



MUSIC CORNER

HEARING GOD IN HANDEL'S MESSIAH



This fall, I've had the pleasure of rehearsing with the Jackson Hole Chorale for a performance of Handel's Messiah. As we work through each of the famous choruses, I am struck by the incredible depth that comes from setting God's word to music. To illustrate what I mean, consider the chorus that celebrates the actual birth of Christ, Glory to God.

The opening theme is strong and simple, like the text: "Glory to God in the highest." The music is all in the major mode, loud and powerful and clear and filled with light. The whole ensemble begins together on the first beat; there is no hesitation in the music. Yes – to God be the glory! That line is followed by a soft, sustained pitch (octaves for some parts), and a rhythmic pulse in the strings: "And peace on Earth." What could be more peaceful to sing and to hear? The two segments of scripture are perfectly paired to compliment one another.

The phrase that follows has a very different feel. The idea is so simple to talk about, but so hard to achieve: "Goodwill toward men." And just as the clarity and beauty of our relationship with God is brought out in the music of the first section, this second theme is as halting and confused as real relationships in our fallen world. The theme is short and frenetic, and the vocal parts start it at intervals, creating a cacophony of sound, with each individual vocal part emerging for brief moments and then subsuming back into the harmony. This is one of the most challenging choral sections of the entire work. How fitting that God's simple three-word vision for human relationships be wrought out by man in such complex, interwoven vocal lines!

The scripture is from the Christmas story, but the message is closely linked with what Jesus later calls the Greatest Commandment: love God and love others. There is such a clear vision in that commandment for who we are to be, and yet it is a daily struggle to live out that vision. Handel's setting communicates all the clarity and complexity and challenge and transcendence of the scripture. As a Christmas tradition throughout my life, singing the Messiah has deepened my faith as well as my theology. I encourage you to attend Rev. Tammy Letts' class on the Messiah on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings during Advent.

Kenny Hadden, Worship Coordinator

Fun Facts from the November 11th Adult Bowling Night:

- 19 attendees with 16 rolling a ball
 - Connie, Sheri, Jordan, Kerry and Sue all broke 100!
 - PCJH has numerous members who are "sleeper" bowlers - might need to form a PCJH Bowling League Team!
 - Fun, food, beverages, and lots of laughs
 - Several from First Baptist also joined us which made us wonder if we should have a joint fellowship bowling party after Christmas and challenge First Baptist!
- Guest Bowlers:** Tom & Liz Jacobson, Mike & Jackie Lance



A WORD FROM PASTOR BEN PASCAL

Every Member a Minister



Dear PCJH Family,

It's Christmas time!! We have a wonderful December full of opportunities to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and to celebrate the Christmas hope, peace, joy and love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Here is a rundown of all that is happening during the Christmas season at PCJH.

Advent Devotional Book

November 27th was the first day of Advent. We have wonderful devotional books available in the church lobby to encourage you to prepare your heart for Christmas. The devotional books are written by Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Smith, a Presbyterian minister from Arizona, and a friend to our congregation. The devotional is entitled *Good News For All The People*. They are available in the church lobby with a suggested donation of \$5. Take one home and use it as a daily devotional during the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Handel's Messiah Study

Pastor Tammy will be leading a bible study based on Handel's *Messiah* during the month of December on Sunday mornings at 9:00am and Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Come hear the beautiful music of Handel's *Messiah* and learn about the amazing spiritual depth of the lyrics and how God orchestrated the entire thing!

Women's Christmas Luncheon

PCJH has partnered with First Baptist Church and Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church to host a women's Christmas luncheon at Snow King Resort on Wednesday, December 7th at 12:00pm. This is an outreach to our community as we provide wonderful food, music, and a Christmas message. About 200 women from our community gathered last year for this event and we hope it will be just as big this year. Details will be in the bulletin and peak of the week email. Invite a friend to join you for this wonderful lunch!

Intergenerational Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 11th will be our annual intergenerational Christmas pageant during the 10:15am worship service. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend to come hear the Christmas story as members of our congregation act it out and lead us in all your favorite Christmas hymns.

Christmas Caroling

Our choir director, Kenny Hadden, will be leading a group of carolers to sing for our neighbors in the Indian Trails subdivision on Sunday afternoon, December 11th at 4:00pm. Pastor Tammy will be hosting the carolers at her house and everyone will walk to homes nearby the church to shower them with the love of Christ through music. All are invited to participate regardless of musical ability. As Buddy the Elf would say, "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is to sing loud for all to hear!"

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 18th at 10:15am will be our annual Christmas Cantata with a full choir and orchestra. This is a wonderful morning of worship as we gather around beautiful music while reflecting on the Christmas story. This is another great service to bring a friend and introduce them to the wonderful music ministry of PCJH.

