



## Advent and Christmas



### Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 19, 10 am  
w/ Rev. Debra Given



We invite all children who want to participate in the pageant to arrive at church ten minutes early on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> to select a costume. During the "Time with Young Disciples" they will be invited forward to sit on the front steps. Rev. Given will read the Christmas story as the children create a tableau of the manger scene. Afterward, a shepherd will guide them to Sunday School.

### Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24, 5 pm  
w/ Elder Kirk Woodward  
Organ Prelude 4:45 pm



Join us for a traditional candlelight service with musical prelude and carols. All ages are welcome.

## Stay – Rest A While



### Benches and a Little Library of Prayers

The Communications and Spiritual Outreach Committee took notice last season of how the community responded to our outdoor Christmas light display. They observed people lingering on our sanctuary steps, sharing a coffee with a friend, staying around a little longer than usual.

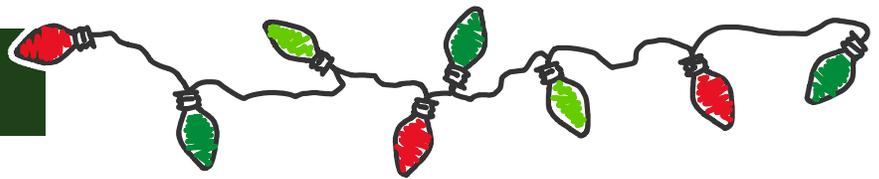
In response, the committee purchased a pair of sturdy outdoor benches for our plaza. The hope is for visitors to come and feel welcome in our space, to enjoy being with us, and perhaps experience spiritual respite.

To the same end, a "Little Library" structure and stock of prayer cards have been purchased to install next to the Memorial Garden bench. May these resources provide welcome and bring care, comfort and healing.

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Advent Devotionals and Calendars are available for all in the church narthex. You are welcome to take one home after your next visit or contact the office by email at [office.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:office.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com) or phone (973) 744-5340 to have them sent to you.

# Faith & Fellowship



Let's Visit

## YOUNG FAMILIES

Sunday, Dec. 5, 11:15 - Noon

Parents with young children are invited for an informal time of fellowship in the Pastor's Study – no planned program. Christian Education will supervise play time in the gym for the kids and make sure everyone has had a coffee hour snack. We hope you enjoy this time to connect.

Program contact: Carolyn Buck – [goulderbuck@verizon.net](mailto:goulderbuck@verizon.net)



YOUTH  
GROUP

## YOUTH GROUP

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 5:30 – 7 pm

On Dec. 5 we will enjoy games and fellowship.

Dec. 19 we will meet at church to bake holiday cookies.

All middle and high school youth are welcome.

Program contact: Carolyn Buck – [goulderbuck@verizon.net](mailto:goulderbuck@verizon.net)



SUNDAY  
SCHOOL

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays after Time with Young Disciples (10:15 am)

Kindergarten through fifth graders are invited to a volunteer-led lesson with an activity during the church service.

Follow the leader through to the Education Building.

Program contact: Carolyn Buck – [goulderbuck@verizon.net](mailto:goulderbuck@verizon.net)



## COMMUNITY MOVEMENT PROJECT

Fall Session Continues:

Tuesdays through December 21

10-11 am in Grace Hall

Pilates/Barre Blend (Adults)

Suggested Donation: \$15/class

Register and More Info: [www.communitymovementproject.org](http://www.communitymovementproject.org)



Men's Bible Study

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays at 8 am

Program contact: Contact Scott Osborne at 201-704-2510  
or [scott.osborne@verizon.net](mailto:scott.osborne@verizon.net)

## The In-Choirer

Yes, it's Advent again! I know we all love this time of year and this wonderful music that we get a chance to hear this season. The choir has started Advent already with an anthem I wrote a couple of years ago. If you were in church, you heard it sung, but I thought I'd share the words for you to read, since they remind us of an element of Advent that we often are forced to ignore.

