



Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church

January 2023

THE OLIVE BRANCH



January Events

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 2 Office Closed Holiday
- 3 6:30pm Deacons Mtg
- 4 Annual Reports Due in Office
- 6 Epiphany
- 10 6:30pm Boy Scout Cmte Mtg
- 15 Olive Branch Deadline
- 15 11:00 Session Meeting
- 15 11:00 Soup Luncheon in gym
- 29 Annual Congregational Mtg

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 4:00pm AA

View our calendar on our website

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

will be held on Sunday, January 29th after worship – on the same Zoom worship link. Reports will be available for pickup or email.

Sunday Worship Services –

We gather every Sunday at 9:30am via Zoom for a time of worship, singing, praying, and hearing God's Word. The Zoom link and bulletin information are emailed on Saturday morning for you to follow along. Please join us – and invite your friends and family.

From the Pastor

As we approach 2023, it is with the deep knowledge that we are living in uncertain times. The old year has brought us one piece of difficult news after another. We have heard of natural disasters, mass shootings, famine, and devastating war in Ukraine. Though we all may agree that the decrease in COVID is a good thing, on so many other issues we remain a nation divided. Uncertainty has been on the mix this year here at Kirkpatrick Memorial as we found our way through this time of transition. we are still betwixt in between; the 'old life' has passed away but the 'new life' has barely begun!

Typically, the prospect of a New Year brings celebrations. This year, it would be no surprise to find in our hearts, more than a little trepidation. Joyce Rupp describes this anxious state in her poem, "Welcoming a New Year":

*A New Year stands on my doorstep
Ready to enter my life's journey.*

*Something in me welcomes this visitor:
The hope of bountiful blessings
The joy of a new beginning
The freshness of unclaimed surprises.*

*Something in me rebuffs this visitor:
The swiftness of the coming
The boldness of the entrance
The challenge of a year's good-bye.*

*Something in me fears this visitor:
The unnamed events of future days
The wisdom needed to walk love well
The demands of giving away and growing.*

*A New Year stands on my doorstep.
With fragile caution I move
To open the door for its entrance.*

*My heart leaps with surprise,
Joy jumps in my eyes,
For there beside this brand-new year
Stands my Lord with outstretched hand!
He smiles and gently asks of me:
Can we walk this year together?*

*And I, so overwhelmed with goodness,
Can barely whisper my reply:
Welcome in!*

No matter what the future holds, we can trust that God holds the future. Hand in hand with one another and our Lord, let us ring in 2023!

Happy New Year, Rev. Marie





Soup'n Such Luncheon

You are invited to stay after church on January 15th for Soup'n Such Luncheon, hosted by the Deacons.

Session December Update:

The session met in Library on December 18th at 11AM for our monthly meeting. Pastor Marie called the meeting to order, and Elder Steve Little did the devotions and prayer.

Minutes from November meeting were approved.

Don Reilly filled in as clerk of session for this Month.

There is a sign up list to be a Worship Leader with Pastor Marie. Signups for January are:

December 25th Merry Christmas Video service recording

January 1st Mike Kurti

January 8th Roger Pickard

January 15th Nancy Cronic

January 22 Norma Zimmerman

January 29th Steve Little

We are looking for more signups for Worship Leader with Pastor Marie and there is a link printed in the Mid-Week bulletin and Olive Branch. Worship leaders volunteers can be from the Session, Deacons or congregation. A worship Leader reads all announcements and the First Reading of Scripture and prayer.

Discernment Process: Report was approved by COM December 6th and permission given to start forming PNC. Jean Bowers attended with zoom to brief session on next steps. Nominating committee will be working on selecting the PNC.

Our new custodian started in December. More information to come.

We have faithfully Celebrated Communion every week of December.

No updating for covid protocol

It was agreed on Christmas Eve Service being held at 5:30PM in person and zoom. Christmas Day we are working on presenting a pre-recorded service created through Presbytery. More information will be reported soon. Pastor Marie will be on vacation from December 26th through January 2nd. Chris will be out of the office on all Friday's through December.

Session discussed our financial future.

Discussion on the Samuel Ayres Scholarship there will be a hearing with Roger Pickard and Don Reilly on Feb. 23rd.

Updates were given on all committees.

We continue to look for a replacement for Karen Shipman as Clerk of Session.

Next stated Session meeting – Sunday 1/15/23 at 11AM after church. Linda Hults will do opening devotions.

