



**First Presbyterian Church  
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN**

**December 14, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.**

**ONE CHURCH TOGETHER: A Multigenerational Service**

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](http://www.fpcweb.org)

(732) 491-2300

# GATHERING

## ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

The Bourne Family

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


## PRELUDE Improvisation on Veni Emmanuel

## WELCOME & TIDINGS

Scott & Eli Bourne


### \*INTROIT

Leader:



We light the Ad - vent can - dles as Christ, the King, draws nigh.\_\_\_\_ For

All:



joy on Earth, we cry! Joy,\_\_\_\_ joy,\_\_\_\_ let there be joy on Earth.

*Written for First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen by Jordan Klotz*

### \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - JOY

Tracy & Lexington Donahue

Leader: Happy are those who find the house of the Lord;

Happy are those whose prayers are lifted up.

All: Let us sing the songs of advent and rejoice;

Let us remember the coming Savior's birth.

Leader: Like the mighty gates of the city are open

So let the gates of our hearts be unlocked.

All: Let us light the candle of Joy!

May the light of Joy enter our hearts.

### \*HYMN 93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

### \*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION - Unison

Jennifer & Jack Thompson

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

How long will we wait for our freedom?

You have given us the keys to the cell;

You have broken the walls of shame;

You have made ready a new home for us.

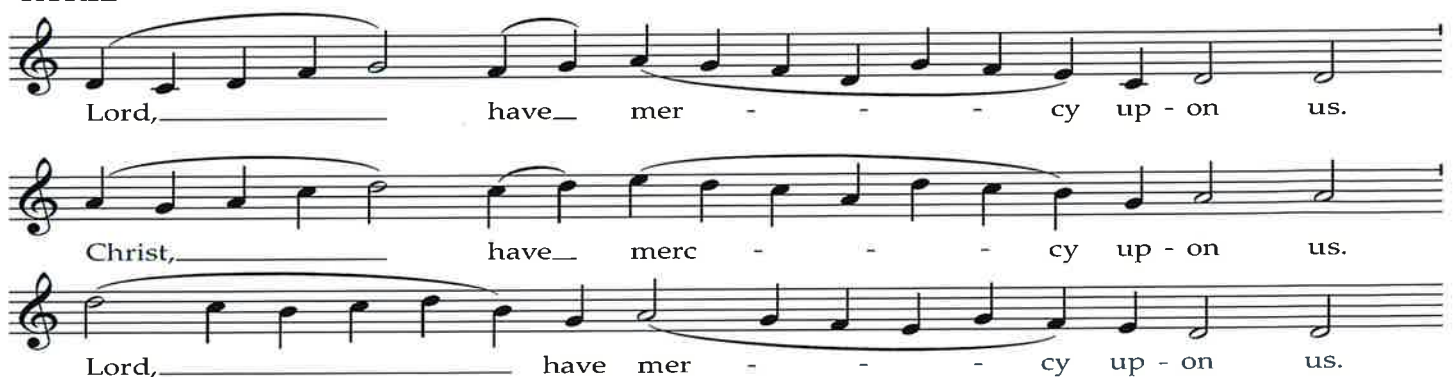
And then we turn away; we cling to fear.

Call us again; let us begin anew.

Call us once more so me may be born again.

God of mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

### \*KYRIE



Lord,\_\_\_\_ have\_\_ mer - - - cy up - on us.

Christ,\_\_\_\_ have\_\_ merc - - - cy up - on us.

Lord,\_\_\_\_ have mer - - - cy up - on us.

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

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Carolyn Gribbin

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** Light One Candle

Carol Choir & Junior Choir

Natalie Sleeth

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Presbyterian Puppeteers

*Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children will proceed to the GLOW room. Pre-K will participate in a lesson in room 108. 4<sup>th</sup> grade and older remain in worship for the One Church Intergenerational service.*

**THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Kathy Book

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

**ANTHEM** Nova! Nova!

Westminster Choir

Michael Bedford

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 13:31-35

Tracy & Lexington Donahue

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

**SERMON**

"This Rotten Kid Really Loves Me"

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

**SETTLING OF THE WORD**

**\*HYMN** 104 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

**WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS JOINING OUR CHURCH**

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Charles Day & Sandra Slobodien, Clerks of Session

