

MATTITUCK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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(631) 298-4145  
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Non-Profit Organization  
Standard Mail A  
Permit No. 2  
Mattituck, New York 11952

# Mattituck Presbyterian Church

RETURN SERVICE

DATED MATERIAL



**December 2020**  
**Newsletter**

**STATED MEETINGS**

The Session . . . . .4th Sunday, 12:15 pm  
The Board of Trustees. . . . .3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm  
The Board of Deacons. . . . .1st Monday(alternate months), 5:30 pm  
Stephen Ministry Meeting. . . . .1st & 3rd Mondays , 7:04 pm  
Adult Ministry Team. . . . . 2nd Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
Youth Ministry Team . . . . . Last Monday, 7:00pm  
Haiti Task Force . . . . . 3rd Monday, 7:00 pm  
Men's Group. . . . .Wednesday, 7:00 am  
Pastor's Bible Study . . . . . Thursday, 10:00 am

**WORSHIP**

Go to mattpres.com to see worship on line

**THE CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Church Office (Mon. & Fri. 9 - 1 pm, Tues. - Thur. 9 - 4 pm). . . . . 631-298-4145  
Email . . . . .[mattpres@optonline.net](mailto:mattpres@optonline.net)  
Website. . . . . [www.mattpres.com](http://www.mattpres.com)  
mailing address. . . . . PO Box 1411, Mattituck, NY 11952  
Public Relations . . . . .Pat Hanly ([pat@mattpres.com](mailto:pat@mattpres.com))  
Deacons . . . . . Bob Mueller (917-589-5826)  
Chain of Prayer . . . . .Bonnie Scott (477-2234)  
Home Group Coordinator. . . . . Pat Hanly ([pat@mattpres.com](mailto:pat@mattpres.com))  
Stephen Ministry Referrals. . . . . Robin Doroski (298-9314)  
Altar Flowers. . . . . Jeanette Cooper (631-734-8166)  
Sunday School Superintendents. . . . . Jeanette Cooper & Lynn Nyilas  
Worship Team Directors . . . . .Pat & Liz Hanly  
Women's Association . . . . . Peggy Rose and Ruthanne Woodhull  
Church Treasurer . . . . . Lin Bogden & Bonnie Scott  
CD Ministry . . . . .Bonnie Scott  
Church Librarian . . . . . Patti Verity  
Greeters . . . . . Vera Carson (727-3416)  
The Good News Thrift Shop (Th. & Fr. 10-4; Sat. 10-1) . . . . .631-298-2669

**THE CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor Emeritus . . . . . Rev. George Gaffga  
Pastoral Associate, Patrick Hanly ([pat@mattpres.com](mailto:pat@mattpres.com)) . . . . . 734-8059  
Music Director/Organist, Ann Welcome ([awelcome4@gmail.com](mailto:awelcome4@gmail.com)) . . . . .734-8080  
Choir Director, Scott Verity . . . . . 298-8305  
Secretary, Dorothy Catapano ([dorothy@mattpres.com](mailto:dorothy@mattpres.com)) . . . . .298-4145  
Bookkeeper, Janice Fliss ([janice@mattpres.com](mailto:janice@mattpres.com)) . . . . . 298-4145  
Librarian, Patti Verity . . . . .298-4145  
Assistant Secretary, Brenda Flaherty ([brenda@mattpres.com](mailto:brenda@mattpres.com)) . . . . . 298-4145  
Facilities Manager, Mike Gaydosik . . . . . 298-4145  
Care of Building, Thelma Molina . . . . .298-4145

