

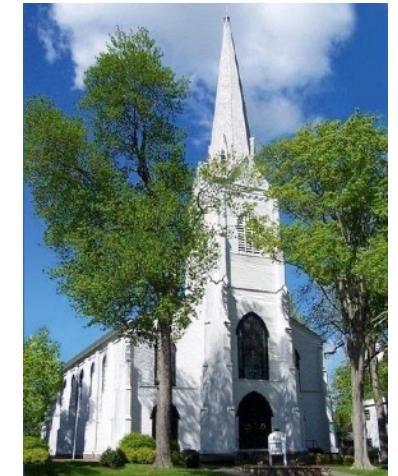
First Presbyterian
Church
298 Main Street

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
298 MAIN STREET
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ 07840
REV. ERIN HAYES-COOK
OFFICE: 908-852-4011
e-mail: fpchnj@gmail.com
Church website,
<http://www.fpchackettstown.org>
Editor: MaryAnn Simmons
maryann.simmons3@verizon.net

JANUARY
2026



Light
from the



Steeple

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ
CHURCH OFFICE: (908) 852-4011**

Pastor: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook
Choir Director/Organist: Lorinda Ravo
Treasurer: Al Ravo
Financial Secretary: Deborah Gulick-Shepherd
Head Usher: Kim Newton
Church Secretary: Pattie Huff

2025 SESSION
Class of 2025 Donna Erickson
Class of 2026 Bill Cors
Class of 2027 Michele Cameron
Diane Hull Geof Gohlich
Ray Sookhoo Sharon Heil
MaryAnn Simmons

Clerk of Session: Donna Erickson

2025 BOARD OF DEACONS
Class of 2025 Ellen Bergman
Class of 2026 Jackie Hammel
Class of 2027 Dennis Huff
Patricia Butts Kathy Maier
Carol Miller Lorinda Ravo
Jean Zetterberg
Moderator: Ellen Bergman

**2025 HEAVEN SENT NURSERY SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

OFFICE: 852-2006

Director: Jen Bujno

Pat Butts	- 2026	Pam Venturini	- 2027
Meghan DeCree	- HS Parent	Toni Fryer	- HS Parent
Sharon Heil - Session Rep			
Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook - Ex-Officio			

A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

Hello, FPCH Members and Happy New Year!

I hope you all enjoyed the celebrations of Advent and Jesus' birth during our worship services in December. I am sorry that I could not be present but I was with you all in spirit.

We had much to enjoy during the month and those events are witnessed throughout this publication. Check out our highlights which illustrate the beautiful celebrations of Wreaths Across America, Stone Soup Symphony concert, our Christmas Pageant performed on December 21st, and our amazing Christmas Eve worship service. When you see any of our Yarn Girls, be sure to thank them for the beautiful pieces they created (see the photos under our highlights from December).

Note that we are holding new members classes throughout January and February, and we will have a new group connection in January. See the separate articles for more information.

Our GROW Team has highlighted the Scrips program once again to ensure that you understand the opportunities to allow us to raise funds to assist with our monthly expenses, and our Deacons would like you to remember to purchase hats, gloves, scarves, for our youngsters in the public schools who are in need of these winter items to stay warm during these frigidly cold temperatures.

Our Sunday School program has been doing well. Please see our Sunday School News for a recap of the last two months.

Once the congregational meeting occurs and we bring on our new slate of elders and deacons, as well as other people for the various church committees, I will provide you with a list of those individuals so that you will know who to approach should you have any concerns or suggestions. Be well and have a great month.

Yours in Christ,
MaryAnn Simmons

DATES TO REMEMBER - JANUARY 2026

- 01: New Year's Day - church office closed
- 04: Worship and communion - 10 AM; livestream through Face book; Sunday School & Confirmation class; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 06: PLEFF Dinner - 6:30 PM at Patti Huff's home, 31 N. Main St.
- 07: Yarn Girls - 1 PM in the Conference Room
- 08: Music Rehearsal - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 10: New Connections Group Meeting - early evening; Community Dinner - 5:30 PM at the Chapel
- 11: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School & Confirmation Class; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship; New Members class after worship
- 11: Second Sunday - 11:30 at the church - Painting with Mrs. Carrajat
- 13: Deacon's Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 15: Music Rehearsal - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 17: Men's Breakfast - 8:15 AM - at the Chapel; Ladies' Breakfast - 9 AM - River Star Diner
- 18: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship; New Members class after worship
- 19: Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- 20: Session Meeting - 6:30 PM, in the Conference Room
- 22: Music Rehearsal - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 25: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School & Confirmation Class; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship; Congregational Meeting after worship
- 27: Ladies Who Lunch - 12 PM at Pasta Grill, Rte 57, Mansfield
- 29: Music Rehearsal - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

