



The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

*Rooted in God's Love
Growing as Christ's Caregivers
Nourished by God's Spirit*

December 2016

The Presbyterian
Beacon



PASTOR - Pastor Donna Lepsky

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent, it's a time of waiting..... preparing..... hoping. We are waiting for that all important day called Christmas when we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. How are you preparing during the next two weeks? Planning trips to the mall for holiday shopping? Deciding whether to serve ham or turkey for dinner? Juggling the calendar to fit in all those special Christmas activities and get togethers?

Have we forgotten anything? There are some other kinds of preparations needed to get ready for Christmas. The beloved carol "Joy to the World" says it so well, "Let every heart prepare Him room". How will you prepare your heart to receive the Christ Child this Christmas?

Every Sunday morning during worship in Advent, there will be opportunities to prepare our hearts. In addition to lighting the Advent candles, we will focus on some of the traditions of Christmas as it is celebrated around the world. There are many ways that Christians prepare for the The Birth of Jesus, the Ultimate "Giver of Gifts". Hanging evergreens to remember his everlasting love, lighting candles to remember his light and sharing of Christmas presents are just a few of the customs we have in common with others around the world.

What will the birth of the Christ Child mean to you this Christmas? Will you prepare your heart for another year of frantic shopping or a new window on God's love?

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Donna

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PLEASE NOTE:

- 12/6 Bible Study
- 12/8 Hampton Ridge
- 12/11 Deacons
Country Women
- 12/12 Presbyterian women
- 12/14 Choir/Bell Christmas Party
- 12/18 Session
- 12/20 Bible Study
- 12/24 Candle Light Service
- 12/25 Merry Christmas!
- 12/28 Food Pantry



Worship Team



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service Saturday, December 24th at 7:00 pm

Please join us to sing your favorite CAROLS!

The Advent schedule is as follows:

November 27 First Sunday of Advent
Western Europe. Germany, France Italy

December 4 Second Sunday of Advent
Eastern Europe Poland and Slavic countries.

December 11. Third Sunday of Advent
England, Ireland and Scotland

December 18. Fourth Sunday of Advent
Puerto Rico, Mexico, Latin America



Poinsettia Tree is adorning our sanctuary!

You can still purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone you love. The plants are \$10 each. Order form are available at both entrances to the sanctuary. All orders need to be in by Sunday, Dec. 18th

The Chancel Choir Practice is at 1 on Wednesday's and if you can't make that, 9 on Sunday morning . There's always room for one more voice. So, please come, and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

The Brass Handbell Choir If you are willing to make a commitment to try, and you can count to four, we would love for you to join us, even if you have never before played an instrument.



Mission Team



All Gifts should be returned no later then Dec 13th. Thank you for helping others out!



Food Pantry is open from **10 to 11 am on the last Wednesday** of each month.

We are looking for pancake mix and syrup, for a change from cereal. Thank you for all of your contributions of non-perishable food items. If you would like to join the Pantry Crew, please tell Ruth Bell.

Other mission programs: **Cub Scouts**, Pack 10, meet at 6 pm on Fridays, and **Boy Scouts**, Troop 10, meet at 7 pm on Sundays. **Al-Anon Family Meeting** at 1 pm on Fridays is open to the family and friends of people who have addictions, and **N.A.** meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm; **Seniors Deaf Club** on the 2nd Thursday at 9 am, and the **Ocean County Deaf Club** on the 3rd Saturdays at 5 pm.



We are collecting empty pill bottles and sending them to Matthew 25 Ministries of Cincinnati, OH. The empty bottles can be left at both entrances to the sanctuary. Please remove all labels before dropping off.





Deacons— Please keep these families in your prayers

Bea Cox passed away peacefully on November 28, 2016. She was a very active member of the Presbyterian Women before health issues began to take a toll. She was also active in many clubs in Leisure Village West where she received the "Roll of Honor for LVW" for her outstanding efforts on behalf of the village before her move to AristaCare. She is survived by her daughter Carol Hartman and son Edward. Visitation and funeral services will be held at Anderson Campbell Funeral Home, Manchester on December 8. Condolence cards may be sent to the family at: 565 B Mayfair Rd. Manchester, NJ. 08759.

Reverend Robert E. Bell, Jr. entered his Eternal Home on Thanksgiving Day, November 24. He was a resident of The Whiting Health Care Center. Bob had a long ministry career in the military with the Army and retired from Fort Dix in 1985. He served in Korea, Viet Nam, Germany (Berlin) in addition to several state-side assignments. When he retired, he enjoyed his ministry at the First Presbyterian Church, Red Bank as well as other churches in the Monmouth Presbytery. After retiring, Bob and Anne moved to Leisure Village where he enjoyed Kiwanis, VFW, The RV club and other ministries. Bob is survived by his wife, Anne and his five children: Ruth Anne, Robert III, Edith, Margaret and John as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Please keep the Bell Family in your prayers.





