



**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

November 23, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Christ the King

Our vision is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

www.fpcweb.org

(732) 491-2300

GATHERING

ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

The Brennan Family

Candles are lit to represent the presence of Christ, offering a moment to center ourselves to worship.

PRELUDE America, Give Thanks

Concord Ringers

Valerie W. Stephenson

WELCOME & TIDINGS

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is our refuge and our strength,
A very present help in trouble.

All: **Therefore, we will not fear,
Though the earth should change,
Though the mountains shake,
Though waters roar and foam.**

Leader: If all the creation trembles, we believe;
There is a river whose streams make glad,
The city of God, the holy place of praise.

All: **Let us worship the Lord our God.**

***HYMN** 336 We Gather Together

KREMSER

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

Rev. Khayla Johnson

God of mercy hear our prayer.
Could our compassion eclipse our disdain?
Could our hunger for mercy be greater than our fear?
Could we learn to trust our heart seeking truth?
Forgive our indifference masked as patience.
Forgive our lethargy speaking of prudence.
May we lift the fallen, heal the broken.
God of mercy hear our prayer. Amen.

*KYRIE

Lord, have mercy up on us.

Christ, have mercy up on us.

Lord, have mercy up on us.

Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by Peter DuBois

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Khayla Johnson

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

*GLORIA



Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by James Kealey

PRESENTATION OF BAPTISM

Sandy Slobodien, Clerk of Session

Sophia Rose Mastrapasqua, daughter of Susan and Francesco Mastrapasqua

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

Rev. Khayla Johnson

THE BAPTISM

BLESSING & WELCOME

HYMN 480 Take Me to the Water (verse 1)

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

CHILDREN'S TIME

Tom Giordano, Food Pantry

Nursery care is available in Room 107. PreK to 2nd grade will join Ms. Bridget in Room 108. 3rd grade through 7th grade will proceed to the Social Center for Baking through the Bible with Chef Dan.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 8:1-9 (Old Testament page 251)

Elise Merritt

This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Let All Things Now Living

Senior Choir

arr. Katharine Davis

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:10-17 (New Testament page 76)

This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"The Challenge of Religion"

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN 697 Take My Life

HENDON

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** (from the Brief Statement) – **Unison**

Rev. Khayla Johnson

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one true God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Niall Corbalis

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Khayla Johnson

OFFERTORY Improvisation

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Khayla Johnson

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . And also with you.

*RESPONSE

Choir: All:
When they build walls we will build bridge- es, o - pen up a dif-f'rent way, — when they
close their eyes, we will sing, — whe-ther you're a friend or a stran- ger, one
world we're travel - in' through, whe - ther you're
fear - ful — or in dan - ger, peace — be with you.

Written by Penny Stone (adapted)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER – Unison

Rev. Khayla Johnson

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
And let us not fall into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN 265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

DUKE STREET

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Festive Trumpet Tune

David German

The rose on the Chancel is in celebration of the birth of Daniel John Palmeter on November 15 to first time parents Rachel and Daniel Palmeter in Austin, TX, and the fourth grandchild of Mary Jane and Sax.

Our greeter this morning is Dawn Adam, and the ushers are Tom Giordano, Yunus Ruhukay and Joan Kenyon.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Mary Jane and Sax Palmeter given in loving memory of Jane and Saxon Palmeter Sr., and Marguerite and Jack Turner.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 8:1-9

When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second was Abijah; they were judges in Beer-sheba. Yet his sons did not follow in his ways but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice.

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the Lord, and the Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only, you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him."

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

November 23, 2025 WORSHIP HYMNS

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#336 WE GATHER TOGETHER

1- We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

2- Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!

3- We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by Peter
Dubois All rights reserved. Used by permission*

GLORIA

Glory be to God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen! Amen!

*Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by James
Kealey. All rights reserved. Used by permission*

#697 TAKE MY LIFE

1- Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2- Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.
3- Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

4- Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.
5- Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.
6- Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

RESPONSE

When they build walls, we will build bridges,
Open up a different way,
When they close their eyes we will sing,
Whether you're a friend or a stranger,
One world we're travelin' through,
Whether you're fearful or in danger, peace be with you.

