



Memo Press

The Newsletter for Memorial Presbyterian Church

January/February 2020

Hope Through A Bleak Mid-Winter

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Christmas ends with mounds of wrapping paper and boxes thrown away. Lights and decorations are stored away for another year. Our houses look a little austere compared to a few weeks ago. The austerity reminds me of the first verse of "In the Bleak Mid-Winter". It is a Christmas song, but the words ring truer in this time between Christmas and spring.

The song's next few verses break through the dreary snow upon snow mid-winter by telling us of Jesus. Winter recedes and the heavenly realm of angels joining the simple manger scene with straw and barn animals conjure up a renaissance painting. Does the historic moment of God coming down to earth in Jesus break through your bleak mid-winter? How does the glory of the manger scene with angels and the Savior of the world enter our lives today?

My son Matt is a freshman at Rowan University where 3 student committed suicide this semester. The mental and spiritual health of the community have become a new focus. As students struggle with this reality, where do they find hope? One of Matt's freshman friends appreciated the scientific and intellectual integrity of being an atheist. However, his views are changing. He now seeks a world view that focuses on love, hope, a caring community, and perseverance. For the first time in his life, he is seeking faith in Christianity.

Matt's friend went to the Methodist church near the campus and was greeted by caring people his parents and grandparent's age. They gave out handmade scarves to college students as a symbol of the warmth and love of the Christ community. That gift was a beautiful gesture. But the seeking atheist needs a deeper sense of how the faith community will help him see the power of Christ that overcomes despair and offers hope throughout the bleak mid-winter. I pray that his journey towards Christ is a long and life changing one and that others in the Rowan community take the same journey

I found Christ's love and power as I spoke to people who visited Janet Jeffers before she died. The power of death was no match for Janet's faith in Christ Jesus and her sense of humor. Many of you shared that visiting Janet was a mixture of sadness and hope. We were sad to say goodbye to a person we love. But stronger than sadness, was the hope gained from seeing Janet's belief in the eternal love of God. Keeping vigil with Janet was one way I lived through the bleak mid-winter and saw the shining son radiating the warmth of spring.

May each of you find the love, hope, community, and enduring strength of Christ in your own lives.

God bless, *Pastor Keith*

Our Church Family:



Sandra Dunn and Kathy Forsman



Remember our HOMEBOUND MEMBERS with Prayers & cards....

Sandra Dunn is in an assisted living facility - Terraces at Parke Place, 661 Delsea Drive Sewell, NJ 08080.

If a member of the congregation, or anyone, who would desire a Pastoral visit or is hospitalized, please call

Rev. Reed on his cell phone @ (609) 969-2217



**REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER**

Let us pray for you. Simply fill out the form on our website www.wenonachpc.org.

This request will automatically go to Reverend Reed, Linda our office administrator and select Deacons.

Prayer requests will be "posted & active" in the church bulletin for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested.

New Members: We are very blessed to have each of these new members join our church. If you have not done so already, please take the time to meet and welcome them to our church family: *Nancy Flynn, Betsy Cote and Heather Sedalis.*

Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Ava Bryant was baptized on Sunday, November 24, 2019. The proud parents are Kelly & Matt Bryant.

If you are aware of any joys or concerns for a member of our Memorial Presbyterian Church family, please contact one of the Deacons.



MPC Board of Deacons

Deacon Moderator – Floss Turton 423-0774

Caroll Craig	423-2750	Mary Scheidell	952-3490
Sandy Gasis	468-1009	Cindy Skulnick	494-4831
Carol Perry	468-5404	Lynn Stankard	(609) 420-4784
Pat Hart	582-6535	Pamela Raup	468-2751



MPC Church Session

Head of Council – Rev. Keith Reed (609) 969-2217

Brian Brooks	906-9337	Maryanne Loughran	415-9349
Tom Fusco	609-254-6879	Tom Repici	237-7067
Wendy Kearns	468-7920	Kim Vassallo	(609) 970-2016

Clerk of Session – Doris Carter cdoris12@gmail.com



Memorial Presbyterian Church

Administration and Finance: Ellen Lanciano (*Chair*) Jack Hart & Greg Hack (*Inside*), Doug Rose (*Manse, Outside*), *Members:* Rev. Keith Reed, Brian Brooks, Larry Miller, Bernie Ryan and Nick Smith

Fellowship Committee: Brian Salvatore (*Chair*), *Members:* Mark Houldsworth, Carol Pierce, Carol Perry and Sandy Gasis

Flowers Grant: Wendy Kearns (*Chair*)

Fund Raising: Kim Vassallo (*Chair*) Ellen Lanciano, Keith Mease, Kathy Forsman, Susan Miller, Mary Scheidell, and Nancy Flynn.

