

# CONNECTIONS

*The Newsletter of the Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church January 2024*



*Travels of the Three Kings by Salvador Dalí*

Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church  
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[ewingcovenantpres.org](http://ewingcovenantpres.org)



## **Our Vision Statement**

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 Statement**

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.

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*They set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.*

Matthew 2: 9-10

January 2024

**Dear Friends,**

Almost one year ago exactly in worship on Epiphany Sunday, I moved my hand over the glittery, angular pieces of cardboard I'd placed on the Communion Table the day before, not peaking to see what was written on the other side, until I finally settled on one to take home. The word written on the back, which I'll keep to myself (for now!) became my "Star Word" for 2023.

A fairly interpretive exercise based on the journey of the Wise Men who followed the light of a star to Jesus, Star Words is a meditative practice to reflect, pray and consider the wisdom behind a particular word or concept. A Star Word can be anything from peace or celebration to restraint or even self-discipline. The hope is that in spending time with your Star Word, whatever it may be, it will lead you at least a bit closer to the same Joy the three Magi discovered long ago.

We will take part in this tradition in church together on Epiphany Sunday (January 7th) when you'll have an opportunity to get your Star Word for 2024. As part of our worship, I have a tradition of inviting anyone who feels led to share a brief reflection on their previous word. It's usually informative and a truly meaningful opportunity to share our hard-earned wisdom with others. Even if you didn't, have an official Star Word for 2023, please consider sharing about any one of the themes and messages that were significant to you over the last 12 months.

As we enter a new year, whether through Star Words or another spiritual practice, my prayer is that we'd find guideposts and guiding lights for our journey each step of the way!

Blessings on each of you,

Rev. Morgan Valencia King



### A Word of Gratitude from Morgan

The Installation Service on December 3<sup>rd</sup> was truly a memorable and meaningful evening. I am so grateful to be here at Ewing Covenant and am particularly appreciative of everyone who attended and for all of the many folks (seen and unseen) who prepared for the service. I feel incredibly blessed!

## **Congregational Meeting**



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church is called for Sunday, January 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. In person in the Worship Space at 100 Scotch Road, Ewing, New Jersey. The purpose of the meeting is to receive annual reports, including the 2024 budget adopted by the Session, and to conduct other business that may appropriately come before the congregation.

## **Deacons' Doin's - January 2024**



### **Shoprite Gift Cards**

A big Thank You to all who contributed towards Shop Rite cards for families in the Head Start program. With your support, we were able to provide gift cards for all 25 families. Here are a couple of letters from families who wanted to let us know their appreciation:

"I hope you and your families are safe and enjoying the Holidays. My family wants to show our appreciation and gratitude for the generous gift card. Our warm appreciation from the bottom of our hearts. From the Tahanout family"

"We received the gift card from the church through the Gateway HeadStart preschool. Thank you.

God bless you all. From the Kyeremeh family"

"I want to use this opportunity to thank the Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church for their love and support for my family and I. In these times of difficulties, you came out strong for us, how splendid! We received a gift card and we want to use this opportunity to show our gratefulness and appreciation. God bless you. From the Idowu family"

Three other families also want the congregation to know how much they appreciate the gift cards and that the money helped them to make Thanksgiving very special.

### **Books for Christmas Presents**

The congregation once again contributed enough books so that all the children received a wrapped Christmas present. Thank you to those of you who donated and wrapped the books!

### **The Giving Tree**

Again, thank you, thank you! Warm hats and mittens, gloves and scarves were generously placed on the giving tree. The items will also go to the Head Start children.

### **Poinsettias**

Many of our church family ordered poinsettias to honor or remember their loved ones. The poinsettias were absolutely beautiful!

### **Cocoa and Cookie Time**

A fun time was had by all during the hot chocolate and cookie time after the church service on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Deacons provided the fixings and prepared the hot chocolate, and delicious and varied Christmas cookies were contributed by many folks for all to enjoy. Thank you to Carol Houghton and choir members for the festive singing of Christmas carols!



## Presbyterian Women

All are invited to the PW meeting on Wednesday, January 10 at 6:30 in the Lower Lounge. After devotions and a short business meeting, Rick Durham will lead a study on Jesus' brother James. Refreshments will follow.

## Mission Sewing



Mission Sewing will meet on Tuesday, January 16th at 10 am in the Lower Lounge. Bring a sandwich. Beverage and dessert are provided.

Thanks to everyone who supported the pre-Christmas sale to benefit Friends for Health in Haiti. The sale netted \$420 to help this very important mission outreach.



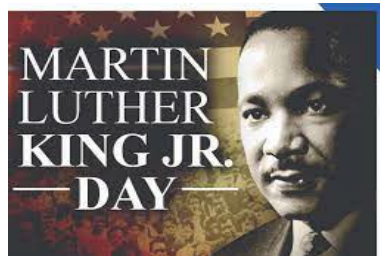
*To keep the prayer list timely, listings will remain for 2 editions of the Newsletter and then be taken off. In the event you desire a listing to run longer, or for a shorter time, please advise the church office.*

Prayer Request	Note
All people suffering in the War in Ukraine	<i>By church family</i>
All people suffering in Israel and Palestine	<i>By church family</i>
Mary Hough	<i>By church family</i>
Erica McLean-Cowan	<i>By church family</i>
George Renwick	<i>By church family</i>
Gun violence in the US	<i>By church family</i>
Judy Carapezza	<i>By church family</i>
Maryanne Eleuteri	<i>friend of Judy Carapezza</i>
Rita Freilinghaus	<i>sister of Judy Carapezza</i>
Robin Salant	<i>By church family</i>
Will Olson	<i>By church family</i>



We share news of the passing of beloved friend and church member on December 26, 2023. The family arranged for services on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and you may read more about Grace [here](#). Please keep Grace's loved ones in your prayers as they grieve her loss.

