



# Newsletter

## Presbyterian Disciples Church

### January 2017



Pastor's Page—January, 2017—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!!!



John Swisher  
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Happy New Year. Hope everyone has a wonderful and happy 2017!! 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 15, 7:00 pm at the Christ Episcopal Church. All the Pastors associated with the Ministerial Alliance will share in this service. All are invited to attend.



Board will meet again on Sunday, January 8th.



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 5th to be donated to the Food Pantry.



## Community Events

01-07-2017  
Dinner and Dance  
Lexington Moose Lodge

01-12-2017  
6:30pm  
Fierce Warriors Cancer Support Group  
Lexington United Methodist Church

01-14-2017  
12-3pm,  
CAPP 'Passing of the Torch' short program, The LEX

01-14-2017  
12:00-3:00pm  
First Arts Project Reward  
The Lex

01-19-2017  
9:00am  
Adventures in Mothering Parent Group  
And Children's Play Group  
Lexington United Methodist Church

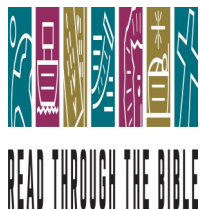
01-25-2017  
4:00-6:00pm  
WILS Anniversary Celebration Invitation  
Location: Warrensburg, MO  
West-Central Independent Living Solutions celebrating 20th anniversary.

01-26-2017  
7:30-9:00pm  
The Mikey Meedleman Band  
First Baptist Church  
Free Concert

01-27-2017  
10:00am  
Baby Grace Diaper and Wipes Pick UP  
Lexington United Methodist Church

02-07-2017  
7:00-8:30pm  
Slavery in Little Dixie  
Battle of Lexington State Historic Site

03-11-2017  
2:00pm  
St. Pat's Day Parade



## Lectionary Readings for January:

01— Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23  
08 — Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:15-17  
15 — Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42  
22— Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23  
29 — Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12



## 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.



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, Irene Bunner, Paula Bunner, Jerry Westcott, Maria Lappert, Mary Ann Barker, Kathy & Larry Neil, Jake Means, Beth Maxwell Burk, Robert Smith, Steve Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Roy Marchetti, Bill Cross, Bonny Bunner, Lisa Vance, Andy Bryant, Grayson Grosso and Family, Disaster Victims, & Future of our church

Families of Sharon Keith, Dustin Seitz, Cynthia Hall, Margaret Kounovsky, Vicki Tretter, Randy Jackson



### 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 Staff wish to thank you for the gracious Christmas Bonus.

Many blessings

Candy Myers, John Morgan, Matthew Neil, MJ Myers, Pastor John Swisher



Lexington R-V School District will start back to school on Wednesday, January 4th and Discovery Room Preschool will start back to school on Thursday, January 5th.

Mark Your Calendars for  
GROW on  
Saturday February 4, 2017  
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\\_mbracinghope/](http://www.churchresourcecenter.org/e_mbracinghope/)  
Contact Malinda Spencer with questions  
816.923.5486



WE ARE THE people  
OF HIS pasture,  
AND THE sheep  
OF HIS hand.  
PSALM 95:7

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

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

To keep connected with the Northwest Area Disciples of Christ, please contact Rev. Bill Rose-Heim at [br\\_h@nwareacc.org](mailto:br_h@nwareacc.org) or (816) 632-2237.

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](http://www.lexingtonmo.com)  
[www.historiclexington.com](http://www.historiclexington.com)  
[www.visitlexingtonmo.com](http://www.visitlexingtonmo.com)  
[www.lafayettecountymo.com](http://www.lafayettecountymo.com)





### Ignite

It is with Christians as with burning coals. If these are scattered apart, one after the other, they are easily extinguished. But, when collected together, the fire of one preserves that of the other, and the glowing coals often ignite others that lie near.  
—August Francke



### A New View

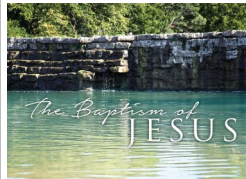
The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.  
—C. Neil Strait



### Washed Clean

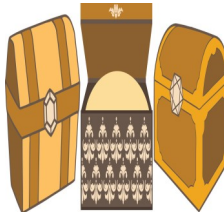
Your morning shower can do more than cleanse your body. Retired pastor Norman Neaves takes time to remember his baptism daily.

