

# Frenchtown Presbyterian Church

908-996-2227

Email: [office@frenchtownpres.org](mailto:office@frenchtownpres.org)

Website: [www.frenchtownpres.org](http://www.frenchtownpres.org)

## Worship Services

8:00 A.M. with Communion & 10:00 A.M.

### Session (Elders)

#### Building and Grounds

Ed Marston 215-297-8208

Eugene Hill 908-996-3037

#### Christian Education

Michelle Hendrix 908-995-4967

Lynn Freeman 267-784-2152

#### Community Life

Leslie Callanan 908-310-9412

David Fleck 973-903-4536

#### Mission and Outreach

Barbara Huey 908-268-3063

#### Stewardship

Kevin Smith 610-982-0138

Harry Cooley 908-313-6405

#### Worship

Diane Reed 610-294-6673

Gayla Gerhardt 908-310-0702

#### Clerk of Session

Yoama Pons 610-217-0913

### Board of Deacons

#### Benevolence

Deborah Cooley 908-995-7770

#### Short-Term illness

Sharon Beck 908-752-3822

Dave Griffith 908-693-0405

Sonja Mitchell 908-892-2021

Jen Griffith 908-625-2943

#### Hospitality

Joyce Hartpence 908-246-0058

Deborah Cooley 908-995-7770

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

Sonja Mitchell 908-892-2021

Jennifer Cwynar 908-334-1826

#### Youth Connection

Madelyn Freeman

#### Events

Dave Griffith 908-693-0405

### Church Staff

#### Pastor

Rev. Courtney Cromie 561-703-2263

[pastorcourtney@frenchtownpres.org](mailto:pastorcourtney@frenchtownpres.org)

#### Church Secretary

Lea Raymond 908-996-2227

[office@frenchtownpres.org](mailto:office@frenchtownpres.org)

#### Treasurer

Sue Fitchett 908-996-2227

#### Organist

Josh Wilson 610-393-8670

#### Youth Pastor

Robert Ross 609-571-8012

[rob@frenchtownpres.org](mailto:rob@frenchtownpres.org)

#### Financial Secretary

Christine Aherne 908-996-2227

#### Choir Director

Kathy Hartman 484-226-0017



## FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

*Welcome to all who worship with us this morning!*

### 8:00 A.M. Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

\*Hymn #119

“Hark the Harold Angels Sing”

Advent Wreath Lighting – Light of Joy

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading

Psalm 98:1-6, Luke 2:8-12

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon “There is the Light of Joy in the Darkness of Fear”

Offering

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

The Lord’s Supper

Charge and Blessing

### 10:00 A.M. Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

The Lord be with you.....and also with you!

Choral Introit

### **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship

Leader: All creation holds its breath. The time is almost here.

**People: The heavenly choir of angels is waiting for their cue to sing.**

Leader: Excitement is all around us. We prepare for Emmanuel, God with us.

**People: God is coming into the world, our Messiah.**

Leader: Let us make ready our hearts for the newborn child, Christ the Lord. He is our joy.

**All: Let us Worship God!**

\*Hymn #143 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Advent Wreath Lighting – Light of Joy

Prayer of Confession

Dear God, our Father, we want to thank you for your patience. We are a rebellious people where we love you one moment and we forget you the next. Thank you for your endless love which does not give up reminding us that you want the best for us despite our many faults. Thank you for your promise to all who believe that if we put our trust in you, that we will have everlasting life. In this Advent season, your call resounds in our hearts and minds to follow the star that is your light of hope. Help us to find your forgiveness at the manger that we may know of your salvation. We pray this in the one who is coming, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Children’s Message

(Children may leave for Kid’s communities, Youth may leave for Echo)

Passing the Peace Hymn #591 "Halle, Halle!"

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!** (Please pass the peace of Christ.)

Ordination and Installation of Deacon - Ron Hartpence

### God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Scripture Reading Psalm 98:1-6

Choral Anthem

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-11

Sermon "There is the Light of Joy in the Darkness of Fear"

### God Calls Us to Respond

\*Hymn #119 "Hark the Harold Angels Sing"

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Gifts of the People

Offertory

Doxology\* "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Dedication

### God Sends Us Out to Reflect His Love

\*Hymn #134 vs 1& 4

"Joy to the World"

Charge and Blessing

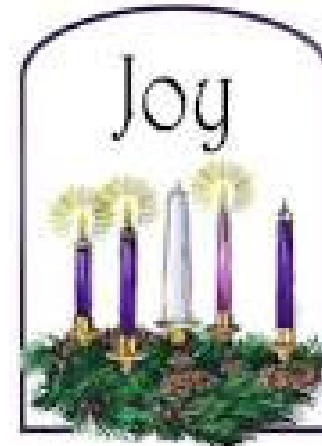
Choral Benediction

Postlude

*\*please stand if able*

\*Child Care is available during the 10:00 am service for infants and young children. The nursery is located in room #5 down the back stairs and to the right.

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### Christmas Pageant

Come and celebrate Christ's birth with us at this year's Christmas Pageant on Friday, December 22nd at 7pm. Children who are participating in the pageant will be practicing today after the 10am Worship until 1:30pm. (Lunch will be provided)

### End of the Year donations

The end of the year is approaching quickly. Please make sure all donations intended for 2017 be received by December 31, 2017. All donations after that date will be credited to 2018- No Exceptions. Please contact the church office at 908-996-2227 if you have any questions.

