



February 2026

THE OLIVE BRANCH



Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church

Ringo, New Jersey

February Events

- 1 9:30 Communion
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 6:30 Scout Cmte Mtg
- 3 6:30pm Deacons Mtg
- 8 The Bells of Kirkpatrick playing
- 11 6:30pm Troop 65 Cmte Mtg
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 Transfiguration Sunday
- 16 President's Day, no mail
- 17 7:00pm Session Meeting
- 18 Ash Wednesday
- 22 First Sunday in Lent
- 23 Olive Branch Articles Due
- 28 11-12 Grocery Giveaway

Weekly

Sun	9:30am Worship
Mon	6:30pm Troop 65
	6:30pm Pastor Bible Study
Tue	8:00pm AA
Wed	7:30am Men's Book Study
	5:30pm DTAA Basketball
	6:00pm Bell Rehearsal
	7:00pm Band Rehearsal
Thu	9:30am Ladies Bible Study
	6:00pm DTAA Basketball
	8:00pm AA
Sat	4:00pm AA

Staff Vacations:

View our [calendar](#) on our website

2025 Giving Statements

The statements were mailed out on January 30th. If you did not receive your giving statement, please contact the church office. A pdf can be emailed to you.

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

By now most of us have been dug out, (or maybe are still digging out) from the snowstorm. Roofs are heavy with snow, driveways are lined with tall white banks, and the ordinary rhythms of daily life have been interrupted. Schools were closed, meetings were postponed, and travel plans were put on hold. For a few days, the world felt quieter, slower, and more fragile than usual. And yet—there was also something strangely beautiful about it all.

The silence after the snow fell. The way the sunlight sparkled across untouched fields. The neighbors helping neighbors with shovels and snowblowers. The gentle reminder that, for all our planning and productivity, we are still deeply dependent on one another—and on God.

In many ways, this storm feels like an unexpected parable for where we are in the church year.

We are nearing the end of Epiphany, a season when we reflect on how Christ is revealed in the world. And soon, on February 18, we will enter the season of Lent—a season of repentance, reflection, and renewed trust in God's mercy. Lent invites us to slow down, to take stock of our lives, and to notice where we are being called back into deeper faithfulness.

Snowstorms force us to slow down. Lent invites us to do the same. Both remind us that we are not in control of everything. Both create space for stillness, prayer, and re-centering our lives on God.

Perhaps the snowstorm disrupted your plans. Perhaps it revealed just how tired you've been. Perhaps it stirred anxiety, grief, or frustration. Or perhaps it gave you a rare moment of quiet grace.

Wherever you found yourself in the middle of it all, please know this: God was present there too, loving you. God was present in the sound of shovels scraping the sidewalk. God was present in the text messages checking in on one another. God was present in the simple gift of being safe and sheltered.

As we move into February, I invite you to carry that awareness forward. God is not only found in worship on Sunday mornings. God is not only found in the “good” or “productive” moments of life. God is also found in the interruptions, the inconveniences, the waiting, and the quiet.

Continued on next page

Pastor's Ponderings: continued from previous page

On Ash Wednesday, we will hear the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Those words are not meant to frighten us. They are meant to remind us that we are finite, vulnerable, and deeply loved. They call us to humility and hope at the same time.

This February, as winter lingers and Lent approaches, may we be a people who move gently through the world—more patient, more prayerful, more attentive to God's presence in one another.

Thank you for the ways you continue to care for one another, especially in times of disruption and difficulty. Even after the storm, God's grace is still falling all around us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Barbara

Upcoming Important Dates:

Ash Wednesday – February 18

First Sunday in Lent – February 22

Lenten Bible Study – Begins March 4

Palm Sunday – March 29

Easter Sunday – April 5

Kirkpatrick Church, Holidays in United States							Feb 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Communion 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Annual 12pm - chili cook-off	6:30pm - Scout Crmte 6:30pm - Troop 65 in	6:30pm - Deacons 8pm - AA	5:30pm - DTAA 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Band Practice	9:30am - Ladies Bible 6pm - DTAA Basketball 8pm - AA			4pm - AA	
The Bells of 9:30am - Worship	6:30pm - Troop 65 in	8pm - AA	5:30pm - DTAA 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Band Practice	9:30am - Ladies Bible 6pm - DTAA Basketball 8pm - AA			Valentine's Day 4pm - AA	
Transfiguration 9:30am - Worship	Presidents' Day 6:30pm - Troop 65 in	7pm - Session Meeting 8pm - AA	Ash Wednesday Chris Off 5:30pm - NO DTAA 6pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Troop 61, 7pm - Band Practice	9:30am - Ladies Bible 6pm - DTAA Basketball 8pm - AA	VIP Articles Due		4pm - AA	
Lent 9:30am - Worship	Olive Branch Articles 6:30pm - Troop 65 in	8pm - AA	5:30pm - DTAA 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Band Practice	9:30am - Ladies Bible 6pm - DTAA Basketball 8pm - AA			11am - Grocery 4pm - AA	

Food Ministry

Our next Grocery Giveaway is February 28.

