

# 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

*<sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. <sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. (Isaiah 40:9-11)*

The four weeks before Christmas is a special time in the church calendar known as Advent. It is a time of waiting for Jesus's birth. It is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child. Yet we are also pulled into other directions: shopping, holiday parties, cooking and decorating. It's exhausting just to think about it all, especially in what we hope is the tail end of the COVID-19 pandemic. It's been a grueling year in many respects. How do we find renewal and balance?



This is especially a problem for us as Christmas preparation has been more and more given over to "consumerism." In light of this, it is refreshing to return to the rituals of Advent: lighting the Advent wreath and meditating on the scriptures. Slowing down and finding peace in a season that wants us to speed up. Finding ways to give instead of "making that list and checking it twice." Singing and rediscovering Advent hymns and Christmas Carols. Putting out a nativity scene, following an advent calendar, or making a Jesse tree. A Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus's family

tree. Each day of Advent, read a Bible story about someone on Jesus's family tree and hang an ornament symbolizing the story on your Jesse Tree. As you decorate your tree, you'll see how God prepared for Jesus to be born through many generations. (<https://www.faithward.org/jesse-tree/>). Advent invites us to find our unique way to keep Jesus at the center of Christmas celebration. How will you observe Advent?

Here at Community Presbyterian Church, the word and music guide us through these holy weeks. We invite you to enter the Advent spirit in worship on Sunday morning where we are looking at the themes of Advent every week (Hope, Peace, Joy and Love) through the lens of "Housing the Holy." We participated in the decorating of the church on Saturday, December 4, to make our sanctuary festive and merry. Our 'Winter Clothes Tree' is up for patrons of the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry, and we've just kicked-off our toy drive for them as well. 'Tis the season of giving!



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Our deacons are inviting all women to their Women's Noel luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 1pm at Jani's in Wantagh to share in the joy of this Christmas season together. Be on the lookout for our wonderful children's Christmas Pageant on December 12 at 5pm followed by our Vesper's dinner at 5:30pm. Make sure Christmas Eve at 7pm is on your calendar for our beloved Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols. Sunday the 26 will be a rousing Carol-fest of singing cherished Christmas songs.

Let us travel through Advent, making our hearts ready through our prayers, performing good deeds and acts of preparation. In observing a good Advent, we not only prepare for a blessed Christmas, but ready our hearts to enter a new hopeful, happy and healthy 2022. O Come, O Come, Emanuel!

Faithfully yours,  
*Paster Moira*

## **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

- ~ Please join Amanda Kelly-Pitt in prayer for her friend, (Uncle) Rich for his health and her friend's daughter, Rachel, for her health.
- ~ Please join Maryjean Williams in prayer for Victoria Monterey who is sick and in the hospital.
- ~ Continued prayers of healing for Brian Donohue and Laura Asch.
- ~ Prayers of healing for David Brackett's knee.
- ~ Prayers for David Brackett who tested positive for COVID and for his wife, Jamie, who is having a foot problem.
- ~ Continued prayers of healing for Brian and Laura.
- ~ Prayers for a healthy pregnancy for Kerry.
- ~ Prayers of thanks and good luck to Gary and Nancy as they start a new chapter in their book!

### DECEMBER Birthdays:

<i>Jeffrey Creighton</i>	
<i>Jo Gencorelli</i>	1
<i>Andrea Zurita-Burlacu</i>	2
<i>Elizabeth (Eldred) Arico</i>	12
<i>Paul Wilkin</i>	13
<i>Milan Alexander</i>	14
<i>Jordana Bello</i>	18
<i>Dawn Gallo</i>	22
<i>Mary Jane Gould</i>	26
<i>Mia Bello</i>	27
<i>Pat Lofaro</i>	28
<i>Jessie Gregorio</i>	31



*(If your name did not appear here, it's because we don't know it's your birthday! Please call Laura Asch at 303-2188 so we can add your name to our list!)*

### SOME SURPRISE CHRISTMAS NEWS!

The CPC family's participation in the bottle and can deposit program in 2021 has totaled to \$565. Thanks go to all who join in. Collect your cans and bottles. Support the Freeport Food Pantry. We are on the road to redemption. (Tee Hee)

~Scott Dodge

### BIBLE STUDY CLASSES CONTINUE!

Bible study classes will continue through December with perhaps some minor changes. Please be sure to stay in touch with Pastor Moira so she can keep you apprised of any changes. Please also remember to let her know each week which class you will be attending. You may call or text her at 917-327-2119 or email her at moiraahearne@aol.com.



