

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 Hill 908-507-8803

Deborah Fiebig 908-996-6436 Steve Moninghoff 201-919-0597

Dave Griffith 908-693-0405 Debbie Godown 908-859-4038

Jen Griffith 908-625-2943

Tiffany Hamilton 267-245-4452 Maddie Hendrix

Jen Giera 908-328-1683

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

Advent

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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

Canticle of Turning

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are courageous

When we are vulnerable.

We are courageous

When we are honest with ourselves.

We are courageous

When we extend words of welcome.

We are courageous

When we invite others to sit with us.

We are courageous

When we proclaim the love of God to a broken world.

We are courageous

When we say that love cannot wait.

So let us be courageous—

Let us worship Holy God.

*HYMN #88 (vss. 1)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

I will wait . . .

. . . So today we light the candle of love to remind us to spread love wherever we go.

May we be courageous enough to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we long to be as courageous as Joseph—
Brave enough to trust your call, and strong enough to hold onto one another.

There are so many places in the world that could use our courage.

You know them, but we do too.

So when fear takes over, forgive us.

When our knees shake and our words fail, forgive us.

When self-hatred is easier than self-love, forgive us.

When walls are more convenient than peace, forgive us.

When pessimism is more convenient than hope, forgive us.

When our comfort is more important than our neighbor, forgive us.

You invite us to be courageous. Forgive us.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God comes to all of us with saving grace. During this Christmas season, let us remember the loving gift of Jesus Christ who died for us and rose again for us.

Behold! Our sins are forgiven. Amen.

*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*)

Holy Word, you are our guide and ultimate assurance. By your Holy Spirit, open us to your promises and commands and shower us again with the fire of your love. Amen.

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

ANTHEM

Navidad Glorioso

MESSAGE

We Respond to God's Call

*HYMN #205

Live in Charity

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*)

Gracious and loving God, we offer our prayers and these gifts to you in response to your great love for us. May these tokens of our love proclaim that the true reason for our joy this Christmas season is the birth of your love in human form in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen

We Go Out into God's World

*HYMN #104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CHARGE AND BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Love has Come

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

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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.

New Beginnings

Thanks to all who came to their 1st small group meeting. We'll be taking a break for Christmas. Small groups will gather for their seconds meetings in January to continue this important work.
Sunday, January 5 at 11:30 am, Wednesday, January 8 at 7 pm
Thursday, January 9 at Noon. If you missed out on the 1st small group meeting and would like to join in this important work, please call the office to sign up.

Christmas Caroling

Join us for a night of Caroling **tonight from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** We will provide cookies and hot chocolate. If you have any questions or want more information please contact Tonya Reese, Kristyn Eckert, or Rob Ross.

End of Year Donations

All donations for 2019 need to be received by December 31, 2019 in order to be counted for 2019. Any and all donations received in 2020 will be recorded for 2020. If you have any questions or concerns please call Christine Aherne on Wednesdays from 9am-3pm at 908-996-2227.

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 23-29

Monday

Low Impact Aerobics, 11:15-12:30

Tuesday

Christmas Eve Services, 5pm, 8pm, 11pm

Wednesday

Thursday

AA Meeting 6:30am

Senior Yoga, 9:15-10:30

Friday

Alanon meeting 12-1pm

Saturday

Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 8:30am

AA Meeting 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.