



DATES TO NOTE:

December 20
Sanctuary
Drop –in or Drive-by

December 21
Longest Night
7:30pm
(in person and virtual)

December 24
Virtual Christmas Pageant
and Christmas Eve
Services
10am, 4, 7, 11pm

In-person Services
5pm and 9pm
(rsvp required)

See inside for details

The Disciple



**Incarnation:
Bringing Jesus Home for Christmas**

*Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!
For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst,
says the Lord.*

~ Zechariah 2:10

This year, “I’ll be home for Christmas” is not just a wistful holiday ballad but the reality most of us will be living this holiday season. With the pandemic limiting our travel and holiday festivities, many of us will be home more than usual, possibly on our own and separated from friends and loved ones.

While this may not be what we had hoped for, this Advent invites us to think more intentionally and deeply about the good news of this season – that God came down to earth to dwell with us, to make God’s home with us, in the person of Jesus Christ. The official theological term for this good news is Incarnation, which literally means “embodied in flesh or taking on flesh.” The Incarnation is the belief that God took on human form in the person of Jesus Christ who was both fully divine and fully human. As some of our Advent and Christmas hymns remind us, one of Jesus’ names is Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”

If Christmas is the celebration of God’s Incarnation into our world in the birth of Jesus, then Advent is a season of preparation for God’s arrival, not just in the manger, but also in our own hearts and homes and lives. How do we prepare and open our hearts, homes and lives to welcome the baby in the manger who is also the Savior of the world?

Here are some ways to prepare this Advent season:

1) Create your own Advent wreath and light the Advent candles along with us in the worship service each Sunday and on Christmas Eve.



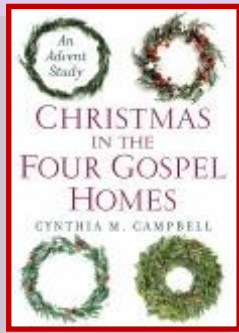
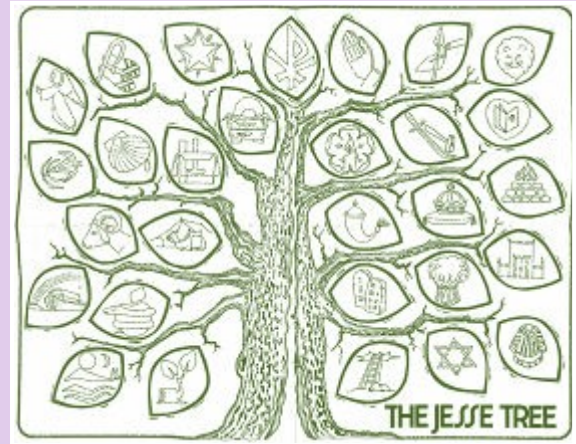
2) Read and reflect on the Daily GIFT Advent devotions which will be emailed every morning and will include a scripture reading and a reflection from one of our church families about how they prepare for Christmas and God’s arrival in their homes.



3) Listen to the **Centered in the Season** podcast which invites us to stop in the midst of our daily routines and busy lives, to take a deep breath and center ourselves in the true meaning of this season. To listen go to: www.facebook.com/fpcyorktown



4) Set up a **Jesse tree** in your house, using the devotion-al guide available from the church office or creating your own. Find some time each day with your family to read the scripture lesson, put the corresponding ornament on the tree, reflect on your own place in God’s salvation story, and say a prayer.



5) Read along and join our Faith4Life Advent study of the book **Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes** by Dr. Cynthia Campbell which meets over Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9 am. Books can be ordered online or picked up in the office.

Regardless of who is or isn’t coming home this Christmas, we know that God is definitely going to show up because God has already decided to make his home with us and promised to be with us always. This is the good news we celebrate on Christmas Day and all year long. This is the good news we will continue to celebrate “virtually” in this pandemic season and once we are able to gather together again. This the good news we continue to embody through our words and actions, our ministry and mission together as church. Advent Blessings and Merry Christmas!

See you in church,

Tami and Chip

A Special Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown

will be convened on Sunday, December 6th, 2020, as a ZOOM virtual meeting at 11:15 AM following the 10:00 AM Worship, for the purpose of:

- the election of two Youth Elders, for the period September 2021 through August 2022;
- the election of six Ruling Elders, Class of 2023;
- the election of two Youth Deacons, for the period September 2021 through August 2022;
- the election of four Deacons, Class of 2023;
- a summary review of CAT survey indicators for our Church;

and to conduct any other business which may properly come before the meeting.



Staying Connected — While We're Apart

- ⇒ **ONLINE WORSHIP** — Join us online for the worship service at 10:00am. Find the livestream (and services you missed) on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/fpcyorktown/live_videos/).
- ⇒ **VIRTUAL CLASSES AND MEET-UPS** — While we are out of our building, we will have numerous opportunities to “see familiar faces” via Zoom (bible studies, Sunday School, youth group, virtual coffee hours and more). If you haven't used Zoom yet, there are some quick tutorials on the company's website: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>



- ⇒ **CONTINUE YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT** — During these trying times filled with so much uncertainty, our church is taking creative measures to stay connected and care for its congregants, friends, and neighbors. While we cannot physically pass the plate on Sundays, we can continue our financial support by giving on-line (<https://tinyurl.com/FPCYgive>) or by mailing pledge commitments or offerings directly to the church office. If you need any technology assistance, please contact Chip, Tami or Lisa. See pages 4-5 for notes from the Stewardship Commission.

