

CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 22, No.12

December 2022

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE:

Sunday, December 5th—2nd Sunday of Advent 10am- Greening of the Church

Sunday, December 11th—3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 18th—4th Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 24th-Christmas Eve 7:15pm—Carols in Sanctuary 7:30pm—Full Candle lighting Service

Sunday, December 25th—Christmas Day 10am-Brief Family Worship



Our Mission Statement:

Our mission is to gather as a church family for worship and spiritual fellowship, to nurture and educate, and to proclaim the gospel to the world.

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BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME 22, NO. 11

November 2022



Christmas: Frantic or Peaceful

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Here are two different ways of experiencing Advent and the Christmas seasons:

FRANTICPREPARATIONS

seems Christmas issuchabusy hectictimewith shoppingtodoand gifts towrapand decorationsto putupandentertaining todoandspecialservicesto attendatchurchandcardstoaddress andonandonandon withmoreandmoreand moresothatwecanscarcely seemtocatchourbreathandfind aquietspotbythecrechetoponderthe realreasonthatwekeepChristmas.Ithink Maryhadtimeandtheshepherdstooktimealsoeven kingssowhycanwenotpauseinourcommercialflushof franticpreparations—stoplongenoughtoworship, truly worship **JesusChrist** Messiah, Savior.

CHRISTMAS PEACE

The Angel Chorus sang of peace,
Good will to those on earth,
And thus the Messengers of God,
Announced the Christ child's birth.

Thus, in the fullness of God's time, He came, the Prince of Peace. That we might strive in brotherhood, His Kingdom to increase.

And still the beauty of His Peace Abides with us today; A Peace the world can never give, Nor ever take away.

"My Peace I give," the Master said,
"My Peace I leave with you;"
So trusting souls may know His Peace,
In everything they do.

Still come to us in mercy, Lord,
With pardon and release,
And grant to every waiting heart,
Thy gift of Christmas Peace.

So will our Advent and Christmas seasons be a time of hecticness or calm, frantic preparations or a time to experience God's peace? I believe that even amidst all of the activities, baking, buying, decorating, wrapping, and gathering—we can experience the peace that comes from knowing God that is beyond understanding.

Let's keep Christ in our hearts and minds throughout this season, and in all we do the joy of being so blessed by God that He would come to be with us may be experienced. I wish you a Merry Christmas at the end of a busy yet still peaceful Advent.

I'll see you in church. Your pastor,

geofferson L. Hatch



Please offer prayers for these concerns that have been brought to our attention. They are collected each Sunday morning during the past month from the prayer concerns list used in worship.

- Anne Montat
- Barbara Z.
- Bill Allison
- The Cabrera family
- Carol Stickney and her family and friends after Ron's passing – his funeral will be Saturday Dec.
 10th with a viewing from 2-4 at the Goble Funeral Home in Sparta, and a service there at 4pm followed by a repast
- Charlotte
- Church family, and friends, and that thanksgiving fill the hearts of the nation
- Barbara Blasco
- Beth
- Bonnie
- Dan
- Dana Strickler
- Danny Kantewein
- Dave
- Dave Marion
- Debbie Guile after Les' passing (funeral arrange-

- ments will be in January after the holidays).
- Debra Hill and some thanks have been offered for family
- Dennis
- The Dodge family for the passing of Chuck
- Eileen
- Ester and Fred Wheeler
- Frank San Phillip in Newton Hospital
- The family of Ron Stickney, who passed away on the 8th
- Greg
- · The Grys family
- Happy Anniversary to Mike & Karen Opilla (42 years),
- Harry
- Irene
- James Franklin
- James Teehan who recently passed away. That's
 Heather Morse's best friend, so please pray for his kids
- Jasime
- Jerry
- Joanne
- John Dondero
- John & Joanne Lawson
- Joyce O.
- Karen
- Karen M.
- Karen Stevenson after Lewis' passing
- The Kimble family with the loss of husband and father Eugene
- Kris Kruger
- Larry
- Laura Smith
- Lisa

- Makenzi Decker who is having complications with her Crohn's disease
- Mia Thompson
- Michele
- Mr. Pipers
- Pat Hayes
- Patty
- Ralph Swell
- Randy Van Patten with Stage 4 cancer
- Rev. Keyes
- Rita P.
- Ruth B.
- Stephanie
- SR
- Sylvia
- The celebrations of Kathleen & Ernie Katzenstein on their 32nd anniversary, and Audrey Katzenstein's 93rd birthday. Congrats and Happy birthday!
- Tracy Gibbins Okeson
- The Veres family on the sudden loss of their son John
- Will





THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE would like to invite everyone to join us in the Fellowship Hall on December 4th following the Greening to build a Graham Cracker Village. It will be a great time for us to grab a warm drink during Coffee Hour and then gather for a festive activity to begin the holiday season.