**By Reaffirmation of Faith:**

Lin Hrycenko

John Kenyon

Ashwini Preetham Kondai

**\*CONFESSION OF FAITH** (Apostle's Creed) – **Unison**

Rev. Khayla Johnson

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

## CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Khayla Johnson

**OFFERTORY** Magnificat V. Misterioso e Adagiosissimo

Marcel Dupré

## \*DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL

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

Marty & Martin Brennan

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Marty & Martin Brennan

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)*

## ELDERS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER – Unison

Kristina Scoglio

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** 145 What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn BWV 601  
(Lord Christ, the only Son of God)

J.S. Bach

*Our greeters this morning are Kathy Book and Karen Kowalski, and the ushers are Wendy Kukowski,  
Jen Thompson, and Jim Thompson.*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Grace Hammesfahr given in loving memory  
of the 38th anniversary of Ernest's trip to the Lord,*

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

### Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**SCRIPTURE READER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

### Luke 13:31-35

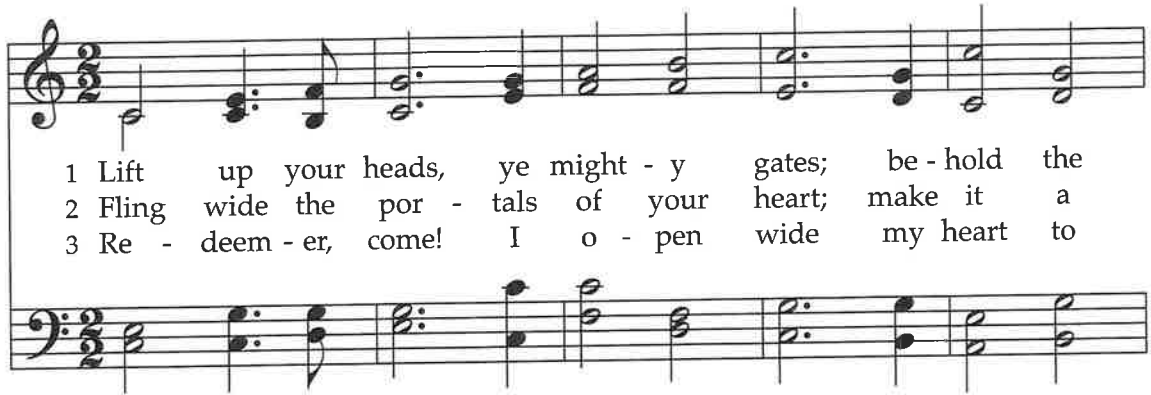
At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

**SCRIPTURE READER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

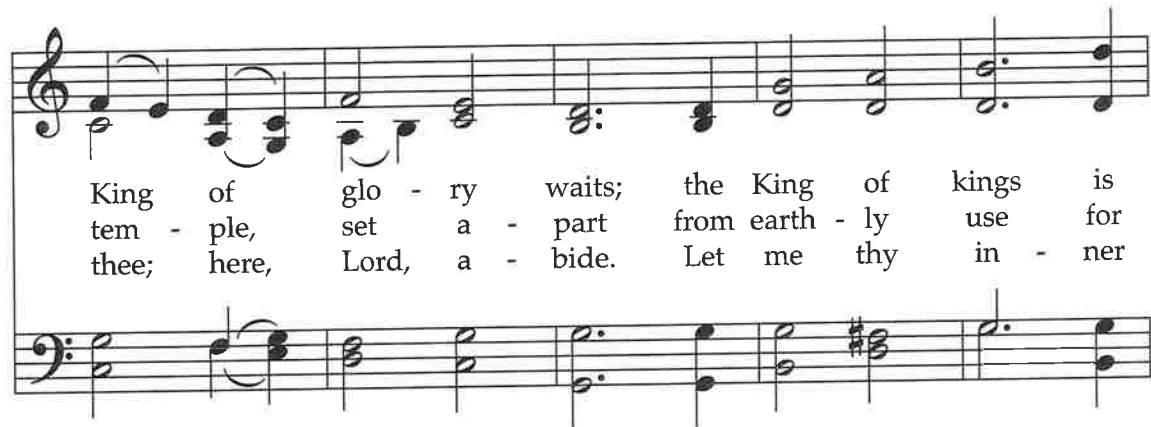
**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