Nominating Committee: Annemarie Sparks (*Chair*), *Members:* Brian Brooks and Carol Perry

Personnel: Nick Smith (*Chair*), *Members:* Pat Hart and Ellen Lanciano

Spiritual Growth Maryanne Loughran (*Chair*), *Members:* Nora Taylor, Pat Hart, Sunday School Teachers, Kathy Recipi (YG) and Rev. Reed

Stewardship: Tom Fusco (*Chair*), *Members:* Lynne Hack, Tom Repici and Nick Smith

SOS: Jack Hart (*Chair*), Kelly Bryant, **Looking for Volunteers**

Worship & Music: Alexis Skinner & Betsy Ostrander (*Co-Chairs*), *Members:* Meg Cornely (Music Director), Jeff Craig, Janet Jeffers, Kathy Repici, Don Sparks, Floss Turton and Kim Vassallo

State of the Corporation



Cumberland Glass was scheduled to begin repairs on the stained glass windows in November, but due to inclement weather, they will begin in the Spring.

The bells are in need of repair, tuning and polishing. We are going to see if we can get money for that from the Flower's Grant. For 3 octaves it will cost approximately \$1700.00 plus \$750 for shipping. Hopefully, we get approved for the grant.

Because of the constant driving over the manhole cover in the driveway, it has broken and fell into the hole. Doug filled the hole with stone and cement. The cover that Larry made has been put back on and is painted bright orange. Please try not to run over the cover with your car and please try not to run over the lawn for the manse.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Lanciano

President of the Corporation

Prayer Vigil

Sign up for one hour

January 24-25th, 2019

*Be still
and know
that I am
God*
-PSALM 46:10

Starts: 6PM Friday

Ends: 6PM Saturday

Where: Chapel and Friendship Hall

Contact: Shirley Raively email: rsraively@comcast.net

What is a Prayer Vigil? **Slowing your life down...and listening to God.**

In the Prayer Vigil you may:

- Spend a quiet hour in the chapel
- Slow down and read a few verses of scripture
- Listen for God to guide your thoughts
- Read a prayer guide
- Write about your experience in the prayer journal
- Walk the labyrinth after reading the simple guidelines



Increase
Gratitude
Faith
Hope
Love
Perseverance
Sense of Purpose

Listen for God



What's Going on with our Deacons

A new year already!! I pray that it's a great 2020 for all of us.

Panera Bread: NEED HELPERS TO WRAP BREAD_- On Wednesday we pick up unsold bread from Panera Bread in Cherry Hill and bring it back to the church to be rewrapped and distributed to Pitman Food Pantry and the Outpost. Lynn Hack and helpers do the re-wrapping and Charlie Price delivers it on Thursday mornings. CALL FLOSS AT 856-812-8868

Nahida's Pantry: We now have 33 boxes to go out every month. See the Pantry Report

Communion: Deacons will continue to take Communion to our homebound members. We have three teams who go out on Sunday or Monday after church to serve it.

Help for the Needy: As always, please give me a call or text at 856-812-8868 if someone needs help. We can supply food and one-time emergency help.

Stephen's Ministry: We are up and running in 2020. We now have 5 folks who have trained to be Stephen Ministers.

Toy Drive: Santa's Workshop ran from November 1 or the first Sunday after Halloween to December 8 (December 15 if there are any odd or ends that show up). The Santa Workshop collection benefited Parkview Elementary School, where Jeannette Smith and Maryanne Loughran work.

Small Groups will start after Ash Wednesday February 26, 2020

One Great Hour of Sharing: Coming up during Lent.

Yours in Christ,

Floss Turton, Moderator

NAHIDA'S PANTRY



The months of November and December 2019 were busy and challenging for the food pantry. There were 11 extra families each month, for the holiday meal only, plus we added two families, a total of 3 people, to our regular families. We are now serving 33 families each month and have decided to set a top limit of 35 families so that we do not become over-extended. We gave our regular families a ShopRite gift card both months to help with the holiday meal. We are receiving requests for toiletries, cleaning supplies, and paper products in addition to food.

We did all this work while dealing with the illness and death of Janet Jeffers who had led the pantry for the past several years. Both Nancy Flynn and Pat Hart would like to thank everyone who helped us through this transition and who generously donated food, especially turkeys and hams, to make our pantry successful.

Please continue to help us because hunger doesn't take a holiday. In January we will be supplying ground meat and a recipe with ingredients; then, in February we will be providing sausage also with a recipe with ingredients. This is in addition to all the normal products we give every month.

WE PUT THE **FUN** IN FUNDRAISING

The Spaghetti Dinner was fabulous and the net profit was \$1,900.00!!! Thank you to all who have helped and who contributed to the dessert buffet.

The Christmas Cookie Sale was also a success and the net profit was \$1,067.00. Another huge thank you to all of our bakers and the helpers the day of the event.

Kim Vassallo

Chair



February 22nd – Tom Repici

February 22nd – Tracey Reed

February 23rd – Jack Hart

February 27th – Jennifer Green



The Sunday School celebrated the birth of Jesus through sending cards to our shut-in members, and on Sunday, December 22, a "Happy Birthday Jesus" party was held.

All children of the church are always welcome to attend Sunday School. On February 9th, children are encouraged to attend the 11AM Family Service which will focus on the significance of Communion.



