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Office Admin. Hours: Mon. 8:30a-12:30p; Tues. 8:30a-12:30p; Wed., 8:30a-2:30p, Thurs., 8:30a-12:30p, Fri. 8:30a-10:30a

Welcome to the monthly
newsletter

of **Community Presbyterian Church**

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**Community Presbyterian
Church of Merrick**

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOIRA

Dear CPC Family:

A devout Christian recently asked, me, very earnestly, "Why do we celebrate Advent?" "Hasn't Jesus been born already?"

She has a point. She made me think. Why observe Advent?

At the beginning of my Christian life, I thought of Advent as an inconvenience, a four-week encumbrance to the fun and joy of Christmas, with all my family gathered around the tree, covered with lights and decorations, with stuffed stockings and presents scatted about, the aromas of delicious home-made concoctions wafting through the house, and Christmas carols blaring on the stereo tucked away in a corner. I have changed over the years. While I still love the feeling of Christmas morning with my family, I have learned to treasure the wisdom of the four weeks of Advent (orthodox Christians observe 40 days), our season of waiting, longing, and preparation for Christmas.

Especially as Christmas preparation has more and more been given over to "consumerism," it is refreshing to return to the rituals of Advent: lighting the Advent wreath and meditating on the scriptures. Slowing down and finding peace in a season that wants us to speed up. Finding ways to give instead of "making that list and checking it twice." Singing and rediscovering Advent hymns and the Christmas Carols. Putting out a nativity scene or making a Jesse tree – a tree decorated with symbols from the Bible that point to Jesus. Advent invites us to find our unique way to keep Jesus the center of Christmas celebration.

There are other ways we are preparing this Advent at CPC:

- Plan to be at worship all Advent Sundays for the lighting of the Advent Wreath.
- Buy a Chocolate Advent Calendar (\$4, all proceeds go to the church) and reflect on the Advent verses while enjoying a daily dose of chocolate!
- Join the Advent Conspiracy!. Spend less, give more, worship fully, love all. Find out more about it here: <https://adventconspiracy.org/>
- Participate in greening the sanctuary, December 7 beginning at 10am. Don't forget to dedicate a poinsettia (\$14) while you're at it!
- Contribute to the Christmas Joy Offering by December 8.
- Continue to decorate the "Mitten Tree" to keep chilly hands warm this winter. Gently worn coats are still gladly being accepted as well.
- Attend the Children's Christmas Play at 5:00pm on Dec. 8, followed by the Vespers Dinner at 5:30pm. Bring a gift for a child from the Freeport pantry (until Dec. 15).
- Enjoy the Women's Noel Luncheon on Dec. 14 @1pm, details enclosed.
- Need a Christmas carol fix? Go Caroling on Dec. 17.
- Attend Candlelight Christmas Eve's Service of Lessons and Carols, Dec. 24, at 7pm.
- Continue the Christmas spirit at the Carol-Sing Service on Sunday Dec. 29 at 9am.

Discover what works for you and prepare earnestly this season.

Together, let us travel through Advent, in prayer and song, good deeds, joyful fellowship, raising our voices and proclaiming: **O Come, O Come, Emanuel!**

Faithfully yours,



Pastor Moira

CLERK'S CORNER

Merry Christmas!

I'm writing this message just before Thanksgiving. I hope your Turkey Day is joyous, realizing we all have a lot to be thankful for (see below).

And before you know it, it's onward to Christmas. We are a busy congregation, and I hope you can join us for some of the activities in store during the month:

- Our Annual Vesper's Play and Dinner on December 8 starting at 5 pm, when our church school tells us once again of Christ's birth in their own imitable way. Then, join us for food and fellowship, and maybe even a visit from Santa!
- Our Women's Noel Luncheon on Saturday, December 14 at 1 pm. More details are inside TC.
- Our Christmas Caroling on Tuesday, December 17. We will be bringing Christmas Cheer to our shut-ins and others. It's one of my favorite activities. No singing ability is required – just a loud and cheerful voice is required. I guarantee the experience will warm your hearts.
- And don't forget to create your own Christmas celebrations. Is there someone you haven't seen or spoken to in a while? Pay them a visit or give them a call! Better yet, bring them to church for our Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm!

I wish you all a most joyous Christmas season.