*New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.*

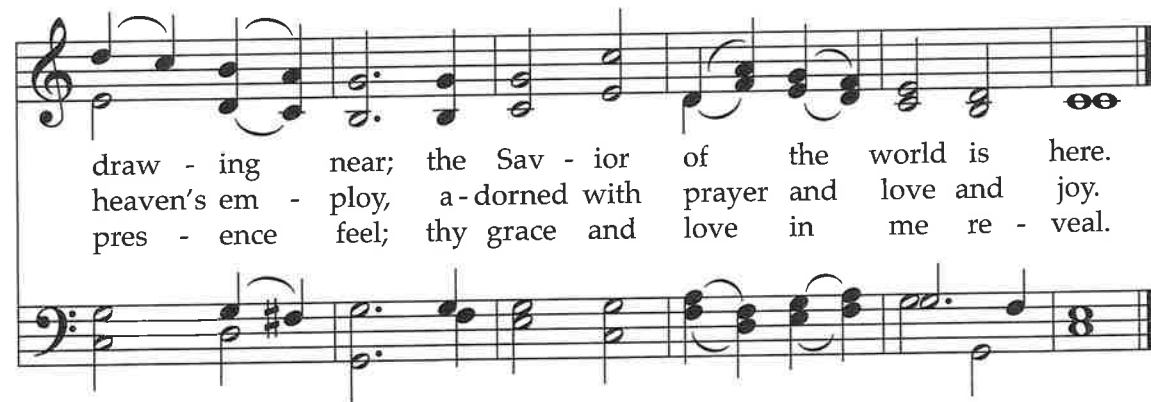
# Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.


Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.




## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104




1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;  
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.  
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

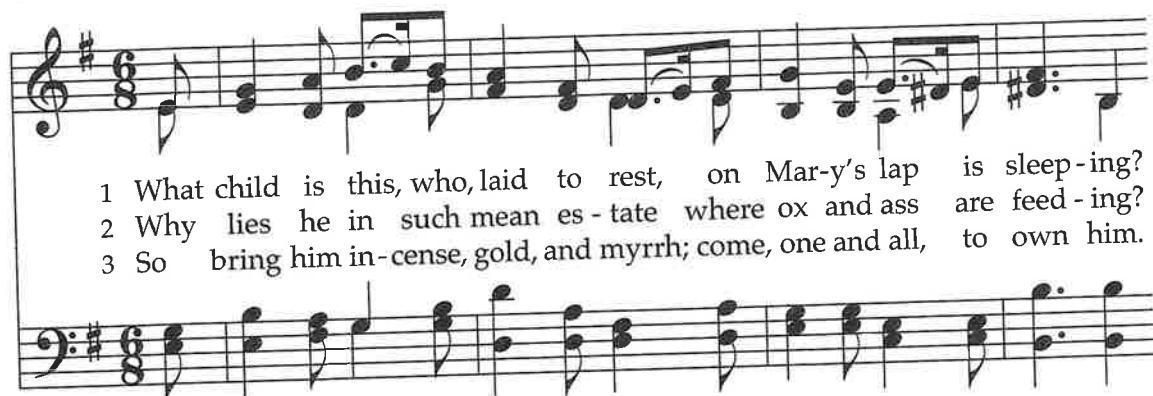


to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.  
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

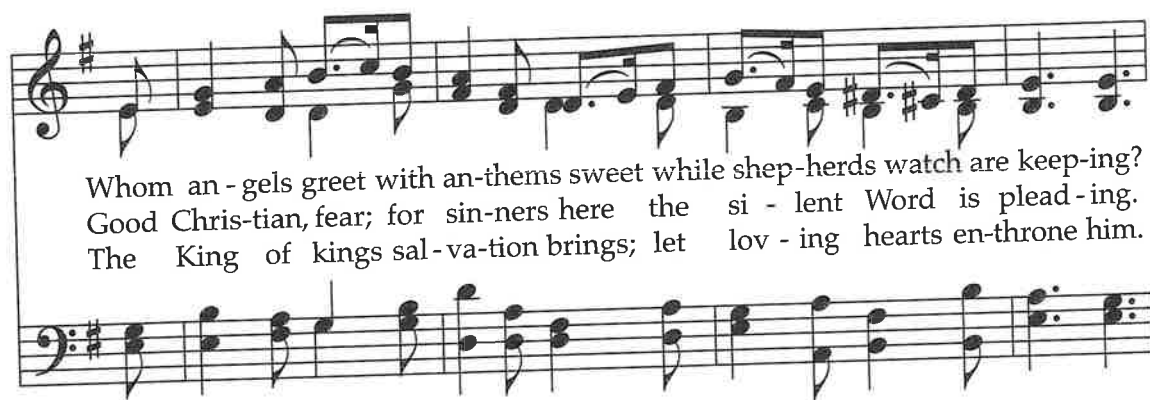
Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.



