

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH New Vernon, New Jersey

VOL. 69 NO. 10

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Luke 21:25-27

Every year I am startled by how quickly Advent approaches. The pace of everything picks up at this time of year, and it is very easy to get swept away as calendars fill up and energy levels drop. Without thoughtful attention, it is easy to lose perspective on why we have all of this holiday activity in the first place!

The scriptures that theologians selected for Advent are, in part, meant to shake us back to reality. As you read above, our preparation for Christmas begins with a deep dive into apocalyptic visions full of distress, confusion and overwhelming noise.

The very first Christians lived in challenging times. The Roman occupation of their homeland brought a variety of challenges to bear on their day-to-day living. Additionally, they faced numerous setbacks as they tried to practice their faith and embody Christ's love in their communities. For them, there were moments when it really did feel like the world might come to an end. Resources were often scarce, and that may be part of what drove many of them to live in a commune-style society where members held all things in common (Acts 4:32). In those moments, the disciples and their churches all had to ask themselves, "How much is enough?" How long do we need to keep going?

For them this question was a matter of survival. For us, the same question remains, but the urgency is often lost.

So much of what we do at this time of year is driven by an attempt to answer the question of "How much" in various ways:

How much Christmas shopping still needs to happen? How much food do we need for the party?

How much do we need to raise for our stewardship campaign?

How much more is my calendar going to fill up?

The holiday season can be demanding in many ways. For some, it creates a to-do list that seems to always get longer no matter

December 2018

how many things get crossed off. For others, the burden is emotional—people often feel the stress of challenging family dynamics or the loss of a loved one even more than usual. All of this during what is supposedly, "the most wonderful time of the year!"

Amidst it all, the scriptures in our Advent lectionary call out to us. Their startling verses remind us that there is a deeper purpose to all of our activity. Rather than simply falling into our usual patterns at this time of year, we have an opportunity to show people a different way of answering this question of "How much is enough?"

In one of her well-loved poems, Ella Wheeler Wilcox shows us what that might look like. She says:

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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

Martha Coy

Tom Ewig

Tom MacCowatt

Jenn McCann

James Muchmore

Jane O'Keeffe

Don Richardson

Peter Saulnier

Eileen Urban

Carol Conger Vellekamp

Keith Wood

Deacons

Barbara Gill, Moderator

Jane Coyle

Andrea Di Ruggiero

Olin Friant

Beth Gibson

Russ MacAusland

Michael McCann

Dave Mitchell

Sue Mitchell

Susie Morris

Karen Pennett

Judith Shelton

Faith Winow

Love is enough. Why should we ask for more? What greater gift have gods vouchsafed to men? What better boon of all their precious store Than our fond hearts that love and love again? Old love may die; new love is just as sweet; And life is fair and all the world complete: Love is enough!

May it be so. And may we all embody this same spirit—that come what may this Christmas, love will be enough for us all.

GROWING TOGETHER, ROOTED IN FAITH



2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed or pledged to the 2019 Stewardship Campaign to date. If you have not contributed or pledged, please do so at this time so we can properly plan our initiatives for 2019.

To make a contribution or a pledge, please go to pcnv.org or return the form you received in the mail.





NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

November 20, 2018
Devotions led by Rev. William Stone



Pastor's report:

- Asked that we continue our work on the Mission Statement.
- Hosted Presbytery meeting here last week and it was very well received.
- Ready Steady Christmas is coming up on Dec. 2nd so sign up and bring friends.
- Communion was served on Sunday, October 14^{th.}

Rev. Stone started the Mission Statement discussion by noting the *The Great Commission* from *Matthew* 28:19 which he called the Mission Statement of Jesus: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you, and remember that I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The goal was to have a final statement of eight words or less with a verb, a target audience, and an outcome. After a full discussion and breaking into groups brainstorming each word, session crafted a Mission Statement for PCNV as follows:

INSPIRE OUR COMMUNITY TO GROW IN FAITH AND SERVICE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (Keith Wood):

- Continuing to develop a budget for 2019
- Rental income from #6 and the Deep Roots School in the basement will provide revenue next year
- Preschool rental term has been reduced to 18 months. They are seeking permission for signage from Harding Township.
- Reviewed Building & Grounds schedule from Tom Ewig with a total of \$72,000 in current and pending projects. Costs will be covered by CIF and Sure Foundation funds.