<u>STEWARDSHIP</u> - Thank you to all those who have turned in their pledge card. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card for 2023 please drop it in the offering plate during our worship or mail it back to us at First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, PO Box 1, Branchville, NJ 07826. Thank you! - Stewardship Committee



<u>GIVING TREE STOCKING STUFFERS</u> - A BIG THANK YOU to Lauren Seeger for organizing our giving tree outreach over the past many years! Your organizational skills made it easy for the

congregation to bring smiles to children in need on Christmas morning. THANK YOU!



This year, however, we are doing the Giving Tree differently. With very few children from our food pantry in need of Christmas gifts, the Andover Presbyterian Church received an unprecedented request for gifts during the holidays. Their food pantry services over 42 Sussex County families with children, so they are putting together a Christmas stocking for each of the children that they serve which includes a gift card and a few small gifts. Our Deacons thought we could partner with them by providing 20 filled stockings.

We will provide the stocking, along with the age and gender of the child you are buying for. These can be picked up following the Greening Service in the Fellowship Hall. The stocking needs to be returned, though, by Sunday (12/11). Some suggestions:

- Provide 3 or more age-appropriate items that would fit in the stocking, such as gloves, Hot Wheel cars, bubbles, card games, silly putty, socks, markers, puzzle books, etc. AND
- A \$25 gift card to Walmart (or similar store) in our area.

Both the Deacons and the Andover Church are thankful for your help in putting a smile on a child's face Christmas morning! Any questions, please see Linda Osborne or contact her at 201-317-4756.







Church! PER CAPITA REMINDER - Just a friendly reminder for those who have not vet paid their Per Carife it. have not yet paid their Per Capita this year - it is \$40/person and helps our church a great deal when we don't have to take such a

large sum from our already tight budget. As of November we have only received \$2,124.00 towards our \$8.520.00 due. In 2023 it raises to \$42.50/person.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2022 - Any offerings that you wish to be posted for 2022 must be received by December 31, 2022.





ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE - The deadline to submit your 2022 Annual report December 30th. Please email it to the church office at: presbsec@ptd.net or drop it off. Thank you!

NOVEMBER SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (11/14)

- There will be a Zoom Presbytery meeting on January 31, 2023, honoring several pastors that are retired or retiring including our very own Pastor Jeff. All are invited to attend online.
- The Branchville Historical Society is having a celebration highlighting the history of the Branchville Presbyterian Church on November 20, 2022, at 3:00 pm at their facility. All are invited.
- Sunday School will have their Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 18, 2022.
- Nancy Young has agreed to be our pulpit supply after Pastor Jeff retires until we hire an Interim, including the special services of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, and Easter.
- The Fellowship Committee mailed out eleven college care packages and handed out our donated candy on Halloween night.
- Pledged Giving is behind by \$12,070, although that is a \$3500 improvement over last month so please help us to continue catching up.
- Member Giving (non-pledged) is up by \$2500 in October 2022.
- Our latest KIVA.org micro-loan went out to Seth in Madagascar for a solar energy kit to bring electricity to his remote village.
- \$490 given to DonorsChoose.org schools one locally for a "Little Library" outside the school and also to a N. Fort Myers Beach school after it was devastated by Hurricane Ian.
- \$900 worth of Designated Mission items were purchased thru the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, including buying a community water pump, emergency life packs for immigrants, a family of chickens, a grain bank, land tenure training, and more! Thank you for your giving through the church to help so many!

4th QUARTER MISSION FAMILY PROMISE OF SUSSEX COUNTY

Since 1997, Family Promise of Sussex County has provided services to assist families and single

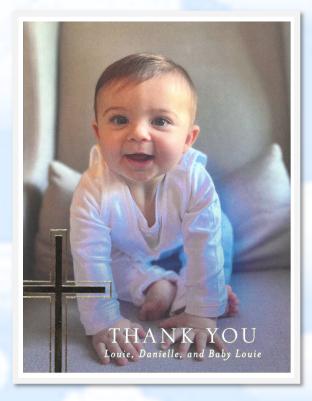


men and women as they work towards housing stability and self-sufficiency. Family Promise of Sussex County works to eradicate

homelessness in Sussex County and provides resources to strengthen children and families. They provide emergency shelter, meals, counseling, and intensive case management services. Your contribu-

tions to the 4th Quarter Mission (October–December) will go to this very worthy program to help our Sussex County neighbors who are in dire need. You may mail a check made out to "First Presbyterian Church of Branchville" with "Family Promise" in the memo. Your contributions to special mission projects make a big difference!! Thank you for your generosity.





