

# Thanksgiving Sympurouing

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

Abraham Lincoln, October 3rd, 1863

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 48, NOVEMBER 28TH, 2014

Connections  
The Weekly Calendar of the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown







VOLUME 5, NUMBER 48, NOVEMBER 28TH, 2014

# Connections

*The Weekly Calendar of the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HIGHTSTOWN

320 NORTH MAIN STREET

HIGHTSTOWN, NJ 08520

609.448.0055

hightstownpres.org

facebook.com/hightstownpres

Connections is published weekly.

Submissions are welcome.

Send comments to

connections@hightstownpres.org

## Worship

## Committees

## Ongoing

## Upcoming

## Church Calendar

### Week of November 28–December 4

- November 30** 10:30am Sunday Service—First Sunday in Advent  
Song of John the Baptist  
Sermon text: Luke 3:1-6; OT reading: Isaiah 64:1-9  
Advent wreath: Hope
- Greeters** Kate Borsuk, Adrienne Moore, Dave Moore
- Ushers** Jenna Christie, Madelyn Christie, Bob Christie, Bobbie Ericson
- Counters** Mark Dahlinger
- First Saturday** 9:00am Building and Grounds Workday
- First Sunday** Following Church—Outreach (formerly Evangelism)
- **First Tuesday** 7:00pm CE, Mission— *NOTE: Fellowship does not meet in December*  
7:30pm Worship
- Second Tuesday** 7:00pm Building and Grounds, Finance/Stewardship  
7:30pm Personnel
- Third Tuesday** 7:00pm Deacons, Session
- 1st Saturday** 8:00am Men's Breakfast
- 3rd Saturday** 7:00pm Conversations with the Word
- **1st&3rd Mon** 6:45pm Stephen Ministry peers
- Mondays** 4-5:30pm Community Dinner in Fellowship Hall  
7-9:00pm Art Ministry
- 2nd&4th Mon** 7-9:00pm Monday Night Stitchin' Wilson House
- Wednesdays** 4:30–5:00pm Kids Music  
5:00–7:00pm Kids Club—pre-K to 6th grade  
7:15pm Bells  
8:15pm Choir
- 2nd&4th Wed** 10:00am–12:00pm Needles of Love
- December 7** Advent dinner and pageant
- 21** Christmas Caroling
- Cover** *Excerpt from Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation*

"A voice cries out:

*"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

ISAIAH 40:3-5

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

**Rejoice, Rejoice!** Come as we listen again to the Songs of the Angels at Christmas Eve Worship. Join us on Wednesday, December 24th as we hear the Christmas story read by our young people, sing songs of Christmas joy, and worship God. Come for one or both services.

At 5:00pm, join us for a child-friendly one hour service of worship, ending with the traditional candle-lighting as we sing Silent Night. The Kids' Music Choir will be featured at this service. NOTE THE NEW EARLIER family-friendly time this year.

Our 11:00pm service will be a traditional candle-light Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols, with music led by our Sanctuary and Chancel Bell Choirs.

We hope you will join us. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to attend as well.





*After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."*

John 13:12-15

## Scrip/Gift Card Fundraiser

### Order by 12/7 for Christmas!

Your purchases support the Adult Mission Trip Program; over 700 retailers available for order, more than a dozen local and online popular retailers in stock. Just think of your regular weekly purchases—grocery, drug, discount and home improvement stores, restaurants and coffee shops, online shopping. You know you'll be going there, why not leave your credit cards safely at home and take prepaid scrip/gift cards which support our fundraiser and help manage your budget at the same time! Help us raise extra money when you purchase the following scrip/gift cards:

Retailer / Denomination	Special	Normal	Order By
Bass Pro Shops /	13%	9%	12/7
Bed Bath & Beyond / \$25, \$100	8%	7%	12/7
CVS Pharmacy / \$25, \$100	7%	6%	12/7
Express / \$25	12%	10%	12/7
Home Depot / \$25, \$100 +	5%	4%	12/7
Joann Fabrics & Crafts / \$25	8%	6%	12/7
Lord & Taylor / \$25	10%	8%	12/7
Panera bread / \$10, \$25	11%	9%	12/7
PetSmart / \$25	6%	4%	12/7
Pottery Barn / \$25, \$100	10%	8%	12/7
Starbucks / \$10, 25	9%	%	12/7
TGI Friday's / \$25	12%	9%	12/7
The Children's Place / \$25	13%	12%	12/7
Wawa / \$100 only	2.5%	1.5%	12/7
West Elm / \$25, \$100	10%	8%	12/7
Williams/Sonoma / \$25, \$100	10%	8%	12/7

The holidays will be here before you know it; consider ordering cards starting at \$5 now to avoid last-minute stress and budget-busting!

**Just in:** Special low denomination scrip/gift cards for Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Pizza Hut, Target, Starbucks and Walmart are in stock for a limited time. Great stocking stuffers for \$5 or \$10, while supplies last.

**The last day to order prior to Christmas is Sunday, December 7th.** Call Carol Duryea at 609.448.5316 or visit the scrip/gift card table at coffee hour on Sunday.

## Mission Morsels

*Presbyterian Church of Trenton* runs a Saturday morning breakfast service for the people of downtown Trenton at the low price of hearing a short homily delivered by an inspired seminary student (or even an FPCH church member). Several different churches and organizations provide food and servers for a cold meal on the typical morning. On the second Saturday of the month, though, a hot breakfast of French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage links, home fries, juice and coffee is served. FPCH has assumed responsibility for providing the people power to cook and serve the breakfast, as well as some funds to provide supplies. The grateful and polite response from the folks in the breakfast line is heartwarming. Are you available for two or three hours on Saturday morning?

*Mission Morsels is a service of the Mission Committee—see our board in Fellowship Hall for more information about this congregation supported mission.*

Reaching Out



*Your solemn processions are seen, O God, the processions of my God, my King, into the sanctuary—the singers in front, the musicians last, between them girls playing tambourines: “Bless God in the great congregation, the LORD, O you who are of Israel’s fountain!”*

Psalm 68:24–26

# Music Notes

**Kids Music** Children are invited to gather in the sanctuary near the piano 4:30–5:00pm on Wednesdays before Kids Club. They will sing in worship 3–4 Sundays in the year, plus the pageant.

**Christmas Pageant** *Baaa Humbug!* **When:** Sunday, December 7th following the Advent Dinner. **Where:** FPCH Sanctuary. **Who:** All children are invited to participate as actors, singer, or helpers. This year’s pageant focuses on the animals in the barn where Jesus is born, in particular a grumpy sheep. **Rehearsals:** During Kids Club starting October 20th, and Saturday, December 6th at 10:00am.

**Only two rehearsals left!** We will have a complete run-through and start assigning costumes during Kids Club on December 3rd. We will complete our preparation, learning where to sit, stand and when to sing, and finish assigning costumes on Saturday, December 6th from 10:00am–noon. I hope all of your children can be with us!

Any parents available to help during our final rehearsal on the 6th, contact Ms. Christianne: [choirdirector@hightstownpres.org](mailto:choirdirector@hightstownpres.org), 609.647.2619.



## Sanctuary Choir

If you have been in the choir before, or if you’ve been thinking of joining the choir, now would be an excellent time! Can’t make every rehearsal or every Sunday? We still welcome you! Join us for music, fellowship, and prayer through song. We will be rehearsing on Wednesdays at 8:15pm.

## Bell Choir Rehearsals

The Chancel Bell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:15pm in the Sanctuary. Newcomers are always welcome to join us and see what ringing is all about. There are opportunities for new players to gain experience during rehearsals when Chancel Bell members may need to be away. The Chancel Choir plays once a month, usually on the third Sunday. Feel free to contact any of the members of the choir or **Kathy Toth** with any questions.



