***UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

**12 Yardville-Hamilton Square Road**

# Yardville, NJ 08620

***(609) 585-5770***

***(609) 585-5674 fax***

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[***www.upcnj.org***](http://www.upcnj.org)

***December 17, 2017***

## WELCOME

Welcome! You have come to hear the Word of God, and you shall hear it read and preached. But we hope that by hearing it, you will also meet the Word of God, the Living Word, Jesus, our Master and 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 17, 2017

ADVENT CAROL HYMN SING LEADER Bill Sullivan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

CALL TO WORSHIP AND THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

\*HYMN “Joy to the World!" 40

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

 **We try not to do any evil, Anointing God, but it is so hard to let go of those little things we enjoy - gossiping about the pregnant girl in the neighborhood; making light of the accomplishments of a co-worker; daydreaming about someone else's partner. Forgive us, Loving God.  You have freely given us salvation, yet we act as if we are the ones who paid for it.  Help us to rejoice always in your grace, and to give thanks in every moment for that life we receive through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GIVE GLORY TO GOD“Glory Be 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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4

**1** The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,

 to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

**2** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn; **3** to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes,

 the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

 the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

**4** They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

CHILDREN’S SERMON “What A Surprise” Rev. Jean B. Pinto

 ANTHEM “Mary, Did You Know?” Mark Lowry/Buddy Greene

 Soloist: Jaclyn Wrywas

PSALTER LESSON A song of ascents Psalm 126

**1** When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.

**2** Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.

 Then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

**3** The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

**4** Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev.

**5** Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

**6** Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow,

 will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

SERMON “Restore Us, O God: Joy”Rev. Jean B. Pinto

MOMENT FOR QUIET REFLECTION

\*HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” 28

*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 Apostles’ 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 AND 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.*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” arr. W. Held

\*WE GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD (tune # 455)

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

***Alleluia, Alleluia. Praise Him above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.***

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

\*PRAYER TO DEDICATE OUR GIFTS

 May the gifts we offer in these moments be light for those in the shadows of society, be food for those who hunger, refreshment for those parched by life, and hope for all who cry out to you, O God.  In Jesus' name, we pray.  Amen.

\*HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” 23

\*WE RECEIVE GOD’S BLESSING POSTLUDE “Bethlehem Of Noblest Cities” arr. C.S. Lang

Liturgist: Bill Sullivan

Flowers: Given In Memory of Bob Machin By the Machin Family.

Greeters & Ushers: Rita & Karl Peterson

***UPCOMING EVENTS December 17th – December 24th***

**Sunday---December 17th   9:30 amE3 Worship Service**

 **9:30 am Adult Sunday School**

 **11:00 am Traditional Worship Service**

 **4:00 – 8:00 pm Youth Group - Caroling**

**Monday- December 18th 12:00 pm AA**

 **7:00 pm Scouts Committee Meeting**

 **8:00 pm NA**

**Tuesday- December 19th 12:00 pm AA**

**Wednesday-December 20th 6:30 pm Webalos Cub Scouts**

 **7:00 pm AA**

 **7:00 pm Troop #291 Board Mtg. Bertolet Lounge**

**Thursday-December 21st 8:00 pm AA**

**Friday---- December 22nd  8:00 pm AA**

**Sunday— December 24th 9:30 am E3 Worship**

 **11:00 am Traditional Worship**

There are large print bulletins available. Please see an usher if you need this service.

**Please join us** next Sunday in Advent for the singing of your favorite Christmas carols.  Plan to arrive by 10:45 a.m. for this much loved UPC tradition. (Dec. 24th).

**December Mission Project –**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.There are two ways you can contribute this month to Womanspace at United Presbyterian Church. First, all moneys earmarked for Mission will be donated to Womanspace. Also, in the Narthex there is a tree that has tags for gifts for children of different ages. Choose a tag, purchase a gift for that child, and bring it to the church unwrapped by December 10. You will bring a little joy to children in crisis and they will never forget it.

**Adult Sunday School** – There will be NO Adult Sunday School next Sunday (December 24th) at 9:30 am. School will resume the following Sunday (December 31st) with study of the Book of John. Come enjoy study and fellowship!

