



Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church

January 2024

# THE OLIVE BRANCH



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Ringoes, New Jersey

## January Events

- 1 Happy New Year!  
Office Closed Holiday
- 2 6:30pm Deacons Mtg
- 3 Annual Reports Due in Office
- 6 Epiphany
- 9 6:30pm Boy Scout Cmte Mtg
- 15 Olive Branch Deadline
- 16 7:00pm Session Meeting
- 27 11am Grocery Giveaway

## Weekly

- Sun 9:30am Worship
- Mon 6:30pm Boy Scouts
- Tue 8:00pm AA
- Wed 7:30am Men's Bible Study  
7:00pm Bell Rehearsal
- Thu 9:30am Ladies Bible Study  
8:00pm AA
- Sat



**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation** will be held on Sunday, January 28th after worship – on the same Zoom worship link. Reports will be available for pickup or email.

The KMPC Deacons invite everyone to stay for lunch immediately after our Congregational Annual meeting on January 28, 2024. Join us for soup and fellowship! Please contact Chris in the office or see Betty Reilly, if you will attend!

## Pastor's Ponderings...

Happy New Year...

We have had a wonderful Advent season and a joy filled Christmas at Kirkpatrick Memorial. You have been a blessing and I give thanks for God's providential wisdom and care that have allowed Jack and me to be travelling life's journey with you. Thank you for your warm welcomes and kind hearts during this hectic time of transitions. Although there might have been an easier time to move into a new area and call, I trust that God knows and wants the best for all of us. Ecclesiastes 3 tells us that there is a time and a season for everything under heaven. We can trust that God's plan is good and God has intended surprising and wonderful things for the future of Kirkpatrick Memorial.

It is about this time during winter, however, when I long for it to be over even though it just began. We have made it through the longest night and gradually, but assuredly, the day light will grow longer, the sun will be brighter, and the air will warm. At this point, though we generally have had enough dreary cool days. our soul and spirit long for better weather and feelings of new birth. We know it will come because it always does come.

God is a God of change. God is not a stagnant God, and as we try to create and control our own world, an easier, less stressful approach is to know that God is with us through the changes, orchestrated for the benefit of us and everyone and everything around us. In addition to filling ourselves with gratitude, God put the idea of *reflection* in the cycle of life so we would examine what is important. Winter gives us the time to sit back and reflect and rest.

Some people, including me, have previously said, "Oh I wouldn't miss winter. It is just too cold and damp for me." But science reveals that the earth all of nature, and we, need the rest. The soil and plants recuperate during this time. They literally are being prepared to handle another trip around the sun. Knowing that gives this time of rest and reflection a deeper importance.

When spring comes our outlook grows like the seeds that have been in the ground as they spring forth with the sun and the warmth increasing. Like the Easter lilies that spring up the earliest of flowers, we spring up in our hopes for the new season. The birds sing of the glory of God in spring and the new birth happening in every corner of nature. We sing about the joy springing from inside of us. As new hopes are planted in us, we begin to sow seeds in gardens, flower beds, and yards in anticipation of a plentiful harvest.

In Psalm 1 we read: "That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers."

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Pastor's Ponderings continued...

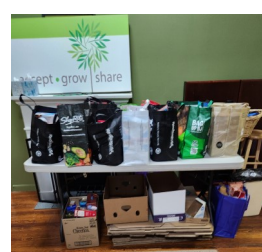
Like the world around us, we produce fruit in season. Our seasons have a flow about them.

In this of rest, we might examine the path and direction of our lives. Maybe we need to also look at the areas we are sowing in our life. Are we placing too much of ourselves in certain areas? Do I need to rethink where I am planting? Is it time to rotate the crops in my life, like my Bible study habits, my prayer time, and the priorities of my life?

As we look at our lives, let us use this time to reflect, find what is important, and then imagine what should happen in our lives. Make the best of this time of rest. Because you know what will happen, Spring will come. Eventually.

