

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CEDAR GROVE





SEASON GIVING

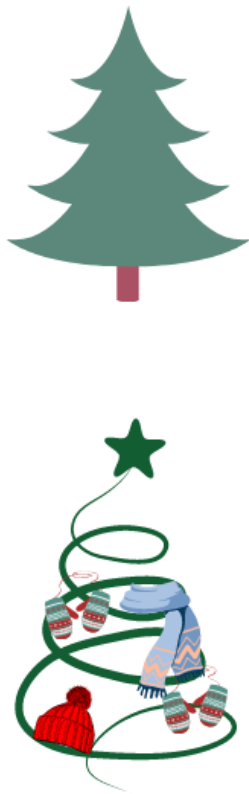
Giving Tree

Beginning in the middle of November we will have our Giving Tree up with tags for families in need. Please help by taking a tag and purchasing the gift! All gifts should be wrapped with the tag attached and returned it to church by December 11th.

Observing this return date allows our Missions Committee time to get these gifts to these families before Christmas. If you would like to help but can't come in to church, you may also give money for a grocery gift card for the families.

Mitten Tree

We will be having our Mitten Tree again this year! This is a tree we want to fill with mittens, hats, socks, scarves in all sizes to help people with little to get through the winter. Put them on your shopping list or pull out your yarn and needle(s) so we can help others.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Season's greetings friends,

Our countdown to Christmas has finally begun! We started our advent season by making a special advent calendar. Usually, our advent calendars are full of delicious chocolate in the shape of toys, presents, Santa or reindeer, and what child (or adult) wouldn't love that! But I wanted the children to make an advent calendar that represents the real present we receive on Christmas, the birth of Jesus. So, the top of our advent countdown has the star (to represent the Star of Bethlehem) with numbers counting down to a manger. And each day the children will move baby Jesus from Heaven down to Earth to lay in this lowly manger on Christmas Day.

As the advent season continues, we will talk about the advent wreath and the meaning behind each candle. The children will make advent candle suncatchers to decorate our classroom for the holiday season. We will also discuss how we can be like a candle and bring light to the world. As Jesus began his sermon on the mount he told the people, "You are

the light of the world...In the same way let your light shine before others, so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

On December 11th instead of our annual Christmas pageant, the children will be helping me tell the story of Jesus's birth in a unique way. The children have been working hard over the last few months, coloring, and building a giant infinity cube. Each side of the infinity cube tells a different part of Jesus's birth story. They can't wait to share this fun craft with you!

As always, we're so thankful for all the support the Christian Education Committee has experienced and we are looking forward to bringing you more fun-filled events, both well-loved, long-held traditions and new ideas. And may the Holy Spirit guide you this Christmas and warm your heart through the new year!

Peace,

Danielle McHugh, Interim Director of Christian Education

CHOIR CORNER

Here is hoping everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and that this year everyone was able to celebrate with their entire family!

Christmas is one of our busiest times of the year for our choir. Starting in September we began working on music for our Christmas presentation, and right now we're in the home stretch.

As always our presentation will consist of choral music through the ages, but always focused on the Christmas story. This year we have two pieces from the 16th Century and one from the 13th Century that are still well known and much performed during the Christmas season. Working through the different styles of music is a challenge, but each of our three early music pieces showcase the different styles of Christmas celebrations from 600+ years ago!

We are also back with two contemporary composers: John Rutter, whose pieces have been performed many times at Community Church, is a well known composer whose work is well known in the choral communities, and relative newcomer Dan Forrest, whose wonderful music we have sung for both Christmas and Easter.

Not to ignore the fun side of music for Christmas, we will be repeating a favorite: Caroling, Caroling, which

is a bright Christmas song. Caroling, Caroling will close our performance and send you happily on your way to Cookie Sunday!

As always, we will be joined by our group of instrumentalists who always make time to perform with us. This year we have our string ensemble as well as our percussionists, and we are all excited to work with them again! Additionally, a big thank-you to all who support our music program at Community Church. We are currently looking to revive our music fund, and we thank you in advance for your contributions. Your contributions fund our music and allow us to perform our music with both choir and orchestra.

Our instrumentalists truly enjoy working with us- many have been part of our programs for years..... They are also talented performing musicians, and their work for us is part of how they make their living, and they are grateful for your support.

We hope that you will attend our performance on December 18th! I think we have a wonderful program lined up and really hope to see you there!

Enjoy the Christmas Season!

Sandy Searing, Music Director



THRIFT SHOP

Thursdays

10am—3pm

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 1 - 10am - 3pm
December 8 - 10am - 3pm
December 15 - 10am - 3pm
December 22 - CLOSED
December 29 - CLOSED

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

To date we have received \$84,070 or 87% of our pledge goal of \$96,304. This leaves us \$12,234 short of our goal. If you have not returned your pledge card yet please contact Jan Harder, Financial Secretary, to let us know your plans for pledging for 2023.

