



**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Prepare the way
of the Lord*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

December 1, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

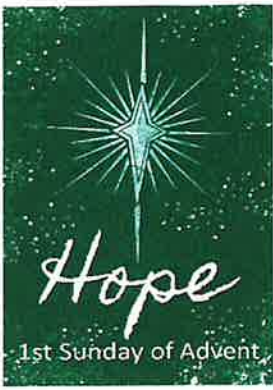
1st Sunday of Advent

Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

www.fpcweb.org

(732) 491-2300



Senior Pastor and 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
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

ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD

*Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Shirley Brendlinger

WELCOME/TIDINGS

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – HOPE

Norman Pacional, Putri Rosali & Mason Pacional

Leader: The world says, “All is lost.” God says, “All is loved.”

The darkness says, “The light is dying.” The light says, “The fire is catching.”

Fear says, “Cover your eyes and your ears.” Hope says, “Wait, watch, and listen.”

As we light our first Advent candle, (*Light the first candle*)

People: We pray for holy hope of God.

Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary

People: Come now, O Prince of Hope.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame.
do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach
me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

**All: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of
old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your
steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!**

***HYMN # 88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

***OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison**

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

**God of mercy, hear our prayer. In times of storm and tumult, we cannot remember peace; when
the center no longer holds and chaos is within, we cannot see the persistence of the star's path.
Guide us unto peace and let us be peacemakers; remove from us the fear, worry, forsaking hope.
Let us be a calm in the storm, a shelter from the tumult. God of mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***HYMN # 90** Wait for the Lord

WAIT FOR THE LORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa McCulley and Rev. Fred Garry

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children 4 years to 2nd grade are invited to a story time with
Ms. Kelsee in room 108. All others remain in worship.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 28:10-17 Sandra Lалуw/Mason Pacional
This is the Word of the Lord . . . Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Keep Your Lamps! Senior Choir arr. Andre Thomas

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 8:22-25
This is the Word of the Lord . . . Thanks be to God.

SERMON "The Weather Outside is Frightful" The 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
Rev. Khayla Johnson

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Meditation on Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

***HYMN** #144 In the Bleak Midwinter (Verse 4 only) CRANHAM
**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Rev. Khayla Johnson

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** Rev. Leksmana Leonard

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . *And also with you.*
Damai Kristus bersertamu..... *Dan bersertamu juga.*

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Rev. Khayla Johnson
A gluten-free option is available on the Communion table. Please ask a server for assistance.

COMMUNION HYMN # 103 Come Now, O Prince of Peace O-SO-SO

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION RESPONSES See next page.

Sanctus Memorial Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Won - der, God of love and
 Christ has died_ and Christ is ri - sen. Christ will come a -
 source of light, all Cre - a - tion shows your glo - ry,
 gain_ in love.
 shin - ing with your pres - ence bright. Bles - sed is_ the one who
 comes_ in your name and in_ your love. Sing! Ho -
 Amen A - le -
 san - na! Sing in the high - est.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sing! Ho - san - na! Sing on high!
 Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Leksmana Leonard

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.

Bapa kami yang di sorga, Dikuduskanlah nama-Mu, datanglah Kerajaan-Mu, jadilah kehendak-Mu di bumi seperti di sorga. Berikanlah kami pada hari ini makanan kami yang secukupnya dan ampunilah kami akan kesalahan kami, seperti kami juga mengampuni orang yang bersalah kepada kami; dan janganlah membawa kami ke dalam pencobaan, tetapi lepaskanlah kami dari pada yang jahat. Karena engkau yang punya Kerajaan, Kuasa dan Kemuliaan sampai Selamat nya.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Khayla Johnson

*HYMN # 347 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Fugue on Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland

H. F. Quehl

*Please rise in body or spirit.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

