

Our Vision

Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church is called to be a church where people seeking hope find the light and love of Christ and together, joyfully serve the community with abiding love and purpose.

Our Mission - As a church

We find and share the light and love of Christ in prayer, in worship, in fellowship, and in service. We welcome the rainbow of God's children, and we embrace our differences. We gather to develop relationships with God, with each other, and with the world. We are inspired by the Word of God as proclaimed through music, and our love of music strengthens our relationship with the community. We empower others to embody grace, mercy, justice, and peace, guided by the light and love of Christ. We purposely demonstrate compassion, understanding, and generosity to others, inspired by the love of Christ. We open our hearts and our doors to those seeking hope, wholeness, wellness, acceptance, and a place to be seen.



Last year, our stewardship focus was on these familiar Scripture passages: "**You shall love the Lord** with all your <u>heart</u> and with all your <u>soul</u> and with all your <u>strength</u> and with all you <u>mind</u>" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." These instructions remain as important as ever.

During *this* season of Epiphany, let us add to those by living into our new Vision and Mission statements that take our stewardship to the next level. The Vision and Mission statements of our congregation are filled with these words: **Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love**. Don't these words capture our Christian stewardship to our Lord? In other words, our mission and mission statements <u>embody</u> these words in our walk with Jesus.

On Epiphany Sunday, January 9, we will begin considering ways in which you, and we, intend to live into the mission and vision for our congregation, and to be faithful stewards of all that God has given to us. We will dedicate our pledges on Sunday, February 20 using pledge cards that will be mailed to you in in early February.

As the wise men were led by the star of Bethlehem to worship Jesus and to give their gifts to the newborn King, may the Star of Christ guide you and us as we serve the Lord with hope, peace, joy and love.

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- We open our hearts and our doors to those seeking hope, wholeness, wellness, acceptance, and a place to be seen.

Dear Members and Friends of the Congregation,

Happy New Year! Last year we said "Good Riddance!" to 2020--the year when Covid first broke out in the world. But it seems that 2020 was just a warm up for 2021, a year which challenged the world, and also our church! From ongoing renovation work on the church office building to Pastor Paul's retirement in July, to the impact of the "Omicron" variant surfacing during Advent, to impatience with finding the next new pastor, our church withstood significant, unceasing change during 2021!

I recently read how rapid, transforming change is likely the "new normal". First the corporate world, and now much of the entire world, is applying the phrase "VUCA"-- that is, circumstances marked by Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity. As the church and its mission is necessarily anchored in the world, 2022 and years to follow will find the church (and our particular church known as Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church) needing to skillfully navigate VUCA, adopting "change mindset", and of course, praying a lot.

Is there a silver lining to this emerging reality? I don't have an answer. As a believer and a theologian, I have a keen confidence in the Gospel. We know that the church has withstood persecution and has at times been favored by the dominant culture, the faithful have worshipped in small house churches and in breathtaking cathedrals. The Good News has adopted to new cultures, and anchored in places both hostile and welcoming. I expect that the church (and our church) will be quite different in the next 5 to 10 years, changing to more effectively proclaim the Good News and to better serve the world. In the meantime, as I being to say Good-by to all of you and discern my next call in ministry, I hold as precious the church I have known in these last years: from my 2015 start with Covenant Presbyterian Church as a 10 -houra- week minister, to my service unto two blending congregations through 2018-2020, to my recent time (6 months or so) as Transitional Pastor of the new "Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church". I will always treasure ROAM (Regional Older Adult Ministry) which marked deepening connection among Presbyterian churches in the Greater Trenton Area.

Looking forward is my natural inclination; it is the way of the Spirit to lead us into new circumstance and new life, always. Yet, as we entered Advent, some in the church wanted to look backwards, poring over disappointments. While my work entails being aware of the past, my leadership necessarily focuses upon the present and upon the future the Spirit calls us to embrace. So, know that I rejoice in being part of the ministry, mission, discipleship and worship at this church, even if it's been just since 2015. And I pray for God's continued blessings upon this able congregation!

In Christ,

Pastor Ann

RETURN TO CHURCH COMMITTEE

Sunday Morning Guidelines We welcome you as you enter for worship this morning. As you enter, we ask the following of you:

1. If you have not already done so, please fill out a "Hold Harmless" form. Remember that you only need to do this once. *

2. Fill out the Health Form for the day. This helps us know who is present so that we will be able to track who was in attendance should it become necessary for any health-related reason.*

3. We ask that you remain masked until you leave the worship service and are again outside.

* For your convenience, an updated <u>COVID</u> <u>Screening Questionnaire</u> is now available on the church website.

