



First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen

Where God's Love Welcomes All

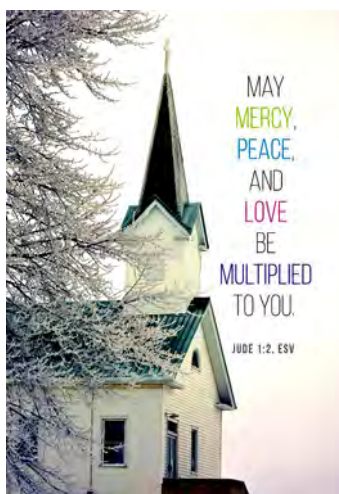


DECEMBER 2021

Parish News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Stewardship: Welcome Home	2
Clerk's Corner	2
The Mouse Pipeline	2
Celebrating Advent	3
Advent Angels	4
Mission Volunteer Night	4
Presbyterian Women	5
Music Ministry	5
Children's Programs	6
Youth Ministry	7
Adult Christian Education	8
Jersey Cares Coat Drive	8
Social Justice Opportunity	9
Prayer Shawl Ministry	10
Poinsettia Orders Due	10
Sanctuary Flowers Needed	10
Reminders from Church Office	11
Church Clergy and Staff	11
Indonesian Fellowship	11



Pastor's Peace by Rev. Ashley Bair



Thomas Merton

Photo taken by:
John Howard Griffin

As we enter the season of Advent, a season of transformation, anticipation and revelation found through the movements of the Holy Spirit, I am struck by the contemplative, and often restorative, power of quiet.

Lately I've been reading a lot of Thomas Merton. He was a converted Roman Catholic who spent much of his childhood as an orphan shuffled between countries while studying writing and art. His upbringing gave him a certain disdain for contemporary life and after university he decided he had had enough of modern society and found home in a strictly regulated life as a Cistercian monk.

In his solitude and quietness, he found himself confronted with his previous rejection of society and came to believe that a full withdrawal from the world isn't possible, that escape from societal and political woes was only an illusion. What the quietness offered Merton was an opportunity to listen deeper for the calling of the Spirit to utilize his new home in a way that would benefit those around him. He felt a duty to speak out and became a staunch supporter of the nonviolent civil rights movement and wrote about race issues within the Church and white liberalism.

One of his biographers, William Shannon, wrote that, "what happened to him was that his solitude had issued into what all true solitude must eventually become: compassion. Finding God in his solitude, he found God's people, who are inseparable from God and who, at the deepest level of their being (the level that only contemplation can reach), are at one with one another in God, the Hidden Ground of Love of all that is."

While I'm not called to the regulated life of a monastic, I feel a comfort and challenge in the work of Thomas Merton and the revelations that transformed him in his solitude and quiet.

Advent and Christmas are seasons full of activity and people, which often come with expectations and financial strains. In this overwhelming and overstimulating time, it can be hard to find quiet, whether that is literal quiet or the quieting of our distractions.

This Advent, I am taking a note from Thomas Merton and creating space for

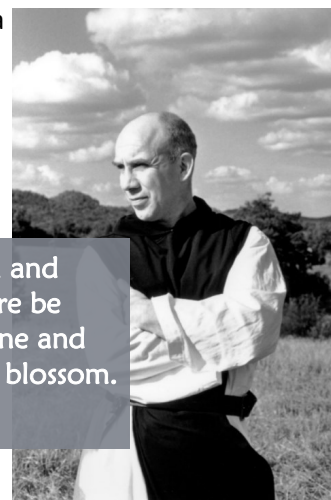
these kinds of moments; moments to pause and find

"the Hidden Ground of Love of all" in the quiet which I pray

will deepen my compassion. I pray you find those moments, too, as we open ourselves to the transformation, anticipation and revelation found through the movements of the Holy Spirit within us this season.

In a world of noise, confusion and conflict it is necessary that there be places of silence, inner discipline and peace. In such places love can blossom.