PEMBACAAN ALKITAB PERTAMA

Kejadian 28:10-17

Maka Yakub berangkat dari Bersyeba dan pergi ke Haran. Ia sampai di suatu tempat, dan bermalam di situ, karena matahari telah terbenam. Ia mengambil sebuah batu yang terletak di tempat itu dan dipakainya sebagai alas kepala, lalu membaringkan dirinya di tempat itu. Maka bermimpilah ia, di bumi ada didirikan sebuah tangga yang ujungnya sampai di langit, dan tampaklah malaikat-malaikat Allah turun naik di tangga itu. Berdirilah TUHAN di sampingnya dan berfirman: "Akulah TUHAN, Allah Abraham, nenekmu, dan Allah Ishak; tanah tempat engkau berbaring ini akan Kuberikan kepadamu dan kepada keturunanmu. Keturunanmu akan menjadi seperti debu tanah banyaknya, dan engkau akan mengembang ke sebelah timur, barat, utara dan selatan, dan olehmu serta keturunanmu semua kaum di muka bumi akan mendapat berkat. Sesungguhnya Aku menyertai engkau dan Aku akan melindungi engkau, ke manapun engkau pergi, dan Aku akan membawa engkau kembali ke negeri ini, sebab Aku tidak akan meninggalkan engkau, melainkan tetap melakukan apa yang Kujanjikan kepadamu. Ketika Yakub bangun dari tidurnya, berkatalah ia: "Sesungguhnya TUHAN ada di tempat ini, dan aku tidak mengetahuinya." Ia takut dan berkata: "Alangkah dahsyatnya tempat ini. Ini tidak lain dari rumah Allah, ini pintu gerbang sorga."

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 8:22-25

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

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PEMBACAAN ALKITAB KEDUA

Lukas 8:22-25

Adalah pada suatu hari Yesus dengan murid-murid-Nya naik ke dalam sebuah perahu, lalu berkata kepada mereka itu, Marilah kita menyeberang ke seberang tasik. Maka bertolaklah mereka itu. Tetapi sementara mereka itu berlayar, tertidurlah Ia, lalu turunlah angin ribut ke tasik itu, memenuhi perahu itu dengan air, sehingga nyaris bahaya. Maka datanglah mereka itu mendapatkan Yesus, serta membangunkan Dia, katanya, Ya Rabbi, ya Rabbi, binasalah kita! Maka bangunlah Ia sambil melarang angin dan gelombang itu; lalu berhentilah, menjadi teduh. Maka kata-Nya kepada mereka itu, Di manakah imanmu? Maka takutlah mereka itu serta heran sambil berkata seorang kepada seorang, Siapakah Ia ini, yang memerintah angin dan air, sehingga menurut Dia?

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

Our greeter this morning is Gilly McKie, and the ushers are Heather Casey, June Keebler, and Nikki Walter.

Serving communion are Betty Kopetz, Gilly McKie, Gary Ostermueller and Kristina Scoglio.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Roy Bertelsen, from his wife, Agnes, and daughter, Amy Bertelsen-Robles.

December 1, 2024 WORSHIP HYMNS

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#8 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

1- O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2- O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go. **[Refrain]**

3- O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. **[Refrain]**

4- O come, thou Root of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave. **[Refrain]**

5- O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. **[Refrain]**

6- O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. **[Refrain]**

7- O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. **[Refrain]**

#90 WAIT FOR THE LORD (REFRAIN ONLY)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart.

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#104 O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU

1- O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

2- Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

3- You come, O Lord, with gladness,
in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness
and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

144 IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER, V. 4 ONLY

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

#103 COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE

1- Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

2- Come now, O God of love; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

3- Come now, and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

4- Come, hope of unity; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

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#347 LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

1- Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2- King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3- Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the shadows clear away.

4- At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord most high!"

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen has adopted a policy that individuals listed must grant permission for their names to be included on the weekly prayer list. 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 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*)
Marilyn Avery
The Bellini family (*friends of the Brennan's*)
*Agnes Bertelsen
John Bertelsen (*Brother of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
Anna Cackowski (*daughter of Al & Helen Burr-Cackowski*)
Cassidy family (*Marty Brennan's relatives*)
Natalie Charles (*cousin of Tom Messina*)
*Beverly Cummings
Bruce Dangremond (*brother of Mary Kay Dangremond*)
*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*)
*Ruth Endicott
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)
*Marie Gale
Lane Gibson (*friend of Bill Nann*)
*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)
*Margaret Hathaway

Marion Kovacs (*friend of June Keehbler*)
*Susan Kozo
Elaine LeSter (*Lorraine LeSter's sister*)
MacArthur family (*Allison Brennan's cousin and family*)
Patricia Maktal (*friend of Messina Family*)
Chris McGrane (*friend of Sue Harmon*)
Patty Meyer (*Daughter-in-law of Jane and Ed Meyer*)
Michael
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
Joan Murray (*Allison Brennan's mother*)
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Carol Roberts (*friend of Jane & Ed Meyer*)
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehbler*)
*Dave Ryder
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
*Deb Sorensen
Sarah Abed Van Pelt (*Chris Van Pelt's daughter-in-law*)
Richard Watson (*Nancy Gurzo's friend*)
Crystal Smith Williams (*friend of the Food Pantry*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong
Sylvia Zaroni (*Mother-in-law of Wendy Kukowski*)

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 the pastors: Rev. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Khayla Johnson at (843) 312-7288. **The hospitals no longer contact clergy when a parishioner is admitted, nor do they keep a list of patients by denomination.** The only way the pastors will know if you or a loved one are in the hospital is if you contact us. 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: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, or by appointment.

