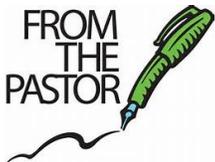


FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CROSSTALK



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



Dear Friends,



2017

We find ourselves in the month of November, the season of Thanksgiving. This time of the year encourages us to consider our many blessings. As people of faith, we know that the Lord is good and that all we have comes from Him. Two passages from Scripture remind us to be thankful to God and to trust Him for provision. In 2 Corinthians 9:15, it says, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" The gift that this verse refers to is the gift of Jesus Christ. For Jesus is the gift above all gifts.

Sometimes we begin to think that there are not enough of God's blessings for all the people of the world and their many needs. Our Lord promises us that His grace is sufficient and that there is abundance of blessings for all. In Philippians 4:6-7, it says, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

The Stewardship & Finance Commission, the staff, the deacons, and the session greatly appreciate your willingness to be faithful and generous in your contributions to the ministry and mission of our church. We know that the Bible says that all that is good comes from heaven above. We also know that the Bible says that we respond to the goodness and God's blessings, by giving back. As we look ahead to our church's ministry for 2018, God encourages us to re-examine our financial situations that we might dig deeper and consider stepping-up in faith to support God's work here and through Frenchtown Presbyterian Church. As you promise and as you commit to a pledge of time, talents, and financial gifts know that this is your pledge between you and God. Thank you for your faithfulness and your generosity. And, thank you for being a very important part of Frenchtown Presbyterian Church. In the month of November and over Thanksgiving, let us thank God for his indescribable gift in Jesus Christ and for his many blessings in our lives, in our communities, in our world, and in our church. As we commit ourselves to the support of God's ministry here and beyond, may we trust that God's blessings are in abundance and they are multiplying and overflowing to reach the world so that all will may see God and know our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Happy Thanksgiving! I thank God for the gift of you and for the gift of Frenchtown Presbyterian.

In Christ's Unfailing Love, Pastor Courtney



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Worship Schedule

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We are excited about worship at FPC! Courtney's series of Foundations of Faith will continue through November, and then we head into the Advent season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please be sure to mark your calendar with the following:

- December 3 - Hanging of the Greens service; no communion at 10:00 AM Service
- December 3 - Advent Wreath family activity following the 10:00 service
- December 10 - Communion served at the 10:00 AM service
- December 10 - Christmas Cantata, 2:00 PM.
- December 22 - Children's Christmas Pageant, 7pm. Rehearsals will start in November.
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Sunday morning—regular worship times, 8am, 10am: Pajama day
Evening services: 5 PM – Children's service
8:00 PM traditional service with choir and candle lighting
11:00 PM candle light service & Communion.



MUSIC

It's hard to believe it's almost Thanksgiving and then Christmas. It's also time for celebrating Jesus' birth and a season of love for family and friends.

On December 10th FPC will celebrate the season with our 3rd annual Holiday concert. This year we will be presenting the Christmas Cantata..

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

Created by Sue C. Smith and Russell Mauldon, this musical is set in a small town square as a local church choir gets ready for their annual Christmas presentation. Through the eyes of a local street vendor, several heart-felt stories are retold to communicate just what makes this annual event so special. The music includes both traditional Holiday sacred and secular songs that we will encourage you to sing along with us.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year !

Sunday, December 10, 2017

2:00 p.m.

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church

Reception to follow

Admission: monetary donation to help the church music fund

We are looking for a few people who might be interested in helping to tell the story. You don't have to sing!

Come hear this wonderful story of a Christmas gift that will last forever!

KID'S COMMUNITIES

ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP... Our *Advent Wreath Workshop* will be held Sunday December 3rd after the 10AM worship. We will provide a reusable wreath base, the supplies to roll your own beeswax candles, and a Family Devotional for the Sundays in Advent. **Bring some greenery from your yard to share** -- everything else will be provided! Please contact Kristyn Eckert kristyneckert@gmail.com if you have any questions.



SECRET SANTA WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 10th at 2:00PM

Children will have the opportunity to create and wrap homemade gifts for their loved ones for Christmas at multiple workshop stops downstairs, while parents enjoy the beautiful voices and sounds of the Cantata upstairs.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

It's that time of year again!!! Although we have a few months, the Christmas Season is nearing us! What an exciting time of year it is. The lights will be hung and be shining bright, trees will be up and decorated, stores will be filled with people looking for the perfect gift, and the most important reason for the season; the birth of Jesus Christ, the best gift that could have ever been given to us. We need all youth involved, young and old! There are many ways to help; speaking parts, non-speaking parts, lights, sound, back stage hands. We also need some parents willing to help us out as well. There is room for everyone!!! Please sign up! The Christmas Pageant will be held on Friday, December 22, 2017 at 7pm. Please contact Michelle for more information, mhendrix@ptd.net or (908) 797-4198. ***Jesus is the reason for the season!***



Time Change! Don't forget! Daylight savings time begins THIS Sunday, November 5th. Remember the old adage "Fall back, Spring ahead! Hope to see everyone on time for the 8 am & 10 am services.