Written by Penny Stone All rights reserved. Used by permission

#265 JESUS SHALL REIGH WHERE'ER THE SUN

1- Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2- To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

3- People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

4- Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

5- Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

To be added in the weekly Prayer List, individuals must give permission for their names to be included. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE – 732-491-2300 to add a person to the prayer list. Persons requested to be on the prayer list will remain for one month, unless requested to keep for a longer period.

Dey Adam (*Dawn Adam's sister*)
Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)
James Angley (*Lynne Angley's son*)
John Bertelsen and family (*Brother of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
Brad (*friend of Ingrid Hammond*)
Pat Byrne (*Sue Harmon's brother-in-law*)
Dorothy Canary (*aunt of Sue Harmon*)
Luis Canton (*Laurie Toth's father*)
Art Cabbage (*father of Laura Draper*)
*Mary Kay Dangremond
*Henry and Rita Dengah
Lisa De La Fuente (*friend of the Kozo/Mollison family*)
Darla Dimatteo
Robert Doeg (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)
George Doerbecker (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
*Ruth Endicott
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)
*Marie Freeman
*Judy Fuller
Marc Gale (*Marie Gale's husband*)
*Marie Gale
*Doris Gulotta
*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)
*Margaret Hathaway
*Ellen Haulenbeek
Jay and family (*friend of Ingrid Hammond*)

Teresa Prete-Kaltenbach (*friend of the Hajjar family*)
*Susan Kozo
Jetty Mailangkay (*wife of Rev. Herby Moningka*)
Dennis Maiuro (*Colleen Walker's brother-in-law*)
Patricia Maktal (*friend of Messina Family*)
*Ed Meyer
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
Maureen Muggeo (*Carla Trolaro's mother*)
Michael Murach (*Kristina Scoglio's cousin*)
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Dalila Robles and family (*Amy Bertelsen-Robles' sister-in-law*)
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehbler*)
*Dave Ryder
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
*Lorraine Sheaffer
Karen Scoglio (*Kristina Scoglio's mother*)
*Tomara Situmeang
Crystal Smith Williams (*friend of the Food Pantry*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

PASTORAL CARE:

If you or a family member is in the hospital, please contact Rev. Dr. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Khayla Johnson at (843) 312-7288. **Hospitals no longer contact clergy when a parishioner is admitted.** We are more than ready and glad to visit. Please contact us even if it is to pray for you. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours.

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

David Garry, Coast Guard Cutter Bear, Philadelphia, PA (*Son of Fred & Kathy Garry*)
MSgt. David Hansen, USAF (*Son of Elaine Hansen*)
MC1 Kevin Leitner, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Sue Harmon's cousin*)
Lt. Cmdr. Krista Marquard, U.S. Public Health Service, Lawrence, KS (*Bill & Susan Marquard's daughter-in-law*)
Major Matthew McQueeney, Pilot & DO, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho (*Son/Stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano*)
LT John Alexander Petr, U. S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Pennix Family friend*)
*CPT Bradley Shaver, U. S. Army – Ft. Carson, CO (*Brother/Son of Greg and Julie Walton Shaver*)
CPT Julia Harris Switzer, MD USAF (*Granddaughter of Grace Hammesfahr*)
Petty Officer 1st Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard (*Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew*)

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Wednesday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

And by appointment for other times

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Worship Service - Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.

Baking with Chef Dan – Social Center Kitchen

After Worship Refreshments – Deacons Room . . 10:30 a.m.

Family Advent Craft – GLOW Room 11:00 a.m.

Youth Commission – PW Lounge 10:30 a.m.

Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Packing of Thanksgiving Baskets – Auditorium . . . 7:00 p.m.

DBSA Support Group – Deacons Room . . . 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Carol, Junior, Westminster Choirs – Choir Room. . 4:00 p.m.

Joy & Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 4:00 p.m.

AA Support Group – Deacons Room 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Pastoral Study: Pericopes of Luke – PW Lounge . . 10:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING

Women's AA Support Grp – Deacons Rm. . . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Mission Volunteer Saturday – Auditorium 9:00 a.m.

FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:

Scan the QR code or visit our website

<https://bit.ly/4emWby6>



CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Associate Pastor Rev. Khayla Johnson

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert A. Beringer

Parish Associate Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas

COMING SOON

Nov 30 Candlelight Concert: Peace on Earth – Sanctuary
7:00 pm

Dec 1 Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge – 6:00 pm

Dec 2 1st Tuesday – GLOW Room – 4:30 – 5:00 pm

Dec 2 Deacons Meeting - Chapel – 7:30 pm

Dec 3 Labyrinth Walk – Auditorium – 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Dec 4 Local Mission Meeting – Auditorium – 11:45 am

Dec 4 Junior Club – Venue TBA – 5:30 pm

Dec 6 Holly Fair – Dining Room – 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Dec 7 Parent's Night Out – GLOW Room – 3:30-5:00 pm

Dec 7 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 6:00 pm

Dec 9 PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge – 11:00 am

Dec 9 Unicameral Board – Chapel/Zoom – 7:30 pm

Dec 10 Men's Breakfast – Dining Room – 7:30 am

Dec 10 Labyrinth Walk – Auditorium – 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Dec 11 Food Pantry Holiday Bazaar – Auditorium – 7:00 pm

Dec 11 Mission Commission – PW Lounge – 7:00 pm

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received November 16

Pledge	\$ 9,019
Non-pledge	\$ 1,009
Cash	\$ 315
Food Pantry	\$ 750
Peacekeeping	\$ 50

TOTAL: \$11,143

OTHER RECEIPTS \$ 870

(Parking and Building Rental)

HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

Direct Cash or check in the plate are always welcome!

Online From our website fpcweb.org/give, click on the **Give Online** button. This will redirect you to the Vanco app to set up your donation.

Thank you for your generous support!

Indonesian Pastoral Supply Rev. Leksmana Leonard

Director of Music Ministries Jordan Klotz

Minister of Music Emeritus Brenda Arnold Day

Director for Christian Education Nancy Leardi

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Our fundraiser Fish and Chips dinner was a great success. If you posted a flyer, told a neighbor, donated a meal, or purchased a ticket, we are truly grateful. With your generous support the Deacons raised \$1,155.49 which will help support many of our ministries. See you next year!



We invite each family to make their own advent wreath to take home, and celebrate each week of Advent. Learn what each candle means, and why we light one each week.

ADVENT LABYRINTH WALK



Experience beauty and peace this Advent through labyrinth walking.

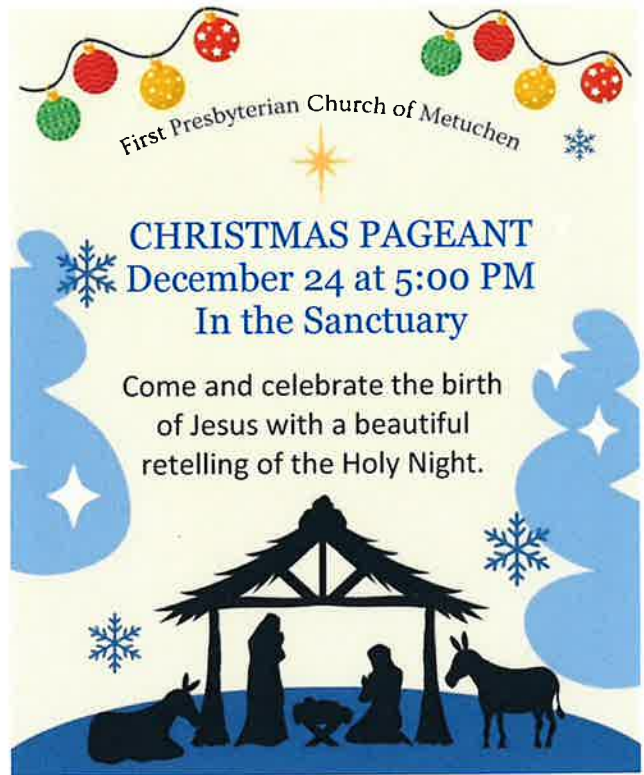
Join us in the Social Center on the first and third Wednesdays for meditative evenings with live music, and on the second Wednesday for a Family Labyrinth Night with a create-your-own labyrinth craft and lesson. And food will be provided!