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

David Garry, Coast Guard Cutter Bear, Portsmouth, VA (*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 Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

And by appointment for other times

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual9:30 a.m.
 Confirmation Class – Room 20310:30 a.m.
 2nd Hour: Beguiled by Beauty – Room 10510:30 a.m.
 Pageant Rehearsal – Chapel 10:30 a.m.
 FPC Handbells Concert – Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Worship & Music Comm. – PW Lounge Noon
 Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge 6:00 p.m.
 Social Justice – Office Conf. Room7:30 p.m.
 DBSA Support Group – Room 109. 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Jubilee Choir – Choir Room 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
 1st Tuesday – GLOW Room 4:30 p.m.
 Deacons Meeting – Chapel7:30 p.m.
 AA Support Group – Room 1097:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Pastoral Study: Pericopes of Luke – PW Lounge . 10:30 a.m.
 Westminster Choir – Choir Room6:30 p.m.
 Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.
 Youth Group – Youth Room 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Concord Ringers – Bell Loft9:30 a.m.
 Local Mission Meeting – Auditorium11:45 a.m.
 Junior Choir – Choir Room.4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
 Joy Ringers – Sanctuary 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
 Junior Club – Sanctuary5:30 p.m.
 Mission Commission – PW Lounge7:00 p.m.
 Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft7:00 p.m.
 Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Parents' Night Out – Room 1095:30 - 7:00 p.m.
 Presby. Queer Fellowship – PW Lounge7:00 p.m.
 Women's AA Support Group – Room 109. . . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Holly Fair – Dining Room 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Philomusica Concert – Sanctuary 6:00 p.m.

COMING SOON

Dec 8 Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary – 10:30 am
 Dec 8 2nd Hour: Beguiled by Beauty – Rm 105 – 10:30 am
 Dec 8 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 5:00 pm
 Dec 8 Star Gazing Party – Ball Field – 7:00 pm
 Dec 10 PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge – 11:00 am
 Dec 10 Stewardship Comm.- PW Lounge – 1:00 pm
 Dec 10 Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
 Dec 11 Men's Breakfast – Dining Room – 7:30 am
 Dec 12 Food Pantry Holiday Bazaar – Auditorium – 7:00 pm
 Dec 14 Indonesian Fellowship Christmas Party – Social Center – 6:00 pm
 Dec 15 2nd Hour: Malawi Trip Report – Chapel – 10:30 am
 Dec 18 B & G Meeting – Office Conf. Room – 8:00 am
 Dec 18 Lunch & Games-Dining Room – Noon – 3:00 pm
 Dec 18 Finance Comm.-Office Conf. Room – 7:00 pm
 Dec 18 Prayer Shawl Circle – Session Room – 7:00 pm

ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR

Scan the QR code below or click <https://bit.ly/4emWby6> to access the FPC's website calendar for more details of what's happening in the coming weeks.



TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received November 24

Pledge	\$ 3,664
Non-pledge	\$ 588
Cash	\$ 212
Special Funds	\$ 50

TOTAL: \$ 4,502

Other Receipts: \$760 (Parking & Building Use)

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.
- Text** Text to give using this number: (855) 964-5393, and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your generous support!

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen



Christmas Pageant December 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

The first rehearsal begins today, and the participants will gather in the Chapel after worship. The next rehearsals are scheduled on Dec. 8 and 15, and a dress rehearsal on Dec. 19, at 4:15 pm. We expect everyone to come to the rehearsals.