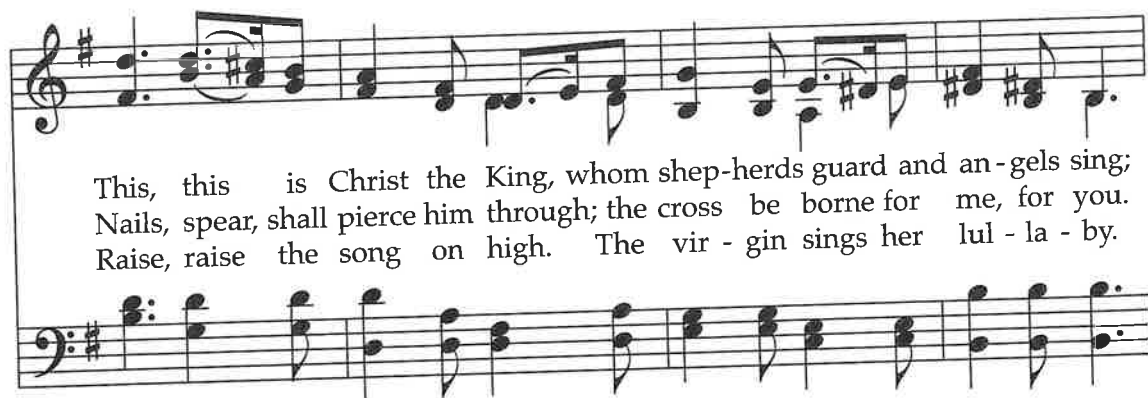
## What Child Is This



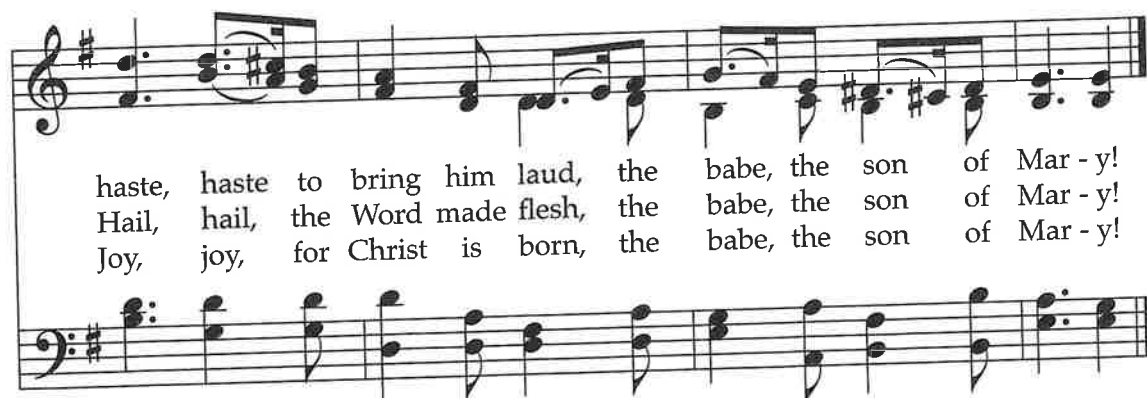
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

## 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  
Jay and family (*friend of Ingrid Hammond*)

Indonesian families impacted by recent natural disaster  
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*)  
**Linda Ngunda (Malawian Matthew's wife)**  
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehler*)  
\*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*)  
**Howard Stein**  
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 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard (*Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew*)

## THIS WEEK

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

**Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**And by appointment for other times**

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Worship Service - Sanctuary and Virtual . . . . . 9:30 a.m.  
After Worship Refreshments – Deacons Room . . 10:30 a.m.  
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary . . . . . 10:45 a.m.  
Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary . . . . . Noon

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

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

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Carol Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 4:00 p.m.  
Personnel – Office Conf. Room/Zoom . . . . . 7:30 p.m.  
Social Justice – PW Lounge . . . . . 7:30 p.m.  
AA Support Group – Deacons Room . . . . 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

