Welcome to ValleyView!

Welcome on this third Sunday of Advent! In the Advent season, we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ. He came out of heaven to earth over 2,000 years ago when He was born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus comes into our hearts as Savior when we invite Him to do so by faith and continues to guide our daily lives as we trust Him as Lord. He will come again to reign on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords! For more information on growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ and serving Him through the church, visit www.valleyviewcma.org.

9:15 Sunday School Hour

Children’s Classes
Age 2 - Sr. High (Nursery available)

Adult Classes
“Studies in Colossians”
Taught by Paul McCleary in RM #6/7

“Studies in Ecclesiastes”
Taught by Ken Hertzler in RM #10

9:00 & 10:45AM Worship Services

Message
Hymn # 64
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

This Week at ValleyView

Today
8:00—8:50 Prayer Ministries
9:00—10:15 Worship Service
9:15—10:15 Sunday School
10:45—12:00 Worship Service
11:00—12:00 SHINE
6:00—8:00 SURGE

Tuesday
6:30PM The Rest
7:00PM Prayer Ministry

Thursday
1:30PM Released Time
6:00PM Worship Team Practice

Saturday
6:00PM Arabic Christian Church

Family & Finance

Happy Birthday!

Heather Jeffery 12/11
Liz Pyles 12/11
Ken Dietz 12/12
Mark Housman 12/13
Dorothy Markey 12/13
Gene Aldinger 12/18
Deandra Jeffery 12/18
Ron Bolton 12/19
Terri Laughman 12/19

Happy Anniversary!

Ron & Michelle Gromling 12/19

Giving

Current Fund 12/4
$5,924
YTD Current Fund
$256,739
Goal YTD
$262,923

Missions Fund 12/4
$715
YTD Missions Fund
$30,259
Goal YTD
$27,833

Benevolence Fund 12/4
$207
YTD Benevolence Fund
$6,447

Praises & Prayer Requests

1. In this Advent season, praise the Lord for His coming! Pray for His ministry in our hearts and through our lives.

2. Praise the Lord that Linda Gromling and Dennis Mills are home from the hospital. Pray for the Lord’s continuing ministry to them and their families.

3. Pray for the Lord’s leading in your giving this final month of 2016, both financially and in other ways, as we seek to touch lives with the love of Jesus Christ and have a ministering church that will have a growing impact upon our community, region and world.

4. Pray for the pastoral search process and the Lord’s leading as we move forward in His will to seek His person as our next lead pastor.

5. Pray that in all things we commit our way to trust the Lord, call out in faith, and surrender to His will.

Holiday Services

HOLIDAY SERVICES: Once again this year, we will have two Christmas Eve services at 5:30 and 7:00PM. On Christmas Sunday, there will only be one service at 10:00AM. Kids are welcome to come in their PJs! (All others please refrain.) There will be no Sunday School or SHINE. On New Year’s Day there will also be only one service at 10:00AM and no Sunday School.

CHRISTMAS NURSERY HELP: Nursery helpers are needed for both Christmas Eve services and for the Christmas morning service. Please call Terri McCleary if you can help (755-2270). Thanks for your help!
“NEVER ALONE! LOVING GOD...LOVING OTHERS...CHANGING THE WORLD”

C&MA YEAR-END OFFERING: Copies of the “Together We Can Do More” are available on the round table in the Lobby. Gifts to support Alliance ministry to Syrian refugees in Europe, ISIS-targeted people in Iraq, and others around the world can be given via the envelope provided or by designating your gift as “Year-End Offering.” Pray for the Lord’s leading in your giving.

ADVENT: Contact Pastor Stan if you have interest in ministering to the congregation by helping with Advent readings and lighting of advent candles or sharing in another way during the Advent season in the services or with children.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER: An opportunity exists to bless the children at the Youth Development Center this Christmas season with gifts. Please see Steve Collier or the table in the lobby by the office, if you would like more information on participating in this outreach opportunity.

CHRISTMAS POST OFFICE: Please have your cards placed in the gray bin in the Lobby by the front door no later than today so they can be distributed next Sunday, Dec. 18.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Today is the last day to sign up for poinsettias to remember or honor a loved one on the “Our Family” bulletin board in the Lobby. They will decorate the sanctuary for our Christmas morning service, after which you may take yours home. The cost is $8. Please mark your envelope “Poinsettia.”