- THOMAS MERTON





CLERK'S CORNER

- ◆ Session reviewed FPC-Metuchen's COVID-19 pandemic protocols, with a focus on improving the ability for all who desire to worship in-person to do so in a safe, reassuring manner, and to clearly communicate our protocols to the congregation.
- ◆ Session received a report from Rev. Garry concerning developments within the Board of Deacons, and a review of the Roles and Responsibilities of both the Congregational Life and Mission and Outreach Commissions.
- ◆ Last month, Session approved in October 2021 retiring the remaining debt service to Manasquan Savings Bank for both the Phase I and II Social Center loans.
- ◆ Rev. Garry noted that we as a congregation have been dealing with the crisis of the pandemic for the last twenty months as well as the sudden resignation of the Associate Pastor. If Session had not been a healthy Board, these crisis would have undone our ministries and direction. But they have not. We continue to move in the right direction. As we strive to return to a church life we knew, it will take some intentionality. We must be patient with each other.



THE MOUSE PIPELINE

I hope you all enjoyed October's information from me, your little church mouse.

I think I need a name so I can be a real member of this family. We'll talk about that soon.

Here's what I found out this past month:

1- I learned that Heidi Hoffsommer, a long-time member of the choir, mother of Gabe, Hayley and Jacob, and daughter of Marie who is also a member of the choir, is moving to Marlton in South Jersey this month. She promises, however, that she will still drive to Metuchen on Sundays so she can sing in our Choir.

Hallelujah!!! Brenda is so happy about that.

2- I hope you were all in church the week when Ashley Bair, our Interim Assistant Pastor first preached. You could have heard a pin drop! I realized I don't know much about her, so I did some research the other day and learned many interesting facts that you might not know:

- She is ambidextrous.
- She plays the violin and has toured with orchestras and played a concert with the President's Own Marine Corps Band.
- She sews and makes many of her own clothes.
- She spent a summer in northern India and took a class in the Buddhist monastery that houses the next Dalai Lama.

I'm looking forward to learning more about her so I can share it with you.

Thank you for the Asiago Cheese that you left for me.
YUM!



A big **THANK YOU** to all who joined us last November 14 sending in your pledge and participating in our old fashioned collection of the pledge cards. While the numbers are still coming in, we have received many generous pledges for which we are grateful.

As of November 22, we have received 135 pledges totalling \$334,952. To complete the budgeting process, we need additional pledge support. Please prayerfully consider pledging for the year 2021 and supporting the work of your church.

Blank pledge cards are available in the Narthex. You are welcome to put them in the mail or drop off at the church office as soon as possible, or e-mail our treasurer at sharmon@fpcweb.org with your 2021 pledge. You can also give and

pledge online at <https://fpcmetuchen.org/give/>. The final deposit for the year will be the morning of Friday, December 31 as the office will be closed. We all know the mail delivery has been slower, so please take this into consideration when mailing pledges and donations. With heartfelt thanks.

Stewardship 2022 Team:

Niall Corbalis, Maggie and Russ Dickow,
Doris Gulotta, Lori Kellner, Gary Ostermueller



Collecting the Pledge cards the old-fashioned way on Stewardship Sunday.



Celebrating ADVENT

Our Annual Lessons and Carols Service will take place on December 19. A favorite service for so many, the Lessons and Carols is a chance to hear the beautiful familiar readings of the season and sing some beautiful Carols.

It will be so wonderful to be back in person for this year's service - a chance to hear the Senior Choir, Good News Ringers, soloists, and our harpist, Karen Stern.



DECEMBER 19 WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 4:00 pm CHURCH FRONT LAWN



The Annual Christmas Pageant 2021 will be live !

Once again we will come together as a community to present the story of the Nativity, weather permitting. Make sure you invite your friends! With the pageant being held outside, we recommend bundling up! Audience members will watch from the sidewalk area as the story of Christ's birth is reenacted on the Front Lawn of the Sanctuary.

