

First Presbyterian Church

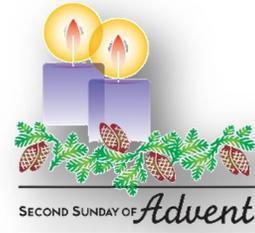
P.O. Box 1, 3 Wantage Avenue, Branchville, NJ 07826

The Rev. Dr. Jefferson L. Hatch, Pastor; Kay L. Hatch, Music Director/Organist
Demetri Savapolous, Videographer; Alycia Gardner, Administrative Assistant

<http://www.fpcbranchville.org> - 973-948-3495 – Facebook: friend "pastorjh@ptd.net"

ORDER OF WORSHIP

2nd Sunday of Advent, Greening of the Church
Liturgical Color: Purple, symbolizing *Royalty*
December 4, 2022 10:00am



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

The Greening of the Church

In today's service we will experience a transformation of our sanctuary from its usual appearance into one that is prepared to receive the Christ-child. We dedicate the entire service to this celebration, remembering along the way the traditions and the meaning behind the symbols that aid us in our preparation in order to experience a fuller and merrier Christmas.

BOLD means the congregation reading or singing
*The congregation standing in body or spirit

PRELUDE

"Ding Dong Merrily on High"

CALL TO WORSHIP

PASTOR: Let us worship God. In this season we praise God with our hearts and minds and voices. Let us continue to prepare for the coming of the Christ-child.

PEOPLE: Today our house of worship is preparing for God's presence, so that we might also prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son.

PASTOR: Through the symbols and traditions of our faith, we remind ourselves of God's steadfast love for us all.

PEOPLE: May we open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to receive God's message of love today.

PASTOR: As we prepare the way of the Lord, may he come down the road of our life to meet us today.

PEOPLE: May we be better prepared to welcome Jesus' coming because of our worship today.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

(Please respond "amen" to this and all prayers, making them your own)

*HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus our Christ;

you continually open the ways to us that we are to prepare.

We confess our unwillingness to see the light and walk your way.

We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others,
and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace.

We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, and that our hearts may be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service. Amen.

(Silent Personal Confession)

DECLARATION OF PARDON

PASTOR: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

PEOPLE: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

HYMN

Deck the Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of holly! Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

Don we now our gay apparel, Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

Troll the ancient Yule-tide carol, Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

See the blazing Yule before us, Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!
Strike the harp and join the chorus, Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!
Follow me in merry measure, Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!
While I tell of Yule-tide treasure, Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

ADVENT WREATHS & LIGHTING THE 2nd ADVENT CANDLE—Peace

The Knaust Family

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Patapan Noel”

Chancel Choir

RESPONSIVE READING: Luke 1:68-79

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² **The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—**

³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴ **but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.**

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶ **The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.**

⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸ **The infant will play near the cobra’s den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.**

Together: ⁹ **They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.**

THE POINSETTIAS

The Reinertsen Family

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
Karen Opilla, Piano and Kay Hatch, Organ

Piano/Organ Duet

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 3:1-12

THE TREE AND CHRISMONS

Marion & Buzz Alden

HYMN

The First Noel

1. The first noel, the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up, and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued
both day and night. *Refrain*

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above the deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

3. **Bill Pay** – Your bank probably offers this option to make donations one-time or on a recurring basis - it's free, and 100% of your gift is received!
4. **QR Code** - Use the graphic shown to the right and scan it with your phone's camera - no need to take a picture, just click the link that appears on your screen.
5. **Attend** worship in person and put your offering in the plate as it's passed.
6. **Mail** in your donation to: First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1, Branchville, NJ 07826.



OFFERTORY

"Sussex Carol"

Kay Hatch

***THE DOXOLOGY**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.***

***OFFERTORY PRAYER & GREETING**

SANTA CLAUS

Mrs. Claus

WE GO TO SERVE GOD

THE WASSAIL

Nancy Swanson & Debbie Anderson

THANKS & BENEDICTION

***TWO-FOLD AMEN** to the refrain of *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

A---men in excelsis Deo

A---men in excelsis Deo

***POSTLUDE**

"God Rest Ye Merry"

Kay Hatch

Many Thanks to those who worked behind the scenes helping set up our sanctuary prior to the Greening: to **the Opilla family** for putting up our tree, and to the **Music & Worship Committee** for getting all of our decorations ready. Big thanks to the **Daisy Roe Chain** for decorating our Fellowship Hall so beautifully and providing the cookies, to **Linda Osborne** for our wassail and getting the names for our Giving Tree, and *special* thanks to **Jeanne Heinke** for appearing in our service. All others not mentioned, *thank you!*



Please join us for wassail next door after the service. And then please help us build our Graham Cracker Village in the Fellowship Hall after you have some refreshments. Children of all ages are invited to help – it takes a village!



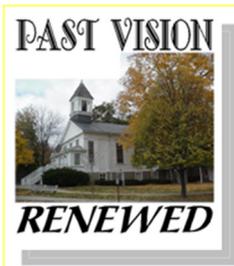
Announcements

December 4, 2022



WELCOME! We give you warm greetings on this Sunday of our Greening of the Church. Please join us to again learn the significance of the Christmas symbols we use to decorate and celebrate this holy-day. Lots of carols, decorating the tree, an appearance by Mrs. Claus, and wassail to drink next door afterward as we usher in the season with our Greening.

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE would like to invite everyone to join us in the Fellowship Hall today, following the Greening, to build a Graham Cracker Village. It will be a great time for us to grab a warm drink during Coffee Hour and then gather for this festive activity at the beginning of the holiday season.



