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# CONNECTIONS

*The newsletter of the Ewing & Covenant Congregation*

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## January Connecting Thoughts

EPIPHANY

STEWARDSHIP

VISION

Three words for us to connect this month.

Epiphany means, in the words of the 2018 **Book of Common Worship**, “manifestation or revelation. At the Epiphany of the Lord we celebrate the manifestation of God saving purpose to all the nations of the world. Just as the magi came for a distant land to worship the Christ child, God’s covenant of grace is extended to all people who believe the good news of Jesus Christ (more on this definition as a limitation of God’s grace later). The symbolism of light is important – not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it suggest the bright dawning of God’ self-revelation in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to bear Christ’s light in the world.

Stewardship, as Walter Brueggemann states in his **Money and Possession**, is based on the understanding that “money and possession belong to God and are held in trust by human persons in community.” He writes, “a steward is the master of the house hold who is responsible for its proper management, a role assigned to the human couple in the Genesis creation narrative concerning having dominion (Gen. 1:28). The steward is not the owner but is accountable to the owner... The whole earth is the creation that belongs to the Creator who has the whole world

in his hands.’ This means, of course, that the stewards, all those who hold possessions in trust, are accountable for their use and management.”

“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”(Psalm 29:18 KJV) “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time...”(Habakkuk 2:2-3) Acts tells us that our young shall see visions and our old shall dream dreams. Vision is the ability to see, to see the purpose and direction God has for our community of faith. This vision, a gift of the Holy Spirit, shows us the future God puts before us and Christ calls us into.

Over the next two months we will be experiencing the intersection of these three words. The Epiphany Season, January 6 through the beginning of Lent, will find us exploring what it means for us to be the manifestation, making real that God “is with us” in this particular time and place. What are the ways that we, as two congregations becoming one, will be able to witness to the grace of God in this incredibly complex time?

During this time, we will also be exploring wealth of resources God’s gracious generosity has provided through the people of this emerging congregation. Christ is truly turning the water of our individual abilities and resources into the rich, full bodied, blended wine to be served through the ministry of this new congregation at this time and in this place.

From this will come the inspired vision of who and what this congregation will be in the service of the God who is with us. We will find an inspired vision for the future that will strengthen the faith and provide care for the aging people in our midst, while also sharing the drink of new life with those around us.

I invite you to join with us as we make real the presence of God with us, as explore how we can best use the resources God has provided for living into Christ's vision of who we are becoming.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Paul

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### **January Worship – 10:00 a.m.**

**January 5<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Epiphany of the Lord**

Reverend Paul L. Rhebergen preaching  
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
Introduction to Water into Wine John 2:1-11  
Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;  
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

**January 12<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Baptism of the Lord**

Matthew 9:17 New Wine Skins  
Reverend Paul Rhebergen preaching  
Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29;  
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

**January 19<sup>th</sup>**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday  
Reverend Ann Schoonover preaching  
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

**January 26<sup>th</sup>**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Worship in the 1867 Sanctuary  
Ordination and Installation of Officers  
Reverend Paul Rhebergen preaching  
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9;  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

### **Stewardship 2020**

Once again our Stewardship campaign for 2020 pledge giving will begin on Epiphany Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> and end on Commitment Sunday on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our theme this year is "Turning Water into Wine". Members of our joint worshipping congregation will share their stories and hopefully inspire you to think about the miracles in your life and the times when the ordinary was turned into the extraordinary.

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### **2020 Per Capita - \$34.50**

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### **Congregational Meetings – 11:00 a.m.**

**The Annual Meeting of the Ewing Presbyterian Church of the Ewing Congregation and Corporation is called for Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> in our Worship Space, 100 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ**

The purpose of the meeting is to receive annual reports, including the 2020 budget as adopted by Session, and other business that may appropriately come before the body.

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**The Annual Meeting of the Covenant Presbyterian Church of the Covenant Congregation and Corporation**

**is called for Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> in the Lower Meeting Room, 100 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ**

The purpose of the meeting is to receive Annual reports, including the 2020 budget as adopted by Session, and other business that may appropriately come before the body.

Both meetings will take place immediately following worship

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## Church Family

In memory of

Nancy Mooney, 94      December 23, 2019

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Melanie and Matthew Houghton are the proud parents of Oliver Thomas who arrived on December 12<sup>th</sup>. He is the grandson of Carol and Eric Houghton, and nephew of Katie and Natalie! Congratulations

Congratulations to Amanda Zasoski Gallagher on the birth of a son, Declan Tyler Gallagher on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. He is the grandson of Karin Zasoski.



