

Sometimes change is imposed upon us.
Sometimes we choose to change because of a changing world.

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (John the Baptist)

What does it mean to repent?

Hebrew – To physically change direction.

Greek – Change one's heart and/or mind.

It's choosing to change in response to God's actions in history.

To repent is a call to change in view of what God is doing.

Isn't this a good thing? (Challenging? Often.)

Many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers...Produce fruit in keeping with repentance...The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

1. God's judgement and grace work hand in hand.
(The goal of God's judgement is restoration/new creation.)
2. We are all stumps. (P&S didn't think so)
3. It is God who ultimately brings our righteousness.
(Isaiah 64:6 Our Righteousness = Filthy Rags)

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

So why repent?

1. Our response to what God has done and promises that shows our desire for God as God desires us. (child & parent)
2. Jesus' Baptism (You come to me? / Fulfills all righteousness)

FINAL THOUGHTS Romans 15:1-13 p. 1,766

"Living in Unity & Hope as We Await God's Future"

And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sermon Notes 12-07-2025

FIRST THOUGHTS Isaiah 11:1-10 p. 1,076

"Being Rooted in God's Past"

Life is not a dream. (Inception)

Life is built on what comes before. (Peter Gauthier)

Jean-Paul Sartre *"We are our choices."*

Robert Frost *"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference."*

C.S. Lewis *"Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before."*

God's promised future is based on God's past actions.

Isaiah 11:1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The stump for Isaiah represents the humbled, nearly destroyed royal line of David (the house of Jesse), which is about to go into exile as God's judgement upon their unfaithfulness.

Yet it is out this judgement God's promised future arises: "God's judgment cuts the proud tree down to a stump, but grace brings new life from that very place of loss. From the stump of Jesse, God raises a Spirit-filled Messiah who restores justice and promises a future of hope not only for the house of David but for the nations as well. Through him, God's grace ultimately grows into the fullness of God's new creation."

God's judgement and God's grace work hand in hand.

FURTHER THOUGHTS Matthew 3:1-12 p. 1,499

"Present Day Repentance"

Life is not static. (Leo Gauthier)

Heraclitus *"The only constant in life is change."*

"Everything flows, and nothing abides; everything gives way and nothing stays fixed."

C.S. Lewis *"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending."*

*Prayerfully, openly engage in relationships
through Christ's love."*

CONTACT INFO

Pastor: Vern Gauthier

(717) 385-9526 - 1stuppastor@gmail.com

Secretary: Elisabeth Gauthier

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am-11:30am

(717) 776-7525 - 1stupoffice@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Jim Ellingsworth

(717) 609-3102 – jellingsworth22@gmail.com

Moderator of Deacons: Sally Ann McCrea

(717) 385-4734 samccrea@gmail.com

Church Wi-Fi Password: 1stupwifi

PRAYER LIST

Donnie McKeehan, John Nimmon, Pam Nelson
Stambaugh, Rev. Jim Richards, Catherine Bitner, Family of
Dorothy Drescher, Family of Bill Beck.

Prayer Persons: Shelva Mains-717-776-3690

3345 Ritner Highway, Newville PA 17241

Local Church: Big Spring Presby- Lucy Bowerman

Presbyterian: CR Directors

Advent reading materials are on the hallway table.

Poinsettia Order forms are also on the table. Thanks.

Deadline is **December 10th**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 9th at 6:30pm Crafts

December 10th at 6:30pm COM

The **Christmas Joy Offering** provides funds to support current and retired church workers and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. It supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions for those in need and provides leadership development and education at schools and colleges that serve communities of color. You will have the opportunity to contribute on **December 7, 14 and 21**. Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Activities

Mitten tree: We need hats, mittens, gloves & scarves for all ages. Deadline is **December 7th**.

December 14th after church Fellowship.

December 21st at 2:00pm Christmas Caroling. Meet at Church where we will carpool.

December 24th 7pm Christmas Eve worship.