Motion to adjourn meeting and closing prayer

Respectfully submitted, Norma Zimmerman

Food Ministry

We had a successful Christmas Grocery Giveaway. We gave out 30 boxes of food. I would like to thank The Women's Auxiliary at the Amwell Valley Fire Department for food and a very generous gift card that we were able to give to one of our struggling families. Athletes in Action, East Amwell Recreation, customers of Orlando's Restaurant, the Honor Society and faculty at South Hunterdon Regional High School also were very generous with their donations. The Thomas Lambert Outreach Fund of Larison's Corner Church donated 24 ShopRite gift cards that we were able to give out to most of our families. I am very grateful to Brownie Troop #81201 who brought donations and packed up our boxes on Thursday evening. Finally, thank you to our wonderful congregation who has supported this ministry from the beginning. Everyone has been so generous and I wish you could see the faces of the families that we help when we hand them the food. They are so appreciative and thankful.

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and safe and healthy New Year, Sue

Friendship Center for New Beginning: Please check out the nice thank you note from the Friendship Center on the table in the Connector. They received \$130 in Walmart and \$165 in Shoprite gift cards for their families. Thank you for your generosity.

Epiphany | Definition of Epiphany by Merriam-Webster

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/epiphany> ✓

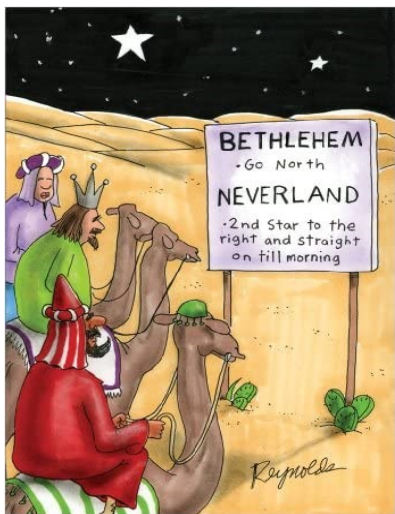
3a(1) : a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something. (2) : an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking. (3) : an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure.



From PCUSA Webpage: Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.

The word "epiphany" (from the Greek *epiphaneia* or *theophaneia*) means "appearance" or "manifestation" of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.

For Christians, Christmas marks the coming of God to us; Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity...we rejoice in the dawning and the arising of Light in darkness.



Deacon's January 2023 Prayer List

KMPC Family

Bart and Norma
Ben D. (military transfer)
Chuck & Jean Mundhenk
Corliss & Family
Danny S (non Hodgkin's lymphoma) Debi N
Dorothy S. (healing)
Erik Z
John S (health)
Scott, Lanie B's husband
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
Irene K
Phyllis P
Millie W

Extended KMPC Family

Alice (healing)
Amy F. (healing)
Angela Bodine (cancer)
Charlotte's Family (grieving)
Vance (liver cancer) Karen D
Deanna (chemo) Jeanne M friend
Denise and John (both cancer)
Kathy's cousin
Edward G (cancer) Godown
Ellen (healing) Betty
Franklin (Cancer)
Howard (Parkinson) Betty
Jackie -- Betsy P Daughter
Jackson (Lyme disease) Bev
Jean (Brain tumor) Chris
Jen (Health Issues – Betsy P
Joey (brain aneurysm) Ferrell
Kayla (cancer) Dave C's granddaughter
Keith P (healing)
Kitty (blood clots) Paul's sister

Larry (liver cancer) Ferrell
Lisa & Eric (house flooded) Lynn H
Lolly H.(brain tumor) Debbie N friend
Mary (cancer)
Nancy (heart attack & leg amputation) Paul's sister
Nancy F. (Health issues) Kathy's Friend
Natalie (Steve L sister)
Linda (Cancer)
Melissa (cancer) Bev's Friend
Richard B. Sr. (Healing, diabetes)- Dorothy
Ron and Sandy P (healing)
Sally B. (Jessica R Mom) Chris
Sandra H. (healing)
Sherri B. (healing, lupus) – Richard's daughter
Toby & Judy N. (healing, Safety)
Tom (Lymphoma)
Families of Natural Disasters
First Responders
Military Men & Women and their Families
President & Congress
Prisoners
Refugees
Shooting Victims
Tracy's M. Dad
Troubled youth
U.S. & World Situations
Unemployed
Victims of Violence
People with flu and virus
People of Ukraine
Veterans and their families



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



A Prayer for the New Year

Lord,
Whether we're leaving behind a
year of joy and blessing or trials
and difficulties, we pause to
give thanks.
We thank You that You are always
with us every single day of every
single year.
Please remind us of Your presence
in the year ahead, even when life is
busy.
We are so thankful that we serve a
God who makes things new and
gives us the grace of fresh starts
and new beginnings.
Be glorified in our lives this year.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

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