Watch our younger children perform their parts as sheep, shepherds and angels. Older children will be the townspeople, innkeepers and/or narrators. We are looking for some adult volunteers to help with the management and setup of the pageant. If you have questions or if you wish to sign up, please email: fpcpageant@fpcweb.org

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 12	10:45 am – 11:30 am Rehearsal/Costumes
December 19	10:45 am – 11:30 am Dress Rehearsal
December 24	3:15 pm Report for show
	4:00 pm SHOWTIME

We are grateful and excited to welcome our church family in celebrating our Lord's birth during our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service. While we look forward to this, let us continue to observe the guidelines set by Session concerning in-person worship: sign in as you enter the Narthex, wear and keep your mask on and maintain physical distance. The balcony will be available for anyone needing a more socially distant space. The seating is limited so please call the church office to reserve a balcony seat. The service will also be livestreamed and we encourage those planning to worship virtually to prepare candles and bread and juice for Communion.



DECEMBER 24 11:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE



**BE AN ANGEL FOR SOMEONE
THIS CHRISTMAS !!**

In keeping with the Christmas Spirit, we invite everyone to joyously share and bless the children at Elizabethport Presbyterian Center and the senior residents at both Care One at the Highlands and Roosevelt Care Centers. This wonderful ministry and our gifts are always greatly appreciated!

Look for the two Advent Angel trees— one in the Church Narthex and another in the Social Center Foyer.

For the Elizabethport children, we are collecting **ONLY** dolls and cars/ trucks appropriate for 3-4 years old.

If you wish to add winter hats and mittens, they will be welcome. Look for decorated bins placed by both trees to collect items from which the children will be able to choose from. Any extras will be donated to the Elizabethport Center.

Also, we will have angels that you may choose from for the residents of Care One at the Highlands and Roosevelt Care Center, each having about 40 residents.

It's easy to be an Angel! Just simply —

1- Select an Advent Angel(s) as soon as possible and leave your gift under the Advent Angel tree **no later than 9:30 am on Sunday, December 19.**

2- The Angels are color-coded with information about the destination of the gift, as well as gift suggestions.

3- All gifts may be wrapped and/or placed in gift bags.

4- Most importantly, **SECURELY** attach the Advent Angel to the gift bag or wrapped gift.

Our Deacons will deliver the gifts to the Care Centers on Sunday, December 19th after Worship and to Elizabethport on Monday, December 20 so the gifts arrive in time for Christmas.

For any questions, please contact Chris Van Pelt by call or text: (732) 715-6097, cell. (Feel free to leave a message if she does not pick up.)

Your Advent Angel gift may be the only gift received by that child or senior resident!

Thank you for sharing God's love this Christmas and for being an Angel!



Let's share the love and blessings this Christmas season. We will be packing Christmas baskets for our Food Pantry clients. Here are just a few concrete ways you can help:

- Drop off donations, either cash or in kind to the Church office and/or collection bin.
- Donate online using the <https://fpcmetuchen.org/give/> specifying Food Pantry.
- Join us on December 20 as we pack the Christmas baskets for our clients.

Children are welcome but those under 10 years need to be chaperoned by an adult. Feel free to email foodpantry@fpcweb.org if you have questions.

MUSIC MINISTRY

As we go to stores and malls during the holiday season, most of the music has leapt right over "Advent" and jumped right to Christmas.

Advent is the 4 weeks of preparation before the birth of Jesus that is celebrated in churches (but certainly not in malls). There is a rich collection of Advent hymns in our hymnal. One of my favorite tells the story of the Angel Gabriel paying a visit to Mary to give her the news that she will bear a child.

Advent Hymn : *To a Maid Whose Name was Mary*

To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.
"Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news;
Good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."

"For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
Who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
You are most blest, most blessed; God chose you,
you are blest!"

But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,
To hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.

"Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."

"How shall this be?" said Mary, "I am not yet a wife."
The angel answered quickly, "The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God's child."

