



# CONNECTIONS

*The Newsletter of the Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church—December 2022*





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 advise the church office.

Prayer Request	Note
All people suffering because of the War in Ukraine	By church family
Brad Shropshire	Brother in-law of Carol & Doug Taylor
Charlie Magee	brother of Judy Carapezza
Emily Greschak	Daughter of Barbara Greschak
Eugene Freda	By church family
George Renwick	By church family
Gun violence in the US	By church family
Kevin Hecky	By church family
Louise Burroughs	By church family
Maryanne Eleuteri	friend of Judy Carapezza
Michael Brezak	Son of Barbara Brezak
Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)	By church family
Rita Freilinghaus	sister of Judy Carapezza
Wayne Allen	By church family



**Karen Ann Fuchs**

**We mourn the death of Laura Wallin’s sister, Karen. She died on November 21, 2022 at age 64. She is at peace in God’s Kingdom. Please keep Laura in your prayers**

## HOLIDAY BRUNCH on December 18



Come share a holiday meal with your church family Sunday, December 18 after Worship

Please bring a breakfast or brunch item to share with others.

A sign up sheet will be available for ideas.

*(Look for a special guest!)*

## ESWA Christmas Holiday Collections

### *Holiday Food Campaign*

**Please Help support the ESWA: Holiday Food Campaign** Drop off needed items at the Scout Hut by Tuesday, December 20:

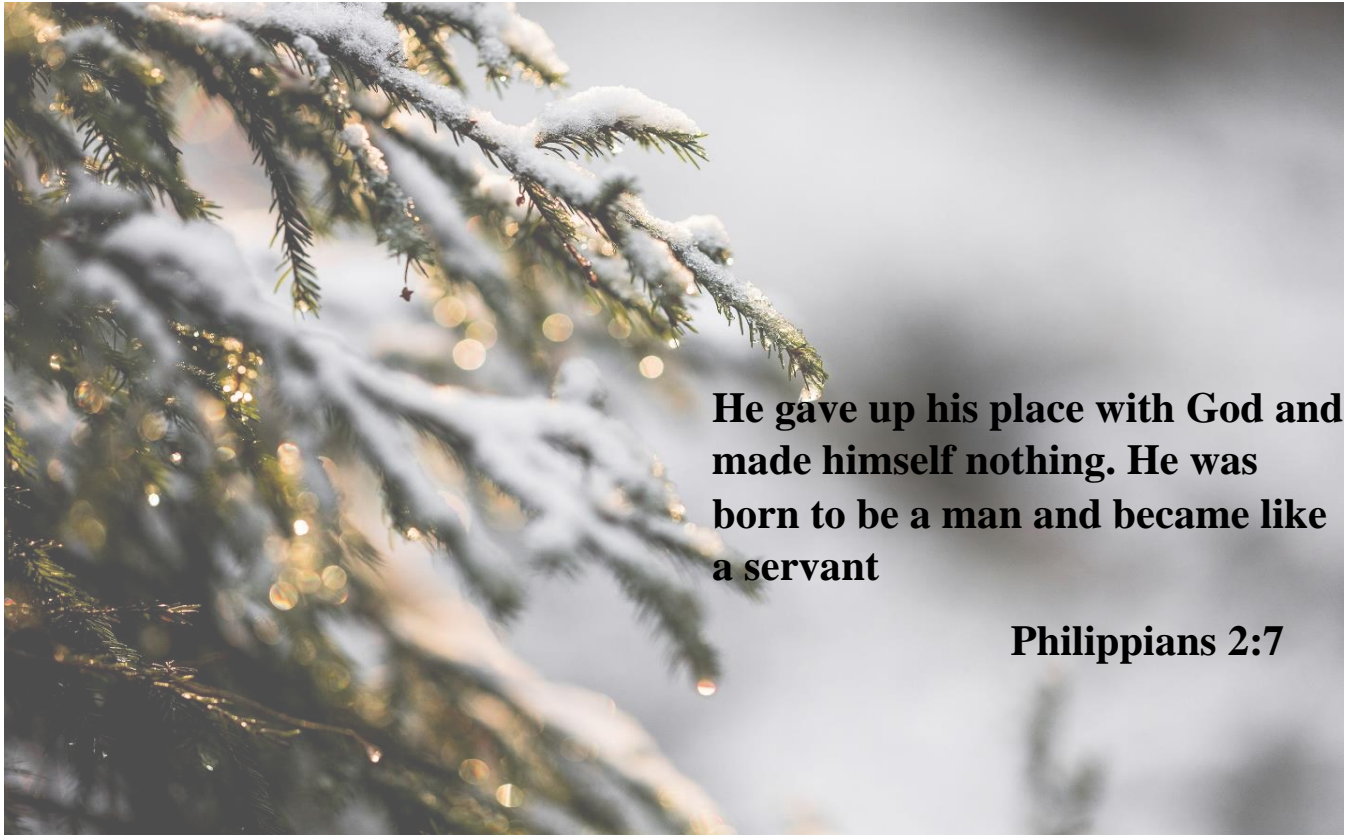
- Frozen turkeys and hams
- pasta and pasta sauce
- canned or dried beans
- rice-white or brown
- tuna
- mayonnaise
- canned fruit and vegetables
- potatoes or yams
- cereal
- peanut butter and jelly
- gravy and stuffing