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**THE SESSION**

Patrick Hanly, Moderator  
Ruthanne Woodhull, Clerk of Session

2020  
Robin Doroski  
Sheila Minor  
Ed Harbes

2021  
Robert Harrington  
Prudence Heston

2022  
Rick Marino  
Jill Tast  
Mark DeSantis

**THE DEACONS**

Bob Mueller, Chairperson  
Brenda Flaherty, Secretary

2020  
Lorraine Mason  
Jeanette Cooper  
Bob Mueller  
Brenda Flaherty

2021  
Barbara Ackermann  
Darla Gahan  
Irene Raico

2022  
Jill DeSantis  
Leeann Marino  
Daisy Clasing  
Bert Raynor

**THE TRUSTEES**

Randy Staudinger, Chairperson  
Nancy Reeve, Secretary

2020  
Rory MacNish  
Jay Rose  
Dan Heston

2021  
Randy Staudinger

2022  
Nancy Reeve  
Joe Barisic  
York Blank

**THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Rick Marino, Chairperson

Rick Marino

Reg Minor

Greg Doroski

**THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Robert Harrington, Chairperson

\*Robert Harrington  
\*Prudence Heston  
\*Brenda Flaherty

\*Nancy Reeve  
Patti Amato  
Rick Denning

Monica Harbes  
Lorraine Mason-Mueller  
Lynn Nyilas

\*Indicates Current Board Member

# Celebrating Our Savior

By Debbie McDaniel

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” [Isaiah 9:6](#)*

In a time of deep darkness, God promised to send a great Light. Isaiah prophesied these words long ago, and time went by...700 long years. And then at just the right moment, Jesus came. Miracle birth. Light-bringer. Hope-instiller. Savior and Lord. Given to “us.” To you. And to me. He came to dwell among us. He came to set us free. He came that we might have life, more abundantly.

If you have big needs today, be assured, He is a big God. Nothing is too difficult for Him to handle. And He cares about all that concerns you. Maybe you’ve experienced deep loss this year, or you feel all alone this season, and fear or despair have gripped your heart...you can bring it to Jesus. All of it, the brokenness, the questions, and the pain.

When we're troubled and hurting, when we feel lonely or afraid, He is our Wonderful Counselor. When we need to see a miracle in life, when we need someone to fight for us, He is our Mighty God. When we forget who we belong to, when we need to be reminded that we're greatly loved and cared for, He is our Everlasting Father who loves to give good gifts to His children. When we feel anxious and worried, when we need a reminder that our future is secure no matter what swirls around us, He is our Prince of Peace.

His very presence in our lives gives us such great reason to celebrate. For amidst the chaos and busyness of the season, in the loss and brokenness that many have experienced this year, in both the joys and struggles of daily life, or the uncertainties that tomorrow holds, we can find rest and peace in Him.

In His Presence. In His Truth. For He is Immanuel...God with us. Always with us. And He never changes.

# The Plan

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”*

Jeremiah 29:11-13

I can remember a time in our church and community when things were easy. We seemed to know exactly where we were going, and Sunday after Sunday was like a celebration of God in our lives. I am sure that my memory of the past will emphasize the easy times and forget about the hard times, but I am fairly sure things were a bit easier back then. I am sure there were struggles and difficulties that we faced as a church family and community, but they seem small in comparison to the present.

Fast forward a number of years and here we are in the middle of Covid. We are also in the middle of political division and uncertainty, the likes of which I have not seen in my life. Practically nothing seems easy these days. Add to this the fact that we have not exactly had stability in our church leadership. Two interims and one called pastor over seven years can sure seem like too much change over a short period of time.

Wouldn't it be great if things were a bit easy again?

The fact is that God *is* in control during times that are hard just as much as He is during times that are easy. The Lord knows the plans that He has for His people because He knows the end from the beginning. His plan is to give us a future that is filled with His presence and a sense of joyful celebration. And it is important to believe that future is now. Circumstances do not dictate or determine God's plan, but rather His plan is formed based on His calling of us, a calling to follow Him with our whole heart. A calling that was secured by the sacrifice of His only Son.

And that is how the Lord frames it. *“I know the plans I have for you,”* says the Lord. The time is now to walk in the plans that God has for us and thankfully He gives us the key to starting to do just that. He tells us to *“come and pray to Him”* and to *“seek Him.”* And if we do this, His great promise is that we will *“find Him.”*

But there is a condition. The Lord says we must seek Him with our “*whole heart*.” That means that everything must be second to this. God must be the one we desire more than any other, the thing we want more than anything.

So let’s give that a try. I want to encourage us all to try to focus less on our situations and more on the Lord who calls us. Less on Covid and politics and the changes at the church and more on God’s love and grace. Let’s go to Him and seek Him with all of our hearts and see what He does.

