

TOWER CHIMES



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Office Admin. Hours: Mon. 8:30a-12:30p; Tues. 8:30a-12:30p; Wed., 8:30a-1:30p, Thurs., 8:30a-12:30p, Fri. 8:30a-11:30a

Welcome to the monthly
newsletter
of **Community
Presbyterian Church**

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**Community Presbyterian
Church of Merrick**

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOIRA

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people. (Luke 2:10)*

Dear Church Family,

What are your favorite Christmas memories? Pause a minute and reflect back on your Christmas holidays. Special traditions abound: setting up the Christmas tree and other decorations. Singing favorite carols. Reading a special scripture, poem or book. Preparing wonderful foods. Visiting with loved ones. Traveling near and far to see dear ones. Setting out the crèche or the Christmas stockings. Attending candlelight services and Christmas pageants. The sight of poinsettias, evergreen trimmings, and holly and mistletoe. Sending Christmas cards. Picking out of special gifts and enjoying the delight on the faces of children. Making angels outside on newly fallen snow. Drinking hot chocolate on a cold winter's night. Eyes tearing up at "Silent Night." Our lists go on. To this day I remember the sweet/salty taste of my mother's delicious popcorn balls sprinkled with cinnamon candies. How about watching the classics, from "A Charlie Brown's Christmas" to "It's a Wonderful Life?" What are your special memories? Whatever our memories are, it is worthy to note that rarely do our best memories of Christmas involve much money. I would wager a guess that the best of our memories are connected to people and to the divine as it touches our lives in so many mysterious ways throughout the season. Our special memories point us into the direction to all the sacred memories that have survived the ages: a star that won't go away, determined magi bearing gifts, humble shepherds, dreams that guide, angels bringing messages, journeys, choices, waiting, longing for wholeness, taking for Love.



It is important to hang on to these memories as we enter the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas with COVID-19 disrupting so many of our celebrations. COVID-19 may change some of our habits this year, but it will not keep Advent and Christmas from coming. We will find a way to prepare the sanctuary for the holidays. We will light the Advent candles, or perhaps join others who will light one candle, every evening of Advent, to symbolize our determination to bring light to the world in darkness. We will share Advent devotionals remotely along with our Advent calendars. We will have a Christmas pageant. We will celebrate Christmas Eve. Just as the forces of evil could not keep that First Christmas from manifesting, so it will not keep us from worshiping the coming of the Christ Child in the midst of the turbulent times we are in.

In these challenging times, let us not forget that the same Love that was born in that stable desires to be born in our hearts, in the very stable of our lives. The good news is that the star is still guiding, the journey is calling, and Bethlehem waits for us, where there is always room. We will soon enter the story, with creativity, engaging hope, peace, joy and love. Let us rejoice, because in the midst of the chaos of the days, the sacred memories in our heart, the divine promise of the season, will carry us through. Come, O Come, Emmanuel!



Faithfully yours, *Pastor Moira*

Clerk's Corner

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - We're off to a good start for this year's **Stewardship** Campaign. We've asked, and you've answered our call. And it's not too late to submit your pledge. It's really needed so we can continue and improve our programs.

As I've always said, you are a most generous and loving congregation. Thank you so much!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Yes, it's that time of the year again. As Pastor has noted in her recent sermons, there is a need for individuals who would like to serve, whether it is on the Session or the Board of Deacons. We need your help, your fresh input, and your commitment. Please consider saying yes if approached. Thank you!

WHILE IT HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT YEAR, WE NEED TO BE THANKFUL FOR THOSE IN OUR CIRCLE OF FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND OUR CHURCH FAMILY –

I don't know about you, but this pandemic has actually brought my families closer together, with more phone calls and zoom meetings. Yes, we are still physically apart, but remain closer in heart. The same can be said for our church family. We need to be thankful to those who help to make this all possible, including:

- Our Sunday School teacher, Lily Kelman-Nelson;
- Our Deacons, who do so much behind the scenes to tend to our flock and the surrounding community;
- Our Officers, who handle a multitude of tasks in keeping our congregation afloat;
- Our COVID-19 Team, led by Al Lewis, who helps to ensure our physical safety during worship;
- Our Choir, and its Director, who provide us with joyful music, both traditional and modern, to lift our spirits;
- And speaking of our Music Director, special thanks for her technology-driven initiatives, including our Face Book page; and finally,
- Our Pastor, who leads us in worship each week, while providing us with spiritual leadership.