As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God.
"So be it; I am ready according to your word."



DECEMBER REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

The **Jubilee Choir** will rehearse on **Tuesday December 7 & 14 from 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.**

There will be NO Jubilee Choir rehearsals on December 21 and December 28.

The **Junior Choir and Joy Ringers** will rehearse on **Thursday December 2, 9, and 16:**

Junior Choir from 4:15 - 5:00 p.m. and Joy Ringers from 5:00 - 5:30 p. m.

There will be NO Junior Choir or Joy Ringers on Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.

Questions about Music Ministry? Please feel free to contact Brenda Day brendaday@fpcweb.org



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Reinvents Our Fellowship Events!

We thank the Deacons for taking on coffee hour every week. To support them, PW will share the delicious load on a couple of Winter Sundays.

Christmas Luncheon becomes elaborate coffee hour!

Please join us **after worship on December 12** for lots of goodies and a very special THANK YOU to all those who generously donated their time in 2021 to our June and September Rummage Sales and the November Holly Fair. Without your help and support, we could not have made the dollars we need to give to our many missions.

January Brunch ALSO becomes elaborate coffee hour!

Join us again after worship on January 9, 2022, for more goodies and an informal but informative look at the missions of PW! We don't like to BRAG...but we're so honored to be able to share our wealth after nearly two years of worry about where and when those funds were going to come to fruition!

And STAY TUNED this Spring – we hope to have our "January" Brunch in May when we celebrate our (age undisclosed) birthday!!!

Questions about PW? Feel free to email PW Co– Moderators: Nancy Kipnis
Deb Teall

njbkipnis@optonline.net
debteall@optonline.net



Nurture Faith



Support Mission



Work For Justice and Peace



Build Community



Develop Leaders

FROM YOUR: **DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

We are God's children, fearfully and wonderfully made.

1st Tuesday Club

December 7th from 4:30 to 5:00 pm

This energetic group of 4 year olds to 2nd graders will meet this month inside the Narthex.

Junior Club

December 2 and 16 from 5:30 to 6:15 pm

Our 3rd to 6th graders meet in the Social Center. Bring your friends along!

PUPPETEERS!

The Presbyterian Puppeteers will meet on December 15 to rehearse a Christmas skit. New members are always welcome! Please contact Kat Davis at katddavis@gmail.com.



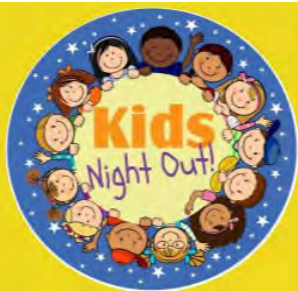
FAITH AT HOME FOR ADVENT

Paper Chain Advent Calendar

Does your family have a favorite way of counting down the days of Advent? Here's a fun and easy craft to teach Advent.

Everything you need to create your family's paper chain will be provided in a kit. This Faith at Home kit is ready for pick up.

Call Nancy Leardi to reserve your kit today.



First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen
270 Woodbridge Ave. Metuchen, NJ 08840

= Parents' Night Out

For kids 3 years and older *

Friday, December 3

6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Room 109 of the Education Bldg.

*Registration Required

Donation \$10.⁰⁰ per child Includes pizza, fun and games

Have a relaxing evening knowing your kids are in a fun, safe and supervised place. Our (PYW) Presbyterian Young Women are offering this fun babysitting event as a fundraiser for their activities. Please RSVP and register your child if you think this maybe something they would attend. Contact Christian Ed. Director Nancy Leardi:

Email nleardi@fpcweb.org | Call (732) 491-2264



Christmas story books are available in our church library, and also conveniently in the book rack next to the Advent Angel Tree by the church Office. Get a book or two to read at home but please return when you're done for others to enjoy.

