



# CONNECTIONS

*The Newsletter of the Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church—January 2023*





## **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**

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

Is called for Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in hybrid format:

In person in the Worship Space at  
100 Scotch Road, Ewing, New Jersey.

Via Zoom, for those attending remotely, using the same Zoom connection  
used for worship. **See page 11 for current Zoom link**

The purpose of the meeting is to receive annual reports,  
including the 2023 budget adopted by the Session,  
and to conduct other business that may appropriately come before the body.

## **Come to a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service at Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church!**

On Monday, January 16 the 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 Women Demand Action who have us write out cards to families of victims.

Please help us collect items which are listed below. **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 before 9 AM on Monday, 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 [heckycarol@gmail.com](mailto:heckycarol@gmail.com) or Joanne Durham at 609.882.4317 or [jedurham99@gmail.com](mailto:jedurham99@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **Breakfast Bags for Arm in Arm**

- Oatmeal packets
- Tea bags
- Hot chocolate packets
- Individual boxes of cereal
- Individual serving shelf ready milk (parmalat)
- Juice boxes
- Breakfast bars

### **Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) Personal Care Kits**

- Shampoo or body wash
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Bars of Soap
- Disposable Razors
- Shaving Cream
- One-gallon, closable, plastic storage bags
- Hand warmers



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	<i>By church family</i>
Brad Shropshire	<i>Brother in-law of Carol &amp; Doug Taylor</i>
Charlie Magee	<i>brother of Judy Carapezza</i>
Dan Hough	<i>By church family</i>
Emily Greschak	<i>Daughter of Barbara Greschak</i>
Eugene Freda	<i>By church family</i>
Gary Miller	<i>By church family</i>
George Renwick	<i>By church family</i>
Gun violence in the US	<i>By church family</i>
Kevin Hecky	<i>By church family</i>
Laura Wallin	<i>By church family</i>
Louise Burroughs	<i>By church family</i>
Marjorie Burtis	<i>By church family</i>
Mary Lou Seidel	<i>By church family</i>
Maryanne Eleuteri	<i>friend of Judy Carapezza</i>
Michael Brezak	<i>Son of Barbara Brezak</i>
Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)	<i>By church family</i>
Rita Freilinghaus	<i>sister of Judy Carapezza</i>
Wayne Allen	<i>By church family</i>

## **Dedication of Renovations made possible by Joyce Pillsbury Bequest**

On December 4th, the congregation gathered to dedicate renovations that were made possible by a generous bequest from Joyce Pillsbury. The most substantial work funded by her bequest was rebuilding the front porch of the office building and making the office wheelchair accessible by raising the level of the deck of the porch and installing a wheelchair lift. However, the bequest also funded the replacement of the back porch and back door of the office building and the replacement of the wheelchair lift in the Education Building and restoring wheelchair access to the Worship Space. Joining us to unveil dedication plaques were Joyce's son, Don Pillsbury, and his wife, Jackie.

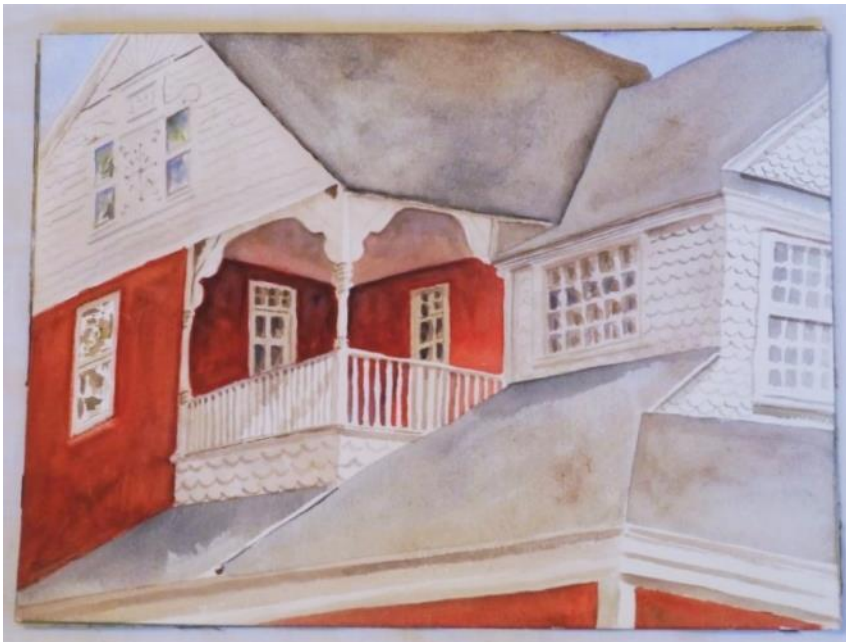
Many members of the former Ewing Church perhaps did not know that Joyce was an accomplished artist. The Pillsbury family recently donated one of her paintings to ECPC: a beautiful watercolor of the office building—appropriate, since Joyce's bequest provided for so many improvements to the office building.