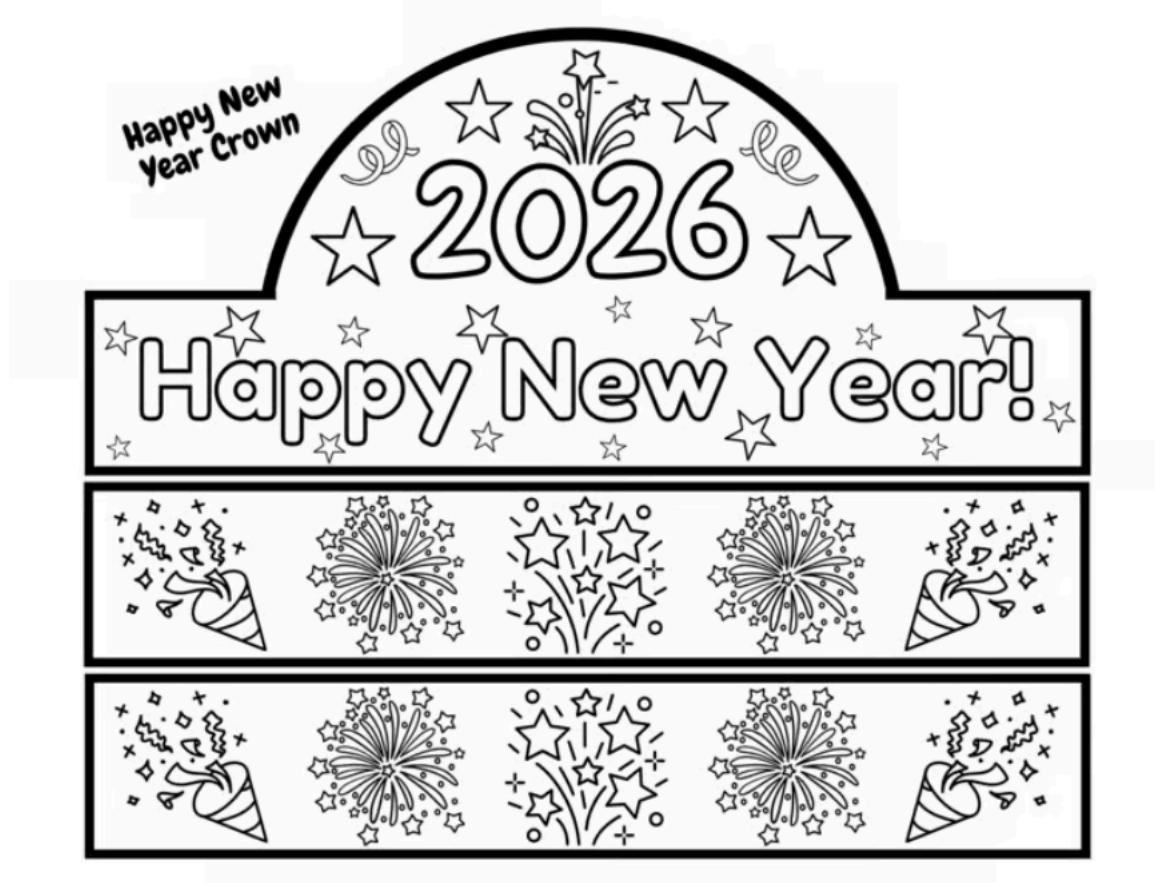
"Epiphanies are not always warm or personal. Sometimes they are disruptive, even dangerous. Sometimes they lead to confrontation with empire. Sometimes they ask us to cross borders. Sometimes they send us home by another way. And always they ask something of us. 'Will we move the way fear makes us move? Or will we move the way love calls us to?'" Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee

Happy New Year! This month marks the season of Epiphany for the liturgical season of the church. In worship we remember the story of the Magi who traveled from the East to celebrate the new born king. Most of our nativity sets put the Magi at the birth of Jesus, but biblical history points us to the Magi visiting Jesus and his parents most likely when he was a toddler. Their journey is unique as they represent the inclusive message of Jesus's birth. Yet we recognize that in the midst of the celebration and the glory of Jesus, King Herod loomed large. His threat of death to Jesus and many others could have led the Magi and his parents on a journey of fear. But instead the Magi and the holy family left by another way. They heeded the warning from the spirit and used it to a way that led them to God's message for the world.

