from parade floats, king cakes have become an emblem of that city's Mardi Gras festivities.

So laissez le bon temps rouler and Happy Epiphany!

by Kimberly Winston, Religion News Service



#### **MUSIC NOTES**

By Emma Haupt, Director of Music

## A New Year, A New Song

Sing to the Lord a new song!

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.



The New Year marks beginnings and endings, sorrows and joys, and a sense of urgency to make changes in our lives. January is the most popular time of year to purchase a gym membership, but we all know how long those fleeting New Year's resolutions last. It is the end of a complete year as 2018 is in our past as soon as the clock strikes midnight. The year 2019 is yet unknown and we will only understand what is in store as it unfolds one day at a time.

For me personally the end of 2018 marks my first full year in Buffalo and the beginning of the second. It's a joy and a blessing to have made KPC part of my life here and I've felt the welcoming embrace from everyone this holiday season. As 2019 roars ahead, it rings in renewed commitment to musical purpose to praise God in all that is sung and played.

Psalm 96 calls upon us to sing a new song to God and what better time to do it than the beginning of a new year? A song sung to God in the new year recommits us to praise him.

The idea of a New Year's resolution is to seek active change in our lives; to do something different or better than we had been previously. While betterment supports continued growth and learning, the word resolution allows us to be passive and just hope that positive change occurs. One Merriam-Webster definition of the word does state "to declare or decide" but another says "to settle or submit to" which doesn't make us the change agents we could be.

In contrast, making a recommitment is an effective change. Think about the new year as a time to make a recommitment to something that is important to you: your family, your church, your health, or whatever is near to your heart. It's about continuing something that is already important to you that may have taken a backseat in the year 2018. Most of all, make a recommitment to yourself. Don't give in to societal pressure to change who you are but take a deep look within your priorities and find one that holds meaning. Only then will you be able to make a lasting commitment this year.

If part of your New Year's recommitment is to become more involved with KPC one avenue is to literally sing a new song and join a music ensemble! Or, just continue to sing with vigor from the pews to uplift our congregational song to God on Sunday mornings.

#### **CALL FOR LITURGISTS**



Kenmore Presbyterian is currently looking for members to assist with the Sunday liturgy throughout the month of January. If you would like to assist our service as Liturgist, please email Beth Randall at <a href="mailto:randales@gmail.com">randales@gmail.com</a>.

#### **JANUARY PULPIT SUPPLY**

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

This month we are pleased to be welcoming the following to Kenmore Presbyterian Church to lead us in worship:

January 6th: Rev. David Smith

January 13th: Richard Petersen

January 20th: Lisa Giacomazza

January 27th: Rev. Geri Lyon (Service AND Annual Meeting)

Please help Kenmore Presbyterian show our appreciation for the passion and talent these individuals will bring to our church throughout our transition!

### **DEACONS' DISPATCH**

By GLEN BURGSTAHLER

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and will have a great 2019!

The deacons delivered poinsettias to all of our homebound people for Christmas and sponsored a wonderful pancake breakfast for our food pantry guests in December. This was led by Julie Jaap who is a blessing to our church.

Also start thinking about our basket raffle for the annual scholarship luncheon. Dates will be upcoming.

Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.
- Revelation 22:12

#### **KPC STATISTICIAN WANTED!**

LES KELLNER

Ruth Woodworth has been serving as attendance keeper as well as church statistician.

Although Ruth will continue to keep attendance, KPC is currently in need of a replacement for statistician.

The statistician would be in charge of maintaining and updating KPC membership records, including:

- 1. New members joining church
- 2. Former members or current members who are:
  - Transferring to another church
  - Requesting removal from KPC membership
  - · Removed due to death
- 3. Changes in membership
  - Recording new officers, Session or Deacons
  - Noting change of address or phone numbers
  - Recording marriages within membership

If you are interested, please contact Les Kellner at 695-2503. KPC is looking for TWO persons—one to back up the other. Ruth will explain in detail to new replacements.

#### INFORMATION/PICTURE GALLERY FOR SHUT-INS

WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM

In the Kenmore Presbyterian narthex, as you enter the church from Delaware Avenue, you will find an Information/Picture Gallery of our shut-in members.

This time of year can be a lonely time for these members, and a simple card or personal visit can go a long way in brightening their spirits. In visiting with them, you will also find their life, family and church-related stories interesting.

Please remember them this season with cards, visits and phone calls. Addresses, phone numbers and birthdays accompany their photographs. Thank You!!



#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE 10

By Elaine LaClair, Moderator, Circle 10

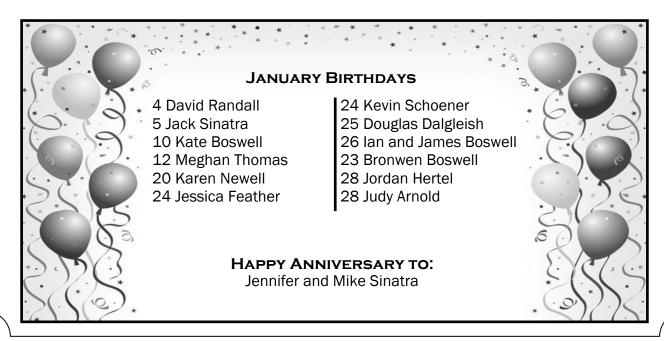


Presbyterian Women Circle 10 will meet on **Monday, January 14th** at 7:00 p.m. Our hostess will be Marilyn Plache, who lives at 323 Southwood Drive in Kenmore. Our co-hostess is Gail Janiga. Marilyn Koszarek will lead Bible Study #5 and Ruth Woodworth will offer devotions.

