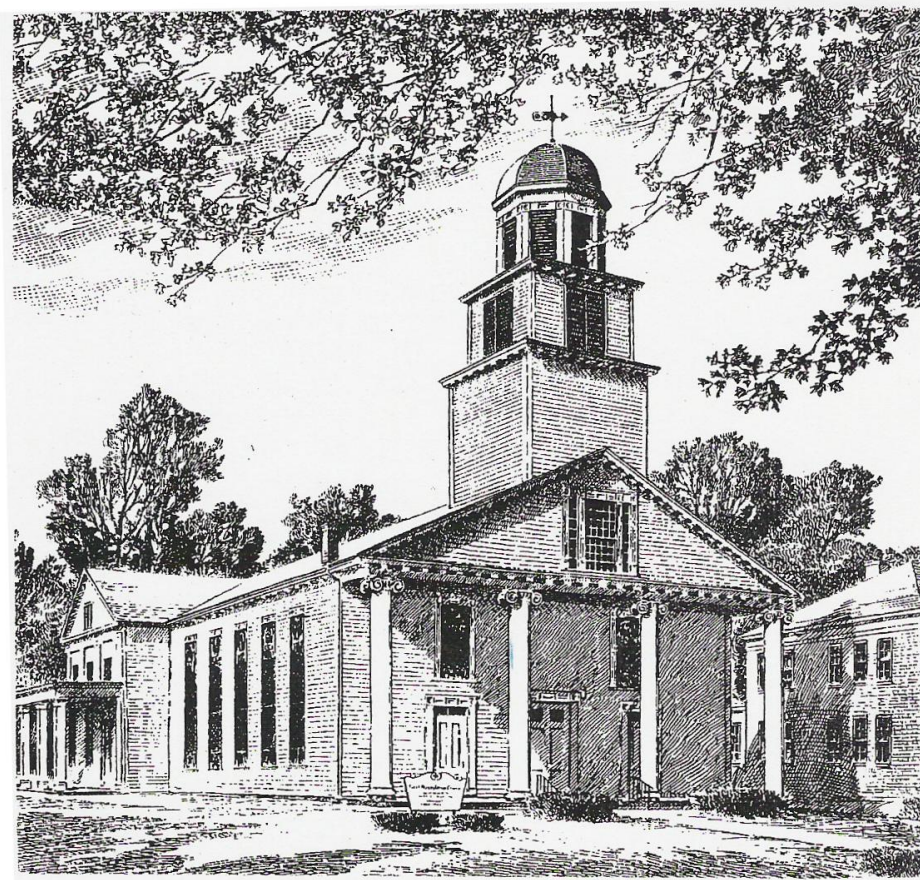


SPRINGBOARD



November 2021 ~ December 2021

News and Events of Interest for Members and Friends of the

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MONTGOMERY, NY



FPC Montgomery Family,

I think most people around me have figured out that I do enjoy this time of year and what is coming ahead of us. But I truly love the Christmas season! It is absolutely one of my favorite times of the year. From celebrating Advent, the longing for the arrival of the Christ child, to the season of love and giving, the time with family and friends, the songs, lights, everything. So much of it can make it tough for me to focus on what is really going on here. What does this all mean; not what does the non-stop blast of commercialization say it is.

One of my favorite devotionals is by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a twentieth-century theologian. He has always interested me deeply for many reasons, one being that during World War 2 he decided that to live out his faith meant taking part in a plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler (clergy and assassin – how do we reconcile this?). For this he was arrested, imprisoned and executed. During the midst of this wonderful Christmas season these are the words I read written by this man:

“We cannot approach the manger of the Christ child in the same way we approach the cradle of another child. Rather, when we go to his manger, something happens, and we cannot leave it again unless we have been judged or redeemed. Here we must either collapse or know the mercy of God directed toward us.

“What does that mean? Isn’t all of this just a way of speaking? Isn’t it just pastoral exaggeration of pretty and pious legend? What does it mean that such things are said about the Christ child? Those who want to take it as a way of speaking will do so and continue to celebrate Advent and Christmas as before, with pagan indifference. For us it is not just a way of speaking. For that’s just it: it is God himself, the Lord and Creator of all things, who is so small here, who is hidden here in the corner, who enters into the plainness of the world, who meets us in the helplessness and defenselessness of a child, and wants to be with us. And he does this not out of playfulness or sport, because we find that so touching, but in order to show us where he is and who he is, and in order from this place to judge and devalue and dethrone all human ambition.