Questions about any of our Children and Young Adult Programs? Contact our Director of Christian Education
Nancy Leardi : (732) 491-2264 or nleardi@fpcweb.org



YOUTH GROUP EVERY WEDNESDAY

5:00 - 6:00 pm Junior High in Social Center Field *

6:00 - 6:30 pm Junior and Senior High Dinner (\$3)

7:00 pm-8:00 pm Senior High in Social Center Field *

* In case of inclement weather, this will be in the Social Center Building or tent.

This past month the Youth Group embraced Spooky Season™ at the First Presbyterian Church's Trunk or Treat event. Creativity and candy in abundance, our medics and heroes passed out treats to tiny dinosaurs, goblins, baseball players and superwomen all from the pumpkin graveyards of two Toyotas.



We are excited to welcome back all the youth who gave their hard work and dedication to band and sports these past few months! Congrats on a great season to all the youth and families. And you came back just in time for our upcoming **Christmas party on December 8** and our **service opportunity with the Food Pantry Holiday Bazaar on December 16**.

If you have any questions, any ideas, want to chat, grab a coffee - you can connect with me at abair@fpcweb.org and 989-859-2083.

Grateful to be in this ministry with you,
Rev. Ashley Bair

Wednesday Night Youth Group Schedule:

Junior High Youth Group 5-6 pm

Junior and Senior High Combined Dinner 6-6:30 pm

Westminster Choir (Grades 7-12) 6:30-7 pm

Senior High Youth Group 7-8 pm

Chapel Ringers (Handbells) (Grades 7-8) 7-7:30 pm

Good News Ringers (Grades 9-12) 8-8:30 pm

Our Wednesday night meal coordinator this year is Samantha Aldinger with Carla Trolaro assisting. Thank you to Samantha and Carla, and all of the families who have signed up to serve a meal. This year we are hoping to fill youth dinners with voluntary signups using the Google doc below:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1besymNCF7jtlc30UW4DB6yBdnKGZ6r5gtwucT08Yfqg/edit#gid=1830584146>

Continued COVID Protocol Guidelines for Youth Group dinners include:

- Please make sure your youth comes to Youth Group with a mask, because if a youth is inside the Social Center for any reason (inclement weather, bathroom use, etc.) they must wear their mask.
- Youth are encouraged to self-cleanse both before and after dinner.
- Youth are encouraged to self-select their dinner group to aid in trying to maintain weekly dinner cohorts.
- Youth are encouraged to sit every other seat.
- Dinner serving lines will adhere to social distancing to the greatest extent practicable.
- Food sharing is discouraged.
- Youth may be unmasked to eat while seated.
- The expectation is to provide physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY

What My Grandmothers Taught Me

December 6, Monday
7:00 p.m.
In the PW Lounge
and by Zoom

This NEW Horizons Bible Study helps us learn from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

This study meets every **first Monday of each month**, from October 2021 through June 2022, at 7:00 pm in the PW Lounge or via Zoom—your choice!

This month's lesson 3 is about *Rahab* with **Scripture text:** *Joshua 2, Joshua 6: 22-25*

The study will be led by Deb Teall with a promise to be sprinkled with eclectic but appropriate music. The lessons may be accessed from our website.

<https://fpcmetuchen.org/ministries/presbyterian-women/>
If you would like a hard copy, contact Deb Teall.

The zoom link is below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8641671638?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8641671638?pwd=OGNFMdJTSk5SbTFBZmcrWmZ6aFRBQT09)
[pwd=OGNFMdJTSk5SbTFBZmcrWmZ6aFRBQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8641671638?pwd=OGNFMdJTSk5SbTFBZmcrWmZ6aFRBQT09)

Use meeting ID: 864 167 1638 Passcode: PW270

Call, text or email to sign up for one lesson or all nine:

Deb Teall: 908.917.3990 | debteall@optonline.net

GOSPEL STORIES

A Weekly Pastoral Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the PW Lounge

The weekly bible study with Rev. Garry focuses on the teachings of Jesus, comparing the different ways Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell the same story, but with a unique twist for each. Other times we will look to the where and how the Gospel writers have placed and arranged the teachings of Jesus, but each and every time we will devote to a specific teaching and ask: how are we to live this.