WHY DO WE ASK THAT YOU CONTINUE TO WEAR A MASK? First, know that the Return to Church Committee and the Session are continually examining our protocols and procedures related to the COVID Pandemic. We realize that the State of New jersey has eliminated almost all restrictions for those who are vaccinated and recommends social distancing and masking for those not vaccinated be continued. Yet, the Pandemic continues to be with us, and the new variants of the disease is heavily striking the unvaccinated. And, while the effectiveness of the vaccine is incredibly high, it is still possible for a vaccinated person to contract Covid while suffering symptoms at a less dangerous level.

While the percentage of our congregation who have been vaccinated is high, we also know that there are those in our midst who are not able to be vaccinated for any number of reasons, including choice. We are an open congregation, welcoming any and all who come to gather with us in worship. We ask that all who attend our worship in person remain masked in order to respect and protect everyone, from the youngest child who cannot be vaccinated, to the oldest person who has been vaccinated but is still vulnerable to the Covid virus. It is for "the least of these" in our midst that we will continue to ask people to wear their mask during inperson worship. We recognize that masking is difficult for some. If your mask becomes unbearable, we encourage you to step out of the worship service (yes, even during the sermon) and remove your mask once you have passed to the outside.

DECEMBER WORSHIP at E-CPC

Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church will continue to gather both in person and online for worship through the month of January Those who attend in person are asked to be masked and to continue to practice social distancing. For those who prefer to worship online, the Zoom Link remains the same:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/910100569

Or by telephone dial 1-929-205-6099, if asked, enter the Webinar ID: 910 100 569

January 2 2nd Sunday of Christmas

10:00 am Worship Jer. 31:7-14 and Ps 147:12-20 Eph. 1:3-24; John 1:(1-9) 10-18

January 9 Baptism of the Lord

10:00 am Worship Isa. 43:1-7 and Ps. 29, Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 am Worship Isa. 62:1-5 and Ps. 36:5-10 1 Cor 12:1-11: John 2:1-11

Matthew 25: Dismantling structural racism Sunday: Racial & Intercultural Justice/Presbyterian Affirm Black Lives Matter; Criminal Justice Sunday

January 23 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 am Worship Neh.8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 and Ps. 19 1 Cor. 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

January 30 4th Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am Worship Jer 1:4-10 and Ps. 71:1-6 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30



ZOOM/IN PERSON MEETINGS EVENTS

Wednesday Nights at 7 PM Bible Study-Led by Sam Bonner

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82526065866?pwd= NU14N3FHZndTaFdBU2t0cVInRFd2QT09 .ID: 825 2606 5866

Passcode: 399123

Sunday Afternoon Adult Ed. - Following worship

https://us02web.zoom.us/i/6762714701?pwd=T IhhdS9nR3J4dWxPaDc3RUFNVEg0Zz09 By phone: 1 (929) 205 6099; Meeting ID: 676 271 4701; Passcode: 11103

Chats with Pastor Ann: Tuesday at 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81010467123pwd= UDNqWG5pN0t3MFJUeDN5SFcvQnpzdz09 Meeting ID: 810 1046 7123; Passcode: 271785; By phone: (929) 436-2866

Grief Group with Pastor Ann – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 2:00 PM

Grief Group will be meeting both in person in the parlor room of the Church Office Building and online via Zoom.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85946835493?pwd =U1dBbHVVQIRVNnU1d250MThrTmIUZz09

Meeting ID: 859 4683 5493; Passcode: 891990; By phone: (929) 436-2866

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Lunch Together...from Church and/or Home

is held every 3rd Thursday at 11:45AM in the Adult Lounge. Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83279089163

Meeting ID: 832 7908 9163; By phone: (929) 436-2866

Presbyterian Women

Ruth Circle & Tabitha Circle will be postponed till February, 2022 due to COVID . .

Mission Sewing will meet on Tuesday, January 18 at 10 am. All are welcome to attend. Bring a sandwich, beverage and dessert will be provided. You do not need to know how to sew. In the past year, despite not being able to meet until September, the group has raised \$1310 for Friends for Health in Haiti through the sale of donated and handmade items. Thank you to all who have donated or attended the sale on December 12th.

LAY READER SCHEDULE

The Worship and Music Committee is putting together a Lay Reader schedule for this church year. The Lay Reader will assist Pastor Ann during the worship service. If you are interested in being a Lay Reader, there is a **sign-up sheet** available on the table in the entrance to the worship space, or you can contact Pam Miller, Jane Perelli or the church office. Thank you!

