

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church

908-996-2227

Email: office@frenchtownpres.org

Website: www.frenchtownpres.org

Worship Services

8:00 A.M. with Communion & 10:00 A.M. with Kid's Communities

Session (Elders)

Buildings and Grounds

John Fiebig 908-996-6436

Paul Pfisterer (chair) 610-294-9412

Christian Education

Tonya Reese (chair) 908-310-9240

Worship & Music

Gayla Gerhardt 908-310-0702

Clerk of Session

Ron Hartpence 908-246-7189

Mission and Outreach

Maureen Breiner(chair)908-995-4173

Bill Penyak 908-625-6575

Barbara Huey 908-268-3063

Stewardship

Leslie Callanan 908-310-9412

Con McCarthy 215-534-9248

Diane Reed 215-290-6615

Board of Deacons

Ken Gerhardt 908-310-1884

Deborah Fiebig 908-996-6436

Dave Griffith 908-693-0405

Jen Griffith 908-625-2943

Tiffany Hamilton 267-245-4452

Jen Giera 908-328-1683

Corporation Vice-President – Tonya Reese 908-310-9240

Deborah Hill 908-507-8803

Steve Moninghoff 201-919-0597

Debbie Godown 908-859-4038

Maddie Hendrix

Church Staff

Transitional Pastor

Nancy Asbury 908-996-2227

pastor@frenchtownpres.org

Church Secretary

Lea Raymond 908-996-2227

office@frenchtownpres.org

Treasurer

Sue Fitchett 908-996-2227

Food Pantry

Helen Lewis 610-294-9623

Youth Pastor

Robert Ross 609-571-8012

rob@frenchtownpres.org

Financial Secretary

Christine Aherne 908-996-2227

office@frenchtownpres.org

Choir Director/Organist

Joshua Wilson 610-393-8670

pianomanjosh117@gmail.com

Advent

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019 10 a.m. Worship

If you are visiting, please sign the guest book at the back of the church.

If you are a first time visitor, we have a small welcome gift for you. Please let an usher or the Pastor know you are here.

We Gather as the Community of Faith

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

When the sun rises what shall we sing?

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

And when chaos and violence echo on the screen?

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

For our God is a God of justice and peace.

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

So when all is wrong, or all is right,

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

Yes, when all is wrong, or all is right,

We will sing with joy and delight, of the God of justice and love and peace.

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

*HYMN #88 (vss. 1,6)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

I will wait . . .

. . .this week, we light the candle of joy to remind us that darkness does not have the last word.

May this light guide and inspire us as we work to spread God's joy and delight through this world. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In front of God and this church, I confess—
I am quick to complain, quick to criticize and conform. I am quick to forget, quick to doubt and deny. Instead of singing praise, I often stay silent.

May the God of shepherds and kings, the God of starlight and new life, offer you grace and show you the way home.

Amen.

**In front of God and this church, we confess—
We are quick to complain, quick to criticize and conform.
We are quick to forget, quick to doubt and deny. Instead of singing praise, we often stay silent.**

May the God of shepherds and kings, the God of starlight and new life, offer you grace and show you the way home.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God speaks to our fearful hearts: Be strong. Do not fear. I will come to save you. Sorrow and sighing flee away. Joy and gladness are yours. “The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.”

Praise God!

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**
All exchange signs and words of God's peace.

RESPONSE: Hymn 113 Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

TIME WITH CHILDREN

(Children may leave for Kid's communities)

We Listen for God's Word to Us

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1-10

ANTHEM

GOSPEL

Luke 1:46b-55

MESSAGE

We Respond to God's Call

*HYMN #98 (vss.1,2,4,6) *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY (*Hymn 108*) *Of the Father's Love Begotten (verse 6)*

**Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be.
Honor glory and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore! Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

God our Savior, we stand before you as those who are ready to be led by you in your way. Use these, our gifts, to clear the way for the coming of your goodness in full measure, through Mary's son, Jesus, and in the Spirit of the Christ. Amen.

