



DECEMBER 2017

**First Presbyterian
Church of Tuckerton**

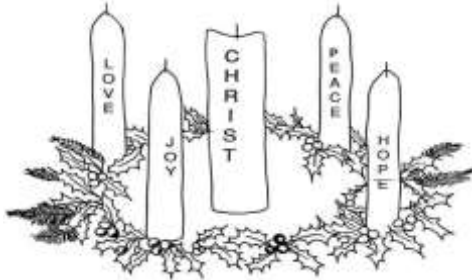
210 East Main Street
Tuckerton, NJ 08087
Office 609-296-8894
Pastor Cell 732-859-3033

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 am

Communion – 1st Sunday of the Month
Fellowship Hour 11:15 am

The Advent Season & the Power of Prayer



By: Pastor/Chaplain Anthony

The season of Advent is a time of preparation--preparing our hearts to receive the Lord in a new light, coming to know our Savior abundantly, with more hope, peace, joy, and, love. As time passes, we pray to have increased glimpses of who God is and how God is continuing to shape our lives, our devotions, and our spiritual understanding. Advent is both a time of reflection and prayer—getting us to rejoice at who Jesus really means to us on the day of Christmas. I encourage you to say these prayers daily for the duration of the Advent Season. May your heart be rekindled with the flames of the Holy Spirit and God’s amazing love for you and for your future.

Eternal grace and peace, Pastor Anthony

To be prayed daily during the Season of Advent...

First Sunday of Advent (December 3rd – December 9th)

God of Hope, I am often distracted by what I need to get done each day. Help me to see your goodness today in my life and in the world. Help me to remember the blessings you have given me and restore in me the hope of your blessings that await me. Your hope is eternal for those who seek after you and obey you (Romans 2:7). Shine in me your light of encouragement and hope; and give me the strength and courage to obey your commands. As I celebrate and await patiently for the goodness you have in store for me, help me to be a comfort to others as I shine your light of hope. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen...

Second Sunday of Advent (December 10th – December 16th)

God of Peace, I desire to know more about who Jesus is today—what Your Son means to You—and to keep Jesus at the center of my daily life. I often feel that my peace is short-lived because I try to overcompensate for my weaknesses and inability to always please others. Help me to recognize that at the core of lasting peace is trusting in your amazing love for me in Jesus. Help me to take hold of your love fully today; and to recognize what you would have me accomplish through your love. Help others to recognize that the source of my lasting peace is your Son Jesus Christ. In my Savior’s name, I pray. Amen.

Third & Forth Sunday of Advent (December 17th – December 24th)

God of Joy and Love, I praise and worship you today with all my heart and my being. I praise you for the gift of Jesus that awaits all those who seek after you and who desire to be made whole. Help me to find ways today to speak to others about who Jesus means to me so that they can also come to know your love and feel hope, peace, and joy in their hearts. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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...y (December 25th)

Dear Gracious and Holy God of the Universe, I thank you for your gift of Jesus today! You made a way for all people to have hope, peace, joy, and love in abundance because of your Son, Jesus Christ. You made a way for the light of the Holy Spirit to be present with us now. I rejoice in knowing that you are present with me today and forevermore. Help me to shine your light into the world which has conquered darkness once and for all.

John 12:46: “I have come into the world as a light, so that no one believes in me should stay in darkness.” In my eternal savior, Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

LECTIONARY READINGS

First Sunday of Advent

December 3

Isa. 64:1-9

Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19

Cor. 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10

Isa. 40:1-11

Ps. 85:1-2; 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17

Isa. 61:1-4; 8-11

Ps. 16 or Luke 1:46b-55

Thess 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

Isa 9:2-7

Ps. 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Isa. 61:10-62:3

Ps. 148

Gal 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

Our pledge campaign was successful! We’ve received a record 57 pledges totaling just under \$138,000; the Finance Committee will complete the 2018 budget by year’s end, to be approved at our congregational meeting in January, and we expect to offer Pastor Anthony a full-time “Terms of Call” when he completes his chaplaincy certification requirement on or soon after May 1st.

Of course, if there are any “stragglers” reading this we’d be happy to add your pledge to the thermometer in the vestibule – let the office know if you need a pledge card, or need someone to visit and pick one up.