## **Pillsbury Dedication on Sunday, December 4th**

On Sunday, December 4th, immediately following the 10:00 AM Worship service, we will gratefully acknowledge Joyce Pillsbury's generosity and dedicate the renovations that were made possible through her bequest. A reception will follow the dedication ceremony. The funds from her bequest have been used to renovate the front and back porches of the office building and to make the office wheelchair accessible. In addition, the funds were used to replace the wheelchair lift in Fellowship Hall.





**He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant**

**Philippians 2:7**

## **NEW ZOOM LINK FOR WORSHIP at ECPC**

Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church will continue to gather both in person and online for worship. For those who prefer to worship online, the Zoom Link has changed:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83261598872>

For those calling in by phone, call +1 929 205 6099 (same phone number!) and when asked, enter the new Webinar ID 832 6159 8872

## **December Worship**

### **Second Sunday of Advent—December 4, 10:00am**

Patti Daley, guest preacher

*Lectionary: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7; 18–19; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12*

### **Third Sunday of Advent—December 11, 10:00am**

Elizabeth Vaneekhoven, guest preacher

“Choir Sunday” - join us as the choir sings special music for Advent.

*Lectionary: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 146:5–10 or Luke 1:46–55; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11*

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 18, 10:00am**

Byron Schafer, guest preacher

“Bell Sunday” - the Bell Choir will offer the music for this service!

*Lectionary: Isaiah 7:10–16; Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25*

### **Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24, 8:00 pm**

**Mark Van Bruggen, guest preacher**

Singing and ringing will fill our traditional Christmas Eve service as the Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir celebrate the wonders of the night.

*Lectionary: Isaiah 9:2–7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11–14; Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]*

### **Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25, 10:00am**

Rosa Ross, guest preacher

Join us for an informal, fun, celebration of Christmas day!

*Lectionary: Isaiah 52:7–10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12]; John 1:1–14*

