

# The Pipe Organ

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH New Vernon, New Jersey

VOL. 66 NO. 10

December 2017

This is the irrational season
when love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
there'd have been no room for the child.
After Annunciation by Madeline l'Engle

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas."

I'll never forget uttering this phrase to a Starbucks barista at 6 in the morning, having been in line for two hours. I'd received an email the night before that the first 50 customers who said this phrase would receive a "limited edition free gift," and I'd convinced myself this was a good idea.

By the time I got to the front of the line, I was so embarrassed all I could muster was a whispered "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." The barista made me repeat it three times before reaching down and pulling out the saddest, smallest, gold coffee tumbler the world has ever seen. Needless to say, that experience has permanently put me off Black Friday shopping.

The days following Thanksgiving seem to fly by as we dash headlong into the celebration of Christmas. But before we rush ahead to the manger, this Sunday marks the beginning of Advent—the season when the church gets ready for Christmas. The season of Advent invites us to pause, to spend time noticing where we see God in our midst, and to find hope in God's promise to make all things new. The word Advent means appearance or emergence. And our calling as Christians during Advent is to watch for places where we see God's Spirit appearing or emerging in the world.

The Jesuit priest Anthony de Mello said, "There is no prayer sweeter than a grateful heart." And one of the easiest ways to notice God's presence is to reflect on what you are most grateful for. Sometimes, when things are familiar or habitual, it's easy to take them for granted. And sometimes because of our busy schedules and our emphasis on productivity, tunnel vision blinds us to the many things and people that sustain and nourish us throughout the day.

At Thanksgiving most of us naturally pause to take stock of our lives and to reflect on what we're grateful for. And I'd like to challenge all of us to make this a daily practice during Advent this year. To pause once each day and ask the question—"What am I most grateful for today?"

Making Gratitude a habit can help us be more attuned to God's presence in both the mundane and challenging moments we face. It trains our

Continued on next page

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

#### **FPCNV Staff**

Rev. William H. Stone, III Pastor

Dr. Martin Sedek, *Music Director* 

Jany Izaguirre, Accompanist

Debbie Hennessey
Office Administrator and
Manager of Accounting

Darlene Cappel Financial Secretary

Tony Rodriguez, Church Custodian

### **Elders**

Jonathan Shelby, Clerk of Session

Julia Buteux

**Todd Claytor** 

Tom Ewig

Tom MacCowatt

Jenn McCann

Jane O'Keefe

Don Richardson

Peter Saulnier

Eileen Urban

Carol Conger Vellekamp

Keith Wood

### **Deacons**

Barbara Gill, Moderator

Robyn Brown Lisa Chapman

Jane Coyle

Andrea Di Ruggiero

Olin Friant

Beth Gibson

Dave Mitchell

Sue Mitchell

Susie Morris

Karen Pennett

Judith Shelton

Faith Winow

### Continued from page 1

In the midst of our busy days

In the midst of our Christmas parties and holiday shopping

Even In the midst of our long and dark nights

God appears...promising to walk with us and to continue bringing the healing, and hope of God's kingdom into our world...

until the day when the swords of war will be beaten into plowshares and the spears of fear and ignorance will be shaped into pruning hooks

And until that day comes we wait and we watch supporting one another and giving thanks to God.





### **NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

November 21, 2017 Devotions led by Rev. Stone



### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Youth Education (Don Richardson):

- Messy Church was successful, the next one is December 2, looking for more volunteers
- Christmas pageant on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> will be very spontaneous
- Sunday School rotation is going well with a contingent of 7 teachers and another group of 7 who can fill in
- Trying to create a Toddler Time for mid-week playtime for community's small kids and their parent(s)

### Congregational Life (Jenn McCann):

- Halloween party went well, many costumes made it fun
- Christmas dinner will be a formal roast beef dinner, \$20/adult, \$5/children, under 5 free, December 9 with a reception 5-6 in library, then dinner; some music will be provided, and the tree will be up; there will be crafts and a Santa Claus for the kids

### **Finance (Keith Wood)**

- Stewardship is \$264k pledged from 79 members, target is \$388k
- Crossroads Society letters are going out for members to consider including the Church in their estate planning; now there is a lapel pin, selected by Bill, a Celtic knot, rollout next year
- Debbie and Keith went to a Financial Workshop at the Presbytery and learned rental income should not be included in gross revenue for churches; churches need to have an up-to-date "policy and procedure manual" that describes what they do

