



December 2, 2018

What Gifts Can You Offer?

This year, the first Christmas ad I saw on television was in early October. More than two full months before Christmas, Target wanted to make sure that I connected Christmas with shopping at their store. Gift giving and Christmas have become synonymous. And yes, gift giving is very much a central theme of the Christmas and Advent narrative. I don't know that the theme of that Target ad was exactly lined up with the biblical theme of gift giving. I am certain this song is:

Come they told me
 A new born king to see
 Our finest gifts we bring
 To lay before the king
 So to honor him
 When we come

Little baby
 I am a poor boy too
 I have no gift to bring
 That's fit to give our king
 Shall I play for you
 Mary nodded
 The ox and lamb kept time
 I played my drum for him
 I played my best for him
 Then he smiled at me
 Me and my drum

The Little Drummer Boy was concerned that he didn't have anything to bring the new born king, especially anything that would measure up to the awesome gifts of the Magi. What did he decide to do; he took his giftedness and presented that as a gift for the new king. He played his drum and he played it the best he knew how. I bet you have some gifts, and if you are racking your brain trying to decide what you can get Jesus for his birthday, take a lesson from a poor drummer boy. Offer Him your gifts and talents, and see if Jesus doesn't have a smile for you also!

- Rev. Cean James, PSEC Associate Conference Minister
 for Congregational Development

Recap of the PSEC Fall Youth Event

November 2nd through 4th at South Mountain YMCA camp, youth and chaperones gathered together to experience in the telling's of their own personal stories and how God has played a supportive part in their lives. Along with the theme being "My Story", participants on Friday evening sat and watched the film, Life of Pi. A movie about a young Indian man name Pi



having lost everything in one night. Who is forced to drift for days out in the open seas, beside a Bengal tiger in nothing more than a lifeboat. His story shows his journey with survival and trusting God which lead into open discussions on the struggles both youth and adults had to prevail through in life.

Despite having awoken to a powerless camp in the early morning on Saturday, with dead or dying cell phones as well as the consumption of a cold breakfast, spirits remained high. Workshops crafted by the Youth Event Planning Committee went along smoothly, the messages connecting with the overall theme, while having fun.



Between crafting personalized life boats (which we set to sails later) and protecting your rock (by balancing it on toilet paper) from life's problems with God's help, (who replaced the toilet paper with saran wrap). The weekend was filled with pleasant activities, from a tractor ride up into the mountainside for a beautiful view of God's creations, to singing God's praises as a community in the Large Group Area.

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