Our New Clerk of Session

The Session voted in our new clerk of session at the October Session Meeting. Yoama joined our church in 1993 and has served Frenchtown Presbyterian faithfully as an elder and chair of stewardship for many years.

Yoama has two children, Christina and Tommy, who are very active at Frenchtown Presbyterian. Christina, "Tina," is a sophomore at Penn State University and Tommy is taking college courses and sings in our church choir. Her husband, Kevin Smith, is a new elder on session and is also Frenchtown Presbyterians' new chair for our Stewardship and Finance Commission.

Yoama currently serves as Vice President and Treaty/Program Underwriter for Munich Reinsurance America, Inc. in Princeton, New Jersey. We are grateful that Yoama has offered up her service to God as our new Clerk of Session. She shared that God has touched her heart in response to the opportunity to share her gifts in this role.

We offer our thanks to Kathy Skerbetz, who served as our Clerk of Session, for over ten years. In her life and as a church member, Kathy has been faithful in her service to God and in church leadership. We are grateful to you, Kathy.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN

PW Fall Soup, Bake Sale & Homemade Crafts

On **Saturday November 18, 2017**, 9am-1pm & **Sunday November 19, 2017** from 8:30am-12pm the Presbyterian Women will be having their annual Christmas Bazaar and will be selling Homemade Soups; Vegetable Beef~~Chicken Vegetable~~Vegetable, Homemade Baked Goods & Homemade Crafts.

PW Needs Your Help with donations of baked goods and crafts. If donating baked Goods Please label Item & if it contains nuts. **Please do not price items.** If donating homemade crafts, **Please Price** items.

Please bring all donated items to the church not later than Saturday November 18th by 8:30am. Thank you. If you have any questions please contact Gayla Gerhardt at 908-310-0702.



POINSETTIA PLANTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Time to order Poinsettia plants for Christmas time. Red or White plants available for \$8.00 per plant. Placed *in memory of, in honor of, or to the Glory of God.*

Order forms are available at the church or call Margaret Pfisterer at 610-294-9412 or the church office at 908-996-2227.



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FOOD PANTRY ANGELS

This year the Deacons will be helping our food pantry families have a merry Christmas. Beginning on Sunday, November 27nd the Christmas tree in the rotunda will once again be covered with **Pastel Angels**. Please stop by and take an angel or two off the tree. PLEASE make sure to write your name and phone number on the sign up sheet next to your angel number. All gifts must to be dropped off in the fellowship hall (look for the big blue tubs) **by December 11th. Gifts should be WRAPPED, with the angel tag attached**



ANGEL TREE

The Deacons will also be helping our food pantry families have a merry Christmas by providing gifts for their children and grandchildren. Beginning on Sunday, November 26th, the Christmas tree in the rotunda will once again be covered with **Pastel Angels**. Please stop by and take an angel or two off the tree. PLEASE make sure to write your name, phone number and email address, if you have one, on the sign-up sheet next to your angel number. All gifts must to be dropped off in the fellowship hall (look for the big blue tubs) **by December 10th. Gifts should be WRAPPED, with the angel tag attached.**



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Next Sunday, November 5th, we will have time to consider how God has blessed us and how we might be a blessing to others in return. During the 8 AM and the 10 AM worship services, we will have an opportunity to submit our pledge cards for our annual stewardship campaign. Our campaign has encouraged each of us to step-up in our giving. When we bring forward our offerings, not only do we share sacrificial financial pledges and tithes, but we also promise to share our time, our talents, and our very selves to God. God is the provider of all that we have and it is an honor to invest in the ministries and the future of our church. There will be a Stewardship Sunday Celebration of Our Church following the 10 AM worship at 11:15 AM. There will be cake and a slideshow of pictures to appreciate all that was accomplished in the name of Christ in 2017.



God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things may have an abundance for every good work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:8

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church
**COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING
DINNER**



Come Enjoy Good Food & Great Community



All Are Welcome!

Hosted By: FPC Youth Group

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Dinner Served @ 4:00pm

Volunteers, Cooks & Dish Donations Needed!