Can't make it in person? Join the Zoom option:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84711673419>

Meeting ID: 847 1167 3419

MEN'S BREAKFAST

December 15 @ 7:30 am

Social Center Dining Room

Don't miss it!



Come by the Social Center and start your day with laughter, fellowship and a filling of scrumptious breakfast that only Rev. Garry can prepare! Call us in the Church office if you have any questions.



The Rise of the Gothic Cathedrals
December 8th at 8:00 pm
In Person in the PW Lounge
And Virtually by Zoom

The study on the Rise of the Gothic Cathedrals resumes this month. Please join Rev. Garry and Helen Burr-Cackowski. To join this study by Zoom, use Meeting ID: 275 785 7260 Passcode: Session



Ongoing
Until
January 9th
2022

This season, let's spread some warmth! Please continue to support New Jersey Cares Coat Drive. New and gently used winter coats for infants, children and adults may be dropped off in the collection bin inside the Social Center Foyer.



FPC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE SUPPORTS REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

Since its formation in 2017 year, our church Social Justice Committee has supported Interfaith–RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Support and Empowerment) – and has improved the lives of many people through volunteer activities and annual donations. This multi-faith, multi-congregational, multi-racial organization is focused on re-settling people from all over the world into communities in New Jersey.

Interfaith-RISE partners with the U.S. Committee on Refugees and Immigrants and is a program of the Reformed Church of Highland Park Affordable Housing Corporation (<http://www.interfaithrise.org/>)

Right now, Interfaith-RISE is very busy with newly arriving Afghan refugees and can use our help more than ever. As of November 2021, apartments have been secured for 100 recent arrivals, but there are 100 more who just arrived – and all will need help transitioning into life in the U.S.

THERE ARE A RANGE OF WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP!

MONETARY DONATIONS: Go to the web site www.interfaithrise.org and click on the DONATE button (all donations go directly to the refugees; Interfaith-RISE staff members are paid through ongoing grants).

HOUSING: If you have any connections with housing or can help search for housing options, please contact Paul@interfaithrise.org.

MAYA'S CORNER: Tutoring Education Update: With so many new arrivals, the organization is in need of tutors both for children as well as community-college level adults. If you are interested in tutoring, please reach out to maya@interfaithrise.org and tell her what languages you speak, your preferred tutoring age group and subject, and if you are ok with in-person or virtual.

RIDES: Car rides are needed for refugees to get to various appointments throughout each week. A schedule of needed time slots is maintained on a weekly basis. Email interfaithrise@gmail.com to inquire and/or offer assistance.

HOME DÉCOR / GENERAL ITEMS: As we are preparing homes for more incoming refugee families, Interfaith-RISE is seeking several items:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Furniture | If you have furniture to donate, please send an email to furniture@interfaithrise.org with a description and photos of the item(s). |
| Housewares | If you are interested in donating general housewares, please send an email to: housewares@interfaithrise.org with a description and photos of the item(s). |

DINE AT THE INTERFAITH-RISE GLOBAL CAFÉ AND SHOP THE MARKETPLACE:

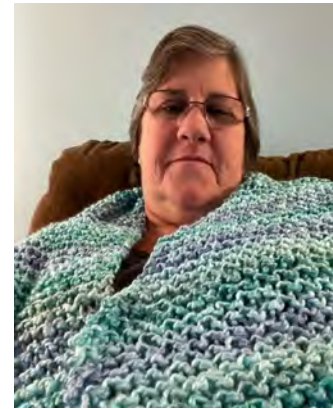
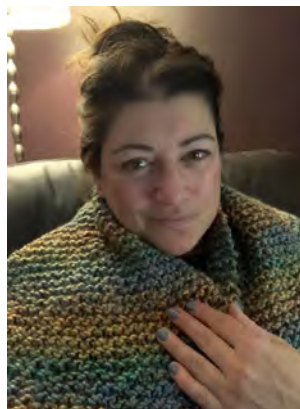
Located at the Social Hall @ The Reformed Church of Highland Park, the Global Café serves delicious food from Nigeria, Guatemala, Afghanistan, and Indonesia. Each day is different based on which country the chef is from. Come out with your friends and family to expand your palates and support the cause! While you are there, check out the I-RISE Marketplace for some unique gifts for your home. They are all “Fair Trade” items from around the world, and all proceeds go to the refugee families.