“The throne of God in the world is not on human thrones, but in human depths, in the manger. Standing around his throne there are not flattering vassals but dark, unknown, questionable figures who cannot get their fill of this miracle and want to live entirely by the mercy of God.”

It is God himself! This is my source of excitement; that I get to be like that young youthful spirit waiting with glowing eyes and nearly jumping out of my own skin as I wait for the best gift I could ever receive! I get to gaze upon this empty manger and long for Christ’s arrival, one of the many “questionable figures who cannot get their fill of this miracle.” One of the best parts is that I get to do this while surrounded by my family and friends, by all of you. I get to do all this while teaching my daughter about this wonderful Christ child and all that he has done for us and for the first time introduce my son to the same things.

As you take your place alongside this manger of Christ, awaiting his arrival, I pray that you too will find your hearts filled with joy and expectation. For you are in a season to remember the greatest gift you have every received!

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Jeromey

STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 12th

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under any compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

You will be receiving a pledge card in the mail. Please complete your pledge card and return it to the church either by mailing it or by bringing it with you on Sunday and putting it in the offering plate. Pledges help us plan the ministry and mission of this congregation!

PASTOR EMERITUS CELEBRATION

It seems so long ago that we applied to have **The Reverend Paul M. Milz** designated as our Pastor Emeritus – and that is because it was! The Presbytery of Hudson River did not delay in granting that status, but COVID-19 intervened and changed our celebratory plans. Now, eighteen months later than originally planned, we are at last celebrating that milestone! On Saturday, November 6th, we are having dinner with Paul at The Venue at Winding Hills and the celebration continues on Sunday, November 7th, during our worship service and at a luncheon in Fellowship Hall afterwards. Reservations for the dinner are now closed, but feel free to come to worship and the luncheon! (Covid precautions are being followed.)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Session wants everyone to be informed on a current project and some of the financial implications associated with it. We are currently in the process of scheduling repairs, replacement, and installation of our heating and air conditioning systems in the entire building.

This is driven by a few things. The first is that some of our heating systems are in great need of fixing or replacing. They have gotten old, stopped working, or have become extremely inefficient. The heating system on the classroom/fellowship hall portion of the building is a double fan furnace which is not young. We also should note that this side of the building is currently all one zone (meaning that when you heat the classrooms downstairs you heat everything on that side of the building). This is set to be changed to two zones. The heater coils that provide the forced air on the sanctuary side are either very difficult to access (one of them) or in need of replacement (the other). The second is the air conditioning. The sanctuary air conditioning condensers are older and have a lot of wear on them which have made them very inefficient. If you attended worship in person this summer you will know that it was a struggle for them to keep up even on a not-so-hot day. We are also pretty sure everyone knows that there is no air conditioning on the classroom/fellowship hall part of the building.

Well, thanks to a no-interest loan program through Hudson River Presbytery, that is all about to change! We will be getting all of these things repaired, replaced, and installed! The program from the presbytery offers a no-interest \$25,000 loan that can be used toward capital projects. Congregations are asked to pay back \$5,000 a year and, if that is done, *the last payment is forgiven*. We have been given this loan! In each of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 we will pay back the presbytery \$5,000 (a total of \$20,000). We have already received that check for \$25,000 to go toward the work!

The full project will cost \$34,691.61. Our immediate out of pocket cost will be \$9691.61. In all, doing the project with the use of the Hudson Presbytery loan we will save \$5,000 on the full cost of the project! We are very thankful for this being offered to us through the collective resources of our Presbytery.

If you would ever like to directly contribute to these expenses you can give an offering and make a note it is for heating and air or presbytery loan repayment. We will use those funds for that expressed purpose. (Please make it a separate check from your regular giving as it will go into the Capital Improvements Fund, which is a separate account.) If you have any questions about this work or anything we are doing please do not hesitate to let us know.

Your Session of FPC Montgomery

FISH FRY DINNER

On Saturday, November 13th, we will be having a To-Go Fish Fry instead of an Oyster Supper. The cost of the oysters is just too much to make it worthwhile right now. The fish will be prepared by Tastefully British and package by our volunteers. Dinners will include fish, coleslaw, and bottled water. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Call the church office (845-457-5383) to reserve your tickets!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP – Pizza with the Pastor

On the 19th of November we will meet up for some Men's Fellowship in the form of Pizza with the Pastor. We will plan on meeting at Vic's Pizza at 6pm. If you have any questions contact Pastor Jeromey.