Pastor Jeff,

Thank you so much for a wonderful baptism of little Louie. We had the best day celebrating and are so glad to share it with our church family (and on World Communion Day no less!)

Love always,
Louie, Danielle, &
Little Louie







The *Chancel Choir* has been busy preparing music for weekly anthems as well as the Greening and Christmas Eve service. We rehearse on Thursday evening from 7-8:00pm and if you'd like to join in the festivities, please come join us. We have openings for all voices and would be happy to have you be a part of the Chancel Choir.

The *Bells of Branchville* will be "going on the road" on 12/7 to play in Allamuchy for a women's group December luncheon. We are playing two selections from <u>The Nutcracker</u> as well as other pieces we have played (or will play) in church. We will also have a "sing-along" with familiar Christmas songs, accompanied by the handbells. Thank you, Bev Simon, for inviting our group to participate in this holiday fun.





Do you know a lot of Christmas/Holiday songs? How many of the following songs can you identify by the letters of the first words sung in the song? NOTE: The answer is not always the same as the title. For example: YKDADA-PAV = You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen instead of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." HAVE FUN and let me know how many you identify. —Kay

I. OCAYF	11.	TFN
2. ICUAMC	12.	SNH
3. DTHWBOH	13.	YBW
4. YKDADAPAV	14.	ISMK
5. HTHAS	15.	GGR
6. AIWFCIMTFT	16.	DTT
7. IDOAWC	1 <i>7</i> .	CRO
8. OLTOB	18.	SBRA
9. WWYAMC	19.	IHTE
10. CTTMARPPP	20.	JBJBJ

I.	TFNTADS	21. GRYMGLNYD
2.	SNHNAICAIB	22. OTFDOCMTLGTM
3.	YBWOYBNC	23. JTTWTLHC
4 .	ISMKSC	24. CSBSDIHS
5.	GGROBAR	25. OHNTSABS
6.	DTTSIAOHOS	26. WTKOOA
7.	CROAOF	27. IBTLALLC
8.	SBRAYLITLSIG	28. IBHFC
9.	IHTBOCD	29. FTSWAJHS
0.	JBJBJBR	30. GKW

1.	11.	21.
2.	12.	22.
3.	13.	23.
4.	14.	24.
5.	15.	25.
6.	16.	26.
7.	17.	27.
8.	18.	28.
9.	19.	29.
10.	20.	30.

More Celebrations!

Recently the Fellowship Committee
celebrated our church members
that have been with our church for 30 years or longer.
We're sorry that we missed a couple, so we
thank the following for being such loyal members as well:

Betty (Bathgate) McMickle—51 years_ Lorraine (Decker) Feaser - 66 years



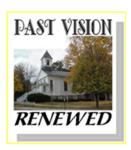
College Care Package Thank you:

I would like to thank my church family for the care package. It was definitely nice to be remembered going into midterms!

Thank you,

Josh Langley





PLEASE DONATE TO THE PAST VISION RENEWED CAMPAIGN



We are proud of the many improvements that have been made to our church from our Priority List, but the list isn't complete. We encourage you to continue supporting the PVR so that improvements may continue to our facilities (the prioritized list is posted on the front wall of the Fellowship Hall). Our current project is to save toward a new chair-lift to go up to the sanctuary, to replace our worn-out ramp. Thank you in advance for your support.

Please make your check payable to:

"First Presbyterian Church"

and drop it in the offering plate during worship, or mail it to the church office at: First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1, 5 Wantage Avenue, Branchville, NJ 07826.

The Deadline for being listed in our Christmas Bulletin is December 18th.

Donation to the PVR Campaign \$
Given by:
Given in Memory of:
-or-
Given in Honor of

Thank you for your holiday donation.



We are often asked if any specific items are needed by Manna House.

Thank you for your gracious and generous offer of support!

Our Manna House Needs List

Guests are now back to eating inside with takeout available. We continue to prepare meals that can be given and transported in containers by our Guests.

The first section reflects our Website post of our ongoing needs and the second section reflects additional needs from the original list.

There may be overlaps.

Juice Boxes - Bottled Water- fresh fruit -Granola Bars- individual fruit cups- boxes of small bags of chips-ANY individually packaged healthy snacks.

Chopped Meat- Chicken Leg Quarters- Boneless Chicken Breasts - Sausage- (Frozen Commercial Lasagna, Hamburgers, Meatloaf, Cubed Potatoes) Brown Paper Lunch Bags, disposable medium gloves.