Christmas Eve Services

We will have three Christmas Eve services again this year.

- 5:00pm family-friendly service at PCJH with special music by the Jackson Hole Brass Ensemble and the PCJH Choir.
- 5:00pm service at Hotel Terra Ballroom in Teton Village with special music by Pastor Tammy's daughter, Megan Letts.
- 10:00pm candlelight communion service at PCJH with special music by the Jackson Hole String Ensemble.

Christmas Day Worship

Every six years or so Christmas day falls on a Sunday. That's the case in 2016. We will gather on Sunday, December 25th at 10:15am for a simple service as we sing our favorite Christmas carols together. Kids can come in their pajamas (I suppose adults can too!)

As you can see, there are plenty of opportunities to celebrate Christmas this year as a church family. These are all opportunities for each of us to invite a friend to experience the love of Christ in our midst.

May the peace of Christmas be with you,

~Pastor Ben



In November, we had our first Fancy Feast. The kids had so much fun dressing up and practicing their manners. We finished November learning about The First Thanksgiving and hosting our annual Thanksgiving Feast with our families. The month of December is always busy getting ready for the birth of Jesus, making crafts and celebrating the season!

The kids will perform a few Holiday songs for the Morning Star residents. Also, we gave the kids Advent calendar and family Advent devotionals. Our hope is that your family will enjoy this season of hope, expectancy and joy!

Merry Christmas!!!

"I bring you good news of great joy." Luke 2:10



SAVE THE DATE
Little Lambs Christmas Concert
Thursday, December 15th @
5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Thank You PCJH !!

In these times of so much need, and so many places to think of when we consider sharing our talents and treasure, the Mission Team is so pleased to thank you all for your generous donations to the Special Peacemaking Offering received on October 5th. Our total is was \$762.00 We are invited by PC (USA) to keep 25% of the gift. We will donate our share of the gift to The Good Samaritan Mission.

One of four special annual offerings of The Presbyterian Church (USA), and received during World Communion Sunday, an additional 25% will be used to support Presbytery and Synod peacemaking, and 50% will be forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the General Assembly (the national level of PC(USA) for their work.

Thank you, again! Your generosity is very much appreciated - especially in this time of so much need at home and abroad! The Mission Team

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Will be received again this year on Christmas Eve, and on the Sundays surrounding Christmas. One of the four Special Offerings of PC(USA), it has been a part of the Christmas tradition in the Presbyterian Church since 1933. Half of this offering is distributed through the Board of Pensions' Financial Assistance Programs, recognizing the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times. The other half supports Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Please glance at the poster and bulletin insert about the JOY OFFERING to understand its implications for our Mission work throughout the nation, and use the envelope provided to participate in this extremely worth while work of the Church.

We are grateful for our always-generous congregation!
Thank you! The Mission Committee



Youth Ministry

Merry Christmas! Here's your quick update on middle school youth and Sunday school! Middle school youth is going wonderfully, and we are planning on starting a lesson trio outlining the promise of Jesus from the Fall to the Nativity up until Christmas. Sunday school has been well, and as always we would love volunteers as we gear up for the New Year! Please get in contact with me at cmorton@pcjh.org if



For Advent:

Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah; Sunday mornings at 9:00am and Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Led by Rev. Tammy Letts "Good News For All People", by Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith; a daily devotional for the season of Advent.

Join with others as we prepare for Christmas with some daily devotional reading, prayer, and reflection. This year PCJH has ordered Advent devotional books, "Good News for All People." The daily readings are based on the angel's message to the

shepherds. "Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy for all the people," this is truly a joyful message which we can all find a blessing. The booklets are available in the lobby. The daily selections may also be found online at www.waterfromrock.org.

STARTING IN JANUARY ...

Sundays:

- New class and study beginning January 8! "Fresh Air: Trading Stale Spiritual Obligation for a Life-Altering, Energizing, Experience-It-Everyday Relationship with God" by Chris
- Hodges. All are welcome to come! Led by Sandra Zender
- Acts of the Apostles Study. Led by Rev. Tammy Letts

Wednesdays:

*Visits to the Holy Land: a DVD based study by Ray Vander Laan. Come and explore the sites where Jesus walked. 5:15pm. Led by Rev. Ben Pascal.

*Discussing Mere Christianity (study with DVD): Exploring the History, Meaning, and Relevance of C.S. Lewis's Greatest Book. We'll discover why Mere Christianity is one of the most read and beloved Christian books of all time. Host Eric Metaxas and a variety of Christian leaders—including Philip Yancey, Alister McGrath, Devin Brown, Paul McCusker, Douglas Gresham, and others—help us understand the timeless message of C. S. Lewis in fresh ways for a new generation. 7:00pm. Led by Rev. Tammy Letts

* Ascent - a special group designed for those in their 20's and 30's. A great time for music, discussion and good times. Each week at 7:00pm.