TOYS FOR TOTS

We will be sponsoring **Toys for Tots!** Starting November 21st, there will be boxes for you to put a new unwrapped toy in. The *Toys for Tots Train* will be coming through Montgomery on December 12th to pick up all of the toys!! Thank you in advance for your support!

SPECIAL SERVICE

Our **Community Thanksgiving Service** will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, November 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. Come and give thanks for all our wonderful gifts from God!

CELEBRATING THE ADVENT SEASON

This Advent, come and worship with us as we journey toward the birth of our Savior.

First Sunday of Advent – We will celebrate the First Sunday of Advent, November 28th, by decorating our Sanctuary for Christmas during Hanging of the Greens (most will be done ahead of time) and we will also have 'Bring a Friend' Sunday! You are all invited to bring someone to church on this day and maybe they will continue to come celebrate God with us.

Advent Study – Advent Study this year is titled '**Hope.**' It begins on November 28th, the first Sunday of Advent. The group will meet at noon in person and on ZOOM at 5:30.

Blue Christmas Service will be held on December 18th at 7:00 p.m. Sometimes the Christmas Season is not when we feel full of joy for a wide array of reasons. All are welcome as we worship God and have a time at Christmas that recognizes that you may not be full of merriment and cheer, turning those things over to God.

Our **Christmas Pageant** will be held on Sunday, December 19th, during worship. It will again be a multi-generational pageant. If you would like to be in it or help lead it, please let Pastor Jeromey or Mindy Boulanger know. Come and experience the joys of the season!!

Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm on December 24th. Come and celebrate Christmas Eve as we worship together as a family. We come to God as we are full of love and joy. We will use glow sticks instead of candles.

Traditional Candlelight Service at 8:00 pm on December 24th. Come, celebrate Christmas Eve with a traditional candlelight service.

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated for **Rory Ann Prior** on August 29, 2021. Rory is the daughter of Joe Jr. & Emily Prior and granddaughter of Joe Sr. & Mary Prior.

LIVE NATIVITY SCENE

Are you interested in participating in the live nativity scene this year? We need to have enough participants to make it happen! We are looking for volunteers (grade 9 through age 100). The date will be Saturday, December 11th, from 3 to 5 pm.

There are no lines to memorize! There will be silence and just natural movements.

We would like to have enough volunteers to have four teams, each including Mary, Joseph, and four shepherds. We can always add more shepherds!

Interested in helping out? If you would like to be in it, please do one (or more!) of the following: call the church office (845-457-5383) and leave a message, call Heather Benedict (845-361-1002) and leave a message, or e-mail the church at fpcmont137@frontiernet.net.

KIDDIEKEEP

Kiddiekeep is childcare during worship for children 5 years and under. While it hasn't returned to being offered yet we are currently looking for people to volunteer one hour a few times a year to look after our children during worship.

CLEANUP COMMITTEE

Hello from the church attic cleanup committee! We are making progress and would like help recording and preserving our congregation's history. There are old bulletins and other paper records that need to be recorded electronically. They are becoming compromised and prior to disposing of them we would like a volunteer to take photos to store them more efficiently. Please contact Elder Beth A. Hoeffner if you would like to help at BethHoeffner@gmail.com or 845-742-0487. Thank you.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Sincere thanks to everyone that has sponsored flowers for the chancel on Sunday mornings and plants for special occasions. The flowers make our church home a bright and welcoming place to be. If you would like to sponsor flowers for November or December (\$10.00) feel free to call or simply put a note in our box on the shelf across from the Sunday School room. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church Flower Fund. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia, please use the form below. Thanks again for your support. Sincerely, Carolyn Henrie, Floral Secretary.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to order a poinsettia to decorate our sanctuary this Advent season, please fill out the following form and leave it in the Floral Secretary's box. The cost is \$13.00. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church Flower Fund.

How would you like your announcement worded?

Donated by _____

() in memory of _____

() in honor of _____

() other wording _____

Please leave your plant in church until after the Christmas Eve Service. Any left in church will be donated to someone the Deacons feel will benefit from it.