## Preparing for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service at Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church!



On Monday, January 15th the Mission and Social Justice Committee will host a "*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service*" event in the church's education building. We will be assembling items for our neighbors in need -- Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), Arm in Arm, The Rescue Mission as well as working on other service projects for that day such as cards with Moms Demand Action and letters to our legislatures. Our plan for the day has been extended from previous years. We will meet at the church at 10:00 and spend the morning working on the projects listed above. We will then join together for fellowship and education with a lunch prepared by ECPC members and the showing of the film, *Rustin*. A film about the unsung Civil Rights leader, Bayard Rustin. Who was the right-hand man to Martin Luther King Jr.

Please continue to help us collect items which are listed below and on the church website 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 or Worship Space by Friday, January 12th.** Come and make a difference in your life and others! 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

### **Rescue Mission Personal Care Kits**

Shampoo or body wash  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrush  
Deodorant  
Bars of Soap  
Disposable Razors  
Shaving Cream  
One-gallon, closable, plastic storage bags  
Chapstick  
Small First Aid Kits  
Thermal Socks  
Hand Lotion  
Bottle of Water



## Adult Education

We will start up Adult Education on Sunday, January 7th following worship and coffee hour. Our first topic of the new year is "Making Disciples". In this unit, we will learn that making disciples, at its simplest, is an invitation to others to live as followers of Christ. Although Christian beliefs and practices may vary within the same faith community, disciples of Jesus gather to worship and serve God together. Making disciples is not inviting others to have an identical faith to one's own; it is an invitation to live into a faith that meets a person's spiritual needs and contributes to the goodness of the community. The six dimensions of this practice that are discussed include: live like a disciple, go, be a witness, baptize, teach and learn about Jesus, and trust in Jesus' presence always.

Matthew 28:18–20 is called "The Great Commission," and in these words we see Jesus send out his followers to make disciples, to baptize, and to teach people to obey all that Jesus taught them. He promises to be with them no matter what. Since this promise, for almost two thousand years, followers of Jesus have welcomed new disciples into Christian community and helped people come to know Christ and grow in faith.



## Save these Dates!

Monday, **January 15, 10:00 AM:** Volunteer to help with projects for Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service

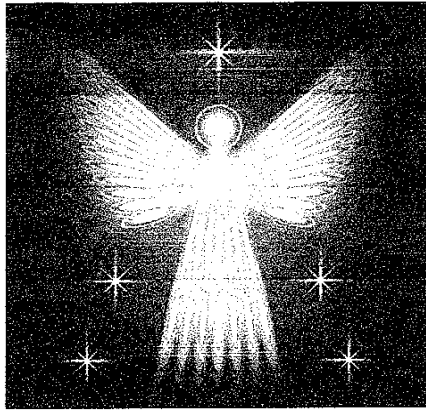
Sunday, **January 21, 11:00 AM:** Treasurer Don Lovett will review the 2024 Budget

Sunday, **January 28, 11:00 AM:** Annual Meeting of the Congregation

## ECPC LIVE STREAM:

Please join our worship service online via .

You may do this in several ways, including: by clicking [this link](#) (which will be repeated in our weekly emails) or by searching for Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church either on your computer at youtube.com or with the YouTube app on your phone or tablet. On the church's YouTube channel, you'll find previous worship services as well as any livestreams currently broadcasting.



2023

Ewing-Covenant All Church Christmas Card

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

Happy Holidays!  
Mike & Carol Kelly

Jane & Larry Keller  
Merry Christmas!!  
Carol Houghton

Blessings  
to all  
Pamela Hoffman

A blessed  
Christmas to all  
Nancy Coleman  
& Family

Janice Rockmore

Jill and Jim  
Jantunen

Harriet Berens

Merry Christmas!  
Barbara Gusholt  
THE HANCOCK & COLEMAN  
FAMILY!!

Bonnie  
Branatt  
Have a safe and  
Happy Holiday

Betty Newberry  
Merry Christmas  
Happy New Year.

Buzz Dakin  
ED ERVIN

Merry  
Christmas  
and Happy  
New Year  
JANE PEIRELLI

Proceeds go the hunger program of Arm in Arm



**JANUARY 2024**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10am Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge	<b>10</b> 6:30pm PW Circle	<b>11</b> 6-7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10am Worship	<b>15</b> 10am MLK Day of Service  OFFICE CLOSED  MLK HOLIDAY	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11:45-1:30 Lunch Together Lower Lounge  6-7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10am Worship  11am Treasurer's Report	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6-7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10am Worship 11am Annual Congregational Meeting; Installation & Ordination of Elders	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			