



HEART

292 West Main Street, Newark, Delaware 19711
(302) 731-5644 fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org

DEC 2023/ JAN 2024

BEAT

*A nurturing community in Jesus Christ reflecting God's love for the world as we
Worship, Grow and Serve.*



December 3rd-First Sunday in Advent-HOPE

December 10th-Second Sunday in Advent-PEACE

December 17th-Third Sunday in Advent-JOY

December 24th-Forth Sunday in Advent-LOVE
Lessons and Carols

December 24th-7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Join Us!

Blue Christmas Service of Light
Saturday, Dec. 9th
2 p.m.
In the Parlor of Memorial Hall

For all who are sad or grieving loss this Advent season.
Pastor Eric will officiate. Special music, food & fellowship.



WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday Worship

10:00 am
Worship Service

Sunday School

Begins in Worship
at 10:00 am

You Tube Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCMgrr0yHvgO-
iUPphSOFgxxA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMgrr0yHvgO-iUPphSOFgxxA)

Website

www.firstpresnewark.org

Church Calendar

[click here](#)

Online giving through



[https://firstpresnewark.org/
giving-at-fpc-n/](https://firstpresnewark.org/giving-at-fpc-n/)

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9:00 am—1:00 pm



Revisiting a Familiar Scene

Dear Friends,

Advent has arrived and over the next four weeks the door to Christmas will slowly open. Each of us has heard this story almost as many times as we are years old. For some it may be the first time they have heard the story, and for others it may be the 80th time that the story has been told. And yet, as it has across 20 centuries, it still holds a power that can grip our imagination, fill us with hope, and assure us, once again, that God's love is given to us in amazing, extraordinary, and unexpected ways.

News stories fade from the headlines quicker than the paper can turn yellow. What was on television yesterday is old news today. But the story of Jesus' birth is ancient and new, familiar and foreign, complex and simple, and has not faded from the popular mind or from the minds of scholars. Advent, the time before Christmas, is both a time of preparation and a time of celebration. Let us take the time to prepare our hearts with prayer and study, with silence and singing, with celebration and somber thoughts.

The story of Christmas begins with a young unwed girl being told by an angel that she would give birth to a son who would be called Son of the Most High. Immediately upon receiving the news that Mary was pregnant her husband to be, Joseph, decides to leave. It is only in a dream that Joseph is convinced to stay. And then to top it off Joseph and Mary (now quite pregnant) have to leave the place they are living and go to a new town where there is no room. It sounds like it could be happening today.

We then have the beautiful scene of the shepherds and the angels rejoicing over the birth of this child for which there was no room in the inn. Within a year of this auspicious birth three mysterious wise men show up and bring wonderful gifts, but terrible news that Herod is seeking to kill the child.

Joseph and Mary with their son are forced to become immigrants and travel to a country that doesn't bar their entry and treats them well enough that when it is safe they can return home. The families that were unable to flee lose their children who were two years old and under. As we read the Biblical story it is almost as if we are reading headlines torn from today's newspapers.

The story is ancient and the story is new. It has its share of despair and foreboding for the future. The times were difficult and I imagine many people had little to no hope. And yet it was the birth of this child that would eventually bring hope to many. And the story has lived on and amid times that are once again foreboding, let us open our hearts anew to the age-old story that it might shine light into our hearts and into the world.

Come and join us for Advent and Christmas – and let us rejoice together as the one who brings salvation for all is born in a cattle shed and placed in a manger.

God bless,

Pastor Eric



Dear Friends,

Here are some excerpts from an announcement from the Pension Board of the national Presbyterian Church. The PCUSA Board of Pensions has just called Reverend Dr. Jerry L. Cannon, as its Vice President after more than 30 years as Pastor of C.N. Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church, a thriving congregation in Charlotte, North Carolina. There is much to gain by reading how Dr. Cannon served his congregation before he was called to this new position.

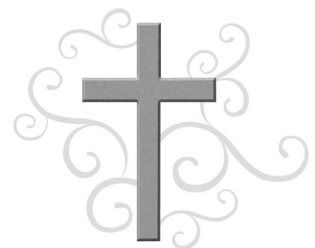
After Dr. Cannon was installed as pastor of C.N. Jenkins Memorial in 1992, the congregation grew dramatically, nearly tripling in size. Much of that growth was driven by his approach to the worship experience — one that mixes old and new traditions to tailor the church service for multigenerational appeal. Additionally, he spearheaded the creation of several highly engaging ministries focused on recognition, scholarship, and fine arts for young congregants.

Community-based ministry has been a commitment of Dr. Cannon's as well.

Under his leadership, C.N. Jenkins Memorial partnered with several shelters to hold bible study and provide other worship opportunities to support individuals in recovery. The church is also the only Black Presbyterian church in the Charlotte area that is a partner with Freedom School Partners — an initiative designed to reduce summer learning loss for local students.