WOW WOMENS MINISTRY: WOW will be resuming their study, “Desperate For More of God,” by Shane Idleman on Thur., Jan. 5 from 9:30-11:30 AM at the Hope UM Church in Wrightsville. For more information, please see Rosene Hertzler.

MEALS MINISTRY: If you, at any point, know of a church member who could use meals due to a birth, illness, injury, etc., please contact the church office or Judy Shumaker, our Meal Ministry coordinator. If you would like to be added to the meal ministry contact list, please indicate this on the blue card. If you are already on the list, there is no need to check the box.

WHAT HAPPENS IF IT SNOWS? If at all possible, we will have our normal schedule. However, sometimes the snow falls late Saturday night or early Sunday morning. Because of this, the Sunday schedule may change. To find out what decisions have been made, you can call the church (755-0193) and listen to a short message about any change in schedule, listen to WJTL (90.3) or WDAC (94.5), or log onto our website (valleyviewcma.org) to see a message on the home page.

SHINE VOLUNTEERS: We are currently working on the SHINE schedule for next year and are in need of volunteers. We are in need of teachers and assistants. If you are interested in serving the children of ValleyView in this way, please contact the church office.

ValleyView Alliance Church  December 11, 2016
Surprising Lessons from Church Planting

Recently, Citylight Center City celebrated one year of Sunday services. When we began, I faced normal church planter fears: “What if nobody likes my preaching?” “What if we don’t connect with the lost?” “I wonder what others jobs I could get if this goes south.”

The fact is, however, I didn’t know what I didn’t know. I knew we were planting in an ethnically and economically diverse area, but we didn’t come in with a predetermined plan of how that would make ministry different for us. I figured we’d reach a diverse people the same way we reach anyone: We would pray for people; love people; introduce them to our community; and share the good news of Jesus with them.

But what does it look like for a 29-year-old white guy from central PA to pastor a church of 20-something, mostly white young professionals to love my 40-year-old African-American neighbor, when he’s lived in the neighborhood his whole life and tells stories about the people who used to get shot on my street? What about the 46-year-old African-American man who lives in the halfway house on the corner, describes himself as Muslim, but says “I like this Citylight thing?” What about the massive concentration of public housing just north of us?

I didn’t know what I didn’t know and still not knowing has been one of the hardest parts of church planting. “But the word of God is not bound” (2 Tim 2:9). While growing in understanding of my limitations, I’ve had a front row seat to see what God is doing in peoples’ lives. He’s undeterred by our shortcomings! We’ve seen our Sunday attendance and people involved in small groups grow; we’ve baptized over 10 people over the past year; and we’ve seen people from multiple ethnic backgrounds become members.

On November 13, I baptized a recent convert named Romeo, who I barely knew. I’m encouraged by that because the primary person reaching out to him was one of our members. Jesus is building His church, and He’s helping me trust Him to do it. Of course, I want to learn, but in the meantime I need to trust Him.
Caesar and the Census
Luke 2:1-7 (Page 724, Pew Bible)

Theme: God used a political census to further His spiritual purposes in the birth of Jesus Christ, and He is continuing to work His purposes today.

Historical Notes

Gaius Octavianus Caesar Augustus
- adopted son of Julius Caesar

“a census of ... the entire Roman world” (Luke 2:1)

The census in Judea

The census for Joseph and Mary

Making Sense of the Census

God is working His _________________.

God is fulfilling His _________________.

God is registering His_______________.

God’s Census ... God’s Registry ... The Lamb’s Book of Life

When Holidays Are Tough…

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas morning, we recognize that for some in our family, these days are not always filled with excitement and joy. Why? Because holidays are often difficult for anyone who has experienced the death of someone loved. Rather than being times of family togetherness, sharing, and thanksgiving, holidays can bring feelings of sadness, loss, and emptiness. It might be a spouse, a child, a parent, or close friend... and your holidays will never be the same again. We want to give you an opportunity to remember the one you are missing this season. Next Sunday (12/18), there will be a time during the services where you will be able to place an ornament on our tree in the front of the sanctuary. We will then ask the Lord to bring His peace and comfort to those who are experiencing loss this season. The ornament can be anything you wish that can hang on the tree and we will return them when the tree comes down. Our hope is that the I AM who is the resurrection and life would fill your grief with His love. If you have any questions, please give Pastor Stan a call.