



## Community Presbyterian Church News December, 2022

Community Presbyterian Church  
P. O. Box 148, 220 Main Street  
Chester, New Jersey 07930

### ***O COME LET US ADORE HIM***

As the season of light fast approaches for us all, we in the Worship business are rolling up our sleeves as well, making plans and getting in tune with the season.

*Advent kicked off on November 27th* with lighting the first advent candle. Our much loved *vespers services* quickly follow and began on Tuesday, November 29th at 7:00 pm. This intimate half-hour gathering was accompanied by Janet Lindstrom on piano and Tom Perry on ukulele. They continue *every Tuesday evening until December 20th*. Come for one or come for all, but make a point to treat yourself while they are offered!

Our good friend, Mel Prestamo from Long Valley Presbyterian Church returns to the pulpit on December 4th. Mel never disappoints ~ welcome back Mel.

*The Christmas Story with Carols, Cookies and Cocoa* will take place on *December 11th*, outdoors beginning at 4pm, followed by warm refreshments. It always sets the mood for Christmas!

The music program pulls out all the stops on *December 18th* as we present our *Christmas Cantata* with special instruments. Oh What Fun!!

***Christmas Eve*** ~ Finally, a Christmas Eve reminiscent of those held in the past (B.C. ~ Before Covid). Come out and experience one of our three services: **3:00 p.m.** will be family friendly, featuring our new youth choir and the organ; **5:30 and 8:00 p.m.** will be more traditional and include both adult choirs plus instruments. All three services conclude with candlelight.

And YES! There is a morning service on December 25th, as Tom Perry shares one of his wonderful Christmas stories with us....AND there is more on January 1st, which includes a Christmas hymn sing as well as Communion. If you have a carol or hymn you'd like included in the hymn-sing, just let our organist or choir director know by December 18th, and we'll try to fit it in.

So, by all means, come, share in the joy at CPC this Christmas Season ~ you'll be so glad you did.

As always, the poinsettias from Stony Hill will be available for ordering through December 11th. Look for info in the weekly bulletin or call the office to have yours included in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Help Needed: Our Sanctuary Christmas tree will be assembled and decorated on Friday, December 2 at 9am. We can always use a few extra hands to make the magic come together. It's also very fun ~ see you there



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## Worship ~ Music



### **The Road to Bethlehem**

A Journey to the Newborn King

*By Lloyd Larson*

The music department is gearing up for our Christmas Cantata on December 18th. Guest Musicians will include: on Trumpet, Chris Arnold; Percussion, Stephen O'Toole; Clarinet/Tenor Saxophone: Ed Goellner; our very own Andy Smith on Trombone and Matt McConnell on Trumpet/French Horn. The Adult Bell Choir is also ringing that day for the Prelude which will start off the wonderful service.

The Cantata this year is called "*The Road to Bethlehem*". Bethlehem seemed an unlikely destination for the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Messiah. Bethlehem? Why would anyone--especially the Creator of the universe--choose that little remote village? Nothing good came from there! There was nothing distinctive or glamorous about this common town. But as Scripture records, the road to Bethlehem was the road that ultimately led to God!

Mary and Joseph took that road. The shepherds and the Magi did as well. And now we have been invited to take that journey; to experience in fresh and powerful ways the eternal hope that lies waiting for us in the form of a newborn Baby. The prophet Isaiah challenged those anticipating the promised arrival of Jesus that they should....*prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3)*

As you listen to the music being played, be reminded that God can take a modest place like Bethlehem and turn it into an integral part of a glorious story. God can take common shepherds or devoted star-gazers and turn them into lead players in the greatest drama of human history. God can take you and me and transform our lives and eternal destiny; not because of a dusty road leading to a tiny village, but because of the newborn King born in a manger in that village at the end of the road.

So take the journey one more time. Embrace its message of joy and love. Experience once again the fulfillment of God's promise:

***Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: He is Christ the Lord.***  
*(Luke 2:11)*

# Christian Education

## FootSteps

*Following Our One Teacher to Study,  
Teach. Educate Pray Salvation*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** In October, we finished the month with the books of Judges and Ruth and the reformation with Martin Luther. In November, we journeyed through the books of 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings, 1st and 2nd Chronicles and began the season of Advent. We discussed Ruth, Naomi and Boaz, the cycle of sin, the reformation of the church, Hannah and Samuel, David and Goliath and King Solomon. Without leaving the building we went on a scavenger hunt for wheat, we went bowling to knock down Goliath, we supported the Color-A-Smile Mission, we handed out smiles during coffee hour, we discussed being thankful and kind, talked about prayer and learned how to build a prayer burger and had a lot of fun. We continue to learn the Lord's Prayer and follow our journey through the Bible. Our journey through the Bible will be taking a bit of a detour but we will return to the Old Testament following Christmas. Continue to follow us on the bulletin board in fellowship center each week. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



### **The Christmas Story with Carols, Cookies and Cocoa**

Please join the Christian Ed Council on Sunday, December 11th at 4:00pm outside on the front lawn for The Christmas Story with Carols, Cookies and Cocoa. Please dress accordingly for the weather as this is an outside event. All are welcome to attend!



