



Protestant Fellowship

Community Newsletter

December, 2023

“A Time to Every Purpose”

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. Galatians 4:4-5

The line “And a time to every purpose under heaven” is from “Turn! Turn! Turn!” written by Pete Seeger in 1959. The song became an international hit in late 1965 when it was adapted by the Byrds. How many people who have ever heard the song can read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 without humming or singing “Turn! Turn! Turn!”?

The Jewish people had been waiting and waiting and waiting for the Promised One, the One who would set them free. The One who would restore the Throne of David. The One who would reign forever.

A sermon I remember from many years ago addressed some aspects of the time of Caesar Augustus which might have figured into the phrase “fullness of time”. The prophecy of the Messiah had been given to the Israelites and it seems reasonable that the events would transpire in an area where they resided. Throughout the world that they knew, just about everyone spoke Greek in addition to their native language, and Greek was a common written language. There were roads in most part of the empire. There was peace in the empire, Pax Romana, albeit under the boot heels of the Roman army.

This environment made it less harsh for a group of stargazers from the East to travel westward in search of a newborn King. It also may have made it easier for a couple with an infant to flee from Bethlehem to Egypt. A few decades later, the roads and developed trade routes in the Mediterranean made it easier for followers of The Way to take their message of redemption from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria and the ends of the earth. The use of Greek throughout the empire made it easier to communicate in written and oral form without reliance on translators.

The story is not finished. We are looking forward to the return of the Messiah. It has been promised; it has been described. The times and signs are there, though we may not understand them. And then “time” will be no more. Our lamps need to be ready, as were the lamps of five of the ten bridesmaids (see Matthew 25:1-13).


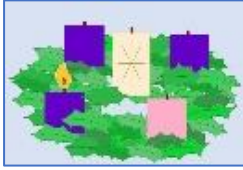
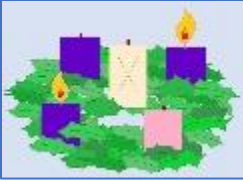



God of Time, Keep us safe; keep us ready for your return. Keep us faithful during hard times when faith is challenged and during easy times when faith may not seem necessary. Keep us mindful of your message and Commission to us that we should go out into the world. Lastly, Keep us. We pray this in Jesus Name. Amen.

Prayerfully submitted by John Hodges

Worship Services for December, 2023

**Each Sunday at 2:00 pm from the chapel with Prelude at 1:45;
also on ACTV channel 976 (standard def) / 980 (high def)**

All are **Welcome to join us in the Chapel on Sunday Afternoons**

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023	<p>First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Rev. Henrik Sonntag, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glenside, PA.</p> <p>Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.</p> <p>Prelude will begin at 1:45. Organist: Jane Smith; Pianist: Betty Kingston.</p>	 
Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023	<p>Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Rev. Amy Martin, Pastoral Associate at Ann's Choice. Part of her time supports the Mission of the Protestant Fellowship Council.</p> <p>Prelude will begin at 1:30. Organist: Bud Williams; Pianist: Betty Kingston.</p>	
Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023	<p>Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Advent Service of Worship of Lessons and Carols as we will explore the season of Advent through the Scriptures, Psalms and Hymns of Praise.</p> <p>Prelude will begin at 1:45. Organist: Joan Kirk; Pianist: Betty Kingston</p>	
Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023	<p>Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Fr. Ernest Curtin, resident of Ann's Choice and retired Rector at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Newtown.</p> <p>Prelude will begin a 1:45. Organist: John Keesey; Pianist: Betty Kingston.</p>	
Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023	<p>First Sunday After Christmas</p> <p>Fr. Ernest Curtin, resident of Ann's Choice and retired Rector at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Newtown. Come celebrate Christmastide as we end the year by singing our favorite Christmas carols and worshipping God.</p> <p>Prelude will begin at 1:30. Organist: Bud Williams; Pianist: Betty Kingston.</p>	

Quiet Reflections and Prayers: The Chapel at Ann's Choice is open daily for private reflection when worship services and other events not being conducted.

