



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BORDENTOWN

CHURCH ADDRESS: 420 FARNSWORTH AVENUE

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DECEMBER 2019

Dear Siblings,

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We enter this season knowing what happens on Good Friday and Easter. We enter this season knowing that Jesus walks with and teaches his disciples and all the people he encounters. We enter this season knowing the outcome of his life and work, and trusting in his love as we experience God's grace and mercy. But what if we did NOT know all these things?

I invite you to enter this season with me as though you are an expectant parent waiting for the birth of your child- one whom you know will turn your world upside down, but you cannot even begin to imagine how. We, the Church, wait with expectation for the birth of this very child, with hope for the future of the world. We dream about (and maybe even fear) the surprises this child will bring to our lives as s/he says first words, takes first steps, sleeps away from home for the first time, and eventually leaves home in the late teens. We dream about a future in which this child will become an adult and bring about peace and good things for society.

All the while, as we dream, we prepare a room in our hearts for this very special child just as a parent prepares a nursery. As we do so, we think about what can't wait. I invite you to join me each Sunday of Advent as we ask, "What can't wait?" Join me also throughout Advent in the following prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org:

What can't wait? Hope for a better day.

What can't wait? Peace and repentance, among and within us.

What can't wait? Joy and delight! Our cup runs over.

What can't wait? Love for self, love for neighbor, love for Creator, and love for creation.

God is waiting, and God is ready. Starting here and now—let us worship Holy God. Amen.

Grace and love,
Pastor Kristin

A note about my work hours- I work Tuesday through Friday and Sunday each week. While my hours are a bit flexible, I generally attempt to work 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. on weekdays if there are no evening meetings. Sundays I devote to worship or making pastoral visits.

Office hours: *Tuesday and Thursday 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Please, if you have any personal issues or questions/concerns you would like to discuss, feel free to reach out to me via phone (609-817-4514) or email (pastoraustew@gmail.com).*

Vacation: *Monday, December 2 - Saturday, December 7. I will be in worship December 8.*



December 7	Marlie Guicheteau
December 9	Liana Robertshaw
December 12	Domenick DelVecchio
December 13	Deb Branson
	Ellis Rominiecki
December 14	Silvia Campo
	Kim Murray
	Caryl Tipton
	Candace Walling
December 16	Marlene Lyszczak
December 17	Meredith Bolinger
	Alexander Ryba
December 18	Justin Clark
December 22	Erin Chamberlin
December 24	Jenna Rominiecki
December 27	Alan Stoneback
December 28	Charlotte Brown
	Judie Martin
	Chase Seguin
December 29	Duane Arnold



ANNUAL SILVER TEA

The Deacon's will be sponsoring the Annual Silver Tea following the Cantata service on Sunday, December 8th. Please take a look at the signup sheets on the back counter and consider volunteering to loan silver trays and candelabras or make cookies. We also need volunteers to pour tea and coffee; if you are interested in being a server this year, please contact Bobbi or any Deacon. Thank you!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mike C.; Shawna (Kochie) Catarinicchia;
Mike Gagnon, Vincene Palmonari;
Evelyn Seyebe; Paul Sootkoos;
Edith Van Arsdale.



Please contact the office or
the Deacon on call to add
someone to this long-term
prayer list

Almost a year has passed since my aneurysm, and still, hardly a day goes by without Dot recalling for me some act of kindness performed by our church family. Meals and transportation, especially in the first few months, enabled Dot to concentrate on my recovery, and having good friends to talk with at that time was a real plus. Also the many cards and calls were most appreciated. We definitely knew we were not alone in this fight! We belong to an exceptional, caring congregation. Thank you all! Ron Barnard.

**Thank
you!**

DEACONS' CORNER

*Deacons' Meeting
December 1, 2019
(following Worship)*

WHAT IS THE JOB OF A DEACON AT OUR CHURCH? The Deacons are here for you, our church members and families. If you find yourself in need of assistance, reaching out to the deacons can be the 1st step in the process. We prayerfully consider each request confidentially and use the utmost discretion in providing the answers and solutions you need. Think of the deacons as Pastor Kristin's assistants in pastoral care. Reach out and know you are safe with the deacons as part of your church family.