Joyce's bequest also will serve others beyond our own congregation. Session had voted to tithe the bequest. Westminster Presbyterian Church received a \$10,000 gift to further its urban ministry; several other ECPC mission partners also received substantial donations: the Living Waters Ministry (which helps to construct facilities to produce clean drinking water in the Yucatan), Karla Koll, a PC(USA) Mission Worker in Costa Rica, the Tres Rios Presbyterian Church in Costa Rica, the Head Start Program that shares our building, Trenton Rescue Mission, Ewing Meals on Wheels, and Friends for Health in Haiti.

We have been blessed by Joyce's generosity and will hold memories of her in thanks. Thank you also to the Pillsbury family for the donation of her painting.







## **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 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)

## **Pastor Nominating Committee**



The Committee on Ministry accepted our Ministry Information Form and right before Christmas the MIF was posted on the Presbytery’s *Church Leadership Board*. The process is moving forward as the next stage begins. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin to look at all the candidates who apply.



## January 2023 Worship

### Preachers for the Month of January

<i>Date</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Biography</i>
1/1/2023	Rev. Janet Macgregor-Williams	Janet grew up in California. A graduate of Fuller Seminary and Louisville Seminary, she has served churches in Caldwell, Irvington, Elizabeth, and West Milford, before retiring and moving to Lawrenceville. Her husband is originally from England. They have one son, who is a musician and computer programmer. In her spare time, Janet enjoys reading, quilting, and travel (having visited 41 states and 17 countries)
1/8/2023	Rick Durham	Rick Durham was baptized and confirmed as an Episcopalian in Morris County, New Jersey. As a young adult, he became a Quaker and later worshipped as a Congregationalist during his years in Massachusetts. Rick's passions are History, Biblical History, and revitalization of the Church. Rick is an Affiliate member of ECPC and served on the Visioning Team. He invites you to think about Vitality for this church now.
1/15/2023	Tori Paquette	Tori Paquette is a third-year Master of Divinity student at Princeton Theological Seminary, and has their B.A. in Jewish Studies from Colby College. Tori is passionate about small congregations, Hebrew, and economic justice. They hope to help mainline congregations strengthen relationships with their communities, particularly across lines of social class and religion.
1/22/2023	Rosa Ross	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.
1/29/2023	Mark Van Bruggen	Mark lives in New Egypt, NJ with Lisa, his wife of 31 years. Mark and Lisa are the parents of two daughters (Emily & 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 Lisa married (July 1991 at Covenant Presbyterian Church), they joined the Methodist Church where they remain members. 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. Mark works for the NJ Civil Service Commission and serves on the national council of a professional association for public-sector human resources. Mark sings in a barbershop quartet and is the director of the "Garden Statesmen" acapella chorus.

## **January Worship**

### **First Sunday of Christmas—January 1, 10:00am**

Rev. Janet Macgregor-Williams, guest preacher

Lectionary: *Is. 61:10-62:3; Luke 2:22-40*

### **The Baptism of the Lord—January 8, 10:00am**

Rick Durham, guest preacher

Lectionary: *Isaiah 58: 7-9; Matthew 5: 13-16*

### **Second Sunday after Epiphany—January 15, 10:00am**

Tori Paquette, guest preacher

Lectionary: *Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42*

### **Third Sunday after Epiphany— January 22, 10:00am**

Rosa Ross, guest preacher

Lectionary: *Psalms 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18*

### **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany — January 29, 10:00am**

Mark Van Bruggen, guest preacher

Lectionary: *Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12*

#### ***CURRENT 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

**EWING CONVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 12/18/22**







## Please Remit your Per Capita Assessment

The Per Capita Assessment is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA) connect, participate, and share in the work of the wider church. The Per Capita funds support the work and the missions of our own Presbytery of the Coastlands, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly.

For 2023, each church in the Presbytery will contribute \$40 per member. These funds cover our share of the costs of belonging to the denomination and is collected at the beginning of the new year.

Members of *Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church* are asked to make a \$40 contribution to cover the church's cost for the assessment for each of the adult members of the congregation. Please use the blue Per Capita Apportionment envelope provided in your box of offering envelopes, or indicate "Per Capita" on the memo line of your check. We ask that you pay your per capita by the end of January, if possible. (If you haven't picked up your 2023 offering envelopes, they are available on the back table of the Worship space.)

If you have questions about the Per Capita Assessment, contact Treasurer Don Lovett ([lovett@tcnj.edu](mailto:lovett@tcnj.edu)) or Financial Administrator Kathy Jordan ([kjordan@ewingpres.org](mailto:kjordan@ewingpres.org) or call the church office).