My apologies to any I may have forgotten. There are so many helping hands - that is what makes us such a loving Congregation.

Gary

ADVENT CONTINUES

"Advent" means "coming" or "arrival." During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ's return.



Lighting the Advent candles continued from November....

December 6, 2019 by *The Presbyterian Outlook*
Guest commentary by *Dave Coles*



The second candle of Advent is the *peace* candle. It reminds us of the peace we can have when we live a Christ-centered life. Certainly, learning that your fiancée is with child is not a peace-generating bit of news. Being an honorable man, Joseph decided to end their engagement, but to do so peacefully for Mary's sake. Then the angel told Joseph to stay true to Mary and go through with the marriage.

Given how their kinfolk and the townspeople might see things, Joseph and Mary could not expect that things would be peaceful in the near term. However, they followed the angel-given instructions and peace prevailed. When we lead the same kind of Christ-centered life, peace will prevail for us too, regardless how things may look in the moment. Peace results when we resist acting on what we think should be done and, instead, listen for and act on God's will.



The third candle of Advent is called the *joy* candle. Joy can be defined as a feeling of great pleasure and happiness. There are other synonyms for joy, such as bliss, ecstasy, euphoria and exuberance. Galatians tells us that joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. And Proverbs tells us that a joyful heart is good medicine.

Joy has its root in the hope and peace we find in living a Christ-centered life. So, it is appropriate that we light the joy candle because, in the words of Isaiah, "You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."



The fourth candle of Advent is the *love* candle. Do you see the pattern that has been unfolding over the previous weeks of candle lightings?

We started with hope, which burst forth when God came to us in human form. Then we find peace by living a Christ-centered life. With hope and peace, we can live joyful lives. But it would be a pretty self-centered existence if Advent ended with us just being hopeful, peaceful and joyful. So, we light the candle of love to remind us that hope, peace and joy are the precursors to loving.

That love originates with God and then infuses our individual lives. This, in turn, gives us the desire to share love with God's world, God's people and ultimately give love back to God. 1 John says it best: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us."

The final candle is the *Christ* candle. It sits in the center of the other candles because hope, peace, joy and love all come from Jesus. The Book of Acts says: "For in him we live, and move, and have our being." And the Gospel of John records that Jesus said: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

Advent provides several weeks for us to think about and prepare for celebrating Christ's birth. So, this year, as I sit down to write the obligatory Christmas card letter, decorate the cookies and put on my Christmas-themed sweater, I will remember the true meaning of Advent is living a Christ-centered life that will bring hope, peace, joy and love to a hurting world.



**FROM
NOVEMBER**

Prayers for Frank Kost's baby sister, Karen, as she has contracted COVID-19.

~Prayers for the family and friends of Freida Rodriguez who went home to the Lord last Monday. (Barbara R.)

~Prayers with Charlie Leschinski on the unexpected loss of two friends: George Magaro who died of a massive stroke, and Paul Lundwald who died of pancreatic cancer. ~Prayers for the family and friends of Rocio, Mona's niece, who went home to the Lord last week. (Mona G.)

~Prayers for Frank Gencorelli who just had successful heart surgery, and prayers for Jo who is still healing from her surgery. (Barbara R.)

~Please join in prayer for Vinnie Lofaro who spent some time in the hospital with extreme back problems, but is thankfully now home. Please pray for comfort and relief from back pain.

~Prayers of healing for Scott Dodge who continues to suffer from sciatica.

~Prayers for Annette Werner for continuing recovery to good health. (Diane W.)

~Prayers for my neighbor, Louise, who is recovering from the virus after testing positive. (Diane W.)

