



January 2024

# The Presbyterian

## A SEASON OF GENEROSITY

Do you remember what I said to all of you in the December newsletter?

No, no, you don't have to look it up!

I said, "Thank you!" and "I'm proud of you!"

Guess what?

That's my message to you in the New Year, as well: Thank you! I am so proud of you!

In December, I asked all of you to consider making year-end gifts to the Building Preservation Fund. I know that this is a challenging time to ask for extra giving. It's Christmas. People are buying gifts. The Mission and Outreach Commission was also asking for donations for the Angel Giving Tree, as well as work boots and work gloves. I don't blame you if you felt like you were pulled in a hundred different directions. I feel that way, too. That's why I get a little bit anxious when I ask you to give a little bit more of your treasure to the church.

I have no hesitation about asking you to give of your time and your talents, but asking for your treasure, that's always tough for me.

Again, thank you!

Many members of this congregation came through with year-end gifts to the Building Preservation Fund, either through direct donations or memorial gifts. We received over \$13,000 in donations. Thank you, thank you!

Through the Angel Giving Tree, you folks donated \$1,825 in gift cards to needy families in our community, as well as

several pairs of sturdy work boots and work gloves. And Presbyterian Women raised over a thousand dollars in its annual cookie sale.

Well done, you good and faithful servants! I'm proud of you. I am grateful for all you do for this congregation and for the larger community.

As we move from Christmas to Epiphany, I hope that your generosity remains constant. I hope that you continue to share your talents, time, and treasure with this congregation.

Our physical structures are really expensive to maintain. (I may have mentioned this before.) It also takes an army of volunteers to do this. We need your continued stewardship to maintain these structures, and also to reach out to the community outside of our walls.

I pray that we all may see new ways to give of our talents, our time, and our treasures in this New Year.

Grace & Peace,



Pastor Alan





## JANUARY CALENDAR NOTES



**Communion** will be celebrated on Sunday, January 7th.

**Christmas Decorations:** We will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the church on Sunday, January 7th, following worship. We would appreciate all the help we can get. Many hands make light work! Thank you ahead of time from all of us on the Worship Commission.

**Coffee Hour:** Our next coffee hour will be on Sunday, January 14th following worship.

**Church Office:** The church office will be closed Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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### Church Office

Telephone: 732-462-0234

Email: [fpcsecretary2@gmail.com](mailto:fpcsecretary2@gmail.com)

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*So if anyone is in Christ,  
there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

## CHRISTMAS EVE SNAPSHOTS



CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS**Christmas Poinsettias**Given by

The Matino Family

Charlie &amp; Barbara

Lloyd

Marie Schlechtweg

Susan, Zachary &amp;

Rosemary Stoia

Jean Pennett

Diane &amp; Lou Pilla

Wanda Fescine

Lori Napolitano &amp;

Michael Mancuso

Kevin &amp; June Truex

Suzanne &amp; Bob

DiSogra

Robin &amp; Scott Fox

The Guttormsens

Chuck &amp; Mersene

Stapp

Carol Morris

Susan Croft

Bob &amp; Vera Musser

Whitehill Family

Sue Craig

In Memory of

Shirley &amp; Robert Booth

Loved ones

Loved ones

Joann P. White,

mom &amp; gram

Ray Pennett

Loved ones

My Darling husband

Frankie Fescine

Passed loved ones

Michelle Truex Podesta

Deceased family members

Our friend Sophie Crianza;

Our parents

Jackie &amp; Jimmy Elliott and

Russell &amp; Theresa Fox

In thanks for many blessings

Carol &amp; Mary

Errol Morris

My brothers,

Gary &amp; Glenn Crotchfelt;

My dad &amp; nana,

Joseph H. &amp; Lucinda

Crotchfelt

Olga &amp; Harry Littlefield;

Martha Patterson;

Alice, Norris &amp; Richard

Musser

Innocent lives lost in wars

Loved ones

The poinsettias decorated the sanctuary through the Christmas Eve worship service, and some were later delivered to those unable to worship in person.