Faithfully yours, Gary

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - We're off to a good start for this year's **Stewardship** Campaign. We've asked, and many of you have found a way to increase your pledges. And there are yet a few pledges to come.

As we've always said, you are a most generous and loving congregation. Thank you so much!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Unfortunately, I must also bring up some Church business during this joyous holiday season. Our Nominating Committee is conducting its search for individuals who would like to serve, whether it is on the Session or the Board of Deacons. We need your help. Please consider saying yes if approached.

Thank you!

Gary

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER?

January is a great time to consider your resolutions for the New Year. Many resolutions are hard to keep (such as losing weight – trust me).

It's also a great time to consider becoming a member of our loving fellowship. If you are interested, please contact the Pastor, or some member of Session. You will not regret it. Thanks,

Gary

AND SPEAKING ABOUT BEING THANKFUL - And while we are in a thankful mood, don't forget to thank those who contribute so much in helping our church make an impact in our communities:

- Our Sunday School teachers, Lily Kelman-Nelson, and Mary Jane Gould (along with their helpers);
- Our Deacons, who do so much behind the scenes to tend to our flock and the surrounding community;
- Our Officers, who handle a multitude of tasks in keeping our congregation afloat;
- Our Choir, and its Director, who provide us with joyful music, both traditional and modern, to lift our spirits;
- And speaking of our Minister of Music, who single-handedly maintains our Face Book page; and finally,
- Our Pastor, who leads us in worship each week, while providing us with spiritual leadership.

My apologies to any I may have forgotten. There are so many helping hands - that is what makes us such a loving congregation.

Gary

THE PASSING OF ONE-TIME MEMBER,

DAVID MACKAY

The office received a call in early November from Arline MacKay informing us of her husband, David's, passing on October 22.

Arline and David were faithful and loving members of CPC, joining our church family together in 1962. They moved to Dunnellon, Florida, in 1993 and subsequently transferred their membership to the Dunnellon Presbyterian Church.

In conversation with Arline, she said that she and David still considered CPC/Merrick THEIR church and remembers many fondly.

Condolence cards may be sent to Arline at: 19211 SW98th Loop, Dunnellon, FL 34432-4242.

Our sincere condolences to the friends and family of David...may he rest in peace!



FROM NOVEMBER

(From 11/3):

The Church grounds are so well-kempt. Prayers of gratitude to Frank and Danny for the leaves and twigs to go to the CPC vegetable garden. "Thank you very **mulch**." (One and all at CPC);

R.I.P Wally Merna. He loved to shop in Restaurant Depot!; Please pray for Jack.

Please pray for Brudge. (Vinny L.);

Peace and healing of anger and resentment in families. Matthew to overcome anxiety.

Excellent part-time job close to home;

A prayer of healing for my niece, Rocio. Lord, keep her strong. (Mona G.);

A prayer for Ryan. A teen having a difficult time. (Mona G.);

Thank you to Barbara Rivera for taking care of our outside cats while we are away. God bless her! (Jo G.);

Prayers for Alex and Karen Bard (Jo G.);

(From 11/10):

Employment and a release of anxiety over finances. Peace in the World;

Help us to be ever mindful that mission is our primary calling;

Prayers for safe travels for Charlie L. and gratitude to all for help before and after coffee hours;

Continued gratitude for the well-kempt church grounds during the falling leaves;

(From 11/17):

Prayers for my mother after the passing of my father (Matthew F.);

Kerry Rivera who is having pregnancy problems;

A prayer of wellness for my co-worker, Debbie May, who has been hospitalized for over a month with stomach issues. (Joe);

Jim who is suffering from bone cancer (Charlie L.);

Rose Andersen on the occasion of her 100th birthday;

Prayers for Dolores and Alex A. – a physical touch in their bodies and hope to go on;

A prayer for Brian, a young teen, going through a difficult time;

Confidence, peace and understanding. Knowledge and HOPE!!!;

Prayers for Tom Fogarty and for Herald. (Amanda K.P.)

(From 11/24):

A prayer of healing for Steve, a young man, who was just diagnosed with lung cancer;

Steve Haussel who has stage 4 lung cancer. He will find out Tues. if the immuno-therapy is working (Mary L.);

My mom as she struggles with concerns about her long-term care options;

Prayer for confidence and healing of anxiety and depression.