Stewardship (Tom MacCowatt):

- Goal is \$380,000. Looking for a 5% increase from all donors. As of November 20, commitments totaled \$162,000 (36% response). Pledge period ends tomorrow but second mailing will
- Using email and online pledging this year also. Will sending reminder emails weekly.

Worship and Music (Peter Saulnier):

CME concert on Sunday, December 9th showcasing Min Kwon's students.

Adjourned with prayer by Bill Stone at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Jonathan Shelby Clerk of Session



Christmas Angels Needed MC Correctional Facility Drop-off by Friday, December 7



The holidays are an especially difficult time for inmates and their families. This is when your generosity will truly touch the hearts of the men and women who are incarcerated at MCCF. Your acts of kindness may be seen as the brightest beacon of God's love this holiday season. The Prison Ministry is asking the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon if they can donate the following this year:

- ☐ Men's T-shirts, white crewneck only, sizes L, XL, 2X, 3X (no V-necks or pockets allowed)
- ☐ Women's sports bras, a variety of sizes, must be white, no wires
- ☐ Hair Conditioner med or lg bottles, fragrance free or neutral fragrances (over 90% of inmates are male)
- ☐ Soap bars, regular or bath size, unscented, neutral fragrance

Please do NOT gift wrap your donations.

If anyone prefers to make a monetary donation, checks to the "Chaplaincy Program of MCCF" will be used by them to fill any gaps in the collection program. Thank you for remembering the people at the Morris County Correctional Facility this holiday. If anyone would like to help make up the bags for the inmates, your efforts would be greatly appreciated. They will be assembled on Monday, December 10, from 9 am to 3 pm at: United Methodist Church, 50 South Park Place, Morristown, NJ

Other Ways You Can Help

Volunteers are needed to help pick up donations from churches in the area and to help assemble the Christmas gift bags for the inmates at the Morris County Correctional Facility. If you can help for a few hours or more, please contact Debbie in the Church Office (973-538-8394) or Nancy Barrett at (973-425-1414.)

Singing in the Choir at Christmas

The choir welcomes members from the congregation to join us for our Christmas worship services. This year we will be joined by strings and horns for our Christmas Eve celebrations, and we would love to have anyone who is otherwise unable to sing



throughout the year to feel welcome to join us for this extra-special music!

Email Marty at martin@martinsedek.com



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 \$782 to the Person In Need (PIN) Fund.

Sunday Speaker Series 2019

11:15 am to 12:15 pm

Russ MacAusland: Ukraine 101 January 13



A recent trip to Odessa and other Ukrainian locales served to inspire Harding resident and travel enthusiast, Russ MacAusland, to strap on his camera, pull out notebook and pen, and delve into some historical research of the area as well as recording its visual richness. He will introduce us to some famous Ukrainian-Americans and offer insights into the area and its politics. To whet appetites even further, he will also consider some foods of the region. Originally from Boston, Russ, now retired, was an executive in the magazine publishing business in New York that took him all over the world. He

continues to delight in traveling and is also a sportsman who enjoys skiing and mountain climbing.

Nathan Stuckey: Farminary: Calling Stewards of the Earth

The Farminary Project at Princeton Theological Seminary integrates theological education with small-scale sustainable agriculture. Located at the Seminary's 21-acre farm, it is a garden of innovation and an incubator for leadership. Issues of agrarian thought and practice—ecology, sustainability, food justice—require our faithful attention as stewards of the earth and its bounty. **Nathan Stucky,** who serves as Director of the Project, grew up on a farm in Kansas where his love for agriculture first took root. He spent six years doing ecumenical youth ministry on the eastern shore of Maryland and two years farming back in

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Kansas. Nathan earned M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary. His scholarship explores the integration of theological education and agrarianism, and he sees Farminary as a locus for enacting that integration.