Let us work to follow the example set here!

God Bless, Pastor Eric



Clerk's Corner

Nancy Lewis, Clerk

Session is delighted with the news from the Pastor Nominating Committee and we look forward to working with our new Pastor. This week the Presbytery is meeting with Session to have a Rounding Session. This is just a visit by Presbytery to assess how we are doing and see if we need any help from Presbytery. We would like to thank Don Tancredi for the wonderful work he did for Trunk or Treat. Mimi Lovelace has taken the responsibility of being the church liaison for Myles Thompson as he advances in his quest to become a Presbyterian minister. We thank Mimi for taking on this job and wish Myles all the best in his journey.



Refugee News

Nancy Lewis

Waqif has founded a Non Profit, called STAR (Support Transform Advancement of Refugees) . We welcome prayers in support of his mission to help other refugees in Delaware.



Hope Dining Room



Hope Dining Room will again be collecting socks, mittens and gloves to be distributed at our December 11th meeting, as Christmas gifts from FPCN. There will be a box in the narthex and one in Memorial Hall for donations through December 4. We thank you, again, for your great generosity.



Deacons care about our Shut-Ins



The Board of Deacons has a list of our Church Shut-Ins. They are split up among the 12 Deacons who visit and keep in touch with them.

For Easter and Christmas, they receive a gift from the Deacons. Our Men get cookies and chocolates, memory care receive a cuddly stuffed animal and the others receive a little tree or a snowman, etc. Easter everyone gets a sweet treat.

Adult Spiritual Development

Do you leave Sunday worship hungry for more of God, or just hungry? Either way, we have you covered! We have a wonderful Adult Spiritual Development group that meets in the Parlor of Memorial Hall for 45 minutes every Sunday after worship.

The goal of the group is to grow in our faith and apply Christian principles to daily life.

AND we have snacks!

Starting December 3 will be studying
“A Case for Christmas” by Lee Strobel.

Please check your bulletin and communicator for the January Adult Spiritual Development Schedule.



The Nursery will open for both the 10:00 am and 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Services





First Presbyterian Church-Newark

Presbyterian Women Present:

“Make a Joyful Noise”



Tuesday, December 5th

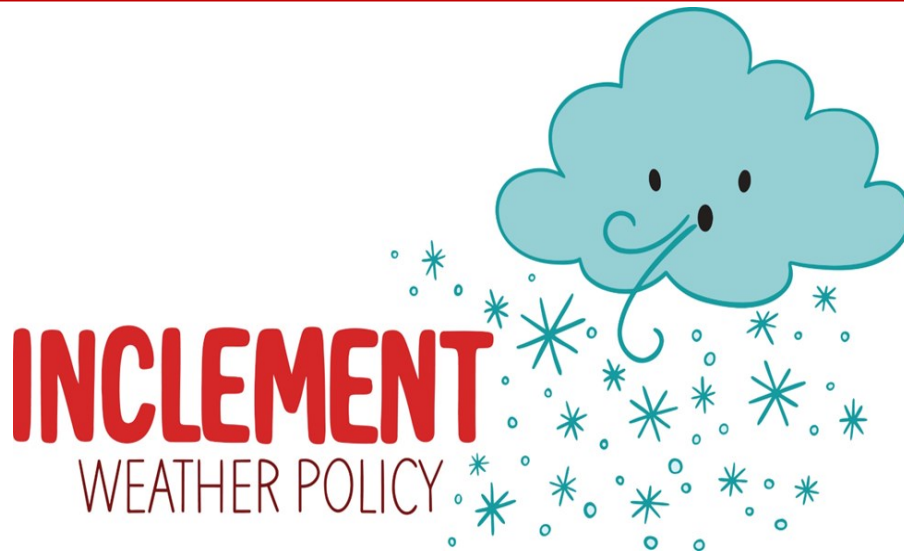
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Cider & cookies served afterwards

Free will offerings will be collected for

Shoes that Fit & Sean's House





FPC-N Weather Policy
For Inclement weather delays and closings

The season is approaching when the weather could effect our services and activities. Please see guidelines below regarding cancellations and delays.

1. When the Christina School District closes or opens late, our campus will be closed until our parking lots, walks, and entrances are snow and ice free, and the roads are cleared and safe. Check the Church Website /Facebook or contact your group leader for confirmation.

2. When the state of Delaware declares a state of emergency and issues a travel ban for New Castle County, our campus will be closed while the travel emergency is in place, and until our parking lots, walks, and entrances are snow and ice free.

Check the Church website /Facebook or contact your group leader for confirmation.

3. Group Leaders and Directors should keep participants updated during questionable weather.

Please be sure to check your email, and check the website, www.firstpresnewark.org and Facebook page for updates.

Questions? - contact the church office or your group leader.

