

Dear Friends:

In just a few days, most of us will gather with family and friends around the dining room table, and many of us will share some of the things we are thankful for. In that spirit, I want to share this prayer of thanksgiving with you:

*Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.*

*We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.*

*We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy us and delight us.*

*We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.*

*Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.*

*Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.*

Happy Thanksgiving!

Kyle

## Announcements

Here's what's happening in our congregation.

*The Church Office will be closed November 23-24. Happy Thanksgiving from the Church staff!*

This Sunday is Christ the King Sunday!

Come celebrate Christ the King Sunday in a fresh new way with songs by Christian metal band Stryper, who was recently nominated for a Dove Award. Our band and choir will feature musicians and singers of all ages from our church and community, including students from Steinert High School and Princeton's School of Rock.

**Pledge Cards Still Available**

Thank you to everyone who returned a pledge card. If you did not get a chance to return a pledge card during last week's Commitment Sunday, you can still get a card by the entrances to the Sanctuary. Pledge cards can be mailed to the office or placed in the offering plate. To help the Session plan for next year, please return your pledge card as soon as possible.

**Cherub Choir for Children—Sunday November 26**

Cherub Choir practice will be from 11:15—11:45 a.m. in the choir/music room for all kids ages Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We'll learn about music, sing songs, play instruments, and praise God together. Come join us!

**Names for the Messiah Advent Study—Begins November 26**

Isaiah 9:6 is commonly associated with Christmas, announcing that God will one day send a righteous king who will be known as "Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." This study

by Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann and taught by Pastor Kyle will walk through each of these names and how they are fulfilled in Jesus. Join us in Room 201 for this four-week study each Sunday from 11:15-12:30 through December 17.

#### Congregational Meeting—December 3

The Session has called a brief Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 3, at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary for the purpose of receiving and acting on the report of the Nominating Committee. All are invited to join us for this important moment in the life of our church, and all active members in good standing will be eligible to vote.

#### Christmas Pageant—December 10

Children from our Sunday School and Cherub Choir will be performing a Christmas Pageant during our 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 10. Come hear our amazing kids tell the Christmas story through scripture readings and songs!

### Serve God by Serving Others

#### Annual Coat Drive for TASK

The Mission Commission is collecting used or new coats for Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. Coats can be women's, men's or children's. The folks at TASK will distribute them to those who are in need. There will be coat racks located in Sweazey Hall near the door to the parking lot. Collection will take place through December 3, and coats will be delivered to TASK on December 4. Thank you for your generosity in helping to warm up our community.

#### Ginny's Pantry

The pantry needs 1 or 2 lb. bags of brown or white rice, canned fruit, canned tuna, 15 or 16 oz. jars of peanut butter, squeeze bottles of jelly, and dried pasta. Donation bins are located by the main entrance. Thank you for helping us serve our neighbors in need!

#### Shine and Inspire—Donations Requested

School is back in session, and we are continuing to assist Sunnybrae and Robinson Elementary Schools with their closets. They are requesting the following items: Pop Tarts, shelf-stable mini muffins, 100% juice boxes, pretzels, goldfish, boys' size 5—8 pants and shorts, and deodorant. Please place items in the marked bins in the foyer. *Please, no peanut or peanut butter products due to allergies.*

#### Shine & Inspire Volunteer Opportunity—December 9

Shine and Inspire will be holding their Winter Wonderland Children's Event from 11:00-3:00 on Saturday, December 9, at the Nottingham Ballroom, and they need our help. Volunteers will be helping children with crafts and directing children to other activities. If you can't volunteer for the whole time, Shine and Inspire would appreciate any time you can give. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Jane Dahlgren at 609-558-0408 or janedahl@optonline.net.

# Deck the Halls Advent Gathering & Covered Dish Supper

**Sunday, December 3, 2023 4pm to 6:30 pm**

Come Enjoy the Fellowship and Fun as we Prepare for  
Celebration of the Birth of Jesus.

## Schedule of Events

- 4:00pm Drop your covered dish off in the kitchen, then go to Sweazey Hall for crafting, or room 201 to join a decorating team.
- 4:15 – 5:15 Crafting and decorating activities for all ages.
- 5:15 – 5:30 Carol singing in the sanctuary
- 5:30 – 6:30 Covered dish supper

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## COVERED DISH SUPPER

Please prepare a Main Dish, Side or Salad to share that will feed 10-12 people. Drop your dish to the church kitchen at 4pm before decorating and crafting begin. Contact Catherine Deane of the Belonging Commission with any questions.

Advent & Christmas Worship

Advent 1: Sunday, December 3

*Welcome New Members*

*Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

*Congregational Meeting following Worship*

Advent 2: Sunday, December 10

*Children's Christmas Pageant*

Advent 3: Sunday, December 17

*Christmas Cantata*

*Presented in Loving Memory of Kathleen Fennimore*

Advent 4: Sunday, December 24 (10:00 a.m.)

*Ask a Pastor Sunday: Christmas*

*Healing Rite*

*Carol Sing*

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24

5:00 p.m.

*Family-Friendly Lessons & Carols worship,*

*including children's time and singing "Silent Night" by candlelight*

9:00 p.m.

*A meditative service including a celebration of the Lord's Supper*

**DECK THE HALLS...WITH POINSETTIAS**

Help decorate the church sanctuary with poinsettias on **Sunday, December 17**, and celebrate a cherished loved one at the same time. A list of donors and those being honored will be available on this day.

Plants should be **picked up after the service at which you worship on Christmas Eve**. If you prefer not to own a plant but would like a dedication in the bulletin, you can do so by making a donation for your loved one.

Please order by filling in the form below and place it in the offering plate along with cash or a check to First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton Square. **Please make sure all checks and envelopes are marked "POINSETTIAS"**

One poinsettia can be used to honor more than one person. Direct questions to Catherine Deane: 917-548-3737, catherinescott31@gmail.com

**The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 3, 2023**

- I would like \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary at a cost of \$10 each.
  
- I would like to make a donation for the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - My gift is from \_\_\_\_\_ in loving memory of\*/in honor of\*  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - My gift is from \_\_\_\_\_ in loving memory of\*/in honor of\*  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
- \* Delete as appropriate and insert name