Circumstances change and who can say what things will be like in 3, 6 or 12 months? Maybe I am an optimist, but I believe they will be better. I think Covid will be waning and the political situation will stabilize, and God will bring us a permanent called pastor who is exactly what our church needs. So, in the meanwhile, let’s seek Him together with our whole hearts. Let’s believe Him together and see what He will do. Let’s come together in the middle of Covid to celebrate God in our lives.

While I don’t know the plan God has for us, I do know one thing; His promises are sure. They always were. They always are.

Be blessed,

Pat

## *Building Up Joy*

C.S. Lewis

There was the charm, as we went on, of running out into evening sunlight, but still in a deep gulley – as if the train were swimming in earth instead of either sailing on it like a real train or worming beneath it like a real tube. There was the charm of sudden silence at the station I had never heard of, and where we seemed to stop for a long time. There was the novelty of being in that kind of carriage without a crowd and without artificial light. But I need not try to enumerate all the ingredients. The point is that all these things between them built up for me a degree of happiness which I must not try to assess because, if I did, you would think I was exaggerating.

But wait. “Build up” is the wrong expression. They did not actually impose this happiness; they offered it. I was free to take it or not as I chose – like distant music which you need not listen to unless you wish, like a delicious faint wind on your face which you can easily ignore. One was invited to surrender to it. And the odd thing is that something inside me suggested that it would be “sensible” to refuse the invitation; almost that I would be better employed in remembering that I was going to do a job I do not greatly enjoy and that I should have a very tiresome journey back to Oxford. Then I silenced this inward wiseacre. I accepted the invitation – threw myself open to this feather, impalpable, tingling invitation. The rest of the journey I passed in a state which can be described only as joy.

From [\*Present Concerns\*](#)

*Present Concerns: Journalistic Essays*. Copyright © 1986 by C. S. Lewis Pte. Ltd. All rights reserved. Used with permission of HarperCollins Publishers.

## Christmas Joy Gift 2020

One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift in response, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift, Jesus Christ. "Emmanuel, God is with us!" our Advent dream proclaims, as God joins in human life, and draws us together as a result. "God is with us" shows God values togetherness and relationship with us, leading us to value togetherness and relationship with one another. When we are all together — and even when we are apart.

During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person, but we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. We have missed seeing faces we love — up close and personal, but the physical distance has also revealed, for us, the importance of those things which bring us together, even when we are physically far apart.

We offer our gifts during this Advent Season to the Christmas Joy Offering because God shows us the power and importance of being together, of "being with." We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together. We see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be together with them. And we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them — we are with them. And we see the witness of the whole Church, either gathered in buildings or connected home to home, member to member, sharing what we have, together. We thank God for being "with us" through the gift of Jesus and for joining us together as the Church and, through our gifts, with those who have need.

By supporting the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (BOP), the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

## Prayer Needs

**World Concerns:** world leaders, the president and leaders of the United States, people of Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Iran, Liberia, Ukraine, North Korea and Syria, peace for Jerusalem, our friends in Haiti.

**Special Concerns:** Stephen Ministry, Hope for the Future-feeds the homeless in NYC; Aaron, Holly, Anna, Daniel, Thomas and Bethany Hicks in Spain; Lisa, Steve, Elsa, Zodi, Moise & Thierry Schwind on The Mercy Ship; our medical professionals and other essential front-line workers during the pandemic; fire victims and responders in California and Colorado; healing for our country during these trying times.

**Ongoing Concerns:** Trudy Wold, Graham Glover, Barry Murphy, Robbie Simons, Jean Cooper, Donald Cooper, Jr., Kathy F., Kaitlin F., Sue Hansen, Joan Kujawski, Linda, Peter and Janine Ruland, Anne Tuthill, Donna Gotimer, Elizabeth Alberici, Fred Mendez, Kim Haeg, Barbara Miller, Vera Carson, Diane Graeb, Oliver Burkhardt, Matt Rolle, Brian Dobbs, Ray Nine, Pete Allocca, Janice Chew, Carol Keil, Barbara Mathews, Dean Hansen, Susan Cebulski, Tara Hall, Kristin (daughter of the Minors), Kristin Tuthill, Clem and Lorie Schryver.