*Kathleen Gallagher Elkins, daughter of Nancy Kriegner, poses with her new book Mary, Mother of Martyrs, How Motherhood Became the Self Sacrifice in Early Christianity, at a recent literary conference*

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## MLK Day of Service – January 20<sup>th</sup>

Like Jesus and the prophets, Martin Luther King, Jr. was a major force in working for justice and equity in the United States. He literally “walked

the talk,” and suffered much as he sought to be a faithful witness to God’s will on earth.

On Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, the Ewing-Covenant Congregation, along with other area congregations, will join together in a day of service from 10:00 am to Noon at the Ewing Presbyterian Church. There are multiple ways in which you may choose to serve. Please join us, and bring a friend!

- Put together bag lunches for TASK.
  - Participate in sewing projects. Sewing machines will be available, but feel free to bring your own
  - Make homemade care cards for survivors to be sent on the anniversary of the death of a loved one due to gun violence for Moms Demand Action. Cards are mailed throughout the year by their leadership teams. The cards are made according to specific guidelines to be sensitive to survivors.
  - Bring reusable grocery bags (filled with food if you can). (see related article)
  - Donate money we can use to buy food for the bag lunches or for reusable grocery bags.
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## Arm in Arm Is Going Green

Did you know that the city of Trenton is set to ban the use of single-use plastic bags at the end of 2020 and the state of New Jersey is considering a ban of its own? That is why Arm in Arm is looking for donations of **reusable grocery bags** to give to their clients, in hopes of reducing Arm in Arm’s use of plastic bags by 50% in 2020. You can help!

- Donate a reusable bag(s) we can pass along to a family in need. If you’d like to fill the bag with a few canned goods first, even better!
- Donate personal care items such as soaps, shampoos, diapers, and feminine care products. These items will be available as an incentive to each client using their reusable bags.

## *Ewing Presbyterian Church*



*100 Scotch Road Ewing, NJ 08628*

*Phone: 609-882-3673 Fax: 609-882-7391*

*Email: [churchoffice@ewingpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@ewingpres.org)*

***Reverend Paul L. Rhebergen, Transitional Pastor***

*[pastorpaul@ewingpres.org](mailto:pastorpaul@ewingpres.org)*

*609-947-3748*

December 17, 2019

To the Session and Members of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Trenton,  
and all others who would join in celebration:

With all praise to God who is the instigator of every good, just, kind, and faithful act, and in recognition of the continuing witness of the Westminster Presbyterian Church to the community and people of Trenton as they serve as a beacon of light in the darkness, sharing the love of Christ with all within their reach;

And in celebration of and thanksgiving for the for the twenty-five years of service and dynamic leadership by the Reverend Karen Hernandez-Granzen, called by God and the people to be the Pastor to the Congregation of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, as well as to the City of Trenton through ministries of urban outreach, social justice, and support for the arts;

The Session of the Ewing Presbyterian Church presents this gift of \$10,000 to the Session of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Trenton, to be used in whatever ways it may choose to glorify God through the continuing work and ministry of the Congregation.

All praise be to God who calls us together into this ministry of grace and of reconciliation.

In Christ's service:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Rhebergen".

Rev. Paul Rhebergen  
Moderator, Ewing Presbyterian Church

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Virginia Saiia".

Elder Virginia Saiia  
Clerk-of-Session

## EPC's Connections to Princeton Seminary

Over the years the Ewing and Covenant congregations have been host to and supported many seminarians as they traveled their path to become Ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament. That tradition continues during this academic year. While we have not had a seminarian with us on staff this year, we have continued to support Princeton Seminary in its preparation of students for ministry through the Scholarship Fund established in the Ewing Church's name. Below you will find a letter from the Seminary that speaks to the legacy of the fund established by the Ewing Church, and the letter of thanks from this year's recipient Ellen White. Ellen is a member of the Pennington Presbyterian Church, under care of New Brunswick Presbytery. Elle is also a former parishioner of Pastor Paul's. She credits Susan Fall, former Associate pastor at Pennington, with helping her to hear the call of Christ.