### **Building & Grounds (Tom Ewig, absent):**

- Water is good and drinkable, per Don Richardson report
- Paving in the parking lot is complete for now
- Looking for new members
- All the lighting has been upgraded to LED, uses one tenth the energy, 80% funded by the company, cost us \$14k, payback of 1½ years

### Membership (Jane O'Keeffe):

• Had a meeting November 2, discussed many of the same things: picture directory, piggybacking the welcome group at the Library, when to have services over Christmas in the local papers; would like to have an email list for communications

#### Mission & Outreach (Eileen Urban):

- MHA social dinner coming up Nov. 28, with 45-50 guests; Eileen's hospital is contributing a van to transport about 12 more than last year
- Working on drive for Chaplaincy program; Nancy Barrett looking for people to be on the Board
- 2017 Christmas offering will go to Deirdre's House, hoping they can have someone speak in church

### **Nominating (Tom MacCowatt):**

- Julia Buteux is stepping down as Chair of Adult Ed., looking for replacement
- Five people whose Session terms are up; Tom, Carol, and Keith will return. Lisa Chapman heading up Deacon search; Mike McCann, Karen Pennant joining up.

Personnel (Jonathan Shelby): Year-end review of all Church employee contracts continues

### Worship and Music (Peter Saulnier):

• Edna Conway asked if we can sell tickets to the Christmas Concert at Coffee Hour; artists are Eileen and pianist, rest of \$ would go to Deirdre's House

Adjourned with prayer by Bill Stone at 9:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Jonathan Shelby, Clerk of Session

### Calendar of Events 2017-2018

DECEMBER	MARCH (MAR-JUN Finance & Session Meetings TBA)
SAT 12/02 Messy Church @ 4 pm - 6 pm (Advent Theme)	SAT 03/03 Square Dance @ 6 pm - 9 pm (CLC)
SUN 12/03 Communion & 1st Sunday in Advent	SUN 03/04 Communion
SAT 12/09 Christmas Dinner @ 5-8 pm (CLC)	TUE 03/13 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm
SUN 12/10 All Church Christmas Pageant @ 10 am	SUN 03/25 Palm Sunday
SUN 12/10 Comfort and Joy Service @ 5 pm	WED 3/28 Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Café @ 7:30 am
TUE 12/12 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm	THU 03/29 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 pm
WED 12/13 Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Café @7:30 am	FRI 03/30 Good Friday (Office Closed)
SUN 12/17 Lessons and Carols Service @ 10 am	
MON 12/18 Finance Committee Meeting @ 7 pm	APRIL
TUE 12/19 Session Meeting @ 7 pm	SUN 04/01 Easter Sunday & Communion
SAT 12/23 Christmas Concert @ 7 pm	6:30 am: Sunrise Service @ Bayne Park
SUN 12/24 NOTE: NO MORNING SERVICE TODAY	9:00 am: Morning Worship
Christmas Eve Services @ 5 pm & 11 pm	10:00 am: Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt
MON 12/25 Christmas Morning Service @ 10:00 am	11:15 am: Morning Worship
MON-TUE 25-26 Christmas Holiday (Office Closed)	TUE 04/10 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm SUN 04/22 Adult Education Speaker @ 11:15 am
JANUARY	Brad Seabury, Addiction
MON 01/01 New Year's Day (Office Closed)	
SUN 01/07 Communion	WED 4/25 Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Café @ 7:30 am
TUE 01/09 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm	MAY
THU 01/11 Finance Committee Meeting @ 7 pm	SUN 05/06 Communion
MON 01/15 Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed)	Adult Education Speaker,
TUE 01/16 Session Meeting @ 7 pm	Gerald Liu: Music & Worship @11:15 am
SUN 01/21 Adult Education Speaker @ 11:15 am	TUE 05/08 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm
Ted Blanco: <i>Climate</i>	SUN 05/13 Mothers' Day
wed 1/24 Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Café @ 7:30 am	sun 05/20 Pentecost
FEBRUARY	WED 5/23 Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Café @7:30 am
SUN 02/04 Communion	MON 05/28 Memorial Day (Office Closed)
MON 02/11 Adult Education Speaker @ 11:15 am	HINE
Prof. Michael Reynolds, <i>Russia</i>	JUNE
TUE 02/13 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm	SUN 06/03 Communion
THU 02/15 Finance Committee @ 7 pm	SUN 06/10 Youth Celebration Sunday
SUN 02/18 1st Sunday in Lent	TUE 06/12 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm SUN 06/17 Fathers' Day
MON 02/19 Presidents' Day (Office Closed)	web 06/27 Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Café @ 7:30 am
TUE 02/20 Session Meeting @ 7 pm	WED 30, 27 MICH 3 DICANIASE AL LA DI DA CATE (6 7.30 AIII

### A Note from the Stewardship Committee

WED 2/28 Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Café @ 7:30 am

We have had a wonderful response from our members so far, and as we move into December, the Steward-ship Committee urges those who have not yet pledged to do so by the year's end! Your contributions enable the Church to continue its many ministries to this community and the surrounding area. At this time of year, as we reflect on the many things for which we are grateful, financially supporting our ministry can be a true expression of faith. It is also one way you can help us continue to nurture the seeds of growth we see in our church family.