The season of Epiphany reminds us that the holy journey of life comes with new revelations about God and who we are to be as God's people today. Although moving through a revelation may not be easy, they are an integral part of our lives. As we enter this new year I implore you to invite God along the way and find out what the Spirit might be growing in you. May you be led by a star and the one who came for us all.

Pastor Erin

NEW YEAR'S ACTIVITY



Use this cut-out 2026 New Year's hat crown with your students as a fun activity to celebrate the New Year holiday!

Color each piece, cut out each piece (3 strips) on the black lines, then glue or staple each piece together to fit the student's head.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

I am pleased to announce that our classes have been running smoothly in all grade levels in November and December, and that the students have provided us all with an excellent pageant on December 21st.

Our younger students are doing well continuing with the curriculum purchased and our middle schoolers have been enjoying their time with their teacher and occasional substitutes.

Our confirmation students (six of the seven) thoroughly enjoyed their time at Camp Johnsonburg at the middle school retreat from December 5th through the 7th and plan to report to the congregation in January since December was full to the brim with activities. Students enjoyed meeting new friends at a new camp experience (note: all but one student was away for the first time) and they had a great time with the activities provided at Johnsonburg. Those included worship, outdoor fun at the zip line and high ropes course, and opportunities at the gym, as well as a campfire at the lower meadow to make S'mores. They learned new songs and lessons from the Bible and enjoyed hearing about how they can use their own identities to foster the love of God within the community.

In January, the confirmation class will move its session to be held during church worship AFTER the children's message so that they have more opportunities to concentrate on their studies and arrive to church at a time which will make things easier for parents to manage.

I would like to take the time to thank our Sunday School teachers for their continued dedication to our students by helping the children continue to learn about the teachings of Jesus and to learn about the Bible each week.



G.R.O.W. TEAM NEWS

BY: BILL CORS

This month, we wish to highlight additional information regarding our Scrips program.

Did You Know...?

You are now able to purchase gift cards from the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown?

The First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown is offering ways you can purchase gift cards for different retail stores and restaurants with a portion of the sale going to the church.

- ❖ No extra cost to you.
- ❖ No link to your Bank account required.

Questions?
Please see A member of the GROW Team:
Bill Cors, Ray Sookhoo, Ryan VanOrden, or Geoff Gohlich



Did You Know...?

You can dine at a participating restaurant and the church will earn 5%?

- ❖ Use the App on your phone and click on "Earn More"
- ❖ Link your credit card
- ❖ Click on "Find a Restaurant" to find your favorite participating restaurant.
- ❖ Go dine and pay with the same credit card.
- ❖ The church will earn 5% of your dining cost.
- ❖ There is no additional cost to you.

Questions?
Please see A member of the GROW Team:
Bill Cors, Ray Sookhoo, Ryan VanOrden, or Geoff Gohlich



If there are any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the GROW Team (William Cors, Rayman Sookhoo, Ryan VanOrden).
The GROW Team

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

By PAT BUTTS

The Deacons would like to thank all those who sponsored the silk poinsettias. They always add to the beauty of our sanctuary at Christmas time and help with our compassionate ministry at church and in the community.

We are again working on another community ministry in January. We will be collecting NEW hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for children in our local schools on Sunday, January 11th through Sunday, January 18th. If you have any questions, please speak to a Deacon and thank you in advance for your contributions.

In closing, we continue to have great support for our Little Pantry not only from our church but also from the community. It is amazing how this ministry has grown and helps the many people in need of this sustenance.



STUFFED ANIMAL "SLEEPOVER" TO TAKE PLACE AT CHURCH

Attention all kids. You are invited to bring one of your stuffed animals to church on January 11. Please be sure that it ISN'T the stuffie that you need to help you at bedtime, as this stuffie will be spending the week at the church "performing all kinds of jobs." At the end of the week, stuffies will be returned, along with pictures showing your stuffie friend hard at work. Please also be sure to put your name on a tag around the stuffed animal's neck so that we know who it belongs to.

Please be assured we are going to make sure the stuffies have a WONDERFUL time!