SIGN UP FOR THE INTERFAITH-RISE NEWSLETTER so you can receive regular updates on the newest refugee arrivals and specific donations that are needed. Go to: <http://www.interfaithrise.org/contact-us/> and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the newsletter form.

You are all encouraged to join the monthly volunteer meetings every third Thursday of the month at Noon in the Social Hall of The Reformed Church of Highland Park. At the meetings, you will get to know other volunteers and learn about the latest updates and information.

Please contact me at 908-403-3319 or echlaprof@verizon.net with any questions – and feel free to come along with me to a monthly meeting and/or lunch at the Global Café!

Eileen Harkless / FPC Social Justice Committee



Wrapped in love. We are grateful to share these photos of some recipients of the Prayer Shawl Ministry the past months. From left is Niall Corbalis' mother, Lucy, who was thrilled to receive her new prayer shawl when her son visited her at Roosevelt Care Center in Edison. He shares that "the look of comfort and contentment as she enjoys the warmth and softness of her prayer shawl says it all!!" Kristina Scoglio wrote to say "I am beyond touched by the graciousness of the people of our wonderful church! Thank you so much for delivering the absolutely beautiful shawl and goodies!" And on the right is Chris Van Pelt who was equally blessed to receive her prayer shawl.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry started in 2008 by a few members of Presbyterian Women. The women met once a month at each other's homes to knit or crochet prayer shawls. Today, the women don't meet as a group; however, they continue to prayerfully knit or crochet beautiful prayer shawls in their own homes.

Prayer shawls are given to church members and friends as well as anyone needing the comfort of a shawl around their shoulders or on their lap. Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. Many blessings are prayed into every stitch. As of November 11, 2021, we have given out a total of 482 prayer shawls.

If you love to knit or crochet and would like to join this Ministry, contact the church office at 732-491-2300 or Merry Matlock, Senior Services Coordinator at 732-491-2262.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS

Due: Monday, December 6

In keeping with our Christmas tradition, we invite our congregation and friends to help us decorate our Sanctuary, Chapel and Narthex with poinsettias this season of Advent. The names of those remembered and those who donated will be listed in the worship service bulletins on Sunday, December 19th and Christmas Eve.

Get a form from the church Office or from our website and return by the due date with your payment. Call the church office if you have any questions (732) 491-2300



Say It with
Flowers!

Sanctuary flowers
needed for:
December 19 and
December 26

We invite you to help brighten our Sunday worship by filling in the need for the above dates. Whether you're honoring the memory of a loved one, celebrating a milestone or just feeling grateful, **say it with flowers!** Please let us know which date you would like to donate:

December 19 - 1 arrangement

December 26 - 2 arrangements

Each floral arrangement costs \$25. You may donate 1 or 2 floral arrangements, as you wish. Thank you! Please contact Deb Teall at 908.917.3990 or debteall@optonline.net