Congregational Life

As our virtual fellowship connections extends into 9 months, this Commission continues to find ways to celebrate and enjoy our friendships and community spirit—now with an Advent twist.

Coffee Hour Discussion Themes (following Sunday AM worship)

- * December 6 — Annual Congregational Meeting, *no coffee hour*
- * December 13 — more Advent-at-home show & tell. We'll have some different craft ideas to share. Here's a sneak peek:
<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-3D-Paper-Snowflake>
- * December 20 — Coffee and Cookies Hour, time to show off your holiday baking! Share your favorite cookie recipes and tips
- * December 27 – *no coffee hour*

Saturday Night Specials at 7:30 pm

- * December 5 — Holiday Crafting Night – more “how-to” ideas for decorating our homes. origami stars, Chrismsons or making angels from paper or tin art.

Mexican Tin Art https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA0s2_oO-NI
(this uses aluminum flashing but "disposable" aluminum pie plates work)

Paper Accordion Angel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9NdRAqjSFg>

- * December 19 — Holidays at home – best of the decorations showcase.

Lunch Bunch via Zoom at noon on December 16



2021 Annual Campaign: Neighbors Together *Forward in Faith*

Dear Faithful Friends,

What a year 2020 has turned out to be! When our lives seem to have come to a grinding halt 'until further notice', our church family has not boarded up and left town.

Activities around the church have not ceased. In fact, the church is still bustling. The exterior of the building has been repaired. Outdoor gardening and fall clean up continue. The interior of our building is being remodeled, and the sanctuary made ready for a welcoming re-opening, which includes the capability of filming for continued live streaming.

Along with the daily maintenance and physical make-over of the building and grounds, our church and its administrative staff have persevered. While our traditional fellowship and worship has been on hold temporarily, our pastors and church leadership continue to be available for congregational care, and to be innovative in creating inspirational sermons that are accompanied by the most dynamic music ever! As we continue to live stream our services, the sanctuary is decorated with beautiful banner backdrops each week, and though we are unable to attend church, aerial views of our church property bring us comfort. Our church staff has kept our members and our community connected through postal mailings, email, text, and phone communications. Commission meetings, bible studies, and game nights have taken over the computer screen. Our Sunday School and Youth Groups continue to operate and to build relationships. Zooming has become the next best thing for staying "in touch," the 'virtual' hug we all need!

The pandemic has awakened us to the diverse needs of many. Our deacons have met the challenges of reaching out to the increasing needs of the Food Pantry, including military clientele, and the homebound. Our newest mission is actively bringing awareness to the ever-increasing mental health issues plaguing our community. COVID has challenged us to re-evaluate our lives in terms of gratitude and blessings. Reflecting on our faithfulness, we are destined to 'reset' for the future.

According to our recent C.A.T survey, our church is considered a "Transformational Magi" church: being flexible, progressive, inclusive, with high levels of energy! We value education, enjoy interfaith dialogue and consider the "journey to be the reward."

As we near the end of 2020, please continue with us on our journey. Support our church by sharing your time, talent, and treasure. Honor your pledges joyfully. Let us grow together in faith, and be the hope in our future.

"Neighbors Together, Forward in Faith"

Blessings ~ FPCY Stewardship Commission



If you submitted your Annual Commitment for 2021, thank you! If not, we ask you to make a pledge toward our ministry and mission in 2021. Your faithful giving allows us to better plan for the year ahead. Your generosity sustains our church, providing opportunities to deepen our faith and fulfill our mission to connect with God, one another and the world.

You can submit your pledge via the mail, dropping it in the secure mailbox on the wall near the church office entrance or online at myFPCY.org.

To make your commitment online.

Go to www.myfpcy.org, log into your account (if you are a member, but don't have an account, please contact Lisa in the office).

1. Click "Giving" on the main menu.
2. Click "+ Pledge", enter your pledge information, and save.
3. *Entering your pledge online does not set-up actual electronic gifts.* To set-up a one-time or recurring electronic gift to the 2021 Annual Campaign, click on "Giving" on the left side of your screen.
4. Click "+ Give", enter your payment amount, choose "General Giving 2021" from the drop down menu, select frequency and gift date(s), press continue, enter payment info, then press the blue button that will save "Give \$x.xx).

If you are not yet an official member of FPCY, but would like to set-up a one-time or recurring gift to support our 2021 Annual Campaign, you can do so here: <https://onrealm.org/myFPCY/give/2021>

Year-End Gifts and Stewardship

As we head into 2021 (and beyond), we ask you to help us finish this year strong by making an end-of-year financial gift to FPCY. In this unprecedented year, the government offers unique benefits to charitable giving. See below for details.

THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT offers new opportunities to maximize the benefits of your charitable giving, but only in 2020.

They include:

- ⇒ Higher charitable deduction limits for cash gifts in the tax year 2020. Donors who itemize may claim a charitable deduction for up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash gifts.
- ⇒ A suspension of the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from individual retirement accounts. Individuals over age 72 do not need to take an RMD in 2020.
- ⇒ Continued opportunity for individuals age 70 1/2 or older to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). Donors may give as much as \$100,000 directly from an IRA plan to a qualified charity.
- ⇒ A new tax benefit for non-itemizers. Donors who do not itemize may take a one-time adjustment to income of \$300 for cash gifts.