DECEMBER Birthdays:

Jeffrey Creighton

Jo Gencorelli 1

Andrea Zurita-Burlacu 2

Elizabeth (Eldred) Arico 12

Paul Wilkin 13

Milan Alexander 14

Jordana Bello 18

Dawn Gallo 22

Mary Jane Gould 26

Mia Bello 27

Pat Lofaro 28

Jessie Gregorio 31

(If your name did not appear here, it's because we don't know it's your birthday! Please call Diane Wood at 516-623-9495 so we can add your name to our list!)



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CHOIR



You have the opportunity of joining our Virtual Christmas Choir. We have opened it up to all who would like to join. We have chosen our Anthem. All you have to do is video yourself on your smart phone or iPad singing the Anthem and then forwarding your video to me at: emmalou3272@gmail.com.

Please contact me for further details, the music and accompaniment. You may also call or text me at 516-698-7484, or see me at church!

SEASONAL MISSION PROJECTS

CONTINUE!

'Tis the time of year to help others more than ever, and we've got several mission projects in full swing!



The first is our 'MITTEN' TREE which is the collecting of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for all ages to be given to the patrons of the Freeport Food pantry. 'New' or in 'extremely-good-used' condition only, please.

The other is a COAT DRIVE also for the patrons of the Freeport pantry. We are concentrating on collecting warm, winter coats for all ages, but other temperate coats are being accepted as well!



All the Drives have begun, and we will continue them into 2020. If you have any questions, please give the office a call.

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE FOR THE FAMILIES



OF THE FREEPORT EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

Our Toy Drive for the Pantry is in full swing!!!
Now through December

20 we will be collecting toys for children of all ages who utilize the Freeport Food Pantry!

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy(s) to the Church by Dec. 20. Donation boxes are in the back of the Sanctuary. If you can't come on a Sunday, drop on by the Church during the week when Barb is there. (She's always wearing a mask and sanitizing her hands and is very aware of social distancing!)

Thank you all in advance, and if you have any questions, please give one of our Deacons a call!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

Breaking News!!!!!!

Mary is now confident we WILL be able to obtain Christmas poinsettias this year, so get your orders in to her immediately!!!

They will be \$12 a plant, and must be received by



Mary by Dec. 15. That gives you about two weeks to 'get 'er done!' And don't forget to give Mary your dedication along with your plant(s) order.

If you only want to make a dedication and not order a plant, you are welcomed to do so. The dedication is free, though a donation to the church's Flower Fund would be most appreciated.....!

Please call Mary or the church office to place your order and/or your dedication.

Out-of-towners are welcomed to place orders and dedications as well. Checks should be made payable to **Community Presbyterian Church** and sent to Mary Leschinski at 2784 Alder Road, Bellmore, NY 11710. Thank you!

Please call her cell at 516-661-5017 or email her at modymo17@hotmail.com.

AND LET'S NOT FORGET OUR 'REVERSE ADVENT' PROJECT, WHICH IS ALSO IN FULL SWING!

Please put aside and bring in the 'suggested' items listed below to Reverse Advent so our pantry patrons can be well-fed this Christmas season. (The items listed are suggested, you may donate ANY food item you wish.) You can bring them to church any time the office is open or on Sundays when you attend the service.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nov. 29 – Box of cereal | Nov.30 – Peanut butter |
| Dec. 1 – Stuffing mix | Dec. 2 – Boxed potatoes |
| Dec. 3 – Macaroni and cheese | Dec. 4 – Canned fruit |
| Dec. 5 – Canned tomatoes | Dec. 6 – Canned tuna |
| Dec. 7 – Dessert mix | Dec. 8 – Jar of applesauce |
| Dec. 19– Canned sweet potatoes | Dec. 10 – Cranberry sauce |
| Dec. 11 – Canned beans | Dec. 12 – Box of crackers |
| Dec. 13 – Package of rice | Dec. 14 – Package of oatmeal |
| Dec. 15 – Package of pasta | Dec. 16 – Spaghetti sauce |
| Dec. 17 – Chicken noodle soup | Dec. 18 – Tomato soup |
| Dec. 19 – Can of corn | Dec. 20 – Can of mixed vegetables |
| Dec. 21 – Can of carrots | Dec. 22 – Can of green beans |
- Passionatepennypincher.com*

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES CONTINUE!