Mary Bodenstein: Relieving Stress

March 10



We are constantly told that emotional stress affects our health. Are you ever bothered by headaches, stiff neck, worry, caregiver or child-raising challenges; do you suffer from insomnia? How about a dose of...CALM? Experience for yourself simple stress reduction strategies to help relieve both physical and emotional tension. You will leave feeling more relaxed and empowered, enjoying enhanced problem-solving skills after experiencing a mind-body-spirit wellness connection. Mary Bodenstein, LCSW, a graduate of Rice University with a Master's in Social Work from Kean, is an Accredited Certified EFT (Emotional Freedom

Techniques) Practitioner by AAMET (Association for the Advancement of Meridian Energy Techniques), the largest professional EFT Association worldwide. She has been implementing mind-body-spirit wellness practices for 25 years. Founder of Stress Relief NOW, Mary is always seeking effective stress management techniques and particularly enjoys sharing them.

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: FPCNV Library When: 7:30 pm

DEC 18 Dinner - Grain House, Old Mill Inn

JAN 8 A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

FEB 12 The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee

MAR 12 A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot by Mary Walton

APR 9 *Munich: a novel* by Robert Harris

MAY 7 Radio Girl by Sarah-Jane Stratford

JUN 11 *TBA*

2018 Christmas Dinner

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

The Congregational Life Committee is hosting a Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 8th. Reservations are needed, so please sign up in Fellowship Hall if you have not done so already, or contact Debbie in the Church Office at officeadmin@pcnv.org or 973-538-8394.

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

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All-Church Christmas Pageant December 16 at 10 am





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

You Are Invited to Jany's Students in Recital Sunday, December 16 at 1 pm

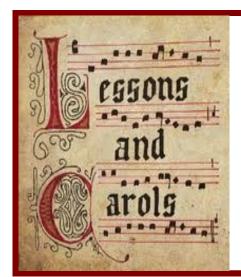
You are invited to a Sunday afternoon piano recital performed by Jany Izaguirre's students. The recital will be held in the Sanctuary .





Longest Night Service Sunday, December 16 5:00 pm

There is a lot of darkness in our world today: from mass shootings, to natural disasters, to the continued polarization of our politics. You may also be in a moment of darkness in your personal life. At the beginning of the darkest week of the year we invite all people to come together seeking light and hope. The Longest Night is a contemplative service offering prayer, music, and time for reflection. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Lessons & Carols Service

Sunday, December 23 10:00 am

Please join us for a festive morning inspired by the historic Lessons & Carols Service at King's College, Cambridge. We will hear several Choral anthems and sing well-loved carols as we move through the Christmas Story together.

Christmas Connection Project Let's Stay Connected with Each Other and the World this Advent

This Advent Season there will be paper strips provided on the table in the Narthex for us to make paper chains with. Please use as many of the paper strips that you would like to. Dedicate each strip to a member of your family, a friend, an organization, a person or group of people you would like to keep in your heart and mind this season. Fashion the strips into links, with glue, tape or staples. Create your own special "Advent chain." Bring your chain back to the sanctuary and hang it on the Christmas trees on the altar, so that we can build together a very powerful congregational prayer chain. You can continue to add to your original chains, or build new ones as the path to Christmas leads us to a deeper sense of awareness and connection with the world around us.

We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes, and return to us as results.

- Herman Melville

Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24



Family Service at 5:00 pm

Join us for a fun and festive evening as we celebrate Christmas together. This service will be engaging for people of all ages. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Candlelight Service at 11:00 pm

Our quieter and more formal Christmas Celebration. Join us for carols, a reflection and (of course) music by candlelight as we celebrate the arrival of Christmas Day.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2018 RECIPIENT

Children On The Green

Children on the Green is a licensed, non-profit child care center committed to quality, developmentally appropriate care and early education for children of families living or working in the Morristown area. They seek to reflect the diversity of the community in which they are located and are committed to partnerships that support all children and families. Their mission supports the developmental needs of each child, and creates interdependent partnerships between home, work, community and the Center.

PIN Fund

The PIN Fund (Persons In Need) was created to help meet critical financial needs of members of our congregation and residents of the greater community.

Procedure:

A request for financial assistance is to be made through the Pastor and approved by the Pastor and one or more representatives from the Board of Deacons.

A voucher requiring two signatures (Pastor and Deacon representative) is then submitted to the Manager of Accounting for distribution of funds.

All requests are confidential.

Checks will be written to the creditor requiring payment—e.g., utility company, landlord, doctor, or medical institution—and never directly to the applicant.