B & G – PW Lounge . . . . . 8:00 a.m.  
Pastoral Study: Pericopes of Luke – PW Lounge . . 10:30 a.m.  
Westminster Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Labyrinth Walk – Auditorium . . . . . 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Youth Group – Room 201 . . . . . 7:30 p.m.  
Finance Commission – Office Conf Rm./Zoom . . . . 7:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Junior Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.  
Joy Ringers – Bell Loft . . . . . 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft . . . . . 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium . . . . . 7:00 p.m.  
Senior Choir – Choir Room . . . . . 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

Dec 21 Service of Lessons and Carols  
Dec 21 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary  
10:45-11:45 am  
Dec 22 Food Pantry Packing – Auditorium – 7:00 pm  
Dec 23 Christmas Food Pantry Distribution – 9:00-11:00 am  
Dec 23 Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal – Sanctuary  
4:00 pm  
Dec 24 Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary – 5:00 pm  
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary – 9:30 am

### TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received December 7

Pledge	\$ 9,163
Non-pledge	\$ 1,506
Per Capita	\$ 80
Deacons	\$ 242
Cash	\$ 73
Food Pantry	\$ 225
Christmas	\$ 25

**TOTAL: \$ 11,314**

**OTHER RECEIPTS \$110 (Parking)**

### HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

**Direct** Cash or check in the plate are always welcome!  
**Online** From our website [fpcweb.org/give](https://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!**

### A reminder about 2026 giving envelopes

For those of you who use pledge envelopes, the 2026 giving envelopes have arrived. Please take time to pick up your box from the Narthex. They are arranged alphabetically.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our treasurer, Kevin Trolaro: Email [ktrolaro@fpcweb.org](mailto:ktrolaro@fpcweb.org) or call (732) 491-2301

**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



The Sanctuary & Sacraments Committee sends joyful thanks to the Carol Choir and First Tuesday Club for their help decorating the Narthex tree and setting up the Nativity.

And to Kelsee Young, a warm thank you and best wishes as she prepares to move to FLORIDA!!!



## ADVENT LABYRINTH WALK

**Wednesday, December 17**  
**7:00 - 8:30 pm Labyrinth Walk**  
**Social Center**

The final advent labyrinth walk is this Wednesday, featuring reflective music by Karen Stern, harpist. Join us for some peace and experience beauty walking the labyrinth.

## Remember and Celebrate: Your Luminary Orders



Your luminary orders for the Christmas Eve Service to honor and celebrate your loved ones are sure to beautifully welcome everyone attending the 9:30 pm service.

A listing of donors and those remembered and honored will be listed in the 9:30 PM December 24<sup>th</sup> worship bulletin. **Orders should be submitted to the office by December 18th.**

Order forms for are available from the Narthex and the Church office Foyer. Be sure to submit your orders with your payment to the Church office by the due date. Call us in the office if you have questions: (732) 491-2300



**GIVE THE  
 GIFT OF  
 HAPPY FEET  
 BY  
 DONATING  
 NEW SOCKS.**

The Mission Commission will be collecting socks **until Sunday, December 21.** Socks will be distributed to the clients of the Food Pantry. Drop off new socks for men, women, and kids in the marked collection boxes in the Narthex and Social Center Foyer. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Wendy Kukowski or Mary Ann Eide.

**This year marks  
 FPC's 10th  
 participation in the  
 Jersey Cares' Annual  
 Coat Drive!**

Let's make it another successful campaign!



Please consider donating new or gently-used, **CLEAN** winter coats in all sizes for adults, children, and infants. **Only coats are being collected, NOT other winter accessories.**

You may drop off at the Social Center Monday - Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, and Friday 8:30 am-12 pm **until January 11, 2026.**

Volunteers are also needed to help sort the coats. Fee free to contact NJ Cares at 973-533-1993 if you have questions.

## From our treasurer, Kevin Trolaro

**YOUR 2025 GIVING PLEDGE.** Thank you for your faithful giving throughout the year.

To ensure that your offerings are counted towards your 2025 pledge, please send in your end-of-the-year donations early so they **are received and deposited BY NOON on December 30.**

Offerings received after that date will be deposited in January 2026. In case you have questions, contact Kevin:ktrolaro@fpcweb.org or call (732) 491-2303