Safe travels for my son and mom;

"Dear Father God, please pray for Carol Alexander who has a bad pain in her leg and arm. In Your Name, please heal me.";

Happy 32nd anniversary for Rich and Fran. Christ's blessings!

HUGE THANKS TO Frank and Danny Kost for keeping the church grounds so well-kempt! Fall can be a 'messy' season, but Frank and Danny have been hard at work raking those leaves and clearing those branches and twigs making our property safe and attractive.

Thank you, also, Frank, for repairing several loose bricks on our outside steps and repainting and securing the two handrails in the front of the church!

Your generous efforts are noted and much appreciated!

SEASONAL MISSION PROJECTS CONTINUE!

'Tis the time of year to help others more than ever, and we've got several mission projects in full swing!



The first is our **'MITTEN' TREE** which is the collecting of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for all ages to be given to the patrons of the Freeport Food pantry. 'New' or in 'extremely-good-used' condition only, please.

The other is a **COAT DRIVE** also for the patrons of the Freeport pantry. We are concentrating on collecting warm, winter coats for all ages, but other temperate coats are being accepted as well!



Warm a Heart with a Winter Coat

All the Drives have begun, and we will continue them into 2020. If you have any questions, please give the office a call.

PS - Joe Schuessler was kind enough to take the first 'wave' of donations over to the Pantry. Donated were: 13 scarves, 1 ear muff, 9 hats, 14 pairs of gloves, 3 hat and glove sets, and 2 pairs of leg warmers. That's in addition to 8 coats, 1 Hawaiian shirt and 2 pair of socks! Let's see what the next wave brings.....!



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Our deacons and Pastor Moira 'trotted' to the homes of several of our local members and friends presenting them with a Thanksgiving basket full of love and food! They were most appreciative and were grateful for the company as well as the goodies!

Thanks to all our deacons and Pastor Moira for doing this every year!!!



We are very happy to report that our CPC Trick or Treating youth were able to collect \$147.12 for UNICEF!

Thank you to everyone who participated, especially our youth who pounded the pavement in search of donations (AND candy)!!

DECEMBER Birthdays:

Jeffrey Creighton

Jo Gencorelli 1

Andrea Zurita-Burlacu 2

Elizabeth Eldred 12

Paul Wilkin 13

Milan Alexander 14

Jordana Bello 18

Dawn Gallo 22

Mary Jane Gould 26

Mia Bello 27

Pat Lofaro 28

Jessie Gregorio 31

(If your name did not appear here, it's because we don't know it's your birthday! Please call Diane Wood at 516-623-9495 so we can add your name to our list!)



THANKSGIVING DRIVE FOR THE PANTRY



A HUGE thank you to everyone who contributed food and/or money to the Freeport Food Pantry for our Thanksgiving Food and Money Drive.

We collected \$700 in total and were able to purchase 30 \$20 gift cards and 10 \$10 gift cards. We also delivered 1,280 lbs. of groceries (thanks to Powerhouse Church) and about 12 more bags of groceries from our donation bins. The generosity of this congregation continues to amaze, even as we enter the busiest and most taxing time of year.

Heartfelt thanks to one and all!

A BIG THANK YOU to Pastor Tyrone Cook and Powerhouse Church for sharing their Thanksgiving food 'donations' with our favorite charity, the Freeport Emergency Food pantry.

Each year, just like CPC, Powerhouse Church reaches out for Thanksgiving food donations for charities of their choice.

Pastor Tyrone and his congregation were more than happy to share some of their donations with the Pantry this year, on our behalf.

May God keep you and yours in His prayers!

All TOWER CHIME ARTICLES each month will be due by the 15th of the prior month. If you have something for the January Tower Chimes, please email or deliver it to the church office by December 15.

CHOCOLATE ADVENT CALENDARS are HERE! -

Pastor Moira ordered beautiful gourmet chocolate Advent calendars for us, and Advent has already begun!!



This is a mini-fundraiser, and each calendar will cost \$4. The calendars are in the office and are on a first-come-first-serve basis. Think about early Christmas presents for yourself, kids, grandkids and great-grandkids! Or maybe purchase some for others who can't afford them!

If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Moira or Barbara in the office. (If you're paying by check, please make it out to Community Presbyterian Church.) Thank you.

