



Newsletter

Presbyterian Disciples Church

January 2018



Pastor's Page—January, 2018—Presbyterian Disciples Church, Lexington, MO
Selection from the Confession of Belhar (adopted by PCUSA GA 2016) September 1986 1

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;

that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;

that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine

which, in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ.

Note

1. This is a translation of the original Afrikaans text of the confession as it was adopted by the synod of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa in 1986. In 1994 the Dutch Reformed Mission Church and the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa united to form the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA). This inclusive language text was prepared by the Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA). Additional Note from pastor—This is Sec. 3 in original text.

Hello and Happy New Year PDC!!! Since we generally reflect about the old year at the coming of the new, I thought I'd share a part of the newest of the PC (USA)'s Confessions, which are historic statements of the faith. For Presbyterians the Confessions stand as Part I of the Church's Constitution, and reflect statements of faith made by the church in many different places and times. Belhar is about number 11 or 12 I think, and the confessions include the Apostles and Nicene creeds and many others.

The reason I am commending this to you is in response to some of the statements of the Alt-Right, sometimes associated with the new administration in Washington, sometimes speaking on its own. I am asking you to consider what the Alt-Right represents in our country and what our church represents here as a counter to the ideology of racial and ethnic divisiveness. Please don't suppose I'm trying to take some cheap shots at the new administration. I hope and pray they do lead us well, since they have been declared the winner. But I do think it is good to think about what direction we are taking and how we plan to move. Many people wonder about the church's importance in modern life. Statements such as the Belhar Confession remind me just how important the church's teachings are, both to us, and for the world.

Church Chuckle: New Year's Resolution—Something that goes in one year and out the other!!!



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Happy New Year. Hope everyone has a wonderful and happy 2018!! Let God guide your steps and you will not fall!!



Peace & Justice

The Lexington Ministerial Alliance will host their annual Community Peace & Justice Service Sunday, January 21, 7:00 pm at the Second Baptist Church. All the Pastors associated with the Ministerial Alliance will share in this service. All are invited to attend.



A Congregational Meeting will be held on January 14th following worship to approve the slate of officers for the Board and the Board meeting will follow.



A Loose Change Special Offering is taken the First Sunday of Every Month to support local missions.

The Old Family Bible
A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he held in his hand was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.



“Mama, look what I found!” the boy called out.

“What have you got there, dear?” asked his mother.

The young boy answered in a voice hushed with awe, “I think it’s Adam’s underwear.”



Looking Ahead to February, plan to bring cans of soup for Souper Bowl of Sharing on Sunday, February 4th to be donated to the Food Pantry.



Community Events

Martine Luther King Jr Day
01-15-2018
NO School

Baby Grace Diaper and Wipes Pick UP
01-27-2018
Location: Lexington United Methodist Church
10am

Community Soup Night
02-08-2016
Location: Lexington VFW
Free and open to the public

6-8pm
Breakfast at Trinity UCC
02-10-2016
Location: Trinity UCC Church
Proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity.
7-10am

Lexington Ministerial Alliance Mtg
02-13-2018
Location: Restoration Branch Church
6:30pm

Harvesters Food Drop
02-19-2018
Location: Lexington United Methodist Church
Open to the Public, no income guidelines
9am

St. Patrick's Parade 2018
03-17-2018
Location: Downtown Lexington
2:00 PM

Please bring your Dave’s Country Mart receipts and your aluminum cans to the church to help us raise money for the Youth Group. There are two gray bins behind the Fellowship Hall for the cans. The cans must be in bags when dropped off. Please make sure the receipts are not balled up as it makes it harder to add them up. Thank you in advance for helping the Youth and the Youth Fund!!!



Lectionary Readings for January:

07 – Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
14 – 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
21— Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
28 —Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 – Shawn Spencer
- 05 – Stephanie Chapman
- 07 – Shelley Maze
- 08 – Tom Bell
- 12 – Greg Morgan
- 15 – Dustin Shaner
- 16 – Shawna Shovald
- 21 – Derek Osman, Ian Swisher
- 25 – Bill Blass
- 28 – Mary Williams
- 30 – Jim Mayfield

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 – Candy & MJ Myers

Let the office know if we do not have your birthday or anniversary on file.