We also need adult volunteers. Email us if you are able. For questions, email: fpcpageant@fpcweb.org



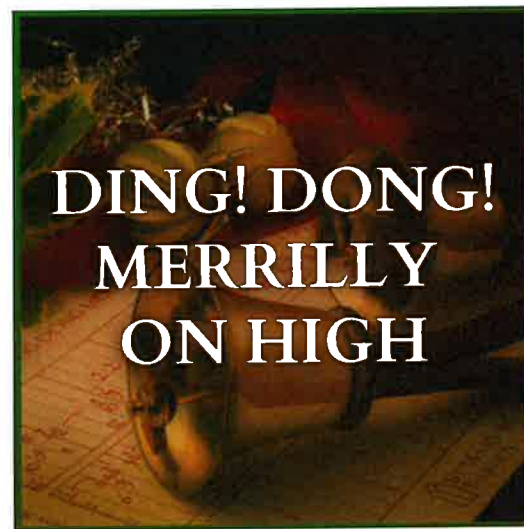
Parents' Night Out Friday, December 6 5:30-7:00 pm Room 109, Ed. Bldg. (For kids 3 years and older) Suggested donation: \$10 per child

Take advantage of this fundraiser for FPC's Youth and Presbyterian Young Women. Please contact Nancy Leardi to RSVP, nleardi@fpcweb.org

Meet us on the ball field to star gaze! Sunday December 8th at 7:00 pm. (Weather- permitting)

Rain date: Monday, December 9th

A star-gazing event will be held in the Ball field of the Social Center of First Presbyterian Church featuring Saturn, Jupiter and the moon. Stop by and look through high-power telescopes and binoculars any time between 7:00 pm and 9:30 pm.



TONIGHT, December 1, at 7:00 PM In the serenely lit Sanctuary

Join the FPC Handbell Choirs for an Advent and Christmas music program as part of the Candlelight Concert Series. The concert follows the Metuchen Winter Parade and Tree Lighting.

Suggested donation: \$22/adults, \$18/seniors, children 17 and under are free. Funds raised support future Candlelight Concerts.

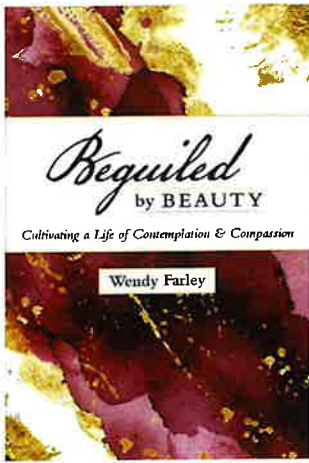
Chrismons ART INSTALLATION

ADVENT 2024



We need you to help us create a beautiful Chrismons art installation for the Advent season. Learn more about the chrismons today during coffee and fellowship in Room 109, or the GLOW room. Each week, there will be opportunities to create your Chrismon, and which will be hung in the Sanctuary for all to enjoy.

Chrismons are religious symbols representing many aspects of the Christian faith. The monograms were found in many places – jewelry, utensils, and even buildings. Early Christians used them to identify themselves to one another, to designate places of meeting of the church, and sometimes to show unbelievers where they stood. Chrismons can be made from nearly anything, cut into shapes, and decorated with paint, thread, or gold glitter.



ADVENT STUDY

Will meet on:
December 1, 8, and 15
In Room 105
After Sunday Worship



We have been reflecting on the theme of “beauty,” and in the coming advent weeks, we will also reflect on this theme, guided by Wendy Farley’s book “Beguiled by Beauty: Cultivating a Life of Contemplation and Compassion.” Our thanks to Isabella Novsima for leading this study. Wendy Farley invites us to approach life from the perspective of beauty, not because other ways are not good or better. Beauty brings to light things that are easy to overlook about spirituality. This advent study invites us to use our senses to perceive beauty and welcome God’s presence daily. We will be challenged not only to think, but also to taste, hear, touch, see, and smell the beauty of God.



HORIZON BIBLE STUDY

Monday, December 2
6:00 pm
PW Lounge / Zoom

Jonah’s prayer from the belly of the fish is both profound and funny. His prayer reminds us that even though we pray “in the dark,” God hears and answers our prayers in ways that are best for us. Led by Mary Kay Dangremond, we will explore in lesson 3 “Taking Up Space in a Fish Named Grace,” and see how God’s grace does not always wait for us to be worthy. Scripture text is taken from Jonah 2. This monthly study meets on the first Monday of each month through June 2, 2025.

ALL are welcome!

