

# The First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains

Sunday, December 16, 2018  
10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

WELCOME The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *Handbell Choir, John Hellyer, Director*

CALL TO WORSHIP

\*OPENING SONG #271 (blue) "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" *Lori Yost, Musician*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Refining God, it is not easy for us to admit we are not a blameless people.**

**Yet, we trust the promises of those in power  
but have trouble believing the ones you have made.**

**We prefer the shadowy places of the world,  
rather than walking in your Light.**

**Forgive us, Faithful One.**

**May the Light of Christ show us your way;**

**may the Love of Christ overflow from our lives to others;**

**may the Life of Christ be our model as we seek to be your people.**

*(silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE *(responsive)*

Do you feel it?

God's tender mercy rests on you, heals you, transforms you.

Do you see it?

God's Light breaks into our lives and shows us the way.

**Renewed and made whole by Christ,**

**we see the path God has prepared for us—**

**the way of peace, the way of hope, the way of grace, the way of service.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SONG OF LONGING #245 (blue) "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs. 3

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

CHORAL ANTHEM "Lo, How a Rose" by M. Praetorius "The Winter Rose"

by Joseph M. Martin *Chancel Choir, John Hellyer, Director*

BAPTISM *Daniel Frederick, son of Matt & Melissa Moguillanes*

*Ellie Noelle, daughter of Ed & Ashley Gurka*

*Andrew Christopher, son of Lauren & Chris Gibbons*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE *May the Peace of Christ be with you all.*

**And, also with you.**

*(Children and youth are invited to leave for their classes)*

\*HYMN #8 (blue) "Come, Thou Almighty King"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 42:1-9 (NRSV) & John 1:1-14 (NRSV)

MESSAGE "Light of the World: Seeing Through the Darkness"

*Rev. Kathleen Edwards Chase, Lead Pastor*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY "Carol of the Bells"

*Handbell Choir*

\*SENDING SONG #757 (blue) "Soon and Very Soon"

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*The altar flowers today are in memory of John & Rita Bird, given by Eunice Bird  
and in memory of James Elwood Harper, given by Betty Harper*

## Today & This Week

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT TONIGHT AT 6:30 PM:** Please join us for "Un-Frozen, Do



You Want to Meet a Savior," our 2018 Christmas Pageant at 6:30 pm. All Spark Kidz classes will participate and refreshments will be served. A free will offering will benefit the Hayden Becker Memorial Fund.

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY TONIGHT:** Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Middle school and high school youth are invited to Grace Chapel from 7 pm - 8:30 pm. We'll enjoy food, games and Christmas fun. Bring a silly gift to exchange that costs less than \$5.00.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE IN FRIENDSHIP HALL STARTING DEC. 16:**

The 2019 offering envelopes will be available on Sundays for pick-up in Friendship Hall from December 16, 2018 through January 6, 2019. On weekdays and after January 6th, the envelopes will be available in the church office. If you currently do not have envelopes and would like to receive them, or if you have been getting envelopes, but no longer need them, contact Dolores Wagoner, Finance Manager at [dolores@frc-pp.org](mailto:dolores@frc-pp.org) or 973-835-1144 x14.

**COMMUNION OFFERING FOR DECEMBER IS  
GRAINS OF HOPE 2019 = HUNGRY PEOPLE**

**FED:** Once again, we join with 14 local partners to purchase meals for the hungry in NJ and Haiti. This year, we anticipate gathering about 800 volunteers to package 150,000 nutritious vitamin fortified macaroni and cheese meals on **March 24, 2019** at Pequannock Valley Middle School. Mark your calendars now, and contribute to December communion offering.



## Support/Serve

**GRAINS OF HOPE GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE FOR SALE:** Two styles of cards are available for any amount of meals you choose. Donation is .25 cents per meal. For example, 100 meals purchased = \$25 donation

**CONSIDER MAKING AN END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTION TO FRC:** Small and large end of the year donations are appreciated as we hope to send this calendar year in good financial shape. This year, we budgeted \$72,500. So, whether you give \$25 or \$2,500 or more, it all helps. Place a check (made out to "First Reformed Church" and note: "Year End Donation") in weekly offering, give through our website [www.firstreformedchurch.com](http://www.firstreformedchurch.com) or send it to the church: Dolores

Wagoner, Finance Manager, The First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains, 529 Newark-Pompton Tpke, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444.

**CHILD SIZE HANGERS NEEDED:** Bessie Green is in need of small child size hangers. You can drop them in the bin marked for Bessie Green. Collections of small toiletries, hats, scarves, gloves, underwear and socks are always in demand.

**NEW CITY KIDS 2018 WISH LIST:** You can support NCK by purchasing an item from their wish list. Grab their letter with information on the back table

## Events

**OPEN HOUSE AT THE FRIENDLY MANSE ON DEC. 23:** Pastor Kathleen and the Congregational Life Team will host coffee hour as a Christmas Open House at Friendly Manse after our one worship service that day at 10 AM next Sunday, Dec. 23.

**CHURCH WIDE POTLUCK BREAKFAST & ONE WORSHIP SERVICE, Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 A.M.:** A Potluck Breakfast will be held in Friendship Hall at 9 AM before the 10 AM Worship Service. The Congregational Life Team will be providing coffee, tea, milk, OJ, sliced ham, breakfast sausage and rolls. Please sign up in Friendship Hall to bring a covered dish. We're excited to have this time of fellowship together and hope to see you there! There will be no service held at 8:30 AM on Dec. 30.