The Sanctuary and grounds were decorated by Mary and her elves on December. 4. Thank you to everyone who helped. The Church is definitely ready for HIS arrival!

### SEASONAL MISSION PROJECTS

'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 has actually turned into a WINTER CLOTHES TREE. From mittens, hats, scarves, socks....to coats and everything in between. We only ask that they be in 'New' or in 'extremely-good-used' condition only, please.

Mona's already made the first 'drop' to the Pantry. 19 hats, 15 sets of gloves, 3 backpacks, 3 men's jackets, 1 blanket, 1 child's vest, 1 child's coat, oodles of socks, and 2 absolutely stunning white hand-crocheted baby outfits that most probably were baptism sets. Stunning! Just stunning!

Our Drive will continue into 2022 while the weather is still cold. 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 12 (at our Vesper's Dinner) 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. 12. Donation boxes are in the narthex. 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!**

Please get your Christmas poinsettia and dedication to Mary right away! The cost is **\$12 per plant**. (Yes, we dropped the price!) Merry Christmas!



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](mailto:modymo17@hotmail.com).

### **ANNUAL WOMEN'S NOEL LUNCHEON –**



The women of CPC are again getting together for our **ANNUAL WOMEN'S NOEL LUNCHEON!** This year it will be on Saturday, **Dec. 11 at 1pm** at Jani's in Wantagh, and we've opened it up to the women of the Powerhouse Church and the Peace Church as well.

As in past years, everyone will pay for their own meal....kicking in a few extra dollars for taxes and gratuity. Cash is preferred at the luncheon to

make it easier on Mona who will collect all your monies to pay the bill.

Mona does need to give Jani's a headcount by the 8<sup>th</sup>, so please call her to let her know you will be coming. Mona's number is 516.546-6757 if you have any questions.



### **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. 11 at 1pm at Jani's in Wantagh**, as noted in the above article.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION**



Our Sunday School Youth and some willing adults will be

treating us to the annual Christmas play, "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" at 5pm on Sunday, December 12.

Please join us in the Sanctuary for this Christmastime treat, and then join us for our annual....

**VESPERS DINNER** immediately following the play.

Charlie (Fellowship) will be cooking the main courses, and he is asking if the rest of you would please **sign up** to bring a salad, side, or dessert.

Please be sure to fill out a 'reservation' form and give it to Barbara in the office this week. You may also just call her if you'd like your name added to the list.

The more the merrier! Merry Christmas, and thank you Charlie!



All **TOWER CHIME ARTICLES** each month will be due by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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 12 and 19.** 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.

## THANKSGIVING SUNDAY, November 21

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!



## 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 monies (\$875) donated, we were able to purchase 35 cards @ \$25 each; and three other cards for \$25 were donated.

We were also able to deliver 4 large bags of groceries for Thanksgiving. The generosity of this congregation continues to amaze, even as we enter the busiest and most taxing time of year.

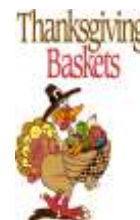


Heartfelt thanks to one and all!

## 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!!!



## THANK YOU BOY SCOUT TROOP #225

Scout leaders David Walley and Melissa Rossi led their troop to a remarkable Church yard clean-up for us this weekend! We thank them most profusely for their time and effort in tidying up the CPC grounds. They collected over 100 'stuffed-to-the-brim' large black garbage bags full of leaves.

It was a huge undertaking, and their willingness and thoroughness is greatly appreciated!

And member Frank Kost, his friend Danny, and Frank's son Danny, offered up freshly grilled hot dogs, water and goodies for the hard-working group!

Thanks all around to everyone involved!

**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. Even though Nancy is no longer running the committee, we're doing the best we can. Pledges can be mailed in to the church at any time.