We Go Out into God's World

*HYMN #305 (vss.1,2)

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

CHARGE AND BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

PRAYER REQUESTS Please continue to pray for those on the prayer request list. If you would like to receive the prayer list by email or if you have any prayer requests please contact Ken Gerhardt 908-310-1884 or email him at kennyg12@ptd.net



Offering Envelopes

If you have had offering envelopes in the past please look in Fellowship Hall for new ones for 2020. If you have not had in the past and would like them, please take a box and sign your name with the box number you have taken. If you have had envelopes and do not want them any more please call the church office at 908-996-2227.

Kid's Communities

Party for Jesus and Ginger bread house making

Calling all kids, how would you like to celebrate the Birth of Christ? Next Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. the Sunday School will be building Gingerbread Houses for you to take home, and we will be having a party for Jesus (cupcakes and hot chocolate). Come join in on the fun!

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a body of believers in Jesus Christ the Lord that strives to be a living reflection of God's love. We come together to confirm our individual faith while spreading the message of hope and love by serving those in need through mission and outreach.

NEWS AND EVENTS

EVENTS DURING THE WEEK - December 16-22

Monday

Low Impact Aerobics, 11:15-12:30

Tuesday

AA meeting, 6:30am

Senior Program, 11:30am

Boy Scouts, 7:30pm

AA meeting, 8pm

Wednesday

Bible Study, 9am

Low Impact Senior Aerobics, 9:15-10:30, 11-12pm

Women's AA Meeting, 9:30 am in Memorial Parlor

AA Meeting 7:30pm

Longest Night Service, 7pm

Thursday

AA Meeting 6:30am

Senior Yoga, 9:15-10:30

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Friday

Alanon meeting 12-1pm

Christmas Pageant, 7pm

Saturday

Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 8:30am

AA Meeting 7pm

Next Sunday

Gingerbread Making in Kid's communities

Caroling, 5-7pm



Christmas Eve Services

Family Service - 5 pm - An interactive version of the Christmas story culminating in a "Glo-ing" Silent Night

(Glo-sticks provide the "candlelight" at this Kid-friendly service)

Traditional Service - 8 pm - A traditional candlelight service of scripture, carols, and choral anthems sung by our choir.

Communion Service - 11 pm - A contemplative candlelight service of the story of Christmas featuring communion and music by special soloists.

Angel Tree Gifts

Angel Tree gifts due TODAY with the gift tags attached to the gift - drop off boxes will be in the Rotunda. If you have any questions, contact Debbie Kacerek Cooley at 973.271.7094 or by email dkacerekcooley@gmail.com.

Christmas Caroling

The Christian Education Commission would like to invite you to a night of Caroling on Sunday, December 22, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. We will provide cookies and hot chocolate for all who participate and are excited to spread our holiday cheer throughout the community. We hope you can join us. If you have any questions or want more information please contact Tonya Reese, Kristyn Eckert, or Rob Ross.

Soles4Souls

Total pairs of shoes donated to the Soles4Souls box located in Fellowship Hall is now at 5120 pairs!

Cantata Concert

"To A Newborn"

When: TODAY, Dec. 15 at 2:00 in the FPC sanctuary

What: A musical celebration of the birth of the Christ Child presented by the FPC choir

Let the season envelop you with this story of the nativity told through songs and carols woven together by poems and scripture. Concert is free with a good will offering taken. All proceeds benefit the FPC Music program.

The Longest Night

A Service of Healing & Hope in the Season of Advent.

The Longest Night Service is a service of scripture, music, and healing prayer. We invite you to experience a meditative worship service that takes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. During the service there will be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one, in support of someone who is hurting or simply for our own healing. Join us, Thursday, December 18th at 7pm in the sanctuary.

Christmas Pageant

Come be a part of the Christmas Season and hear the story of the birth of Jesus on Friday, December 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Karina, Josh, and the actors/actresses having been preparing to fill your hearts with the Christmas Spirit and bring you joy this holiday season.