

The Creeksider
 The monthly newsletter of
 Plymouth Creek Christian Church
 Come shine with us!

Justice Devotional

New Year's greetings from Sharon Watkins

Posted on January 4, 2017 by Sharon Watkins.

January 2017

Dearest Friends in Christ –

“Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.” [1]

From the Advent promise of Emmanuel: God with us; to the Epiphany revelation: God-with-us-now, we hope.

And yet, I confess, as 2017 begins, my heart is bruised by the pain and division the United States and Canada have experienced which have filtered into our communities and congregations. Antagonistic elections in the United States have upended civil discourse. Repeated public incidents of both individual and institutional racism have fractured relationships in communities. And beyond our borders, civil wars in places like South Sudan and Syria, as well as natural disasters in long-suffering Haiti, only increase the need for healing of all kinds.

Still, along with “all of creation” in Romans 8:18, we wait expectantly “for the children of God to be revealed.” In fact, we hope to be among them. We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. We know God to be a God of abundance who provides enough for all and makes room enough for all.

This is the time for Disciples to shine! We have long found ways to live

together in unity for the sake of God’s mission. Our ability to respect (and engage!) a diversity of faithful opinions is needed now more than ever. Our emphasis on healing the rifts of racism with pro-reconciling work is foundational to moving forward in our part of the world and globally. Our shared sense of service that came through loud and clear in our Mission Gatherings of 2016 gives us some of the connections we need to start living into the wholeness God so ardently wishes for us.

Our deep hope in God’s healing presence leads us to action.

Mission First!

Disciples are on the move toward new ways of being God’s hands and feet in the world through our work on Mission First! The Mission Council met late last year to identify common themes arising from the mission gatherings. We found many Disciples are hearing a call to mission with and for children, youth and young adults through efforts at inclusion, speaking up for the vulnerable and addressing racism. The Council affirmed welcome and accompaniment as hallmarks of our participation in God’s mission. At some of the gatherings – in the MidAmerica Region, for example – people found others who share their missional passions and formed connections to work together immediately. The Administrative Committee is preparing a proposal on how we might implement what we learned from the governance portion of the Mission First! pilot effort.

Pro-Reconciliation

As called for in General Assembly resolution 1328, the Racist Language Audit Task Force presented their report in 2016. General ministries, regions and the General Board, have

Jan 16 Potluck

Last Initial	Bring
A-H	Main Dish
I-P	Salads and Side Dishes
Q-Z	Bread, Desserts, Condiments and Beverages

already started to address the issues surfaced. Governing documents are being translated, sometimes for the first time, into French, Spanish and Korean. The National Convocation, at the 2016 Biennial Session, committed to renewed support for Reconciliation Ministry and calls upon the rest of the church to do the same.

New starts

In 2017, we look forward to new beginnings with our next General Minister and President to be elected in July at the General Assembly, along with our new moderator team. We anticipate gathering once again at the Lord's Table to be united as ONE, celebrating Jesus' prayer on our behalf that the world may believe.

Called to Live in Hope

After nearly 12 years, serving as your general minister and president, I still believe we are a church whose time has come. We are a gifted people, called for such a time as this. Refining our missional focus across the life of the Church, renewing our commitment to racial justice, catching the Spirit in new ways to further our part in God's work of healing and wholeness – we enter 2017 ready to be and to share the good news of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving, and serving, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

With hope in Christ undimmed, I greet you in this New Year. May we all resolve to live right now in "the assurance of things hoped for!" (Hebrews 11:1)

Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins
General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

[1] Brian Wren. Chalice Hymnal. Chalice Press. #132

Joys & Concerns

~Condolances and prayers for Tom and his family following the passing of his aunt
~Continued prayers for Jeremae
~Prayers for a happy healthy and prosperous new year.
~Condolances to Aleta and family following Glenn's passing

News & Events



Thank You for Your Holiday Sleep Out Gifts

We are delighted at the incredible holiday giving that has brought the Sleep Out campaign to \$2.05 million of our \$2.18 million goal. This means Interfaith Outreach can help 2,005 local families stabilize, strengthen and move forward on the road to thrive in the coming year. On behalf of each of those brave people, thank you for your compassion and generosity!

In an effort to serve the remaining 179 families Interfaith Outreach expects to encounter this year, we are extending the Dec. 31 campaign deadline and **will accept donations for the 2016 Sleep Out through Jan. 13, 2017**. Consider getting a jump on your 2017 charitable giving and help us meet our goal of assisting 2,184 families in the coming year! You can contribute by mailing a check, dropping it off at our offices, or giving online at www.iocp.org/donate.

We wish all families a joyous start to the new year!
Thank you

COME MEET OUR TEAM & TAKE A TOUR LEARN MORE AND GET ENGAGED. FREE LUNCH!

Join us for a gathering at our Family Service and Learning Center. Take a tour, learn more about Interfaith Outreach's resources and discover how you can be a part of the care that takes place every day.

This event is free, but registration is required because we provide lunch before the tour.

Sign up online or call 763-489-7515

Missed this month? Join us in the near future every second Tuesday:

Jan. 10, noon-1 p.m.

Feb. 14, noon-1 p.m.

March 14, noon-1 p.m.

January Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship Sundays at 10 AM New Year's Day Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23			Choir 7 PM Wednesdays Happy Birthday Maya I IOCP Service Night		Epiphany Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Baptism of the Lord Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	Board Mtg Happy Birthday Carsten I IV				Happy Birthday Steve W	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Potluck	M L King Day				Happy Birthday Steve L	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42				Happy Birthday Katy N		
29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4
Happy Birthday Tyrre J Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12						Happy Birthday Richard S

Worship Volunteer Schedule

	Presiding Worship Leader	Assisting Worship Leader	Comm Prep & Clean-Up	Servers/ Ushers	Servers/ Ushers	Worship Facilitator	Servant Leader	Bus Driver
1/1/2017	Glenda G	Russ W	Debbie L	Richard S & Bob M	Don B & Matt J	Bob B	LeAnn V	Bob M
1/8/2017	Al J	Julia F	Marian T	Bob M & Richard S	Tom J & Matt J	Tom J	Ben W	Mike B
1/15/2017	Donna Je	Sarah J	Wanda B	Carlos O & Don B	Tom J & Matt J	Carlos O	Donna Je	Russ W
1/22/2017	LeAnn V	Pete B	Mike B	Carlos O & Don B	Carsten I & Kimberly W	Carsten I	Deb K	Bob M
1/29/2017	Donna Ja	Tom J	Jeanne J	Carsten I & Kimberly W	Carlos O & Matt J	Bob B	LeAnn V	Carlos O

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Come shine with us!

Our core mission is to experience and share the joy of knowing God deeply, loving all God's children, and welcoming all to our Table.

As we do this, our God-Sized Vision is to become a beacon of Christian openness and service in the northwestern suburbs.

Come shine with us!