

Dear Friends:

I don't like shoveling it. I don't like driving in it. But, I absolutely love the way that snow *looks*—at least when it's fresh. A nice blanket of white is just the solution to the usual drab landscape of bare trees and brown lawns. In a winter world where light is precious and hard to come by, snow brightens everything up with reflected light.

I think this is the way the church is supposed to be in the world. In a world where darkness seems to be in abundant supply, the church is to reflect the light of the gospel. In a drab world that is waiting to be revived, the church is called to blossom with joy and hope.

With snow in the forecast (again!), may we take the time to reflect on our common calling: to reflect the light and hope and joy of Christ into the world around us.

Grace and peace,
Kyle

Announcements

Here's what's happening in our congregation.

Sunday School for Children—This Sunday!

Sunday School for students in Pre-K through 8th grade will take place today from 11:15-12:30 in the Youth Room. Come and join us for faith, fun, and friends!

Come Sing with Us!

After such a wonderful Christmas Cantata in December, come sing with us in 2024! We're doing some amazing music by some of our favorite composers: Elaine Hagenberg, Dan Forrest, Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald, and Dr. Scott AuCoin! Women's Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Palm-Passion-Easter Choir (SATB) rehearsals start February 8, at 7:30 pm. We'll also be joined by cellist Elina Lang, violinist Larisa Epps, plus brass quintet. Hope to see you there!

Ladies' Tea—February 3, 2024

Join us on February 3, 2024 from 2:00—4:00 p.m. for an afternoon of tea and fellowship at the Ladies' Tea. While enjoying tea, finger sandwiches, and desserts, we will have activities to get to know one another better and learn more about Christ's love for us. Only a few tickets are left (Tickets are \$10 per person), and can be purchased downstairs after the service. *We're also looking for men to be servers at the Ladies' Tea.* Servers arrive at 12:45 p.m. to help lay out food, then top up food on tables and fill and deliver teapots to the tables throughout the Tea. If you would like to be a server, please contact Catherine Deane (catherinescott31@gmail.com).

Session Update

On Tuesday, January 16, the Session met for its regularly scheduled meeting and conducted the following business:

- Approved the church's budget for 2024, totaling \$538,528 and a projected deficit of \$24,028
- Heard an update from the Personnel Committee regarding the vacancy left by Pastor Doug's departure
- Called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for Sunday, February 25, in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service, and referred updated pastoral terms of call to the Annual Meeting for the congregation's approval
- Approved the Youth Mission trip to Niagara Falls, NY, June 30—July 6, 2024
- Endorsed Elder Ken Rubin's application to become an inquirer under the care of the Presbytery's Commission on Preparation for Ministry, appointed Paul Neu as his Session liaison, and received Ken's resignation from the Session

The session's next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, March 19, at 7:15 p.m. in Room 201. As always, if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kyle or the Clerk of Session, Sherry Garrahan.

Ginny's Pantry

The pantry needs full-sized boxes of breakfast cereal and canned tuna. Donation bins are located by the main entrance. On the first Sunday of each month, we invite you to bring your gifts to the Communion Table as a reminder that we are fed at the table so that we might do the work of Christ in the world. Thank you for helping us serve our neighbors in need!

Shine and Inspire—Donations Requested

We are continuing to assist Sunnybrae and Robinson Elementary Schools with their closets. They are requesting donations for new girl's clothing (size 12) and shelf-stable breakfast items (packages of muffins, Pop Tarts, granola bars, 100% juice boxes). Please place items in the marked bins in the foyer. *Please, no peanut or peanut butter products due to allergies.*

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK)—Donations Requested

The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen needs our help providing for the 600+ families who regularly use of TASK's services. They are in need of hygiene items (e.g. bars of soap, toothpaste) and new sweatshirts, hoodies, warm socks, gloves, and winter hats for both children and adults.