



Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church

# THE OLIVE BRANCH



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Ringoes, New Jersey

## December Events

- 1 6:30pm Deacons Mtg
- 6 2nd Sunday of Advent  
"Name That Tune" fellowship
- 13 3rd Sunday of Advent
- 15 Olive Branch Deadline  
7:00pm Session Meeting
- 20 4th Sunday of Advent  
4pm Blue Christmas
- 23 Xmas Adam Service
- 24 Christmas Eve  
5:30pm Zoom Worship
- 25 Happy Birthday Jesus
- 26 Office Closed till Jan. 3
- 27-Jan 2 Pastor Mike Vacation
- 31 New Year's Eve.

### Weekly

- Sun 9:30am Worship
  - Sun 10:45am Adult Sunday School
  - Wed 7:30am Men's Bible Study
  - Wed 7:00pm Prayer mtg
  - Thu 9:30am Ladies Bible Study
  - Fri Chris Vacation Day
- All activities will be on zoom

**Sunday Worship Services** – We gather every Sunday at 9:30am via Zoom for a time of worship, singing, praying, and hearing God's Word. The Zoom link and bulletin information are emailed on Saturday morning for you to follow along. Please join us – and invite your friends and family. We have had people from all over the country worship with us!

**Weekly Prayer Meeting** – Please join us at 7pm every Wednesday for a time of sharing, prayer and checking in via Zoom. The link to the meeting will be in the midweek announcements email. .

**Readers Wanted** – If you would like to do a Scripture reading at one of our Zoom worship services, please let Pastor Mike know.



## From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

This year has been about Plan B. In the early days of the pandemic, when we had to close the building due to the outbreak, Zoom became our Plan B. We have worked hard to refine and improve the quality of the Zoom worship during the last 8 months. When Lent and Easter rolled around, and we wondered how we would be able to fill the Easter food baskets, Plan B kicked in and God provided us with a way.

Being apart from one another has been difficult – I know I speak for all of us that we wish we could see one another, hug one another, fellowship with one another. Since that has not been possible for us, we came up with Plan B. Fellowship activities such as two Bingo Bash events, a virtual paint party, and "Name That Carol" (coming up on December 6<sup>th</sup>). We also started a weekly Zoom prayer meeting that has been a blessing to each of us who have attended.

Now, we are entering December in the season of Advent, and we are faced with Plan B again. How will we do a Blue Christmas Service (Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>), Christmas Eve Eve ser-

vice with our youth praise band (Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>), and the Candlelight Christmas Eve service (Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>)? We are working it out.

Suffice to say, I am so appreciative of our church family's flexibility and understanding as we have navigated through these times. You have been so supportive and encouraging with your words, notes, emails, and texts.

Our theme during this Advent is Plan B. We will look at the ideas of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love during the four weeks and God's Plan B for His creation. When the Israelites lost hope during the time of exile, God had a Plan B for them to return to their land and rebuild their lives. When peace was lost because of turmoil and violence, God's Plan B brought them peace. When their unfaithfulness brought into question their love for the Lord, God sent the ultimate Plan B in His Son, Jesus Christ. God's Plan B is always better than ours – and He desires that we return to Him when we stray.

I realize that joy has been tough for us to come by since March. The effects of isolation and not being able to do what we want have been a challenge for us. I know – I have felt it too. However, it is our faith in God that sustains us during the dark times. It is the joy of the Lord that is our strength – in all seasons of our lives.

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**Annual Reports** are due into the office no later than **Sunday, January 3, 2021**. The Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 31, 2021**.

From Out Pastor continued

Certainly, our celebration of Advent and Christmas this year will be our Plan B. We probably will not get together with family and friends like we have in the past. Our Christmas lists may look very different than they have before. However, I encourage you to come up with your own Plan B. Make Advent and Christmas special, holy, sacred. Explore new spiritual disciplines or find a way to reach out to someone who needs some Christmas cheer. Let the themes of hope, peace, joy and love be yours this year.

My love and prayers through Christ,  
Pastor Mike



**Holiday Food Baskets** – The Deacons are collecting food items in order to assemble 20+ Christmas food baskets. Donations can be left in the bin outside the Connector door. Thank you for your

THANK YOU! To Betty and Don for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas! We wish it could have been an “all church” event as in the past, but we appreciate them making Zoom worship more festive!