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES CONTINUE!

Bible study classes will continue into December. We will continue our discussions on 'Revelation' in December meeting on the 4th, 11th and 18th and then breaking for Christmas until the new year.

Please let Pastor Moira know each week if you will be attending the class. You may **call or text her at 917-327-2119** or **email her at moiraahearn@aol.com**. This way she can also let you know if a class has to be canceled at the last minute. If anyone has any questions, please give the office or Pastor Moira a call!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



Attention, Ladies! We will NOT be meeting for our December Women's Fellowship Breakfast (due to the hustle and bustle of

December), but we will resume in January on the 11th.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE FOR THE FAMILIES



OF THE FREEPORT EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

Our Toy Drive for the Pantry is in full swing!!!

Now through December 15 we will be collecting toys for Christmas for the children who utilize the Freeport Food Pantry!

Our deacons have 'adopted' 11 families from the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry this year for our toy drive. Instead of us buying random toys, we've been given the sex and age of the children in each family and in many cases, their 'interests'. This will allow us to purchase more 'personal' Christmas gifts for each child.

The family toy list is displayed on a table in Grafing Hall. Please look the list over and put your name down next to one or more children. You will then be responsible for purchasing a gift for that child. (The Deacons are asking that you do not spend more than \$50 on your gift in order not to have large 'monetary' swing gaps for children of the same family.)

When you purchase a gift, you MUST somehow attach the child's name to the gift so we know which family and which child that present was intended for. (Scotch-taping or pinning the handwritten name to each gift would be fine.)

You do not have to stick to one family and you do not have to purchase gifts for an entire family. You may randomly select any child(ren) from any of the families.

Please bring the unwrapped toy(s) to church by Dec. 15. (You may bring your gifts to the Vespers Dinner on Dec. 8 if you like, but the drive will not end until Dec. 15). We'll bring the toys over to the Pantry shortly thereafter.

This is a different type of 'Toy Drive' for us this year, and we hope it will be successful. If anyone

has any questions or suggestions, please speak with one of our deacons, Jessie, Mona, Rich, Mary, Diane and Bobbie.

Thank you all in advance!

**ALL CHRISTMAS FLOWER AND VESPERS
DINNER RESERVATION FORMS ARE DUE
BACK TO MARY AND CHARLIE
LESCHINSKI, respectively, OR INTO THE
OFFICE BY DEC. 1.**

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY, November 24

The Sunday before Thanksgiving is definitely NOT like the calm before the storm! We're all hustling and bustling, writing lists, finding recipes, looking for our 'good' dishes and silverware, cleaning the house, and shopping for food and supplies, amongst other things.

But in the midst of all this chaos, many of you still found the time to attend Sunday service and contribute to our Harvest table.

Many, many thanks for the fresh fruits and vegetables shared by you all in the spirit of thanks-giving! The symbolism of our Harvest Table truly defines what Thanksgiving is all about!

All the items shared by you were taken over to the Pantry, thank you Gary, so their patrons could also enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables for Thanksgiving.

MANY THANKS AGAIN TO Rev. Tyrone and his congregation for also contributing fresh fruits, vegetables, and perishables to the Pantry on our behalf!

The spirit of Thanksgiving was certainly alive at 2101 William Place!

BOY SCOUTS TEN COMMANDMENT HIKE –

On Friday, Nov. 29 our Sanctuary was filled with scouts, parents and siblings as CPC was one of the many houses of worship the scouts visited on their annual 10K Commandment Hike around Merrick. Over 350 people in total took to the streets on Long Island that Friday promoting good will to others and an understanding of all faiths.

Pastor Moira and Elder David Brackett were here to welcome our local Scout troops and educated them on the history of CPC and on the 10th Commandment, *Thou Shalt Not Covet*.

This is the 23rd year the Boy Scouts have held their annual Ten Commandments Hike, a full day of visiting

different houses of worship to learn each one's culture. Ten Commandment hikes teach Boy Scouts about religious tolerance, and CPC was very grateful to be part of this ongoing program this year.

NOW IS A VERY EXCITING TIME AT THE CHURCH AND TIME TO think about joining either Session or our



Board of Deacons for the 2020 slate. Please, pray about how YOU might be called to serve the

church. Every single one of us has been given gifts for ministry to share and to exercise – like muscles! Help is needed in all aspects of our life together as a community of faith, from lending a hand to our property commission, to encouraging and delivering food pantry donations, to planning worship, to doing dishes after coffee hours.