### **Sunday Speaker Series 2017-2018**

11:15 am to 12:15 pm



### WITNESS TO THE CLIMATE CONTROVERSY Ted Blanco

January 21

In December 2017, Ted Blanco embarked on a 5-week expedition to Antarctica aboard a US ice breaker to document the scientists involved with project SOCCOM. This project designs and deploys autonomous floats to monitor the "vitals" of the Southern Ocean. The data provides critical insight into what happens deep below the surface, critical to the balance of global

climate systems. As the climate changes, we must understand these complex systems before we can enact meaningful solutions. NJ resident Blanco works at Climate Central, a Princeton-based non-profit that researches and reports on our changing climate and its impact on the public. A lifelong documentary filmmaker and storyteller, he is passionate about environmental issues both affecting and caused by human behavior.

RUSSIA February 11

**Michael Reynolds** 

Michael A. Reynolds, Associate Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton, will consider current American-Russian relations: What is it both sides want, what are the obstacles to achieving a mutually acceptable arrangement, and can any such arrangement last? He is the author of Shattering Empires: The Clash and Collapse of the Ottoman and Russian Empires, a winner of the American Historical Association's George Louis Beer Prize, Choice's outstanding academic title, and the Financial Times summer book list title. Dr. Reynolds, a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, holds a B.A. in Government and Slavic Languages from Harvard, an M.A. in Political Science from Columbia, and a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton.





## THE HEROIN AND OPIATE EPIDEMIC IN MORRIS COUNTY Brad Seabury

April 22

Morris County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Brad Seabury will bring 12 years of experience in the Special Operations Division to share facts about the opiate epidemic in Morris County and what is being done to help individuals and families. Mr. Seabury will detail the latest national and local statistics and delve into how illicit drugs are distributed and sold here in the United States where approximately 80 percent of the world's opioids are consumed. He will also

describe how addiction can start and ways to combat it. Although realizing that addiction is a disease, he understands that the stigma of addiction makes getting help difficult. Representatives from the Center for Addiction Recovery Education & Success (CARES) will be on hand to provide advice to families who have been touched by addiction.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP
Dr. Gerald Liu

May 6

Rev. Gerald C. Liu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Worship and Preaching at Princeton Theological Seminary, will be introducing his new book, slated for publication in 2017, entitled *Music and the Generosity of God*. In a world where access to the divine can seem impossible, Dr. Liu invites readers to experience all sounds as gifts from God. Born in Jackson, Mississippi to immigrants from Taiwan, he is an ordained United Methodist Minister and serves as a Minister-in-Residence at Church of the Village in Manhattan. With a Masters in Divinity from Emory University and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt, Dr. Liu has taught and ministered throughout the U.S. and Europe.



### **FPCNV Book Club**

**December Meeting, Meeting Dates, and Book Selections** 



Please RSVP to Barbara Coe at: waffcoe@aol.com

Meeting Dates and Book Selections
Where: Library When: 7:30 pm

**DEC 12** Dinner, Born A Crime by Trevor Noah

JAN 9 Irena's Children: The Extraordinary Story of the Woman Who Saved 2500 Children from the Warsaw Ghetto by Tilar J. Mazzeo

**FEB 13** *Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler

MAR 13 5-Finger Discount: A Crooked Family
History by Helen Strapinski

APR 10 The Perfect Horse: The Daring U.S. Mission to
Rescue the Priceless Stallions Kidnapped by the
Nazis by Elizabeth Letts

MAY 8 Blood at the Root by Patrick Phillips

**JUN 12** The Body Builders: Inside the Science of the Engineered Human by Adam Piore

# Jany's Students in Recital

Sunday, December 10 2:00 pm

You are invited to a piano recital performed by Jany Izaguirre's students in the Sanctuary on Sunday December 10th at 2 pm.



# Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, December 10 immediately following worship.