FPC Sanctuary – December 24, 2023

**Building Preservation Fund**Given by

The Matino Family

Charlie &amp; Barbara Lloyd

Marie Schlechtweg

Dorothy Crotchfelt

The Canning Family

In Memory of

Josephine Matino

George &amp; Viola Lloyd

Helmut &amp; Hilda Storz

Loved ones

Loved ones

William A. Canning

In addition to the Christmas memorials, a letter to the congregation asking members for donations to the Building Preservation Fund was mailed in mid-December. And the response has been heartwarming.

Your contributions to the Building Preservation Fund will help us to maintain our beautiful church that has served so many over the years. And with God's help will continue to do so in the years to come.



## ANGEL GIVING TREE



For your loving hearts  
and generous souls!

For helping our  
neighbors in need.



Angel Giving Tree – FPC Narthex

Gift cards totaling \$1,825 and Christmas gifts for little kids were delivered to the Community Affairs & Resource Center (CARC) in Freehold with our love and God's.



Gifts for the kids



Your Mission/Outreach Commission at work,  
loving our neighbors at CARC in Freehold.

CARC shared their gratitude and sincerest thank you to FPC for the Christmas donations for families in need. Helping to provide toys, coats and food to our community!



And eight pairs of men's work boots, warm gloves and other items were delivered to the Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program (EHAP). These items will help make a difference during the winter months.

*And whatever you do,  
in word or deed,  
do everything in the name of  
the Lord Jesus, giving thanks  
to God the Father through him.*

*Colossians 3:17*

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

On December 17th, PW sponsored the annual Christmas Cookie Sale. And it was a big success!



Cookies!



More cookies!



Purchasing cookies!



Pastor Alan with his cookie purchase

Thank you to all who baked! And to all who stopped by to enjoy the yummy cookies!



Susan Beaton & Marie Schlechtweg



## NOTES FROM SESSION

SESSION	
Bill Canning	Finance Commission (Co-chair, Rick Baptista)
Berwin Guttormsen	Clerk of Session
Julie Heinsohn	Personnel Commission
Carol Matino	Worship Commission
Larry Moran	Property Commission
Susan Pascullo	Worship Commission
Linda Schmidt	Christian Education
Chuck Stapp	Mission/Outreach Commission
Sandra Whitehill	Mission/Outreach Commission, Nominating Commission

**The Clerk of Session** reported the Communion count for December was 56. Membership is 145 after the passing of Patsy Saylor on December 10, 2023.

**Mission/Outreach:** FPC volunteers continue to work at EHAP 3 hours per week.

**Property:** Work on the sanctuary exterior window painting and sealing is continuing. This project is due to be completed in the spring.

Fixing the potholes in the parking lot is planned for the near future.

**Christian Education:** Classes will run through May 19, 2024; except for Easter, March 31, and April 7, 2024.

Kindergarten through 5th grade is being taught by Vera Musser and Barbara Jean Keune. Grades 6 through 12 are being taught by Sam Daesener.

**Finance Commission:** The 2023 giving statements will be printed and mailed out this month. For those who donate online, you can obtain your 2023 contribution statement by logging into your account at the Vanco website, [www.vancopayments.com](http://www.vancopayments.com).

## Ways You Can Give to FPC of Freehold

- ✓ **In person:** Place an envelope with your donation in the offering plate during our Sunday worship service.
- ✓ **By mail:** Send your donations to:  
First Presbyterian Church of Freehold  
118 West Main Street  
Freehold, NJ 07728
- ✓ **Online:** Go to the FPC website at [www.fpcfreehold.org](http://www.fpcfreehold.org), click on *Donate* at the top of the page, and then click *ONLINE*. This will take you to the Vanco portal where you can set up an account.

If you write a check, please make the check payable to *First Presbyterian Church of Freehold*.

Our church uses donations to fund everything, from the various missions we support to building maintenance. Each and every donation is appreciated. Each and every one makes a difference.



