

The Church Mouse

Newsletter

The First Presbyterian Church of Maywood

401 Maywood Ave, Maywood, NJ 07607

December 2022



December Message:

Our official Christmas season begins on November 27th 2022, the 1st Sunday in Advent. Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas. Just for the record, let's make note that Advent is considered to be the beginning of the Liturgical year as it heralds the forth coming birth of Jesus as well as His second coming. This is the Light God Promised, the one John's Gospel proclaims by saying, "the light shines in darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

This is the period of time in which the Church remembers and prepares for the coming (birth) of Christ.



The symbolic color used for this season is **Violet/purple**, we reflect this by the color of our Altar Cloths and other vestments. **Purple represents royalty**. The season of Advent is one of great symbolism. Here are a few examples: The Advent wreath for God's eternal being is symbolic that God is eternal, never ending. The Advent wreath in the front of the church has a place for 4 colored candles around it and one larger white one in the center. Each candle represents a week of Advent and its theme. The center candle represents and is called the Christ Candle and it is lit on Christmas Eve. The theme each week is to help us prepare for the birth of Christ and His Second Coming. **The usual 4 words are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The center candle will be lit on Christmas Eve as will the other four. There are appropriate scripture readings in both the old and new Testaments for this and readings will be given as each candle is lit.

Now is the time for us to all come together united by God, our Father, to rejoice in His love for us as well as all the blessings showered upon us. His Grace, Mercy and continued forgiveness are never ending. May our lives become more Christ centered. **No greater gift could anyone ask for or receive.**

All praise and thanksgiving to God, our Father
Merry Christmas!

With prayers and love,

Betty



The Clerk's Corner

Hello, Everyone,

I can hardly believe that it is December already! It is Advent, a church season that I really enjoy. I like to separate Advent from the secular "Christmas" (or holiday) season that is a frantic whirlwind of stuff to do: shopping, cooking, planning, sending cards, decorating, etc. In contrast, **Advent is a time for contemplation and meditation.** It is stolen time that I take for myself. I read the first two chapters of Luke in my King James Bible. I play the Advent hymns on the piano, not just at church but also at home. The hymns are soothing, and most have a peaceful quality. My favorite is "**Magnum Mysterium,**" better known as "**Of the Father's Love Begotten.**" (Most of you groan when you see it in the bulletin because it is a very irregular tune.) It is beautiful, though, and I play and sing it just for myself quite often. **Advent is a season of quiet anticipation and joy.**

It is a time of waiting as we count down the days to the celebration of the birth Jesus. Are there ways that you celebrate Advent? Do you use an Advent Calendar, or have some other traditions? If not, why don't you join me in celebrating the anticipation of Christmas and sharing the peace? Get out your Bible, sit in your comfiest chair, and wrap yourself up in a cozy blanket. Now take a few deep breaths to calm and center yourself. Open your Bible to Luke and start reading. See what I mean? Do you feel the peace and the joy? I hope so! **I wish you much peace, joy, and love, throughout Advent, Christmas, and in the New Year.**

With hugs and prayers,

Sheryl

Member Updates

Christmas Eve Church Service

Saturday, December 24th at 7:00 pm!

Christmas Day is on a **Sunday** this year! Please come out to worship on **Sunday Morning at our usual time of 10:15am!**

We are pleased to welcome **Steve Alletti** and **Nancy Gasper** as formal members of our congregation!

The Church Mouse would like to thank everyone for the **savory crumbs** left behind throughout the year 2022! May you all have a wonderful, blessed, and happy Christmas...and keep dem crumbs comin' !



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

Emma Barberena - December 16th

Doris Werner - December 21st

Julie Sibbald - December 26th

Wishing you all great day and a happy year ahead!



We have begun our annual **TOY DRIVE** to benefit **Toys for Tots!** Please bring a **new, unwrapped toy** to church and place it on the front steps of the sanctuary before December 11th! Thank you!

Our Thanksgiving Feast was a great success!

Delicious food, laughter and working together were on the menu in abundance! Special thanks to Chef Steve Alletti and all of his devoted kitchen workers and to all those who helped & brought special dishes to share...

Cuteness overload with Grandma Dolly



Sarah Carberry says...
"Leftovers are for Quitters!"

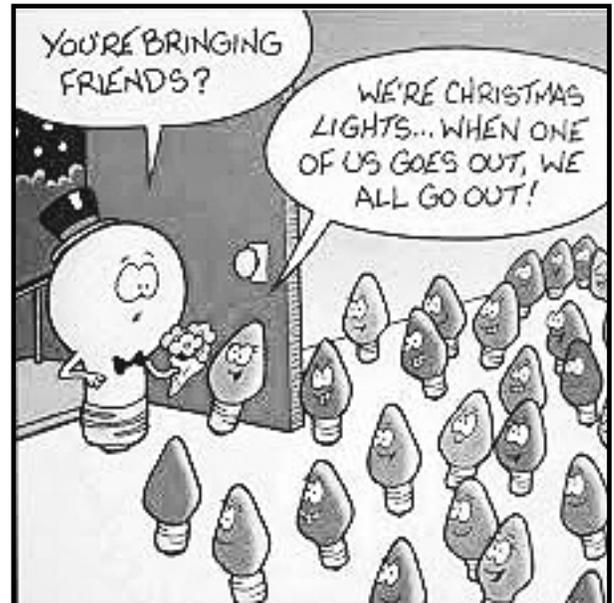


Christmas Dinner Bash

Christmas Day 5:00pm
Church Fellowship Hall

The Barberena and Heffernan-Winkler families are having their Second Annual Christmas Bash! This is a covered dish party. We are supplying cheese and crackers, beverages (including wine), ham, lasagna, and Christmas cookies. The party will be a little larger this year so we are moving it to the church hall, with the kind permission of Session, but it is still a private party and not a church function. **We are inviting all of you, our Church family!** We are excited to have more space to spread and mingle, chill, & maybe sing some carols. The party will be Christmas Day, time to be finalized but probably 5. Please let us know if you are coming and what you would like to bring. We are hoping to finalize plans by 12/15, but can always fit a few more people. **We hope you can join us!**

☺ Just for laughs ☺



Question: Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

Answer: Because he had very low *elf* esteem!

Thought for the month:

"Each year's regrets are envelopes in which messages of hope are found for the New Year."
... John R. Dallas Jr.