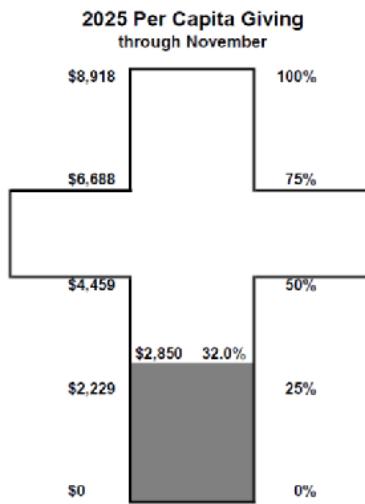
NOVEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL \$APSHOT

BY: AL RAVO

The Expenses Paid and Income amounts below do not include the funds transferred from the Endowment to meet the church operating expenses.

NOVEMBER Year to Date		
Income	\$14,905.44	\$199,080.62
Expenses Paid	\$21,445.31	\$222,992.52
Net Operating Income / (Deficit)	(\$ 6,539.87)	(\$23,911.90)
Amount of Schwab/Edward Jones funds used to pay operating expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,000.00
Amount Needed from Endowment	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 29,000.00
Total amount of Endowment, Schwab & Edward Jones funds used to pay Operating expenses in 2025	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 29,000.00

Financial Comments / Observations:



1. The five largest operating expenses in November were:
 - A. **\$7,713.51** – Pastoral expenses (payroll, Board of Pensions, etc.).
 - B. **\$5,810.25** – Insurance (quarterly bill for Church, Chapel & Manse).
 - C. **\$3,808.58** – Staff payroll & payroll processing expenses.
 - 4.) **\$800.00** – Cleaning (Church & Chapel).
 - 5.) **\$556.18** – AED replacement kit & supplies.
2. The operating net income / (deficits) were **\$6,539.87** in November and **(\$23,911.90)** Year To Date.
 - The actual November operating expenses were **\$1,111.98** above the average monthly budgeted expenses.
 - The actual November operating incomes were **(\$1,761.23)** below the average monthly budgeted incomes.
 - The Year-To-Date operating expenses were **(\$674.15)** below the average YTD budgeted amounts.
 - The Year-To-Date operating incomes were **\$15,747.29** above the average YTD budgeted amount.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE - NOVEMBER, 2025 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

NOVEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL \$APSHOT

CONTINUED FROM NOVEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

3. In November, the value of the MassMutual Investment accounts increased \$2,291.78 to \$379,457.00.
4. In November, the value of the entire Endowment Fund decreased **\$5,643.78** to **\$388,464.83** because of the \$8,000.00 taken from the Endowment to pay operating expenses.
5. The November Second Saturday Free Community Dinner was held with donations of \$36.00 and expenses of \$332.40. The total cost to the church of all community dinners since September 2021 is **\$989.42**.
6. The November Men's breakfast was held in the Chapel with the donations going to the Food Pantry and expenses of \$96.65.

The 2025 Per Capita is \$43.50 for each of the 205 members of our Church. (The number is the membership of FPCH on December 31, 2023.) The total amount due in 2025 is \$8,917.50 or \$743.13 monthly. In November, **\$0.00** was received for Per Capita leaving the total received in 2025 at **\$2,849.62** or **32.0%** of the amount due. No payment was sent to the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ in November leaving the total sent in 2025 at **\$2,849.62** or **32.0%** of the total amount due.

BUILDING ON GENEROSITY (BOG) CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Please note the following points regarding our BOG receipts and spending:

- Donations received during November, **\$600.00**.
- Total donations received from church members, non-members and anonymous from September 2019 (the BOG Kickoff dinner) through the last day of November 2025, **\$656,692.02**.
- Expenses paid using the BOG funds in November, **\$0.00**.
- The total available BOG funds are **\$8,035.28**. The breakdown is **\$1,785.28** for the next BOG project with an additional **\$2,750.00** designated for the Chapel range hood replacement and **\$3,500.00** for the Church parking lot.
- Donations breakdown by source:
 - **5.3% - \$35,108.76 from nonmembers**
 - **86.1% - \$565,217.05 from members**
 - **8.6% - \$56,366.21 from anonymous & dinners**
 - **100.0% - \$656,692.02 Total**



Contact Al Ravo if you have any questions or would like to discuss the Church's operating finances, the Endowment Funds, Per Capita or the Building On Generosity Capital Campaign.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER

During December, we witnessed music arrangements, celebrated Wreaths Across America, experienced Stone Soup Symphony concert, witnessed dedication of yarn girls creations, enjoyed our community dinner and gourmet groups, and celebrated a beautiful Christmas Eve. Below are snapshots from those events courtesy of our Facebook page.