### Prayer of Thanksgiving

*We give our thanks through  
our talents, our time, and our treasure.*

*Thanks be to God;  
whose love creates us!*

*Thanks be to God;  
whose mercy redeems us!*

*Thanks be to God;  
whose grace leads us into the future!*

*Amen.*

## DEACON MINISTRY

The Deacons have a responsibility to aid the sick and home bound members of our church community. This includes hospital and nursing home visits, home visits, and transportation for doctor appointments and food shopping.

The month of December included visits with Ed Chan, Dot Crotchfelt, Anna Rasmussen and Ginny Yanchus.



Peggy Guttormsen and  
Anna Rasmussen



Diane Canto and Ed Chan



Wanda Fescine and Anna Rasmussen



Dot Crotchfelt and Jean Pennett



Peggy Guttormsen, Pastor Alan  
and Ginny Yanchus



If you would like to schedule a visit or home Communion, please contact the Deacons or Pastor Alan. You can also reach out to the church office for assistance.

**FPC Deacons:**

Diane Canto  
Judi Cavicchio  
Lenora Chu  
Wanda Fescine  
Peggy Guttormsen  
Carol Morris  
Jean Pennett  
Marie Schlechtweg  
Michele Williams

**KOINONIA**

Morning Koinonia meets weekly on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in Room A/B.

Recently, the group shared some food and fellowship with a Christmas luncheon.

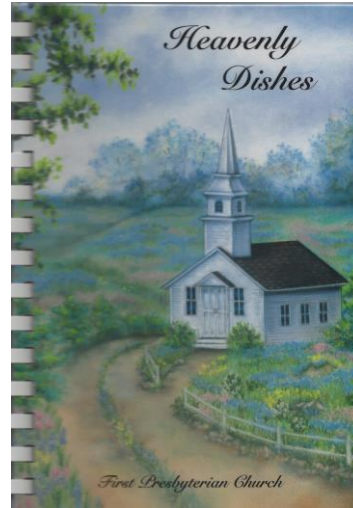


December 20, 2023

There is also an evening Koinonia that meets weekly on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

If you are interested in joining either morning or evening Koinonia, please contact Pastor Alan or the church office.

**RECIPE CORNER**



In 2011, Presbyterian Women published **Heavenly Dishes**, a cookbook dedicated to all FPC members past and present who so generously supported PW over the years. Here, we'll look to

share a recipe or two from that cookbook. This month's recipe is *Buttermilk Pancakes with Orange Honey Butter*. Enjoy!

***B*UTTERMILK PANCAKES WITH ORANGE HONEY BUTTER**

*Pancakes*

2 c. all-purpose flour  
pinch of salt  
¼ c. + 2 T. sugar, divided  
1 T. baking powder  
2 lg. eggs  
2 c. buttermilk

2 T. melted butter  
1 T. grated orange zest  
½ pt. blueberries  
3 pc. orange peel  
½ c. orange juice

Turn on the warming oven. Cook the blueberries in the orange juice, with the orange peel and ¼ cup sugar on the stovetop until thick and bubbling, about 20-30 minutes. Keep warm. Mix the dry ingredients together in a medium bowl. Mix the eggs and buttermilk together in another medium bowl. Add the orange zest and melted butter. Add the wet ingredients to the dry and whisk together. Heat griddle and spray with non-stick spray. Ladle about ¼ cup batter onto griddle pan. Turn when browned on bottom. Keep warm in oven while others cook. Serve with blueberry compote, orange honey butter, and cinnamon maple syrup.

*Butter and Syrup*

3 c. orange juice, reduced in pot to 3 T.  
1 c. butter, softened  
2 T. honey  
1 T. grated orange zest  
pinch of salt  
2 c. maple syrup  
2 cinnamon sticks or 2 tsp. ground cinnamon

Combine the butter, honey, zest, salt, and orange concentrate. Refrigerate until ready to use. Heat maple syrup and cinnamon together in a small pot over low heat for 10 minutes. Let steep for 1 hour. Remove cinnamon sticks, if used, and serve syrup in small pitcher.

*Diane Canto*