**Military:** Vernetta Taylor, Shawn Fitzgerald, Harrison Diehl, Andrew Czelatka, Andrew Jones, Katherine Bertuchi, Tabitha Conklin, Charlie Sisino, Daniel Watters, Tyler Messina, Erica Murphy.

*Note: We would like to keep these lists updated. Please call the office with any additions or deletions. Thanks for your help.*

## *Christmas Families Program 2020*

Christmas is most everyone's favorite time of year. Yet there are those who are in need of help, or very much alone. We urge you to answer the call to bring the celebration of our Lord's birth into the homes and hearts of these families in our community.

**\*\*This year due to COVID-19, rather than shopping for the families, we will be offering them gift cards.**

Please consider sharing in any of the following ways...

- Donate gift cards to Amazon, Walmart, Target, IGA, ShopRite, or any other local store
- Make a monetary donation that will be used to purchase gift cards
- Donate to the "Christmas Fuel Fund" for families who are having difficulty affording fuel

Please make donations to Mattituck Presbyterian Church and mark them Christmas Families or Fuel Fund.

Donations and gift cards can be dropped off during office hours or **clearly marked** and placed in the collection plate on Sundays.

**\*\*Please note...** donations must be received by Sunday, Dec 13, 2020 as to afford the recipients time to shop.

Please call Jeanne Berliner (631-886-1716) with any questions or ideas.

**Thank you so much!**

The Mission Ministry Committee

## *Transitional Role for Pat Hanly - Head of Staff at MPC*

The Presbytery of Long Island and COM (Committee on Ministry), with MPC Session approval, have requested that Pat serve the church as Head of Staff after Pastor Robert departs and we enter a period of searching for a new Interim Pastor. In this role, Pat will be preaching twice a month, attend Session meetings and other board meetings, and meet with our COM representative weekly to report on the status of the church. Presbytery will provide pulpit supply (a pastor) at MPC for the other Sundays in each month. Communion will be celebrated by the Presbytery pulpit supply during this period.

Once a new Interim Pastor is selected by the Session, Pat will transition these responsibilities to that individual. The Session and Pat will keep the church informed regularly on the status of the Interim search, as well as all plans for the future of MPC, as God leads.

Please pray for Pat as he takes on these additional responsibilities and for his ministry in the future. As you might know, Pat is working on the Commissioned Ruling Elder certification (two classes left), which will enable him, in the future, to function as a lay pastor, with the ability to celebrate the sacraments. Pat and Liz continue to seek God's will for now and the future.

If you need Pat for anything, please call the church office and leave a message for Pat with Dorothy, and he will get back to you as soon as he can. Thanks for your support and patience during this time of change and transition.

## *2021 Pledge Campaign*

As we enter these final weeks of this unprecedented year of Covid-19, the unrest in our government and country, and the uncertainty all of this has brought us, we ought to pause and give thanks for the faithfulness of God to our congregation. He is our rock and our foundation, and we can rejoice that for over 300 years MPC has been a beacon of Christ's light on the North Fork.

2021 is almost upon us. It is time for each of us to support MPC for another year by sending back your 2021 Pledge Cards. Will you please prayerfully consider how you will financially support MPC in 2021? We have mailed you a pledge card that we would ask you to complete and return to us, so that we can better plan the ways in which we will serve Christ in the coming year. We have included a return envelope you can mail to the church or drop into the Sunday plate. Cards will also be available from the Deacons on Sunday morning. Please get your card back to us in a timely manner.

We praise God for the ways you give financially in tithes, offerings, and special gifts. Jesus calls us to invest our resources in God's Kingdom, to seek first his Kingdom, and to store up treasures in heaven where moth and rust will not destroy. Your financial giving enables us to continue proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and to serve our community and even to the far corners of the world.

## *FAMILY PAGE*

### *Christian Sympathy*

Condolences are extended to the family of Stephanie Frost-Kujawski on her passing November 11, 2020. A memorial service and interment will be announced at a later date. Please remember Stephanie's sister, Amy Wippert, in your prayers during this time.

### *New Author*

Chris Piacente has published her first book, *Miss Centipede, A Bug's Tale of Tolerance*. Her book is available at Barnes & Noble, and on Amazon.com. Congratulation on your achievement.

