

December 2017

Pompton Reformed Church  
59 Hamburg Tpk.  
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442  
[www.pomptonreformed.org](http://www.pomptonreformed.org)



From the  
hand of  
Pastor Mel!

Dear Friends:

The central message of Christmas is that you are treasured and loved by God. He cares personally so much for you that he came person to person to demonstrate his empathy for you.

Even more valuable than the purchased gifts you give is that people sense you love and treasure them. More valuable than the objects you receive is that you can sense you are loved and treasured.



How will you be enriched by Christ's presence this season?  
Here are some suggestions:

- Pray for each person as you wrap his or her gift.
- Plan a gift of time with each person you love. The gift of Christ's presence in our world is central to the celebration of Christmas.
- Plan words to accompany your presents. Jesus' parables were as treasured as His seen gifts of healing. Ponder a person's value in God's sight; it will inspire what you say.
- On Christmas Day tell about a time when your Christ relationship was helpful.
- Before discarding the Christmas Cards you receive, "Take one a day at mealtime" and pray for that family.

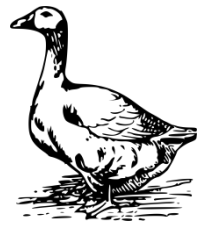
"To as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become representative children of God Himself." John 1:12

Have a blessed Christmas season!

Pastor Mel



Christmas is Coming  
By Elaine Peacock



When I hear the first ads for Christmas, the old English rhyme comes to mind. "Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat, put a penny in the old man's hat, if you don't have a penny then a hay penny will do, if you don't have a hay penny then God Bless you." From what I have seen in past years, and I'm sure this year will be no different, that not only do we think of family and close friends, but there is a tug at our heart that always reminds us to remember the less fortunate that are among us. So as we wait for Christmas, help us to pay attention to those tugs at our hearts. These tugs are little miracles of the season, and when we act on those tugs that wonderful Christmas feeling stays with us well into the New Year. Merry Christmas PRC!



#### **ROUNDTABLE OF THANKS**

**THANK YOU TO THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE FOR HELPING WITH THE ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE APPETIZER LUNCHEON AND FOR ALL YOU DO.**

**THANK YOU TO SABINE KROEGER FOR LEADING A BIBLE STUDY FOLLOWING THE MOVIE, A CASE FOR CHRIST.**

**THANK YOU TO TINA IRAGGI FOR TAKING OVER THE LEADERSHIP ROLE FOR THE COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST.**

**THANK YOU ALL!!**

Advent Sunday Themes: How is God present to bless you now?



Dec. 3-17 10 am Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds discovered God was blessing each of them with an influential opportunity. Ponder God's gifts to you of awesome opportunities to be an inspirational blessing.

Dec.24 10 am & 8 pm Ponder what it means that God enters your earthly dynamic to enlist you as a treasured partner with a h

*Prepare*

## **CHRISTMAS SEASON SPECIALS**

Lighting of an Advent Candle each Sunday morning, with a succinct message by church people.

Advent Vespers 4 pm, Sunday, Dec 3 Meditate to familiar Christmas music and Scriptures about how you are blest, and can be a blessing, with God as your compassionate partner.

### Family Movie Night

Friday, December 8, 7 pm “An Extraordinary Train Ride to the North Pole”  
Children may come in their PJ’s and with a blanket.

Holiday Stroll Saturday, December 8, 5- 9 pm Wanaque Ave. Business District

Sunday, Dec.17, 10 am Witness a drama of the first Christmas with an intergenerational cast. An opportunity for all children who come that morning to participate. Come a little early to dress for your role.

Christmas Eve Sunday Pastor Mel and Anna Gordon will be co-leading.

10:00 am A Christmas Service

8:00 pm A Christmas service with Communion and Candlelight.

Sunday, Dec. 31, 10 am Make the most of 2018, with insights from the Scriptures.  
Children will engage in preparing for the venture too.

Sunday, January 7, 10 am Sunday School resumes today. Holy Communion is part of today’s service. Epiphany Sunday Theme: “ Wise Men Today seek what Christ brings to minds , hearts and souls.”