All lessons may be found from the website under <https://fpcweb.org/resources/study-resources/>
Email Deb Teall for the Zoom link, or for questions:
debteall@optonline.net

Deacons Offering
Thanks for Sharing Your Blessings for Those in Need



Serving with Faith, Hope & Love

Give, and it shall be given unto you – Luke 6:38

Your donations fund:

- Community Dinners
- Immigrant & Refugee Support
- Emergency Aid
- World Vision Child Sponsorship

A REMINDER FROM OUR DEACONS

The Deacons have been hard at work planning a host of community outreaches and ministries. You can partner with them through this monthly giving supporting their various ministries.

Your donations through the Deacons Offering envelopes enable them to host community dinners and fund others such as the Community Garden, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the Food Pantry, to name some.

Please look for the Deacons Offering envelopes placed on the pews every Communion Sunday so they can continue with their mission. Thank you for sharing your blessings with those in need, and for your generous giving.

FREE Community Dinner

Sunday, December 8

5:00 PM, Social Center Dining Room



We have a place at the table for you!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us in community and fellowship as you enjoy homemade lasagna, garlic bread, green salad, and a delicious dessert.

With more people coming to our dinners, we are very much in need of more volunteers – to help before, during, and after the dinner. We have a lasagna dinner sign-up during Fellowship today, and if you wish to help us prepare lasagna. Pans and recipes will be provided. Volunteers are always welcome!

SPREAD SOME WARMTH AND LOVE THIS SEASON;
HERE ARE WAYS -



GIVE THE GIFT OF HAPPY FEET BY
DONATING NEW SOCKS.



NOW UNTIL JANUARY 10th

Donate gently-used and new winter coats of all sizes for adults, children and infants.

Look for the collection bin marked Jersey Cares Coat Drive in the foyer of the Church office.



Bring joy!
Be an angel for someone

Look for the Advent Angel trees in the Narthex, and in the Social Center Foyer.

In keeping with the Christmas Spirit this Advent, we invite everyone to joyously participate in the Advent Angel Tree. Bless the senior residents of Care One at the Highlands and Roosevelt Care Centers, young children at the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, and unhoused clients of the Food Pantry.

Being an angel is easy! Simply choose an angel and get the requested gift indicated on the back of each angel. There will be other instructions with each angel so make sure you follow them carefully. Our Deacons will deliver the gifts on December 15 and 16 so they arrive in time for Christmas. Thank you for being an angel!

SECOND HOUR FORUM:



Sunday, December 15

10:30 am in the Chapel

The Malawi Mission team is back and eager to share the highlights of their recent trip. Please join Sarah Teti and Jen Edge along with Rev. Garry as they share stories and pictures of their various engagements.

Partner with us in preparing our worship space this Christmas season!

Remember and celebrate your loved ones with your orders of poinsettias and luminaries.



For poinsettia orders, the names of those remembered and honored will be listed in the December 22nd worship bulletin.

Order form is due Dec. 9th.

For luminary orders, the names of those remembered and honored will be listed in the 11 PM Christmas Eve December 24th worship bulletin. **Order form is due on December 18th.**



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



CNS has a project for the kids, and has a few asks that perhaps you could help fulfill.

Here's a short list of what they need:

- Gift wrapping paper
- Gift tissues
- Bows

Feel free to contact CNS Director, Stacy Ambriz, if you have any questions.

(732) 491-2242 or cns@fpcweb.org

THANK YOU!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN presents

**2024 HOLLY FAIR
GOURMET BAKE SALE +
CAFÉ COFFEE BAR
JEWELRY DÉCOR + MORE
NEW/VINTAGE PURSES**



**Saturday, December 7th - 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Social Center Dining Room**

Pictures / Gift with Santa! 11:30 AM—1:00 pm

- HOLIDAY MERCHANDISE FOR YOURSELF OR GIFT GIVING
- JEWELRY GALORE! Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, pins, etc !
- COFFEE BAR INCLUDING TEAS AND HOT CHOCOLATE
- **NEW!** Take a look at our extensive array of pocketbooks



- Donate gently used or new vintage and contemporary jewelry only.
- **Drop off donations at the Church office by November 27th. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!**

Calling all bakers! You are the icing on the cake!

We invite you to donate your treasured baked recipes whether cookies, pies, breads, etc. to be sold in the Bake Sale.

- Donate individually wrapped baked goods.
- **Baked goods may be dropped off in the Social Center kitchen between December 4-6, and clearly marked "PW".**

**EACH BAKER WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT
FOR THEIR DONATION.**



Questions? Email Cindy O'Neill mimabook@aol.com or call the church office (732) 491-2300.