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen

CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF**CLERGY****Rev. Dr. Fred Garry**732-491-2330*Senior Pastor/Head of Staff* fgarry@fpcweb.org**Rev. Ashley Bair**732-491-2260*Interim Associate Pastor* abair@fpcweb.org**Rev. Robert A. Beringer, Pastor Emeritus****Kristy Woodrow, Seminarian Intern****CHRISTIAN EDUCATION****Nancy Leardi**732-491-2264*Director Christian Ed.* nleardi@fpcweb.org**Kat Davis**kdavis@fpcweb.org*Christian Education Production Leader***MUSIC MINISTRY****Brenda Day**732-491-2266*Minister of Music* brendaday@fpcweb.org**Elaine Hansen**ehansen@fpcweb.org*Assistant Bell Director and Accompanist***SUPPORT STAFF****Sue Harmon**732-491-2302*Dir. of Operations & Finance* sharmon@fpcweb.org**Jonathan Hollenbeck**732-491-2270*Facilities Manager* jhollenbeck@fpcweb.org**Bob O'Connell**732-491-2270*Facilities Assistant* boconnell@fpcweb.org**Vicky Lacson**732-491-2301*Admin. & Comm. Coordinator* vlacson@fpcweb.org**Nick Spadavecchia**732-491-2305*Comm. Consultant* nspadavecchia@fpcweb.org**Nate Brown**nbrown@fpcweb.org*Technician and Sound Design Consultant***Merry Matlock**732-491-2262*Senior Services Coordinator* mmatlock@fpcweb.org**Colleen Walker**732-491-2303*Office Assistant* cwalker@fpcweb.org**Sarah Teti**732-491-2325*Food Pantry Coordinator* foodpantry@fpcweb.org**COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL****Fran Brennan**732-491-2242*Director/Treasurer* fbrennan@fpcweb.org**Colleen Smith**732-491-2242*Head Teacher* csmith@fpcweb.org**Christmas OFFICE CLOSURE:****2021 December 24—31***Have a blessed and safe holiday!*

Please be reminded to send in your end of the year donations early so that it is **received by December 31** for it to be counted for 2021.

Thank you everyone for your continued support during this time.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS**YOUR GIFT, YOUR CHOICE****DIRECT**

Cash or check donation into the plate are always welcome!

ONLINE

Please click here to donate now:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8ffksu4>

TEXT TO DONATE Make a donation via Text message!

Simply text to: **732-479-8245** an amount (no dollar sign needed) to this number and follow the prompts to complete your donation!

GIVE+ APP Search "Give Plus Church" in your phone App Store, download the app and find Church name by zip code 08840.

Thank you for your generous support!

INDONESIAN FELLOWSHIP**Pulpit Supply for December 2021**

December 12 Rev. Hennie Wattimena

December 19 Rev. Ferdinanda Pattipeilohy

December 26 Local Pastor

In-person worship service in Indonesian language is at Noon in the Sanctuary of FPC. All covid safety protocols are still observed. The Worship Services will continue to be streamed live through Facebook as well.

If you have questions you may contact Norma Tambingon or Sandra Laluw.

**Akhirnya, Saudara-saudara,
isilah pikiranmu dengan hal-hal bernilai,
yang patut dipuji, yaitu hal-hal yang benar,
yang terhormat, yang adil,
murni, manis, dan baik.**

Filipi 4:8

DECEMBER 2021 PARISH NEWS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

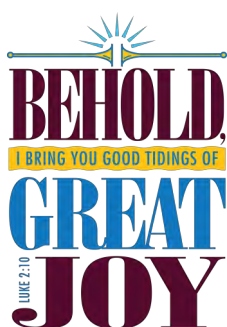
US POSTAGE PAID

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ

PERMIT 746

Address Service Requested

TO:



The information contained herein is for Church use only. Individuals using this information must receive permission of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, NJ.

Stay up to date with just one click!

We are now using Mail Chimp to bring to you the latest church happenings. Sign up to make sure we have your correct email address.

Visit the church website, send an email to fpc@fpcweb.org or use your cell phone to go directly to the link using this QR code.

We promise not to spam you!



First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Parish News Submission

To submit an article for the Parish News, email vlacson@fpcweb.org or see us at the church office. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month.

Church Office

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840
Office Hours: Monday– Friday 8:00 am to 4:30pm
Telephone: (732) 491-2300 Email: fpc@fpcweb.org

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am

Online Sunday Morning Worship : 9:30 am

Livestream on FPC Metuchen Facebook