And if you’re still holding a time & talent questionnaire please get that back to the office as well; pledging money, time and talent will only increase your sense of contribution and commitment to the many missions of our little church with the big heart!

Gratefully,

Your Stewardship Committee

WORSHIP NOTES

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday, December 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent; communion

Sunday, December 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent; Food Pantry Sunday

Sunday, December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent; 6 p.m. Praise Service

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve ~10:00 a.m. 4th Sunday of Advent/Children’s Christmas Program ~ 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

ADVENT

At this time of Advent,
fire our imaginations
with the sweep of your salvation.

Catch us up
in the cause of your kingdom,
already breaking into this world
in our ransomed lives
yet waiting for its final fulfillment when Christ shall
come again.

And let your spirit,
wild as the wind,

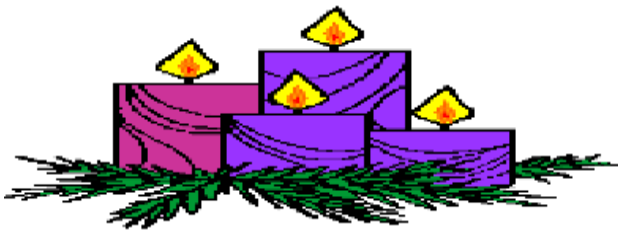
gentle as the dove,

move within us and among us,

to enliven our worship and strengthen our faith
and send us out with anticipation and joy. Amen

John Harvey

STEWARDSHIP



This Season of Advent

Therefore you must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew: 24:44

Advent means coming or arrival. During these four weeks before Christmas we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the unexpected King. He was not born in a palace but in the little town of Bethlehem. Perhaps only a few people knew of His birth, until angels announced the unexpected event to some startled shepherds. This King did not wear a golden crown, but a crown of thorns when he died on the cross for us. And then in a joyfully unexpected event He rose from the dead! Eternal life is ours through faith in His name.

During this busy Advent season as we shop and cook and wrap gifts may we remember that Jesus is coming again on a day we do not expect. Our King is coming!
submitted by Gwen Atwell

MISSION

Our Church has been supporting Bob and Kristi Rice in the Congo for the past several years. During this time last year, while back in the States they were advised not to return to the Congo because of instability and conflict within the denomination. Living in limbo for several months they were not sure where their next assignment would take them.

Presbyterian World Mission's commitment to partnership means that they will only send mission co-workers to places where there has been a specific request for local partners for that type of service. After much prayers and trusting that God would work things out, they received the opportunity to go to Juba South Sudan in March of this year. Bob will be teaching theology and ethics at Nile Theological College and Kristi will serve as Economic empowering and community development advisor.

South Sudan is a new country gaining independence from Sudan in 2011. The people have experienced decades of conflict, war and suffering. There is major famine with more than 100,000 people experiencing life-threatening hunger and thousands in refugee camps in Uganda. It is not an easy place to live, but they are encouraged that the churches there will seek to be a light for Christ and a voice for peace in the midst of the suffering.

They write that they are excited that God has opened this door that fits their gifts and their passions so well. "We feel that God has "wired us" and called us to serve in places that are in great physical need. Adjusting to the new challenges of life in South Sudan still feels

intimidating. We will be learning a new language, culture and as well as new work responsibilities." Bob and Krista ask for our prays and thank you for your financial support. Individuals can donate by sending donations to:

Presbyterian World Mission
PO box 643700 Pittsburgh, Pa 15264-3700
On memo line write Rice-E200429

You can receive emails At Bob.Rice@pcusa.org or Kristi.Rice@pcusa.org

The Christmas Giving Tree is here!!

What a wonderful way to start the Christmas season!

Instructions

- Remove a mitten with a child's name from the tree(Each mitten numbered)
- Write your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet with the number and name mitten you have picked
- Purchase a present for the child
- Tie the mitten on the present with the name and number
- Return to the church by **December 10th**

submitted by Marilyn Cook

BIBLE STUDY

"The Messiah is Coming"

Earth Shaking Words of the Prophets

700 Years of Anticipation

Time to Tremble

The First Two Tuesdays in December 2017, 10 AM and 6:30 PM

A Mini-course to prepare and open our hearts for the birth of our savior

First Presbyterian Church of Tuckerton

Taught by Dr. Robert L. Harvey

assisted by Walter Geldart M. Div.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The PW **December** meeting will be on **Monday December 11 at 6:30 pm.** Once again, Linda Carpenter will host this meeting at her house. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. We will have devotions and Bible study but no business meeting. We will not collect the free will or least coin offerings. We will, however, collect \$10 (this tradition is in lieu of exchanging gifts

which we will donate to Samaritans Purse to be used for the hurricane relief efforts in the Caribbean.

