

# Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church



The Reverend RJ Leek, Head of Staff  
837 Sumneytown Pike Lansdale, PA 19446  
215 699-9159 www.gwyneddsquare.org  
*A welcoming place to discover where you belong  
in the family of God*



**When Elizabeth heard the greeting of  
Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.**

Luke 1:41, ESV

December 23, 2018

10:45 a.m.

**Hearing Impaired:** Worshippers who need amplification devices may obtain them from the ushers prior to the service. Please return them to an usher after the service.

**Large Print** bulletins and hymn books are available in the narthex. Please see an usher.

**SILENT MEDITATION** "He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree." ~Roy L. Smith

**PRELUDE** Magnificat Dandrieu

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please sign the Signature of Friendship pad. Pass it along and back, noting and greeting those worshipping with you and especially the stranger in our midst. Also please wear a nametag, so that members and guests alike may greet one another by name following worship.*

**ADVENT CANDLE**

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** Celebrate the Advent Wreath Emig

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

One: Jesus says: I am coming soon.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Rev. 22:20

\* **SONG** O Come, All Ye Faithful

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison) Apostles Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Gh**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

God of the future,  
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.  
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,  
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.  
We accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbors,  
abuse the earth,  
and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us.  
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,  
and to seek things that will endure  
when Christ comes to judge the world.  
*(silent confession)*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Amen. . . Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

\* **THE PEACE**

*"May the peace of Christ be with you" . . . "and also with you."*

\* **RESPONSE OF PRAISE** Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us! His name is called Emmanuel.

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** Greensleeves

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** and **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (Using debts and debtors) Page 16

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Mary, Did You Know?

**TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS**

*Children age 3 through second grade may leave for Children's Church after the message.*

**NOISY OFFERING**

*(Youth collect loose coins toward various mission projects)*

**ANTHEM** Holy Is the Lord

Murphy

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 1: 26-56

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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**SERMON** Sacred Stories

Rev. RJ Leek

\* **SONG** Go, Tell it on the Mountain

\* **BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**

One: Go in peace.

All: **We will go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.**

\* **POSTLUDE** Go, Tell It on the Mountain

## Worship Notes:

*Participants in the Service, December 23, 2018:* 10:45 a.m.: *Lay Assistant:* June Rushmore; *Children's Sermon:* Liz Staber; *Children's Church Leader:* Jessie Bradica; *Ushers:* Paul Bisio, Ruth Austin, Jim Horn, TBD, and TBD; *Welcome Center Host:* Harry Tweedie; *Advent Candle Lighters:* Cole family; *Sound Room Attendant:* Jim Watters. Flowers: see insert

*Participants in the Service, December 30, 2018:* 8:30 a.m.: *Worship Leader:* Judy Emerson; *Usher:* Bill Duncan; *Welcome Center Host:* Pat Peddie. 10:45 a.m.: *Lay Assistant:* Judy Varner; *Children's Sermon:* TBD; *Children's Church Leader:* Jessie Bradica; *Ushers:* Jim Horn, Clyde Roberts, Linda Roberts, Marge Kuhn, and TBD; *Welcome Center Host:* Don Albinson; *Sound Room Attendant:* Sam Thornton.

*Our Staff:* Rev. RJ Leek, *Head of Staff* (rjleek@gwyneddsquare.org); Donna J. Stewart, *Secretary* (office@gwyneddsquare.org); Jeff Varner, *Interim Organist* (jvarnerod@comcast.net); Jeremy Varner, *Interim Choir/Band Director* (jvarner@gwyneddsquare.org); Jessie Bradica, *GSPC Youth & Family Ministry Leader* (jbradica@gwyneddsquare.org); Fred Blankenburg, *GSPC Youth & Family Ministry Co-Leader* ; (fblankenburg@gwyneddsquare.org); Lisa Cable, *nursery attendant*; ex officio: Louise M. Gerdemann, *Minister of Music Emerita*.

## Opportunities for Service and Giving:

**Noisy Offering:** The Noisy Offering will be collected today during worship. Collections will go toward various mission projects such as the Heifer Project, 3 cents a meal, and The CROP Walk, just to name a few.

**Sound System update:** Thanks to the generosity of many in the congregation, the sound system improvement from earlier this year is almost paid for. Please consider making one more donation before the end of the year. There are green envelopes in the pews. In 2019 we are looking at filming our worship services and making them available for shut-ins.

Gwynedd Square Christmas Post Office is open once again! Please consider using your mailbox at church to "send" someone a Christmas card through January 6. There is a box in the library to place your cards to "send" your cards if you don't want to "deliver" them yourself. There are envelopes available for your postage money contribution to Manna on Main Street. Remember to put your envelope number on the envelope, if you want credit on your GSPC giving statement.

**Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate:** As the holiday season approaches, remember to buy some of the Fair Trade coffee or chocolate bars from the shelves in the library. See the new orange chocolate bar. This project offers a special link between our congregation and communities around the world. Through fair trade, farmers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia work together in a cooperative to sell their coffee directly to international middlemen. The farmers receive a fair price for their efforts and needs, and they use environmentally friendly growing practices. Our participation ensures that more of the money we spend on coffee reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow it.

