**Frenchtown Presbyterian Church**

908-996-2227

Email: office@frenchtownpres.org

 Website: www.frenchtownpres.org

**Worship Service** 9:30AM

**Session (Elders)**

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| **Building and Grounds** | **Mission and Outreach** |
| Paul Pfisterer 267-884-6198 | Maureen Breiner 908-235-8431 |
| John Fiebig 908-996-6436 | Jennifer Campbell 908-502-2575 |
| Carl Stokes 215-429-1010 |  |
| **Christian Ed**Tonya Reese 908-310-9240  | **Worship & Music**Kathy SkerbetzFran Volski 908-625-0974 |
|  | Bill Penyak 908-625-6575Jennifer Griffith 908-625-2943  |
| **Personnel** | **Clerk of Session** |
| Bill Penyak 908-625-6575 | Kathy Skerbetz 908-720-6533 |
| Dave Griffith 908-693-0405Bernard Volski 908-797-9807 |  |
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**Board of Deacons**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Benevolence** | **Shut-ins and Long-Term illness** |
| Ken Gerhardt 908-310-1884 |  |
| **Short-Term illness** | **Bereavement** |
| Carole Barrett 908-419-7082 | Carole Barrett 908-419-7082 |
|  |  |
| **Hospitality** |  |
| Sharon Beck 908-752-3822 |  |
|  |  |

**Church Staff**

**Pastor** pastormerideth@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Merideth Mueller-Bolton 1-609-303-0500

**Church Secretary Financial Manager**

Lea Raymond 908-996-2227 Mary Ann Hampton 908-996-2227 office@frenchtownpres.org finance@frenchtownpres.org

**Treasurer Music Director**

Nick Barrett 908-996-2227 Josh Wilson 610-393-8670

 pianomanjosh@117@gmail.com

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**FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**December 18, 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Welcome to all who worship with us this morning!**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting

Introit Hymn#137 vs 1 “He Came Down”

 *He came down that we may have love;*

*he came down that we may have love;*

*he came down that we may have love;*

*Hallelujah forevermore.*

 **God Gathers Us in Love**

Call to Worship

 Leader: The Christ child comes,

**People: And we await his birth**

Leader: Let us throw off our distractions,

**People: And allow the chaos to settle.**

Leader Let us watch for the signs,

**People: And listen to the messengers.**

Leader: Let us stand on tiptoe,

**People: And shout aloud and sing.**

Leader: Something new is emerging,

**People: Something new is being birthed.**

\*Hymn # 88 vs. 1,2,7 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

 **Lord Jesus Christ, you are loving and merciful. Forgive us**

 **for being so captivated by Christmas that we forget that you, the little baby in the manger, grew up as Lord over all creation. We need your grace and your strength to follow you more closely. Forgive us for all our sins, and hear us as we continue to pray in silence…***Silent prayer*

Assurance of Pardon

\*Passing of the Peace

\*Gloria Patri #113 (refrain) “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**God Speaks to Us Through God’s Word**

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25

Choral Anthem “Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Scripture Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon “World News Today”

**God Calls Us to Respond**

\*Hymn #110 “Love Has Come”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology – Hymn #108 v.6 “Of the Father's Love Begotten”

\* Prayer of Dedication

Reception of New Members – Susan Dunham and Natalie Mullins.

**\*** Affirmation of Faith for Advent (by N. Nettleton)

**We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin**

**and destiny of us all.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ— God coming to us in the**

**fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—**

**who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the**

**face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free**

**the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise**

**where justice and peace will flourish.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of**

**truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers**

**us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading**

**and deceitful.**

**We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the**

**Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be**

**consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,**

**when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow**

**will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and**

**gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God's desire.**

**For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray:**

**Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

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

\*Hymn # 143 vs 1.2.4 “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Charge and Blessing

Benediction “While We Are Waiting, Come”

Postlude “O Come Emmanuel”

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**Christmas Eve Services**

Christmas Eve Services will be a 5:30pm

Family Service & 8pm Traditional Candlelight Service

Christmas Day will be an online service

**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 19-25**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

 Card Games, 2-4pm in Fellowship Hall

 AA Meeting, 8pm

**Wednesday**

 AA Meeting 7:30pm

**Thursday**

 AA Meeting 6:30am

**Friday**

 Alanon Meeting 12-1pm

**Saturday**

 Saturday Women's AA Group Meeting 9am

 AA Meeting 7pm

**Book club**

The book club will be meeting on January 9th at 1pm downstairs in the church.  The books they will be discussing are "3 Sisters" by Heather Morris and "Eternal" by Lisa Scottoline.

**End of the Year donations**

The end of the year is approaching quickly. Please make sure all donations intended for 2022 be received by December 31, 2022. All donations after that date will be credited to 2023 - No Exceptions. Please contact the church office at 908-996-2227 if you have any questions.

**Christmas Cantata**

Join us today at 1pm for a musical celebration of the Christmas story by Lloyd Larson, “The Glory of Christmas.” This is a fun cantata that tells the Christmas story through music featuring favorite carols and some original music

This is a free event. Refreshments will be served after.

**Help with finger food snacks would be greatly appreciated.**

**Church office hours**

The Church office will be closed between Christmas and New Year.

We will be checking messages and emails.

**Poinsettia Flowers**

For those who ordered Poinsettia flowers you may pick them up after the services on Christmas Eve,