Bible study classes will continue into December. We will continue our discussions in December on the 2nd, 9th and 16th and then breaking for Christmas until the new year.

Please let Pastor Moira know each week if you will be attending the class. You may call or text her at 917-327-2119 or email her at moirahearne@aol.com.



This way she can also let you know if a class has to be canceled at the last minute. If anyone has any questions, please give the office or Pastor Moira a call!



Mary will be decorating the grounds and Sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 10am. She would love some help, so if you're not doing anything, please come on down and lend a hand. Social distancing and mask-wearing will be observed!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Attention, Ladies! We will be combining our December Women's Fellowship Breakfast with the Annual Women's Noel Luncheon this year scheduled for Dec. 19 at 1pm at CPC. Please see the next article!!!

ANNUAL WOMEN'S NOEL LUNCHEON – CHANGE OF DATE!!!!



- The women of CPC are again getting together for our ANNUAL WOMEN'S NOEL LUNCHEON! This year it will be on Saturday, Dec. 19 (not the 12th as previously stated) at 1pm at the

church. We will be pre-ordering from Jani's in Wantagh or you may bring your own lunch.

Please see the menu.

Look it over and then give your order to Mona. She will be playing waitress for this event! Once all the 'orders' are in to her by Dec. 17, she will call and place them with Janis. Mona will prepay for everyone, so please be prepared to reimburse her at the luncheon. Please add \$2 to your total to cover taxes and a delivery tip.

All women of CPC are welcomed to attend...member or not, and you will be responsible for the cost of your own meal. Mona's number is 516.546-6757 if you have any questions.

All TOWER CHIME ARTICLES each month will be due by the 15th of the prior month. If you have something for the January Tower Chimes, please email or deliver it to the church office by December 15.

CHINESE LUNCH SPECIALTIES

Served till 4:00 pm Everyday (Exclude Holiday)
Choice of : Wonton, Egg Drop, Hot & Sour or Egg Roll
(Served w. Chicken Fried Rice, Steamed Rice or Brown Rice, Exclude L1~L3 and L17)

L 1.	Chow Fun	7.95
	Choice of Chicken, Pork, Beef, Shrimp, or Veg.	
L 2.	Fried Rice	7.95
	Choice of Chicken, Pork, Beef, Shrimp, or Veg.	
L 3.	Lo Mein	7.95
	Choice of Chicken, Pork, Beef, Shrimp, or Veg.	
L 4.	Chow Mein	7.95
	Choice of Chicken, Pork, Beef, Shrimp, or Veg.	
L 5.	Buddhist Delight	8.25
L 6.	Sweet & Sour Chicken	8.50
L 7.	Diced Chicken w. Walnuts or Cashew	8.50
L 8.	Diced Chicken w. Peanuts	8.50
L 9.	Shredded Chicken with Garlic Sauce	8.50
L10.	Blossom Chicken	8.50
L11.	Hot Spiced Shredded Chicken	8.50
L12.	Chicken w. Hoisin Sauce	8.50
L13.	Chicken w. Mixed Vegetables	8.50
L14.	Chicken w. Lobster Sauce	8.50
L15.	Chicken w. Broccoli	8.50
L16.	Chicken w. Black Bean Sauce	8.50
L17.	House Special Noodles	8.50
L18.	Twice Cooked Pork	8.50
L19.	Pork w. Vegetables	8.50
L20.	Beef w. Vegetables	8.95
L21.	Beef w. Broccoli	8.95
L22.	Beef w. Green Pepper & Onion	8.95
L23.	Hot & Spicy Shredded Beef	8.95
L24.	Hunan Beef	8.95
L25.	Shrimp Garlic Sauce	9.50
L26.	Shrimp w. Broccoli	9.50
L27.	Shrimp w. Vegetables	9.50
L28.	Shrimp w. Cashewnuts or Walnuts	9.50
L29.	Blossom Shrimp	9.50
L30.	Shrimp w. Lobster Sauce	9.50
L31.	Sauteed Two Delicacies (Chicken & Shrimp)	9.95
L32.	General's Chicken	9.95