- **Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7:00 - 8:30 pm Labyrinth Walk** featuring reflective music by Eleanor Rees, soprano
- **Wednesday, Dec. 10, 6:30 - 8:00 pm Family Labyrinth Night**
- **Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7:00 - 8:30 pm Labyrinth Walk** featuring reflective music by Karen Stern, harpist



Until January 10

It is FPC's 10th annual participation in the Coat Drive. Let us help make it a success! Please donate new or gently-used, CLEAN winter coats in all sizes for adults, children, and infants. Other winter accessories are not being collected. You may drop off during office hours: Mon. to Thurs. 9AM-2PM until January 10. Volunteers are also needed to help sort coats. Questions? Please call NJ Cares at 973-533-1993



Church and CNS families are welcome to participate in our annual Christmas Pageant. To participate:

- Children must be 4 years old or older by Oct. 1
- Children must attend rehearsals at the church on Sundays, December 7, 14, and 21, from 10:45 to 11:45 am, and the dress rehearsal on Dec. 23 at 4:00 pm.
- Adult volunteers are needed as well; please sign up to help!

Scan the QR code to sign up.

Questions? Email fpcpageant@gmail.com



Advent will soon be here!

Help us prepare for the Advent season through:

The Advent Angel Tree is up in the Deacons' Room. Let us bless our neighbors with simple gifts.

Poinsettia orders. Help us prepare the sanctuary in time for Lessons and Carols with your poinsettia orders while honoring your loved ones.

Luminary orders. Initiated by our Deacons as a fundraiser, the luminaries and votives will brighten our walkways and shine through the night on Christmas eve. Loved ones will also be honored with your orders.

Order forms for the Poinsettias and Luminaries are now available in the Narthex.

FREE Community Dinner
Sunday, December 7
5:00 PM, Social Center Dining Room



We have a place at the table for you!

Join us in community and fellowship as we feast on homemade lasagna, garlic bread, green salad, and a delicious dessert.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

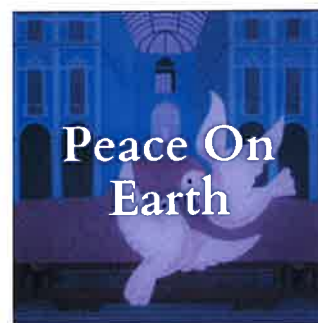
As always, we also welcome extra hands to help before, during and after the dinners. Ask our deacons about the volunteer opportunities. We have a lasagna dinner sign-up during Fellowship today, and if you wish to help us prepare lasagna (meat or vegetarian), pans and recipes will be provided.

Feel free to contact Gilly McKie - gilly@mckie.com

TODAY IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY!

Central to stewardship is gratitude for God's abundant blessings, and that giving is a joyful response to God's goodness. As of today we have received 80 pledges totaling \$235,239.20, with 38 pledge increases, and 4 new pledges. We look forward to receiving your pledge and would like to remind you to attach your ribbon to the Giving Tree as a visible sign of our shared commitment to this church and its mission. If you need an extra ribbon, you can get them from the Narthex.

November 30
Sunday at 7:00 pm
Sanctuary of the
First Presbyterian
Church of Metuchen



The Candlelight Concert Series continues with a musical celebration of all that brings us together during the holiday season. Hear each of FPC's adult and youth choirs, bell choirs, instruments, and more!

Tickets by suggested donation:

\$22/Adults \$15/Senior 17 and under/Free

Scan the QR code to get your tickets, or get them at the door.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
presents

HOLLY FAIR / BAKE SALE
Volunteer Bakers

You are the icing on the cake!

Our Coffee Bar and Bake Sale was so successful last year that we are showcasing it at the Holly Fair on December 6.

You are welcome to drop off your baked goods between November 26th to December 2nd in the Social Center kitchen, and marked "PW." Also, please remember to sign on the Bakers Sign In sheet.

For the month of November, bakers are invited to stop by The Deacons Room during Coffee Hours to pick up FREE decorative boxes and bags for your baked goods.

NEW A special gift awaits each baker as a thank you for their donation.

2025 HOLLY FAIR

Saturday, December 6th 9 AM - 2 PM

Picture/Gift with SANTA! 11:30 AM - 1 PM

Social Center Dining Room

Gourmet Bake Sale * Café Coffee Bar * Jewelry Galore
New & Vintage Purses * Scarves, Accessories and more!

VISIT OUR BOUTIQUE!

For yourself or for gift giving, check out the extensive holiday merchandise, and the array of pocketbooks, new and gently used! Enjoy the teas and hot cocoa at the Café.

Donate new or gently used vintage and contemporary jewelry only. **You may drop off your donations at the Church office until NOVEMBER 25th!**

Questions? Email Cindy O'Neill or Lori Kellner
mimabook@aol.com or lgkellner@gmail.com