In addition, consider the benefits of making gifts of appreciated property or appreciated securities—such as stocks, bonds, or mutual funds that have increased in value over time—as another tax-efficient way to give. Please talk with your advisors to see what works best for you.

You can make a donation by mailing a check to the church, dropping it off during our “December Giving Drive-By” (see below), or online at www.fpcyorktown.org/giving. **Tax deductible gifts for 2020 must be postmarked and/or given before 12/31/20.**

*December 20 – Join us for a
Christmas Sanctuary Drop-In and/or
December Donation Drive-By from 2-4pm*



Christmas Sanctuary Drop-in

Drop in and spend some quiet moments in the beauty of our Sanctuary decorated for the holidays. Register for a 15-minute meditation time. After checking in with an usher, you and your family will be escorted to a pew to enjoy the space and some holiday music. Social distancing will be maintained, and masks are required. Stay tuned for registration information.



December Donation Drive-By

Without in-person worship, we can't pass a traditional offering plate—which is in itself a part of worship. So members of the Stewardship Commission invite you to a “Donation Drive-by” where you can:

1. Submit your 2021 Pledge card (if you haven't already done so)
2. Drop off your 2020 pledge balance
3. Make an additional Christmas Donation or year-end gift
4. Pick up your box of 2021 pledge envelopes (for those who requested them)
5. See familiar faces and get a small treat from Stewardship

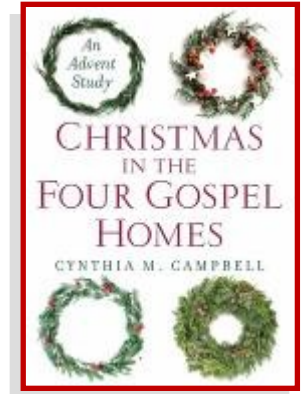


Christmas at Home—in the four *Gospel Homes*

Advent

I love looking in my neighbors' windows during the Christmas season. From my kitchen window I can see the Christmas tree of the neighbors who live behind us. When I was a kid my parents would drive around the neighborhood to see the homes decorated with lights for the holiday.

Perhaps you, too, enjoy seeing how others decorate for the holidays. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 AM (EST) on Zoom as we “travel” with Cynthia M. Campbell to the four Gospel homes. From the book’s description: “How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*, beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns reimagine each of the four Gospels as a “house,” which the church visits at Christmas. In each section, Cynthia M. Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel.”



Books will be available in the office for \$11.

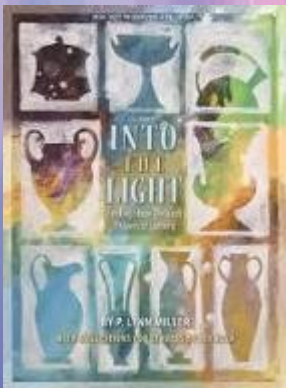
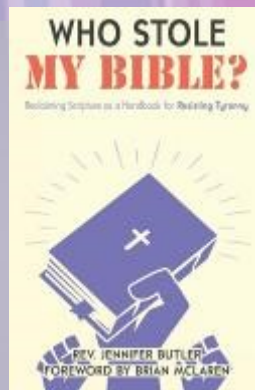
Tuesday Mornings at 10am (EST) - *Who Stole My Bible?* Join this group via zoom for a discussion of this new and thought-provoking book by Reverend Jennifer Butler, the CEO of Faith in Public Life. A [reviewer](#) described the book as “immensely readable. It’s not long. ...she first introduces a specific biblical text as part of our shared past, then inhabits the text attempting to read it as first readers would have heard it, then describes the contemporary situation in America today in which we read such a text, draws a lesson for us, and then shares how this text offers us in the present moment ways to resist tyranny.”

Books are available in the office for \$16

Thursday morning's Faith4Life group meets via zoom from 10 until 11:30am. We will continue our exploration of women in the Bible, reprising a series that Chip and Tami developed a few years ago: *Five Women and a Baby*. The study explores the roles played by the five women included in Matthew’s (1:2-6) genealogy of Jesus: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary.

The **Women’s Circle** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30am. Join us for a study using the Presbyterian Women’s curriculum, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*. Books are available in the office for \$10.

Men’s Breakfast will meet via Zoom on December 19 at 8am



COMING in 2021

Help us **"Bring the Bible to Life"** with your artistic imagination. See info below and watch the video made by Benjamin Low where Connie Knapp and Eric Kreuter discuss the project (<https://fpcyorktown.org/help-us-bring-the-bible-to-life/>)

Join us in the new year as we explore C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*. Some of us will be reading these books for the first time while others will be revisiting old friends.



During Lent we'll be exploring pilgrimage and sabbath rest and renewal.

We are working on developing a theologically based financial literacy series for the spring. Stay tuned!

All are welcome to our Faith4Life sessions. Let Tami (tami@fpcyorktown.org) or Connie (connie.knapp@icloud.com) know of your interest and we'll make sure you receive the Zoom links.

Connie Knapp,
for the Faith4Life Planning Team

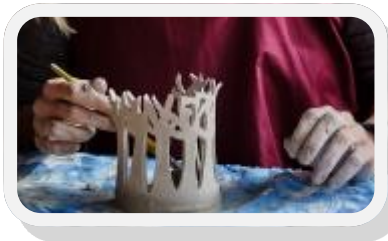
Help Us Bring the Bible to Life



When you read the Bible, do you "see" images? Do you "smell" the flowers? "Taste" the fruit? The Faith Formation Commission invites you to use your imagination and help us bring the Bible to life. Pick a Bible story or scripture passage that speaks to you. Stay tuned for a list of Bible stories and themes to spark your creativity. You provide your imagination and paint, draw, sculpt, photograph, quilt, dance, write a poem, build a Lego model, etc. to illustrate the passage. Write a brief statement reflecting on how the passage spoke to you and what it was like to create a piece of art about it.