## Preachers for the Month of December

<b>Date</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Biography</b>
12/4/2022	Patty Daley	<i>Patti was an educator for 20 years before attending Princeton Theological Seminary. After graduation in 1983, she was pastor to congregations in New Jersey and Massachusetts. Returning to New Jersey, Patti served as Ewing's Temporary Supply in 2003. She later briefly returned as Temporary Supply in 2005 prior to Paul Rhebergen's call as Interim Pastor. In addition to supply preaching, Patti is on the steering committee of Nassau, Witherspoon and Westminster Presbyterian Mass Incarceration Task Force. She is also pleased to be a member of the Trenton Microloan Collaborative that makes loan to post-incarceration business owners.</i>
12/11/2022	Elizabeth Vaneekhoven	<i>Retired Pastor Elizabeth Vaneekhoven served Fieldsboro UMC from August 2005 to June 2019. Before entering pastoral ministry, she was a high school teacher, coach and guidance counselor in Bordentown Regional School District, NJ. She holds the B.S. in "Health and Physical Education" and the M.A. in "Student Personnel Services" from Trenton State College. (TCNJ) Retired from public education, she studied at New Brunswick Theological Seminary earning an M Div. (magna cum laude). She is married with four adult children and seven grandchildren. A liberal, feminist theologian, she continues to lead Bible Studies and serves as the Assistant Dean of GNJ UWF Greater NJ United Women in Faith) Mission u program in 2022/2023 and will be Dean of the program through 2024/2025.</i>
12/18/2022	Byron Shafer	<i>An emeritus professor of Biblical Studies at Fordham University and Pastor emeritus of the Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York City. He served on the committee that edited our denomination's A Brief Statement of Faith. In retirement, Dr. Shafer was for 4 semesters Visiting Professor of Biblical Studies at United Theological College in Bangalore, India. He now serves on the Commission on Preparation for Ministry of our Presbytery of the Coastlands.</i>
12/24/2022	Mark Van Bruggen	<i>Mark lives in New Egypt, NJ with Lisa, his wife of 31 years. Mark and Lisa are the parents of two daughters (Emily &amp; Krista) and have one granddaughter (Karaleigh). Mark was raised in the Presbyterian Church. His father, Rev. Dr. Vernon Van Bruggen, is a retired Presbyterian minister and served for 18 years as the Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of New Brunswick. From 1978 through 1991, Mark regularly worshipped at Covenant Presbyterian Church. After he and his wife married (July 1991 at Covenant Presbyterian Church), they sought a church home and joined the Methodist Church where he remains a member to this day. In 1982, Mark became an Eagle Scout in Troop 15, formerly hosted by Ewing Presbyterian Church. Mark has many fond memories of worshipping at the Ewing and Covenant churches and very much considers preaching at Ewing/Covenant a homecoming.</i>
12/25/2022	Rosa Ross	<i>Rosa Ross thinks faith is a collage of different conversations: whispered words of comfort, shouts of social justice, discussions about what it means to be, and sometimes even jokes about the absurdity of God's beautiful creation. She is particularly passionate about the process of full, unyielding inclusion of all people in this holy collage. Rosa is a student at Princeton Theological Seminary and is seeking ordination in the PC(USA). Before moving to New Jersey, she grew up in Huntington, West Virginia and studied philosophy, religious studies, and classical studies at Marshall University where she is now an adjunct professor (teaching online). She can be spotted around Princeton reading books, eating food, and walking her dog - a pug named Pugg.</i>

## Hearing Enhancement Devices Available

If you wish to use a hearing-impaired device during service, please ask the greeters. Devices are compatible with earbuds and headsets if you wish to bring your own.



## Offerings and Ways to Reach out to Others During Christmas

### The Church Christmas Card: Continuing the Tradition

Years ago the congregation decided to donate what each family would have spent in postage sending Christmas Cards to other members of the congregation and sign an all church letter. **The monies donated this year will be sent to *Arm in Arm* for their Food Pantry.** The card will be available to sign December 4, 11, and 18th. The card will be printed in the January Newsletter. With the shepherds, let us feed and care for all the sheep.

**The Christmas Offering** will be taken with envelopes already in the congregational pledge boxes may be delivered, sent either by mail or electronically. This offering will be reported to Session at the January meeting of Session to decide where this financial offering might be best used at this time. The Offering is usually received during the Christmas Eve Service. Write Christmas Offering on the memo line.

### Spreading Christmas Joy!

### The Christmas Joy Offering: One of PC(USA) Special Offerings of the Year

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.