### **ATTENTION CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS**

Smile.Amazon.com gives you the same online shopping options, plus Amazon gives a portion of its profit to Pompton Reformed Church. On your first visit you will need to select PRC as your charity choice. You’ll find it registered there. Then each time you return to smile.Amazon.com you’ll be channeling a donation of 0.5% to PRC from your eligible Amazon purchases. Thanks.

# **Financial News**

## End of the Year Contributions

### Giving of your IRA toward your 2018 Capital Campaign pledge or Annual Fund.

Pompton Reformed Church will accept such a designated gift in 2017 and apply it as you wish. Some people consider giving stocks or bonds or insurance policies or bequests or portions of tax refunds or RMDs or 401Ks, for example. Pompton Reformed Church is prepared to receive such contributions. If you wish further information, please contact Lorna Carroll 973-835-0541 or Jack Tice 201-784-0959.

### Honor Someone through your Christmas Gift to the Capital Campaign

What a difference a compliment makes in encouraging and bringing out the best in someone!

You may honor someone through your donation to the Capital Campaign. Please tell us what makes this person special and why you want to commend this person. Give us their address so we can send a letter to salute them on the holiday date you designate. It will describe why you have selected them. And it will inform them of a special Pentecost celebration on Sunday, May 20, 2018 to honor them too. During that event we will note again the traits that make them special people of light in the eyes of others like you.

And through it all you will be encouraging the development of many people because of your investment to renew the life, buildings and many volunteer ministries of Pompton Reformed Church.

And don't forget- bricks can still be purchased in honor or memory of someone special! For a \$100. gift or more to the Pompton Reformed Church Endowment Fund, you can inscribe a brick.





Happy Birthday to Mark Warner!



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### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

Please plan on attending our annual congregational meeting which will be held on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> immediately following our worship service. This has been and continues to be a time of challenging transition for our church family and there are many important things to discuss. Our plan is to try a somewhat different format this year in which various teams will be celebrating accomplishments as well as sharing dreams and visions for 2018 and beyond. We have accomplished a great deal together in the nineteen months since Pastor Tom retired, and although we still prayerfully await God's call to our next Senior Pastor, there remains much to be done, which is why **your presence at this meeting is essential**. The booklet that in recent years has been available at the meeting will be available beginning November 26<sup>th</sup> which will allow everyone two weeks to digest the contents. If there are specific questions, we request that they be submitted in advance of the meeting so that we can provide thoughtful responses. Our hope is that in this way we will be able to reduce the need to open the floor to last minute questions at the meeting. Please be sure to mark your calendar and plan to join us because **your voice needs to be heard!!** Thanks!!

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**Advent Devotional** - Our Education Team has purchased some Advent Devotionals which are now available following worship. This devotional is entitled "Moving Toward The Manger – Reflections on the writings of Frederick Buechner."

Move toward the Manger of Christ this Advent with Frederick Buechner, one of the greatest Christian theological minds of our time. Each day of Advent, thought-provoking quotes from Buechner's beloved works are paired with insightful reflections by preeminent religious commentator and biblical scholar Martin E. Marty, accompanied by Bible readings and prayers. Let this depth of wisdom prepare your hearts to cradle Christ.

#### **Ways to Be Involved**

Angel Tree- Return gifts by 12/9, deliver gifts 12/16

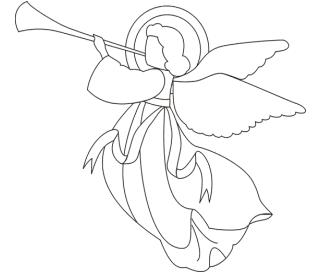
Food Pantry

Cookie Social 12/19



## John 3:16

For God so loved the world  
that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him  
shall not perish  
but have eternal life.



January newsletter submissions are due  
by Dec. 31.  
Email to [khuyzers@msn.com](mailto:khuyzers@msn.com) or  
Place in the office mailbox.