**Calling all Youth:** On Sunday, December 11th from 2-4pm in the church kitchen, we will be baking and decorating cookies for The Christmas Story with Carols event at 4pm. Wear clothing to bake in and bring appropriate clothing to attend the Christmas Story with Carols, Cookies and Cocoa outside on the front lawn at 4pm.



### **Junior/Senior High Youth Group**

Our first event for All Junior and Senior High Youth took place on Sunday, November 27th from 3-5pm in Fellowship Center. We tried out a Nativity Escape Room. If you missed that, please join us for our 2nd event which will be the following Sunday, December 4th from 1-3pm in the church kitchen. We will be decorating pretzels for the food pantry for Christmas. Hope to see all of you there!

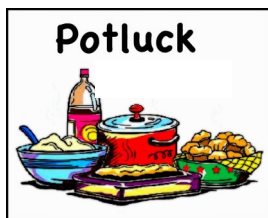
## Parish Life

***"The Sweetest Gift"*** candy bags will be assembled during coffee hour on Sunday, December 4th. The little bags are then sent to a local hospice organization for Christmas. All are welcome to help assemble the bags!



### ***Save-the-Date: Sunday, January 8th***

Epiphany Potluck Luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 8th following Worship. Please see the bulletin board in Fellowship Center to sign-up with the number attending and type of dish.



### ***Angel Gifts***

Parish Life, is working with the Food Pantry and the Congregational Church to distribute Christmas Angels, collecting gifts for those in need this Christmas. Over 50 angels were distributed to members of the congregation after the church service on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Angel gifts need to be returned to the church office no later than December 4<sup>th</sup>.



### ***Parish Life Book Club***

The **Book Club** will meet on December 1st at 6:30 p.m. to discuss **The Lost Apothecary** by Sarah Penner. Additional participants and book suggestions are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Stephens (201) 874-1477. We will select our next book to read on Thursday. Watch the bulletin for more information on our next book. Please feel free to join us!

### ***Monthly Women's Breakfasts***

Come join us and bring a friend or two for our monthly Women's Breakfasts. We usually meet the first Saturday of the month, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Chester Diner for fellowship and food before heading off to whatever adventures we have on our schedules for the day.

Our next breakfasts are scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd and January 7th, 2023 at the Diner. If you find at the last minute you can join us, just drop in at the Diner!



### ***CULTURED PURLS --*** Our first

meeting of 2023 will be Tuesday, January 3rd at 1pm in the Fireplace Room of Fellowship Center. Come join us, if you don't know how to knit or crochet, we will help you or maybe you would like to take up an old hobby again. We have lots of yarn. If you have any questions, please see Karen Stewart.



***Everyone is welcome***



## Church Life



### **Presbyterian Women**

*A huge thank you to everyone who worked on, help set up, cooked and froze, baked for, and sold day of Holiday Extravaganza 2022! We had another successful event bring in gross sales of over \$14,760.50.*

If you have any expenses, please turn in your receipts as soon as possible to Christy Shepard to get reimbursed.

If you need a tax donation sheet for any donations you made, they are on the table in the hall next to the office. A woman from Long Valley won the 50-50 ~ the amount was \$377.50.



Presbyterian Women will have a quick follow-up meeting after the Sunday Service on December 11th.

We are asking members to bring 3 to 4 dozen of your favorite holiday cookies that day and we will fill cookie containers and sign cards for CPC staff and church members housebound, or in area nursing homes. If you are not able to join us on the 11th, but would like to bake cookies to fill the containers, they can be dropped off at the church between 9 and 4 and 9 and 1 on Friday.



Thank you again for everyone's hard work in supporting Presbyterian Women!

Beth and Michelle

### **Deacons ~**

The Deacons kicked off the holiday season with filling boxes for local families for Thanksgiving. With the help of our very generous congregation, local residents and the Deacons, each family received food items for a delicious meal. Stony Hill Farm graciously donated fresh produce for each family as well. We are preparing Christmas gifts for our Christmas baskets in lieu of food, this coming Sunday. We greatly appreciate all of the support and donations during this time of year.



### **Chester Food Pantry**

DONATIONS ALWAYS APPRECIATED and NEEDED:

Some items needed are: toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, dish detergent, shampoo, coffee, hot cereals (farina, oatmeal, etc.) canned stews, chili, etc.