“As the water is pouring down on me, I reach up and get water all over my hand. Then I close my eyes and make the sign of the cross on my forehead. ‘I have been baptized in Christ,’ I say to myself quietly. ‘This day belongs to him. I am called to be Jesus’ representative whatever I am doing and wherever I might go. Give me the grace, Lord, to represent you well and with integrity.’”



### +Christian Symbol+ Three Chests

Sometimes called “three arks,” this image represents the gifts the Magi brought to the child Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11). Because Scripture lists three gifts, the legend arose that there were three wise men. But the biblical account doesn’t say how many travelers visited the Holy Family.



### Great Exploits

Colorado pastor Mike Paulison, who’s made many mission trips to Haiti to build and maintain an orphanage, shares about prayer’s power:

“On one trip, we were bringing large items that could’ve been problematic, because in Haiti customs officials often make up their own rules. We urged our prayer-support team back home to be praying as we went through customs. But when a storm delayed our flight from Miami for two hours, the schedule was off. We encouraged one another, saying at least prayers had been lifted. Later, on the plane to Haiti, I noticed I’d made a mistake on the schedule. It was off by exactly two hours. The supporters were actually praying the very moment we landed in Port-au-Prince!”

“In line at customs, we watched officials opening luggage. But by the time we got to the front, the inspectors were gone, and we were allowed to walk into the country. We experienced firsthand the promise in Daniel 11:32b (NKJV): ‘The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.’”



### God’s Promised Spring

Like winter, some seasons of our faith journey feel cold, barren, devoid of life. Will renewal ever come? Will spring flourish again in our heart? Yet the world bears witness to God’s power to bring new life where all seems lost.

In the early 1990s, the St. Louis neighborhood of South City deteriorated sharply due to a stagnant economy, population decline and crime. Then Bosnian refugees started settling there. Thousands of people renovated abandoned houses and other buildings; they started businesses and brought skilled labor back to the neighborhood. As the area returned to life, the refugees experienced renewal, too — hope in place of discouragement, opportunities where none had existed, peace instead of war, life replacing death.

When our faith is challenged by despair, lost dreams or an uncertain future — when God’s promises feel as dead as winter — real-life renewal stories are signs of spring. They testify to the resurrection God has in store for us

### Undaunted

The year just past was wracked with violence, racism and political rancor. We long to fix these problems, but how? We may feel as frustrated as the church board member who spouted, “We’ve already tried prayer. It didn’t work!”

Those words might resonate today, yet things aren’t always what they seem. We can’t see God behind the scenes crafting a new reality, but Scripture promises it. And though our prayers won’t undo earthly death, they surround the grieving with strength and love. We can’t “solve” sin, but our prayers can bring communities together and spur us to look out for one another.

The Jewish Talmud states, “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.” In this new year, may we be undaunted in doing what we can. It might not seem like much, but things aren’t always what they seem.

### Taking a Stand

Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe? Expediency asks the question: Is it politic? Vanity asks the question: Is it popular? But conscience asks the question: Is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular — but one must take it simply because it is right.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

### Lessons From a Snowman

- It’s okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don’t have to be fancy or expensive.
  - We’re all made mostly of water.
- You know you’ve “arrived” when a song is written about you.
  - So what if you’re a little bottom-heavy?
    - Don’t get too much sun.
  - Sweating too much can be disastrous!

**"The Wise May Bring Their Learning"**

The wise may bring their learning, the rich may bring their wealth,  
And some may bring their greatness, and some bring strength and health;  
We, too, would bring our treasures to offer to the King;  
We have no wealth or learning; what shall we children bring?  
We'll bring him hearts that love him; we'll bring him thankful praise,  
And young souls meekly striving to walk in holy ways;  
And these shall be the treasures we offer to the King,  
And these are gifts that even the poorest child may bring.  
We'll bring the little duties we have to do each day;  
We'll try our best to please him, at home, at school, at play;  
And better are these treasures to offer to our King;  
Than richest gifts without them — yet these a child may bring.  
—Anonymous

# Puzzle!

Write a word that fits each definition. Then place the letters in the numbered boxes to read a Beatitude, one of the special statements Jesus shares in Matthew 5.

