



January 7, 2018

**The stories of Advent and Christmas have been preparing us
for our *epiphany*.**

Epiphany is the season of seeing in the church. It is the time in the church year when we are all called to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and what Jesus means to each one of us. The stories of Advent and Christmas have been preparing us for our *epiphany*.

One of the many layers found in the Gospels is the constant paradox between knowledge and belief. Jesus was confronted with it all the time. The story always unfolded in this manner. Jesus would come into town, preach, teach, and perform miracles. Then he would leave and there would be those who saw and believed in Jesus and there would be those who saw and did not believe. The metaphor of Jesus giving sight to the blind is a clever way the disciples use to illustrate this reoccurring phenomenon.

The same challenge exists in the church today. We are faced with the same dilemma. Do we have the ability to see Jesus, like the shepherds and Wisemen? Do we have the gift of seeing Jesus as the revelation of God in our day and time? Or are we blinded in our understanding?

We are at a disadvantage. We do not have the angel's proclamation or the baby in the manger. We do not have the benefit of being eyewitnesses to the miracles of Jesus. What we do have are the sacred symbols of our faith—the bread and wine. What we do have are our own private stories of how Jesus has been present in our lives. Stories of Jesus being revealed to us in very holy and sacred times and ways.

Epiphany is about revelation, the signs of God's promise and hope that encourages us and strengthens us to face a new day. Let us prepare our lives for the revelation of the Christ Child!

*-Rev. Sharon S. Morris
Associate Conference Minister*



Much emphasis is given today to churches reaching new people, and rightfully so. The real area of untapped potential in any congregation and community are not the people outside of the church, but the people who are sitting in your pews every Sunday (or every other Sunday).

This workshop is designed to equip pastors and lay leaders with modern tools for doing an ancient work; making disciples out of those who are in our care.

Facilitator: Rev. Cean James

Times: 10:00 am—12:00 noon

There are 3 opportunities to attend this workshop:

February 24 @ Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church—Philadelphia

March 3 @ First UCC—Quakertown

April 14 @ Trinity UCC—Reading

REGISTER:

There is no charge for this workshop but please register by going to the PSEC website (www.psec.org), click on the Events & News tab, click Conference Events and find the workshop date you are interested in.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

“Books of the PSEC will close on January 16, 2018.

All OCWM contributions for 2017 must be in our office by that date or they will be counted towards 2018 contributions.”