#### CALL FOR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS/HOSTESSES

Hosting coffee hour is a great way to give to Ken Pres. without a large time commitment. If you are interested, please see a member of the Fellowship Ministry Team or contact Les Kellner at 695-2503.





FISCAL FA	ACTS - Novemb	er 2018	
RECEIPTS:	BUDGET	NOV ACTUAL	NOV VARIANCE
Membership Pledges	\$15,000	\$9,020	\$5,980
Open Plate Offering	\$250	\$37	\$213
Fundraisers	\$250	0	\$250
Special Offerings	\$183	0	\$183
Per Capita	\$167	\$40	\$127
Trf from Reserves	\$1,868	0	\$1,868
Other Receipts	\$1,346	\$1,728	\$(382)
Total Receipts	\$19,064	\$10,825	\$8,239
DISBURSEMENTS:	BUDGET	NOV. ACTUAL	NOV. VARIANCE
Administration (Support)	\$13,251	\$5,493	\$7,757
Discipleship	\$150	\$108.75	\$41
Worship	\$242	\$1059.45	\$(818)
Flowers	\$108	\$50	\$58
Nominating	\$100	0	\$100
Fundraisers	\$ -	0	\$ -
Witness	\$83	0	\$83
Fellowship	\$42	\$31	\$11
Building & Grounds	\$3,133	\$1,374	\$1,759
Office Expense	\$821	\$366	\$455
Session Expenses	\$167	0	\$167
Per Capita	\$300	\$300	\$ -
Transfer to Mission	\$133	0	\$133
Debt Repayment - PILP	\$472	\$394	\$78
Debt Repayment - Line of Credit	\$217	\$70	\$147
Total Disbursements	\$19,218	\$9,246	\$9,972
Total Inflow/Outflow	\$(154)	\$1,579	\$(1,733)

			JANUARY 201	2019		
S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S
		1 7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous (FH)	2	3 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (FH) 7:00 p.m. Meditation Group (L) 7:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (22)	4 5:00 p.m. Dance (FH)	5 Communion Set-up (K) 9:00 a.m. 2nd Generation Theatre (WW
6 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour (FH) 2:00 p.m. Creative Memories (22) 8:30 p.m. AA (FH)	7 6:00 p.m. Staff Meeting (22) 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH) 7:00 p.m. Ministry Teams	8 6:30 p.m. Brownie Scouts (22) 7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous (FH)	Q	10 6:15 p.m. Joyous Bells (MR) 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (TBD) 7:00 p.m. Meditation Group (L) 7:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (22)	11 5:00 p.m. Dance (FH)	12 9:00 a.m. Food Pantry (FH) 9:00 a.m. 2nd Generation Theatre (WW)
13 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour (FH) 8:30 p.m. AA (FH)	14 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)	15 6:30 p.m. Brownie Scouts (22) 7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous (FH)	16	17 6:15 p.m. Joyous Bells (MR) 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (FH) 7:00 p.m. Meditation Group (L) 7:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (22) 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (MR)	18 5:00 p.m. Dance (FH)	19 9:00 a.m. 2nd Generation Theatre (WW)
20 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour (FH) 8:30 p.m. AA (FH)	21	22 6:30 p.m. Brownie Scouts (22) 7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous (FH)	23 6:00 p.m. Northmore Open House (CR)	24 6:15 p.m. Joyous Bells (MR) 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (FH) 7:00 p.m. Meditation Group (L) 7:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (22) 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (MR)	25 5:00 p.m. Dance (FH)	26 9:00 a.m. Northmore Father's Day 9:00 a.m. 2nd Generation Theatre (WW)
27 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Annual Meeting (FH) 8:30 p.m. AA (FH)	28 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH) 7:00 p.m. Deacons (L) 7:00 p.m. Session (22)	29 6:30 p.m. Brownie Scouts (22) 7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous (FH)	30 9:00 a.m. Ken-Ton Mom's Club (FH)	31 12:00 p.m. Food Pantry (FH) 6:15 p.m. Joyous Bells (MR) 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (FH) 7:00 p.m. Meditation Group (L) 7:00 p.m. Girl Scouts (22) 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (MR)		
For your information  The Church Office is	or your information The Church Office is open Mondays Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 1nm	s and Thursdays Qa	m to 1pm	Legend		

- The Church Office is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 1pm. The deadline for the weekly bulletin is Monday before 12 noon.
- The deadline for the February CROSSROADS is Monday, January 21st before 12 noon.

**22** = Room 22 **C** = Chapel **FH** = Fellowship Hall

**WW** = Windows on the World

L = Library

MR = Music Room

S = Sanctuary

K = Kitchen



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Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

ECCLESIASTES 3:11