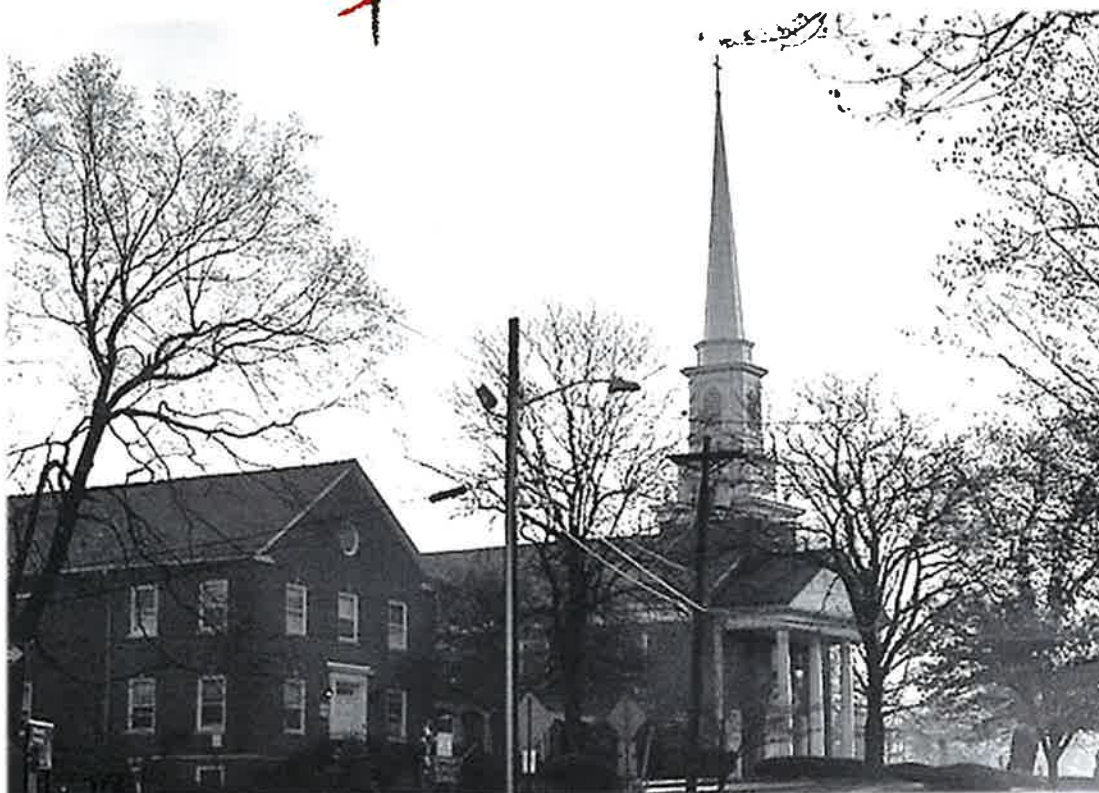




**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

VISION

To be an inclusive, connected, and loving community mobilized to serve Jesus Christ.

MISSION

We are a welcoming and diverse congregation that serves God by improving the spiritual, the mental and physical well-being of people in our community and beyond through worship, education, fellowship, music, and mission outreach.

November 19, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

25th Sunday After Pentecost

Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen



Senior Pastor and Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry
Interim Associate Pastor: Rev. Ashley Bair
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Robert A. Beringer
Director of Music Ministries: Jordan Klotz
Minister of Music Emeritus: Brenda Arnold Day
Director for Christian Education: Nancy Leardi

ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE Improvisation on "Nun Danket All" Piano: Jordan Klotz

WELCOME/ TIDINGS

Rev. Ashley Bair

INTROIT "Thanks to God"

Jubilee Choir, Piano: Elaine Hansen

Marie Pooler

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: What shall I return to the Lord for all God's bounty to me?

All: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

Leader: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all people.

All: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of faithful ones.

Leader: O Lord, I am your servant, I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.

You have loosed my bonds.

All: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

Leader: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

All: Praise the Lord!

