



GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

The Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury

December 2, 2020
Volume 57, Issue 23

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 2020

9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Mark 1:1-8

Communion

And The Peace Candle

In-Person and Virtual Worship Service



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020

9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Music & The Love Candle

In-Person and Virtual Worship Service

CHRISTMAS BAGS FOR THE GWCM

FOOD BANK: The bags are beginning to be prepared. If you have any items to donate, please drop them off at the church as soon as possible. Your generosity is greatly appreciated:



- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Toothpaste | Tooth brushes |
| Soap or Body Wash | Shampoo |
| Combs/Hairbrushes | Conditioner |
| Body lotion | Deodorant |
| Razors | Men's tube socks |

All donations should be dropped off at the **church**. Thank you!

FROM THE PASTOR...

In the December section of my daily Dietrich Bonhoeffer reader, I found this Christmas poem. It is not a “champagne-filled, warm-fuzzy, feel-good” poem. Rather, it is one that stopped me, sobered me up as a Christian and set me to really meditating on the meaning of the birth of Christ, Emmanuel, God With Us, especially during this season of separation, masks and quarantine:

“Who will celebrate Christmas correctly?
whoever finally lays down all power,
all honor, all reputation, all vanity,
all arrogance, all individualism
beside the manger.”

This is a call for Christians to make a response to God who came in love to us and asks us to consider a response to God’s act of love in the Christ Child.

This poem doesn’t mean that we must enter the Christmas Season with long faces, responding in dire sacrifice to Christ’s birth. We may rejoice with the angels, with the shepherds who are the metaphor for all people in all walks of life. We may approach the manger with the reverence of the wise men in response to the baby king, who is God’s love lying there. We may approach the manger with our customary Presbyterian Church at Woodbury generosity, service to others and joyful worship, even if it is via FaceBook Live.

Yet, we bear in mind that “laying down...” the many things that weigh us down in sin, and the rejection of all the goodness of God, is the most important response to God’s love a follower of Jesus can make.

This is Christmas 2020 and I give thanks for the many generous acts and ways you have figured out how to be the church during this season of Covid-19. Thank you. Also, I give thanks for the ministry of the entire staff, who have found vibrant ways to serve this congregation in these challenging times. May God continue to bless the congregation as we seek to celebrate Christmas correctly beside the manger!

I invite you to make a Christmas contribution to the Presbyterian Church at Woodbury to the glory of God and the work we do together for Christ’s sake and the sake of our neighbors. Please send a check to the church office, set-up an electronic payment through your personal bank or use the Presbyterian Foundation link: https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGdIRMKlg0BDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JIDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbfjY8UBSSftx2ymakSqPaciYnTg5dP406rpX5QvPEWIBhHDN59kLZFffwKfYERpOnusRCtPwLW84Tr3NoS3XJU=&ver=3

And most of all, I invite you to make your response this Season by joining the Body of Christ in worship either in the church sanctuary or on-line via FaceBook. There is no better way to say, “We love you back, God” than to connect in praise and thanksgiving.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Philip W. Oehler, Sr.

BIBLE STUDIES: The following Bible Studies will be held at the church:

- Dave Platt's Sunday Bible Study will resume in January.
- Tuesdays at 1:00 – 2:00 pm. 60+ Bible Study. A 7-week class on The Grace of Les Misérables which ends December 8th. Led by Milt Fredericks.



SWEATER WEATHER

IN THE CHURCH: Join us for worship each Sunday at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. (Doors do not open until **9:10** am). Because of COVID 19

protocol, the windows will be cracked open during the service, so please bring a sweater or jacket if it is chilly. If you feel the need to worship from home, we will be continuing our FB Live services. Again, thank you for your prayerful patience during this difficult time.

CHRISTMAS JOY

OFFERING: The Christmas Joy Offering supports a variety of needs: The Board of Pension's

income supplement, nursing home care assistance and emergency need grants for retired church workers; the Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges of the Presbyterian Church (USA); and our church's special interest missions in Honduras, Nepal and Haiti. Checks should be made payable to our church – mark the memo line "Christmas Joy" and mailed in or put in the offering plate. **No** envelopes will be placed in the pews this year. Please give with joy!

REMINDER: If you have not turned in your Pledge card for 2020, please return it to the Church Office, email it to Kathi.lynch@pcwoodbury.com, mail it to the church or to Kathi Lynch at 1510 Manduit Street, West Deptford, NJ 08086 as soon as possible.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2020



DECEMBER 6, 2020 @ 9:30am

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - MARK 1:1-8
COMMUNION & THE PEACE CANDLE

DECEMBER 13, 2020 @ 9:30am

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28
MUSIC & THE LOVE CANDLE

DECEMBER 20, 2020 @ 9:30am

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LUKE 1:26-38
LESSON/CAROLS & JOY CANDLE

DECEMBER 24, 2020 @ 5:30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE - LUKE 2:1-20
VIRTUAL WORSHIP ONLY & CHRIST CANDLE

DECEMBER 27, 2020 @ 9:30am

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS - LUKE 2:22-40
PRE-RECORDED to FaceBook Live

JANUARY, 3, 2021 @ 9:30am

300TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION w/ COMMUNION
PRESIDENT DAVID ESTERLINE
from PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



THANK YOU: *"Please accept our sincere thanks for your expression of sorrow after the passing of Fred. Your prayers have comforted us at this time. We know how much you care for us." Geri Petri and Family.*

OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR, Becky Schad, is now attending Princeton Theological Seminary. Please keep Becky in your prayers as she begins this next step in her spiritual journey.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Wendy Kunz, Al Edwards, Geri Petri, Meg Orem, Charlotte Nelson, Janet Muhm, Judy Fetty, Emma Mustard, Alex Jenei, and Marie Batten. A reminder to keep our military personnel in your prayers, including Jonathan Gabler, Nathan Wadding, Cameron Wadding, Jarrod Fetty, and Wesley Tatham.