Adult Education in January

This coming January, please plan to participate in the following sessions right after worship.

January 9 ECHO—Do you know that ECHO stands for Energized Citizens Helping Others? This group meets at E-CPC, yet many members don't know about it! Come learn about the ECHO organization and programs, presented by Executive Director Jo Carolyn Dent-Clark, and consider if you might like to participate.

January 16 Ewing Cemetery representatives from Memorial Properties will bring us up-to-date regarding the cemetery, and provide information and options to assist in planning for burials. Bring any questions you may have. (Planning makes good sense.)

January 23 Presentation of the 2022 Budget

January 30 Annual Meeting of the Congregation



Betty Newberry and her daughter Carolyn Parham Beatrice Mould, friend of Will Olson The Anthonys Judy Ecuyer, friend of Betti Schubert Bill Stettler, friend of Will Olson Doris Wiles, sister of Harriet Berens Diane Watson, niece of Harriet Berens Laura Papas. cousin of Harriet Berens

Carol Frantz, friend of Harriet Berens **Ronnie Reading**, friend of Harriet Berens Charlie Magee, brother of Judy Carapezza Maryanne Eleuteri, friend of Judy Carapezza Caitlyn Webster, granddaughter of Nancy Coleman Carol Martin, friend and former Covenant member Winifred Smith, friend of June Scott Wayne Allen Judy Carapezza Ingrid Pope Esther Clark, friend of Janice Rockmore Pam Miller **Marjorie Burtis** Louise Burroughs Jim Disler Peace Weigh Carol Martin Lois Miller, sister of Joan Hodak **Trey Byrd**, friend of Bette Schubert John Hodak, husband of Joan Hodak Mike Cieplechowicz Jane Crane, Lucy Smith, Anita Swallow, friends of Betty Ranson JoCarolyn Dent-Clark Kathy DiGiacomo, friend of Terri Harvey Jessica, friend of the Harvey Family Michael Coleman, son of Jerry Coleman Doug, lan and Ethan Gwinn son and grandsons of Sandy and Keith Gwinn

To keep the prayer list timely, listings will remain for 2 editions of the Newsletter and then be taken off. In the event you desire a listing to run longer, or for a shorter time, please contact Pastor Ann, or otherwise let your parish leaders know.



Want to speak a little Spanish? Eastern Service Workers Association (ESWA) has many members and volunteers that speak Spanish, and several of our English-speaking volunteers want to be able to speak with them! We've found a volunteer teacher and are working on details. If you are interested in participating, please let Sandra Austin know (609-658-2379). ¡Gracias!

Per Capita should be paid early in 2022

Attention all members of Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church of Ewing! The per capita assessment for 2022 is \$40.00 for each adult member of our Church. These funds are used to further the work of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly. Each church is required to pay the per capita.

Since these are really "pass through" funds, we ask that you pay your per capita by the end of January. Your prompt payment will be especially helpful in assuring that pledged dollars support the programs and activities approved for Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church, and don't have to be diverted to cover the per capita assessment. If you have questions, speak with Pastor Ann, or Elders Will Olson and Pam Miller

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The Church's Annual Report will be available soon, and well in advance of the annual meeting (see below for that meeting's date/details)...Please keep an eye out for the report's appearance in your email inbox, or in your snail mailbox at home. Please contact Debbie Pelsinski in the office or reach out to Helen Kull if you have questions.

Please mark your calendars: the Annual Meeting of the Church Congregation and Corporation will be held on Sunday January 30, 2022, following Sunday morning worship. Please plan to attend.

You Are Invited to this Special Community Event

On Monday, January 17, the Adult Education, Mission and Social Justice Committee will host a "Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service" event in the church's education building from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. All are invited and we encourage you to bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors. We will be assembling items for our neighbors in need -- Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), Arm in Arm, and Moms Demand Action.

Please help us collect items which will be posted in the January newsletter, the Church Office, the church website, the Worship Space, and in church bulletins for this event. Purchasing large quantities of one item is more helpful than one of each but all donations are welcome. **Items should be dropped off at the Scout Hut by Sunday, January 16.**

Come and make a difference in your life and theirs! If you have any questions, contact Carol Hecky at 609.273.4848 or <u>heckycarol@gmail.com</u> or Joanne Durham at 609.882.4317 or <u>jedurham99@gmail.com</u>. Thank you!

Arm and Arm Breakfast

We will be preparing 150-200 healthy breakfast bags for Arm in Arm. We will need the following items prior to January 17 so pick up supplies as you shop in these next weeks. More details to follow

- Packets of oatmeal
- Tea bags
- Packets of hot chocolate
- Individual serving cereals
- Individual serving shelf ready milk (parmalat)
- Juice boxes
- Breakfast bars, etc.