Christian Education Team



Holiday Party for kids will be Dec. 16th!
Please stayed tuned to the weekly announcements for more info.

Sunday School is growing with the new curriculum 'Back to Basics". We love seeing all the children and the many blessings they bring. Children begin the morning in worship at 10 am, and after the Children's Message, they go to their classes. Classes are for children ages 4 through grade 6.

Adult Bible Study— 1st and 3rd Sunday at 11:30 and 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6pm. Beginners are welcome!

Evangelism & Fellowship Team

Fellowship Hour—after worship, we get to know one another or catch up while we nourish our stomachs and our spirits. Please consider hosting one Sunday. The church provides coffee, tea, cups, plates, and plastic ware. The hosts bring a snack, quart of milk and juice.



Advent season we will be celebrating *Christmas Around the World*. Countries being celebrated are Western Europe; Eastern Europe; Scotland, England, Ireland; and Latin America, Mexico, Puerto Rico. If you would like to participate by bringing a traditional ethnic beverage or desert for coffee hour please see or call Valerie Pomaro 732-267-3658 to coordinate.

Reception of New Members—the Team is always ready to welcome you into this community.

Country Wonder – Carole Sloan sings lovely ballads with a country flair at 5 pm on the 2nd Sundays. Please bring a table ready dish to share and join us for a pot luck supper. It is a delightful evening of good music, good food and good fellowship.



Presbyterian Women

Monday, Dec 12th @ 1:30 pm All are welcome to attend.

Stewardship-Generations of Generosity



Thank you to everyone who has returned their 2017 Pledge card. If you still haven't and wish to there are extra cards available at the entrances of the sanctuary. Pledge card can be mailed to the office or put in the offering plate..

2016 Per Capita if you haven't already paid you have until 12/30/16. The Per Capita for 2016 is \$36 and will remain the same for 2017.

Shop Rite Gift Cards



Are you a Shop Rite shopper? If so you can support the church by purchasing Shop Rite Gift cards here. We are selling the gift cards as a fundraiser for the church. Gift cards are available in \$25 & \$50 denomination, you can purchase as much as you like and the church will be getting 5% of the proceeds. To purchase you can see Renata Sarajew or Dave Weeden after service or go to the office on Tuesday and Wednesday and see Laure.

Worship Team

Coming in 2017 you will have the opportunity to purchase a special bulletin for a holiday, in remembrance of or a special occasion to you. More info coming in January.





December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 6 Cub Scouts	3
4 10 Worship/ Communion Christmas Around the World Eastern Europe	5	6 6 Bible Study	7 1 Choir 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	8 9 Sr Deaf Club 10:30 Hampton Ridge Healthcare & Rehab	9 1 Al Anon Mtg 6 Cub Scouts	10
11 10 Worship CAW - England, Ireland, & Scot- land 11 Fellowship 11:30 Deacons 5 Country Won- der 7 Boy Scouts	12 1:30 Presbyteri- an Women	13	14 1 Choir 2 Choir's Christ- mas Party 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	15	16 1 Al Anon Mtg	17 5 Deaf Club
18 10 Worship CAW Puerto Ri- co, Mexico & Latin America 11 Fellowship 11:30 Session 7:00 Boy Scouts	19	20 6 Bible Study	21 1 Choir 3 Bell choir 6:30 N.A.	22	23 1 Al Anon Mtg	24 7 Candle light Service— Lessons & Caroles
25 Merry Christmas 	26	27	28 10 Food Pantry 6:30 N.A.	29	30 1 Al-Anon Mtg	31



**The Presbyterian Church
at Lakehurst, NJ**



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 Sunday School & Worship: 10 am
 Pastor Donna Lepsky
 Elder Dawn Heaney, Clerk of Session



WORSHIP  WITH US!

<p>December 4 2nd Sunday of Advent—Peace Christmas around the World Eastern Europe</p>		<p>Worship LDR—Glenn Milana Coffee Hour Host— Kelemen Family</p>
<p>December 11 3rd Sunday of advent—Joy Christmas Around the World England, Ireland, Scotland</p>		<p>Worship LDR—Valerie Pomaro Coffee Hour Host— Heaney Family</p>
<p>December 18 4th Sunday of Advent –Love Christmas Around the World Puerto Rico, Mexico, Latin Amer- ica</p>		<p>Worship LDR—Renata Sarajew Coffee Hour Host— Silvano & Anna Lugo</p>
<p>December 24 Christmas Eve Lessons & Caroles 7:00 pm</p>		<p>Worship LDR— Glenn Milana</p>
<p>December 25 Merry Christmas</p>	<p>No Service</p>	