FOOD ITEMS:

Chopped meat

Chicken

Canned Chicken/Tuna

Stew/Chili

Carrots

Potatoes - Onions

Tomato Sauce

Crushed Tomatoes

Chicken Stock

Cheese

Butter

Parmalat

Mayonnaise - Ketchup

Mild Barbecue Sauce

Ranch Salad Dressing

Italian Salad Dressing

Apples

Zita

NON-FOOD ITEMS:

Regular Clorox

Paper towels

Antibacterial hand soap

Dawn dish detergent

Aluminum foil

Plastic wrap

Plastic sandwich bags

Brown lunch bags

Food storage bags

39 gallon - garbage bags

Sponges



HAPPY BIRTHDAY DECEMBER

Julie Willis	12/2	Barbara Mueller	12/11
Jesse Bambrick	12/4	Jeremy Willis	12/15
John Newcomer	12/6	Susan Kurland	12/20
Cathy Bambrick	12/7	Christina Ulchinsky	12/21
Brian McCurdy	12/9	Karen Utter	12/31
Lisa Hughes	12/11		

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Holiday Beef Brisket

INGREDIENTS

- 3 1/2 pound beef brisket
- 1 packet of Onion Soup Mix
- 1 14 oz. can of cranberry sauce



PREPARATION

- 1. Put the brisket in the bottom of a slow cooker. Mix the Onion Soup Mix and the Cranberry Sauce together with just a little water, in a medium size bowl. Pour the mixture over the brisket.
- 2. Cook for 6-8 hour on or until the beef is very tender and falling apart.
- 3. Take the beef out of the slow cooker and shred or slice. Wrap in foil and refrigerate.
- 4. Put the au juice in the refrigerator until the fat separates from the liquid and forms a cap. Take off the fat cap and discard and reserve the rest of the juice as a sauce in the refrigerator.
- 5. To heat: Add a 1/4 cup of the au juice over the beef brisket and heat in the microwave. Heat the remainder of the au juice and serve it on the side.



December USHERS

Deacon of the Month — Linda Osborne & Marion Alden

4th- Bev Keur/Ann Bain

11th - Buzz Aden/Marion Alden

18th - Trish Cherney/Donna Havelin

24th - Open

25th – Open

LAY READERS

4th- Greening of the Church readers

11th - Jean Ransom

18th - Paula Clark

24th - Christmas Eve

25th - Christmas Day

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville
PO Box 1
3-5 Wantage Avenue
Branchville, NJ 07826

Phone 973-948-3495



View our website at:

http://www.fpcbranchville.org

and Facebook at:

http://www.facebook.com
(ask to be friends with "pastorjh@ptd.net")

You may e-mail the secretary at pressec@ptd.net or the pastor at pastorjh@ptd.net

View a daily devotion at:

http://www.d365.org



DECEMBER COFFEE HOUR DAISEY ROE

DECEMBER FLOWER CHART:

If you would like to provide flowers for any of the dates, please see instructions below:

Dates:

4th 11th 18th 24th 25th

Call Lisa the week before your signup to have flowers delivered. Gail Burckes will contact you for your dedication or memorial.

Flowers By Lisa 862-268-3123







First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed resd ay	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 7 13 14	Nov 2022 T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26	Jan 2023 S M T W T 1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26	F S 6 7 13 14 20 21 27 28	1 10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	2 12:15 PM - 1:15 PM Branchville Rotary Meeting	9:00 AM-12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop Christmas Sale/Final Sale
20 21 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 29 30	22 23 24 25 26 29 30 31		CHOIR	E DOOR	Sale
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:00 AM Worship/Greening of	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry		10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Panty	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry	12:15 PM - 1:15 PM Branchville Rotary	
the Church 11:30 AM -12:30 PM Bells of Branchville	3:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting		7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts Meeting	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	Meeting	
Rehearsal 11:30 AM Graham Cracker Village	Have a meeting.			CHOIR CHOIR		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00 AM Worship	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry		10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Panty	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry	12:15 PM - 1:15 PM Branchville Rotary	
11:30 AM -12:30 PM Bells of Branchville Rehearsal	7:00 PM Session Meeting		7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts Meeting	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	Meeting	
Third Sunday of Advent				CHOIR.		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00 AM Worship/Christmas Pageant	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry	7:00 PM Deacons' Meeting	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Panty	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry	12:15 PM - 1:15 PM Branchville Rotary Meeting	7:15 PM Christmas Carols in Sanctuary
11:30 AM -12:30 PM Bells of Branchville Rehearsal	Control of the second		7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts Meeting	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	ROTARD	7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service
Reflection		Deacons Called To Serve		CHOIR		Christmas Eve
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:00 AM Christmas Day Family Worship	Office Closed		10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Panty	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry	12:15 PM - 1:15 PM Branchville Rotary Meeting	-c20
CI-IRISTMAS SERVICES	OFFICE		7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts Meeting	Pastor Jeff & Kay on Vacation	TO TARK THE PARTY OF THE PARTY	YEARS EVE