

## 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. 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](mailto:pastor@frenchtownpres.org)

##### Church Secretary

Lea Raymond 908-996-2227

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

##### Financial Secretary

Christine Aherne 908-996-2227

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

##### Choir Director/Organist

Joshua Wilson 610-393-8670

[pianomanjosh117@gmail.com](mailto:pianomanjosh117@gmail.com)



## Frenchtown Presbyterian Church December 23, 2018 10 a.m. Worship 4<sup>th</sup> 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

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (verse 1)*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Watch! Wait! The day of God is at hand!

**Like the bud on a tree, God's possibilities are about to blossom!**

Stay awake! The reign of God is very near.

**We are here, watching and waiting with hope.**

May God bring justice to all people this very day.

**We rejoice in God as children of the light!**

\* HYMN #93

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

READING

*"The Coming of God" by Ann Weems*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

God of all creation, give life and hope to your church and to cities and towns, neighborhoods and nations that long for new vision and new birth.

We light this candle as a sign of God's presence in Christ, now and always. That we may trust that God is with us and live in the light of Christ's coming.

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

PRAYER FOR GRACE (*unison*)

**God, it would be nice to recognize angels and, like Mary, say “OK. Here am I.” But since you don’t often come in shining wings, in a flash of light, give us your watchful Spirit, that by your grace, we may hear and answer your call, honestly and faithfully, knowing that for you, nothing is impossible, in Jesus Christ. 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

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation.  
**Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE     Isaiah 7:10-16

EPISTLE                     1 Corinthians 1:4-8

ANTHEM                                     *O Come Little Children*

GOSPEL                     Mark 13:32-37

MESSAGE

*God Calls Us to Respond*

\*HYMN # 102                                     *Savior of the Nations, Come*

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

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.**

*God Sends Us Out to Reflect God’s Love*

\* HYMN # 357                                     *The Days Are Surely Coming*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

RESPONSE                                     *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming (verse 2)*

POSTLUDE

Advent creates people, new people. We too are supposed to become new people in Advent.

Look up, your redemption is drawing near. Something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

### 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 Traditional Service  
11:00pm Candlelight Service & Communion

Regular worship times of 8am and 10am on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

## 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**

#### Today

Christmas Caroling, 5:00-7:30pm

#### Tuesday

Christmas Eve Family Service, 5pm  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 8pm  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion, 11pm

#### Wednesday

AA Meeting 7:30pm  
Women's AA Meeting, 9:30 am in Memorial Parlor

#### Thursday

AA Meeting 6:30am  
Alanon meeting, 12pm

#### Friday

#### Saturday

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

**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](mailto: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 908-996-2227 on Wednesday's from 9-3pm.

### Deacon Invite

Start the New Year feeling supported and loved by your church. The Deacons cordially invite you to join them right after service on January 6th, in Fellowship Hall, to hear how our Deacons can help you, and what Deacons do in our church. Coffee and refreshments will be served. We look forward to sharing some time with you and getting to know you better.

### 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

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

There will be no Wednesday morning bible study on December 26<sup>th</sup> or on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will resume on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the Youth room downstairs.

### 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.



### Christmas Caroling

Join us tonight as we spread some Christmas cheer as we sing carols through Frenchtown and hand out cookies. Please meet at the church before 5pm, Caroling will begin at 5:00pm Song books will be provided. Please contact Rob Ross ([rob@frenchtownpres.org](mailto:rob@frenchtownpres.org)), Tonya Reese (908) 310-9240, or Lynn Freeman (267) 784-2152 if you have any questions.

### Church office closed for the Holiday's

The Church office will be closed from December 25 until January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the church staff.

### Christmas Joy Offering

In the pews this Sunday are Christmas Joy offering envelopes. This offering gets divided evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions-This program provides critical financial assistance to retired clergy and active members in need of support. Schools and colleges equipping communities of color, and Leadership development for people of color with leadership opportunities in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).