## 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.



Marsha Lau and Cindy Engler made a generous donation – Sending loving wishes from Florida. Praying for our NJ Church family

Sending love to all – Marianne and Paul Rhebergen

## Adult Education -- *Honor Sabbath*

The hectic weeks before Christmas can be exhausting to say the least! Many of us look forward to a fresh start in the new year, often with New Year's Resolutions. If you're ready to press the "Reset" button, join the adult education study after worship on Sundays! During January, we will be exploring the much needed "day of rest."

The Sabbath can often become just another day of the week. It is so much more than that. Our understanding of Sabbath comes from the Hebrew word Shabbat, which means "to cease." This ability to cease was realized after the exodus, when having the Sabbath meant that the Israelites could stop their 365-days-a-year earthly labor and take every seventh day off. They learned that the Sabbath was a holy day. The word holy was more about being set apart than about being righteous or pure. A Sabbath day was to be different from other days, in a sacred sort of way, exchanging day-to-day rhythms of labor for holy rhythms. Honoring Sabbath recognizes this rhythm of work and rest and places the Sabbath at the center of our faith practice.

January 8	Celebrate Sabbath (Matthew 12:1–8)
January 15	Rest with God (Genesis 1:26-2:3; Mark 6:30–46)
January 22	Live in Holy Rhythm (Exodus 20:8–11)
February 5	Return with Gladness (Luke 13:10–17)





## POINSETTIAS DONATED FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Donated by

The Arena Family  
Harriet Berens  
Louise Burroughs & Family  
Louise Burroughs & Family  
Nancy Coleman & Family  
Janet Corbin  
Janet Corbin  
Kenneth Dennis  
The Hecky Family  
Joan Hodak  
Mary Hough  
Jane & Larry Kidder  
Jane & Larry Kidder  
Helen & Bob Kull  
Helen & Bob Kull  
Betty M. Newberry  
Deb Pelsinski  
Jane Perelli  
Carol & David Pollison  
Jill & Jim Tantum  
Jill & Jim Tantum  
Jay & Eileen Walsh

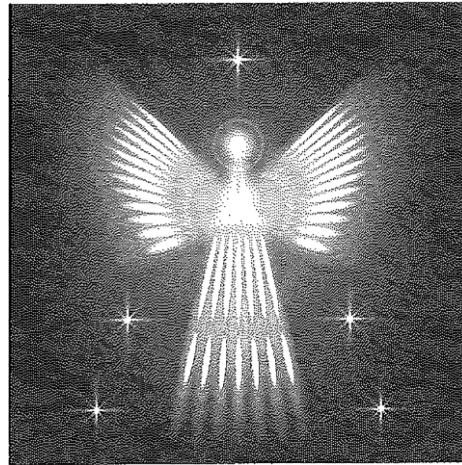
### In Memory of

Arthur A. Arena  
H. Wayne Berens & Mari S. Berens  
Dr. "Chuck" Burroughs  
Best friend, Elizabeth Kilgus  
B. Dixon Coleman  
Harry N. Corbin  
Robert Corbin  
Ruby Dennis  
Loved ones  
Healy family members and extended family members  
Sue Milstead  
Peggy & Bill Micklewright  
Beverly & Bill Kidder  
Our loved ones  
All in need of Love  
my mother, Ms. Georgiam Miller  
parents, Angela & Raymond Furente  
Our loved ones  
Our loved ones  
D Eleanor & Jack Bahan  
Robert Tantum  
Our loved ones