If you would like some help or support with your art project, we will connect you with a volunteer mentor artist from the congregation.

We would like to display your creations at a community art show in Spring 2021. We encourage submissions by individuals, families, groups of friends, or even entire commissions! Submission form and list of mentors to follow. Questions? Contact Connie (connie.knapp@icloud.com) or Eric (erickreuter@aol.com).



Sunday School



Over the past few months, our FPCY children have adapted seamlessly to online Sunday School classes meeting over Zoom.

Our children and teachers from Pre-K—4th grade are enjoying the new Shine curriculum.

The kids engage with the stories and look forward to connecting with their friends each week.



There are opportunities to share joys and concerns, sing along to the Doxology, pass the peace, and receive a blessing at the end of every class. Families are encouraged to help their children complete activities that tie in to each weekly lesson.



Our 5th and 6th graders in the Connect class have been Zooming in faithfully every Sunday. They have learned stories from the Old Testament that began with Genesis and the Creation story, to the covenant God made with us. Their teachers are proud of their commitment and active engagement with the lessons and discussions.

The FaithX class of 7th, 8th and 9th graders continues to explore the books of the Old Testament in their study of the Bible. They have learned about the Torah and its importance to us as Christians, and discussed big questions such as “What does it mean when we say that the Bible is ‘inspired by God?’” The students come to class prepared with their Echo the Story Sketch Journals to help them connect with the texts.



We give thanks to our teachers for their flexibility in adapting to this new way of delivering instruction, and to our families for their commitment to helping our kids stay connected. We wish all of our Sunday School families a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

Bridget Bentley & Kristy Berlin
Sunday School Co-Superintendents



Youth Group News

Happy Advent Everyone! It's hard to believe that fall is almost over, and that winter is right around the corner!

The Youth Groups have been meeting (almost all) virtually throughout the fall. Big thanks to our Middle Schoolers and some of our awesome Sunday School teachers who joined in the fun when we "Zoom-ed" in to bring Chip good wishes and out-of-sync singing virtually on his birthday.

In October, our older Youth gathered in person (masked and distanced) to prepare a meal for the Jan Peek House shelter in Peekskill. Making a transportable meal to feed 40 people is no small task; there were many potatoes peeled, carrots scraped, onions cried over, green beans snipped, and mushrooms chopped. And we found that it takes many hands to slice up a frozen ham.



Middle School Youth Group will continue to meet via Zoom two Wednesdays a month. High Schoolers should watch their email for a survey coming shortly of topics and activities to explore in the next few months.

All dates and links for virtual meetings are sent via email. Are you on the list? If you're not sure, need to update an address, or want to be added to the email list, reach out to Steph Hare, Director of Youth Ministries, at stephanie@fpcyorktown.org to stay in the know.

Pantry Plus

What a year 2020 has been at Food Pantry, and how grateful we are for the support from the congregation, community, local businesses and most of all our volunteers to enable us to help so many people under such trying conditions.

- ⇒ January through February were normal months, indoor shopping at the choice pantry, 90 families on average per pantry.
- ⇒ Then the pandemic, with restrictions and job losses, hit. We shifted back to pre-packed bags and a drive by outdoor model.
- ⇒ By April we needed to expand our hours to keep the queue of cars from spilling out onto route 132.
- ⇒ Feeding Westchester has been our lifeline for food supply, augmented by shopping at Acme and Restaurant Depot for missing items.
- ⇒ Feeding Westchester has not charged for bulk foods since April, a policy that has saved us at least \$12,000.
- ⇒ At the peak in May through July we were helping more than 250 families per pantry.

With your help and the dedication of our stalwart volunteers we never missed a beat at the pantry or in our deliveries to the elderly.

We are gearing up for our largest pantries of the year for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many thanks to Wilkens Farm and the Pratt family for donating pies for thanksgiving, and to Elaine Sinecore for introducing us to Restaurant Depot. Most of all we thank the congregation for your donations, your support and your encouragement. Thank you so much!

As in past years, if you would like to give to the pantry as a gift for someone else, we have new pantry cards available that include a description of the pantry's ministry and can be printed at home.

And for December, the item of the month is cake/brownie/dessert mix, to help our clients celebrate the season.

Are you (or are you aware of a congregation member) in need of help getting groceries? Contact Katharine Frase via email: kfrase98@gmail.com



They can only take out what we bring in.

The majority of the food we offer at the **FPCY Pantry** comes to us from **Feeding Westchester**.

Some items we like to distribute are in short supply and your contribution can help fill that gap.

We thank you for bringing in

**Cake, Brownie
and Dessert Mix**



Next Pantry Dates:

December 5 & 19



A note of thanksgiving and the advent of our foundation

It's been just over a year since I have been welcomed to FPCY as the director of music ministry. After reflecting on our worship themes over the past months, re-watching the sermons, listening to the weaving and nuances of how to practice being a neighbor, I have truly wondered what it means to be a part of this church.

