



Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church

THE OLIVE BRANCH



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Ringoes, New Jersey

December Events

- 1 **Advent 1 Hope**
Pastor Vacation Day
- 3 6:30 Deacons Mtg in Library
- 8 **Advent 2 Peace**
11:30 Centerpiece Class
- 14 3pm MMT Muscial
- 15 15 Assemble Food Baskets
- 15 **Advent 3 Joy**
17 7:00 Session Meeting
- 21 11:00 Grocery Giveaway
- 23 Olive Branch Deadline
- 22 **Advent 4 Love**
24 5:30 Christmas Eve Worship
- 25 Happy Birthday Jesus
- 26 Office Closed
- 31 New Year's Eve

Weekly

- Sun 9:30am Worship
- Mon 6:30pm Troop 65
- Tue 8:00pm AA
- Wed 7:30am Men's Bible Study
6:00pm Bell Choir Practice
7:00pm Band Rehearsal
- Thu 9:30am Ladies Bible Study
8:00pm AA
- Sat 4:00pm AA

View our [calendar](#) on our website

Annual Reports are due into the office no later than **Sunday, January 5, 2025**. The Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 26, 2025**.

Advent Wreath Lighters

Thank you for volunteering.

Dec. 1– Linda & Frank H

Dec. 8– Fulper Family

Dec. 15– Sue K & Lanie B

Dec. 22–Kathy L & Norma Z

Pastor's Ponderings

We are entering the Season of Christmas and will soon celebrate the time in which God came to earth as Jesus Christ. Our Emmanuel (translated as God with us) has come to dwell among us.

Christmas lights break through the deep darkness on homes, streets, and through towns. The stores have begun (or have already finished) hanging up the decorations. All the adornments are meant to bring us great joy. Children's eyes sparkle with excitement in eager anticipation for the surprises that will come. The adults have a tense look in their eyes as they are making mental lists to get it all accomplished.

It was a custom throughout early America that the Christmas story was read from the Gospel of Luke and Matthew. The fireplace would be sending off warmth to those who were gathered around. The Bible would be opened by an adult in a chair, and children and adults would be as captivated as the reader, who with joy, would dramatically read the story from the family Bible.

Yet, it seems we do not make the time to turn to that tradition now. We are busy preparing meals, setting the table, wrapping last minute gifts, driving relatives to our homes, and try to accomplish much more than is reasonable. It is the "modern" world, and we must keep up with the times. Our focus is on one that is on our list in the shortest amount of time so we can get to the next thing on our list.

But this is also a time for rest. We are given this time to slow down and remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. The best gifts, the best meals, the best decorations cannot come close to the Gift given to us by God. The Christmas story in the Bible might be the best centerpiece in our lives as we celebrate.

As N.T. Wright says, if you removed the Christmas stories from the Bible (and I am not suggesting we do,) you would lose one chapter in Matthew and two in Luke. Advent is a time of waiting, with our purple (for repentance) or blue (anticipation) liturgical colors on full display, we know that as the colors suggest, we are somewhere in between darkness and light. While we wait for the spontaneous inbreaking of grace into the world through Jesus, we should not be afraid to take time to remember what we have been given. We can focus on the fact that the grace experienced in the birth, life, ministry, words, death, and resurrection is always reflected in the church. This is not simply when it celebrates the miracle of Christmas, but when it experiences God's justice and mercy.

That justice, brought to us in Jesus, is what we seek and is what begins at Christmas, as we celebrate the inbreaking of God's kingdom to the world. This happens in small ways as well as large. It happens in the building of relationships, the integration of grief into our lives, the budding signs of hope in a broken world, giving a gift. The small, local

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Pastor's Ponderings continued...

experiences are just as capable of telling the world about our Savior as any wide scale commercial productions, or smaller programs can do.

Eventually, the peace that passes all our understanding, reigns in realms we cannot begin to understand. And rests in our heart.

Slow down and remember the Biblical instruction to

“Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

A Christmas birth leads us to Bethlehem, it leads to a cross, and an empty grave. It leads us to one another and new ways of living in grace, peace, and love. Have a wonderful Advent season! Have a merry Christmas, and do not forget what Jesus came to do, remember that Jesus came for you! Rejoice!!!

Have a blessed and peace filled Christmas,

Pastor Barbara

Christmas Eve Worship

Our Christmas Eve worship service will be held in-person and via Zoom on December 24, 2024 at 5:30pm.

ALL are welcome, especially children!

Celebrate Jesus' birth with carols and Bible readings.

The Zoom information for the service is below:

Topic: Christmas Eve Worship Service

Time: Dec 24, 2024 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81577790221?pwd=TXdEbjBlc2thWkxzVDRISSsySzZaUT09>

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 815 7779 0221



Centering Prayer in the Presbytery.

Thursdays at 8am

For registration and zoom link please look at the Highland Presbyterian (NJ) website (accessible on Google)

"As we enter the season of Advent, we prepare for the arrival of the Prince of Peace.

And we can know that God-given peace, if only we will receive what God so dearly wants to give.

This is an invitation to be still and heed God's call to "be still, and know that I am God."

During Advent, a group will be gathering by Zoom. A brief introduction to Centering Prayer will be offered, All who register are welcome to attend.