THE PIN FUND IS SUPPORTED BY THE PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR CONGREGATION

HERB Fund

The HERB Fund is an endowment fund established to provide grants to the greater community, not confined to members of the New Vernon Presbyterian Church, who are in need of financial assistance for college, graduate school, and other post-secondary education expenses.

This fund is under the stewardship of the Board of Deacons and is allocated at the discretion of the Pastor in consultation with one or more Deacons. The investment responsibility resides with Session.

Detailed information on the process—such as deadline dates, grant criteria, and application forms—may be obtained through the Church Office and, in the future, from the website.

Application deadline for the Spring 2019 semester is December 15, 2018.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS WORTHY FUND ARE ALWAYS WELCOME



We wish everyone a Joyful, Healthy, & Happy Holiday Season!



Calendar of Events 2018-2019

DECEMBER		TUE	02/19	Session Meeting @ 7 pm
SUN 12/02	Communion	MA	RCH (N	1AR-JUN Finance & Session Meetings TBA)
	Ready, Steady, Christmas!	WED	03/06	Toddler Time @1:30-3:30 pm
WED 12/05	Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm			Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 pm
SAT 12/08	Christmas Dinner, Cocktails: 5 pm, Dinner 6-8 pm	SUN	03/10	First Sunday in Lent
SUN 12/09	CME Music Made Here Winter Celebration 3 pm			Adult Education @ 11:15 am,
TUE 12/11	Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm			Mary Bodenstein, Relieving Stress
WED 12/12	Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm	WED	03/13	Toddler Time @1:30-3:30 pm
	Finance Committee Meeting @ 7 pm		•	St Patrick's Coffee Hour
THU 12/13	8 5 1			Toddler Time @1:30-3:30 pm
SUN 12/16	All Age Worship: Christmas Pageant @ 10 am	WED	03/27	Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 am
	Longest Night Service @ 5 pm			Senior Luncheon @ 12 pm
WED 12/19	Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 am			Toddler Time @1:30-3:30 pm
	Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm	APR	:IL	
	Lessons and Carols Service @ 10 am	WED	04/03	Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm
	Christmas Eve Services @ 5 pm & 11 pm			Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm
MON-TUE 24	-25 Christmas Holiday (Office Closed)			Palm Sunday
JANUARY		THU	04/18	Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 pm
TUE 01/01	New Year's Day (Office Closed)	FRI	04/19	Good Friday (Office Closed)
SUN 01/06		SUN	04/21	Easter Sunday
-	Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm	WED	04/24	Senior Luncheon @ 12 pm
	Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm			Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm
	Finance Committee Meeting @ 7 pm	MA	Y	
SUN 01/13	Adult Education @ 11:15 am			Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm
	Russ MacAusland, Ukraine 101			Cinco de Mayo Coffee Hour
TUE 01/15	Session Meeting @ 7pm			Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm
WED 01/16	Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm			Mothers' Day
MON 01/21	Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed)			Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm
WED 01/23	Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 am			Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 am
	Toddler Time 1:30-3:30 pm			Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm
WED 01/30	Senior Luncheon @ 12 pm	MON	05/27	Memorial Day (Office Closed)
	Toddler Time 1:30-3:30 pm	WED	05/29	Senior Luncheon @ 12 pm
FEBRUARY				Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm
SUN 02/03	Communion	JUN	E	
	Souper Bowl Sunday	SUN	06/02	Communion
SUN 02/10	Adult Education @ 11:15 am: Nathan Stuckey,	SUN	06/09	Church Picnic
	Farminary: Calling Stewards of the Earth	SUN	06/16	Fathers' Day
	Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm			Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 pm
	Finance Committee @ 7 pm			Senior Luncheon @ 12 pm
MON 02/18	Presidents' Day (Office Closed)			

Christmas Is for Children Gift Drop-off deadline: December 9

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 9.

If you have any questions or need to be reminded of purchasing or wrapping instructions, please contact Susan Fischer at shfischer@verizon.net or 908-204-0820.



November Festivities





Another November Favorite: Cinnamon Sticks!

We celebrate Walter Ness's 98 th Birthday



Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, December 19th 7:30 am La Di Da Café

All men of the Church and their guests are welcome.

A Note From Our Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is asking that you please fulfill your 2018 pledge by December 31st.