Every day I see and hear people practicing exactly what it means to them and sharing their own perspective and experiences to build a stronger faith community.

While I am no preacher and often have difficulty expressing my thoughts in the moment, I am thankful for this opportunity to write down and visualize my faith. Having no idea what "The Disciple" was, I seized an opportunity to speak on behalf of our music program and to share the love I have for this terrifying art we all consume and indulge (much like a thanksgiving meal).

Recently, we as a congregation have participated in a wonderful tool called the "CAT" (congregational assessment tool), allowing us to observe our starting points, strengths, and growth areas as a church. Naturally, I was interested in the worship and music questions and was shocked to see a lack of questions regarding it.

There's the old trope that church musicians are typically regarded as those who sustain the church by providing musical services. This view has them responsible for creating fellowship and good feeling in the congregation - dispensing services that keep everybody happy, entertained, and wearing a shiny badge of honor that our music is "good". First, let me say, no, I don't think we perpetuate this idea, but the implication of musical consumerism is one we should openly discuss.

It can be difficult to try to meet what are often competing demands: some people want gospel piano hymns, some want organ symphonies, some want chorales, still others don't want to sing at all and expect the choir to do it. There are those who want the choir to sing 16th-century motets and others want it to sing contemporary tunes. The musician is supposed to meet all those requests. The musician is usually not expected, however, to think, make judgments, ask questions or have a dialogue with anybody. The congregation wants the musician simply to satisfy its wants, no matter how contradictory and confusing those may be. Defined this way, the life of a church musician can be interesting. Musicians in this situation not only sense that something is wrong at the heart of things, but that they can never do anything right. They do not know what to plan and practice, or what demands to heed. They receive no direction except for the worst sort of consumerism.

Underneath all this is the church musicians' relationship with parishioners and with God. Here is where I can practice my gratitude and have a conversation with all of you about the function of music beyond performance, concerts, uplifting hymns, and dedicate my life to the art of being human.

While I long for the day we can be together, I give thanks that we can still provide live music with real people singing the word of God. As the gift of Christ was given to us, we can give the gift of music, because we operate within a community of grace that is sustained by God. I am free to take risks, to "fail" and "succeed," because sustenance is not our concern; faith is. That means knowing the big story, knowing the people's stories and their capacities, and then serving them with care. The practical life of the church musician is the outcome of a vocation -- a calling -- that serves God and the people of God with God's unique gift of music.



Garrett Artman

Director of Music Ministry

From the Mission Commission

Noon Time Meal Clients

FPCY has been creating and serving a meal each month for hungry people, our neighbors, at the Peekskill Salvation Army site on Nelson Street. Pre-Covid this meal was prepared by volunteers who would meet in our church kitchen and work together to create a hot meal. Since March, our church has been having a deli in Yorktown deliver sandwiches each month. Pat Prada has organized this event and she has been delivering juice boxes, fresh fruit, cupcakes, or cookies as an extra to enhance the meal. This month Carl and Nance Thompson baked and individually wrapped 36 cupcakes which we delivered to the Salvation Army site. The next Noon Time meal that FPCY is responsible for will be on December 9th. Watch the church newsletter for dates in 2021. Moving forward, volunteers are needed to provide a store-bought/wrapped dessert or to deliver fresh fruit each month. Contact Pat Prada at 914-737-4674 or patprada@gmail.com to help your neighbors!



Jan Peek Meal — The Jan Peek Meal went well in October. Thanks to Steph Hare and the Youth Groups for doing it. Thanks to Pam Darreff, Judy Chessa and Courtney Donnelly & family for handling November and to the Boy Scouts who will take care of December. January is filled so we are off to a good start. If you would like to prepare a meal for the Jan Peek Clients our Saturday is the 4th one of the month. Please give Pat a call at 737-4674, or e-mail patprada@gmail.com

Please continue to drop off your **bottles & cans** at the church. They are picked up at least once a week and redeemed. All monies redeemed go to support Mission. If no one is around, you can leave them beneath the Food Donation table near the back doors.

Until we can open our building to small gatherings, our **Knit Togethers** and **Prayer Shawl Teams** continue to knit/crochet at home. If you need yarn or project guidance contact Norean (914-962-4370 — Knit Togethers) or Marianna (914-737-8294 — Prayer Shawl).

From Norean~

While self-isolating for 90 days and now semi-isolating, I am knitting scarves for the Deacons December Gift Tree at the Food Pantry. All knitters please join me; it is easy and fun! Pick up your needles #7-#10, cast on 22-30 stitches and knit, knit, knit for 45" to 60". For more information and yarn delivery call Norean at 914-962-4370. We are busy knitting hats, scarves, and lap blankets for giving to others. For information and yarn delivery call Norean at 914-962-4370.



From Marianna~

Prayer Shawl - The Prayer Shawl group is still knitting all our contributions of prayer shawls, baptism blankets and our Linus ministry. But we have added making hats for the hat and mitten tree for our pantry clients. Gloves were donated by JoAnn fabrics and we are trying to knit hats to go along with the gloves that were donated. Terry Froehlich, Lois Ostling, Noreen Radke, Priscilla and I are knitting hats for the Dec. 13 deadline. For the third year we are also knitting scarves for a 4th grade class in the Bronx that a friend of mine teaches. They are children of very modest means and we wanted to help to keep them warm in the winter. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting, we can always use extra hands.