Consider coming together and be enriched in God's fellowship!

A WORD FROM PASTOR TAMMY LETTS

A couple of weeks ago I had the privilege of traveling with the team of folks from church to Nicaragua for eight days. We worked in partnership with Agros, a Christian-based organization dedicated to serving rural poor communities in order that they "attain economic self-sufficiency" and "realize their God-given potential". Our congregation has had a long history of serving in Tierra Nuevo, and it shows. Our team of nine planned and prepared several weeks prior, thinking through the various ways we could serve this rural community: work projects, first aid support, sport's day, cultural exchange, devotionals, singing, craft day, etc. Many on our team were veteran missionaries and provided the much needed context and perspective of what we were doing and experiencing. Needless to say, the entire experience was life-giving.

However, the trip to Nicaragua provided more than an opportunity to serve. As many on the trip would say, our primary purpose was to offer a "ministry of presence". I am grateful for that phrase. To be a minister of presence means one intentionally offers oneself, in humility and complete trust to another. It means walking alongside another, wherever they are going; suffering with, caring for, and listening to. It involves companionship, fellowship, encouragement, forgiveness and connection.

Most of all, it mirrors our Lord's personal engagement with us: which lies at the heart of Christmas. God, in all majesty and glory, offers us God's very presence in the person of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Jesus himself promised the disciples that he would send a "paraclete" ; a Greek word meaning "one who walks alongside". How beautiful is this image of our Lord who intentionally and sacrificially offers us God's loving and perfect presence!

Scriptures flood my mind, like John 3:16 - "for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son"...or Philippians 2:5-7, "For In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." Christmas is the season to hold on to the reality of God with us - Emmanuel. There can be no greater gift than this "ministry of presence". And not only is God with us, but God is also before, behind, beneath, above, around, and within us.

May we all receive and reflect the ministry of our Savior's gracious presence in Jackson Hole, Nicaragua, and beyond.

Dear JOY After-School Parents,

After much prayer and conversation together, Jordan Shive has announced his resignation and will be finishing his time on staff as the JOY summer camp and after-school coordinator. His last day will be November 30th and we want to acknowledge his faithful and loving service over the past three years. Jordan has been a dedicated employee and we wish him the best as he pursues what's next.

As we move forward, we will be restructuring our staffing model for our children and youth ministry and will be searching for a children's ministry coordinator with hopes of hiring someone in the next two months. Part of this person's job will be to oversee our after-school program.

Unfortunately, the number of students attending our Tuesday and Thursday after-school program is not enough to financially sustain the ministry so we will be discontinuing the Tuesday/Thursday after-school care starting in January 2017 and moving back to Wednesdays only.

We apologize for this change as we realize this will be a disappointment for some of you who are utilizing the Tuesday/Thursday after-school care.

We have appointed Renee Knutson to lead the after-school program as our interim coordinator until we hire a permanent children's ministry coordinator. Renee has been working with our JOY ministry for 7 years and will do a wonderful job as an interim coordinator.

You can expect that we will continue a standard of excellence as we care for your children. Thank you for entrusting them to us and we look forward to seeing how God will work among us. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Pastor Tammy Letts.



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December Anniversaries 2016

Dec 18 Fred and Linda Walker 29 years

Dec 28 Larry and
 Barbara VanGenderen 55 years

December Birthdays 2016

December 2	Donna Slayton
December 4	John Shipman
December 6	Debbie Iobst
December 7	Cameron Foster
	Warren Myers
December 10	Sydney Meyers
December 13	Stephen Spare
December 14	Tom Deltz
	Kathy Johnson
	Maddy Wigg
December 15	Carol Poole
December 17	Bob Benz
	Susan Hawkins
	Andrew Lewis
	Shirley Piper
December 21	Rich Viola
December 23	Yvonne Henze
	Barb Huhn
December 24	Robyn Jones
	Isaac Hayden
December 25	Patty McDonald
December 26	Ben Brennan
	Nancy Dunlap
	Kim Schnagl
December 31	Jerry Tapp
	Travis Thompson

** Please let our church office know your wedding anniversary date so we can be in prayerful celebration with you!

office@pcjh.org or 734-0388**

GET TO KNOW US

Church Staff

Rev. Ben Pascal <i>Senior Pastor</i>	bpcascal@pcjh.org x 101
Rev. Tammy Letts <i>Associate Pastor</i>	tletts@pcjh.org x 104
Kenny Hadden <i>Worship Coordinator</i>	music@pcjh.org x123
Cindy Dahlin <i>Operations Manager</i>	cdahlin@pcjh.org x109
Lindsey Parr <i>Communications Coordinator</i>	office@pcjh.org x102
Pam Flores <i>Congregational Life Coordinator</i>	pflores@pcjh.org x107
Effie Edwards <i>Little Lambs Director & Teacher</i>	eedwards@pcjh.org x111

Ruling Elders

Ruling Elders are the spiritual leaders of the church.
 Session meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm.