### *Confirmation Class*

On November 15, 2020, we introduced the 2019-2020 confirmation class to the congregation.

Our newest members are Edgar Castaneda, Jr., Jashlin Castaneda, Annelise Durkin and Brian Noncarrow.



## *Christmas Flowers*

Christmas Flower Memorials are now being received. Please email: [dorothy@mattpres.com](mailto:dorothy@mattpres.com) or call the church office (631-298-4145) between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. by December 15<sup>th</sup> with the name or names of the people in whose memory or honor the flowers are being given. Plants may be brought to the parlor, Sunday morning or during regular office hours starting Sunday, December 20 through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will be distributed to the homebound unless marked with your name.

## *Christmas Caroling*

Due to Covid, Christmas Caroling is cancelled this year. We know it is a much beloved tradition that brings joy to so many people during the Christmas season. However, the health and safety of our Congregation is of the utmost importance.

If you want to organize a small group of people to Christmas Carol in your neighborhood, the lyric booklets will be available in the office. Please call if you want a copy or two.

## *Blessing Bags*

The Blessing Bags (which you provide) that are part of our Advent Devotional are due by December 20. You can drop them in the boxes that are under the tree in the Narthex, in the parlor or in the office. Thank you so much for being a blessing to those less fortunate during this holiday season.

## *LIBRARY (HI) LIGHTS*

Have you ever wondered what a “Normal Christian Life” should look like? If you think of yourself as a Christian, you might want to check out the description in the book *A Life for Christ*, written by evangelist Dwight L. Moody. Originally written in 1884 this new, updated version takes us deep into Scripture and paints a clear picture of what ought to be an individual’s life for Christ. With our love for Christ as the motive, our faith grants us the power for a life of service.

Another well known preacher from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Charles Spurgeon, has had many sermons printed in books and translated into many languages. *Life in Christ - Volume 1*, is a newly updated collection of *Lessons From Our Lord’s Miracles and Parables*. In this book you will find familiar accounts such as the wedding at Cana, raising the widow’s son at Nain, healing the ten lepers, and restoring sight to the blind. You can read how the lessons from these stories can be applied to your life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Remember to visit the church library after the service on Sundays or during the day on Wednesdays. Patti Verity, our librarian, will be there you to help you find something to read as we approach the Christmas season and remember the birth of Jesus once again.

Your reading partner  
Celie Lutz

## *A Thought from Janet*

When is the last time your prayer was simply thanking the Lord for.....?





# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Corinne Kindya  
3 Barry Murphy  
5 Alison Cooper  
5 Bob Harrington  
6 Holly Berdinka  
7 Hannah Murphy  
14 Pat Hanly  
15 Jeanine Warns  
17 Steve Claypool

18 Robin Doroski  
20 Merri MacNish  
22 Mark DeSantis  
22 Paul Geiger  
23 Alec Durkin  
26 Daisy Clasing  
30 Peter Ruland  
31 Peter Zorn

## CHRISTMAS EVE

As you all know, our Christmas Eve services have traditionally been heavily attended by our Church Family and our Community. To accommodate the ongoing problems with Covid and assure we are still able to invite the Community to our church on Christmas Eve, our Christmas Celebration will be very different this year. The health and safety of our congregation and community are of the utmost importance in planning our Christmas Eve celebration.

This Christmas Eve, instead of services, we will host a *Journey to Bethlehem with Live Nativity* event. In this exciting event, people will be able to walk through Bethlehem to see and hear the scriptures brought to life. This will be a COVID friendly, socially distanced event. It will take place between the hours of 2 – 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

We expect this to be a fun and interactive way to bring the wonder of Christmas to life. It is our prayer that it will bless you and your whole family. The “walk through” is open to the entire community so please encourage neighbors and friends to come, as well.

In the spirit of Christmas this is a free event with fun gifts for kids along the way. Canned food item donations are welcome and can be left at the nativity as “gifts for the newborn babe.” These items will go to our food pantry to distribute to those in need.

This will be our one and only Christmas Eve Service so be sure to come out and participate. Our church family worship celebration of Christmas will be at the regular 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Both services will be our traditional hymn sing services at which you will be able to request your favorite Christmas Carols.

We look forward to working together on this community outreach. Please help spread the word about this exciting event!