**2017 Pledges** - The end of the year is rapidly approaching and that means time for tax planning.  Please make your 2017 contributions by Sunday, December 31, 2017 to ensure posting this year.  If you have any questions, please contact Karl Peterson, Financial Secretary at (609)259-7256 or email karlpete@optonline.net.

**UPC Youth Group** - Yes, UPC Youth will NOT have a silent night on December 17th!  Caroling along with ANY & ALL Church Friends to our Shut-Ins from 4-8pm will happen.  ALL WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH!!!!! After Caroling, all will go back to UPC and enjoy a snack as well as a hot beverage.  There will be NO Youth Group meetings on Dec.24th or Dec. 31st.

**The Women's Book Club** - No meeting in December. January’s selection - THE DRESSMAKER By Kate Alcott

**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**](http://www.upcnj.org/opendoors.htm)

[**Diverse Worship**](http://www.upcnj.org/worship.htm)

[**Innovative Education**](http://www.upcnj.org/education-nurture.htm)

[**Creative Mission**](http://www.upcnj.org/mission.htm)

**Dynamic Service**

 **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Healing for: Debbie Rogers Krevor – (Sue Spreat’s sister) – leg surgery as well as recovering from a fall; Carly Mauer – healing; Maria, Angela Accardi, Angelica – breast cancer, Peggy Marvin, Ryan, Reilly Paige, Wayne, John Borak – cancer; Pam and Dan Rose; Ron, Bill, Kyle, Lenny, Pat, John Demeter – Melanoma; Jodi Mannix – undergoing chemotherapy; Cathy, Sally, Jim – pain from cancer and God’s caring love to strengthen his faith; Carolyn McPhee, Connie Davis and Andrea Pinto all undergoing treatment for cancer; Leo Clement; Dot Bracaloni; Susan Anthony; Michelle Carson; Rob Simon & family on his recent diagnosis of ALS; Karen & Keith Ezzo; Al & Carol D’Amico; Scott Rose; Bob D’Angelo; Dianna – diagnostic test for brain aneurism; Billy Kocis – throat (tonsil) cancer; Amanda Lowe – kidney complications; Post-Op surgery healing – Bob Young, Jim – concern & healing from severe back pain; Matthew Johnson – support and healing from leukemia; A member of the LaCrosse family suffering from cancer as well as another (overwhelmed) family member strength to cope with caregiving; Ali –healing brain surgery for a tumor and ensuing treatment; Bill Franz & Kieran Pillion – healing from heart by-pass surgery; Frank Kostar-heart issues; Marilyn Kostar – health issues and coping with Frank; Girja Singh – strength for future operation; the Briggs Family – oldest daughter Lisa and husband John recuperating from kidney transplant as well as for Terri, their caregiver; Healing for Mike McHugh – hospitalized with an infection & Nancy McHugh (family) – strength for dealing with illness and an aging parent; Healing, strength, and support for Ed in ongoing heart rehab and wife Barbara; Continued prayer for the following – Tony; Emily & Danny; Jill; Lynn; Matt – having surgery on 12.20.17; Patrick, John; Sarena; Gillian.

Concern For: All Caregivers; a prayer for God to watch over James Sheedrick; Rebecca – living situation; The French Family – for reconcilliation.

### OUR CONGREGATION IN MISSION

Because of your stewardship commitment, the United Presbyterian Church is supporting the ministries of:

* The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through Monmouth Presbytery; the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly.
* Mobile Meals of Hamilton Township
* Princeton Theological Seminary Scholarship Fund
* Trenton Area Habitat for Humanity
* Trenton Area Rescue Mission
* Presbyterian Camp at Johnsonburg
* Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
* Pearson Memorial Food Bank
* Womanspace
* Homefront

**CHURCH STAFF**

Ministers: All the members of the Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Jean B. Pinto (737-8011) jeanbpinto@gmail.com

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

Organist: Marilyn Machmer

Choir Director: Michael Mraz

Church Secretary: Michael Mraz

Prayer Chain: Daytime: Carol Heberling (298-2594); Betty Reinert (585-5770)

 Evening: Gail Fouse (585-3248); Joyce Vaughn (888-1187)