UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**DECEMBER 9th, 2018**

12 Yardville-Hamilton Square Rd

Yardville, NJ 08620

(609) 585 – 5770

[www.upcnj.org](http://www.upcnj.org) office.upcnj@gmail.com

**WELCOME**

You have come to hear the Word of God, and you shall hear it read and preached. We hope that by hearing it, you will also meet the Word of God, the Living Word, Jesus, Our Savior. And we pray that you will leave our church equipped to serve him more faithfully and effectively.

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY**

December 9th, 2018

PRELUDE “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” R. Vaughan Williams

ADVENT CAROL SING Rhea Mucha

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

ADVENT CANDEL LIGHTING CEREMONY The Mucha Family

 Leader: On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place: With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth. With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry: “Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

 **People: Alleluia!**

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 100

 Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

 **People: Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

 Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

 **All: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

\*HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithfull” #41

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We thank You our God that you are making us into a new creation and person through the application of Your truth to our lives and the working of Your Spirit within us. But we confess that we have been slow to change. Our past still haunts us and carries our old self into our present. And we have been slow to believe how much You really love us and who you have called us to be. So help us to become the person that Your transforming love and power can make us to be. For we ask this in Jesus’ name.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Colossians 1:13-14

 Leader: The Father has rescued us from the domination of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

 **All: In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

\*GIVE GLORY TO GOD “Give Glory to the Father” #577

**Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,**

**World without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,**

**World without end. Amen.**

**Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS: JOHN 8:31-32**

31Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

ANTHEM “Walkin’ in the Light” K. Thomerson

**ROMANS 12:2**

**2**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**EPHESIANS 4:17, 22-24**

17Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds.

22You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, 23and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

**SERMON**

“Who Are You? Rev. Dr. Gary Wetzel

MOMENT FOR QUIET REFLECTION

\*HYMN “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” #2

*(Joys and concerns may be written on the pew cards and given to the ushers during this hymn. They will be shared during the prayers of the people, unless you mark them confidential.)*

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostle’s Creed

***I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and Earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the* *dead.* *I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

**Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy Peace.**

**WE PRESENT TO GOD OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. G. Hancock

\*WE GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*PRAYER TO DEDICATE OUR GIFTS

**We thank you for your great love for us, O God, and that we can become a new creation and person through your presence in our lives and our application of your truth to them. So we dedicate ourselves to becoming the people that you want us to be. Yes, we dedicate ourselves to leaving our old self behind, and to becoming the new person in Christ that you want us to be. And that you for how far you’ve already brought me, and that you’re not finished with me yet. Amen.**

\*HYMN “Joy to the World” #40

**WE RECEIVE GOD’S BLESSING**

1 Peter 2:9, Acts 20:32, Jude 1:24-25

POSTLUDE: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” arr. C. S. Lang

\*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND

**WE WELCOME REV. DR. GARY WETZEL**

Rev. Dr. Gary Wetzel served as the pastor of the Garwood Presbyterian Church in Garwood, NJ, for 26 years. He now is a member of the Monmouth Presbytery and lives with his wife Joan. They lead two Bible studies in their home for their community each week. He also put on his own internet site as a reference work for pastors at worshipingwithgodsword.com that enables them to quickly and easily find the best scriptures that they want to incorporate into their worship services. He also leads worship services and does preaching as a substitute pastor for the churches of our presbytery.

**TODAYS FLOWERS**  Conner Family *In Memory of Dorothy Conner & Other Loved Ones*

**GREETERS & USHERS** Karl & Rita Peterson

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Dec 9th – Dec 16th

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun 12/9** | **Mon 12/10** | **Tue 12/11** | **Wed 12/12** | **Thurs 12/13** | **Fri 12/14** | **Sat 12/15** | **Sun 12/16** |
| **9:30am**-Adult Sunday School **9:30am**-E3 **10:45am** – Advent Carol Sing**11am-**Worship Service**6pm** – Youth Group | **12pm-** A/A**8pm-** NA | **12pm-** A/A**7pm** – Women’s Book Club | **6pm**-Boy Scout Den #1 | **6pm –** Boy Scout Den#7**7:30pm -** Choir**8pm**- A/A | **6pm –** Boy Scout Den #5**8pm-** A/A | **7am** – Fellowship Hall reserved**9am** – UPC Men’s Group | **9:30am-** Adult Sunday School**9:30am-**E3 Worship**10:45am** – Advent Carol Sing**11am-**Worship Service |