Deacon on call: Linda Blackwell
609-234-5888

Your Deacons:
Megan Arnold, Linda Blackwell,
Karen Chamberlin, Margaret Conover,
Jodi Hawryluk, Bobbi Maiuro,
Melonie Newton, Montana Pell (Youth)

Bob Lowden will be giving concerts over the holidays in churches in Bourne, Weymouth, and Boston, Massachusetts.



WHO'S IN CHARGE FOR DECEMBER

Pastoral Care—Pastor Kristin Austew
Phone: 609-817-4514
Email: PastorAustew@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday
11:00am-2:00pm

Deacon-on-Call or the Deacon Moderator,
Bobbi Maiuro — 609-865-4853

Director of Music — Gwendolyn Huber

Accompanist — Dr. Bob Lowden

Office Manager — Sheri Devlin

Phone: 609-298-1243

Email: bordentownpresbyterian@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
10:30am-2:00pm

Sunday Mornings

To volunteer:

- ◆ to be a Worship Reader, please contact Donna Potts.
- ◆ for Fellowship Hour, please contact Margaret Conover

Worship Readers

- 12/1 — Marlene Lyszczak
- 12/8 — Chris Small
- 12/15 — Pageant Sunday
- 12/22 — Bobbi Maiuro
- 12/29 —

Fellowship Hour

- 12/1 — Kathie Ackerman
- 12/8 — Silver Tea
- 12/15 — Donna Potts—Children's Pageant
- 12/22 — Chris Bolinger
- 12/29 — Bring Your Leftover Cookies

Communion Servers — Christmas Eve

- Donna Potts, Gordon Potts
- George Carmichael, Jane Erickson

Communion Servers — January

- Melonie Newton, John Burke
- Nancy Grim, Don Ryba

MISSION IN ACTION!

Food Pantry

Ongoing donations of non-perishable food are collected in the basket on the right at the rear of the sanctuary. Meals are delivered to St. Mary's Church Food Pantry. Standard monthly needs of the Food Pantry include: tuna, beefaroni, coffee, canned meat, kids cereal, jarred tomato sauce, canned fruit, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste. See each week's bulletin for the most current needs.

Our Bread of Life Mission Meals

Bread of Life Mission Meals are held on the last Sunday of each month. If you would like to donate to this worthwhile mission in our church, you can write a check to *The First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown* and write "Mission Meal" or "Bread of Life Meals" in the memo section.

Next Grocery Bag Mission

Our church provides microwaveable meals for the homeless each month. Our donation is combined with donations from other churches to provide grocery bags to homeless families living in local area motels. Some examples of items you can donate are pop-top soup cans, Chef-Boyardee pasta meals, or cans of stew. You can put your donations in the basket in the back of the church, labeled "Grocery Bag Mission Meal." Thank you for your generosity!

Ready To Distribute Meals!!

The Mission Commission now has the cabinet put in place for Ready To Distribute Meals in Julien House. From time to time, if you have the opportunity, we are looking to stock our new cabinet with items listed below. You can place them right in the cabinet when you have a chance. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated!

Items we would be looking for: apple sauce, fruit cups, tuna packets, microwaveable meals, jello cups, juice boxes, water bottles, etc.



Grace and Peace to all!

The Mission Commission

Pat Andrus, Karen Chamberlin, Robert Joe Lee,

Bobbi Maiuro, Donna Potts, Karin Venezia

Volunteers Needed!

Readers Needed: Please sign up to be an **occasional Liturgist for Sunday Worship**. You will get an email with your script the Friday before Worship and a hard copy at church, so there is nothing to do but show up and read.

If you can help out reading occasionally, please see Donna Potts. Thank you!!



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship	2 7:30pm Women's AA	3 6:30pm Yoga	4	5 8:45 Wanderers 7pm AA 7pm Choir 8pm Bells	6	7
PASTOR KRISTIN WILL BE AWAY DECEMBER 2-7						
8 9:30 Pageant Prep 10:30 Worship/ Cantata Silver Tea	9 7pm WBS 7:30pm Women's AA	10 6:30pm Yoga 7 pm Session	11 7 pm B&G	12 7pm AA 8pm Bells	13	14
15 10:30 Worship/Pageant	16 7:30pm Women's AA	17 6:30pm Yoga	18	19 8am Men's Breakfast 7pm AA	20 6pm Youth Group-A Christmas Carol	21
22 10:30 Worship	23 7:30pm Women's AA	24 6:30pm Yoga 8pm Worship & Communion	25 	26 7pm AA	27	28
29 10:30 Worship Mission Meal	30 7:30pm Women's AA	31 6:30pm Yoga				

Pastor Kristin's Office Hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 AM—2:00 PM

Christmas tips from the Earth Care Team!