The Session has called a Meeting of the Congregation to be held on December 10th immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call.



Wednesday, December 13th 7:30 am La Di Da Café

All men of the Church and their guests are welcome.



### **Next Messy Church**

Saturday, December 2 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Join us for a fun new way for children and their families to experience Church. We'll have crafts and activities based on a story from the Bible, interactive family-friendly worship, and a simple dinner. Admission is free. Children of all ages are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

### The Congregational Life Committee Is Hosting

### **2017 Christmas Dinner**

Saturday, December 9th 5:00-8:00 pm

This year the Congregational Life Committee is hosting a formal roast beef Christmas Dinner. Reservations are needed. Please sign up in Chorba Hall.

Adults: \$20 Children 5 and older: \$5

Children under 5: Free

# All-Church Christmas Pageant December 10 at 10 am





Please join us for a fun-filled morning of worship as we retell the Christmas story in word and song.

### **Christmas Is for Children**

Gift Drop-off deadline: December 10

Thank you to everyone who sponsored local children through Christmas Is for Children. Please be reminded that all gifts are due back at the Church on Sunday, December 10.

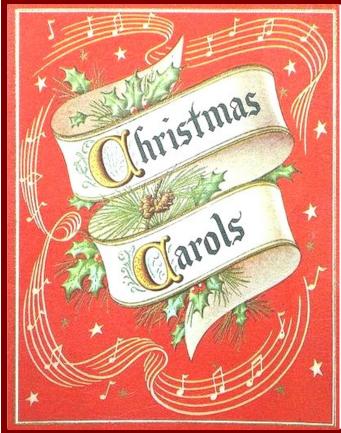
If you have any questions or need to be reminded of purchasing or wrapping instructions, please contact Susan Fischer at <a href="mailto:shfischer@verizon.net">shfischer@verizon.net</a> or 908-204-0820.





Sunday, December 10 5:00 pm

All are invited to join us at this quiet and reflective service of readings, prayers, and music. As we acknowledge the difficulty and mixed emotions that this time of year can bring, we also remember God's presence with us as the light which shines in the darkness and that the darkness cannot overcome.



### Carols of the Nations

# Sunday, December 17

On the morning of December 17th, we hope you will join us for a special service featuring Carols of the Nations. It will include scripture readings in multiple languages, as well as hymns, carols and special music from around the world. This is sure to be an inspiring holiday service! Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to join us.





# CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2017 RECIPIENT

### **Dierdre's House**

Established in 1994, Deirdre's House is *the* Center in Morris County for children who have suffered abuse and neglect, or witnessed family violence. As a nationally accredited Child Advocacy Center, Deirdre's House is the only entity in Morris County that provides a comprehensive multidisciplinary response to child abuse. The Center is also committed to the prevention of abuse, with community education and prevention presentations and conferences that provide information and practical knowledge to the public on child abuse education, prevention and related topics.

The programs offered at Deirdre's House play a critical role in addressing the needs of child victims of physical and sexual abuse. The Center is the only site in Morris County where a child victim under the age of 12 can be interviewed, medically treated, and counseled, all under one roof. These services are all offered free of charge, in English and Spanish, in a safe, child-focused environment.

This is important because when children are victims of violence they need extensive clinical counseling over a prolonged period of time. Counseling for these children is not a luxury, it is a necessity. With specialized counseling programs scarce, Deirdre's House is one of only a few places where professionals

trained in treating childhood trauma help victims

heal.

As a private, nonprofit organization, Deirdre's House relies on the support of the community to continue to provide these much needed services to our young clients. Funding helps to provide over 1,000 clinical counseling visits each year, ensuring that while a child's life may be touched by abuse, it need not be defined by it.



While a child's life may be touched by abuse, it need not be defined by it.

### **Christmas Eve Services**

Sunday, December 24 ~ 5:00 pm and 11 pm



There will be two services on Christmas Eve. The first is at 5:00 pm. Many families with little ones attend this service. The second service begins at 11:00 pm and ends at midnight.

The 5 pm is a family-friendly service filled with music and fun as we remember the story of Christmas together. The 11 pm is a traditional candlelight service. All are welcome.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO MORNING WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS EVE



### **Christmas Morning Worship**

Monday, December 25 10:00 am

Join us as we celebrate Christmas Morning as a church family. We will sing carols and share a warm and informal time of worship together.

Children are invited to bring one of their presents to show everyone.





Thank-you to the Deacons for the delicious

variety of pantry goodies you prepared for the Deacons' Pantry Sale. Your dedication and your culinary talents are appreciated by all.

