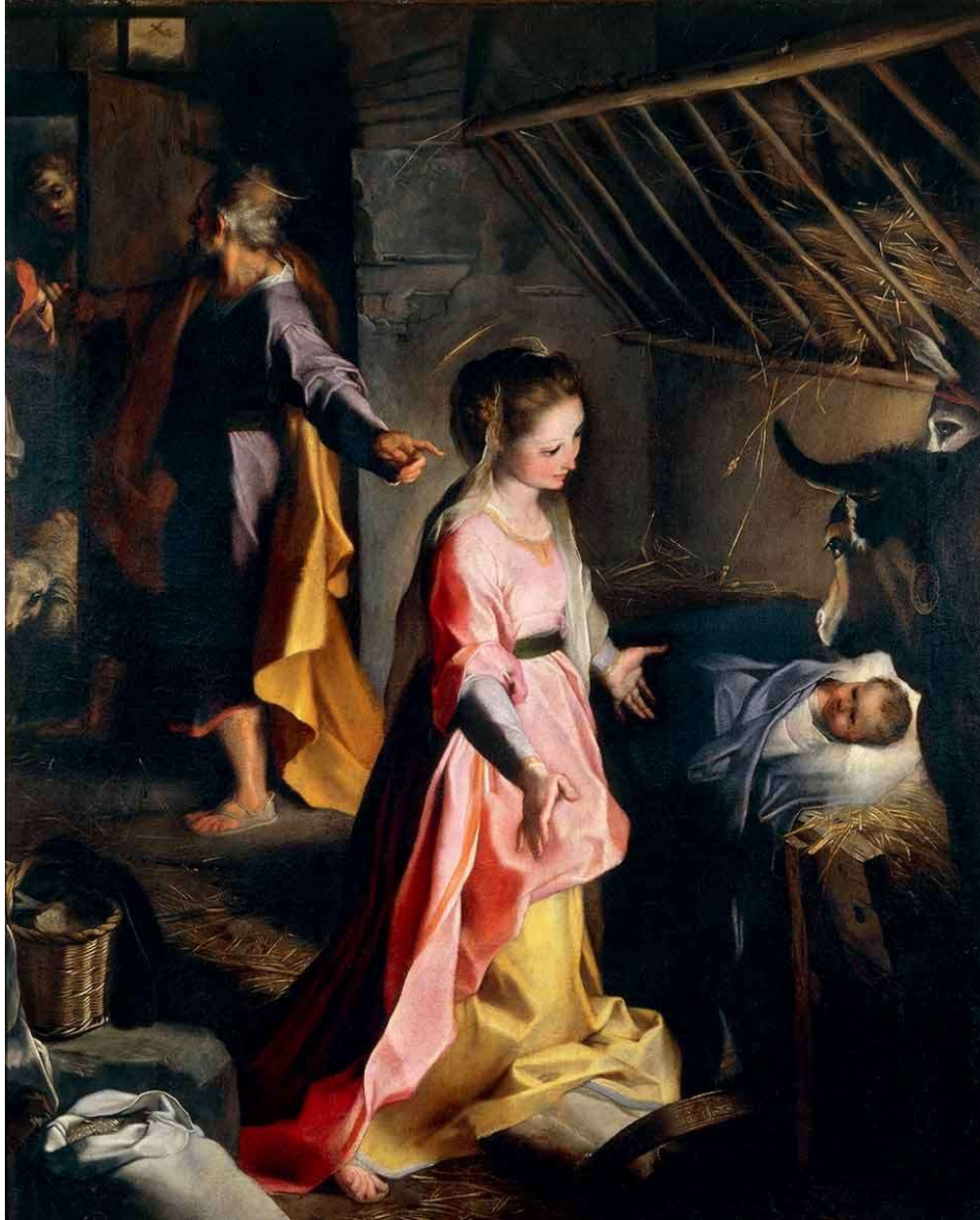


Advent Season Park Branches

Friday, November 28, 2021



Federico Barocci 'The Birth', 1597, Italian School.

Dear Friends,

“And the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not understood It” John Chapter One (excerpted)

The majestic words of The Gospel of John. This writer’s testimony to the entry of God into our world on the first Christmas.

How can they bless us, this year?

One of my favorite past-times is to ponder great works of art. The birth of Jesus has been the subject for countless works of art, with each artist attempting to somehow capture the essence of this momentous and mysterious event. The above example, by the Italian baroque artist Federico Barocci, employs a technique used by many of his contemporaries--namely the use of the infant Jesus as the light source for the painting. Notice how the light upon Mary--the light that catches the robes of Joseph--and the light that illuminates the faces of the shepherds--all come from a single light source: The face of Jesus.