Please join in praying for volunteers to step up to the joyful task of serving the Lord through this congregation. Your thoughts, suggestions and questions are most welcome.



It's also a great time to **VOLUNTEER TO BE AN USHER or to serve COMMUNION in 2020!** Won't you join our teams? Please call Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis (917-968-5600) if you'd like to join

either or both teams.



Anyone may be an usher, but you must be a member of the church to serve communion.

The 2019 lists are being looked over now, and we'd love to add a few more names for 2020.

The lists are being finalized now, so the ASSUMPTION stands that all of the 2019 volunteers will be re-upping for 2020, unless, of course, Bobbie hears from you otherwise.

IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

Time's (almost) up to place your order for Christmas poinsettias and make a dedication in our Christmas bulletins!



The cost is **\$14** per plant, and if you don't want a poinsettia, you may still contribute and make a dedication toward the **purchase of wreaths and swags.**

Because the deadline was December 1, please NOW call-in your order and dedication to Mary at 516.781.4320 or the church office at 516.378.7761. Out-of-towners are welcomed to place orders and dedications as well. Checks should be made payable to **Community Presbyterian Church** and sent to Mary Leschinski at 2784 Alder Road, Bellmore, NY 11710. Thank you!

The SEASON OF ADVENT begins on Dec. 1 with the lighting of the Hope candle. The Peace candle will be lit on Dec. 8, the Joy candle on Dec. 15, the Love candle on Dec. 22. The Christ candle, which is actually NOT part of our Advent candle set, will be lit at our Christmas Eve candlelight service with Lessons and Carols at 7pm.



"Advent" means "coming" or "arrival." During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ's return.

An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 96)

In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God's new world, yet we praise God who raised the "righteous branch" to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land. Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between

the first and the second coming of the Lord. The dialectical tension of *maranatha* [alternately translated “Come, our Lord!” or “Our Lord has come”] — placing us between memory and hope, past and future — may strengthen our Advent liturgies. Perhaps we need to cling to the ancient cry of *maranatha!* and its paradoxical meanings so we may freely embrace “the new thing” prophesied by Isaiah (Isaiah 43:19) that God is doing among us right now. The tension and paradox we find in Advent shapes our celebrations during the season.”

Please join us for these most special Sundays!



Mary will be decorating the grounds and Sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday, **Dec. 7 at 10am.** She would

love some help, so if you're not doing anything, please come on down and lend a hand.

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the 'perfect gift', the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God

and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God. As important as gifts to loved ones are, the Presbyterian Church (USA) gives throughout the year through the Christmas Joy Offering, drawing us back to the manger and God's perfect gift to us.

During this Advent Season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the past to be more like Jesus. We want future leaders for the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to reflect the

wideness of God's intended diversity, and we want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need. For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ - the truly perfect gift.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected during worship service on Dec 8. Envelopes can be found in this Tower Chimes, in the Sanctuary on the 8th or on the back table in the Sanctuary throughout the month of December.

Thank you for whatever you can give.



And the spirit of Christmas will continue with our Sunday School youth retelling the ***Christmas Story* on Sunday, December 8 at 5pm.** Please come and show your support for our Christian Education Commission and our children.

Mary Jane and Lily go to great lengths to prepare our children for this evening, and we know it's as important to them as it is to the children!



And to culminate this eventful evening, please join us at **5:30pm for our VESPER'S DINNER** immediately following the Christmas play on **December 8.**

Reservations are required, and just like last year, fellowship will be responsible for the main meal / meats and the beverages. **They are asking all dinner attendees to make a salad, side dish or dessert.** A food sign-up sheet will be in the **back of the Sanctuary** so we can try to keep tabs on the foods coming in.

The last day to sign up for the Vesper's Dinner is December 1, but if you haven't registered and still want to go, please, immediately call either Charlie Leschinski at 516-781-4320 or the church office at 516-378-7761.

Thank you and hope to see you there!

ANNUAL WOMEN'S NOEL LUNCHEON

- The women of CPC are again getting together for our **ANNUAL WOMEN'S NOEL LUNCHEON!** This year it will be on Saturday, **Dec. 14 at 1pm** at Jani's Chinese in Wantagh.



