

# ORACLE

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January 2018



Welcome 2018

Celebrating 200 Years

1818--2018

(see article on page 3)

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 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.

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## Three Questions

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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



- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Beau Dunlap     | 18 Margaret Fawcett |
| 8 Jim Belt        | 23 Lori Drake       |
| 11 Erin Fawcett   | 24 Virginia Ritchey |
| 14 Karen Ramsey   | 28 Nelaon Blue      |
| 15 Marilyn Norris | 31 Mindy Evans      |

30 Ronald and Virginia Ritchey

From the  
Pastor

Praise be to God for all the blessings which he has bestowed upon us. We are the recipients of more than we could ever ask for. This is a brand new day in a new year. Scripture tells us to be ever watchful while in the watchtower that the enemy does not rob us of our gifts.

Those gifts may not be only spiritual but gifts of opportunity within the church or in the community. There are so many things that need done and so few to complete them. I do wish to thank each of those who gave so much time and effort to make this a great place to worship and fellowship. I think I have gained several pounds from all the dining at the church, 'tarry-time's', bereavement dinners, and lunches. Two gifts that God gave Presbyterian Women are cooking and hospitality that I can attest too. I can also attest to all the hard work of the men of the church to maintain the building. I wish to thank our teachers, deacons, elders, custodians, and secretary, Barb Young for their many hours assuring all things are covered. A special thanks to Barb for the extra effort she puts out to keep me and the books straight.

I have come to the point where I can truly say that in Christ I love each and every one of you. I would ask his blessing to be on this congregation and church throughout the coming year.

If God so loved the world that He gave his only Son for us, how much more can we give Him?

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Terry

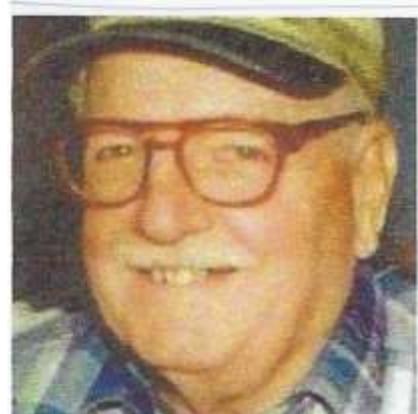


Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
January 18--26



Rod & Debra Hornsby  
Viola Wilson  
Ray & JoAnn McCann  
Rod Godfrey  
Mindy Evans  
Mary Holobaugh  
Marjorie Fawcett  
Vicky Gruber  
Daniel Stiers  
Christopher Boling, Sr.  
Kathy White  
Claude Atkinson  
Bob Gruber  
Floyd Williams  
Mary Snodgrass  
Brandon Harris  
Carter & the Morrison Family  
Tom Schooler's sister-in-law, Sarah  
Family of Harold Lupher

Myron Coblentz  
Brad Rada  
Diana Thomas  
Margaret Fawcett  
Sharon Hunt  
Ron Bruce  
Jerry Rosenbaum  
Robert T. Ramseyer  
Jennifer Anderson  
Mary Ellen Stovall  
Margie Bukiewloz  
Sharon Hunt  
Tonia Richardson  
John Stout  
Jean Hupp  
Heather Dalas



Harold P. Lupher  
1927—2017



## *Celebrate Our Heritage*

The Presbyterian Church of Utica was organized October 5, 1818, by Rev. James Cunningham. This church was first called the Concord Congregation, but was later changed to Utica Congregation. The first nine months worship was held in a tent. Then a church structure was built which was unfurnished and unplastered until about 1830. This, in no way, altered their Christian zeal and endeavors to make Presbyterianism a vital factor in the community by thirty-one members:

Mrs. McCreary	Thomas Scott & wife
James Chambers & wife	Joseph Scott & wife
John Dixon	John & Mrs. Rabb
Rebecca Dixon	Joseph Moore
William & Mary Forsyth	John Moore
Samuel & Isabella Shields	David Moore
James Coulter	Patrick Moore
Cornelius Larue	The two Mrs. Moore's
Mrs. Hunter	Jeremiah & Mrs. Belt
Mrs. Cunningham	Mrs. Woodrow
William Cunningham	John & Mrs. Connar

(Each month there will be an article about our church history. Also check out the church history books in our church library.)

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## Our Christmas Celebrations

December was a busy month with the start of Advent, our Open House during the Utica Christmas Walk, our Christmas Program, Jesus' birthday party and PW Christmas Party. Here are a few pictures from them:





We would like to thank our congregation for the monetary gift given us for Christmas. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. May God bless all of you.

Linda Bevard, JoAnn McCann,  
Barbara Young and Pastor Terry Holobaugh

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**As We Start the New Year  
2018**



**SESSION MEETING**  
Sunday, January 14  
12:30 p.m.

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Wednesday, January 17  
11:30 a.m.  
at  
Pioneer Restaurant  
in Utica

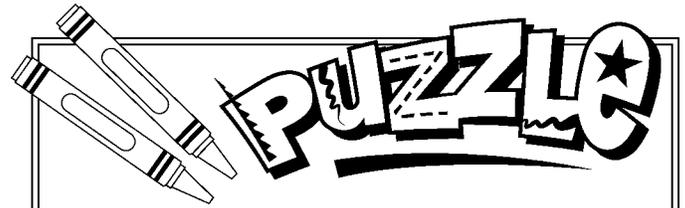
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Sunday, January 28  
Immediately following  
the worship service.

We will have a potluck lunch following the meeting.  
**Note:** All year-end reports are due in church office by January 14.

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## 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.

T H I E R O E F Q O R X E I D F A M N Y A O N  
S E I L S I T N C V H R K I S D T T B H E W N E  
Q W C D R E Y A T M I O C N H F A S W C O R  
M E G T H W E O F L D X H A S S G Z O N L  
E T J H E W N E Q W I D S H R E R O E

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\_\_\_\_\_ ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