Al-Anon meetings are held at the United Methodist Church every Saturday at 10am.



Our Servicemen: Bobby Maze, Bo Maze, Derek Morgan, Eric Morgan, MJ Myers, Mark Brubeck, Ryland Sims, Johnathan Lefholz, Brittany & Jimmy Register, Christopher Gerald



We Pray for:

Mary Williams, Anne Brubeck, Betty Swisher, Linda & John Larry Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Doris Bradley, Larry, Kathy & Matthew Neil, Jake Means, Robert Smith, Steve Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Roy Marchetti, Bill & LaVeda Cross, Lois Coulter, Bryant Family, Doak Family, Peggy & Duncan McGregor, Bev Waddell, Gloria Hutton, Carson Eby, Steve Harlow, Tom Bell, Mickey Simmitt, Ariana Fry, Alvera Johnson, Bill & Sherry Blass, Betty Dunford, Disaster Victims, Children in Belize, & Future of our church

Pray for the families of those that have passed on:

Gary Ingram, Steven Looney, Ingrid Palmer, Benjamin Roy Reade, Judge James Lauderdale

The Staff wish to thank you for the gracious Christmas Gifts. Many blessings Candy Myers, John Morgan, Perry Beam, MJ Myers, Pastor John Swisher

Lexington R-V School District will start back to school on Wednesday, January 3rd and Discovery Room Preschool will start back to school on Thursday, January 4th.

It's a Gift

Those talents which God has bestowed upon us are not our own goods but the free gifts of God; and any persons who become proud of them show their ungratefulness. —John Calvin

The Hand of God
God's gentle Hand is guiding,
But it doesn't push or shove,
Instead it clasps our human hands
And leads with Grace and Love.

We find within this Hand of God
A heavenly Strength indeed,
And as we follow, God provides
For what we truly need.
—Peggy Ferrell,
Prayers and Poems

Mark Your Calendars for
GROW on
Saturday January 20th, 2018
from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Presbyterian Church of Stanley
14895 Antioch Road
Overland Park, Kansas
—register by January 15

Tentative Schedule
7:30 registration opens/continental breakfast
8:30 gathering
9:00 workshop 1
10:15 workshop 2
11:30 Lunch
12:30 workshop 3
1:45 snack/dessert
2:00 keynote and worship
3:30 Head back into the world to GROW

Participant costs are \$35 per person, but if your church registers five people by Thursday, January 15, a sixth person can attend free.

CMD will offer child care during the three workshops. You must, however, register the child(ren) by Wednesday, January 15. The cost will be \$20.

Register online at: http://www.churchresourcecenter.org/e_mbracinghop-e/
Contact Malinda Spencer with questions
816.923.5486

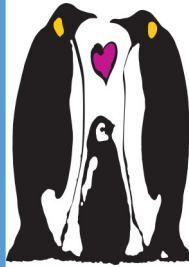
To keep up to date on current events and to see what visitors are seeing when they check out our town on the internet, go to the following websites:

- www.lexingtonmo.com
- www.historiclexington.com
- www.visitlexingtonmo.com
- www.lafayettecountymo.com

A Penguin “Parable”

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective “crèches” (French for “cribs”); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can’t survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.



United In Diversity

Although early Christians had much in common, they also dwelt in diversity. Each of their leaders emphasized certain parts of the gospel and favored certain worship styles. They all believed in the resurrected Jesus, and they all celebrated the Lord’s Supper and baptism. But Christians in Corinth had a unique approach, as did those in Ephesus, Philippi, Galatia, Rome and so on.

It might be boring if we all believed and practiced completely alike. Variations don’t need to be an impediment to Christian unity. As pastor Charles Best said, “If we’re going to be in heaven together, we might as well get along now.”

A Freedom of Forgiveness

Martin Luther King Jr. called forgiveness “a permanent attitude,” as opposed to “an occasional act.” Maintaining a forgiveness mind-set leads to peace and freedom.