If you are unable to pledge, please let us know that also. Shortly we will begin making phone calls to reach out to those we have not heard from.

Thank you in advance for your support of Community Church.

The Stewardship Team





HELLO FROM LISA

“Waiting”

We become hungry, for hope, for warmth, for light
a safe place to abide, while our souls grow accustomed

to the season we are in.

Clothed with silhouettes, the trees stand sentinel-bare

like bereft soldiers guarding the fort of their thoughts

waiting for spring's reward.

Maybe you and I can keep the vigil with them

our hearts tuned to spring, as wintry winds whistle hard

let's remain patient and calm.

Every Advent season for the last few years I have read a daily reflection book written by Father Richard Rohr entitled “Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent”. His words take me on a journey of preparation and reflection, challenge and emptying of self as I flow through this month of darkness and light, anticipation and confirmation and an understanding of the sacred goodness of human incarnation. Father Rohr invites his readers to develop a understanding of a mature relationship with the Christ we are waiting for.

This is an invitation to deep reflection in the midst of the busiest, most frenetic time of year. A wonderful contradic-

tion: to seek spiritual quiet by practicing sacred waiting, even as the world around us calls out for a flurry of activity.

Our ancestors knew the cycles of life well. Winter darkness was a natural time to turn inward during the cold, to feel the hearth of the fire's warmth, to gaze into the dark starry skies and honor the earth in its deep winter rest. A time to take stock of what we have done, what we are doing now, and where we intend to be in the coming months.

Advent is about a promise. God's promise that things will work out, that we will be pulled out of the darkness to bask in the warmth of light and love, joy and peace, and that Christ will guide us in our journey.

And always remember, as much as we are waiting for that sacred light to wash over us, it's our responsibility to be that sacred light to others. To shine a way into their darkness. May the peace of God, and the light of our Savior be reborn in you this Christmas. Come Lord Jesus!

Peace,
Lisa Bollard, *Student Minister*

December MISSIONS GIVING

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

One of the United Church of Christ's four special yearly offerings is an expression of joy and gratitude for those who serve the church. Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants. Please sign the book in Nostrant Room so we can acknowledge your contribution!

December THANK OFFERING

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CEDAR GROVE

This month's thank offering will go to the church.





Cookie Sunday!

Join us for Cookie Sunday as we exchange cookies in fellowship!
Please bring two dozen of your favorite baked or store bought cookies.

DECEMBER 18TH

FRAZIER HALL AFTER WORSHIP

Fellowship will have containers, bags for you to take samples home of your choice of cookies. See you there!



“Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”

– Romans 12:10

PRAYER LIST

Dolores Cardinale

friend of Joe Shook, health issues

Jacob and Jaxson

grandsons of Maria DaCunha

John DelVecchio

brother-in-law of Donna DelVecchio,
health issues

Helen and Rein Emrich

Church Members, health issues

The Jackson and Larson

Families

on the passing of Monica Jackson

The Larson Family

on the passing of Jack Larson

The Kelly Family

on the passing of TJ Kelly

Heather Ostrowski

The Kreismer Family

on the passing of Cliff Kreismer

The Jenkins Family

on the passing of Margaret

Ruth Ravina

Holocaust survivor, health issues

The Shedd Family

on the passing of Phyllis Shedd

Joe Shook

Shook Funeral Home, medical issues

Norman Vaughan

friend of Gallions, dealing with effects
of a stroke

Tina Wright and Family

on the death of husband Gregory
Wright

Nicholas Ferrigno

brother of Patrice Larson

The Caputo Family

on the passing of Gene Caputo

Norma Cohen

The Stoeckert Family

on the passing of Henry Stoeckert Jr.

The Singleton Family

Sandy Searing

*on the passing of her uncle, Rev. Elmo
Pascale*

The Gallion Family

on the passing of Russell Gallion

Kendrick-Cavanaugh family

The Emrich Family

On the passing of Helen Emrich



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARIES

Frederick & Rebecca Basso
— Married 56 years on
December 3rd

Tracy Candido
— Married 29 years on
December 19th

BIRTHDAYS

Rebecca Basso 12/10

Donna Delvecchio 12/23

Rein Emrich 12/24

Danielle McHugh 12/27

Carolyn Geddes 12/30



WORSHIP NOTES FOR DECEMBER

December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture:

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalms 72: 1-7, 18-19

Romans 15: 4-13

Matthew 3: 1-12

December 24

Christmas Eve

Scripture:

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture:

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Psalms 146: 5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

December 25

Christmas Day

Scripture:

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98

Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)

John 1:1-14

December 18

Christmas Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture:

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

December 31

New Year's Eve

Scripture:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Psalms 8

Revelations 21:1-6a

Matthew 25:31-46

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

Contributions received after December 31st will not be reflected

on your 2022 Financial Statement for tax purposes, but will be reflected
on your 2023 Statement

The IRS requires written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2022 income tax return until you have received your Year End Financial Statement. These statements will be mailed shortly after the 1st of the year.