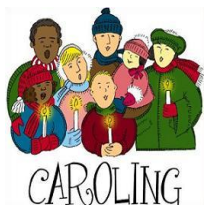
All women of CPC are welcomed to attend...member or not! The cost will be **\$15** per person **prepaid by Dec. 7** to Mona Grimm, 71 Beach Drive, Merrick, NY 11566. If you are writing a check, please make it out to *Ramona Grimm*. Any overpayments will be refunded. Mona's number is 516.546-6757 if you have any questions.

CPC DIRECTORY UPDATE - Barbara is preparing our CPC Directory of family and friends for 2020!



Please check your listing as it appeared in last year's directory. If it's correct, nothing needs to be done. If something needs changing or you'd like to add or delete information from last year's directory, please give Barbara a call.

If she doesn't hear from you, your listing will not change from last year. Please get your changes to her by **Dec. 15**. Thank you.



Please join us for a few hours of **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** on **TUESDAY EVENING, DEC. 17**, beginning at 6:30pm as we bring some Christmas cheer into the homes of some of

our local shut-ins.

We'll start off at CPC to carpool, and then spend the next few hours caroling at the homes of some local members and friends who don't get out much and could use some Christmas cheer! We ALWAYS have a good time, and what better way to spend a Tuesday evening than by bringing the Christmas Spirit right into their homes! If you have any questions, please give Gary a call at 516-868-0608.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a **Congregational Meeting** to be held on Sunday, **Dec. 22** (changed from Dec. 8) in the Sanctuary during the service of worship to hear a report of the Nominating Committee and for electing individuals to the Session, Board of Deacons, Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee for terms beginning in January 2020. A quorum will be required, so all members are requested to attend the service.



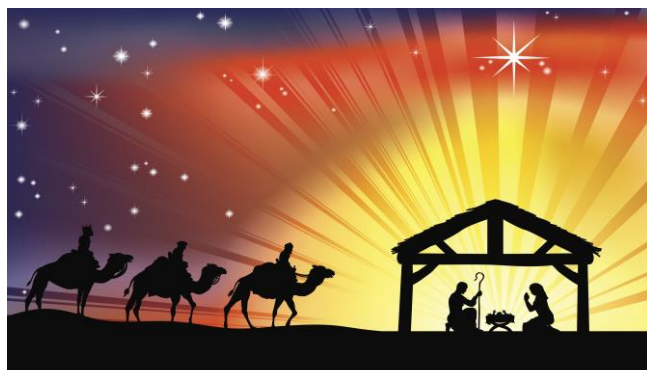
EVERYONE is cordially invited to attend our 7pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with lessons and carols!

It's always an evening of celebration, devotion and joy as Pastor Moira will lead us from the pulpit.

Our bell choir will, literally, be ringing in His birth, our voice choir will be making joyful noise unto the Lord, Cathy will be tickling those ivories and pumping those pedals on our magnificent pipe organ and the ever-so-important Christ Candle will be lit.... all in celebration of His arrival!

Won't you please join us in paying homage to our One and Only, Lord and Savior, our Good Shepherd, our Deliverer, and Light of the Word at 7pm on Dec. 24!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



from your CPC Church family!

A REMINDER TO FULFILL PLEDGES FOR 2019!

As we consider our stewardship pledges for next year, let's not forget to follow-through on the pledges made for 2019. Our church runs a tight ship and depends on our loyal family of faith to meet the budget each year. Thank you.

And if you haven't yet filled out your **2020 pledge card, it's never too late!** There are extra pledge cards on the back table in the Sanctuary.

Please feel free to fill one out and either mail it to the church or put it in the offering plate if you are attending service.

Out-of-towners may call the church to have one mailed to you.

TIS THE SEASON....

DO YOU LIKE TO SHOP?



If you are like many of us who do some of their shopping online, then you are just the person we are looking for.



Amazon, an amazing charitable company, has teamed up with charitable organizations across the nation. They will donate .5% of eligible purchases back to charitable organizations. **Community Presbyterian Church is now a member of this program.**

The way it works is simple.