### Offering Envelopes

2018 giving envelopes will be in the Fellowship Hall during the month of December. If you would like to have envelopes for 2018 please call the church office 908-996-2227 or email [office@frenchtownpres.org](mailto:office@frenchtownpres.org)

### Stewardship News

As the 2017 year comes to a close, please consider making a Christmas or year-end gift/contribution in support of the valuable ministries of your church, Frenchtown Presbyterian Church. In 2017 our total pledged amount from members and friends was \$116,104 of which 93% or \$107,569.88 has been received. Our goal, with your help and generosity, is to hit 100% by 12/31/17 which is 8,534.12. In addition to the pledge amounts we received for 2017, we also had other contributions to Frenchtown Presbyterian totaling \$129,758.42 as of 12/13/2017.

So far we have received a commitment in pledges of \$100,508 for 2018. If you have not yet given your 2018 pledge, please consider making that step and possibly making a step-up. If you have already made your 2018 pledge, we thank you. We wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas! Stewardship Committee

## 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 17-23**

#### Today

Youth Group bread making and caroling  
Deacon Christmas Trip, bus leaves at 1pm

#### Monday

Men's Group, 7pm in the Memorial Parlor

#### Tuesday

AA Meeting 6:30am  
Senior Lunch and Learn Christmas trip  
Session Meeting, 7pm at the Manse

#### Wednesday

AA Meeting 7:30pm  
Bible Study, 9am

#### Thursday

AA Meeting 6:30am  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30p-9pm  
Advent Study at the Manse, 7-9pm

#### Saturday

Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 8:30am  
AA Meeting 7pm

**DEACON OF THE MONTH** - Please contact the Deacon of the month **Dave Griffith at 908-693-0405** 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](mailto:kennyg12@ptd.net)

### Christmas Eve Services

Our 8:00 AM Christmas Eve Communion Service will observe the fourth Sunday of Advent. There will be carols, a message, prayers, Bible Readings, and the opportunity to partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Come and celebrate the birth of our Lord first thing in the morning. *\*Childcare is not provided at 8:00AM service.*

Our 10:00 AM Christmas Eve Service observes the fourth Sunday of Advent and features carols and stories from the Bible. We invite all to come in their pajamas to be relaxed and informal. This service is a possible alternative for those who do not drive at night or for those who are not able to join us at a later service. *\*Childcare is not provided at the 10:00 AM service.*

**5 PM Christmas Eve Family Service** is for the young and the young at heart. This is a wonderful time of worship for children, families, and adults to worship together at a casual, family-friendly service for all ages. There will be a Christmas story, Bible Readings, carols, and the opportunity to celebrate the Birth of Jesus together. Let us enjoy the holiness and excitement of the Christ child's arrival early in the evening.

**8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** is a traditional service. We will sing carols, listen to choral offerings, hear scripture readings, and light candles to celebrate Christ's birth.

*\*Childcare is not provided at the 8:00 PM service*

**11:00 PM Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service** is a traditional worship service. We will sing carols, listen to choral offerings, hear scripture readings, partake of Holy Communion, and light candles to celebrate Christ's birth.

*\*Childcare is not provided at the 11:00 PM Service*

### Advent Study with Pastor Courtney

Pastor Courtney will be continuing her Advent Study Series with the last session, this Thursday, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at The Manse. All are welcome. Any questions, contact [pastorcourtney@frenchtownpres.org](mailto:pastorcourtney@frenchtownpres.org)

### Christmas trip

There is still room to join us for **Christmas in the Ballantine House**. Ticket provided by the Deacons. The bus will leave the church at 1pm **today**. Ballantine House, offers visitors a taste of how Christmas was celebrated in late Victorian Newark, as English, German and Dutch holiday traditions. In addition, we will be touring the Newark Museum, which is on the same property. A signup sheet is posted on the "I Can Do That Board" Contact Dave Griffith at 908-693-0405 with any questions.

### Youth Group (all ages invited)

#### **Bread Baking**

**Sunday, December 17th, 3:00pm-6:00pm:**

Help Prep, Bake & Wrap Loaves of Bread & Christmas Cards for the food pantry families. A meal will be served @ 5:30pm

#### **Christmas Caroling**

**Sunday, December 17th, 6:00pm-8:00pm:**

Meet @ FPC, Travel to Neighbors in Frenchtown.

The best way to spread Christmas Cheer is by singing loud for all to hear!

### Weekly Bible Study

Each Wednesday at 9 am our Bible Study group meets downstairs and studies one or more Bible passages for the coming Sunday. Bible Study is co-led by Glenn Horvath and Pastor Courtney

### Pavers for the Front Walkway

Are you looking for a great way to honor the life of a family member or a special someone this Christmas? If so....consider giving a paver for the front walk-way of the church. Cost is \$99.00. Any questions please contact Bill Penyak at 908-625-6575 or the church office at [908-996-2227](tel:908-996-2227)/[office@frenchtownpres.org](mailto:office@frenchtownpres.org).