Jan Harder,
Financial Secretary

December 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Thrift Shop 10am—3pm AA Women's Meeting 7:30pm	2	3
4 SERVICE 10am	5	6 NA Meeting 7:30 –9:30pm	7 Trustees Meet- ing 7pm Bible Study 6:30pm	8 Thrift Shop 10am—3pm AA Women's Meeting 7:30pm	9	10 Quilt Guild 10:30 am— 3:30pm
11 SERVICE 10am	12	13 NA Meeting 7:30 –9:30pm	14 Building and Grounds 7pm Bible Study 6:30pm	15 Thrift Shop 10am—3pm AA Women's Meeting 7:30pm	16	17
18 SERVICE 10am CHRISTMAS SUNDAY	19 Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm	20 NA Meeting 7:30 –9:30pm	21 Bible Study 6:30pm	22 Thrift Shop CLOSED AA Women's Meeting 7:30pm	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 Christmas Eve SERVICE 5pm
25 <i>Christmas Day</i> —NO SERVICE	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED NA Meeting 7:30 –9:30pm	28 OFFICE CLOSED Bible Study 6:30pm	29 OFFICE CLOSED Thrift Shop CLOSED AA Women's Meeting 7:30pm	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 <i>New Years Eve!</i>



2022

POINSETIA ORDER FORM

NAME OF DONOR: _____

PHONE NUMBER (in case we have to contact you): _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

I (We) wish to purchase a poinsettia plant through the Diaconate.

The size and color of the plant are marked below.

_____ Two (2) Stem Poinsettia @ \$20.00 each

_____ Three (3) Stem Poinsettia @ \$23.00 each

_____ Four (4) Stem Poinsettia @ \$33.00 each

The color selection is:

_____ Red; _____ White; _____ Monet; _____ Pink Peppermint; _____ Burgundy

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS December 11th

THE BULLETIN INSCRIPTION SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Other Inscription Preferred: _____

_____ YES, we will pick up my (our) plant following the Christmas Eve Service.

_____ NO, please have the Diaconate deliver my (our) plant to a Community Church shut-in.

Please return your payment and order form to the Church office or mail it to:
The Community Church of Cedar Grove, Box 115, Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009.



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SHOP LOCAL

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CEDAR GROVE

UNITED IN SPIRIT AND INSPIRED BY GOD'S GRACE, WE WELCOME ALL, LOVE ALL, AND SEEK JUSTICE FOR ALL. COMMUNITY CHURCH IS A ENERGETIC, PASSIONATE, CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THAT SPANS THE GENERATIONS, WITH PEOPLE OF ALL AGES COMMITTING THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION. AS A WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION, WE FOLLOW THIS SIMPLE PRINCIPLE:

DO JUSTICE.

LOVE KINDNESS.

WALK HUMBLY.

Community Church has been part of the Cedar Grove community for over 70 years. We consider ourselves blessed to serve such a wonderful town. We welcome all of God's people to be part of our family.

WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

In the Sanctuary and online

OUR MISSION

We the members of the Community Church of Cedar Grove profess Jesus Christ as our Lord and invite all to join us in the fellowship of believers.

We seek with God's help to:

Covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God;

Depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us;

Walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us through a loving, friendly and supportive church family that nurtures, trusts, and cares for one another in times of celebration and need;

Be faithful and active in our responsibility as church members by contributing according to our individual strengths;

Attend services regularly giving support to the staff and members of our church family;

Respect our children and youth and to encourage them to participate in the life of our church through worship service, church school, and youth activities while nurturing their spiritual development;

Witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in our congregation, our community, and all the world, while worshipping God, striving for truth, justice, and peace for all;

Look forward with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life as we strive to fulfill this mission.

Community Church of Cedar Grove

65 Bowden Road
Cedar Grove, NJ
07009

Phone: 973-239-3875
Fax: 973-239-3095
E-mail:

officemanager@communitychurchcg.org



Minister.....	Rev. Dr. Sarah Welch-Pomerantz
Director of Music.....	Sandra Searing
Interim Director of Christian Education.....	Danielle McHugh
Director of Community Preschool.....	Diane Dziublenski
Office Manager.....	Sarah Hart
Sexton.....	Glenn Gallion

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