



**Worshiping God With Joy.**

**Serving Others.**

**Embracing All.**

**December 2017**

***PASTOR'S PONDERINGS ...***

Advent begins this Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>. I was determined to focus on the period of time only up to Thanksgiving – and then worry about the craziness and chaos to come. I pulled myself up short! Was that any way to begin to entertain the idea of any kind of Christmas spirit? But still ... is it really December 3<sup>rd</sup> already? It's time – there's no doubt. If I didn't realize it before, I realize it now as I look at the beautifully-decorated sanctuary and narthex. (That and my Christmas cactus is blooming!) Even now I can see the Christmas train barreling full-speed down the track. There are plenty of things to do, plenty of places to be and just plain 'plenty' of stresses and strains to experience here at the 'most wonderful time of the year.'

Then God pulled me up short before I could begin feeling too sorry for myself. And God spoke to me, through of all things, a radio commercial about (I think) the Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall. Only a few of the words grabbed my attention – but those few words were enough: 'Make room for joy.' 'Make room' – don't expect to find it or to be given it. Make room! It resounded in my head. It's a challenge I want to take on. Maybe you do too. It's not easy making room for joy at Christmas-time or any other time for that matter.

As I pondered 'Make room for joy' my thoughts turned to the Christmas story: there was no room in the inn. It seemed the situation was insurmountable – the door was literally closed – there was NO room in the inn. But then that 'outside the box' moment. There was room in the stable. There is always a way to make room when master carpenter God is the room builder, the room provider. God wants us to have room to birth whatever it is we need in the moment. So 'make room' becomes a joint endeavor with God. And with God, 'all things are possible.' There is nothing that is impossible for God – not one thing!

So first, we have to make room for God. God is the source of our joy. Haven't we sung that very thing forever: 'Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room...' And if we can do that, joy is the divine result!

Making room for joy requires a new way of seeing things. It might take a lot of imagination. But we are made in God's image after all. Our imagination might even be stretched to make room to receive a miracle or two. And maybe our imagination will allow us to believe that with God's help we can make room for joy – a room where any wonderful, miraculous thing can happen.

So my prayer for all of you this blessed Christmas season is that you make room for God in your heart – really make a serious commitment to this holy endeavor - and may you receive an abundance of joy!

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to you all,

Pastor Kathi



**NEED A RIDE?** We know that some of you may have a difficult time getting here on Sundays. If you want to be here, we want you to be here. So please contact the office (973-635-5567) some time Monday thru Thursday, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. prior to that Sunday, and let us know. We will do our very best to arrange a ride here and back.



**COFFEE HOURS: WE NEED YOUR HELP! PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO SIGN UP TO HOST ONE OF OUR COFFEE HOURS. THE SIGN-UP SHEET IS TACKED TO THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX.**

### **Flowers in the Sanctuary**

If you would like to have flowers placed in the sanctuary, there are two open dates for 2018. They are: February 25 and April 29. Please call June in the church office (973-635-5567) with the information. Thank you.



### **Sundays at Ogden – December**

#### **Sunday, December 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

- 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 9:20 a.m. Chimes Ensemble
- 10:00 a.m. Worship - Communion
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Refreshment and Fellowship
- 11:15 a.m. Youth Music
- 11:15 a.m. Worship & Music Committee/  
Communications Team
- 11:15 a. m. Deacons

#### **Sunday, December 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

- No Ensembles
- 10:00 a.m. Worship  
Loretta Suttles, guest organist
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Refreshment and Fellowship

#### **Sunday, December 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

- 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 9:20 a.m. Chimes Ensemble
- 10:00 a.m. Worship – Pageant  
No Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Christmas Brunch and Caroling

**Sunday, December 24 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve**

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
No Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Refreshment and Fellowship  
11:15 a.m. Extra music rehearsals – as needed  
4:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
4:45 p.m. Chimes Ensemble

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 5:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 31**

No Ensembles, No Sunday School  
10:00 am. Worship  
11:00 a.m. Refreshment and Fellowship



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, December 17:** You definitely don't want to miss this special Sunday – our annual Children/Youth Christmas Pageant during the regular church service. Afterwards you are invited to stay and enjoy a special Christmas brunch, followed by Christmas caroling.

**Sunday, December 24:** Please note that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will hold our regular Sunday morning service at 10:00 a.m. The Christmas Eve service will be held at 5:30 p.m. that evening. We hope you can make both of these special services.

