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# HOPE HEADLINES

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## Go Public!

*Now it happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River (Mark 1:9).*

In January we think about new beginnings. Indeed, some people commit to intentional New Year's resolutions.

The lectionary is an ancient Christian list of Scripture readings for Advent, Lent, and the entire year. This tradition assigns to a Sunday in early January texts about the baptism of Jesus.

Remembering Jesus' baptism early in the new year has rich meaning for us. Baptism marked a new beginning for Jesus: From that point on, Jesus turned from private life to *publicly* embrace and proclaim the reign of God.

Jesus' baptism and its placement by the lectionary tradition suggest a New Year's resolution for us: Can each of us resolve for 2022 to *go public* with our faith 20% more? What will that look like for you and me? What fears or faith-is-private dispositions do you need the Lord's help to overcome? What might happen if we put this New Year's resolution into practice?

As a pastor, people often ask me, "How can I grow in my faith?" One sure way is to increase our *going public* with it. It might involve more hands-on ministry with student groups on campus, or with refugees, with Family Promise, Working Men of Christ, or living into our commitment to welcome/inclusion in concrete ways. It might involve being intentional about hospitality with your neighbors. Or, something else. No matter how the Spirit leads you to *go public*, I guarantee you, you'll have lots of new things to pray about, and a much sharper lens through which to see the Scriptures!

God bless you this January as you re-embrace your baptism and *go public* a bit more as Jesus' follower.

~~Pastor Dave



Discipleship

## DISCIPLESHIP NEWS

Sunday School will resume for all ages on January 9.

The youth class will be using both Sunday School and Wednesday nights to prepare for Youth Sunday on February 13.

The adult Sunday School year will begin with "Inside the Disciple's Studio." Kim Voth and Chris Teufel will be sharing their spiritual journey with us.

It will be followed by a class about the church and politics entitled "Responding to Christian Nationalism." This 4-Sunday series will begin on January 16 and be led by Pastor Dave. The curriculum comes from the organization Christians against Christian Nationalism in partnership with BJC (Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty)." This resource was highlighted in a past issue of "Anabaptist World."

## Hope Friends

Due to the low numbers of attendees for our Hope Friends meals this past fall, Care and Nurture will be taking a hiatus during this winter and spring. They will re-evaluate for the fall of 2022. If you have questions or comments, please let this commission know. The youth group and choir will continue meeting on Wednesday evenings as scheduled and listed in the bulletin.



Mark your calendars for our annual congregational meeting on January 30 during Sunday School. We will review our ministries and spending plan for 2021, as well as affirm a ballot and spending plan for 2022. Following the meeting, there will be a fellowship meal. Please sign up.



## Sandwich Saturday 2022

Would you consider joining in this ministry to the houseless this year? Gather a group – family, friends, neighbors, small group - put together 150 sack lunches (ham & cheese sandwich, banana, chips and two cookies) here at Hope, and then distribute them at St. John's Episcopal Church downtown. All of the food and supply items are ready and waiting for you. If you have 4-5 people, it takes about 45-60 minutes to put the lunches together...more people even less time. Distribution begins at 11:00 am and usually only takes 15 minutes. If you have questions or need help for a first time, please talk to Marcus Loganbill.

### SPECIAL SERVICES COMING UP!

- January 9 Gary Hand speaking
- January 23 Gary Blaine speaking, former Schowalter Villa chaplain
- February 13 Youth Sunday
- February 20 Our new mission partner family – The Givens
- February 27 Open Road & Woven ensembles
- March 2 Ash Wednesday service



### Our New Mission Partner Family

Witness & Outreach is happy to introduce our new Mission Partner Family, Joseph &

Rachel Givens and their children, Elijah & Micaiah. They will serve with the Maria Skobtsova Housing Association in Calais, France. The Association offers temporary shelter to migrants from the Middle East and Africa, primarily, who are seeking refuge in route to England.