December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

P.O. Box 821  
64 Mercer Street  
Princeton, NJ 08542-0803

609.497.7705

[admissions@ptsem.edu](mailto:admissions@ptsem.edu)

[ptsem.edu](http://ptsem.edu)

First Presbyterian Church of Ewing  
The Reverend Paul Rhebergen  
100 Scotch Road  
Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear Paul,

The legacy of your scholarship endowment fund creates opportunities for Princeton Theological Seminary students to pursue their calls to ministry. Such generosity makes world-class theological education possible for the vast majority of our degree candidates who would not otherwise be able to afford their educational expenses. Many students cite such generosity as one of the key reasons they choose PTS over other schools. This scholarship endowment fund means that you are a part of a community that provides financial aid to much of our student body. We could not be more grateful for the role you play in making this possible.

We offer our sincere thanks for all that you do to make the mission of Princeton Theological Seminary a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Livio".

Michael Livio  
Associate Director of Financial Aid  
[michael.livio@ptsem.edu](mailto:michael.livio@ptsem.edu)  
609-497-7805

*To the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Ewing. Hey neighbors! My name is Ellen White and I am from Pennington! I am currently in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the dual degree program for youth ministry at PTS and I am immensely grateful for the opportunities your scholarship endowment fund has provided me. I am involved with the Farminary Project and the Institute for Youth Ministry at PTS. I am so grateful for the seminary community and enjoy singing with the chapel choir. I thank God for you! Thank you for investing in PTS and in the lives of students like me.*

*Grace and Peace, Ellen White MDiv/MACEF, 2021*

# *PW Epiphany Gathering*

## *Calling all Ladies*

*Please join the women  
of the Tabitha and Ruth Circles  
for our Annual Epiphany Gathering  
on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.*

*Everyone is welcome whether you have been a part of  
Presbyterian Women or not.*

*Come for refreshments, fellowship,  
and to learn more about  
the mission of Presbyterian Women*



O come, o come, Immanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.



Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Immanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel!

In this holy season of Advent, we wish to share this special Christmas greeting with the friends and members of the Ewing congregation. We thank God for the gift of friendship, for the precious memories we hold in common, and especially for the concerns and the dreams we share for our family of First Presbyterian Church of Ewing.

The Christ Child who came to save us all bade us tend the sick and feed the hungry. In His name and for His sake, the money saved by sending a cooperative Christmas greeting will be shared with two projects: the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and Mercer Street Friends.

Our prayer for each of you is that Christ may come to you this day and every day and fill your lives with HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE.

DICK ANTHONY

Betty Newberry  
Jill and Jim Santum

Patty & Ron Marsano

Sam Bourne

John A. Samra

Helen + Bob Kull

Harriet + Wayne Burns

Joe Perch

Ruth B. Palmer

Betty Zenson

Ruth + My Batarawitz

Carol + Dave Pollison

Gindy, Margie + Evan Strain

Bette Scheibert

Nancy Coleman

Marilyn Carroll

Rejoice!

O come, o come, Immanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.



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O Israel!

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Doug and Carol Taylor

Joni & Tony Kiddle

Dana Walker

Sandra Austin

Bonnie Brandt

Janice Packmar

Patricia Hoffman

Shirley & Joe Savia

Mike & Carol Hecky

George Renwick

Wayne & Sylvia Allen  
David M. Pence

Marjorie Moore

Buzz Dakin

THE HARVEY FAMILY

Helen Fredrick

Bruce & Suzie Wentzel

Mary Haugh

**Rejoice!**





*Advent Around Our Church 2019*

# PRAYER

*changes things*

**Christopher Andriana**  
**Jenna Bentley**, classmate of Dyshel Harvey  
**Dr. Mari Berens**  
**H. Wayne Berens**  
**Bonnie Brandt**  
**Shirley Bryant**, mother of Cynthia Bryant  
**Louise Burroughs**  
**Steve Carter**, friend of Mari Berens  
**Julie Ciccone**  
**Cindy**, sister of Jean Thompson  
**Janet Corbin**  
**Doris Cregar**  
**Dorothy Crum**  
**The DeWees Family**  
**Eleanor Everett**, sister-in-law of Pam Miller  
**Quentin Fabiano**  
**Michael Ferrara**  
**Peggy Formaroli**, mother of friend Gino – Gerri  
Apostolos  
**Rita Freilinghaus**, sister of Judy Carapezza  
**Karen Fuchs**, sister of Laura Wallin  
**Thelma G.**, friend of Nancy Kriegner  
**Alice Haines**  
**Terri and Ken Harvey**  
**Kevin Hecky**  
**Beth Hensler**  
**Lydia Hill**, cousin of Cathy Holland  
**Joe Hodak**  
**Cathy Holland**  
**Dan Hough**  
**Mary Jane Inman, Dan Sergott & Chuck Sergott**  
**Ruthie Jetter**, cousin of George Renwick  
**The Keller Family**  
**John Kelso**, friend of Ginny Saiia  
**Nancy Kriegner**  
**Betty Lamb**  
**Jeff Laschever**  
**Charlie Magee**, brother of Judy Carapezza  
**Margaret Marcks**