God Gave us Christmas, a celebration of Jesus

Christmas is a special time at FPCH and therefore, the tradition of a Christmas Pageant put on by our Sunday School and Confirmation students is always a fun adventure for us the Sunday before Christmas Eve.

This year's pageant was Lorinda Ravo's recreation of Lisa Tawn Bergren's children's book ***God Gave us Christmas***. Little Cub, a curious polar bear, asks her Mama about Christmas, leading to an expedition to discover God's role in the holiday, learning that Jesus is the ultimate gift, a light in the darkness, and the reason for the season, with traditions like Santa highlighting generosity while pointing back to God's love.

We hope you enjoyed this presentation on December 21st. Below are some photos, courtesy of Pattie Huff, for you to enjoy if you could not make it to church that Sunday.



NEW MEMBERS CLASSES SET FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Would you like to officially join the church? Have you already been a part of the community and are ready to say yes to being a member? Then join us for new members class in January. You are invited to come to all three in person meetings. We will discuss our church, what it means to become a member and how you might become more involved. Join us on **January 11, 18 and February 1**.

A NEW GROUP CONNECTION TO COMMENCE IN JANUARY

Attention all members who are in their 40s and 50s. Pastor Erin is looking to gather the group of members in your age group on Saturday, **January 10th or 17th** in the afternoon or early evening. The goal of this gathering is to connect people, have some fun, get to know each other and to find ways to pour into each others' lives and to learn about the ways that God is pouring into yours.

We will gather hoping to get to know each other a little more. We will have yummy snacks that you won't have to fix yourself. We will have childcare, should you need it, for free.

Our intention is that our gathering might be welcoming to folks who come to our church and those who do not. Therefore, feel free to invite friends who might enjoy our company in the presence of God. Please contact Pattie Huff in the Church Office via email (fpch-nj@gmail.com) or phone: 908-852-4011 at your earliest convenience to let her know which date and time works best for you. Pastor Erin will contact all to let them know which day to meet. Thank you.

MUSIC NOTES

BY: LORINDA RAVO

Our anthems during the month of January will be:

January 4: Bring Forth the Kingdom: Lila Roguso and Angel Anyangwe soloists

January 11: Bell Peal on Old 100th: FPCH Ringers

January 18: Dona Nobis Pacem: Sr. Choir
Unity Chime choir: Title TBA

January 25: Tallis Canon: Joyful Noise Bells
I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord:
Little Lights Choir



IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

As we head into the winter weather season, we want to let everyone know that should we need to cancel church services, there are many ways that you can find out. Cancellations will be posted on the church Facebook page and on the church website. In addition, Pattie Huff will send out an email via Constant Contact. You can also call the church office at 908-852-4011 where the answering machine will have a message about the status of church services. Let's hope we have a mild winter so we don't need to cancel.

Sharing God's Bounty

God's Abundance

We have before us a whole new year. Think of the abundance of possibilities and opportunities God lays before us for service to his kingdom in the minutes and hours that make up the days of the New Year!

Abundance is a characteristic of God. He gave his only Son who declared to us, "*I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full*" (John 10:10). Through him and because of the abundance of his love for us, we "*are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for [we] are receiving the goal of [our] faith, the salvation of [our] souls*" (1 Peter 1:8-9). While he is slow to anger, the Lord is "*abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion*" (Numbers 14:18).

He gives the gifts of his creation to us in abundance as well, for who can count the stars in the sky, the birds in the air, or the fish in the sea? He also pours out on his people gifts in abundance. In Romans 12:6-8, we read,

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

God has equipped and enabled us with his abundant gifts to seek out the lost, to lead and serve on committees and boards that do the work of ministry, to provide financial support for our church workers at home and in missions, and to teach and preach his Word for the salvation of souls and the edification of believers.

Perhaps you don't know where you fit into this picture. Perhaps you even think you're not part of the picture. Not so! The Apostle Peter wrote, "*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms*" (1 Peter 4:10). By this we know that each of us has at least one gift and that God holds each of us responsible for using that gift. Ask God to show you where he wants to use you. Go to your pastor and other church leaders and let them know you're available in this new year to discover and use the gifts God has given you for his service.