1. Use alternative wrapping materials — Conventional wrapping paper is not recyclable and will end up in a landfill for far longer than it was on your gift. Instead, try wrapping gifts in butcher paper, newspaper, grocery bag paper, or fabric. These can be recycled or reused. Instead of tying up your packages in plastic ribbon, try using string made from natural fibers like cotton or hemp, and reuse year after year. To add a festive touch, tie on some evergreens sprigs or decorate with eco-friendly paint. Can't part with conventional wrapping paper? Buy post-consumer recycled wrapping paper.
2. Buy used — Every time we buy something new, we contribute to many environmental problems. When we buy used items, we give them a second life without creating more pollution to our land, air, and water. Consider buying pre-owned gifts instead of new. In many cases, especially children's toys, the item still has plenty of life left and may be in the same condition as when it was new-it just doesn't come in a plastic package that will end up in the landfill. Feel strange about buying used gifts for your family and friends? Try giving an antique!
3. Buy local — When you buy locally crafted gifts and decor, you cut down on the amount of emissions from the delivery of the items. This also keeps more money in the local economy and small-businesses, which care more about our local environment than large corporations do.
4. Give Non-Physical Gifts — Instead of wasting resources by giving someone a gift they might not use, treat them to an experience or donate to charity in their name! Experience gifts could include concert tickets, a day at the local sculpture garden, a ski trip, or a spa day. Whatever it is, your friends and family will appreciate spending time with you, and the earth will thank you. Alternately, giving to charity in someone's name can be a meaningful gift. A few ideas include Doctors Without Borders and Heifer International.
5. Get a real tree — It may seem counter-intuitive that the Earth Care team would be telling you to cut down a tree, but the Christmas Tree industry is actually quite good for the environment. Trees uptake and store a lot of carbon while they are young, and then this carbon is returned to the soil when the tree is composted after Christmas. By having rotating crops of young pines, Christmas Tree farms remove a lot of carbon from our atmosphere. On the other hand, producing plastic Christmas trees and garlands requires burning a lot of fossil fuels, which contribute to pollution in our atmosphere. Supporting local tree farmers also ensures that they can afford to keep their farm and open space instead of selling it to developers.



The Wanderers

The Wanderers who have paid for our trip to Sight & Sound to see “Miracle of Christmas” will meet in the parking lot of the United Presbyterian Church in Yardville on Thursday, December 5 at 8:45 a.m. You have received a schedule of our day. We are looking forward to our bus trip

and trust it will be a meaningful way to start the Christmas season. Any questions, call Gail Fouse-609-585-3248.

On January 9th, we will have our sing-along with Bob Lowden at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary. More information in the next newsletter.

Session Summary

The Session met on November 12th and the following topics were discussed/announced:

- * Reverend Austew’s office hours are now Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 2pm.
- * The sale of the Allegretti house was completed on November 15th.
- * The chimney repairs on the Manse and Julien House were completed, and new hot-water heaters were installed in the Manse and the Church.
- * The annual art show will take place on the weekend of February 7th-9th. Bob Lowden has agreed to give a piano concert on the 8th.
- * There will be a potluck supper and reflection for Ash Wednesday on February 26th
- * The final per capita payment was made to the Presbytery this month. 47% of the congregation contributed to this account and the church operating budget paid for the remaining 53%.
- * Community meals, ready-to-distribute meals, mission meals and food items for St. Mary’s Food Pantry and the Grocery Bag Mission meals continue through the work and donations of the congregation. Thanks to all who contribute. The Mission Commission delivered a meal to the residential tenants of Homefront on October 29th.
- * Our church’s support of the Good Neighbor Guild continues as our final 2019 payment of \$500 has been made.
- * We have initiated a new ministry of partnership and support with Harold Scott, Paul Sootkoos’s friend. Individual members of the Mission Commission are now writing him directly to build a more personal relationship and to learn how we can support him.
- * \$658 was received for the Peace and Global Witness special offering,
- * The Earth Care exploratory group met on October 30th and, with Session’s approval, is working on the application to become a certified Earth Care Congregation.
- * The Stewardship campaign concluded on October 20th with a buffet brunch following worship.
- * 41 pledges were received. Thanks to all who pledged.