Rose Gardens and Chestnut Pointe: Monthly Protestant Communion services have resumed in the Continuing Care communities. These services are very meaningful for the residents. Pastoral Visits and Home Communion are available. Contact Pastoral Ministries at (215) 443-4831 to volunteer or if you have questions.

Ann's Choice Pastoral Associate

As the Pastoral Associate, Rev. Amy Martin devotes one-quarter of her time supporting the Mission of the Protestant Fellowship Council.

Stop by her office in Liberty Commons to introduce yourself and meet her. Or you can call and leave a message for her at (215) 443-3831; or send her an email (Amy.Martin@erickson.com); or write a note on an offering envelope and leave it in the offering plate at Chapel worship.

Contact Rev. Martin, or leave a note on an offering envelope to receive this newsletter in your cubby or by email.



Protestant Page on the Resident Website: You may find worship bulletins, hymns, newsletters and other information about the Protestant Fellowship at www.acresidents.org.

Bible Study:

Weekly Bible study meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Liberty Commons Music Room. Zoom access is available. Rev. Na is leading the Bible study on a variety of New Testament topics. Contact Rev. Na at (215) 443-4925, Pastoral Ministries offices in Liberty or Kang.Na@erickson.com for more information about the Bible study or connection information for using Zoom.

All are welcome so that together we might encourage and challenge one another on the hard road that is Christian discipleship.

Ecumenical Afternoon Christmas Program

On Thursday, December 14 at 2:00 pm in the Chapel, Bud Williams and Betty Kingston will present a program of Christmas favorites. During this program you will have an opportunity to lift your voices in song. The doors will open at 1:30.



St. John's Choirs

On Thursday evening, December 21, the vocal and bell choirs from St. John's Ivyland UMC will present an evening of Christmas music in the Chapel. The program will begin at 7:30 and the doors will open at 7:00. A freewill offering will be received at the conclusion of the program.



Donations for Ukraine Relief and for Turkey / Syria Earthquake Relief:

Since March 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine more than \$ 22,000 has been sent by the Protestant Community to help with relief efforts. And we have been supporting relief efforts for those devastated by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria; a total of \$ 4,000 has been sent to Samaritan's Purse.

Supporting Our Ministry and Mission:

You can help support the mission projects and ministries of the Protestant Fellowship. Donations may be enclosed in an envelope addressed to Rev. Martin and taken to any clubhouse front desk. Donations by check are preferred; please make the check payable to "A. C. – Protestant Fund".

On the memo line, please write "Donation."

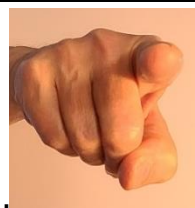
Second Saturday Cinema in December, 2023:

On Saturday, **December 9** we will present the 2004 movie *The Polar Express* in the PAC at 7:00 pm with a pre-show at 6:45. This program is sponsored by the Protestant Fellowship Council as a ministry at Ann's Choice. **No** donation will be requested, as your presence is your donation.



Are You Called to Serve on the Protestant Fellowship Council?

The Council is responsible for leading and managing the ministries and worship of the Protestant Fellowship. There are different, important roles for this ministry of leadership. Pray for discernment in how you might help in a leadership role. Contact any Council member for more information.



Protestant Fellowship Council

Our purpose is to bring glory to God in all that we pursue in and through the Protestant Faith Community

Members of the Protestant Fellowship Council in 2023

Fr. Ernie Curtin	MT-214	Polly Riddle	BG-120
Dolores Ehrenfeld	BC-312	Bob Swan	BR-201
John Hodges	BC-412	Lynn Swan	BR-201
Helen Hughes	DT-307	Janet Wentz	PV-107
Robert McQue	BR-301	Bud Williams	TC-107

Protestant Fellowship Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting of the Protestant Fellowship will be held on Monday, **December 4 at 10:00 am in the Liberty Music Room**. Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be available.

This meeting is open to any resident who participates in any of the activities, ministries and worship services held by the Protestant Fellowship. At this meeting you will hear the annual reports of the different activities of the Protestant Fellowship Council, and have an opportunity to honor those who have actively given their time and abilities during the past year.

Also, at this meeting new council members will be elected to serve three-year terms beginning in January 2024.