Boy Scout Troop 65 chartered by KMPC is volunteering to help KMPC with **yard work**. 3 Troop 65 scouts who are members of St Elizabeth Ann Seton in Three Bridges are working on their Roman Catholic Ad Altare Dei emblem. For one of their service projects (10 hours of service over 1 month for Anointing of the Sick chapter), they would like to help any elderly, infirm, or homebound church member in need of yardwork (e.g., raking, pulling weeds, picking up sticks and branches). In addition to yardwork, the boys would also spend a few minutes talking with and saying a short prayer with those with whom they are serving (e.g., standing outside at a safe distance with masks on, they could say a short prayer to person who could be standing in front of their doorway or window). If you have a need or know someone who has this need please email both of these troop representatives: "Tracey



Giannouris Secretary" [tlgiannouris@comcast.net](mailto:tlgiannouris@comcast.net) and "Chris Boyce Asst. Scoutmaster" [jazz78west@gmail.com](mailto:jazz78west@gmail.com). This service can be a great help to you as well as our chartered Boy



**In Lieu of Poinsettias** - Since we will be worshipping virtually during Advent, there will be no poinsettia dedications this year. However, if you would like to give a monetary gift to the church in memory or in honor of someone, we will be publishing the list of dedications for Christmas Eve and in the January Olive Branch. Feel free to give \$10 (the normal cost of poinsettias) or some other amount.

**Office Admin Off on Fridays.** Chris, our office administrator, will be taking off Fridays for the remainder of the year. She has been working remotely while our building is closed but will not be checking or replying to emails on Fridays until January.



# ZOOMing in December

## Weekly Prayer Meeting

Please join us at 7pm every Wednesday for a time of sharing, prayer and checking in via Zoom. The link to the meeting will be in the midweek announcements email.

## Sunday Worship Services

We gather every Sunday at 9:30am via Zoom for a time of worship, singing, praying, and hearing God's Word. The Zoom link and bulletin information are emailed on Saturday morning for you to follow along. Please join us – and invite your friends and family. We have had people from all over the country worship with us!

## Adult Sunday School

We meet every Sunday at 10:45am via Zoom. Our Advent study is "Advent of the Savior" by Cindy Bunch. Please contact Pastor Mike if you are interested in attending.



## Advent "Name That Carol" Fellowship Event

Remember the 1970's game show "Name That Tune." How good were you at naming that tune in 4 notes or 1 note? Test your music skills as we gather through Zoom to play our own version. "Name That Carol" will be held Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. The Zoom information is below. Please let Pastor Mike know that you are coming so we know we have enough interest.

Topic: Name That Carol - Advent Fellowship Event

Time: Dec 6, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87295037001>

Meeting ID: 872 9503 7001

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

## *Christmas Services*

### Christmas Adam Worship Service

Join us on Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> for our annual Christmas Eve Eve (Adam, since he was before Eve!) service, led by our youth praise band. Time and Zoom information will be available through the midweek announcements.

### Blue Christmas Service

For some, Christmas is not an easy time due to dealing with feelings of sadness, loss, and anxiety. This year has been full of all of those. If you are not feeling the Christmas Spirit and want some time to cry out before God, please join us on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 4pm via Zoom. This quiet, reflective service will nourish your soul.

Topic: Blue Christmas Service

Time: Dec 20, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87529864295>

Meeting ID: 875 2986 4295

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

### Christmas Eve Worship

Our Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service will be held via Zoom on December 24, 2020 at 5:30pm. Please have your own candles ready and joins us for this meaningful worship service on the holiest night of the year. The Zoom information for the service is below:

Topic: Christmas Eve Worship Service

Time: Dec 24, 2020 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89445398742>

Meeting ID: 894 4539 8742

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

## Wonderful News!

If you have been to the church lately, you may have noticed a new red box half way up the driveway. That is our new little food pantry. We are going to call it “The Blessing Box.” It has a sign on the front of it that says:

“Take what you need,  
Bring what you can  
Above all be blessed”, thus “The Blessing Box.”

Besides canned food, pasta, peanut butter, and other non-perishable foods, we would like to include toiletries. Toiletries along with toilet paper and paper towels cannot be purchased with SNAP (food stamps). Therefore, while shopping if you see toothpaste on sale, grab a few for “The Blessing Box”.

