

FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 PO BOX 114, FOURTH STREET
 FRENCHTOWN, NJ 08825
 908-996-2227, WWW.FRENCHTOWNPRES.ORG

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:



Our 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.

Our 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*

Our 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*

Jesus Is The Reason

In Bethlehem, God gave to us
 The source of Christmas joy;
 A star shown on a miracle:
 The virgin birth of a boy.
 He was born both God and man,
 A Savior for us all,
 The way to get to our heavenly home,
 If we just heed His call.

So as we shop and spend and wrap
 And enjoy the Christmas season,
 Let's keep in mind the sacred truth:
 Jesus is the reason.

By Joanna Fuchs



DECEMBER 2019

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What is the Tradition of Advent?

The beginning of the church year is marked with the season of Advent. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word "Adventus" which means arrival or coming. The Advent season is one of preparation, reflection, hope, and excitement as we wait for the arrival of Jesus.

The Advent Wreath:

The Advent wreath is a wonderful visual way of helping our children understand Advent as a time of waiting, preparation and anticipation. The use of the Advent wreath with four candles has been an Advent ritual for hundreds of years. The Advent Wreath is a symbol of the 4 week wait for Jesus' birth.

The **green branches** remind us of the new life we have in Jesus, **the circle** represents the eternity of God's love for us - with no beginning and no end.

The Candles:

First Purple: "Candle of Hope" It symbolizes faith in God keeping his promises to humanity and reminds us to be patient for his arrival. Light this each day the First Week of Advent.

Second Purple: The second is called the "Candle of Preparation," reminding Christians to "get ready" to receive God. Light two purple candles the Second Week of Advent.

Pink Candle: "Candle of Joy." It recalls the angels joyfully singing about the birth of Christ. Light the Pink and two purple the Third week of Advent.

Third Purple Candle: "Candle of Love" reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth because he loves us. Light three purple and pink on the Fourth Week of Advent.

SPECIAL SERVICE

The Longest Night - 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 18th at 7pm in the sanctuary.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Are you interested in getting involved but do not want to commit to something that will take up hours of your time. Why not sign-up to help in a Sunday School classroom (you will not need to prepare a lesson) or provide meals (Sunday evening meetings for youth group) or transportation (events taken place off site for the youth group). There will be sign-up sheets on the "I can do that" Board. Remember, the time you give to our children now is helping to guide them into a Christ like future. If you have any questions please contact Tonya Reese, Kristyn Eckert, or Rob Ross.

Party for Jesus and Ginger bead house making

Calling all kids, how would you like to celebrate the Birth of Christ? On Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. the Sunday School will be building Gingerbread Houses for you to take home, and having a party for Jesus (cupcakes and hot chocolate). Come join in on the fun!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Come be a part of the Christmas Season and hear the story of the birth of Jesus on Friday, December 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Karina, Josh, and the actors/atresses having been preparing to fill your hearts with the Christmas Spirit and bring you joy this holiday season.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Christian Education Commission would like to invite you to a night of Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 22, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. We will provide cookies and hot chocolate for all who participate and are excited to spread our holiday cheer throughout the community. We hope you can join us.

If you have any questions or want more information please contact Tonya Reese at 908-310-9240, Kristyn Eckert, at 973-534-9155 or Rob Ross at 609-571-8012.





On Sunday we celebrated Marie's & Josh's Birthdays with singing and cake.

Sunday was Josh's birthday and Marie turned 90!! (WOW) on November 25th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MARIE AND JOSH!



POINSETTIA FLOWER ORDERS

Poinsettia flowers Christmastime, in honor of, or in memory of those you love. Red or White plants are available for \$8.00 per plant. Order forms available at the back of the sanctuary. Please have orders in by **Sunday, December 8th** to Margaret Pfisterer 610-294-9412

Red or White

Placed in memory of _____

Placed in honor of _____

or to the Glory of God

Placed by _____

Please make checks out to PW Women of Frenchtown. Thank You!

FPC CONCERT SERIES

Next up in the Concert series is the Christmas Cantata on December 15th at 2pm. Admission is free with a good will offering taken to support the music ministry at the Frenchtown Presbyterian Church.



Save the dates for upcoming concerts;

January 26th - 2pm, Mason McDowell, NYC singer/songwriter

February 29th - 7pm, Coffee House and Open Mic

March 28th - 6:30pm, Gala night, The Heimat String Quartet, tickets \$15.00

May 3rd - 4pm, Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Greetings to you from the Finance and Stewardship Commission!

We've been blessed recently to have several members of the congregation share a piece of their story about why they give their time, talents and treasures to Frenchtown Presbyterian Church. We've heard about the sense of welcoming and belonging, of making a choice to make church a part of daily living, of the belief in the mission, the leadership and the financial standing of the church, to name just a few.

And, this past Sunday's Service of Thanksgiving highlighted to abundant reasons we have to give thanks.

As we approach the close of the calendar year, and we all get busy preparing for the holidays, we humbly ask you to consider your blessings, and why you give to our church. You don't need to share publicly (but we'd love it if you would!), but the reasons you give are vital to our mission. "We are a body of believers..." that has so much great work to do in His Kingdom – and YOU are a big part of that work.

December 1 was Pledge Dedication Sunday – remember to return your completed pledge cards so that we can accurately plan our work for 2020.

Yours in Christ, Leslie Callanan and Diane Reed



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.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women will be holding a Christmas cookie sale on Sunday, December 15th. Cookies will go on sale beginning at 8:30 am.

Cookies Needed

The Presbyterian Women are asking for homemade cookie donations for their Christmas cookie sale. All homemade cookies need to be brought to the church on Friday, December 13th by 9:30 am as we will be putting the trays together at that time. Thank you. Contact Gayla Gerhardt if you have any questions 908-310-0702

Thank you from PW

The Presbyterian Women would like to thank all those who donated items, made things, made cakes, pies, cookies, jellies and jams. Those who helped with set up and clean up. And to all those who purchased things from our annual Christmas Sale. Because of everyone's generosity we raised approximately \$2700.00. All of which will be shared with our church and our community.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27

The ladies preparing and making the soup for the Soup Sale at the annual Christmas Bazaar.



ANGEL TREE

Once again, the Deacons will be sponsoring the Angel Tree to provide Christmas gifts for the children and grandchildren of our Food Pantry families and assist the Holiday Fund. The Holiday Fund is sponsored by the Frenchtown Lions Club and Frenchtown American Legion and provides holiday gifts to over 100 children and their families, in Frenchtown and surrounding communities.

The Christmas tree in the Rotunda now has tags with information about the child and a wish list, as well as wrapping instructions and other information. When choosing a tag, don't forget to enter your name, telephone number and email address for the tag number you are taking on the signup sheets – there are sheets for the Food Pantry and Holiday Fund tags. The gifts must be at the church by **Sunday, December 15th, with the gift tags attached to the gift – drop off boxes will be in the Rotunda.**

If you have any questions, contact Debbie Kacerek Cooley at 973.271.7094 or by



BOOK CLUB

The book club will be meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, Tuesday, December 10th at 7pm in the Youth Room downstairs. The book they will be discussing is "Still Me" by JoJo Moyes. Contact Connie Sworen for any questions at 908-996-6533.

All are welcome even if you've never come before!



The church office will be closed From December 25th until January 2nd, 2019

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! from the church staff.

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church
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Frenchtown, NJ 08825

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FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Regular Service Times

8:00 a.m. with Communion

10:00 a.m. Family Service with Kid's Communities

December 16th - Breakfast

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 PM Family Service

8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

11:00 PM Communion and Candlelight Service