DONATE TO THE PAST VISION RENEWED (PVR) CAMPAIGN - We are proud of the improvements that have been made to our church, but there are a few more big items on the list! The latest goal is to raise about \$20,000 toward removing our deteriorating ramp and putting in a chair lift to provide easier access to the sanctuary for those who have difficulty with steps. We currently have around \$16,000, so are nearly there! And once the chair lift is put in, our *next* item is to air condition the sanctuary (and we already have \$10k donated just toward that!).

So, we encourage you to continue supporting the PVR so that improvements like this may continue (the prioritized list in the Fellowship Hall on the front wall). Thank you in advance for your support.

Please make checks payable to: "First Presbyterian Church" and drop in the offering plate or mail to the church office. **December 18th is the deadline for making contributions to be included in the Christmas bulletin listing of those who donate and dedicate it to the memory of or in honor of a loved one.** Thank you in advance for your holiday donation.

FOURTH QUARTER LOCAL MISSION - Since 1997 Family Promise of Sussex County



has provided services to assist families and single men and women as they work towards housing stability and self-sufficiency. Family Promise of Sussex County works to eradicate homelessness in Sussex County and provides resources to strengthen children and families. They provide emergency

shelter, meals, counseling, and intensive case management services. Your contributions to the 4th Quarter Mission (October–December) will go to this very worthy program to help our Sussex County neighbors who are in dire need. If you'd like to donate, you may mail a check made out to "First Presbyterian Church of Branchville" with "Family Promise" in the memo. Your contributions to special mission projects make a big difference!! Thank you for your generosity.





PER CAPITA REMINDER - Just a friendly reminder for those who have not yet paid their Per Capita this year - it is \$40/person and helps our church a great deal when we don't have to take such a large sum from our already tight budget. As of November, we have only received \$2,124.00 towards our \$8,520.00 due. In 2023 it raises to \$42.50/person.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2022 - Any offerings that you wish to be posted for 2022 must be received by December 31, 2022.



GIVING TREE STOCKING STUFFERS - A BIG THANK YOU to Lauren Seeger for organizing our giving tree outreach over the past many years! Your organizational skills made it easy for the congregation to bring smiles to children in need on Christmas morning. THANK YOU!

This year, however, we are doing the Giving Tree differently. With very few children from our food pantry in need of Christmas gifts, the Andover Presbyterian Church received an unprecedented request for gifts during the holidays. Their food pantry services over 42 Sussex County families with children, so they are putting together a Christmas stocking for each of the children that they serve which includes a gift card and a few small gifts. Our Deacons thought we could partner with them by providing 20 filled stockings.



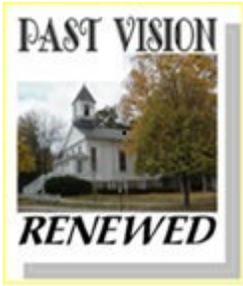
We will provide the stocking, along with the age and gender of the child you are buying for. These can be picked up following the Greening Service in the Fellowship Hall. The stocking needs to be returned, though, by next Sunday, 12/11. Some suggestions:

1. Provide 3 or more age-appropriate items that would fit in the stocking, such as gloves, Hot Wheel cars, bubbles, card games, silly putty, socks, markers, puzzle books, etc. AND
2. A \$25 gift card to Walmart (or similar store) in our area.

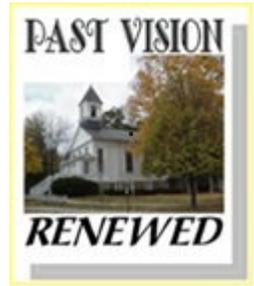
Both the Deacons and the Andover Church are thankful for your help in putting a smile on a child's face Christmas morning! Any questions, please see Linda Osborne or contact her at 201-317-4756.

CALENDAR OF MINISTRIES AND ACTIVITIES		
DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
Today	10:00am	Worship, Greening of the Church, Livestream via Facebook Build Graham Cracker Village - Fellowship Hall
	Around 1:00pm	Worship recording available on YouTube
Monday	10am-12:30pm	Food Pantry open (food will be pre-bagged to pick up outside)
	3:00pm	Music & Worship Meeting
Wednesday	10am-12:30pm	Food Pantry open (food will be pre-bagged to pick up outside)
Thursday	10am-12:30pm	Food Pantry open (food will be pre-bagged to pick up outside)
	7:00pm-8:00pm	Chancel Choir

Next Sunday	10:00am	Worship, 3 rd Sunday of Advent, Livestream via Facebook
	11:30am	Bells of Branchville Rehearsal



**PLEASE DONATE TO THE
PAST VISION
RENEWED CAMPAIGN**



We are proud of the many improvements that have been made to our church from our Priority List, but the list isn't complete. We encourage you to continue supporting the PVR so that improvements may continue to our facilities (the prioritized list is posted on the front wall of the Fellowship Hall). Our current project is to save toward a new chair-lift to go up to the sanctuary, to replace our worn-out ramp. Thank you in advance for your support.

Please make your check payable to:

"First Presbyterian Church"

and drop it in the offering plate during worship,

or mail it to the church office at:

First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1, 5 Wantage Avenue, Branchville, NJ 07826.

The Deadline for being listed in our Christmas Bulletin is December 18th.

Donation to the PVR Campaign \$_____

Given by: _____

Given in Memory of: _____

-or-

Given in Honor of: _____

Thank you for your holiday donation.