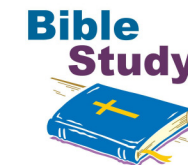


**From the Worship and Music Committee**

The Worship & Music Committee wants to remind the congregation that Sunday, December 17, is the deadline to order poinsettias. Order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins or call June (973-635-5567) to place an order by phone.

The cost is \$12/plant (choice of red or white) - cash or check (payable to OMPC). The Committee appreciates your participation in purchasing these flowers as a means of making the sanctuary more festive and beautiful and invites you to take your flowers home with you following the Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Our heartfelt wishes to you all for a joyous and blessed Christmas!!



**Next Bible Study**

We'll gather in the Library on *Tuesday, December 19, at 10:30 a.m.* for another thought-provoking and insightful group discussion.



## Membership Directory

It's that time again. It is planned to issue a new membership directory in January. Please check out last year's directory to make sure you are listed correctly and if not, please send an email to the church office by the end of December. Thank you.



## Per Capita Apportionment

The Presbytery's Per Capita charge for 2018 is \$35 per member. The total amount for our church owed to Presbytery by January is **\$3,675**. We are asking once again that you help lessen the impact on our budget by donating your per capita payment. Last year, due to your generosity we were able to collect about \$2,204 towards this expense. We appreciate your willingness to help ease the financial burden on our church.

And of course, if you have already paid your per capita *thank you very much!*



## Music Notes

*Joy to the world... AND ... 'tis the season to be jolly!*

With December here there's a lot going on for our Music Ministry. Fortunately our Advent and Christmas activities build on the momentum of exciting happenings this past month, including a stellar Concert on Main and also wonderful music making by all of our ensembles. Thanks to all who contributed!

As usual, I am working with music participants (and their schedules) to make sure each ensemble is sharing their talents as often as possible. The enclosed calendar highlights activities, but here's a quick synopsis:

**Chancel Choir** adds to Sunday morning worship on December 3, 17 and 24. Participants gather at 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir also adds to our 5:30pm Christmas Eve service and gathers that evening at 4:30. (Chancel Choir will not meet on Sunday, December 10, nor Sunday, December 31.)

**Youth Musicians** will sing during the Pageant on Sunday, December 17, and hopefully also at the 5:30 p.m. service on December 24. Rehearsals and call times are in the calendar. **Chimes Ensemble** will follow the same schedule. (Youth Musicians will also practice during our Pageant Rehearsal at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 16).

Also of note is our **All-Church Caroling** on Sunday, December 17, after the Pageant service and brunch.

# ✧ **Concerts on Main** ✧

[www.ConcertsOnMain.org](http://www.ConcertsOnMain.org)

Our beautiful sanctuary was filled with joy for a special Veteran's Weekend Concert on Main on Sunday, November 12, by pop and jazz singer Alissa Stahler and pianist Angelo Di Loreto.

Concerts on Main continue in January with a special kids music program taking place on Saturday morning, January 27, in the narthex. More details to be shared soon.



## **Middle & High School Youth Group**

In addition to All-Church Caroling on Sunday, December 17, Youth Group leaders are working with participants' families to explore possibilities for 2018.



## **Mission-of-the-Month**

This month we will support the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter (JBWS) with our project called "**Bring-a-Gift for the Baby Jesus.**" The items listed below will be collected through the month of December. A collection box will be placed in the Narthex. *However*, on our Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 17, at our 10:00 a.m. service, we will all have the opportunity to be 'Kings for a Day.' As did the wise-men so long ago, we will bring our gifts of much-needed baby/children's items to the Baby Jesus during the Pageant. Cash donations and/or gift cards to stores such as Target, Walmart, CVS, etc. are also welcomed so JBWS can purchase what they most need. Thank you for caring about God's vulnerable children who need our help and support.

- \*Girl's and Boy's briefs (sizes 1,2,3,4,5&6)
- \*Diapers (all sizes)
- \*Diaper Wipes
- \*Pull-Ups
- \*Baby Bottles
- \*Multi-cultural Baby Dolls
- \*Fitted Crib Sheets    \*New Bath Towels
- \*Animal Crackers
- \*Packets of fruit snacks, pretzels, popcorn, nuts, cookies    \*Juice boxes
- \*Hot and Cold Cereals
- \*Individual micro-wave meals for toddlers & young children
- .\*Liquid hand soap in pump bottles (no bar soap)
- \*Baby/Children Body Wash

If you have any questions about this "**Bring-a-Gift for the Baby Jesus**" project, please contact Sophia at 908-666-5808.