Author and pastor Max Anders experienced that freedom in seminary. After cheating on a Hebrew final, he was distraught and confessed his sin to God and the professor. “I felt deeply cleaned. Pure. Holy,” Anders writes in 21 Unbreakable Laws of Life. “I wanted to laugh and cry at the same time. I wanted to run and jump and dance. The burden was lifted. ... I was free!”

By contrast, he writes, “If we don’t ask for forgiveness when we wrong someone, we lose our moral authority; the debris of sin begins to accumulate in our hearts, choking our conscience Others know when we sin against them, and if we don’t make it right, it hurts our reputation as well as God’s.”



Come Back to Christmas

When January comes along, we can continue that sense of comfort and warmth that comes at Christmas by returning to the Christmas story, which gives us two great promises: God understands you, and God can redeem you.

I encourage people to make it a point to reread the Christmas story every month, and allow Christmas to be Christmas every month. We need to keep coming back to it.

—Max Lucado, *Publishers Weekly* interview

A New You

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.

—G.K. Chesterton



Prayer for a New Beginning

Dear Lord, touch me with your Spirit of truth so I may be honest about my sins and failures. Forgive me for treating your covenant lightly and at times ignoring it completely. Help me truly seek and know forgiveness for all the hurts I’ve caused, for harboring ill will and for any hardness of heart I may have. Please renew a right spirit within me that I may become more Christ-like and that my life may daily reveal your love and light. In your name. Amen.



IN CHRIST GOD WAS RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:19

Resolve to “Be There”

Let our New Year’s resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

—Goran Persson

Epiphany Wonder

Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, humanity in God, God in humanity, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look ... their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.

—Peter Chrysologus (5th century)



+Christian Symbol+

XPICTOC

This set of letters spells “Christ” in Greek. It may be written using the Roman alphabet (from which the English alphabet descended), but is also often presented in Greek characters, as shown here.



Winter Gift

“God ... does great things beyond our knowing. He says to the snow, ‘Fall to the earth’; likewise to his heavy, drenching rain. He shuts up all humankind indoors, so that all people may know his work” (Job 37:5-7, NABRE).

Snow, ice and cold can make winter a hassle. “Snow days” due to a blizzard may thrill students but usually inconvenience parents. But now and then, winter blankets the earth so heavily that it seems to quiet everything. We’re granted permission to hunker down at home, snuggle close with family or pets, enjoy a book or movie, make cocoa or cookies, and rest. It’s like a surprise sabbath — the gift of grace-time — when no one’s expected to get out the door or the driveway.

Perhaps indeed, as Job declared, God sees fit on such days to put our busyness on hold and shut us all indoors so we pause and remember his work — his place — in our lives. Praise God for snow days!

—Heidi Mann

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”
—Martin Luther King Jr.



“A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.”
—Phyllis Diller

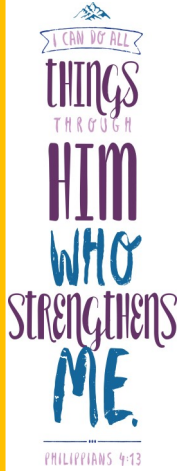


From the Correct Perspective
A child sat at his grandmother’s feet as she embroidered. Looking up, he saw a mishmash of threads and ugly knots but no discernible picture or words. “Nana,” he said with concern, “that’s not very pretty.”

“Come up here,” Grandma invited, “and look at it from this side. You have to see it from my perspective.”

“Oh!” the boy exclaimed then. “It’s beautiful!”

Seeing the world from our human, earthly viewpoint, we can’t grasp the masterpiece that God is completing. But when we finally see it from his perspective, we’ll discover that the threads and knots all contribute to a beautiful work of art. That work won’t be finished until Jesus returns, but in the meantime, may God grant us an occasional glimpse of the work in progress — from God’s side!



Puzzle!
The 12 Old Testament books known as the Minor Prophets aren’t unimportant — just short! Unscramble the names of these books. Then unscramble the circled letters to find a fruit of the Spirit.