Maria Skobtsova House is a Catholic Worker house and community that, as stated on its website, "offers sanctuary and hospitality to vulnerable refugees," with an emphasis on providing shelter for women and women with children. At the house, residents and volunteers prepare and eat meals together, share daily tasks, practice English language lessons, and join together in recreational activities.

The house is situated in a city that has a complex history with people living in exile. For over 20 years, people have travelled from various countries to gather in and around the city of Calais, which is situated on the point in mainland Europe closest to the U.K.

Most of the Maria Skobtsova House residents living in exile hope to cross the English Channel into the U.K., either by raft or on vehicles that travel through the channel tunnel. Around the city, multiple formal and informal camps have been set up over the years, with law enforcement routinely tearing down campsites and abusing the people living in them, in efforts to make their living conditions so hostile that they will leave. The local city government has enacted bans on the distribution of food and water to exiled people by relief organizations. Maria Skobtsova House can only welcome a limited number of individuals and families at any given time, and most guests only stay a week or two before moving on in their goal of reaching the U.K.

At the end of 2020, Maria Skobtsova House management board formally invited the family into an initial two-year volunteer term, through Mennonite Mission Network, with the possibility of a term extension. The Givens now plan to arrive in France in the spring of 2022. In the meantime, they are studying French, and working full-time jobs as well as coordinating fundraising and prayer support with the help of their Ministry Support Team (MST). An MST is a group of people that partner with a mission worker through encouragement, prayer, funding and fundraising support.

Their home congregation is Third Way Church in St. Paul, MN and they along with Hope and the following churches will help support the Givens Family...Neffsville Mennonite, Lancaster, PA; Swamp Mennonite, Quakertown, PA; First Mennonite, Mountain Lake, MN Grace Mennonite, Pandora, OH, Mountain View Mennonite, Kalispell, MT; Tabor Mennonite, Newton, KS; First Mennonite Church of New Bremen, Lowville, NY.

The Givens Family will be at Hope on Sunday, February 20. We look forward to meeting them and beginning our mission partnership together.

### THANK YOU!

Thank you for your support of HumanKind's work in 2021. Together we provided street outreach, shelter, housing, supportive services, and basic needs to nearly 14,000 individuals and families this year. Although it has been another challenging year, your commitment to our mission continues to inspire our staff and those we serve. With your support, we continue to grow and invest in our mission of bring housing and stability to our low-income and homeless neighbors. From all of us at HumanKind, and all those we served in 2021 thanks to your generosity, we wish you a birth and hopeful New Year. Sincerely – HumanKind staff



## January Reminders...

### Worship Leader:

January 2-Connie  
January 9-Marcus  
January 16-Connie  
January 23-Lowell  
January 30-TBA

### Scripture Reader:

January 2-David S.  
January 9-Connie  
January 16-Brenda  
January 23-Greg  
January 30-Brad

### Pianist:

January 2-Laurie  
January 9-Cynthia  
January 16-Ruthie  
January 23-Vicki  
January 30-Amy

### Scripture Reader:

January 2-Lowell  
January 9-Jared S.  
January 16-Lowell  
January 23-Kendrick  
January 30-Galen?

### Tech

January 2-Galen  
January 9-Galen  
January 16-Randy  
January 23-Galen  
January 30-Galen

### Worship Prep:

January 2-Lori M  
January 9-Joanna  
January 16-Connie  
January 23-Lori M  
January 30-Ruthie

### Coffee:

January 2-Eldon & Annette  
January 9-Bob & Delaine  
January 16-Gary & Natalie  
January 23-Travis  
January 30-Care & Nurture

### SS helper January: Cindy

### SS Superintendent January: Cynthia

### Head Usher: Scott

### Greeters:

January 2-Marcus  
January 9-Greg & Dawn  
January 16-Eldon & Annette  
January 23-Margaret  
January 30-Connie, Heidi J-L