Trunk for donations is located in Fellowship Center.



*Merry Christmas*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

*The following is a list of December Anniversaries and Birthdays according to our records. If there are any additions or corrections, please let the office know so that we may update our files. Thank you!*

### ***Happy Anniversary wishes to . . .***

<i>Barton and Nancy Case</i>	<i>12/01/79</i>
<i>Kevin and Karen Collins</i>	<i>12/05/92</i>
<i>Andy and Martha Smith</i>	<i>12/22/79</i>
<i>Thomas and Jeanne Perry</i>	<i>12/23/67</i>
<i>Edward and Christy Hemmes</i>	<i>12/28/13</i>
<i>Christopher and Michelle Scrivens</i>	<i>12/28/91</i>

### ***Happy Birthday wishes to...***

<i>Nancy Hellriegel</i>	<i>12/01</i>	<i>Ruby Young</i>	<i>12/13</i>
<i>Kristen Rolfe</i>	<i>12/01</i>	<i>Kim Rundzieher</i>	<i>12/14</i>
<i>Tyler Bailey</i>	<i>12/02</i>	<i>Christian Ash</i>	<i>12/15</i>
<i>Michael Lavelle</i>	<i>12/02</i>	<i>Margaret Hoffman</i>	<i>12/18</i>
<i>Grace Moffitt</i>	<i>12/03</i>	<i>Robert LeFrancis</i>	<i>12/18</i>
<i>Terry Travis</i>	<i>12/03</i>	<i>Joan Stephens</i>	<i>12/21</i>
<i>John O'Connor</i>	<i>12/04</i>	<i>Christy Shepard</i>	<i>12/25</i>
<i>Elizabeth Regber</i>	<i>12/07</i>	<i>Cole Conlan</i>	<i>12/26</i>
<i>rad Fortunato</i>	<i>12/09</i>	<i>William Lombardo</i>	<i>12/27</i>
<i>Susan LeLoup</i>	<i>12/09</i>	<i>Kirsten Chu</i>	<i>12/30</i>
<i>Birgit Wills</i>	<i>12/09</i>	<i>Jennifer Paccione</i>	<i>12/30</i>
<i>Heather Adam</i>	<i>12/10</i>	<i>Gladys Cressman</i>	<i>12/31</i>
<i>Greg Burns</i>	<i>12/11</i>		



**Poinsettias** are available from the church in three sizes. These premium plants will be in church December 18th through Christmas Eve and may be picked up AFTER the last evening service on December 24th.

**The DEADLINE for ordering poinsettias is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th .**

*I would like to order the following poinsettias:*

**Sizes Available:**

\_\_\_\_\_ 7" pot, 2 plants with 5-9 flowers: \$20.00

\_\_\_\_\_ 8" pot, 3 plants with 10-15 flowers: \$30.00

\_\_\_\_\_ 10" pot, 5 plants with 15-20 flowers: \$40.00

**Order \$ Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

To enable you to take this as a tax-deductible donation, please make checks payable to:

**Community Presbyterian Church** ~ note in memo line for poinsettias

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like the Deacons to deliver my plant to a shut-in

Given by (Please put as you would like it to be in the Bulletin): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_



# 2023 Flower Calendar



The 2023 Flower Calendar is posted in the office. For your convenience an order form is printed below. If you would like flowers in the Sanctuary on a particular Sunday, please fill this in and mail/drop off in the Church Office.

Flowers are \$42/Sunday (you may order a larger arrangement if you desire.) The flowers are supplied and arranged by Stony Hill Gardens located on Route 24, Chester. The Deacons will deliver them to one of our shut-ins or you may pick them up after the service on Sunday. In order for you to take this as a tax deduction, please make your check payable to Community Presbyterian Church (note in memo line for flowers). If you would like to make your own arrangement, or provide flowers from your own garden in the summer, just let us know.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to provide flowers for the Sanctuary on \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ and/or In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please order them from the florist. \_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my flowers after the service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will provide them from my garden or other florist. \_\_\_\_\_ I would like Deacons to deliver to shut-in

JANUARY	1	8	15	22	29
FEBRUARY	5	12	19	26	
MARCH	5	12	19	26	
APRIL	2	9 <b>EASTER</b> <i>Lilies &amp; Tulips</i>	16	23	30
MAY	7	14	21	28	
JUNE	4	11	18	25	
JULY	2	9	16	23	30
AUGUST	6	13	20	27	
SEPTEMBER	3	10	17	24	
OCTOBER	1	8	15	22	29
NOVEMBER	5	12	19 <b>THANKSGIVING</b> <b>ARRANGEMENT</b>	26	
DECEMBER	3	10	17	24	31



# COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## DECEMBER 2022

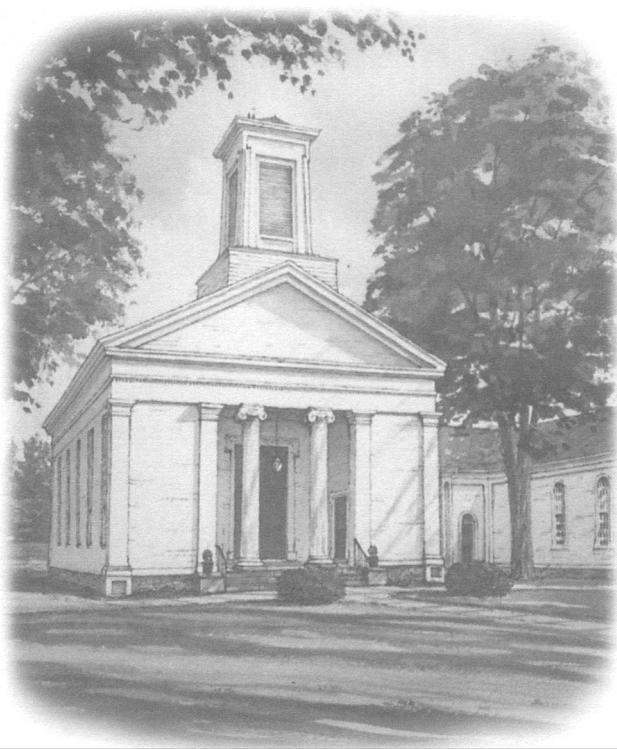


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 Aerobics  6:30 Book Club	2 9:00 Sanctuary Decorating-Tree  10:00 Al-Anon  5:00 Girl Scout PJ/Movies	3 8:00 Women's Breakfast 9:00 Boy Scouts Leaves
4 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:15 Choir Reh. 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School <b>ANGEL GIFTS DUE</b> 11:00 Fellowship and Refreshments Parish Life; Candy Bags 1:00 Jr./Sr. Highs decorate pretzels 6:00 IPSA	5 10:00 Al-Anon  4:30 LifeLong Fitness  7:30 Boy Scouts	6 9:00 Aerobics  3:00 Bible Study  7:00 Advent Vespers 7:00 OvereatersAnon	7 9:30 Healthy Bones  4:30 LifeLong Fit ness 6:30 Bells 7:00 Confirmation 7:30 Choir 8:15 Cantata	8 10:30 Quilters - Christmas party  4:00 Girl Scouts - Gingerbread Houses	9 9:00 Sanctuary Decorating 9:30 Beginnrs Mtg 10:00 Al-Anon  4:00 Girl Scouts - Gingerbread houses	10
11 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:15 Choir Reh. 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:00 Scrip Orders <b>COUNCILS</b> PW-Mtg. & Cookies 2:00 Youth:Decorate Cookies for 4:00 Christmas Story, Cocoa, cookies outside 6:00 IPSA	12 10:00 Al-Anon  4:30 LifeLong Fit. . 7:30 Boy Scouts	13  3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Advent Vespers <b>7:00 SESSION</b> 7:00 Overeats Anon 7:00 B.S.Adv. Wkshp	14 9:30 Healthy Bones  4:30 Lifelong Fitness  6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir with instruments for Cantata	15    Pinewood Derby Workshop	16 9:00 Sanctuary Decorating 10:00 Al-Anon  1-9 Irish Dance Set-up for Dance/Christmas	17  9:30 Final Cantata Rehearsal
18 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 9:00 Choir Reh. 10:00 Worship/Nurs 10:15 Sunday School  6:00 IPSA	19 10:00 Al-Anon  4:30 LifeLong Fit.  7:30 Boy Scouts	20  7:00 Advent Vespers 7:00 Overeaters	21 9:30 Healthy Bones  4:30 Lifelong Fitness  6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir	22	23 9:30 Beginnrs Mtg 10:00 Al-Anon ?  <b>Christmas Eve Services:</b> <i>3:30 Come as you are</i> <i>5:30 Traditional with choirs, bells candles</i> <i>8:00 Traditional with choirs, bells candles</i>	24
26 <i>Nativity of the Lord</i> 10:00 Family Worship  <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 10:00 Al-Anon  <i>Office Closed</i>	27	28 9:30 Healthy Bones ?	29	30 10:00 Al-Anon	31  <i>New Year's Eve</i>



Community Presbyterian Church  
220 Main Street, P. O. Box 148  
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Address Service Requested



***Community Presbyterian***  
***Church News***  
***DECEMBER, 2022***

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