PER CAPITA INFORMATION FOR 2026

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

Being part of the Presbyterian Church USA means we have the blessing of being a part of the connectional church. All our sister churches throughout this country and the world are connecting through presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly. Each of these bodies is equipped to support the mission of the church. Over the course of the next year we will share more about what that looks like and what difference it makes in our life as PCUSA church in Hackettstown.

We encourage you to remain engaged by continuing your support through Per Capita contributions. Your church's Per Capita ensures that all congregations throughout the Presbytery have the resources and support needed for vibrant and effective ministry.

The Presbytery of the Highlands Per Capita for 2026 is **\$44 per active member**, which includes:

- **\$11.26** for the General Assembly
- **\$4.25** for the Synod of the Northeast
- **\$28.49** for the Presbytery

The Presbytery of the Highlands is deeply grateful for congregations that are able to submit their full Per Capita contribution early in the year. Won't you join me in making this contribution the first one you include in the offering plate this month?

Thank you.

DECEMBER SECOND SUNDAY

GETTING INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Many thanks to Mrs. Shepherd and Miss Winnie for providing so much fun at our December Second Sunday event. The participating kids learned how to make stitching projects with plastic canvas and also got to decorate (with edible markers!) sugar cookies made by the Slachetkas.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
LORINDA RAVO

Get ready to paint on January 11. Mrs. Carrajat, Hackettstown Elementary Schools art teacher, will be guiding our Second Sunday students to create their own winter themed painting. Be sure to preregister so that we have enough supplies for all attending!

THANK YOU FROM THE (NEW) HEART OF JIM SIMMONS

As you may know, in mid-December, I had to have open heart surgery to remove an aneurysm and replace my aortic root and aortic valve. This was the most difficult and painful situation I had to endure in my 74 years of life. I spent almost two weeks recovering at the hospital in CVICU and during that recovery (and even now while I am home), I received many get well wishes from you. Thank you so much for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers and for the cards you sent me, and for the prayer shawl the Yarn Girls gifted to me. These were truly a comfort to me and MaryAnn and Justin.

I am eternally grateful and appreciate all that you have done to provide me comfort during this process. I would particularly like to thank MaryAnn who was beside me through every moment of this. Her love and support, coupled with yours and the blessing of the Lord, have brought me and my family through this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Jim



Thank You!

JANUARY GREETERS

Jan 4: Della and Jose Irby

Jan 11: Erin and Chris Roguso

Jan 18: Carol and Pete Miller

Jan 25: Jen and Al Aquino

GREETER

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO PRAY

EPIPHANY: A Guiding Star for the year to come

Epiphany, on January 6, is the official end of the 12 days of Christmas. Many Christians celebrate this day by remembering the journey of the Magi. The Magi found their way to Jesus by following a bright heavenly body, a star. This activity allows each member of the family to pick out a star that will guide him or her throughout the coming year.

Designed for ages 10+

Time Investment: 15 minutes plus 30 minutes to prepare stars

Materials: 25 paper stars labeled with the star words: Grace, Mercy, Love, Faithfulness, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Joy, Rest, Adventure, Attention, Imagination, Faith, Compassion, Friendship, Song, Art, Generosity, Time, Humility, Persistence, Dedication, Inspiration, Comfort, Wholeness AND a box or basket large enough to hold the stars.

How To:

1. This tradition is meant to be held on January 6, Epiphany. Ahead of time, one person in the family makes the 25 stars with the words on them and places them face down in the basket. When the family has gathered together, read Matthew 2:10-12 out loud together. It says: "When the Wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gilded frankincense, and myrrh."
2. Say: "This story is a story about how the Magi came to Jesus and brought him gifts. They determined which way to go by following a star. Today, we are going to pick out our own star to guide us in the year to come. We will each reach into the basket and pull out a star that will be our guide for this year."
3. Say, "As we leave, we will each pick out a star to guide us for the coming year. We will pick one out of the basket, and not share what we have received with each other until next year. May we each be guided by our chosen star and find wonderful things this year. Amen!"
4. Everyone leaves by saying, "Happy Epiphany!"

VARIATIONS:

Make and decorate stars and hang them up in your house to remember and commemorate this day.

With younger children, instead of having individual stars, choose just one star as a family and let that star guide the whole family for the year to come.