Class of 2016	2017	2018
Larry Huhn Building&Grounds*	Katie-Chloe Stock Missions	Barb Andrews Children/Youth
Alan Lund Finance	Nancy Dunlap Worship	Peter Keenan Nominating
Debbie Schlinger Congregational Life	Larry Jorgenson Clerk of Session	Pat Wright Stewardship
Alli Lane Small Groups	Patty McDonald* Personnel	Warren VanGenderen Adult Ministries

Deacons

Deacons provide the ministry of compassion and service for those in need.

Class of 2016	2017	2018
Kenlyn Long	Michael Adams*	Jen Baki
Deb Kopp*	Joanie Shipman*	Tena Webb*
Julie Matzke	Carol Poole	Deb Keenan
Kerry Murphy	Julie Whitlock*	Barb Huhn*
Irene Lund	Jackie Montgomery	Yvonne Henze*
Jennifer Wolf	Nancy Brumsted	Erin Rosenberg
Randy & Robyn	Sandra Zender	Paula Jorgenson
Reedy	Donna Barrett*	Dylan Wade
Karen Brennan*		

*serving second term

Facilities

Our facilities are available to rent for meetings, events, etc.
 Please contact Cindy Dahlin for details, cdahlin@pcjh.org.

DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 2nd Sunday of ADVENT Communion Sunday 8am Chapel Worship 9:00am ADULT CLASSES 10:15am Worship Service w/ group Sunday School 11:45 Children's Choir 11:45 Stephen's Ministry 12:30 Pageant Rehearsal 4:30-5:30 MS Youth Group	5 9:15-10:15 Holy Yoga in Genesis	6 7:30-8:30 HS Breakfast Club @ JW Grocer 12 noon Women's Bible Study in Matthew 3pm JOY Aftercare	7 12 noon LADIES LUNCHAT SNOW KING 3pm -JOY Aftercare 5:15pm PAGEANT REHEARSAL 6:15pm Community Dinner 7pm Adult Classes 7pm ASCENT 7pm Adult Choir	1 12noon Men's Group @ JH Grocery Community Room 3pm JOY Aftercare	2 GREENING OF THE CHURCH	3 GREENING OF THE CHURCH 9am-3pm Holiday Gift Show in North End of PCJH
11 3rd Sunday of ADVENT 8am Chapel Worship 9:00am ADULT CLASSES 10:15am Worship Service w/ Sunday School CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 11:45 Children's Choir 4pm-7pm Xmas Caroling	12 9:15-10:15 Holy Yoga in Genesis	13 Club @ JW Grocer 12 noon Women's Bible Study in Matthew 3pm JOY Aftercare	14 3pm -JOY Aftercare 6:15pm Community Dinner 7pm Adult Classes 7pm ASCENT 7pm Adult Choir	15 12noon Men's Group @ JH Grocery Community Room 3pm JOY Aftercare 5:30-7pm LITTLE LAMBS CONCERT in Sanctuary	16	17 9AM- 12 NOON CHOIR CANTATA REHEARSAL
18 4th Sunday of Advent 8am Chapel Worship 9:00am ADULT CLASSES 10:15am Worship Service w/ Sunday School CHOIR CANTATA 4:30-5:30 MS Youth Group	19 9:15-10:15 Holy Yoga in Genesis	20 7:30-8:30 HS Breakfast Club @ JW Grocer 3pm JOY Aftercare 12 noon Women's Bible Study in Matthew 4pm Finance Meeting	21 3pm -JOY Aftercare 6:15pm Community Dinner 7pm Adult Classes 7pm ASCENT 7pm Adult Choir	22 12noon Men's Group @ JH Grocery Community Room 3pm JOY Aftercare	23	24 5pm at PCJH 5pm at Teton Village Hotel Terra 10pm PCJH
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:15am Worship Service ONLY	26 Little Lambs Closed	27 Little Lambs Closed	28 Little Lambs Closed	29 Little Lambs Closed	30 Little Lambs Closed	31 New Year's Eve January 1 8am Chapel Worship 10:15am Worship Service

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P. O. Box 7530
1251 South Park Loop Road
Jackson, WY 83002
December, 2016*

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The Mission of The Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole is

PASSING ON THE FAITH

as we GATHER to love God;

GROW to know and follow Jesus; and

GO and make a difference.

*All are welcome and all are needed as we advance this significant mission for the
21st Century.*

www.pejh.org