Grace and Peace to you and your loved ones, Pastor Barbara

Stages of loving sharing: Full pantry awaiting distribution, Girl Scouts packaged everything and then the donation box became full again. Blessings abound!!!



**The Presbytery of the Highlands Per Capita for 2024** is \$42.50 per active member, which represents no change from 2023. This amount includes the Office of General Assembly assessment of \$9.80, Synod of the Northeast assessment of \$4.10 and \$28.60 for the work of the presbytery.

## Session December update:

The session met by Zoom on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7PM with Pastor Barbara Booth as moderator for our monthly meeting. Pastor Barb called the meeting to order, and Roger Pickard opened with devotions and prayer. We welcome Rev. Dr. Barbara Diane Booth Jarmon to KMPC as our new pastor.

Worship Assistant Sign up for:

January 7<sup>th</sup> Roger Pickard

January 14<sup>th</sup> Mike Kurti

Volunteers needed for Worship assistant please sign up on the link printed in the Mid-Week bulletin and Olive Branch. We also need people to volunteer for coffee hour. Paul Mitten so graciously makes the coffee every week for us. Please sign up to bring a light snack for all to enjoy. Coffee hour is now in the Gym each week.

We are still working on our list of keys to church. If you have keys please let Norma Zimmerman know.

We have in the past few months completed criteria for our Membership role that session has approved of. We have also completed our review of the membership role for accuracy on next year's per capita. Session has approved that as well. Our per capita per person to be paid to presbytery is \$42.50

We have faithfully Celebrated Communion on 11/5, 11/12, 11/26, 12/02, and 12/10 since our last update. It is agreed that we will be having one Christmas service this year and that would be Christmas Eve at 5:30. It will be a format of Carols and lessons. No communion.

All committees gave updates on what is taking place.

- Scouts are inquiring about any projects we may need done in the church.
- On November 26<sup>th</sup> KMPC hosted an event with the River Churches gathering called Friends Giving. Rev. Morgan of Mt. Airy Presbyterian church led this event. There were about 60 people attending and it was a very special time of fellowship with others.
- We will be having our annual congregational Meeting the end of January after service and the deacons will be preparing a light lunch for all. We will be having a variety of soups made by the deacons. More information to come.

Next stated Session meeting – Tuesday January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7PM

Motion to adjourn meeting and closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Norma Zimmerman

# Deacon's January 2023 Prayer List

## KMPC Family

Angela Bodine (cancer)  
 Alan Bodine (testing)  
 Bart and Norma  
 Dorothy S. (healing)  
 Erik Z  
 Glenn M (cancer) Tracy  
 Scott, Lanie B's husband  
 Shipman Family grieving  
 Stef - Lynn's daughter  
 Steve & Terri F. (healing)  
 Shawn and Anthony

## Caregivers

Families suffering with addictions  
 Homebound members & Shut-Ins  
 Hospice  
 Patients Teachers & /Students

## Assisted living/ Care Center

Barry C  
 Chuck & Jean Mundhenk  
 Irene K  
 Millie W

## Extended KMPC Family

Debbie Sue B  
 Edward G (cancer) Godown  
 Howard (Parkinson) Betty  
 Jackie -- Betsy P Daughter  
 Jean (Brain tumor) Chris  
 Jen (Health Issues -  
 Joey (brain aneurysm) Ferrell  
 Karol Susan's sister  
 Kevin Stanford (pancreatic cancer)

Keith P (healing)  
 Linda (Cancer)  
 Larry (liver cancer) Ferrell  
 Miller family recovering from  
 house fire  
 Melissa Hults  
 Nancy F. (Health issues) Kathy's  
 Friend  
 Natalie (Steve L sister)  
 Rachel. Sue B daughter  
 Sara (horse accident) Terri F.  
 Sherri B. (healing, lupus) -  
 The Terry family loss of their  
 mother Sue B  
 Tracy's M. Dad  
 Vance Hayes family  
 Families of Natural Disasters  
 First Responders  
 Military Men & Women and their  
 Families  
 President & Congress  
 Prisoners  
 Refugees  
 Shooting Victims  
 Travel Blessings  
 Troubled youth  
 U.S. & World Situations  
 Unemployed  
 Victims of Violence  
 People with flu and virus  
 People of Ukraine



