

## 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

##### 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

##### Clerk of Session

Ron Hartpence 908-246-7189

#### 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 9, 2018 10 a.m. Worship 2<sup>nd</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

INTROIT

*King Jesus Hath a Garden*

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Now is the time of watching and waiting.

**The time of pregnant expectation of new life.**

Now is the season of hope unfolding.

**The dark season when hope is waiting to be born.**

Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

**Let us rejoice and sing for our God comes!**

\* HYMN #104

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

READING

*"The Christmas Spirit" by Ann Weems*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Spirit of God, stir us, again and again, to dream of new possibilities, and energize each other with new expectations. We light this candle as a sign of our hope of ultimate newness before and after death and in your new creation.

Rekindle among us the good news that in Jesus Christ the lamb can lie down with the wolf, the lost can be found, and young and old can be reborn.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Life-changing Spirit, we come as people who are often lost. In the frenzy to put Christ back in Christmas, our senses are dulled to your presence among us. Overwhelmed by the busyness of the season, we sometimes forget who and whose we are.

**As we prepare to receive Christ this Advent, guide us in the way of repentance - in our life together as church, in our relationships, in our homes and beyond - that our lives may be turned around, more than we bargained for, but not less than we dared to hope, through 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 (*unison*)

**Inspire us as we hear the Good News that we may be spiritually prepared for another encounter with the living Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 35:1-10

ANTHEM *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

MESSAGE

*God Calls Us to Respond*

\*HYMN # 96

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

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 of peace, we come in response to Christ's call to us, seeking to follow and fulfill his commands. Accept the gifts we offer as symbols of our commitment; sanctify them, that they may be used as you desire.

May all that we do be in accord with the gospel of the one whose coming we await.

**Amen.**

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

\* HYMN # 97

*Watchman Tell Us of the Night*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

RESPONSE

*Still, Still, Still*

POSTLUDE



### Christmas Pageant

Save the Date! The Christmas Pageant will be held on Friday, December 21, 2018 @ 7pm. Please contact me for more information, mhendrix@ptd.net / (908) 797-4198



### Angel Tree

The Angel Tree gifts must be at the church by **TODAY**. If you have any questions, contact Debbie Kacerek Cooley at 973.271.7094 or by email [dkacerekcooley@gmail.com](mailto:dkacerekcooley@gmail.com)

### Food Pantry

Next Sunday is Food pantry Sunday. Please bring something in for the Pantry. Some items needed: tuna, canned chicken, canned fish/seafood, pasta,, pasta sauce, and condiments-mayo, ketchup, and mustard.

### Christmas Breakfast

Next Sunday is the Monthly church breakfast. Come enjoy a free Christmas Breakfast. 8:30am-10am

## 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 10-16

#### Today

Cantata Practice, 11:30am in music room

#### Monday

Deacon Meeting, 7pm

#### Tuesday

AA Meeting 6:30am

Mommy and Me Music Program, 10:45am

Senior Lunch and Learn, 11:30am & Mindful Eating Program

#### 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, 7pm

#### Saturday

Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 8:30am

AA Meeting 7pm

#### Next Sunday

Monthly Breakfast

Christmas Cantata, 2pm

**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)

### 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 lead 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.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 December 16<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Rob Ross ([rob@frenchtownpres.org](mailto: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.