I have always found this technique deeply theological. With Jesus being present, we are able to see our surroundings clearly--His light guides and protects us. Without His light we are able to see little, or nothing at all--we are likely to stumble in the darkness. What, then, is the "glory of God"--to return to the words of John's gospel? As I see it, the "glory of God" is seen the fact that God entered long ago into our world on a mission to light up every aspect of our lives. To me, the birth of Jesus shows God's desire to provide the clarity we need in this life. You could say that Barocci's painting is filled with the glory of God.

We continue to live in dark and confusing times--and in times that have exhausted us in many ways. My prayer for all of us, this Christmas 2021, is that we will be like Mary, Joseph--indeed, all the characters we see in this painting: That we will choose to draw nearer to Jesus and to allow His light to fill our lives more fully. May each of us experience--even more deeply--the comfort--and joy--that God intends for our lives as we do so!

From my house to yours: Merry Christmas!

Faithfully,

Todd

Advent Worship Schedule

Date	Sermon	Scriptures
11/28	"Day of Days"	Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-36
12/05	"Able to Stand"	Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11
12/12	"Normie's Trumpet"	Luke 3:7-18, Philippians 4:4-7
12/19	"How Can This Be?"	Luke 1:26-55
12/24	A service of carols, candlelight, and communion beginning at 7pm.	
12/26	A service featuring Christmas carols and the stories behind them	

Christmas Giving Tree



The Christmas Giving Tree is in the Gathering Area with lots of tags to choose! With your generosity, many needy children in our Beaver County area and some of our own Park Church members will find a special present under the tree on Christmas morning. Please take a tag or two to brighten the holiday season for others. Return your wrapped and tagged gifts by Sunday, December 17th.

Christmas Dinner

The Park Church Christmas Dinner will be Saturday, December 4th at 6:00pm. The menu will be stuffed chicken breast, green beans almondine, long grain and brown rice. Please bring your favorite dessert to share!

Tickets are \$8.00 per person or \$20.00 per family max. Tickets are available after worship on Sunday!

A Christmas Pageant

The children of Park Presbyterian Church request your presence at the worship service on December 19 when they will present a short Christmas pageant with costumes and song. There will be a time of fellowship following the service with Christmas cookies and snacks.

We hope to see you there!



TIGER PAUSE Live Nativity

The 2nd Annual Tiger Pause Christmas Nativity will be on display December 22nd from 5:30pm-8:30pm at 1520 3rd Avenue in New Brighton.

TIGER PAUSE Kids' Christmas Shopping Event



Tiger Pause is hosting a Kids Christmas Shopping event! Hundreds of gift items will be available. A gift wrapping station will be available ... please bring your own shopping bag! Dates for the Christmas Store are November 26, 27, 29 and December 11, 13-17, 18. Additional details are on a flyer that's on the Gathering area calendar board.

Theater Event

Harley Allen will be performing in "Elf the Musical" at The New Castle Playhouse. The show dates are December 10,11,12,16,17,18, and 19. Tickets are available on the Playhouse website at: www.newcastleplayhouse.org.

Christmas Eve Joy Offering

Envelopes for the Christmas Joy offering will be available throughout December; please consider supporting this important ministry. This special offering will be received during the Christmas Eve worship service.

Christmas Eve Worship

The Christmas Eve worship service of carols, candlelight, and communion will be December 24th at 7:00pm. The nursery will be staffed for young children.

Poinsettias for the Christmas Season



Starting Sunday, November 14th, we will once again have an opportunity to purchase beautiful poinsettias for the Christmas season in memory or in honor of someone special. Order forms are available on the Park Church website, in the office and at the sanctuary doors. All forms and payment (cost is \$6.30) must be in by December 5th. You can mail your order to the church or place in the collection plates in the sanctuary. Please specify color choice. Any questions, call Cheryl Leonard at 724-728-2606.

News from the Deacons

The Deacons have detected a potential need for drivers to and from appointments for congregants. In 2022, we would like to create a phone chain or email list of potential drivers within the church as well as a resource of external resources for such needs. Please begin thinking if you would like to be added to the phone chain or email list. More to come in 2022!



November / December Birthdays

Elyse Schaller	11/30	Calloway Yothers	12/04	Hermann Brosch	12/09	Patty Nunamaker	12/25
Kristin Davis	12/01	John Johnston	12/05	Bill Becze	12/13	Bill Swauger	12/26
Gail Rackley	12/03	John Berenbrok	12/06	Sandy Ringer	12/16	Chester Shoop	12/27
Lily Kraus	12/03	Holly Heckathorne	12/07	Winnie Dietz	12/22	Ava Owens	12/28
Tim Yothers	12/03	Joyce Snitger	12/07	Anne Humphries	12/24	Chris Walker	12/29