*HYMN #336

"We Gather Together"

Kremser

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION - Unison

God of mercy hear our prayer. Let us remember and rejoice at the abundance of your hand; let us bring to mind your steadfast love and faithfulness. May our memory and thoughts keep at bay any fear or semblance of dread. For we have been given so much, it is now ours to offer thanks and praise to you, Holy One of all generations. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN #654

"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:5-20

Jim Thompson

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

ANTHEM "Gifts of Life"

Junior Choir and Westminster Choir
Flute: Helen Burr-Cackowski

Brad Printz

CHILDREN'S TIME

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Sunday School for Pre-K through Grade 6 begins following the Children's Message. Grades 7 through 12 remain in worship.

Jennifer Thompson

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1: 21-25

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

SERMON

"An Echoey Set Up"

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN #367

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

St. George's Windsor

CALL TO OFFERING

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OFFERTORY "Bless, O Lord, Us Thy Servants" Senior Choir, Organ: Elaine Hansen Martin How

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ELDERS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 #378

"We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom"

Merle's Tune

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fantasy on "Nun Danket All"

Aaron David Miller

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Today's greeter is Kristina Scoglio, and the ushers are Ann Behrens, Gilly McKie, and Yunus Ruhukay.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Grace Hammesfahr given
in loving memory of Mom and Dad Hammesfahr.*

*The flowers in the Narthex are given by the Coffill, Burr and Cackowski families
in loving memory of Helen Burr-Cackowski's mom, Lynne.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:5-20

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.'

Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:21-25

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

November 19, 2023 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!

#654 IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; Do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; The Lord is near.

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2039733*

#367 COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

1- Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest home.

2- All the world is God's own field,
fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3- For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from each field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give the angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

4- Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come;
raise the glorious harvest home!

#378 WE WAIT THE PEACEFUL KINGDOM

1- We wait the peaceful kingdom,
when wolf and lamb shall lie
in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh,
when lion shall be grazing,
when snake shall never strike;
a little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.

2- Where is the peaceful kingdom?
When will this new day start?
We long for peace and comfort
to reign within each heart.
Yet not in our lives only, nor simply in our home:
we pray that all creation will one day find shalom.

3- When wars of desolation and hate come to an end,
when nation meets with nation
and calls the other ""friend, ""
still peace in all its fullness will only have begun:
shalom for all creation begins with justice done.

4- That little child shall lead us to walk the chosen way,
to share the peaceful kingdom,
to greet God's newborn day.
The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains,
to bring through word and table
the day when justice reigns.

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OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, NJ has adopted a policy in compliance with the enactment of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) agreeing that a member has the right to have their health and personal information kept private and secure. This means that an individual must give permission to have their name publicly shared with the congregation. PLEASE 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 and then be removed. If you wish to have a loved one on the prayer list for a longer time, please contact Vicky Lacson (vlacson@fpcweb.org) in the Church Office.

Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)
Peggy Anastos (*friend of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
Marilyn Avery
John and Joanne Bellini (*friends of the Brennan's*)
Gemma Bertelsen (*Sister-in-law of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
Abigail Bilworth (*Granddaughter of Marcia Archer*)
Natalie Charles (*cousin of Tom Messina*)
Pat Collelo (*friend of Elaine Hansen*)
Giovanni Colon and his family (*family of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
*Beverly Cummings
*Mary Kay Dangremond
Lisa De La Fuente (*friend of the Kozo/Mollison family*)
Robert Doeg (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)
*Tracy Donahue
*Ruth Endicott
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)
Carol Franklin (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
Lane Gibson (*friend of Bill Nann*)
Garrett Glass (*Julie Bourne's brother*)
*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura*)
Vera Koprowski (*Cathy Wolpin's mother*)