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TRENTION AREA SOUP KITCHEN (TASK)

The Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church will be collecting the following items for TASK: **Personal Care Items for TASK**

Wash Cloths • Shampoo• Toothpaste • Toothbrushes • Deodorant • Bars of Soap • Disposable

Razors • Shaving Cream • One-gallon, closable, plastic storage bags • Nail Clippers •Chapstick •hand warmers•Foot warmers

Items can be dropped off in the Scout Hut before 9:00 Sunday by the 16th.

Thank you!!

Better to purchase bulk of one item than one of each item.

My Experience at the ESWA Christmas Party by Joanne Durham

We never know how and where the Holy Spirit will move us.

I was supposed to join my family in northern New Jersey to see my niece performing a lead part in the "Nutcracker" by the New Jersey Ballet. It would have been a nice "ritzy" event to attend in Morristown but the hours of driving round-trip there deterred me. Instead, Sandra Austin and Carol Hecky --- who are both active on the Adult Education, Mission and Social Justice Committee with me and volunteers at Eastern Service Workers of America (ESWA) -- invited me to be a Greeter at the ESWA Christmas Party for children that Saturday, December 18. I had no idea what I was doing or what would happen, but Carol always reminds us to "stretch" ourselves and take up a new thing -- just like the Bible says.

The venue was *Trenton Tabernacle Church* in the heart of Trenton. When I arrived at the church it was bustling with volunteers who were busy decorating, setting up an arts and crafts table, a game table, food, and recorded music. I saw organized boxes which were labeled A to Z in a classroom away from the main room filled with toys. The ESWA leader welcomed me, and others set up a table and two chairs for another volunteer and me so we could face those attending after they came through the door and descended the narrow stairs of this old building.

As families arrived, my job was to check them in off a list and ask for proof of vaccination for Covid-19. They had to wear a mask, too. Most used broken English and were a little nervous but their more confident children squeezed their hands for support. I could see the stress these parents -most of whom live in poverty despite working one, two or three jobs -- melt away after they checked in and follow the happy noise of other children and Christmas music in the other room.

Eventually we had a lull, and I went down to the main room to see all the activity. It was amazing! Children were smiling, laughing and enjoying the crafts table, games and even the table where they wrap donated books to give to their siblings for Christmas. To my surprise, Santa Claus (*E-CPC member Bonnie Brandt*) showed up with bells and really energized the room! She did Simon Says and other games and the joy I saw and heard was PRICELESS! When she gave out the boxes of toys to these families, they were very grateful.

Witnessing their joy was transformative for me. I knew God had better plans for me on that Saturday after all.





Christmas Flowers

In loving memory of...

From	In Memory of:			
Anonymous	Sue Milstead			
Harriet Berens	H. Wayne Berens and Mari S. Berens			
Nancy Coleman	Frances & Kenneth Murphey & B. Dixon Coleman			
Janet Corbin	Harry Corbin			
Janet Corbin	Robert Corbin			
Michael & Carol Hecky	Diane Szlachtowski			
Joan Hodak	Beloved family members			
Joan Hodak	Sister, Lois Miller			
Jane & Larry Kidder	parents & grandparents			
Jane & Vincent Perelli	Thelma Walsh			
Sandra & James Pezzillo	Our loved ones from the Pezzillo family			
George Renwick	Ann Skeeter			
George Renwick	Rose Hilton			
George Renwick	Richard "Dick" Scheetz			
Ellen Spurlock	Nancy Kriegner			
Julia & James Tantum	Jack & Eleanor Bahan			
Julia & James Tantum	Robert Tantum			

Congregational Christmas Card

The postage we would have spent on stamps for the card has been donated to Arm in Arm

Given by...

Eastern Service Workers Association Celebrates Christmas!

From the pictures you can see that a good time was had by adult and child alike at ESWA's annual holiday party and toy distribution. Special thanks to Cindy and Maegan Strain, Rachel and Nina Morgan and the special visitor, Santa (Bonnie Brandt).

Thanks to all who have donated food and toys. A special thank you to the mystery donor who gave boxes of games and art kits.