### How do I give?

Write a check to *Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church* and put "Christmas Joy" on the memo line and mail to the church at 100 Scotch Road, Ewing, New Jersey 08628.

**THANK YOU** for spreading Christmas joy to others!

## ESWA Toy Drive

ESWA will also be giving children Christmas gifts that many families can't afford for their children. All types of toys and gifts are welcome. Children's ages vary from infants to teenagers. Please drop off at Scout Hut by December 13.



## **Eastern Service Worker's Association Needs Donated Toys**

ESWA will also be giving children Christmas gifts that many families can't afford for their children. All types of toys and gifts are welcome. Children's ages vary from infants to teenagers. Please drop off at Scout Hut by December 13.



## **Join Adult Education in December**

Come join us for the last two discussions on forgiveness on December 4 and 11. We will be enjoying a Christmas Brunch with the congregation on December 18. There is no class on December 25 or January 1 but a new curriculum will begin on January 8. All classes are held in the upper adult lounge after Sunday Worship.

Come and learn!

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Ruth and Tabitha Circles will be meeting together on Wednesday, December 7th at 6:00 pm in the Lower Lounge. Note the date change. The group will be having a potluck dinner 🍴 so bring a dish to share. There will be a Christmas 🎄 gift 📦 exchange (value around \$10) for those wishing to participate. All are welcome even if you have never attended a PW meeting so join in the fun. There will also be devotions and the group will work on Christmas cards 📧 to be sent to shut-ins.

Mission Sewing 🧵 will meet on Tuesday, December 20th at 10:00 am in the Lower Lounge. Bring a sandwich, beverage and dessert will be provided.





### **Congregation Discusses Vitality**

After the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 20, the newly designated Vitality Team met with more than 30 curious and interested members. Rick Durham opened with prayer and Joanne Durham read the top three *Strategic Planning Priorities* which are action items established after the 2021 church retreats which were recorded by the Visioning Team.

The question was brought up, “Why talk about vitality now? Why not wait until we get a new pastor installed?” The response from other members was emphatic: “We cannot wait months for a new pastor to take steps to revitalize our church. We, the congregation, are the church, not the new pastor.” Rev. Molly Dykstra and Rev. Nina Reeder have been invited to return to ECPC in January to speak to us more about Vitality.

Seven members of the congregation have pledged to serve on the new Vitality Team which kicks off in January. They will support the congregation in living out the new Vision and Mission Statements the church has adopted. Please consider joining us! Questions? Contact Joanne Durham at [jedurham99@gmail.com](mailto:jedurham99@gmail.com)

### **Deacons Doin’s**

A big Thank You to all who contributed towards Shop Rite cards for families in the Head Start program. We exceeded our goal of 10 cards and actually helped 18 families! This amazing result happened because of our congregation’s amazing generosity!



### **Hats, Scarves, Mittens, and Gloves**

The deacons are collecting new hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves for the "Giving Tree" for the Head Start families. Contributions may be deposited in a box in the Scout hut and also outside the sanctuary.



Alton Powell would like to thank everyone for their well wishes, prayers and cards during his recent illness.



## Children's Books for Christmas

The Deacons are collecting 39 new books to be given to Head Start children as Christmas presents. Head Start only has one class of 18 children this year, so we are also collecting for Rachel Morgan's first grade class.

Please place books in the box in the Scout Hut or in the entrance of the sanctuary. If you wrap the books, be sure to include a note on the package with the title written on it. All books need to be contributed no later than December 18th. A list of book suggestions may be found below, in the Scout Hut, on the table in Fellowship Hall and in the bulletins. Please contact Suzie Wentworth, 609-462-5090, [suziewent@gmail.com](mailto:suziewent@gmail.com) with any questions.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Eric Carle

Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? – Bill Martin Jr., Eric Carle

Llama Llama Red Pajama – Anna Dewdney

The Snowy Day – Ezra Jack Keats

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie – Laura Joffe Numeroff

Good Night Moon – Margaret Wise Brown

The Snowman – Raymond Briggs

Bear is Awake – Hannah E. Harrison

The Way I Feel – Janan Cain

The Serious Goose – Jimmy Kimmel

The Wonderful Things You Will Be – Emily Winfield Martin

The Pajama Zoo Parade: The Funniest Bedtime

ABC Book – Agnes Green A

Giraffe and a Half – Shel Silverstein

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom – Bill Martin, Jr.