NOVEMBER 2021

Nov. 1, Mon.		All Saints' Day
Nov. 4, Thurs.	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Nov. 7, Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship – Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
	Noon	Board of Deacons
Nov. 11, Thurs.		VETERANS' DAY
	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Nov. 13, Sat.	5 – 7 p.m.	Fish Dinner (to-go only)
Nov. 14, Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	Noon	Westminster Guild
Nov. 16, Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Session
Nov. 18, Thurs.	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Nov. 21, Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Nov. 23, Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Community Thanksgiving Service @ First Presbyterian Church
Nov. 25, Thurs.		<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>
Nov. 28, Sun.		First Sunday of Advent
		No Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
		Lighting of the Christmas Tree
	Noon	Coffee & Conversation
		In-Person Advent Study
	5:30 p.m.	ZOOM Advent Study

BIRTHDAYS

* Barbara McPhillips – Nov. 10	
* Donna Sweet – November 11	Michael Flannery – November 29
* Linda Schoonmaker – Nov. 14	Robin Long-DeAngelo – Dec. 7
* Courtney Kramer – November 16	Mike DeVenuto – December 8
* Robin McPhillips – November 20	Krista Marvin – December 9
* Sue Reichardt – November 20	Janis Guaragno – December 15
* Natalia Geiger – November 22	Kathleen Howell – December 16
* Tom McNutt – November 23	Brent Hoeffner – December 23
* Victoria Kramer – November 25	Briana Giagiakos – December 23
* Andrew Conero – November 28	Mary Pettine – December 23
* Eric Conero – November 28	Benjamin McNutt – December 27

ANNIVERSARIES

- * Bob & Robin McPhillips – Nov. 5
- * Joe & Marge Elkin DeVenuto – Nov. 7

DECEMBER 2021

Dec. 2, Thurs.		Choir rehearsal
Dec. 5, Sun.		Second Sunday of Advent
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship – Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
	Noon	Board of Deacons
		In-Person Advent Study
	5:30 p.m.	ZOOM Advent Study
Dec. 9, Thurs.	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Dec. 11, Sat.	11am-2pm	Soup To-Go
	3 – 5 p.m.	Live Nativity Scene
Dec. 12, Sun.		Third Sunday of Advent
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	Noon	Westminster Guild
		In-Person Advent Study
	5:30 p.m.	ZOOM Advent Study
***** DEADLINE FOR SPRINGBOARD ARTICLES *****		
Dec. 16, Thurs.	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Dec. 18, Sat.	6:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas service
Dec. 19, Sun.		Fourth Sunday of Advent
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship – Christmas Pageant
	Noon	In-Person Advent Study
	5:30 p.m.	ZOOM Advent Study
	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Caroling
Dec. 21, Tues	7:00 p.m.	Session
Dec. 24, Fri.	5:00 p.m.	Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service
	8:00 p.m.	Traditional Candlelight Service
Dec. 25, Sat.		Christmas Day
Dec. 26, Sun.	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	Noon	In-Person Advent Study
	5:30 p.m.	ZOOM Advent Study
Dec. 30, Thurs.	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Our annual Christmas caroling through the village will take place on Sunday, December 19th. We will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to dress warmly and bring a flashlight!

This is a list of church officers. Please refer to your membership list for telephone numbers.

Pastor – Rev. Jeromey Howard

Clerk of Session – Heather Benedict

SESSION (RULING Elders)

Class of 2022

Heather Benedict
Carol Jellema
John Nokland

Class of 2023

Carl Van Dyke
Robin McPhillips
Joe Prior Sr.

Class of 2024

Beth Hoeffner
Cynthia Nokland

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2022

Shawn Arnott
Beth Kehoe
Karla Ritter

Class of 2023

Donna Powles
Kirsten Howard
Debbie Fagan

Class of 2024

Kim Hoeffner
Diane Karsten
Joanne Toombs

SESSION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Buildings & Grounds Committee
Membership Development Committee
Nominating Committee
Personnel Committee
Christian Education Committee
Stewardship & Budget Committee
Worship Committee
Mission Committee

Joe Prior & John Nokland
Cynthia Nokland
Robin McPhillips
Joe Prior
Beth Hoeffner
Heather Benedict
Carol Jellema
Beth Hoeffner, Joe Prior, &
Heather Benedict

CHURCH STAFF

Office Secretary
Church Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Organist/Choir Director
Floral Secretary
Custodian
Westminster Guild President
Sunday School Officers

Carol Jellema
Taylor Raimondo
Heather Ross Benedict
Marcia Woodall
Carolyn Henrie
Will Pahucki
Cynthia Nokland
Mindy Boulanger, Superintendent
Janis Guaragno, Treasurer

The church office hours are Thursday and Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The office phone number is 845-457-5383 and our email is fpcmont137@frontiernet.net.

Visit our website at fpcmontgomery.com.

Pastor Jeromey's email pastorjeromey@gmail.com or for immediate needs call his cell at 845-500-1319

The church's mailing address is:

*First Presbyterian Church
137 Clinton Street
Montgomery, NY 12549*