We will be hosting the **January (10th) Community Dinner**. Georgette will be organizing and giving us four assignments.

We will start pre-sales of our Super Bowl Subs. Delivery (meaning handing out after worship) on **February 4th**. Right now, we have kitchen and distribution table volunteers. But....stay tuned, we never know when we will need back-up.

PRAYER TEAM

The Prayer group meets every two weeks to offer praise and thanksgiving and to lift up our joys and concerns. It is truly a special time where Pastor Anthony leads us to commune with the Holy Spirit. If you have an hour to spare you will surely be enriched. The next meeting is December 8th at 10:00 AM. All are invited to attend. Prayer requests can be made by filling out a prayer card (in pews) or by writing it in the Prayer Journal in the Narthex (rear) of the church.

Remember: **ASAP** (Always Say A Prayer!)

submitted by Hilda Sheldon

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Food Bank Sunday

Please remember that Sunday, December 10th is our Food Bank collection. Items needed are: juices, cereal, fruit cups and Christmas candy. Please bring your items for collection during church and help those in need in our community.



Feeding the Community

In his love, Linda Carpenter

SHOPRITE/ACME gift cards will be sold on Sunday, Dec. 3rd. Please consider purchasing ShopRite/Acme gift cards, not only for your holiday dinner or gifts (for mailman, hairdresser, etc.) but also throughout the year. Denominations are \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100. Please support our Church.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2017

December 2 9:30A to 1:30P



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Krafters Christmas Krafts

Gourmet Cupboard

All Good Gifts Sale

Come out and support this annual fund raiser featuring:

- Baked sweet or savory treats
- “good gifts” in new condition
- Handmade crafts

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is finishing up a positive 2017, having served 13 families (Moms, dads, children and even a grandmother) and over 260 referrals for those that did not qualify for the program. With a strong volunteer church program, no families were housed in a motel this year. Currently Southern Ocean County has 13 churches that house these families; most of these churches worked through scheduling issues but together they made it possible for our families to enjoy the churches’ hospitality. Churches opened up their facilities, volunteers from other congregations brought dinners and provided hospitality for the little ones and still other volunteers came to spend the night at the host church. Our church usually hosts families four times a year but was asked to take an extra week but scheduling conflicts in Fellowship Hall prevented us from feeding them. Lord of Lords Church brought a delicious dinner to our church every night and provided games and playtime for the kiddos.

For those of you who aren’t familiar with Family Promise, it is a nationwide program, divided into groups by counties, to provide temporarily homeless families with the necessary tools to get back on their feet. Families are expected to be out of the program in about three months.

Our church has been a supporter of this Mission for over 15 years; I have been the coordinator for over two years. Since I started, 36 volunteers have helped out at our church and some of us have helped out at other churches by providing meals and sleeping over.

Just as in our Little Church with a Big Heart, Family Promise is experiencing new enthusiasm and growth. No longer is it only churches who have joined the team; there are many businesses and organizations who provide funding and other kinds of help. Please think about helping out; if cooking and sleeping over is not your bag, think about fostering one of our families' pets; join our hospitality team and provide a craft, play a game or read a story for our little ones; decorate the door to their bedroom or set the table with colorful tablecloths and flowers. And there is always laundry to be done at the end of their week; there are so many ways that we can help these people who are experiencing such upheaval.

Family Promise will be providing Refresher Course and Appreciation Luncheon for all of our volunteers, and anyone who is thinking of becoming a volunteer, or for anyone who just wants to learn more about this ministry, on Sunday, January 21st at noon in Fellowship Hall. Please plan on attending; we all need to be aware of the new community regulations, Session guidelines and procedures and advancements from Family Promise. Please confirm your attendance via text, phone or email. 908-782-6346 or LonaLeSchander@gmail.com. We look forward to a rewarding time together. As always, thanks so much for your help.

Lona LeSchander, Coordinator