Contact: Robert Ross - rob@frenchtownpres.org (908) 996-2227
Frenchtown Presbyterian Church 4th Street, Frenchtown, NJ 08825

YOUTH GROUP

November

3rd-4th, Friday-Saturday: Youth Lock-in @ FPC
5th, Sunday, 11:30am: Senior High Bible & Brunch (Meet @FPC)
9th, Thursday, 5-6:30pm: The Gym (Open Gym @ FES)
12th, Sunday, 2-7:00pm: Worship @ Broad Street Ministry
19th, Sunday, 3:00pm: Community Thanksgiving Dinner @ FPC
30th, Thursday, 5-6:30pm: The Gym (Open Gym @ FES)

December

2nd, Saturday: Frenchtown Borough Santa & Tree Lighting
3rd, Sunday, 11:30am: Senior High Bible & Brunch (Meet @FPC)
3rd, Sunday, Bread Baking, Wreath Making & Christmas Caroling
10th, Sunday, 2:00pm: Church Choir Christmas Cantata
14th, Thursday, 5-6:30pm: The Gym (Open Gym @ FES)
17th, Sunday, 11:30am: Senior High Bible & Brunch (Meet @FPC)
22nd, Friday, 7pm: Children & Youth Christmas Pageant

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION NEWS

The Stewardship Commission is working very hard on the Stewardship Campaign. We want to make all of you aware of the many ways in which you can give of your time, talents and gifts.

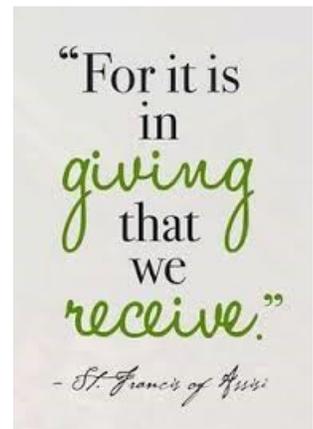
This is a very crucial time in the life of our Church. In order to continue the many programs and missions of our Church, we need to ask each and every member of the Congregation to prayerfully consider to step up their Pledges for the coming year. We as a Church are very fortunate in that the Church does not have a mortgage; however, we do have to maintain our beautiful building and pay monthly bills such as electric and oil and this is very costly. We also need to pay salaries and we need funds to continue our very important programs and missions.

It is never easy to ask for money, but I have learned it is very gratifying to give to others.

Stewardship Sunday is not the only opportunity that we have to Pledge. It is, however, a celebration of giving. If you were not present on Stewardship Sunday, please submit your Pledge Cards as soon as possible so that we can be sure to include your tithes in the Budget for the coming year. No amount is too big, or too small; every gift matters to God!

Thank you for your time, your talents and your many gifts!

Thank you to all who contributed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Recovery and other Natural Disasters around our nation. Our Denomination seeks to be faithful in offering support in seasons of distress. Each of us can pray and each can offer financial support. Others can volunteer to assist in the rebuilding of homes and businesses, and lives. As those who were affected face grief and transition, our prayers, our time and talents can help others to be resilient and overcome the tragedies they have faced. For more information on Presbyterian Disas-



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

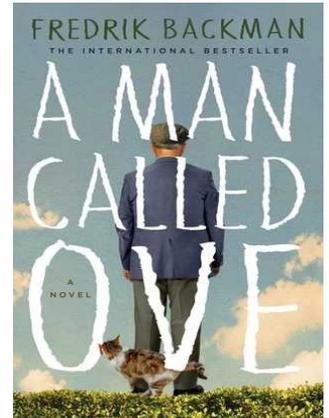
BOOK CLUB

Come join us at the next Book Club: Monday, November 27th 7-9pm.
It will be a Pot Luck so bring some of your Thanksgiving leftovers to share!

Book: *Man Called Ove*, by: Fredrik Backman

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him “the bitter neighbor from hell.” But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered on his face all the time?

Behind the cranky exterior, there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations."



OPEN HOUSE AT THE MANSE

There will be an “Open House @ Pastor Courtney's House” on Saturday, November 11th, from 4 – 9 PM. Everyone is invited to come and go as they please to visit with members and friends of Frenchtown Presbyterian Church and enjoy some appetizers, snacks, s'mores/desserts, and a hot meal. Come and have a time of fellowship and fun. All ages are invited!

Thanksgiving Day Prayer

For the wide sky and the blessed sun,
For the salt sea and the running water,
For the everlasting hills
And the never-resting winds,
For trees and the common grass underfoot, we thank you.
We thank you for our senses
By which we hear the songs of birds,
And see the splendor of the summer fields,
And taste of the autumn fruits,
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,
And smell the breath of the spring.
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;
And save our souls from being so blind
That we pass unseeing
When even the common thornbush
Is aflame with your glory,
O God our creator,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.
~Walter Rauschenbusch (1861–1918)

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church
4th Street PO Box 114
Frenchtown, NJ 08825

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NOVEMBER

FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Regular Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. with Communion

10:00 a.m. with Kids Communities

Monthly Breakfast, November 19th

Ignite Youth - fellowship, fun, mission & study