# Arts Ministry

*"One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple."*

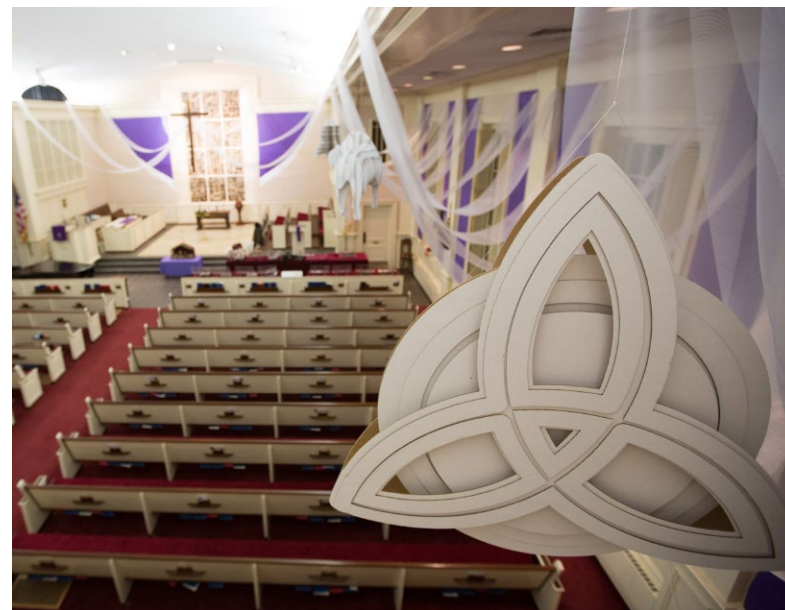
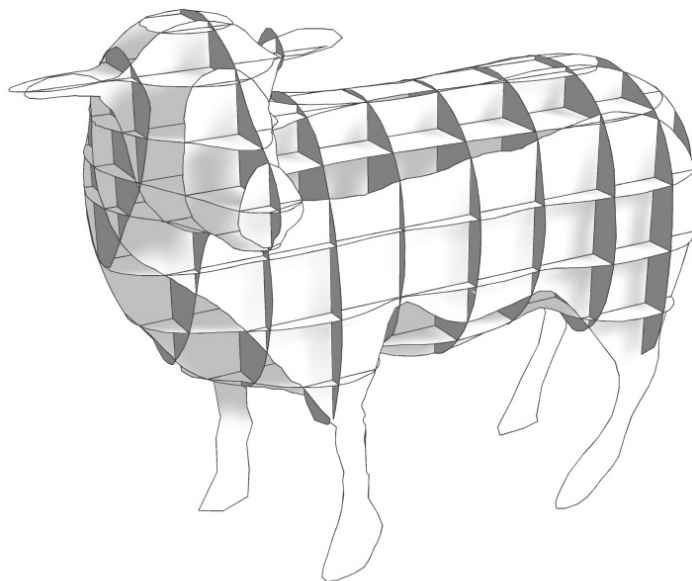
Psalm 27:4

## Art Ministry Notes: Advent Installation

This week we put up our Advent installation. This was our first really major effort in 2011, and we learned a lot about process, both creative and production.

For 2012 we added large scale dimensional Chrismons, created with the help of 3d CAD software. The structures were made entirely of corrugated cardboard. We decided, though, that we weren't thrilled with the final effect and abandoned the Chrismons for Christmas 2013.

The Advent installation is made up of white fabric drapings, purple banners and swags, purple being the liturgical color for Advent. For the original installation we used purple photographic backdrop paper. This year we are replacing the paper with purple fabric, which will hold up to multiple installs better than paper.



## Upcoming Arts Ministry Projects

November 28—Begin Advent installation. For information contact [artministry.fpch@gmail.com](mailto:artministry.fpch@gmail.com).

