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PASTOR'S NOTE

Greetings in the LORD Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday we will continue the Advent season by looking at the promised plan of God through the announcement to Zechariah the priest that he and Elizabeth will have a son and call him John. The arrival of John the Baptist is vital to the coming of the Messiah, for Malachi foretold this event would take place roughly 400 years before it did! Please read Malachi 3:16-18 as a contextual setup for the final chapter (4) to see how God intends to handle the righteous and the wicked. You will see verses 5-6 are used by Gabriel the angel to remind Zechariah of God's plan (Luke 1:16-17). Imagine the thoughts and emotions going through Zechariah's mind as he contemplated what was being said!

Many know, or think they know, the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus. But I encourage you to take time to slowly read each verse of Luke 1:5-25 this week and consider what it meant for them and what it means to us. Gabriel is not just proclaiming that John will be born, but that he has a purpose. This old priest had no idea what was about to unfold and even questions Gabriel with what seems are wrong intents and is rendered deaf and mute for the duration of Elizabeth's pregnancy. Here is what is told about John that you need to consider:

Continued:

PASTOR'S NOTE

They will have great joy and gladness at his birth.

Many will rejoice at his birth (think as a forerunner to the Messiah).

He will be filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb!

He will turn many to the Lord.

He will go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah.

He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children.

He will turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the just.

All this, in order to make ready for the Messiah.

Zechariah and Elizabeth were certainly godly people, but they had no idea God had chosen them to set His plans into motion. Elijah needed to come first, and he did. We should be grateful and in awe of the details that God has set up to not only announce the coming of the Messiah but the plans to save His people. God did not haphazardly set into motion plans He could not control, rather He meticulously organized the plans even Caesar did not know about beforehand. The census brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, which brought about the humble birth of our LORD due to the crowding of the town. The prophets of the Old Testament give witness to the events that were about to unfold. So take time to consider, with perhaps a deeper assessment, of what John's birth means for the plans of your salvation. Praise God for the Incarnation, but also praise God for His promised plan to save; for He is not done with salvation until the second coming. He has promised before and followed through. And regardless of your current condition or the condition of the world, He has promised a second coming and will follow through that we too may see Jesus in all His glory!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Paul

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

⇒ **Christmas Eve Service at MCC:** Due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, we will not be having a typical Sunday morning worship service on Dec 24. Instead we will host our yearly Christmas Eve service at 6pm at MCC. Please plan accordingly and plan to join us in celebration of the Messiah's birth!

⇒ **Post on your Calendar:**

The Ladies Bible Study will NOT be meeting on Dec. 25 or Jan 1st.

Women's Bible Study:

Any women interested in joining should know the group meets here at MCC on Mondays from 10:00am-12:00pm.

Membership Class

December 9 has been postponed.

⇒ **Saturday Morning Men's**

Bible Study will now be meeting at 9:00am –10:30am at Parker and Sons Coffee Roasting

50 Jaffrey Rd, Peterborough

It is next to Kogetsu (formerly Lee Mt Fuji) in the Noone Falls building. Come join us!

⇒ **Save the date Dec 9th (10am-6pm) – Dec 10th (11am-3pm) Holiday Trees in Peterborough.** MCC is participating in this event this year. Free admissions, 25 Elm St., Peterborough. Community Center. It is kid friendly! There are kid crafts, baked goods, raffles, and live entertainment. ****IF anyone is available to help Thursday evening in the setting up of our tree, join us at 5pm at the Peterborough Community Center.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS



⇒ **December 17th 9:30am is the Famous and Traditional Advent Fellowship Breakfast!** There will be a sign up sheet in the back of sanctuary. Please sign up what you will bring so we don't have too many repeats of foods. From a ham to an egg dish to a Vegetarian choice or breads or juice or fruit.... Whatever you are able to add to the feast will be fine. Come share a meal and fellowship with your church family.

⇒ **The Community Closet is looking for every other Saturday volunteers.** It requires 2 hours of your time. Duties would be sorting clothes, hanging/folding and putting the items away, keeping the area tidy, socializing with the families that come and assisting them as needed. Its perfect for a parent and middle schooler to help out and gain community service hours. Or a couple of high schoolers wanting to help out. If interested please contact Kim Robbins for more information.



Dec 13th The Middle School (SMS) is holding their Winter Concert at 6:30pm in the gym. Some of our youth here at MCC will be participating in this concert. Just a bit of information to encourage our youth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

⇒ **Youth Group:** We meet at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All youth 6th-12th grade is welcome to attend. Dinner is served the first Wednesday of the month meeting and begins at 6pm.

Dec 27th There will be no Wednesday service or Youth group.

⇒ **Monthly Men's Breakfast & Bible Study:** A multi-church men's group that meets once a month. Saturday, Dec. 9th, from 7:30-9am in the fellowship hall (enter via the lower back doors/ramp). Full breakfast followed by a time of prayer/testimony and Bible study/discussion. **This month's speaker will be Ed Pascucci** Breakfast: Pancakes, eggs, sausage, home fries, coffee & juice (free will offering to cover costs). Any questions please contact Vinnie Verduine at 563-8084 or cell/text 831-6307 (or via email: inwonder@myfairpoint.net). There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary to give them a count for breakfast. It is VERY important for them to have an accurate count.

PRAYER NEEDS

- ◆ Pray for those in our community to have enough food, heat, and shelter this winter season..
- ◆ Pray for our national and world-wide neighbors to come together in peace and love.
- ◆ Pray for our youth to find wisdom and strength in our Lord.
- ◆ Pray for strength and unity in our marriages in the congregation.
- ◆ Pray for healing for those who are physically, mentally, or spiritually sick.
- ◆ Pray for peace, strength and courage in transitions for many in our church.
- ◆ Pray that each person at MCC will willingly and joyfully find a place to serve and become involved in some aspect of church life beyond worship.
- ◆ Pray for wisdom, clarity and compassion for Pastor Paul, the Elders and all in leadership here at MCC, in our local & national government and leadership positions around the world.
- ◆ Pray that we as a church body will connect relationally, in a meaningful way, with one another.

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SUNDAY SERVICE REMINDERS

- Hospitality/Coffee hosts: Patty Liebman & Lee Charlton
- Greeters: The Gregory Family
- Nursery Service (Worship) - Becky VanDam & Amia Knowles
- Jim & Anne-Marie Forest will read the Advent Scripture.
- Dana Whitaker will lead the worship music.
- Junior Church: Garrett Craven & Sarah Knowles
- Sandy Baker & Paul Lucas will be available at the end of the service if you would like prayer.

December 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Pot Luck dinner & Hanging of the Greens 5:30pm	2 Men's Bible Study 9-10:30 am Community Closet 10-12am
3 Advent begins	4 Women's Bible Study 10-12	5	6 Mid-week gathering at 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm	7	8	9 Men's Study 9-10:30 am Member Class 9-2pm Holiday Tree Festival
10 Holiday Tree Festival	11 Women's Bible Study 10-12	12	13 Mid-week gathering at 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm	14.	15	16 Men's Bible Study 9-10:30 Community Closet 10-12
17 MCC Fellowship Breakfast	18 Women's Bible Study 10-12	19	20 Mid-week gathering at 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm	21	22	23
24	25 	26	27 Mid-week gathering at 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm	28	29	30 Men's Bible Study 9-10:30