**The color of coal**

1    2    8    17    21

**Flower with thorns**

9    —    4    3

**Woman's Sunday garment**

7    23    6    5    24

**Vegetable in a pod**

14    10    16

**A light for my \_\_\_\_\_**

—    20    11    12

**Electric fish**

13    15    —

**Dark green gem**

18    19    22    —    —    —    —

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			

Answers: black, rose, dress, pea, path, eel, emerald; Blessed are the peacemakers

**Free Refills**

God's kingdom is like free refills at a restaurant.  
Wait — what?!

Jesus used common, everyday items to explain the kingdom of God; we can too! The kingdom is like free refills. Still thirsty after one soda or coffee? Get another — no charge. In fact, the kingdom of God is better than free refills because you don't even have to pay for the first glass.

It's like having a parent buy you a favorite meal when you're young. You sit back and savor it without the price crossing your mind. That's okay, because the generous giver loves you and wants to be with you.

Sure, that's simplistic, but so are Jesus' parables. Overanalyze them and they may fall apart. But ponder the single point each makes, maybe get a chuckle and an a-ha! out of it, and that parable has done its job. So grab another free refill — of your beverage and of God's love!  
—Heidi Mann

## CALL ON HIS NAME



On this winter morning, Jesus, help each of us feel the warmth of your love and share it with others.



New year, new day and, always, new life in Christ. Thank you, Lord!



"Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will."  
—Jonathan Edwards



"Never trust anyone completely but God. Love people, but put your full trust only in God."  
—Lawrence Welk



# Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?  
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.  
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:



" \_ \_ M T H \_ L \_ G H T \_ F  
T H \_ W \_ R L D. W H \_ \_ V \_ R  
F \_ L L \_ W S M \_ W \_ L L N \_ V \_ R  
W \_ L K \_ N D \_ R K N \_ S S."  
J \_ H N 8:12, NIV

## MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.

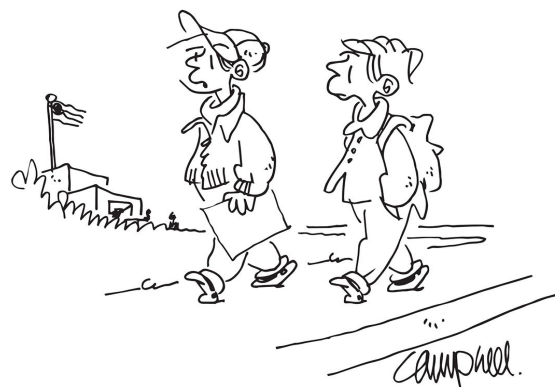


### What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

### What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."



### Bible Quiz

In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

- A. A farmer sowing seed
- B. A mustard seed
- C. Yeast
- D. Hidden treasure
- E. A merchant who finds a pearl
- F. A fishing net
- G. All of the above

Answer: See Matthew 13:24-51



# January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b> NO SCHOOL	<b>3</b> NO SCHOOL-Trng	<b>4</b> Lexington Schools Start	<b>5</b> DRPreschool Starts	<b>6</b> 9-11 Food Pantry	<b>7</b> 10am Al-Anon-LUMC
<b>8</b> Board Mtg	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Ministerial Alliance Mtg-TUCC	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9-11 Food Pantry	<b>14</b> 10am Al-Anon-LUMC
<b>15</b> 7pm Peace & Justice Service-Episcopal	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO SCHOOL	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:30-11:30 60+ Commodities	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 1-3 Food Pantry	<b>21</b> 10am Al-Anon-LUMC
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8:30-11:30 Commodities	<b>27</b> 9-11 Food Pantry 10am Baby Grace-LUMC	<b>28</b> 10am Al-Anon-LUMC
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> NO SCHOOL-Trng	<b>31</b>				





Presbyterian Disciples Church  
914 Franklin Ave., PO Box 28  
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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- Matthew Neil  
Secretary- Candy Myers/Matthew Neil  
Treasurer- John Morgan  
Custodian- MJ Myers  
Children's Church- Brittney Bayne/Brittany Maze