Hymn of the Month

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing is a Christmas carol that first appeared in 1739 in the collection, *Hymns and Sacred Poems* by John Wesley, the brother of Charles.

As it is known in the modern era, it features lyrical contributions from Charles Wesley and George Whitefield, two of the founding ministers of Methodism, with music by Felix Mendelssohn.

Around 1840, Mendelssohn composed a Cantata, one of which included this popular melody.

Today, it remains one of the most popular sacred carols, not only in the United States, but in the United Kingdom.

The hymn may be found on page 31 of the Presbyterian Hymnal, and may be heard on the church's web site.



BE A CHRISTMAS ANGEL



Please help our mission commission to bring joy to a family needing assistance this Christmas. Our family includes a 2 year old girl and a 4 year old boy. We have an angel tree decorated with ornaments that have gifts written on them. These gifts are from the family's wish list.

Please take one of those ornaments and return the gift that is listed on it. Bring your gift wrapped with the ornament attached by **Sunday, December 15th**.

Thank you for making this a special Christmas.

Statements of giving for 2019 will be available on the back counter before January 31, 2019. Please look for them and take them so we don't have to pay postage to send them to you.

A reminder, we can only credit gifts for 2019 if they were received on or before December 31, 2019.

Look for new envelopes to be available on the back counter before the end of the year. If you would like to change between monthly and weekly envelopes, let George know.

Financial Secretaries



Christian Education

Sunday School

Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 15th. *See everyone at 9:15 for a run-through!

4th-6th Grade

We will continue to meet at 9:30 for Christmas Pageant Prep/Class until December 15th when I need you at 9:15 so we can go over any last minute details. Then we're off Sunday, December 22nd and Sunday December 29th. We'll see everyone again 9:30 AM on Sunday January 5th!

Kindergarten-3rd Grade

We will be taking a break from Sunday School during worship in December. There are a lot of special services coming up that we'd love to have everyone join us for. There will always be activity bags in the back of the sanctuary for anyone looking for some things to work on while enjoying the service :-). We'll see you all again on Sunday, January 5th!

Youth Group

Thanks for everyone's participation in our Thanksgiving Service Project! We were able to pick up \$70 worth of food pantry supplies and send out Thanksgiving Cards to our Homebound Families! Keep actively thinking about all those things in your life that you have to be grateful for!

McCarter Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" — Friday, December 20th. *If you're going, please keep your eyes peeled for an email/text with time information, etc.

A Request

Sunday School is looking for your help with another Christmas Pageant slideshow this year. We're looking for images of times when you had a "perfect plan" all worked out and then things didn't go the way you expected, but still worked out.

I realize that this is a somewhat abstract request. The picture doesn't have to tell the whole story - as long as YOU know the story it tells! For example, last Thanksgiving was the first Thanksgiving in my new apartment and I was very excited to bake my signature banana cream pie in my very own kitchen with my brand new kitchen appliances. I wound up making banana cream pie soup... still have no idea what I did wrong... and the best part - my whole family each scooped some banana soup into a bowl and ate it with the rest of their desserts that night because they knew how excited I was! The picture of me standing in the kitchen showing off my soupy pie does not tell the full story - but I know what's going on!! :-)

You can email me pics at djmaiuro@gmail.com or text me at 609-477-8344.

Contributions appreciated by December 10th. THANK YOU!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



"We endeavor in all things to nurture the fruit of the Spirit within the family of God."

From FPCB Mission Statement

DECEMBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS!

*Bring canned/package meals for Bordentown Motel Ministry
On the THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (December 15)
EVERY WEEK — Bring non-perishables for the Food Pantry*

Sunday, December 1 — 10:30 am Worship

Sunday, December 8 — 10:30 am Christmas Cantata and Silver Tea

Sunday, December 15 — 10:30 am Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22 — 10:30 am Worship

Tuesday, December 24 — 8 pm Worship & Communion

Sunday, December 29 — 10:30 am Worship; Mission Meal following worship

January Newsletter Deadline — December 20



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