If you are not sure whether your pledge has been fulfilled, please contact the Church Office.

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Senior Luncheon Wednesday, December 19th at 12 pm

This month's special luncheon for our Seniors, their friends, and caregivers will be on Wednesday, December 19th at 12:00 pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by December 17th to Debbie in the Church Office at: officeadmin@pcnv.org or 973-538-8394.

All-Age Worship and Isla Grace Stone's Baptism





















December 2018

December 2010									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
						1			
Communion Worship Service 10 am	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	4 Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon	Morristown Garden Club 8 am-1:30 pm	6 Bible Study 9:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	AA Meeting noon	8 Christmas Dinner 5-8 pm			
Worship Service 10 am CME Winter Celebration Concert 3:00 pm	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon Deacons' Meeting 7:00 pm	Toddler Time 1:30 pm	13 Bible Study 9:00 am	AA Meeting noon	15			
All Age Worship: Christmas Pageant 10 am Jany's Students' Recital 1 pm Longest Night Service 5 pm	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Finance Com. Mtg 7 pm	Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon Session Mtg 7 pm	Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Cafe 7:30 am Sr. Luncheon 12 pm Toddler Time 1:30 pm	9:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	AA Meeting noon	22			
Lessons & Carols Worship Service 10 am	24 Church Office Closed Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5:00 pm 11:00 pm	25 Church Office Closed Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon	26	27 Bible Study 9:00 am	AA Meeting noon	29			
30 Worship Service 10 am	31								

DECEMBER WORSHIP PLANS

Sunday, December 2

First Sunday of Advent COMMUNION

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III Liturgist: Marion Hoffman

Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent
Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III
Liturgist: Jane Coyle
10:00 AM All Age Christmas Pageant
5:00 pm Longest Night Service

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Rev. William H. Stone, III

5 pm Family Service, Liturgist: Carol Conger

11 pm Candlelight Service, Liturgist: Jane Kendall

Sunday, December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

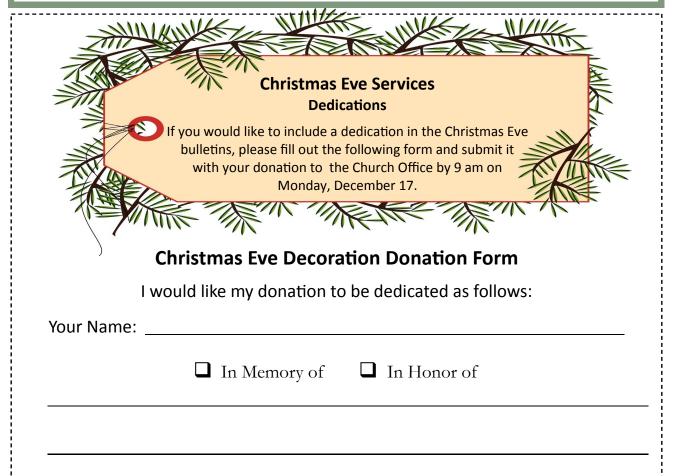
Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III Liturgist: TBD

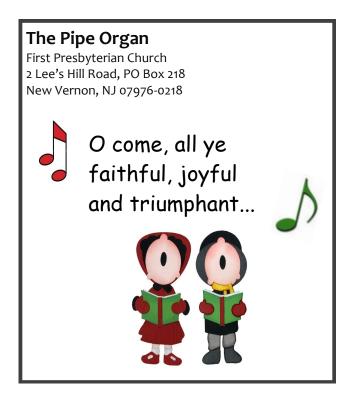
Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent Rev. William H. Stone, III Lessons & Carols Service

Sunday, December 30

First Sunday After Christmas Day Rev. William H. Stone, III Liturgist: TBD





DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

December 2

Ready, Steady, Christmas 2-4:30 pm

December 8

Christmas Dinner 5-8 pm

December 9

CME Winter Celebration 3 pm

December 16

All Age Christmas Pageant 10 am Jany's Students in Recital 1 pm Longest Night Service 5 pm

December 23

Lessons & Carols 10 am

December 24

Christmas Eve Services 5 pm and 11 pm

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

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

Phone: 973-538-8394
Fax: 973-538-3969
Email: office@pcnv.org
Web: www.pcnv.org