**A REMINDER TO FULFILL PLEDGES FOR 2021!**

We know we've just celebrated our 2022 Stewardship campaign with a wonderful coffee hour provided by Charlie L., but let's not forget to follow-through on the pledges made for 2021. 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 **2022 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.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - Yes, it's that time of the year again. 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!

**NOW IS A VERY EXCITING TIME AT THE CHURCH AND TIME TO** think about joining either Session or our



Board of Deacons for the 2022 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 **2022!** 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 2021 lists are being looked over now, and we'd love to add a few more names for 2022. **The ASSUMPTION stands that all of the 2021 volunteers will be re-upping for 2022, unless, of course, Bobbie hears from you otherwise. CPC**

**DIRECTORY UPDATE** - Barbara is preparing our CPC Directory of family and friends for 2022.

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. 19**. Thank you.

**And PS - Gary and Nancy's new address is: 11811 Sistine Lane, Venice, FL 34293**

**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.

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**from your CPC Church  
family!**



And please join with Pastor Moira for a 'carol-sing' service on the Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 26.

We know everyone will be tired from their Christmas festivities, but let's keep the celebration going.....

After all, could there be a better reason?



**And wishing  
you all a  
Healthy and**

**Happy New Year**



**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.

George will still be tickling those ivories and pumping those pedals on our magnificent pipe organ and leading us in the carols/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!

# DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monda	Tuesd	Wednesday	Thursd	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> PHC wake/funeral /repast 5-9pm	<b>2</b> 12noon <b>Bible Study Swap</b>	<b>3</b>  AA 6:45-9:30p	<b>4</b> 10am decorate sanctuary
<b>5</b> <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT; LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE; 9am Worship Service; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Communion; Usher Team #4 (Pat Dubovick, George Weeks); (No Sunday School) ; Coffee Hour; PHC 11:30a-2:30p; NASC 1-6pm</b>	<b>6</b>  Scouts 7-9pm	<b>7</b>  AA 7-9p	<b>8</b>  12noon <b>Bible Study Swap</b>	<b>9</b>  NA 7-9p	<b>10</b>  AA 6:45-9p	<b>11</b>  1pm Women's Noel Luncheon at Jani's in Wantagh. Call Mona if you want to go.
<b>12</b> <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; LIGHTING THE JOY CANDLE; Christmas Joy Offering; 9am Worship; Pastor Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #1 (Mona Grimm, Al Lewis and Bobbie Zimmerman Lewis); SUNDAY SCHOOL; No Coffee Hour; PHC 11:30a-2:30p; 5pm Children's Christmas Play followed by our 5:30pm Vesper's Dinner!!</b>	<b>13</b>  Scouts 7-9pm Toys for Tots	<b>14</b>  AA 7-9p	<b>15</b>  Tower Chimes articles due  12 noon <b>Bible Study Swap</b>	<b>16</b>  7pm Session meeting (tentative)  NA 7-9p	<b>17</b>  AA 6:45-9p	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT; LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE; Christmas Joy Offering; 9a Worship; Pastor Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #2 (David, Fran and Amanda); SUNDAY SCHOOL; Coffee Hour; PHC 11:30a-2:30p;</b>	<b>20</b>  Scouts 7-9pm	<b>21</b>  AA 7-9p	<b>22</b> 12 noon <b>Bible Study Swap</b> <b>7:30pm PHC Christmas Cantata – everyone is invited!!</b>	<b>23</b>  NA 7-9p	<b>24</b> <b>7pm CPC Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Lessons and Carols - Lighting of the Christ candle; Usher Team #3</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Merry Christmas to one and all!</b>  
<b>26</b> <b>9am Carol-Sing Worship service; Pastor Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #4 (Pat and George); SUNDAY SCHOOL; Coffee Hour; PHC 11:30a-2:30p &amp; 4p-6:30p</b>  	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  AA 7-9p	<b>29</b>  12 noon <b>Bible Study Swap</b>	<b>30</b>  NA 7-9p	<b>31</b>    AA 6:45-9p; 10pm-12am – <b>PHC Watch Night Service</b>	<b>JAN. 1</b>