Our Easter giveaway is March 28

Come join us for Sunday Worship

If you cannot join us in person at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning in the sanctuary, please join us via Zoom.

Topic: Sunday Worship Service

Time: 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/673176006>

Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 673 176 006

Please share the link with friends, neighbors, relatives -- online worship can be a great outreach for us!



Easter Food Baskets Shopping List

Please take this shopping list with you as a friendly reminder. Anything on the following list would be greatly appreciated:

Peanut Butter, Jelly
Cereal
Pancake Mix, Syrup
Pasta Sauce
Pasta
Hams (Preferably Fresh)
Canned Vegetables
Mac & Cheese
Canned Fruit
Boxed potatoes (au gratin/scalloped/mashed)
Cookies, Brownies Mixes (not refrigerated)
Tuna
Black beans, rice
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels

If you are able to donate, please leave the items in the bin in the Connector by Thursday, **March 19th**. Thank you so much for your continuous support!

February 2026 Sunday Volunteers

Date	Preaching	Liturgist	Nursery / Jr Church	Coffee Break	Communion	Flowers
Epiphany 4 Annual Mtg 2/1/2026	Pastor Barbara	Pat W			Communion	Debi N
Epiphany 5 2/8/2026	Pastor Barbara	Boy Scouts			No Communion	
Transfiguration 2/15/2026	Pastor Barbara				No Communion	
2/18/2026	Ash Wednesday					
Lent 1 2/22/2026	Pastor Barbara	Kim			No Communion	

Staff Vacation: Chris Wed. Feb 18

Deacon's February 2026 Prayer List

KMPC Family

Alan (Healing)
Angie B (Healing)
Bart C (Peace and Comfort)
Chuck M. (Healing)
Dave M
Erik Z (God's Guidance, Healing)
Jack J. (Gods Guidance, Healing)
Jeanne M. (Peace and Comfort)
Lynn H. (God's Guidance)
Lori (Healing)
Steve L (Healing)
Norma C (Healing)
Norma Z. (Healing)

Caregivers

Families, Homebound, Hospice

Assisted living/ Homebound

Chuck & Jean M
Dorothy S
Bart and Norma

Extended KMPC Family

Alex - Angie's nephew (God's guidance and protection)
Beverly Kathy L's friend (Cancer, Healing)
Brian - Kathy L's cousin (Grief)
Brandon B's family - (Grief)
Cindy - Pat W's niece (God's guidance, Healing)
Cregar family - (Grief)
Denny - Lanie's brother in law (Healing)
Doug - Bev K's extended family (Healing)
Edward G - Jan G's son (Healing)
Gerry - Steve L's friend (Healing)
Jade - Lynn H's friend (Healing)
Joelle - Mike K's friend (Healing)
John - Steve L's friend (Treatment for his blood clots)
Karen - Sue K's friend (Healing)
Karol - Susan B's sister (Gods guidance, Healing)

Leslie - Steve L's friend (Healing)
Lorraine - Kim F's friend (Healing)
Marie - Lanie B's sister (God's guidance, Healing)
Megan - Kathy L's niece (Healing)
Michelle - Mike K's friend (Healing)
Pam H. - Tracy's friend (Peace, comfort, and overall healing)
Patrick - Steve L's friend (Healing)
Patty - Sharyn D's friend (Healing)
Ruth - Steve L. family (Healing)
Sarah - Linda H's daughter (Surgery/Healing)
Stef - Lynn H.'s daughter (Peace)
Steve F - (Parkinsons)
Steve - Steve L's friend(Healing)
Steve - Mike K's friend (Surgery/Healing)
Sylvia - Steve 's sister(Healing)
Taryn - (Grief)
Tommy - Steve L's friend (Healing)
Val- (Overall healing)

U.S. and World Situations

Children affected by war
Christians in Nigeria
First Responders
Military Men & Women and their Families
Those affected by hurricanes; fires;
economic distress; illnesses; and disease
President & Congress
Prisoners
Refugees
Shooting Victims
Students and Teachers
Travelers
Troubled youth
U.S. & World Situations
Unemployed
Unhoused
Victims of Violence and war
World Peace