Upcoming Musical Events

First Presbyterian church regularly offers a number of community and regional concerts in our spacious sanctuary. Please join us to enjoy a wide array of wonderful vocal and instrumental music coming your way over the next months!

Winter 2023 Season

Dec 3rd - 5:30 pm University of Delaware Carols By Candlelight (\$\$)

Dec 10th - 3:00 pm Newark Community Band Holiday Concert (donation)

Dec 17th - 6:00 pm Chesapeake Brass Band Holiday Concert (donation)

Winter-Spring 2024 Season

Feb 24th - 7:30 pm Newark Symphony Orchestra Concert

Mar 10^h - 3:00 pm Newark Community Band 41st Anniversary Concert

Apr 27th - 7:00 pm Chesapeake Brass Band Concert (donation)

(\$\$) Ticket required from the University of Delaware School of Music.

For more information, please contact the church office (302)731-5644 or the UD events calendar at <https://www.music.udel.edu/events/calendar> or call (302) 369-3466.



Chancel Flowers

Cost \$31.00

Flowers can be dedicated in honor or memory of family, friends and loved ones.

Please see sign up sheet located on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Checks clearly identified for chancel flowers may be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office.



Helping Hands

Food for the hungry and hope for the homeless

****No collection in December***

***Please look for the January priority needs in your Sunday bulletin.**

Don't have time to shop but would still like to help?

Checks are welcome, made out to:

"First Presbyterian Church."

Memo line: "Newark Area Welfare."





- 5 Paris Newlin
- 7 Lois Huggins
- 9 Matthew Bowen, Nancy McIlvaine
- 15 Paula Berkebile, Marian Bowen
- 16 Gloria Zehnacker
- 19 Tom Shaw
- 20 Nathan Thomson
- 21 Crystal Norman
- 23 Marie Cowgill
- 28 James Guyton
- 31 Gail Ferry



- 1 Paul Short, Nancy Stevens
- 3 Dede Kirwan, Betty Whitcome
- 4 Jan Fickeissen
- 5 Janice Bendeck
- 6 Pat Nelson
- 7 Steven Choi
- 10 Kevin Wunder, Thomas Wunder
- 11 Martha Tappan
- 12 Doris Brewer
- 13 Holly Blackburn, Eric Markman
- 16 Ann Lawrence
- 17 Nancy Black
- 22 Phyllis Osborne
- 26 Fritz Land
- 31 Madison Keller



Steve & Kimberly Clowson
December 10

Paul & Phyllis Biddle
December 17

Murvin & Wanda Reese
December 24

Urie & Nancy Boulden
December 29

Beth Marshall & Tom Buckley
December 30

Scott & Chris Sheldon
January 5

If we are missing you from the birthday or anniversary list, please let us know! Contact Grace in the church office -

officemanager@firstpresnewark.org

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE
FEBRUARY
HEART BEAT IS
JANUARY 15**

Prayer Concerns or Needs?

You can use the prayer card in the pews, contact the church office or use our prayer email:

prayers@firstpresnewark.org

Please let us know if you would like them kept confidential.

OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, December 22, 2023

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, December 25, 2023

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, December 29, 2023

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, January 1, 2024

OFFICE CLOSED



Christmas Memorials 2023

The Christmas season is a time when people remember and honor loved ones. Our church provides two opportunities to appreciate and recall special people during the holiday season. The traditional poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on December 17th. You may pick up your poinsettia (s) after the Christmas Eve service you attend on December 24th. The cost for each poinsettia is \$15.00. An alternate choice will be to make a contribution to local mission. We have not selected this year's recipient yet.

You may pay with cash or check made payable to: First Presbyterian Church. On the memo line of the check please indicate "*Poinsettia*" or "*Local Mission*."

Please complete the attached form. Send the form and payment to First Presbyterian Church or place both in the offering plate by **DECEMBER 8th**. All memorials received by the deadline will be acknowledged in the church bulletin. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 731-5644.

Your Name: _____

Telephone/Email: _____

I wish to: _____ donate a poinsettia _____ contribute to local mission

Wording: (Choose 1 per donation)

♦ Given in memory of loved ones _____

by _____

♦ Given in loving memory of _____

by: _____

♦ Given in honor of _____

By: _____

I will _____ will not _____ pick up my poinsettia (s) after the Christmas Eve service I attend.

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292 West Main Street
Newark, DE 19711
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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community in
Jesus Christ
reflecting God's love
for the world as we
Worship, Grow and
Serve.***

***First Presbyterian Church
292 West Main Street
Newark, DE 19711
(302) 731-5644***

***Email: fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org
Website: firstpresnewark.org***

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School

Begins in worship at 10:00 am

Interim Pastor

***Rev. Eric Markman
pastor@firstpresnewark.org
cell: 603-770-3239***

We seek to be vibrantly active messengers of hope, bringing the caring presence of Jesus Christ and love of God into our community and the wider world.