From our **Mental Health Initiative (MHI) Team** — Ten years ago the Presbyterian Church (USA) started an initiative called "Comfort My People" to encourage congregations to talk more openly about mental health. The Deacons and Mission Commission in response to this, has formed a mental health and wellness team to explore this initiative in our church. The team includes elders, deacons and other members of our congregation. The team has been working to gather resources for talking about mental health and wellness with family and friends as well as a ministry of our church. We have received a grant from the Presbyterian Church (USA) that will help strengthen our ministry to one another and our community in the area of mental health and wellness including reducing potential stigma associated with mental health challenges, helping families and care givers, encouraging open communication, and ensuring that everyone feels welcome and a part of our congregational community. In the next few months the congregation will be asked to participate in a survey to assess the mental health and wellness needs of our congregation, and our community including those we serve. Based on input from the congregation, next steps in the process will be determined, aimed at strengthening our mental health and wellness ministry and our ability to support one another as a community of faith.

You are NOT ALONE

Millions of people are affected by mental illness each year. Across the country, many people just like you work, perform, create, compete, laugh, love and inspire every day.



1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness

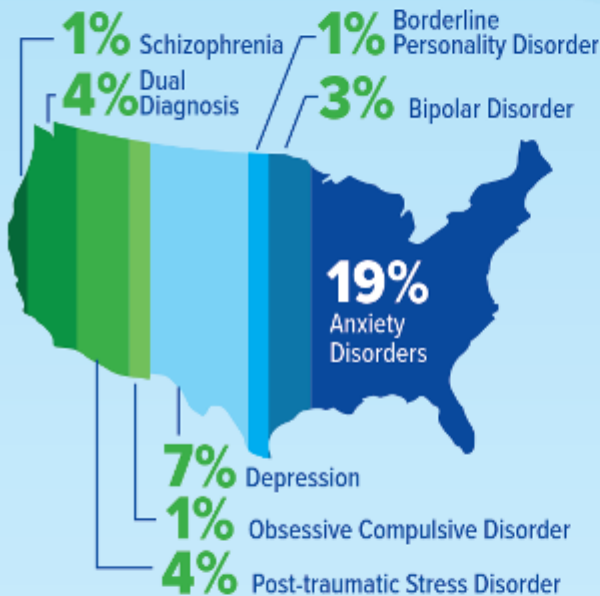
1 in 25

1 in 25 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness

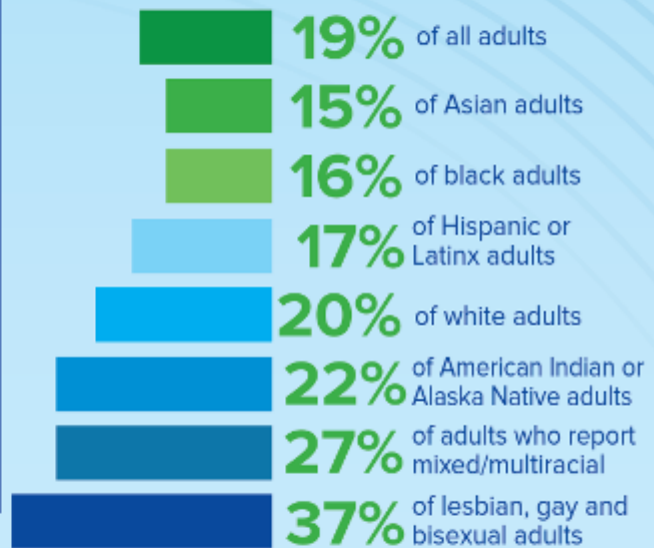
17%

of youth (6-17 years) experience a mental health disorder

12 MONTH PREVALENCE OF COMMON MENTAL ILLNESSES (ALL U.S. ADULTS)



12 MONTH PREVALENCE OF ANY MENTAL ILLNESS (ALL U.S. ADULTS)



WAYS TO REACH OUT AND GET HELP



Talk with a health care professional



Call the NAMI HelpLine at 800-950-NAMI (6264)



Connect with friends and family



Join a support group

Data from CDC, NIMH and other select sources. Find citations for this resource at nami.org/mhstats

NAMI HelpLine 800-950-NAMI (6264)



Campaign Project Management Team and Operations Commission Update

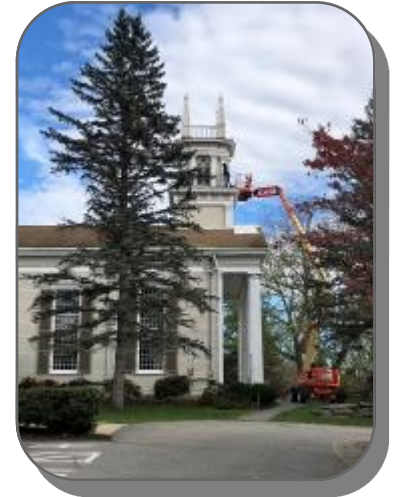
The campaign and operations teams continue to be busy with renovations and maintenance projects, taking advantage of the flexibility provided by the empty building.

Newly complete projects include external sanctuary painting, Room 7 and the back hallway.

Planning for the kitchen and sanctuary technology continues to proceed...

As ever, we are so grateful for the support of the congregation and the faithful fulfillment of pledges, to enable us to do this work. If you haven't yet made a commitment, please prayerfully consider participating in this campaign for the present (and future) of our Ministries of Faith.