Please contact us to have names added or deleted at admin@kirkpatrickchurch.org



Norma C.	Feb. 2
Kathy L.	Feb. 3
Tom V.	Feb. 3
Erik Z., Sr.	Feb. 5
Debi N.	Feb. 6
Nancy C.	Feb. 7
Jared M.	Feb. 7
Chelsea F. D.	Feb. 8
Paige S.	Feb 20
Susan B.	Feb. 24
Steve W.	Feb. 24
Emily E.	Feb 25



MISSION NEWS

To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Has Done! 50 Years (1976 – 2026)

December 30, 2025

Dear Friends and Partners of the Desai Princeton ISI Ministry,

Greetings in the name of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ! We are reaching out on behalf of Aruna Desai to share with you the news of her retirement from ministry. February 2026 will mark the 50th anniversary of the start of the ministry of John and Aruna Desai in Princeton, through International Students, Inc. (ISI). Even before John was suddenly called to the presence of the Lord last January, he and Aruna had prayerfully decided that the 50th ministry anniversary would be God's perfect time for them to retire. Staying faithful to their decision, Aruna will step down from her staff role with ISI effective February 1, 2026.

Having come from India in January 1975 to get a graduate degree at Princeton Theological Seminary, little did John know of what the Lord had in store for him and Aruna. A year later in February 1976, Aruna and daughters Eva and Mona joined him. ISI invited them to start the Princeton chapter of ISI. *Through your help and support over the past fifty years*, John and Aruna have ministered to and significantly impacted—here in the US and around the world—the lives of international students/scholars and their families from at least 150 countries, as well as the lives of countless ministry partners. Aruna, and certainly John if he were still alive, cannot thank you enough for your prayers and support over the years. You have helped make it possible for them to reach the nations for Jesus, while forging relationships, some of which will last a lifetime.

Though no longer staff, Aruna is committed to globally impact the lives of internationals for eternity. Her retirement means that she will no longer be raising ministry support. **ISI will cease receiving donations to her account as of February 1, 2026.** Any donations received after that date will be returned to donors.

Aruna wholeheartedly commends ISI's ministry. Please prayerfully consider continuing your faithful support of the Princeton ministry to international students by contributing to ISI's new team leaders, Bob & Carrie Louer (#5500), or donate to ISI's National Ministry Fund (NMF).

Again, we are so grateful for your generosity, prayers, and encouragement through the years, partnering with John and Aruna Desai to reach the world for Jesus!

May the Lord's peace remain always with your family and you.

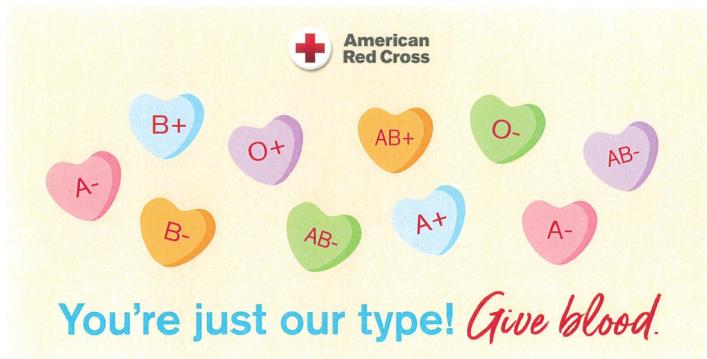
Sincerely in Christ,

Hugo P. Simão

Desai ISI Advisory Board:

Dr. Scott Buchanan, Dr. Douglas Darrow (In Memoriam), Prof. Sergio Fenley,
Dr. Hahn Kim, Dr. Gunter Schemmann, Dr. Hugo Simão

Community News



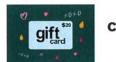
Blood Drive Living Waters Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall
11 Old York Road
Ringoes, NJ 08551

Friday, February 27, 2026
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter:
livingwaterslutheran to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.



Come give blood 1/26-2/28 for a \$20 e-gift card to your choice of merchant. See rcblood.org/heart



15317-0999 ID: 10005102 - RevB (D-0905-0909 - 44029 - 253559)



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App
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Community Open Mic Night February 16, 7-9 pm

life is better with
MUSIC
Ephesians 5:19



Performers should arrive at 6:30pm to sign in

**Living Waters Lutheran Church
11 Old York Road, Ringoes, NJ**