### WE WAIT (ADVENT TO DO)

*Turn inward this season, reflect and renew, Be mindful of God and His promise to you.*

*Let peace overwhelm you, let pressures be few, Let earthly things go, you have Advent to do.*

*Turn upward in prayer, be vigilant in grace, and militant guarding your own sacred space.*

*Let woes and contrivances fade from your view; and tell everyone you have Advent to do.*

*God bids us release from our hustle and fuss, and walk pensive pathways that He laid for us.*

*We wait, we wait, anticipate, create your sacred space, and in elation wait.*

*So turn Godward now amid these stressful days. Allay all your worries by joying in praise.*

*Embrace the time present, it's God's gift to you. Make your world wait, you have Advent to do.*

*God's in control, let your soul be contrite; Wait through the deep darkness to see the great light.*

*We wait, we wait, and contemplate the greatness of the promise God has made, and wait.*

(Cont.)

*So, turn Christward now and center on His birth; Let this be the center of your universe.*

*Slow down in this season, let goodness shine through, and know you've been blessed with an Advent to do.*

*For ages waiting's tested our will, so pass it, pause, and learn to be still.*

*And wait, and wait, and reinvigorate your soul with love of Jesus Christ... and wait.*

I hope, amid your busy holiday season, that you can do some of those things, and take the time to let God fill you.

The choir will be active during Advent, of course, and will lead us into our usual lovely Christmas Eve service. We did not get to enjoy our beautiful Sanctuary last Christmas, as the service was on the front steps in the rain. This year, we get to do it right!

Also, don't forget the New Jersey Choral Society is holding two concerts at our church on December 11 and 12. They are a wonderful choir from Bergen County that was looking for a base of operations here, and we were fortunate to offer them our wonderful space. Their accompanist, Linda Sweetman-Waters, is a longtime friend of mine. She broke her wrist a while ago (ecch!), and I will be subbing for her playing organ for this fabulous choir.

Above all, don't forget - you have Advent to do!

Blessings, Ed Alstrom, Director of Music

## Birthdays

2 Morgan Moulongo

4 David George

8 Aaliyah Ali

10 Eden Selassie

15 Martha Day

16 (Jennifer) Alissa Cabezas

Karen Campbell

Lauren Waisanen

17 Betty Girma-Hall

Drew Schestag

23 Shane Faber

24 Lukas Selassie



## Pastoral Transition

Dear Members,

Our Interim Pastor Search Committee (IPSC) received numerous qualified applications. Interviews have since taken place and the selection process is nearing completion. More updates to follow soon.

The Clerk of Session,  
Frederick Moulongo

# December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”” <i>Luke 2: 10-11</i></p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b> Personnel Committee meeting</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship w/Lord's Supper Rev. Edward Baugh <b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Young Families Gathering: Let's Visit <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth Group</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> CMP - Adult Pilates/Barre Blend</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> Christian Ed. Committee meeting <b>7:30 PM</b> Communication Spiritual Outreach</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship w/Sunday School Rev. Edward Baugh</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> CMP - Adult Pilates/Barre Blend</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Session Meeting</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship w/Pageant and Sunday School Rev. Debra Given <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth Group</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> CMP - Adult Pilates/Barre Blend</p> <p><b>8:00 PM</b> Worship Committee meeting</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Deacons meet</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship Guest Pastor - Elder Kirk Woodward <i>staff holiday</i></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Day</b></p> 
<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Rev. Frank Broyles NO Sunday School</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	

# Education Building Update



Photos L to R: A neon yellow sign redirects deliveries to the sanctuary; Sunday School “under” the choir loft; the church office temporary setting in the Choir’s entrance room.

The Education Building reopened after a week of closure, 11/20 - 11/28, for Hurricane Ida-related repairs. Asbestos removal required closure of the full building for everyone’s safety. During that time Family Promise shifted to remote work. Park Street Academy closed for the week (including Thanksgiving holiday). The Christian Education team moved Sunday School to the long narrow room at the very front of the sanctuary building. In addition, the office team set up “camp” in the choir’s entrance and handicap access room.

We reopened on schedule, on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Construction moves forward in the basement to complete restoration. The target remains January for moving Park Street back into their renovated space.



46 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NJ 07042

[WWW.CentralPresbyterian.net](http://WWW.CentralPresbyterian.net)

OFFICE: 973-744-5340

[OFFICE.CENTRALPRESBYTERIAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OFFICE.CENTRALPRESBYTERIAN@GMAIL.COM)