Jabari Jumps – Gaia Cornwall

Hair Love – M. Cherry & V. Harrison

Go Dog Go – Eastman

Stella Luna – Janell Cannon

Corduroy – Freeman

Where the Wild Things Are – Sendak

Crowne: An Ode to the Fresh Cut – P. Barnes & G. James

Pete the Cat – Kimberly Dean, James Dean  
\* any book in the series

Elephant and Piggie – Mo Willems \* any book in the series

On the Night You Were Born – Nancy Tillman

A Sick Day for Amos McGee – P. Snead

Mouse Paint – E. Stoll Walsh



## Poinsettias

The Deacons will begin decorating the Sanctuary for the holidays on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to assist us with this creative activity, please contact Suzie at 609-462-5090. We would love to have you join us!

If you would like to make a donation toward memorial poinsettias, please complete the tear-off form below and drop it off at the church office or in the offering plate along with your donation.

The suggested donation is \$15.

The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.



### Christmas Poinsettias

(Please print clearly)

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I will be taking my poinsettia(s) home on Christmas morning or soon after

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_



**You are Invited  
To Jesus's Birthday**

Christmas Eve Service  
Saturday 12/24/22  
8:00 PM

Christmas Day Service  
Sunday, 12/25/22  
10 AM

**Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
100 Scotch Road  
Ewing, NJ 08628

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with  
songs of praise! Psalm 95

## **Deadline for January newsletter is Monday, December 19, 2022**

If you have an article or photo for the church's January newsletter, *Connections*, should send it to the church office by Monday, December 19. For more information, you can contact the Church Office at 609-882-3673 or email [churchoffice@ewingpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@ewingpres.org) or contact Joanne Durham on the Communications Committee at [jedurham99@gmail.com](mailto:jedurham99@gmail.com)

### **Pastor Nominating Committee**

At this point in our search process, we have been working diligently on the Ministry Information Form (MIF). Thanks to the work done by the committees before us and you the congregation, we were able to complete and discuss the MIF at the November meeting of Session for comment and suggestions. After making our final revisions and tweaks, the PNC has submitted it to the Presbytery *Committee on Ministry* for their comments and suggestions for their meeting in December.



We will then meet and make what revisions we feel necessary and submit it to the Presbytery in the final form to be published online for pastors seeking a call. Finally, our hardest work really begins trying to discern which candidate the Spirit is calling us to find. Hopefully, it will be posted by early January.



### **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.**

**Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church**

**100 Scotch Rd. Ewing, NJ 08628 609.882.3673 [churchoffice@ewingpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@ewingpres.org)**

**DECEMBER 2022**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>Worship 10am</b>	<b>5</b> 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ	<b>6</b> 1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge	<b>7</b> 6:00-8:00 pm Ruth & Tabitha Circles Lower Lounge	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Worship 10am</b> <b>Mission Sewing Sale for Haiti</b>	<b>12</b> 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ	<b>13</b> 10am-Mission Sewing Adult Lounge	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Lunch together 11:45-1:30 Lower Lounge	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Worship 10am</b>	<b>19</b> 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ Choral Society	<b>20</b> 1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge	<b>21</b> Longest Night Service Of Hope and Solace 7 PM 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve 8:00 PM Service</b> 
<b>25</b> <b>Worship 10am Christmas Day</b> 	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b> Caregiver Support Group 10:00-11:30 Upper Mtg Room	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>