JAPANESE LUNCH SPECIALTIES

Served till 4:00 pm Everyday
(Served w. Miso Soup, Salad and White Rice)

L33.	Chicken Teriyaki	10.25
L34.	Beef Teriyaki	10.95
L35.	Tempura (Assorted or Vegetables)	10.50
L36.	Sushi Lunch	10.95
L37.	Sashimi Lunch	11.50
L38.	Maki Lunch (2 Rolls from J23~J33)	10.50

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the 'perfect gift', the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God. As important as gifts to loved ones are, the Presbyterian Church (USA) gives throughout the year through the Christmas Joy Offering, drawing us back to the manger and God's perfect gift to us.



During this Advent Season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the past to be more like Jesus. We want future leaders for the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity, and we want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need. For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ - the truly perfect gift.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected during worship service on Dec 20. Envelopes can be found in this Tower Chimes and on the back tables in the Sanctuary throughout the month of December.

Thank you for whatever you can give.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

What are those children up to?



Greetings CPC Family and Friends! Whether you are attending church in person or virtually, you will have a special treat presented to you at the 9:00 a.m. worship service on December 20. Cathy Donohue and Lily Kelman-Nelson are working diligently with our Sunday School kids. Prepare to have your hearts and spirits lifted in praise

for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives especially during this Christmas season.

VESPER'S DINNER?

Normally, our Children's Christmas Play would be followed-up by our always fabulous Vesper's dinner, but unfortunately, due to the health and safety restrictions



being placed on all establishments now, we will have to forego our Vesper's Dinner this year. We know we will still be together in prayer and in heart, but as mentioned earlier, safety at this time is our key concern.

We wish everyone a most joyful Christmas dinner!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Due to the pandemic, we thought it best **NOT** to go out caroling this year. This was **NOT** an easy decision our Session had to make, but we thought it best for the safety of our carolers and those being caroled.

However, if you really need to hear caroling, give Gary a call and he will 'carol' to you over the phone!

THANKSGIVING DRIVE FOR THE PANTRY



A HUGE thank you to everyone who contributed food and/or money to the Freeport Food Pantry for our Thanksgiving Food and Money Drive.

We collected \$950 in total. With the cash amounts donated, we were able to purchase 23 \$20 gift cards. The balance was made up of checks made out to the Pantry for them to purchase food for Thanksgiving. We also delivered about 15 bags of groceries and one turkey. The generosity of this congregation continues to amaze, even as we enter the busiest and most taxing time of year.

Heartfelt thanks to one and all!

CPC DIRECTORY UPDATE - Barbara is preparing our CPC Directory of family and friends for 2021.



Please check your listing as it appeared in last year's directory.

If it's correct, nothing needs to be done. If something needs changing or you'd like to add or delete information from last year's directory, please give Barbara a call.

If she doesn't hear from you, your listing will not change from last year. Please get your changes to her by **Dec. 20**. Thank you.



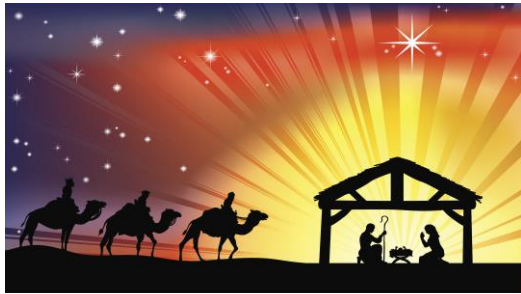
EVERYONE is cordially invited to attend our 7pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with lessons and carols!

It's always an evening of celebration, devotion and joy as Pastor Moira will lead us from

the pulpit.