First, you log onto Amazon as usual. Then you lookup **AmazonSmile** and choose Community Presbyterian Church of Merrick as your charity. This is a one-time registration and Amazon will save your information so that in the future any purchases you make will automatically go to CPC as your preferred charity. Then Happy Shopping!

Please spread the word to family and friends. Then ask them to spread the word to their family and friends. It's that simple.

Any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly; in faith (and shopping)

Nancy Stuber

SOME NEW YEARS JOKES

~A new year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other. - *Anonymous*

~This New Year I'm going to make a resolution I can keep: no dieting all year long. - *M. White*

~May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions. - *Joey Adams*

~An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

- *Bill Vaughan*

~I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

~What happened to the man who shoplifted a calendar on New Year's Eve? He got 12 months!



May you have all you need, and want all you have. Happy New Year!

A peak into January 2020!

Jan. 1 – Happy New Year to you!

Jan. 5 – Communion / Epiphany of the Lord

Jan. 8 – Bible Study resumes at 12 noon at CPC

Jan. 11 – 10am Women's Fellowship Breakfast

Jan. 12 – Baptism of the Lord

Ordination and Installation Sunday (tent.)

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Jan. 15 – 7pm Session meeting at CPC


Jan. 26 – Congregational Meeting with Brunch

BRAIN TEASER ON THE BIBLE



Here are the 16 answers to last month's Brain Teaser. How'd you do??!

I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible. A certain **luke**, kept people looking so hard for **facts**, and for others, it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of our readers. To others, it was a **job**! We want it to be a **most** fascinating little moment for you. **Yes, there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help find them. I will quickly admit **it** usually takes the preacher to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how you will **compete**. Relax now, for there are sixteen books of the Bible in this paragraph.

	DECEMBER 2019					
Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thur	Friday	Saturday
1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9am Worship Service; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Communion (servers D. Brackett, S. Dodge, M. Grimm, D. Wood); Usher Team #2 (B. Kelly, F. Kelly, A. Lewis, B. Zimmerman-Lewis);); Children will worship with the families in the Sanctuary (No Sunday School) ; NASC 1-6pm; PHC 11:30a-2:30p; Lectionary Year "A" Begins; Vespers and Flower Forms Due Back	2	3 AA 6:45p-9p 7pm Special Session Meeting at CPC	4 BIBLE STUDY 12noon	5 NA 7p -9p	6 AA 6:45-9p	7 10am DECOARTE THE SANCTUARY AND GROUNDS FOR CHRISTMAS! PLEASE COME AND HELP MARY!
8 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9am Worship Service; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #3 (David Brackett, Jamie Brackett, Mona Grimm and Joseph Nelson; SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Christmas Joy Offering ; PHC 11:30a-2:30p; 5pm CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY ; 5:30PM VESPERS DINNER	9	10 AA 6:45p-9p	11 BIBLE STUDY 12noon	12 NA 7p -9p	13 AA 6:45p-9p	14 1PM Annual Women's Noel Luncheon at Jani's in Wantagh Powerhouse Church Banquet 5pm-10pm
15 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9am Worship; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #4 (Jessie Gregorio, Tom Rose, Joe Schuessler, Diane Wood); SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Coffee Hour; PHC 11:30a-2:30p; Jan. Tower Chimes articles due	16	17 6:30pm CHRISTMAS CAROLING!!! (meet at CPC) AA 6:45p-9p	18 BIBLE STUDY 12noon	19 NA 7p -9p	20 AA 6:45-9p	21
22 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9am Worship; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team ## 5 (Joe Arcuri, Frank Kost, Pat Lofaro and Vinny Lofaro); SUNDAY SCHOOL ; CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ; PHC 11:30a-2:30p & 4pm-6:30pm	23	24 6pm Bell Rehearsal ; 7pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Lessons and Carols, Usher Team #1 AA 6:45p-9p	25 Merry Christmas! 	26 NA 7-9p	27 AA 6:45-9p	28
29 CAROL HYMN-SING SVC. 9am Worship; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #2 (Brian Kelly, Fran Kelly, Al Lewis and Bobbie Lewis); NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Coffee Hour ; PHC 11:30a-2:30p & 4:30-6PM	30	31 AA 6:45p-9p PHC 11p-1am Watch Night Service (tent.)	Jan. 1 — New Year's Day! A happy and healthy New Year to all!			