

OPPC January 2023 Newsletter



THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY:

The name Epiphany comes from the Greek epiphaneia meaning “appearance” or “manifestation” and refers to the **manifestation** of Jesus Christ to the world!



FOCAL SCRIPTURES Matthew 2:1-12 | Matthew 2:13-23

The Magi were seekers. They sought wisdom, they sought the divine, they sought fortunes to tell the future. Their seeking leads them to Jesus, the newborn king of another culture and religion. And yet, their seeking is also what protects them from Herod’s deception and harm. After the Magi go home by another way, Joseph is visited again by an angel in his dream. This time, the angel brings a warning, and like before, Joseph heeds the message. Fleeing from Herod’s massacre, Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus seek refuge in Egypt; they remain there, living as immigrants, until Herod dies. Like the Magi, may we seek the divine and be willing to journey closer to God. Like the Holy Family, may we seek safety for all families who are under threat. This new year and every year to come, let us keep seeking—wisdom, justice, and a better world.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: January 29th, immediately after service.

A Congregational Meeting has been called on January 29th following service at 10:45 a.m. for the purpose of holding our annual meeting and approving the Pastor’s Terms of Call.

Dates to Know

January 6th

- Annual Report Due
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Pacers Event

January 7th

- New Officer Retreat

January 8th

- Ordination & Installation of church officers
- Remembrance of Baptism
- Communion

January 16th

- Session Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

January 22nd

- Bob Heimach Preaching

January 29th

- 10:50 a.m. Annual Meeting

PREACHER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM:

Please join us in welcoming Rev. Bob Heimach!

Starting in 2023 we will have a Preacher in Residence program at Orchard Park. This is a one-year program for guest pastors to preach at Orchard Park up to seven times a year. The pastors will typically be retired pastors who have a calling and a gift to preach the Word and miss the pulpit. The benefits for Orchard Park are that it gives us consistency in the pulpit when Rev. Dr. Shelly Wood is absent, and it ensures strong preaching throughout the year. It also alleviates the guess work of trying to find pulpit supply - which is very difficult.



We are excited to share with you that our first Preacher in Residence is Rev. Bob Heimach. Bob is a retired Presbyterian minister who was most recently the Pastor, Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church in Irvington. Bob is a creative, thoughtful, and clever preacher and we are fortunate to have him as our first Preacher in Residence.

START THE NEW YEAR BY SERVING:

There are many ways in which to serve at OPPC and we need your help. **SIGN UP** on *Mainstreet*, through the links in *weekly church news*, or through the *website (orchardpark.org/connect)* and fill out the volunteer form.

If you have any questions, please contact Brittany Glass at bglass@orchardpark.org or in the church office.

Ways to Serve on Sunday



Serve as a **Worship Leader**



Serve as a **Welcomer / Greeter**



Serve by **Serving Coffee**



Serve by **Ushering**



Purchase **Chancel Flowers**



MISSION:



Join us for the **TOGETHER TODAY** Program sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County. This fun group of all backgrounds and adult ages meets every Wednesday starting at 9:30 a.m. A light breakfast and lunch are provided. The group enjoys fellowship, board games, card games, along with many other various activities. This is a well-attended and enjoyed group. Bring a friend and make a new one. We hope to see you there!

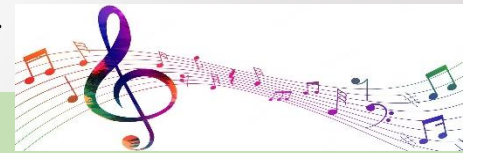
ADULT EDUCATION:

Bible Study

Start the New Year (January 8, 2023) with a study of John the Baptist (see overview). It will take us 2 to 3 Sundays to complete that study. Then we will follow that lesson with one on "Ancient Music." We meet in the North Chapel after Sunday Services at 11:00 a.m.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

This lesson is a study of John the Baptist also known as John the Forerunner, John the Immerser (in some Baptist traditions), and John the Baptizer. He was born to Zechariah and Elizabeth some 6 months before Jesus' birth. Their births likely occurred sometime between 6 BC and 4 BC, the latter (4 B.C.) being the year King Herod died. John garners a great deal of interest and awe. He was viewed by some as the reincarnation of Elijah. He dressed and acted like Elijah, used the waters of the Jordan River for his baptizing, was prophesied in the Old Testament, was the baptizer of Jesus, God's only son, and his message and cry to repent were absorbed into Jesus' life and message. He is (and was) revered by many faiths and was a dedicated servant of God.



ANCIENT MUSIC

As long as humans inhabit this earth...there will be music. It is part of our DNA. It is the backbone of worship whether we worship Jesus, Buddha, or mother earth. As long as there is a need to communicate, celebrate, worship, sooth, alert, herd, mourn etc.,...there will be music. After all, we didn't invent music and song, God did with the songbirds, the call of wild animals, the purring of cat, the bubbling brook, or the rhythmic pecking of the woodpecker. As long as God's Creation survives...there will be music.

Mind the Gap

We gather again beginning **January 8**; we meet in Room 115 from 11:10-12:10 p.m. for weekly discussion topics based on recent news. No preparation required; please just join us for conversation and reflection in community!

Young Families

Young families will meet on Sunday January 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Parents will gather in room 115 while children will be in room 126 from 4-5 p.m.; we will all gather for dinner at 5 p.m.; dinner will be provided and a free will offering will be collected.

HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH:

Youth Group resumes January 5th.



Pacers Faith and Family Night: Date: 01/06/2023 (Fri.) Time: 6:00pm - 10:30pm EST

Location: OPPC/Gainbridge

Register for this FREE event! We will head to Gainbridge via charter bus at 6 pm on Friday, January 6. We have suite level seats to watch the game and then stay for a Christian artist concert. We will be back to church around 10:30. I'll send a text when we are on our way back.

Food and merch are included with our tickets. Limited to the first 30 youth students (middle and high) to sign up.

CHILDREN MINISTRY:

Children's Church

Sunday January 8 after the Passing of the Peace; children return to worship before communion.

Sunday January 15

Children's Church after the Passing of the Peace; Children's Church through 11:10 a.m.

Sprout

Resumes from 11:10 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

3rd-5th Grade Fellowship

Meet for lunch and fellowship from 12:15-2 p.m. We will be cleaning and painting with whiteboard paint. We have painting smocks; please just know that kids may get a bit messy this day, so please consider as you get ready for church!

Baptism Class

Sunday January 15th. Children of all ages are invited to join Trish in Room 205 for a conversation and activities about Baptism after 11:10 a.m.; this is in lieu of Sprout. Any children who aren't attending the Baptism Class can join childcare in Room 126.



Orchard Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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