November 29—All-day workshop for Advent Installation

December 24th—Christmas Eve Services

## Join Us!

Arts Ministry meets Monday nights, in the sanctuary or in Fellowship Hall, depending on the nature of the work. We gather at 7:00pm for prayer and then play hard. We brainstorm and share ideas and laugh a lot. Sometimes we bring good things to eat. We welcome you to join us!

Check our website: <http://www.artministry.net>





*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."*

Acts 2:42

# Fellowship

## What's Up In Fellowship?

### Coffee hour hosts:

November 30 – Shirley and Warren Olsen

December 7– Reiss Family

December 14 – Roberta Cass

December 21– Rivenburgh Family

December 28 – Christmas Bread Brunch/Vincent Family

Coffee hour hosts are always needed. We provide the coffee, you provide your time, milk and goodies!! See the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall. Hosts are needed for December 21st.

### Upcoming Fellowship Events

*No fellowship meeting in December*

December 7th–Advent dinner and pageant

December 21st–Christmas Caroling

### Advent Dinner and Pageant

Our annual Potluck Advent dinner will be held December 7th at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Sign up for the Advent dinner during coffee hour, or you can email Joanne Bini [ewbinis@gmail.com](mailto:ewbinis@gmail.com) or Sheri Devlin in the church office [sdevlin@hightstownpres.org](mailto:sdevlin@hightstownpres.org) so we know you are coming. Let us know if you will be bringing a main dish, salad/side dish, or dessert. Your dish should serve 8-10 people. Dinner will be followed by the Children's Christmas Pageant. We can use your help setting up for the dinner on December 7th following coffee hour. See Donna Scheifele during coffee hour to sign up.

## Pasta With a Purpose

*Boy Scouts of America Troop 59 Fundraiser at First Presbyterian Church*

Saturday December 13th; 1st Seating 5:00-6:30pm

2nd Seating 7:00-8:30pm

MENU: Spaghetti with Marinara, Penne a la Vodka, Gluten free pasta upon request, Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert

Soft Drinks. For more information go to

<http://troop59-ewh.org/fundraisers>

Call Sandy Tootleman 732.620.5286 for tickets!





*"Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"  
Your face, LORD, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me."*

Psalm 27:7-9

## Adult Ed:

### **Advent Study—The Journey**

*Sundays 9:15am Kendall Lounge*

*November 30–January 4*



This Advent join the Adult Sunday School class as they read *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton. Journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Hamilton approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will

become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.

Contact Mary at 609.448.0055 or [mmaleski@hightstownpres.org](mailto:mmaleski@hightstownpres.org) to order a book; suggested donation for book \$10

The Advent Study begins this Sunday, November 30th and runs for 5 weeks ending on January 4th. Come to one or all five!

## Youth:

*Youth Group meets 2nd and 4th Sunday nights from 6-7:30pm, but will NOT MEET ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th.*

The Annual Christmas Party for both Middle School & High School Youth will be held on Saturday evening, December 20th at 6:00pm. All youth are invited to Mary's house for this fun and festive celebration. Youth are asked to bring a small exchange gift (good for boy or girl) for no more than \$10. Dinner will be served and pick up is at 8:00pm.

Please RSVP—Friends are welcome... just let Mary know! Text 609.954.8977

The next Presbytery Wide Event is in January. January's focus is serving others. Contact Mary if you are interested in participating, so that service projects can be arranged. With so many youth participating, projects will be designed to fit the response.

### **Kids Club**

Kids Club, for kids 3 years old through 6th grade, resumes on December 3rd. The kids will be finalizing pieces of the pageant and enjoying some Kids Club time as well. Contact Christianne Lane at [choirdirector@hightstownpres.org](mailto:choirdirector@hightstownpres.org) with any questions regarding the Christmas Pageant. Contact Mary Maleski at [mmaleski@hightstownpres.org](mailto:mmaleski@hightstownpres.org) or text 609-954-8977 for more information on any of these programs.





*Service of Installation of Rev. Lisa M. Day as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown, November 23rd.*