Nora Taylor, Sunday School Superintendent



Upcoming Youth Group Activities

Dec 22nd, Dec 29th & Jan 5th - Sunday School Winterbreak

Jan 10-12th (No Sunday School Jan 12) - Wintercamp @ Refreshing Mountain

Sunday January 26th - SuperBowl Party @ Woodbury Church 2-4pm

Saturday February 22nd - 30 Hour Famine @ Wenonah 9am-7pm (**One-day event)

March 1st - Final payment for Mission Trip is due. \$132.00.



Worship and Music Committee

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Happy New Year! A new year- with new hope, commitments and the desire for World Peace!

We will be celebrating the Baptism of Jesus this month. Our focus for Family Sunday will be on our own Baptisms. Also, we will have our Healing Service the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Please come before or stay after the service if you are able, since only 10 minutes of actual worship will be devoted to the healing. We will be treated to a special duet sung by Sue Sole and Pam Raup this month. Do you like to sing? Please join us the last Sunday of January for a Hymn Sing.

Our Sunday School children will be participating in Holy Communion during the February Family Worship Service. At the end of the month, Ash Wednesday begins. The Lenten Journey lays ahead of us. We will use this period to become more self-reflective, as we embark on a special study in small groups.

The Christmas Holiday Season was wonderful! We are so appreciative for all of the Special Music and The Choir's Cantata, directed by Meg Cornely. The play by our Sunday School, directed by the Craig Family was very special. The Youth Group, led by Kathy Repici brought a special message to our hearts during the Holiday Season, Thanks to Sue and Rachel Sole for leading the Congregation in singing on Christmas Eve and to the Loughran 's for the Christmas Family Service! Many thanks to Ronnie Heaney, Larry Miller and the brass band. Many thanks to all of our volunteers that made the Christmas Season a joyous one. A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Hanging of the Greens, and cleaning of the Church grounds.

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### ***JANUARY***

- 5<sup>th</sup> EPIPHANY SUNDAY/ Communion**
- 12<sup>th</sup> Family Sunday Baptism of Jesus**
- 19<sup>th</sup> Healing Service**
- 26<sup>th</sup> Hymn Sing during Worship Service**

### ***FEBRUARY***

- 02<sup>nd</sup> \*NO COMMUNION\***
- 09<sup>th</sup> Family Sunday/ Communion**
- 16<sup>th</sup> Special Music**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Worship Service**
- 26<sup>th</sup> ASH WEDNESDAY- LENT BEGINS**



**Women's Guild** is open to anyone in our congregation. We meet once a month for prayer, socialization, and Bible Study. We pray for those in our congregation who are undergoing difficult times and for our friends and family in need, as well as local and world issues. If you would like us to put you or your loved one on our prayer list, please let any of us know!

Our latest Mission project is bringing Christmas to the residents at **Twin Cedars Assisted Living Home** in our neighborhood. We are delivering Christmas gifts for the residents, purchased by not only the Women's Guild members but also by some caring folks in the congregation as well as the Second Grade class of teacher Betsy Cote! Additionally, her class is working on some personalized cards and ornaments for the Home. The Girl Scouts will be visiting to sing Christmas Carols to the residents. Our relationship with our new friends at Twin Cedars is only beginning, and we hope to be able to help them in other ways throughout the year. (Note: they still watch movies on a VCR, so if anyone has VHS movies to donate to them, please let me know!)

Our December Christmas Dinner was held December 10th at the home of Ellen Lanciano, who treated us to her homemade Wassail! Everyone brought a dish to share and we enjoyed the fellowship and food.

You are more than welcome to attend our next meeting on **Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00!** It will be held at the home of **Annemarie Sparks - 109 S. Princeton Ave, Wenonah**

*Peggy Murphy*, Interim Moderator

856-468-8032

peggy1956@hotmail.com



## Flowers for Sunday Worship Services in 2020

**Memorial Presbyterian Church**  
**202 East Mantua Avenue, Wenonah, NJ 08090**  
**856-468-5121**

If you are interested in donating flowers, please complete the form below and either put it in the Offering Plate on Sunday, or mail it to the church office. The flowers will be ordered by the church office from The Lamp Light Florist in Sewell, at a cost of \$25 per vase.

Additional donation forms are available in the church office.

THANK YOU

\* \* \* \* \*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to provide flowers for our worship service on Sunday,

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

PLEASE COMPLETE for the Sunday Bulletin:

The flowers this morning are dedicated to the Glory of God and placed by

\_\_\_\_\_

in Memory of / In Honor of **(circle one)**

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to provide    1       2       arrangements at \$25 each    (circle one).

My check    \_\_\_\_\_    Is enclosed/attached,

\_\_\_\_\_ Will be mailed to the Church office a week prior to the designated Sunday, or

\_\_\_\_\_ Will be put in the Offering Plate prior to the designated Sunday.

**(Please write "SUNDAY FLOWERS" on the subject line of your check)**

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to take the flowers with me following the service.

or

\_\_\_\_\_ I want the flowers to be given to a shut-in or someone in need.