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Fruit: _____

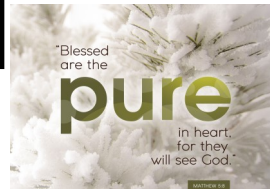
- LEJO _____
- IHCAM _____
- ABKUKKAH _____
- DHAIABO _____
- MUNAH _____
- OAESH _____
- AZAEHINPH _____
- NJHAO _____
- AGIAGH _____
- OASM _____
- AHRIZAHCE _____
- IHCMALA _____

“The Book Our Mothers Read”
We search the world for truth; we cull
The good, the pure, the beautiful,
From graven stone and written scroll,
From all old flower-fields of the soul;

And, weary seekers of the best,
We come back laden from the quest,
To find that all the sages said
Is in the Book our mothers read.
—John Greenleaf Whittier



“Kindness is like snow — it beautifies everything it covers.”
—Kahlil Gibran



Answers: Joel, Micah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Nahum, Hosea, Zephaniah, Jonah, Haggai, Amos, Zechariah, Malachi; Kindness

Three Questions

There’s a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, “Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?”

Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid — and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the brand-new year ahead. For Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

- Who are you? “I’m a child of God!”
- Where are you going? “I’m going out into the world!”
- Why are you going there? “I’m going out of love for Jesus, who died for me!”

Place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently, knowing “whose” you are and what your purpose is.

And better are these treasures to offer to our King;
Than richest gifts without them — yet these a child may bring.
—Anonymous

PUZZLE

A NEW CREATION

The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON
 SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE
 QWCDREYATMIOCNHFASWCOR
 MEGTHWEOFLEXHASSGZONL
 ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

_____ ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



NEW YEAR'S NOISE-MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!

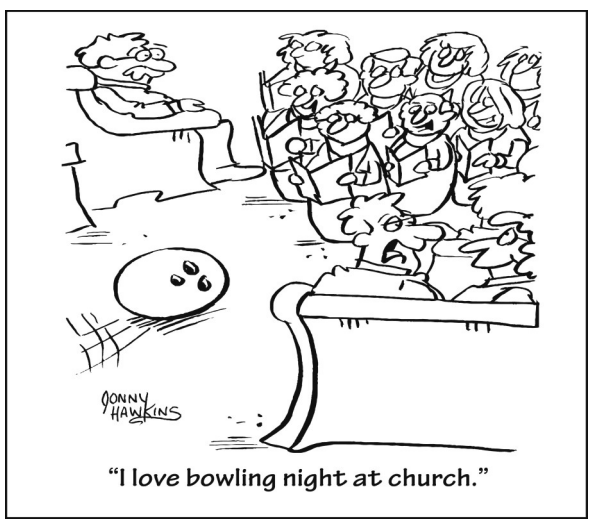


What you need:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!



THIS MONTH'S

Youth Activities



Bible Quiz

At the start of a new year, we remember that God continually gives us new chances. What does Jesus say to a woman caught in adultery?

- A. "Go, and from now on sin no more."
 - B. "Not even in Israel have I found such great faith."
 - C. "Peace be with you."
 - D. "Tell no one what I have done for you."
- Answer: See John 8:11



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>9-11am Food Pantry</i>	6
7 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	8 <i>9am Food Drop</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>12pm Congregation- al Mtg Board Mtg</i>	15 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO SCHOOL</i>	16	17	18	19 <i>1-3 Food Pantry</i>	20 <i>G.R.O.W. Event</i>
21 <i>7pm Peace & Justice Service</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>8:30-11:30am Com- modities</i>	26	27
28	29 <i>NO SCHOOL</i>	30	31			



Presbyterian Disciples Church
914 Franklin Ave., PO Box 28
Lexington, MO 64067
660-259-2102
presdisciples@embarqmail.com
Rev. John Swisher

Worship Service 10:45am - 12:00pm
Childrens Church 11:00am-12:00pm
All Are Welcome



A winter welcome

Minister- Rev. John Swisher
Organist- Perry Beam
Secretary- Candy Myers
Treasurer- John Morgan
Custodian- MJ Myers
Children's Church- Brittney Bayne