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

The Del Family – For peace & resolution Warren Deveney – Comfort for bereaved family

Cathy Dr. Jeff Cook – Cancer

Donna Pam & Dan Rose

Patti Susan Anthony

John Carol & Al

Fred Tom & Sue

Marietta’s Family Liz Reedy

Mike’s Family Cindy – Many health issues

Nikki Goodale & Family

Missy – Wants to reconnect with Nikki

Betty Ransom – Concern about health issues

Loretta – Healing

Janice – Healing

Eileen – Hospital

Helen Wood – Trouble getting around

Michael Sexton- bad head injury from fall, In trauma center at Capital Health.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA**: The cantata will be presented on December 16, 2018 (Third Sunday of Advent) during the 11 a.m. worship service. Save the date and bring a friend. The cantata is about Christmas around the world, the congregation is encouraged to attend worship in apparel from another country.

**WOMENS BOOK CLUB** will meet on Tuesday evening, Dec. 11th at 7pm in the Bertolet Lounge. We will be discussing *A Dog Named Christmas* by Greg Kincaid. All women of the church and their friends who enjoy good books, good fellowship, and yummy deserts are encouraged to join us. January: *Close to Shore* by Michael Capuzzo.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD CAMPAIGN BEGINNING NOVEMBER 11** with a last order date of December 9. Order forms are available in the Narthex. Please attach your check to the order form and place it in the offering plate or in the Financial Secretary mail box in the church office.

**UPC WILL BE COLLECTING CHRISTMAS GIFTS** again this year for the children at Womanspace. All items are to be UNWRAPPED—this allows staff to best decide which child should receive the item. HOWEVER, they welcome wrapping paper, scotch tape, gift bags, tags, and ribbon. Please DO NOT donate items such as Candyland, Puzzles or Violent-type themed games. GREATEST NEED IS FOR CHILDREN AGES 13 - 17. GIFT CARDS are more than welcome especially for teenagers (remember our Church's Gift Card Fundraiser -- it'll be a win-win).Thank you for your generosity and kindness!!! Any questions contact Benita Rommel or Pat Anthony. Please place items in the box next to the Gift Tree by December 16th.

**MISSON SPOTLIGHT** Our Mission recipient during the month of December is Womanspace. Womanspace, Inc. is a leading nonprofit agency in Mercer County, New Jersey, that provides a comprehensive array of services to individuals and families impacted by domestic and sexual violence and dedicated to improving the quality of life for adults and their families. Programs include crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, court advocacy and housing services. All donations earmarked for Mission will be donated to Womanspace.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

We are called by Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to celebrate

And share the love of God with grace and joy. Gracefully and joyfully we seek to share our gifts in the community through: Open Doors, Diverse Worship, Innovative Education, Creative Mission, and Dynamic Service.

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

You are invited to make a commitment to follow Jesus Christ as Lord of Life, or to renew your commitment as a Christian Disciple. Please speak to the pastor who will talk and pray with you. If you are looking for a church home we invite you to join this family of faith and service. This is a caring congregation, open to all. Please let us know we can serve you.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Terry E. Fouse, Rev. John H. Milne

Organist/Choir Director: Marilyn Machmer

Church Secretary: Katlin Briggs

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Prayer Requests Daytime: Church office Tel. (609) 585-5770

Evening: Joyce Vaughn Tel. (609) 915-3733

If you would like to make a written contribution to our worship bulletin, please forward same to the church office no later than Monday @ 12 noon. Thank you.

**Large print bulletins are available. Please see an usher if you need this service**.