Bells of KMPC: Come ring in the Advent and Christmas season with us. We practice from 6-7pm on Wednesdays. New members welcome. Talk with Sharyn if you have questions. 🛎



Food Ministry

Saturday, Nov. 23, was our **Thanksgiving Grocery Giveaway**. We ended up giving away 37 bags of food plus turkeys, pies, bread and butter. Thank you to all the organizations and individuals that helped us: Living Waters Lutheran Church, Larison's Corner Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church of Lambertville, Athlete's in Action, Boy Scout troop 65, the Women's Auxiliary of the Firehouse, individuals in the community, South Hunterdon Regional High School, and our wonderful congregation.

Our next Giveaway will be our Christmas Grocery Giveaway on Dec. 21. We will again hope to give everyone all the fixings for a Christmas dinner.

At the moment, we are either out of or low on tuna, boxed potatoes, pancake mix, jelly, syrup, canned fruit or applesauce, and cereal. I wish everyone could see how grateful the recipients are when they receive the food.

Thank you for supporting this much needed ministry in our community.

According to my chocolate advent calendar, there are only three days till Christmas.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

As we give thanks to Jesus for our many blessings this year, let us honor him by serving others. As Christmas Day approaches and you go shopping for ingredients to create that special family meal, please keep in mind that not every family in our community is as fortunate. The Deacons are asking our church family to help meet the needs of our community this year by picking up a few extra food items that will be made into Christmas food baskets. Please take this shopping list with you as a friendly reminder. Anything on the following list would be greatly appreciated:

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Cereal
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Apple Sauce
- Rice
- Beans
- Pasta Sauce
- Pasta
- Boxed Potato Dishes
- Frozen Turkey/Ham/Oven Roaster
- Turkey/Chicken/Pork Gravy
- Canned Fruit
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Soup
- Tuna Fish
- Cookie &/or Brownie Mixes (not refrigerated)



If you are able to donate, please leave the items in the bin outside the Connector marked "Deacons Food Drive" **before Dec. 15th** Thank you for your support!



December 2024 Sunday Volunteers

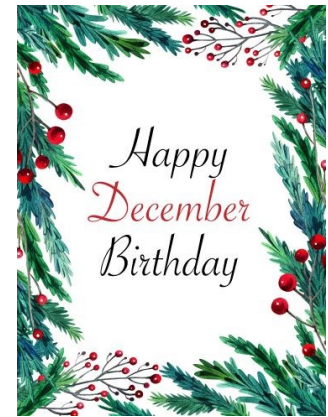
Date	Preaching	Liturgist	Wreath Lighters	Nursery / Jr Church	Coffee Break	Communion
Advent 1 12/1/2024	Elder Mark Van Bruggen	Jim D.	Linda & Frank H		<i>please volunteer</i>	No Communion
Advent 2 12/8/2024	Pastor Barbara	Debi N.	the Fulper family		<i>please volunteer</i>	No Communion
Advent 3 12/15/2024	Pastor Barbara	Sharyn D.	Sue K & Lanie B		<i>please volunteer</i>	No Communion
Advent 4 12/22/2024	Pastor Barbara	Lori W.	Kathy L & Norma Z			No Communion
5:30 p.m. Xmas Eve 12/24/24	Carols & Lessons					No Communion
12/29/2024	Pastor Barbara					No Communion

Deacon's December 2024 Prayer List

KMPC Family

Angela B (cancer)
 Barry C family (grief)
 Bart and Norma
 Betsy P (healing)
 Dave M
 Esther
 Erik Z
 Glenn M (cancer) --Tracy
 Karen S
 Karol (continued prayers)
 Laura --Susan's niece
 Stef --Lynn's daughter
 Steve L (healing)
 Tracy M (healing)

Irene H
 Keith P (healing)
 Linda (cancer)
 Megan (drug addition) --Kathy's
 neice
 Nancy F. (Health issues) --Kathy's
 friend
 Natalie --Steve L sister
 Robbie (brain tumor) --Lanie's
 friend
 Ryan & Tessa A (healing &
 prayers for baby)
 Sherri B. (healing, lupus)
 Steve F (Parkinson's)
 Tracy's Dad



Caregivers

Families suffering with addictions
 Homebound members & Shut-Ins
 Hospice

Assisted living/ Care Center

Chuck & Jean M
 Dorothy S
 Irene K
 Millie W

Extended KMPC Family

Cindy --Pat's Niece
 Carol
 Edward G (cancer)
 Jackie --Betsy P daughter
 Jean (brain tumor) Chris
 Jen (health Issues}

Families of Natural Disasters

First Responders
 Those affected by hurricanes
 Military Men & Women and their
 Families
 President & Congress
 Prisoners
 Refugees
 Shooting Victims
 Travelers
 Troubled youth
 U.S. & World Situations
 Unemployed
 Victims of Violence
 People with illnesses/disease
 People of Ukraine
 Victims of War

Joyce George	Dec 5
Steven Esock	Dec 10
Janice Jarrett	Dec 11
Brian Mundhenk	Dec 12
Luke Verbeyst	Dec 14
Chris Bittenmaster	Dec 14
Tiffany Perangelo	Dec 15
Frank Hults	Dec 18
James R. Danner	Dec 19
Bev Kaminski	Dec 21
Jesus Christ	Dec 25
Lori Wonsor	Dec 27
Kim Fulper	Dec 28

Please contact us to have names added or deleted at
admin@kirkpatrickchurch.org