Pledges can be made via myFPCY.org. If you have made a pledge, but haven't yet made a gift, or if you wish to make a one-time gift, you can do so at your convenience here: <http://tinyurl.com/FPCYCapital>.



History Corner

As we continue to make improvements to our church for the present and future, here is an excerpt from an Historical Sermon from Pastor W. J. Cumming in 1876...

The sixth pastor was the Rev. Robert G. Thompson. During his pastorate the present church edifice was erected. "When I became pastor of the church", he writes, "the old house of worship was still standing. It was an exceedingly old and unsightly object. Just enough of yellow ochre was visible to show that it had once been painted. The architecture, pulpit and seats were all in the old New England style without paint and of the most common workmanship and material. It was felt that a new & more modern building was a necessity to the comfort and prosperity of the congregation. The old one had answered its day, and though hallowed in the memory of the old members, it must now give way to another, more in accordance with modern ideas of taste and convenience. The work was undertaken in the spring of 1839 and the new edifice was dedicated to the worship of God on January 9, 1840."

Submitted by Dick Hunter





Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, our 2020 Arts and Crafts Fair will not be held this year. Instead, we have asked each vendor that had signed up for this year's craft fair if they have a website where people can browse their products and start holiday shopping early. Please support the following artisans, as their businesses have been hit hard with the shutdown of many craft fairs in the area. We look forward to seeing everyone next year – in person!

The vendors are:

- ⇒ The Copper Faucet Soap Company -- <https://copperfaucetsoap.com/>
- ⇒ Kim O'Hara Designs -- <https://www.kimoharaclaydesigns.com/>
- ⇒ Lavender & Sage Moon -- <https://www.etsy.com/shop/lavendersagemoon13>
- ⇒ Mimzy's Button Bar -- <https://www.mimzysbuttonbar.com/>
- ⇒ Santagata Studios -- <https://www.etsy.com/shop/SantagataStudios>
- ⇒ Stacy Surman Designs -- <https://www.etsy.com/shop/stacysurmandesigns>
- ⇒ Unique Beaded Jewelry by Nancy -- <http://uniquebeadedjewelrybynancy.com/>
- ⇒ Vintage & Vine -- <https://vintageandvine.wixsite.com/home>

Fpcy Children's

Coat Drive

We will be collecting gifts of new winter coats and/or waterproof gloves for children and adolescents in need throughout the month of November. Please drop off your donation in one of the bins in the back of the church by December 8th.

Our greatest need now is the following sizes: adult small, medium, large (for middle schoolers/older kids) or sizes for young children (toddlers-through kindergarten)

Deck the halls...with mounds of soon to be discarded wrapping paper...
NO, NO, NO! Let's not!



Here are some greener ideas.

- ◆ Separately wrap the bottom and top of a box. It may use more paper initially but the box can be used over and over.
- ◆ The easiest and most popular alternative to wrapping paper is reusable purchased gift bags.
- ◆ Often take-out orders from restaurants are placed in plain brown shopping bags. If they arrive without grease/food marks you can use them as gift bags. Use as-is or decorate them with cut up sections of old Christmas cards—or let the kids/grandkids color them.
- ◆ With online shopping at an all-time high, chances are you have shipping boxes that you can use as gift boxes. Decorate them with old greeting cards or colorful pages from magazines or draw on them.
- ◆ Fabric can also make a nice gift wrap. Buy some material with a holiday motif, (or use what you may already have), gather it around the gift and then tie it off with ribbon or yarn. Like the gift bags, the cloth can be used over and over.
- ◆ Instead of throwing away old calendars, reuse pages as gift wrap.
- ◆ Don't wrap the gift but cover the eyes of the recipient, place gift in hand, then uncover eyes.

Hoping some or all of these will become useful and perhaps inspire you on to your own creative wrapping ideas.

MORE HOLIDAY ECO-TIPS

- ◆ If you're in the market for a new set of Christmas lights, opt for energy efficient LEDs. They use 90 percent less energy than older, incandescent lights.
- ◆ When it comes time to de-green your home, instead of simply discarding your tree or greens in the trash, consider returning them to the Earth. If you have room on your property, will find a quiet let these materials return to nature, and in the meantime provide sheltering nooks for the wild creatures.

 CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

join us!

God is
with us.

— MATTHEW 1:23

THE PERFECT GIFT.

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Special Offering of the PCUSA will be received throughout December. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you will be providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please consider giving to the Christmas Joy Offering in addition to your regular giving. Mark gifts "JOY".



Welcome to Our Newest Members!



Elaine Deely-Heyde

Elaine Heyde is originally from Chappaqua but moved to Yorktown five years ago with her husband Damian and their three children Brianna, Meaghan, and Alexander. They found FPCY through Vacation Bible School and our online worship service. They are very excited to be part of the FPCY and look forward to many opportunities to help serve the church and community.



Tamsin Levine

Tamsin lives in Peekskill with her kitten, Aslan, who has enjoyed watching FPCY's online services during the pandemic as much as she has! Tamsin comes to us from the Yorktown Vineyard Community Church where she served as a vocalist with their worship team, Tamsin has a deep passion for social justice and the way that intersects with her faith, a love of photography, and a mild obsession with broccoli rabe. She also has a gift for writing, which she would love to use more formally in ministry.