Thank-you to the Congregation, as well. Your purchases at the Pantry Sale brought in \$1,146 to the Person In Need (PIN) Fund.



Ethan Ng meeting Zazzie, his Autism Medical Service dog, for the first time. Zazzie arrived with an EMS, Fire Department, and Police Escort on Friday, November 19.

### **FPCNV hosts MHA Social Club Dinner November 28, 2017**





















# December 2017

December 2011							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					AA Meeting noon	Messy Church 4-6 pm	
Communion	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon	Morristown Garden Club 8 am-1:30 pm	7 Bible Study 9:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	AA Meeting noon	9 <b>Christmas</b> <b>Dinner</b> 5-8 pm	
All-Church Christmas Pageant 10:00 am Meeting of the Congregation after worship Comfort & Joy Service 5:00 pm	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon  Deacons' Meeting 7:00 pm	Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Cafe 7:30 am	14 Bible Study 9:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	AA Meeting noon	16	
Carols of the Nations Worship Service 10 am	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am  Finance Com. Mtg 7 pm	Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon Session Mtg 7 pm	20	21 <b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 am  Choir 7:30 pm	AA Meeting noon	Christmas Concert 7:00 pm	
24 NOTE: NO MORNING SERVICE TODAY Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5:00 pm 11:00 pm	Christmas Morning Service 10:00 am	Church Office Closed Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon	27	28 Bible Study 9:00 am	AA Meeting noon	30	
Worship Service 10 am							

### **DECEMBER WORSHIP PLANS**

### Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent COMMUNION

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III Liturgist: Jane Kendall

10:00 am Worship Service

### Sunday, December 17

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III 10:00 AM Carols of the Nations

### Monday, December 25

Christmas Day 10:00 am Rev. William H. Stone, III Liturgist: Jane Kendall

### **Sunday, December 10**

Second Sunday of Advent

All Church Christmas Pageant 10:00 am

Comfort and Joy Service 5:00 pm

### Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

NO MORNING SERVICE

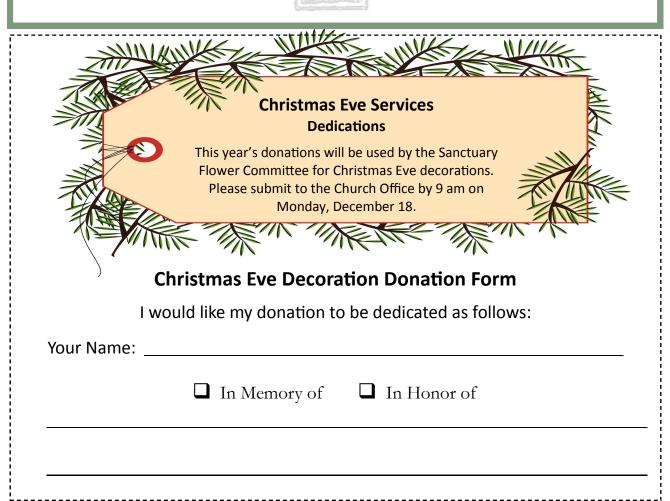
Rev. William H. Stone, III

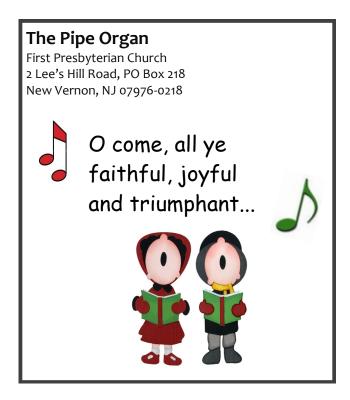
5 pm Family Service, Liturgist: TBD

11 pm Candlelight Service, Liturgist: Ann Talcott

### Sunday, December 31

Rev. William H. Stone, III Liturgist: TBD





#### **DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS**

December 2

Messy Church

December 9

**Christmas Dinner** 

### December 10

All-Church Christmas Pageant 10 am Meeting of the Congregation 11 am Comfort & Joy Service 5 pm

### December 17

Carols of the Nations Service 10 am

December 23 Christmas Concert

#### December 24

Christmas Eve Services 5 pm and 11 pm

#### December 25

Christmas Morning Worship 10 am

### **E-mail Addresses**

The Church Office is still collecting and correcting e-mail addresses from our members. If you would like to be included in various e-mail mailings, please e-mail Office@pcnv.org or call 973-538-8394.

### CHURCH OFFICE

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