**Habitat Faith Build Day-** Join us at Gwynedd Square's Faith Build Day on Saturday, January 12. We will be working indoors on Habitat's twin houses on Bush St, Bridgeport, and will carpool from the church parking lot that morning. Sign up on the church bulletin board by the water fountain; bring a friend- the more the merrier!

## Our Church Family:

**Pastor RJ's Bible Challenge Question:** Who was offended when David danced? If you know the answer, please email Pastor RJ. There will be a new question each week to test your knowledge.

**GSPC Prayer Challenge:** Right now, many of us are focused on wrapping the presents we have purchased for loved ones. In this rush of activity, let us take a few minutes to think about God's most perfect gift to us. In John 3:16 we read, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." What a beautiful gift! This week let us pray with grateful hearts for God's love. May we joyfully share this good news with those who have not heard it.

**Christmas Luncheon:** Christmas Luncheon: Today, December 23, following the combined worship service, please join us in Weber Hall for a luncheon. There will be tickets to purchase (\$5/person, max \$20/family, under 6 are free) out in the narthex. Manna on Main Street's new catering service, Common Grounds, will provide the sandwiches. Choices of sandwiches will include: Italian cold cuts, turkey with bacon and onions, grilled vegetables, and roast beef. There will be various toppings available. The choice will be rolls or for gluten-free diet, there will be some wraps. We are asking everyone to bring a salad, fruit, or a dessert. Drinks provided.

**Annual Report Reminder:** All boards, committees, and fellowship groups should prepare a written report of their group's work and activity during 2018. Due date is Saturday, January 5, so start planning ahead!

**Noontime Circle** will meet on Thursday, January 10, in Weber Hall at noon. Bring your lunch, and we will have fellowship while we eat. Afterwards, we will discuss lesson five of the PW Horizons "God's Promise" Bible Study book. Come even if you have not attended for the prior book lessons or have not read this one. Questions: Sandy Salveter at SLSSEPA@YAHOO.COM or 215-353-8297.

**Mary and Martha Circle** will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Marge Kuhn on Monday, January 7. Please note the date is a week earlier than usual.

**Family Mailboxes in Library:** The December Spire has been distributed to mailboxes around the church (or mailed to those without mailboxes.) Check your mailbox. Verify the name on the mailbox, as the location of each family mailbox may move as new members are added or others deleted per their request. Remember the names are UNDER each mailbox. Don't forget to regularly check your family mailbox.

## Youth and Family:

*All events listed here are open to our whole church family*

**Martin Luther King Day sock challenge and service project.** Please donate white athletic socks and/or individually wrapped snack bars or crackers to donate to the homeless. Join us Sunday, January 20, for a crazy sock stuffing party at Earl Bowl. Time to be announced.

## Our Church This Week

### Sunday, December 23

Church Office closed  
9:35 a.m. – NO Adult Forum in the Calvin Room  
9:35 a.m. – Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. – Worship service  
12:00 p.m. – Christmas luncheon in Weber Hall  
2:00 p.m. – Korean Open Door Church

### Monday, December 24

Church office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service  
10:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service

### Tuesday, December 25 – Merry Christmas!

Church office closed

### Wednesday, December 26

Church office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m. – NO Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary

### Thursday, December 27

Church office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
6:45 p.m. – NO Band rehearsal in the sanctuary  
7:45 p.m. – NO Sonrise rehearsal in the sanctuary

### Friday, December 28

Pastor RJ's day off  
Church office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
8:00-10:00 p.m. – Korean Open Door Church in the sanctuary

### Saturday, December 29

Church Office closed

### Sunday, December 30

Church Office closed  
8:30 a.m. – Worship service  
9:35 a.m. – NO Adult Forum in the Calvin Room  
9:35 a.m. – NO Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. – Worship service  
2:00 p.m. – Korean Open Door Church

# Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church Activities

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Combined Worship day, December 23 at 10:45 a.m.

GSPC youth will be performing

Christmas Luncheon immediately following in Weber Hall  
purchase your tickets today in the narthex and sign up to bring a side

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## Christmas Eve Services

7 p.m.- Christmas Eve Youth and Family Service w  
live nativity and candle lighting  
10 p.m.- Christmas Eve service with communion  
candle lighting



## Upcoming Fall Events

**Martin Luther King Day sock challenge and service project.** Please donate white athletic socks and/or individually wrapped snack bars or crackers to the homeless. Join us Sunday, January 20, for a crazy sock stuffing party. Time to be announced.

MOPS 6:30-7:30 p.m.; meet second Thursday of every month

**Keep a look out for Youth and Family Ministry events throughout the year!**

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For Sunday School info, please contact Trisha Leek.  
Contact Jessie Bradica at [jbradica@gwyneddsquare.org](mailto:jbradica@gwyneddsquare.org) or Fred Blankenburg,  
[fblankenburg@gwyneddsquare.org](mailto:fblankenburg@gwyneddsquare.org) if you need assistance with any GSPC youth  
family event.

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