**HELP DECORATE THE SANCTUARY:** On Dec. 21 or 22, we need a few people to arrange poinsettias in the church. Bea Kettlewood will aid with the design. The group can meet whenever convenient for participants.

**SHOW IN THE FRC-PP ART GALLERY FOR DECEMBER FEATURES WORKS BY ARLINE & JAN FRIEDRICH:** The oil paintings exhibited are the collaborative work of Arline Friedrich and her husband, Jan. After surviving stroke in 1999, Arline chose to be a survivor. A delightful surprise to them was the joy and sense of accomplishment they realized in uniting their abilities to paint a picture in oil. Visit the show this month & read the full bio in the Dec. Go Forth

**\*SAVE THE DATE\* FREE SPAGHETTI DINNER- 1/18/2019 @ 6:30 PM-**

**FRIENDSHIP HALL:** The Congregational Life Team is hosting a free spaghetti dinner on Friday, January 18th at 6:30 PM in Friendship Hall. Ziti pasta, pasta sauce, meatballs, salad, Italian bread and drinks will be served. We kindly ask you sign up in Friendship Hall or online so we can prepare accordingly. If able, please bring a dessert to share. We hope to see you there!

## Christmas Schedule

- **Sunday, Dec. 23** - One service at 10 AM in the Sanctuary. Youth have classes, Spark Kidz will not meet.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services – Monday, Dec. 24 –**
  - Family Service 5:30-6:15 PM- A service geared toward communicating the Christmas message to children and families, but all are invited.
  - Communion Worship Service 8:30 PM in Grace Chapel - Celebrating the Christmas story with carols, candles and communion.
  - Candlelight Service with Chancel Choir 11 PM - With the Chancel Choir, instrumentalists and soloists, we will share once again the familiar story of Christ's birth in a fresh way. The service ends at Midnight with the lighting of the candles throughout the sanctuary.
- **Sunday, December 30** - Join us for a pot-luck breakfast in Friendship Hall at 9 AM followed by one worship service at 10 AM in the Sanctuary. No children or youth classes.
- **Sunday, January 6** – One service at 10 AM



## NEW HERE? WELCOME!

Welcome to First Reformed Church! We are a community of faith trying to help people live and love like Jesus in their communities. If you are new to us, we'd love to help along the journey. No matter who you are or how you are, we hope you know you can belong here. Our vision is to be the church in the heart of this town with OPEN DOORS, OPEN HEARTS & OPEN HANDS. If that is the type of church you are looking for, you can take a first step by filling out a connection card, which is located on the table by the entrance to our worship space at 8:30 a.m. service or in the pew at 10 a.m. service. Also, check out our website at [www.firstreformedchurch.com](http://www.firstreformedchurch.com)

## ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

We believe that **discipleship** is a lifelong journey. There is never a time in our lives when we can be satisfied with our growth or our certainty. Certainty is about being right. Faith is about being guided by what's right and training yourself to do it. FRC's worshiping community welcomes faith with all the doubts, the questions and the mystery. Our hope is to provide space and opportunities for exploration and inquiry, questioning and listening, dialogue and discernment. There is also nothing like participating in hands-on service to deepen your faith and put it in action. Throughout the year, we offer many opportunities for missional service.

## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES

We have a thriving ministry with 6th to 12th graders here at First Reformed Church. There are trips, retreats, service projects, and fun outings scheduled throughout the year. We have a very dedicated team that has been working with the youth for many years. The middle school program is called IGNITE, and the high school program is called F.U.S.E. The youth meet on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in middle school and high school classes. They also meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. for FUEL youth group. Wednesday evening is a midweek opportunity to see your friends, learn and have fun.

## BABIES & KIDZ MINISTRIES

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available at both services. The nursery is located on the main floor of the Ministry Center near the church office. Our Spark Kidz program for children age 2 years to 5th grade begins at 10 a.m. each Sunday in the Sanctuary, where children attend the first 15 minutes of the service with their family and then are dismissed for their individual classes. There they explore the Bible through exciting hands-on multi-sensory lessons. Parents can pick up their children in their classrooms upstairs in the Ministry Center following the conclusion of our 10 AM service.

## WAYS TO GIVE

**Direct:** Donation into the plate

**Bank Transfer:** Set up donations directly from your checking or savings

**Online:** Donate thru our secure website [www.firstreformedchurch.com](http://www.firstreformedchurch.com)

## PRAYERS & CONCERNS

### WITH APPRECIATION:

A big thank you to everyone who helped the past two Sunday evenings with the Drive Thru Nativity. We hosted 225 cars. Also a big thank you to all the many volunteers that assisted with this project. It takes many hands for set up. costumes, props, and each station. Thanks to the youth who returned all the props and scenery to the barn loft. Next year we may consider opening up the opportunity to be a character to the town/other churches.

### LONG TERM ILLNESS:

**Brian Spring, Connie, Jamie, Bob**, friend of Joann Warner, **Andres Echevarria, Hannah Cerullo** (Lew Shafer's cousin's daughter), **Jennie Byram, Eugene Fletcher, Carol Ratz, Kathy** (Sue Leonard's friend), **Candace** (Jane Young's sister), **Michael Barch, Gavin Brady, Blair Ludemann, Cheryl, Lawrence Trumpore, Jim** (the Bundz's neighbor).



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For more information visit us online at [firstreformedchurch.com](http://firstreformedchurch.com)

Light of  
the World