Dotty Stirrup Jan. 1  
 Danielle Mundhenk Jan. 2  
 Matt Schwenderman Jan 6  
 Krystle McDaniels Jan. 9  
 Irene Kuhl Jan. 13  
 Mike Stover Jan. 13  
 Ryleigh Bacorn Jan. 14  
 Janis Little Jan. 16  
 Terry Wright Jan. 16  
 Elizabeth Kadezabek Jan. 18  
 Lynn Hutchinson Jan. 19  
 Jamie Lyn Quinn Jan. 19  
 David Fulper Jan. 20  
 David Verbeyst Jan 20  
 Anna Dell Jan. 26  
 Terri Ferrell Jan. 30



## January 2024 Sunday Volunteers

Date	Preaching	Liturgist Worship Assist	Nursery / Jr Church	Coffee Break	Communion
Christmas 1 12/31/2023	Pastor Barbara Booth-Jarmon				
Baptism of Our Lord 1/7/2024	Pastor Barbara Booth-Jarmon	Mike Kurti			Sharyn Danner
Epiphany 2 1/14/24	Pastor Barbara Booth-Jarmon	Roger Pickard			Paul Mitzen
Epiphany 3 1/21/2024	Pastor Barbara Booth-Jarmon	Pat Wright			Susan Berger
Epiphany 4 1/28/24	Pastor Barbara Booth-Jarmon	Steve Little			Lynn Hutchinson
Worship service, Annual Meeting, & lunch					

Please contact us to have names added or deleted at [admin@kirkpatrickchurch.org](mailto:admin@kirkpatrickchurch.org)

December 2023

Dear Friends,

2023 has been a calmer and more settled year for many of us. Uncertainty about church life continues to push into our conversations, however, and pushes our anxiety about the future back into a discomfort zone.



This year as a presbytery we have focused on the path of resourcing and supporting the ministry of your congregation and others in the post pandemic environment. We have also continued to improve our financial situation in order to provide the means to do that work. Though we have not yet achieved financial sustainability, we are in a solid financial position.

As we prepare for the new year, we look forward to what the next season will bring for our ministry together and for your ministry in your community. It will most likely continue to be unsettling, challenging, innovating, exciting, and transforming all at the same time. "Adventure" best describes the continuing journey.

We are collaborators in this adventure. The presbytery, which is all of you, supported by the presbytery staff, is a partner in this work of being the church. We invite you to continue to be part of the adventure together through your Per Capita contributions, which represent the largest source of revenue for the presbytery. Your church's Per Capita makes it possible for all the congregations of the presbytery to be resourced and supported. Just this year we have provided resourcing and support for pastors, clerks of session, and finance leaders through workshops, one on one conversations, retreats, and website resources.

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Attached is the notice of your church's Per Capita apportionment for 2024 as determined by your reported membership on December 31, 2022.

We truly appreciate and are thankful for full payment of the Per Capita at the first of the year. If full payment in January is not possible, please let us know if you will be submitting monthly, quarterly, or semi-annually. This helps us to anticipate the income throughout the year. For questions or additional information, please contact Jeanne Radak ([jbradak@highlandspresbyterynj.org](mailto:jbradak@highlandspresbyterynj.org)) or Lizabeth Hutchinson, Financial Administrator ([lizh@highlandspresbyterynj.org](mailto:lizh@highlandspresbyterynj.org)).

We know that on occasion anxiety and uncertainty filter into our hearts and minds as we move forward. The Apostle Paul in Philippians chapter 4 acknowledged the anxiety of the church in Philippi, yet he also acknowledged that despite their anxiety they were able to continue to support the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ both near and far, and for this he expressed his thankfulness.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4: 6 -7

Please prayerfully consider paying your full Per Capita so together we can move forward into the new season and adventure of living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,  
Administration and Coordinating Team