Unfortunately, we will not be having a bell or vocal choir this year, but the congregation will do just fine in making joyful noise unto the Lord. Cathy will still be tickling those ivories and pumping those pedals on our magnificent pipe organ and gratefully, Brian will be at her side leading us with our hymns. And don't forget.....the ever-so-important Christ Candle will be lit.... all in celebration of His arrival!

Won't you please join us in paying homage to our One and Only, Lord and Savior, our Good Shepherd, our Deliverer, and Light of the Word at 7pm on Dec. 24!



MERRY CHRISTMAS

From your CPC Church family!

TIS THE SEASON.... DO YOU LIKE TO SHOP?



If you are like many of us who do some of their shopping online, then you are just the person we are looking for.

Amazon, an amazing charitable company, has teamed up with charitable organizations across the nation. They will donate .5% of eligible purchases back to charitable organizations. **Community Presbyterian Church is a member of this program.**

The way it works is simple.

First, you log onto Amazon as usual. Then you lookup **AmazonSmile** and choose Community Presbyterian

Church of Merrick as your charity. This is a one-time registration and Amazon will save your information so that in the future any purchases you make will automatically go to CPC as your preferred charity. Then Happy Shopping!

Please spread the word to family and friends. Then ask them to spread the word to their family and friends. It's that simple.

Any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly; in faith (and shopping)

Nancy Stuber

A REMINDER TO FULFILL PLEDGES FOR 2020!

As we consider our stewardship pledges for next year, let's not forget to follow-through on the pledges made for 2020. Our church runs a tight ship and depends on our loyal family of faith to meet the budget each year. Thank you.

And if you haven't yet filled out your **2021 pledge card, it's never too late!** There are extra pledge cards on the back table in the Sanctuary.

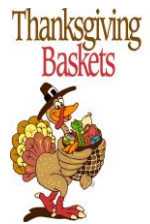
Please feel free to fill one out and either mail it to the church or put it in the offering plate if you are attending service.

Out-of-towners may call the church to have one mailed to you.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Our deacons 'trotted' to the homes of several of our local members and friends presenting them with a Thanksgiving basket full of love and food! They were most appreciative and were grateful for the company as well as the goodies!

Thanks to all our deacons for doing this every year!!!



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY, November 22

The Sunday before Thanksgiving is definitely NOT like the calm before the storm! We're all hustling and bustling, writing lists, finding recipes, looking for our 'good' dishes and silverware, cleaning the house, and shopping for food and supplies, amongst other things.

But in the midst of all this chaos, many of you still found the time to attend Sunday service and contribute to our Harvest table.



Many, many thanks for the food items shared by you all in the spirit of Thanksgiving! The symbolism of our Harvest Table truly defines what Thanksgiving is all about!

All the items shared by you were taken over to the Pantry, so their patrons could also enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables for Thanksgiving.

The spirit of Thanksgiving was certainly alive at 2101 William Place!

SUMMERY REPORT" From CPC Veggie Garden AND REFLECTIONS

As we "fall back" to Standard Time each autumn, the hours of daylight dwindle down.

At this time of year my first impulse is to think another growing season, March through October, has ended, the winter cold and storms are ahead, and next spring can't get here soon enough.

With the sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic last March, and its perils, problems, pundits and politics, we all awoke in an alien world.

Tending to our CPC garden plantings of lettuce, tomatoes, summer squash, bell peppers, cukes and potatoes for the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry, the garden also provided me with a place and time of sanctuary.

During the many months just passed, I was witness to numerous "miracles" occurring in and around a seemingly closed and unused building.

First, the numerous tasks of the operations and business of CPC continued as before. Exterior properties were mowed and edged, trees and bushes trimmed, storm debris, fallen trees, branches, and leaves removed. Roof leaks were repaired and gutters cleaned. Interior miracles include new floors upstairs and downstairs and fresh painting of repaired walls! A baby grand piano appeared in Grafing Hall! Recorded Sunday worship services began, including all music and song. Sunday Fellowship on Zoom. Continued Sunday Prayer Ministry by phone.

