

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

Lynn Freeman 267-784-2152

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

Pete Gordon (chair) 908-229-6835

Diane Reed 610-294-6673

Board of Deacons

Benevolence

Ken Gerhardt 908-310-1884

Short-Term illness

Dave Griffith 908-693-0405

Jen Griffith 908-625-2943

Hospitality

Joyce Hartpence 908-246-0058

Debbie Godown 908-859-4038

Shut-ins and Long-Term illness

Deborah Hill 908-507-8803

Deborah Fiebig 908-996-6436

Bereavement

Debbie Godown 908-859-4038

Youth Connection

Maddie Hendrix

Events

Dave Griffith 908-693-0405

Corporation President – Peter Gordon 908-229-6835
Corporation Vice-President – Tonya Reese 908-310-9240

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



Frenchtown Presbyterian Church December 16, 2018 10 a.m. Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent

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.

*The * indicates points in the service where you are invited to stand, if that is comfortable for you. All are invited to join in speaking or singing when **Bolded** words appear.*

God Gathers Us in Love

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

O Come, Little Children

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Behold, God is good!

God has done great things for us!

May our souls magnify God's name.

May our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

* HYMN #347 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (verses 1-3)*

READING

"Angel-filled Advent" by Ann Weems

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

God of incomparable love, thank you for the gift of life, for the gift of this day, and for everyone who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus Christ.

We light this candle as a sign of hope in your promises that truth will prevail, and justice will be done, for all people.

Happy are those who know how to praise you, who walk in the light of your presence.

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep.

Forgive us.

You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done.

Teach us to give thanks for the gifts that you have given and in our gratitude use those gifts for the common good, that in helping, we may find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God is light! In God there is no darkness! Arise! Shine! Our Light awaits!

Our future awaits us with hope. We will walk in the light of God's grace! Alleluia! Amen!

*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 -refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

TIME WITH CHILDREN

(Children may leave for Kids' program)

God Speaks to Us Through God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Give us, O my Lord, that purity of conscience which can alone receive your inspirations. Teach us to sit at your feet and hear your word. Amen

HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 12:2-6

ANTHEM *All My Heart This Night Rejoices*

GOSPEL Luke 1:46b-55

MESSAGE

God Calls Us to Respond

*HYMN # 99 *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

**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

Holy God, by your Spirit you inspire us to stand up for the oppressed and to work for harmony among all your people. May our offerings plant seeds of hope that the work of your kingdom will establish your reign on earth. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Amen.

God Sends Us Out to Reflect God's Love

* HYMN # 106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *Still, Still, Still*

POSTLUDE



Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant will be held on Friday, December 21, 2018 at 7pm.

Help Wanted

Are you in High School and looking for service hours? We are looking for young adults to volunteer their time the first Sunday of each month (doesn't have to be every month) to help our children grow spiritually. We need you to led our youth in a game, craft, etc. while the parents are in Worship. If you are interested please contact Krysten Eckert, 973-534-9155, Tonya Reese, (908) 310-9240, or Lynn Freeman (267) 784-2152.

End of Year Donations

All donations for 2018 need to be received by **December 31, 2018** to be counted for 2018. Any and all donations received in 2019 will be recorded for 2019. If you have any questions or concerns please call Christine Aherne on Tuesdays from 9am-3pm at 908-996-2227.



Christmas Eve Services

5:00pm Family Service
8:00 pm Candlelight service with Choir music
11:00pm Candlelight service with Communion

Regular worship times of 8am and 10am on December 30th.

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

Today

Cantata Concert, 2p

Tuesday

AA Meeting 6:30am

Mommy and Me Music Program, 10:45am

Senior Lunch and Learn, 11:30am

Session meeting, 7pm

Wednesday

AA Meeting 7:30pm

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

Bible Study, 9am, in youth room downstairs

Thursday

AA Meeting 6:30am

Alanon meeting, 12pm

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Longest Night Service, 7pm

Friday

Christmas Pageant, 7pm

Saturday

Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 8:30am

AA Meeting 7pm

Next Sunday

Christmas Caroling, 5:30pm

DEACON OF THE MONTH - Please contact the Deacon of the month **Ken Gerhardt 908-310-1884**, if you or someone you know is in the hospital or needs other assistance from the Deacons.

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

2019 offering envelopes are in Fellowship Hall and ready to be picked up. **If you don't have an envelope** and would like one, please take one and sign up that you took one. **If you have envelopes** and don't want them, please leave a note letting me know. Any questions call Christine at 908-996-22278 on Wednesday's from 9-3pm.

The Longest Night Service - 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 20th at 7pm in the sanctuary

Random Act of Kindness

The Deacons and the Food Pantry are asking for help from the congregation to serve the Lord by serving others during this Advent season. We are looking for help with shopping for items needed for the Food Pantry. A shopping list will be provided as well as dates for signing up and instructions of how to pay using our ShopRite charge card. Please call or text Deacon Ken Gerhardt if you are interested in helping out at 908-310-1884



Christmas Cantata

Join us TODAY at 2pm for a Holiday Celebration "A Midnight Clear." The concert is free but donations are encouraged. All proceeds benefit the music program.

Buildings and Grounds needs your help!

The Building & Grounds Commission is looking for folks that would be interested in helping out with various projects that are on our revolving TO DO LIST. Contact either John Fiebig at 908-996-6436 or Paul Pfisterer at 610-294-9412.



Calling all Bakers and Voices,

We will be caroling on December 23rd from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. We are looking for donations of cookies to hand out while caroling. Please have all donations to the church by Sunday, December 23rd at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Rob Ross (rob@frenchtownpres.org), Tonya Reese (908) 310-9240, or Lynn Freeman (267) 784-2152 with any questions or if you are willing to donate cookies.