**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.** With the shepherds, let us feed and care for all the sheep.

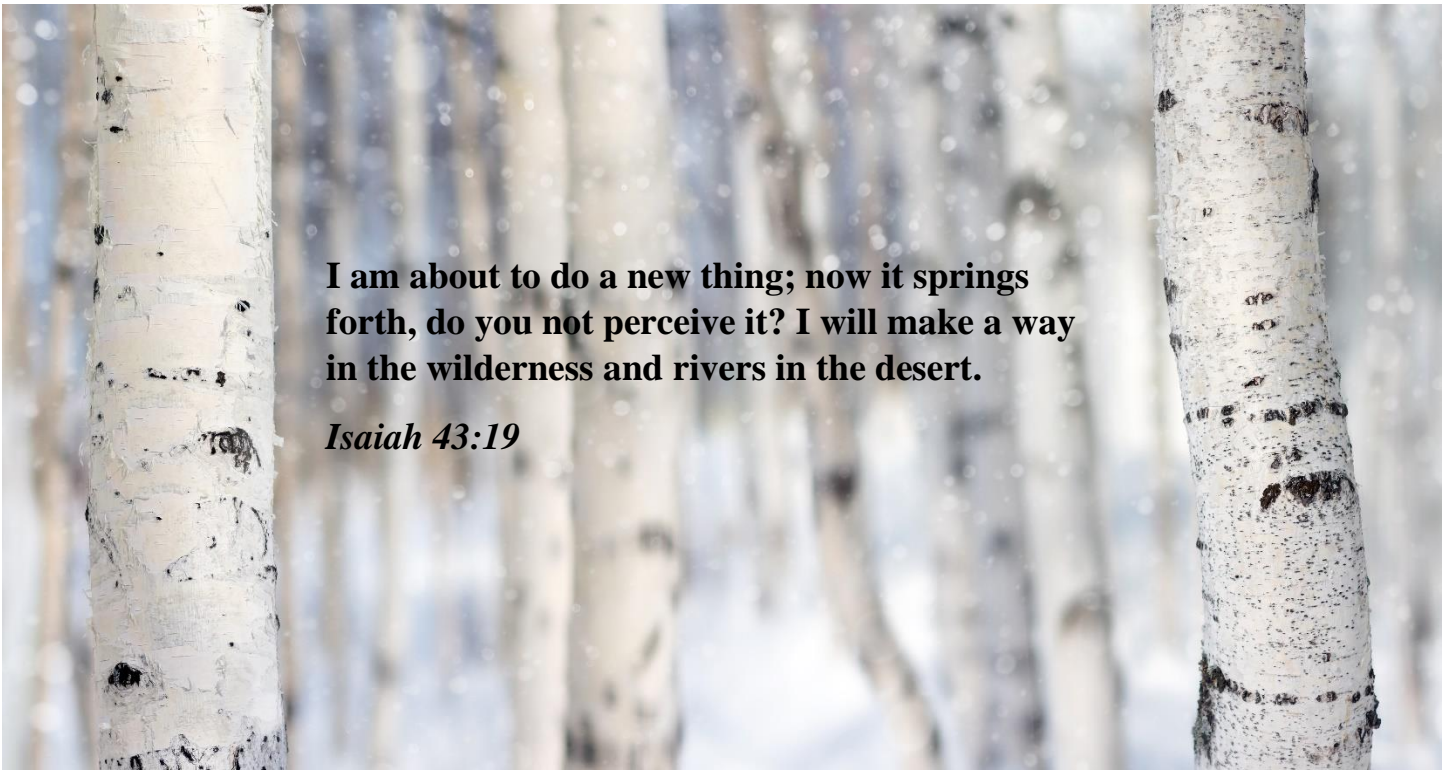


Ewing-Covenant All Church Christmas Card

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

*Merry Christmas to all! the Heckys*  
*Joy-marilyn Carroll*  
*Pro'helie Weckbach*  
*Suzie Papp*  
*Mary Hough*  
*Bonnie Brandt*  
*June & Larry Kidder*  
*THE HARVEY & COLEMANS!!*  
*Sylvia Allen*  
*Buzz Dakin*  
*Harriet Berens*  
*Ed Erwin*  
*Nancy Coleman*  
*Shirley & Jim Duler*  
*Betty Schubert*  
*Joan Holak*  
*Joan Holak*  
*Betty Newberry*  
*Carolyn Parkman*  
*Jill & Jim Jantun*  
*Christian Martinez*  
*Daniel Martinez*  
*Joan Thompson*  
*Suzie + Bruce Wentworth*

Proceeds go the hunger program of Arm in Arm

A photograph of birch tree trunks in a snowy forest. The trunks are light-colored with dark lenticels and are set against a background of snow and other trees. The text of Isaiah 43:19 is overlaid on the image.

**I am about to do a new thing; now it springs  
forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way  
in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**

*Isaiah 43:19*

## JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship 10am	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> ECPC Bell Choir - 6:00-7:30 ECPC Choir - 7:30-9:00	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Worship 10am	<b>9</b> 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ Choral Society	<b>10</b> 1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge	<b>11</b> 6:00-8:00 pm Ruth & Tabitha Circles Lower Lounge	<b>12</b> ECPC Bell Choir - 6:00-7:30 ECPC Choir - 7:30-9:00	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10 am-1 pm Central NJ Choral Society
<b>15</b> Worship 10am Installation of Officers Mission Sewing Sale for Haiti	<b>16</b> Office Closed MLK Day of Service 10am – 12noon Worship Space	<b>17</b> 10am-2 pm Mission Sewing Lower Lounge 7pm - Deacons	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Lunch together 11:45-1:30 Lower Lounge ECPC Bell Choir - 6:00-7:30 ECPC Choir - 7:30-9:00	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Worship 10am	<b>23</b> 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ Choral Society	<b>24</b> Caregiver Support Group 10:00-11:30 Upper Mtg Room 1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> ECPC Bell Choir - 6:00-7:30 ECPC Choir - 7:30-9:00	<b>27</b>	
<b>29</b> Worship 10am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				