We reopened the building in mid-September following COVID-19 preparations and guidelines. This continues to be possible thanks to all who participate in the necessary tasks to keep us all safe and well.

My epiphany at this time of Advent is that these miracles observed are merely the evidence of the true "miracles of our church family" - individuals united in service to the Lord.

Together, We Can.

Yours, in gratitude, Scott Dodge

NEW BOARDERS AT CPC

We are VERY happy to announce that Boy Scout Pack #225 will now be using CPC as their home!

The previous Cub Scout Pack #277 had disbanded, and our 'den' has been empty for a while.

Melissa Rossi is their pack leader, and they will be meeting bi-weekly on Monday nights each month from 7pm-9pm in Grafing Hall. They have agreed to our social distancing, mask-wearing and sanitizing guidelines. **Welcome Pack #225!**

NOW IS A VERY EXCITING TIME AT THE CHURCH AND TIME TO

think about joining either Session or our Board of Deacons for the 2021 slate. Please, pray about how YOU might be called to serve the



church. Every single one of us has been given gifts for ministry to share and to exercise – like muscles! Help is needed in all aspects of our life together as a community of faith, from lending a hand to our property commission, to encouraging and delivering food pantry donations, to planning worship, to doing dishes after coffee hours.



Please join in praying for volunteers to step up to the joyful task of serving the Lord through this congregation. Your thoughts, suggestions and questions are most welcome.



It's also a great time to VOLUNTEER TO BE AN USHER or to serve COMMUNION in 2021! Won't you join our teams? Please call Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis (917-968-5600) if you'd like to join either or both teams.



Anyone may be an usher, but you must be a **member** of the church to serve communion. The 2020 lists are being looked over now, and we'd love to add a few more names for 2021.

The lists are being finalized now, so **the ASSUMPTION stands that all of the 2020 volunteers will be re-upping for 2021, unless, of course, Bobbie hears from you otherwise.**

December Calendar

Tues., Dec. 1: AA 6:45pm-9pm
Wed., Dec. 2: **12noon Bible Study**
Thurs., Dec. 3: NA 6:45pm-9pm
Fri., Dec. 4: AA 6:45pm-9pm
Sat., Dec. 5: **10am DECORATE SANCTUARY – COME ON DOWN AND GIVE MARY A HAND!!!**
Sun., Dec. 6: **2nd Sunday of Advent; 9am worship; Communion; Lighting of the Peace Candle; No Sunday School; New Usher Teams 3 and 4; NASC 1-6pm; PHR 11:30am-2:30pm**

Mon., Dec. 7: 7pm-9pm Boy Scouts in Grafing Hall
Tues., Dec. 8: AA 6:45pm-9pm
Wed., Dec. 9: **12noon Bible Study**
Thurs., Dec. 10: NA 6:45pm-9pm
Fri., Dec. 11: AA 6:45pm-9pm
Sat., Dec. 12:
Sun., Dec. 13: **3rd Sunday of Advent; 9am Worship; Sunday School; Lighting of the Joy Candle; New Usher Teams 4 & 5; PHC 11:30am-2:30pm and 4pm-6:30pm**

Mon., Dec. 14:
Tues., Dec. 15: Jan. Tower Chimes articles due into office; AA 6:45pm-9pm
Wed., Dec. 16: **12noon Bible Study**
Thurs., Dec. 17: NA 6:45pm-9pm
Fri., Dec. 18: AA 6:45pm-9pm
Sat., Dec. 19: **1PM WOMEN'S NOEL LUNCHEON AT CPC**
Sun., Dec. 20: **4th Sunday of Advent; 9am worship; Lighting of the Love candle; JOY OFFERING; PHC 11:30am-2:30pm and 4pm-6:30pm**



Mon., Dec. 21: 7pm-9pm Boy Scouts in Grafing Hall
Tues., Dec. 22: AA 6:45pm-9pm
Wed., Dec. 23: **NO BIBLE STUDY TODAY**
Thurs., Dec. 24: **7pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**
NA 6:45pm-9pm in Barker Hall
Fri. Dec. 25: **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!;**
AA 6:45pm-9pm