Liz Lee (*Larrie Servino's Sister-in-Law*)
Michael
Arleen McMinn (*friend of the Gunsser's*)
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
*Doris Moskal
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Robles Family
Deanna Rogers (*cousin of Dawn Adam*)
Michael Rubarski (*Karen Rubarski's husband*)
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehler*)
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
Janice Sequeira
Patricia Servino (*Larrie Servino's cousin*)
*Deb Sorensen
Jeheskiel Tangkuman (*member of Indonesian fellowship*)
Cindy Thompson (*Jim Thompson's sister*)
Maureen Washington (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
Richard Watson (*Nancy Gurzo's friend*)
Megan Weingarten (*Bill Marquard's niece*)
Ginny West (*related to June Keehler*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

MSgt. David Hansen, USAF (*son of Elaine Hansen*)
EM3 Cody Harmon, U.S. Navy, Hawaii (*Sue Harmon's nephew*)
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, USAF – Lakenheath AFB, UK (*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*)
First Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard (*Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew*)

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.
 2ND Hour: Christology – Chapel 10:30 a.m.
 After Worship Refreshment – Room 109 10:30 a.m.
 Cemetery Tour – Meet in Narthex 11:00 a.m.
 Indonesian Fellowship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Thanksgiving Packing – Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
 DBSA Support Group – Room 109. 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

AA Support Group – Room 109 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
 CE Comm. Meeting – Room 105/Zoom 7:00 p.m.
 Personnel Meeting – Office Conf. Room 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Bible Study (Pericopes of Luke) – PW Lounge . . . 10:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF HOLIDAY
 Women’s AA Support Group – Room 109. . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

COMING SOON

- Nov 26 Sunday Book Club – PW Lounge – 11:00 am
- Nov 29 Finance Comm. Meeting – Office Conference Rm. and Zoom - 7:00 pm
- Nov 29 Dec 1 Holly Fair Set Up – Dining Room 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Dec 2 PW Holly Fair/Bake Sale – Social Center 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Dec 3 Hanging of the Greens – After Worship
- Dec 3 New Member Reception – Room 109 – 10:30 am
- Dec 3 PYW Kids Night Out – Room 109 - 6:00-7:30 pm
- Dec 4 Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge – 7:00 pm
- Dec 5 Deacons Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
- Dec 5 Youth Comm. Meeting – Office Conf. Rm. – 6:30 pm
- Dec 7 Junior Club – Auditorium – 5:30 pm
- Dec 10 Christmas Dinner & Show – Dining Room – 5:00 pm
- Dec 12 Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
- Dec 17 Lego Sunday

TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received November 12

2023 Pledge	\$ 7,392
Non-pledge	\$ 525
Cash	\$ 179
Special Funds	\$ 95

TOTAL: \$ 8,191

Other Receipts: \$394 (Parking & Flowers)

Here are ways to give your offerings.

- 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!

PASTORAL CARE:

If you or someone you know needs our support, or is in the hospital, please feel free to contact Rev. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Ashley Bair at (989) 859-2083. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours.

The summer hours are Monday to Thursday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, and Friday 8:30 am to Noon.



First Presbyterian Church
270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ
November 19, 2023 Son Day Paper

Phone: (732) 491-2300
Church Website: www.fpcweb.org
<http://www.facebook.com/FPCMetuchen>

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sign-ups are still OPEN!



The annual Christmas Pageant will take place on December 24 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We look forward to sharing this wonderful program with our church youth as angels, shepherds, wise men, and more.

Rehearsals will be from 10:45 -11:30 am on the following Sundays: December 3, 10 and 17, and a final one on December 21 at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary. All children ages 4 – 18 are invited to participate in the Christmas Pageant. Parent volunteers are always needed as well. Sign up by scanning this

QR code or use this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/wdPjKqXJNU>



christmas

DINNER & A SHOW
December 10 at 5:00 p.m.
Social Center Dining Room

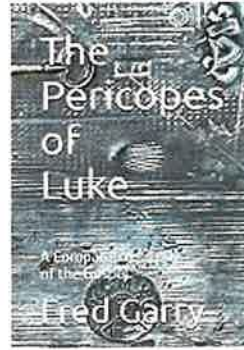
Featuring a festive menu by Dan Slobodien and merry entertainment provided by Brenda Day, Sarah Teti and the Senior Choir

Start the holiday season with this family-friendly Christmas celebration. Enjoy the food of our own Chef Dan and the music of our talented artists.