Carolyn Reide

Carolyn wants to thank FPCY for welcoming her family into the church. She and her husband Andrew live in Cortlandt Manor with their two young children, Addison and Drew, and are looking forward to being apart of the FPCY community



Fran Woodard

Fran is a life-long resident of Yorktown. She first attended Sunday School at FPCY when she was 4 years old. She was married in our Sanctuary, her children were baptized here and she taught Sunday School. She and her family have operated the Meadows Farm Market for 53 years. Her husband, Sonny, of 65 years, died in July 2019

Let There Be Peace on Earth— Jane Amato's Peace Pole

When the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce launched the "Community of Peace" project, Jane Amato's son encouraged Jane to participate. Artists were invited to submit a "multimedia peace pole" or a "painted (or multimedia) free-standing peace symbol." Select pieces are to be auctioned to fund a community impact art scholarship, to be awarded annually.

Jane's pole was one of 22 poles, 20 peace symbols and three soft sculptures exhibited throughout locations in New Paltz, NY and nearby Gardiner.

The project is subtitled "An artistic study on what brings us together." Jane's beautiful pole was installed in front of Garvan's Restaurant in New Paltz. The picture of Jane and her son doesn't convey the size of the pole—the painted portion of the pole is six feet. The pole itself is eight feet tall.

Congratulations to Jane and her participation in a project that declares, "participation as a means of bringing about positive change."

By the way, Jane has already submitted artwork for our "Bringing the Bible to Life" project. Have you submitted yours yet? Eric Kreuter or Connie Knapp would be happy to talk with you about any ideas you might have to contribute to this congregational and community-wide project. See more on page 5.



Christmas Week Schedule

(all events are subject to change)



Sunday, December 20

10:00 am 4th Sunday of Advent Worship Online at 10am
 2:00-4:00 pm Holiday Drive-by or Drop-In
 (2 opportunities to spread holiday cheer)

Drive by the church and drop off your Christmas Eve offering, end-of-year gifts, pledge cards for 2021 and complete your pledge. Receive a special Holiday thank-you gift for your family.

Drop in and spend some quiet moments in the beauty of our Sanctuary decorated for the holidays. Register for a 15-minute meditation time. After checking in with an usher, you and your family will be escorted to a pew to enjoy the space and some holiday music. Social distancing will be maintained, and masks are required. *Stay tuned for registration information.*

Monday, December 21

7:30 pm Longest Night Service
 (Online AND In-person)

We gather to remember the darkness in our lives, to acknowledge our struggles and sorrows, and to seek God's light and hope.

Join us online for our traditional Longest Night Service with scripture readings, prayer, candlelighting, music and hymns.

Join us in person for a shorter version of the Longest Night Service (about 30 minutes) with scripture, prayer, candlelighting and music. *Preregistration is required – stay tuned for registration information.*



Thursday, December 24

11:00 am & 4:00 pm Virtual Christmas Pageant and Family Service
 7:00 & 11:00 pm Virtual Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols with Candlelighting
 5:00 & 9:00 pm In-person Christmas Eve Worship Service

This service will last about 30 minutes and include scripture readings, prayer, candlelighting and music. *Masks are required and social distance will be maintained, Pre-registration is required. Stay tuned for registration information.*



Sunday, December 27

10:00 am Online Worship Service with Hudson River Presbytery
The Moderators and Staff of HRP invite us all to join in worship together with them online.

The Disciple

December 2020

www.FPCYorktown.org

914-245-2186

office@fpcyorktown.org

Office Hours:

By Appt. Tue & Thu

Co-Pastors

Rev. Chip Low

Rev. Tami Seidel



Facebook.com/fpcyorktown



@fpcyorktown



@fpcyorktown



office@fpcyorktown.org

First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown
2880 Crompond Road
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Current Resident or:

<h2 style="margin: 0;">December</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">All meetings and services will be held online until further notice.</p>		8	9	10	11	12
		10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Worship Design	9am Stewardship 7pm F4L-Disciple	10:00am F4L Study 7:15pm Bells 8:10pm Choir	4:00pm Kitchen Design Team	8am Coat Distribution 12pm Pageant Recording
13 9:00am F4L 9:15am SHINE 10:00am Worship 11:00am Virtual Coffee Hour 11:15am Connect/FaithX 2:00pm Pageant Recording 3:30pm Budget & Finance	14	15 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Mission & Operations	16 12pm Lunch Bunch 7pm F4L-Disciple	17 10:00am F4L Study 7:15pm Bells 8:10pm Choir	18 3:00pm Pantry+ Set-Up	19 8am Pantry Distribution Men's Breakfast 7:30pm Congregational Life Best of Decorations Showcase
20 9:00am F4L 9:15am SHINE 10:00am Worship 11:00am Virtual Coffee Hour 11:15am Connect/FaithX 2:00pm Drop-in/Drive-by	21 7:30pm Longest Night	22 10:00am F4L Study	23 7pm F4L-Disciple	24 <i>See page 17 for the Christmas Eve Service Schedule</i>	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed	26 6pm Jan Peek Meal Served
27 10:00am Worship service with the Hudson River Presbytery <i>No Sunday School or Coffee Hour</i>	28	29	30	31	1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2
3 9:00am F4L 9:15am SHINE 10:00am Worship 11:00am Virtual Coffee Hour 11:15am Connect/FaithX	4	5 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Session	6 10:30am Women's Circle 7pm F4L-Disciple	7 10:00am F4L Study 7:15pm Bells 8:10pm Choir	8 3:00pm Pantry+ Set-Up	9 8am Pantry Distribution