Sat., Dec. 26:
Sun., Dec. 27: **Worship Service hosted by Presbytery. The link will be sent out a few days beforehand. PHC 11:30am-2:30pm and 4pm-6:30pm**

Mon., Dec. 28:
Tues., Dec. 29: AA 6:45pm-9pm
Wed., Dec. 30: **NO BIBLE STUDY TODAY**
Thurs., Dec. 31: NA 6:45pm-9pm; **NEW YEAR'S EVE!!!**



JUST FOR COVID LAUGHS! (Gotta have a sense of humor to survive!)

<https://congregationalson.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Covid-Carols-FINAL-updated-4-2-2020.pdf>



THE 12 DAYS OF COVID By Mary Rose Jensen

On the first day of COVID, my true love said to me, "There's a case in the county on TV"

On the second day of COVID, my true love said to me, "It's all from travel."

On the third day of COVID, my true love said to me, "Just wash hands."

On the fourth day of COVID, my true love said to me, "No need to worry."

On the fifth day of COVID, my true love said to me, "Run to the store."

On the sixth day of COVID, my true love said to me, "Keep social distance."

On the seventh day of COVID, my true love said to me, "School's out for summer."

On the eighth day of COVID, my true love said to me, "Wear mask and goggles."

On the ninth day of COVID, my true love said to me, "Worship is canceled."

On the tenth day of COVID, my true love said to me, "Tests hard to come by."

On the eleventh day of COVID, my true love said to me, "Liquor stores open."

On the twelfth day of COVID, my true love said to me, "Thousands are dying."

© 2020 Mary Rose Jensen. Permission to sing during COVID-19 Pandemic.

BY BRIAN HEHN TUNE: "GOD REST YOU MERRY GENTLEMEN"

God rest you merry gentlefolk, for what else can we do?

There's hardly even toilet paper so that we can poo.

The stores are closed and children home from school until who knows...

Oh tidings of boredom and woe, boredom and woe. Oh tidings of boredom and woe.

We've played our board games eighty times, and watched all that we can.

We even drove around to nowhere in our minivan.

So now we're singing to you people who I'm sure are fans.

Oh tidings of boredom and woe, boredom and woe.

Oh tidings of boredom and woe.

© 2020 Brian Hehn. Permission to sing during any quarantine or social distancing situation.

BY SUSAN AND RUDY HEHN TUNE: "OH LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

Oh little towns in Covid land How still we see thee lie,

Thy residents are quarantined They do not want to die.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth A temporary light, The sanitizing crews at work Spray Lysol through the night.

Oh little towns in Covid land Stay clean and pure we pray,

Keep practicing your distancing It keeps disease at bay.

Remember some are hurting And need your loving care,

Give them a hug like Christ would do If only through the air.

How valiantly, how valiantly The healthcare workers strive, To save all those who have Covid And keep them all alive.

We all can pray together For those who need God's hand, To give relief from all the grief Throughout this Covid land.

© 2020 Susan & Rudolf Hehn. Permission to sing during any quarantine or social-distancing situation.

BY RUDOLF HEHN TUNE: "FROSTY THE SNOWMAN"

Covid the virus Was a very dangerous soul, It was fast and mean And could not be seen But to kill us was it's goal.

Covid the virus Was a fairy tale they say, But the doctors know How pandemics grow So it came to life one day.

There must have been some bad stuff in that Wuhan bat they found, 'Cause when they breathed it in their lungs it began to spread around.

So..... Covid the virus Was alive as it could be, And the people said We are dropping dead Social distance is the key.

Covid the virus Quickly spread throughout the land, It was in our ships And was on our lips It was getting out of hand.

We tried to limit contact and we worked from home as well, But being unemployed and broke was definitely hell.

So..... Covid the virus 'Caused a multi-nation pall, But we did our best To get through this mess And be kind to one and all. Bumpity cough cough, Bumpity cough cough Together sing a song,

Bumpity cough cough Bumpity cough cough United we are strong!

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