Tickets are available from the church office, and by scanning this QR code, you may also check the menu.

Tickets are: Adults \$30
Kids 12 & under \$15

This dinner and show is a fundraiser for the Choir tour in 2024. **Purchase your tickets by December 5th.**



PASTORAL BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays
10:30 am
PW Lounge*
with Rev. Garry

Let us take this journey through Luke together; the goal is to gain a devotion to the teachings of Jesus. Get a free copy of the book from the foyer of the church office.

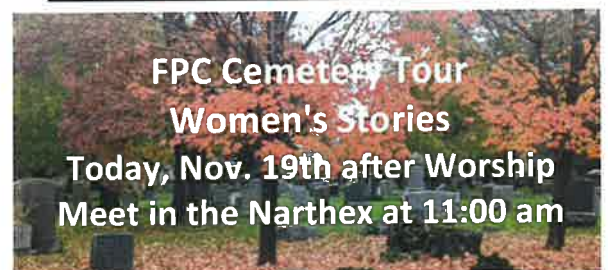


2nd HOUR FORUM ; CHRISTOLOGY
TODAY, November 19th

After Worship, in the Chapel

With Rev. Garry and Helen Burr-Cackowski
Stretch your mind and your faith. How is it that God became human? This is the question that is asked at each of the meetings. This study references the letter exchanges between Arius and Constantine. These letters are found under the Pastor Study Essays using the link below:

<https://fpcweb.org/resources/study-resources/>



Join us for a new tour of our beautiful cemetery. As we walk from grave to grave, we will share the interesting stories of some women who are interred in our historic cemetery! Grab a cup of coffee and meet Pete Bellisano and Laura Draper in the Narthex at 11 a.m.

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Music & Worship Commission, Sanctuary & Sacraments
Committee, and Rev. Ashley Bair Invite you to the

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 3rd
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Save your pinecones and help us spruce up the Sanctuary as we prepare for the Advent season. We will embellish the chancel rail and balcony with garlands and wreaths, and we could use your help. Under the artistic direction of Maggie Cook, we have tasks for many hands, of all abilities. Please join us. Text or email Deb Teall at 908.917.3990 or debteall@optonline.net

Have you put in your Poinsettia orders?

We are collecting poinsettia orders in keeping with our tradition to decorate the Sanctuary this Christmas. The order forms are in the Narthex and the church website.

Send your form and payment by Dec. 4th to the church office.



The Mission Commission is collecting socks for distribution to the clients of the Food Pantry. **New socks for adults and kids may be dropped off in the decorated box in the Narthex until December 17.**

Give the gift of happy feet by donating socks for adults and kids!

Give the Gift of Life!

One of our food pantry volunteers is in urgent need of a kidney transplant. The procedure would be performed at St. Barnabas in Livingston at no cost to the donor.

All general questions can be answered by the "Living Donor Institute" at rwjbh.org/ldi. If you think you can be an angel on earth, please email KidneydonorNL@gmail.com.



OURS IS A BLESSED AND THRIVING CHURCH!

But to continue to THRIVE, we need your help!

Did you remember to return your pledge card?



STEWARDSHIP 2024



Presbyterian Women invite you
2023 HOLLY FAIR

BAKE SALE + COFFEE BAR,
CHRISTMAS DÉCOR AND
JEWELRY TRUNK SHOW

Saturday, December 2nd

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Social Center Dining Room

Check out the holiday merchandise for gift-giving or for yourself! It will be a jewelry galore with necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and more! There will also be a Coffee Bar including teas, hot cocoa, and flavored coffees to enjoy. From our generous bakers, bring home-baked goods that will also be for sale.

Help is needed to make this a success.

PW is still accepting new, and gently used jewelry. Drop them off at the church office until Nov. 27th. **Calling all bakers!** If you are a baker, consider sharing your treasured baked recipes for our Bake Sale. Baked treats such as pies, breads, cookies, and cupcakes should be individually packed. Drop off donations of baked goods between November 30 to December 1 in the Social Center kitchen.