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## Tritown55Plus.org

With Christmas and Chanukah celebrations coming, Tritown is announcing its Gift-A-Ride program. Give the gift of senior rides for your parents, friends, loved ones. Go to our website, Tritown55Plus.org. You can give a gift to a specific person or make a tax deductible donation to our senior rides program. You can also register for senior rides. Remember, Tritown is subsidizing rides for seniors 65+ in Madison and the Chathams. We partner with GoGoGrandparent, Inc., [www.gogograndparent.com](http://www.gogograndparent.com), a NATIONWIDE service. If you have a loved one living anywhere in the US, the ride service is available to them.

I will gladly answer any questions regarding our programs.

Thank you

John Crouthamel

[jwcrouthamel@gmail.com](mailto:jwcrouthamel@gmail.com)

### Operation Christmas Child

We on the Operation Christmas Child northwestern NJ Area Team would like to thank you for blessing 13,614 children around the world! May you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

## Market Street Mission Coat Drive

Thank you for your willingness to help the **Market Street Mission** and **Jersey Shore Rescue Mission** meet the needs of the community by collecting and donating coats for our annual **Coat Giveaways** which were held on Saturday, November 4, in Morristown. Your donation was greatly appreciated. You can never underestimate the need that is fulfilled by donating just one coat! Thank you!

We understand the time involved in planning and coordinating the collection of these coats! Please know that you have helped more than **400 people** receive the coats they needed for themselves and their family members. The remaining coats will go to inner city churches and organizations in need of coats for this winter.

**Again, we are SO grateful for all you have done! We could not have done it without you!** And for those who were not able to donate this year, we look forward to working with you in years to come. Thank you **all** for your support!

Happy Thanksgiving!

### Mary Kate Kelly

Volunteer Coordinator

Market Street Mission

(973) 538-6337

[www.MarketStreet.org](http://www.MarketStreet.org)

*The Market Street Mission ministers to the homeless, helpless, and hopeless in Northern NJ by meeting their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs through a structured program which enables them to lead responsible, productive lives.*



Please take time out from your busy schedules to remember the December birthdays listed below. Send a card or make a phone call. Your greetings will be appreciated by all! If you have not seen your name on the lists, please call the church office so that we can update our files with your birth date. We promise not to print the year in the "Birthday Corner."

Ethan Conklin	4
Barbara Snyder	6
Carol Bender	13
Paul Bender	13
Kathi Heath	15
Doug Kent	28
Karina Wildauer	31



**Let Us Pray...** Let us pray for our members... Marcia Casais, Martha Kiff, Corey Laurenzi, Alice Loeser, Mariclaire Miller, Barbara Molitor, Ev Stanert

Prayers for the Dixon/Casais family upon the death of Marcia's sister-in-law Kathy Dixon.

Let us pray for...

Kevin Boettger	nephew of Pat Hammeke
Tom Boland	friend of Sandy Roos
Betty Anne Champion	Mark Knoll's mother
Carol Dill	friend of Janice Parcels
Ed Dunn	great-uncle of Casey Molino Dunn
Kathy Dunn Flechler	cousin of Casey Molino Dunn
Josh Fernandez	12 year old neighbor of the Roos family
Auriel Gonzales	mother of Sandy Roos
Paul Horgan	friend of the Crescas family
Christian Isola and family	friends of Cindy Parlavecchio
Sharon Kern	friend of Miss Trudy
David Knoll	father of Mark Knoll
Patricia Maher	friend of Marcia Casais
Denny Mayer	friend of Marcia Casais
The Mears family	our missionaries in Haiti
Kian Musgrove	friend of David Molino Dunn
Clark and Jean Paradise	parents of Allan Paradise
Dennis Paradise	brother of Allan Paradise
Gloria Rodgers	cousin of Ginnie Trowbridge
Herman Rosenberg	100 year old friend of Gail Paradise
Piper Samuels	child of Casais family friend
Frank Squindo	son of Janice Parcels
Mark Squindo	son of Janice Parcels
Ray Suttles	husband of Loretta Suttles
Emily Takada	friend of the Knolls
Solomon and Sunita Tivade	Joe Tivade's mother and father
Tristan Witham	friend of the Parlavecchios

Let us pray for those serving our Country... Scott Armstrong, Kenneth Casais, James Glendening, Morgan Glendening, Robert Traver, Doug Verblaauw