**Carol Martin**  
**Paul Matyas**  
**Chris McSwain**, friend of Mari Berens  
**Samuel Meservey**, grandson of Lois Meservey  
**Aaron Morgan**  
**Rachel Morgan**  
**Isaac & Niomi Mungra**  
**Leslie Nevius**, cousin of Barb Salles  
**Ray Norton**, friend of JoAnn Trevor  
**Karen Parr**  
**Patrick Petti**  
**Charlotte Philbrook**, friend of Nancy Coleman  
**Marissa Porfirio**  
**Betty Ranson**  
**Dylan Ray**, friend of Nancy Kriegner  
**Susan Robinson**  
**Robert Rodgers**, friend of Laura Wallin  
**Shirley Sandford**  
**Michael Baily Schafer**, grandnephew of Mary  
Hough  
**Jay Schugadt**, friend of Bonnie Brandt  
**Jane Schwilk**  
**Sandy Schwilk**  
**George Self**  
**Brad Shropshire**, Gene Taylor's son-in-law and  
Doug & Carol Taylor's brother-in-law  
**Kristen Berens-Smart**  
**Gwen Thomas**  
**Ann & Dave Tregurtha**  
**Talib Truth**, son of Rae Richardson  
**Travis Turner**, nephew of Gay McGraw  
**Gloria Vernam**  
**Autumn Wagner**, niece of Pam Miller  
**Harold Walter**  
**Diane Watson**, niece of Harriet Berens  
**Kaitlynn Webster**, granddaughter of Nancy  
Coleman  
**Sam & Peace Weigh**  
**Alfred Wensley**  
**Eileen Whang**  
**Doris Wiles**, sister of Harriet Berens  
**Cory Nwankwo Young**

# JANUARY

# 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>On Sundays</b> 10:00 Worship 11:00 Hospitality Time 11:15 Adult Ed. & Sunday School <b>On Mondays</b> 5:15 AA, AL 7:30 Dist 24 AA, AL 7:30 CJCS - FH	<b>On Tuesdays</b> 7:30 Al-Anon, RW 8:00 CA, AL 8:00 NA, CR <b>On Thursdays</b> 6:00 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:00 AA, AL	<b>On Fridays</b> 10:30 Yoga 11:00 Health Your Way 8:30 AA, AL <b>On Saturdays</b> 3:00 AA, AL	1          <i>Office Closed</i>	2          Lunch Bunch 11:30	3          <i>Yoga</i> <i>10:30 am</i>  <i>Health Your Way</i> <i>11:00 a.m.</i>	4          
5  <i>Worship</i> <i>10:00 am</i>  <i>Communion</i>	6          	7          <b>BIG COMMITTEE</b> <b>7:00</b>	8          <i>Ruth Circle</i> <i>6:00 pm</i>	9          Lunch Bunch 11:30	10          <i>Yoga</i> <i>10:30 am</i>  <i>Health Your Way</i> <i>11:00 a.m.</i>	11          
12  <i>Worship</i> <i>10:00 am</i>  <i>PW Epiphany Gathering</i> <i>2:00 p.m.</i>	13          	14          <b>Tabitha Circle</b> <b>9:15 am</b>	15          <i>Covenant Session Mtg.</i> <i>7:00 p.m.</i>	16          	17          <i>Yoga</i> <i>10:30 am</i>  <i>Health Your Way</i> <i>11:00 a.m.</i>	18          <i>PWP Epiphany Mission Fair</i>
19  <i>Worship</i> <i>10:00 am</i>	20          <b>Office closed</b> <b>MLK Day of Service</b> <b>9-noon</b>	21          <b>Mission Sewing</b> <b>10 am</b>  <i>Deacons Meeting 7pm</i>	22          	23          	24          <i>Yoga</i> <i>10:30 am</i>  <i>Health Your Way</i> <i>11:00 a.m.</i>	25          
26  <i>Worship</i> <i>10:00 am</i>  <i>Congregational Meeting</i>	27          	28          <i>Session Meeting</i> <i>7:00 p.m</i>	29          	30          	31          <i>Yoga</i> <i>10:30 am</i>  <i>Health Your Way</i> <i>11:00 a.m</i>	