"This practice is excerpted from the book *Faithful Families: Simple Practices for Daily Family Life* by Traci Smith, published by Chalice Press, 2017, All rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

2025 SECOND SUNDAY RECAP

BY: LORINDA RAVO

In 2025, we held 11 Second Sundays and the activities included holding our own Winter Olympics, learning about quilting and making a friendship quilt from Mrs. Heil, and learning how Mr. Gohlich makes stained glass; then we made our own stained glass-like art projects.

We had Mr. Rob from Advanced Tree Care teach us about trees, and then made tree cookies (an art project), and in June we made our own fidget toys. In July, Mrs. Hanson and Miss Nadia helped us learn about the story of Joseph and the coat of many colors, and kids engaged in activities to reinforce what was learned, while August brought us our Fourth Annual Super Soaker Sunday.

In September, members of the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad came to tell us all about how they help our community, and they taught us some first aid that we practiced on our stuffed animal friends. October was a laughter filled performance by Jungle Dave - a professional magician, and in November, Mrs. Bergman talked to us about things that we're thankful for and helped us make a beautiful Thanksgiving decoration using things we find in nature. Finally, the year ended with Mrs. Shepherd and Miss Winnie helping us get into the Christmas spirit by learning about how to make a stitchery project with plastic canvas, and Miss Winnie brought her delicious Christmas cookies to decorate with edible markers.

We welcomed the participation of so many adults who shared their knowledge and skills with us, and we couldn't have done it without our dedicated "lunch ladies" who made sure that our "bagel time" lunches were waiting for us when we arrived at the Chapel. Many thanks to you all.

Do you have a skill or talent that you'd like to share with the kids of our congregation? We'd love to have your participation too. Just speak to Lorinda and we'll get you on the schedule.

THANK YOU, FPCH, FOR YOUR CARDS

Thank you to all who sent Christmas cards to our church family this year. They were displayed on the the Christmas tree right inside the back entrance. Cards were received from the following:

Terry Gretchen
Sharon Heil
Pat and Dennis Huff
The McDonagh Family
Al and Lorinda Ravo
Ron and Deborah Shepherd
Jim, MaryAnn, and Justin Simmons
Mark and Winnie Slachetka
10:30 AM AA Meeting



FUN FACTS ABOUT NEW YEAR'S EVE

1. Over 50 tons of trash are left in Times Square after New Year's Eve celebrations. 3000 pounds of that trash is confetti.
2. The confetti dropped in Times Square is holding secret messages.
3. In the Philippines, people wear polka dots.
4. ABC's New Year's Rockin' Eve show is a longstanding tradition that began in 1974.
5. The first Times Square New Year's Eve party was thrown for the New York Times newspaper in 1904. Over 200,000 people attended.
6. The First ball drop at Times Square was in 1907.
7. Waterford Crystal comes up with a new ball pattern each year.
8. Miami, FL rings in the new year with an orange.
9. Hershey, PA drops a giant kiss to ring in the new year.
10. The island nation Kiribati rings in the new year first.
11. American Samoa is one of the last nations to ring in the new year.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2: Kaz Tang
- 4: Winnie Slachetka
- 6: Dana Carpenter
- 7: Makayla Chetangie
- 10: Donna Ghetti
- 12: Sofia Fraumeni
- 13: Gianna Fryer
- 17: Robert Roome
- 20: Scott Cameron
- 21: Britney Gulick
- 22: T.C. Zellars
- 25: Jeff Newton
- 26: Rebecca Ruballos
- 28: Morgan Gelsinger
- 29: Pastor Erin Hayes-Cook
- 31: Emma Rabuano
Matthew Gelsinger

**WE CELEBRATE
YOUR DAY WITH
YOU!**

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 14: Fred & Sandy Sentner

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Centenary University Staff and Students
Eugenie Chetangie
Churches throughout the U.S.
Our Confirmation Class

Pam Covert
Shirley DeLoia, sister of Phyllis Prestopine

FPCH and Friends of FPCH

Dan Gardner

Terry Gretchen

Joan Grover

Barbara Hall

Leaders at Camp Johnsonburg

Maikuu congregation, Kibwezi Kenya

Members of the Armed Forces
Barbara Pace, niece of the Prestopines

Alice Phoebus

Jim Simmons

Carol Spitzer

The food insecure
The homeless

Those struggling with addictions and mental health

Those recovering from surgery
Those traveling