The children were so thrilled! Carol Hecky





FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2021



MERCER COUNTY

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) 2021-2022 PROGRAM BEGINS October 1, 2021



The County of Mercer will be accepting applications for the **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** for the 2021-22 season beginning **October 1, 2021.** Mercer County will continue accepting applications for the **Universal Service Fund (USF) Program throughout the year**. Residents who pay their own heating costs, and meet the following income guidelines, may be eligible to receive financial assistance with their winter heating bill. Residents with medical conditions may also be eligible to receive cooling assistance:

Household Size	USF Program	LIHEAP Program	
a beage. Octores of	\$4,293	\$3,348	
2	\$5,807	\$4,379	
Tellow 3 Tech here	\$7,320	\$5,409	
4	\$8,833	\$6,439	
5	\$10,347	\$7,470	
6	\$11,860	\$8,500	
7	\$13,373	\$8,693	
8	\$14,887	\$8,886	

MONTHLY INCOME GUIDELINES

*Federal income limits are subject to change during the program year. Please call for incomes above 8 persons.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, at this time the public will only be able to enter the building on an as needed basis by appointment only. If an in-person appointment is necessary, clients can call 609-337-0933 or email heatingapt@mercercounty.org to schedule an appointment. Applications can be sent by regular mail to 640 S. Broad Street Room 106, PO BOX 8068 Trenton, NJ 08650-0068 or faxed to 609-278-2758

The County will continue to receive applications up until the deadline of **June 30**, **2022** by regular mail, fax, email and drop offs. Applications, forms, and information can be accessed at this site: <u>http://www.mercercounty.org/departments/housingcommunity-development/housing-and-community-development-programs</u> or by visiting the entrance at 640 South Broad Street.

Location & Hours: Trenton Office 640 South Broad Street-Room 106 Trenton, NJ 08650 M-F 8:30am-4:00pm Mercer County Connection (appt. only) Hamilton Square Shopping Center 957 Highway 33 at Paxson Avenue Hamilton, NJ 08690 Tues & Thurs 10:00am-12:00pm Saturday's 10:00-1:00 PM (1/8 & 1/22)

Board of County Commissioners Edward Pattik Housing Director

Brian M. Hughes, County Executive visit us at the web www.mercercounty.org

Thnak you to Pam Hoffman for the Christmas Stars



Please refer to the worshiping schedule portion of this newsletter for all Zoom and phone-in connections.



JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Worship 10am	3 11:30 ECHO Line Dancing	 4 10 am mission sewing 2:00 PM Grief Group 8:00 Cocaine Anonymous 	5 9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mrg 7:00 Bible Study Zoom Meeting	6 6;00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Regular Choir 8:00 New Way to Live	7 8:30 pm Friday Night Lights	8 3:00-5:00 PM Venture to Help
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 10am	11:30 ECHO Line Dancing	1:30 ESWA Mission Service Group 8:00 Cocaine Anonymous	9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mrg 7:00 Bible Study Zoom Meeting	6:00 RTCC – by Zoom 6;00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Regular Choir 8:00 New Way to Live	8:30 pm Friday Night Lights	3:00-5:00 PM Venture to Help
16	17	18 10:00	19	20	21	22
Worship 10am	11:30 ECHO Line Dancing	Mission Sewing 2:00 PM Grief Group 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting – by Zoom 8:00 Cocaine Anonymous	9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mrg 7:00 Bible Study Zoom Meeting	6;00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Regular Choir 8:00 New Way to Live	8:30 pm Friday Night Lights	3:00-5:00 PM Venture to Help
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 10am	11:30 ECHO Line Dancing	1:30 ESWA Mission Service Group 8:00 Cocaine Anonymous	9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mrg 7:00 Bible Study Zoom Meeting	6;00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Regular Choir 8:00 New Way to Live	8:30 pm Friday Night Lights	3:00-5:00 PM Venture to Help
30	31					
Worship 10am	11:30 ECHO Line Dancing 12:30-3:00 ECHO Board Mtg					

Memorial Flowers – Now Scheduling

We are now scheduling Sunday Memorial Church Flowers, beginning Sunday August 8th. If you would like to schedule for a loved one, please fill out the form below. Please make your check for \$48 out to E-CPC and indicate "Sunday Flowers" in the memo line.

DONATED BY: Requested Sunday Date:

NAME OF PERSON(S) FLOWERS ARE IN MEMORY OF:

Flower Memorials will be in the Sunday Bulletin

Please cut this form out and send or bring into to the church office along with your donation.

Questions? Please contact the church office at churchoffice@ewingpres.org or 609-882-3673

Memorial Flowers – Now Scheduling

NEW CHURCH NAME:

CONTACT INFORMATION (phone or email):

Submit this form by snail mail to the church office, email it to <u>churchoffice@ewingpres.org</u>, call into the church office by dialing 609-882-3673, or put this suggestion into a box provided in the narthex!