After we distribute our Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes of food, we will have “The Blessing Box” up and running. Join us in praying that this becomes a true community ministry. We already have the Women’s Auxiliary and Athletes in Action helping us.

Please spread the word to your neighbors and friends. We will be putting notifications of “The Blessing Box” in all the food boxes that we are distributing, in the VIP, on Facebook and on the church’s website.

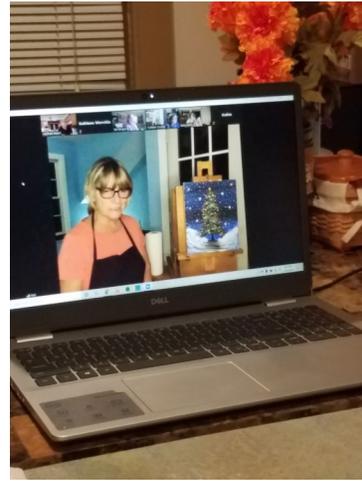
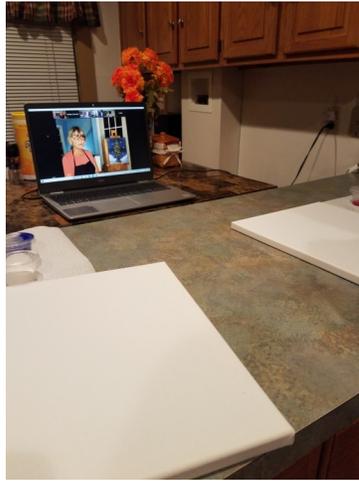
Thank you for your generosity with our food boxes and now with our new Blessing Box ministry.

“Above all be blessed.”



## Painting Party

Here are the results of our painting party via zoom. It was a fun and creative way to spend the evening. Let us know if you'd be interested in doing another one in the future or if you have other ideas of things we can do together



## In Loving Memory

I am sure by now we have all heard of the passing of a very dear friend to all of us, Sharon Mitzen. So many memories and so many years. It was an honor to work with her and call her our friend.

A few of us have been talking about doing something special with all the memories we all have. She has and always will be a treasured member of the KMPC family. In talking we have decided to put together a memory book of all the memories we all have through the years. We are asking you to please put some thought in to this and jot down a memory or memories of the past involving Sharon and yourself or your family. With teaching Sunday School for so many years she has had a lot of interactions with the youth that has grown up. Could you please ask your children to be part of this by writing down memories of nursery and Christmas programs? We want this to be a really special and it will be a gift for Paul when completed.

Oh and did I mention pictures, please send in any pictures with your memories you might have. So please give this some thought and through November and through December please send in your memories and pictures to:

Kathy Lovett            [kmlovett@verizon.net](mailto:kmlovett@verizon.net)  
Jeanne Mundhenk      [Jeanne@mundhenken.com](mailto:Jeanne@mundhenken.com)  
Norma Zimmerman    [enzimmerman@comcast.net](mailto:enzimmerman@comcast.net)  
Chris Kosmac           [admin@kirkpatrickchurch.org](mailto:admin@kirkpatrickchurch.org)



**New Jersey Presbyteries Update** – At its stated meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Presbytery of New Brunswick voted to approve the proposal to consolidate the 7 Presbyteries into 4 in the state of New Jersey. The 4 Presbyteries will be located in the following parts of the state: northwest, northeast, central and south. Kirkpatrick would be part of the northwest Presbytery, which will include Hunterdon, Somerset, Warren, Morris, Sussex and Passaic counties. The new structure is planned to take effect by March 2021. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Mike.

**Ministry Post-Pandemic** – Please begin thinking and praying about how our ministry will grow and change once the pandemic is behind us. How can we use technology to reach across states with the Good News of Jesus Christ? How can we connect with our community more effectively? What creative ways can we use our building and resources to show the love of God? Now is the time to plan and form a vision!

**Reopening Plan** – Please refer to the church website for updates from our reopening team - [www.kirkpatrickchurch.org/covid-19-resources](http://www.kirkpatrickchurch.org/covid-19-resources). Any questions, please contact Janis Little or Pastor Mike.



**Upcoming Sermon Topics & Scriptures (subject to change):**

December 6<sup>th</sup> – Mark 1:1-8 – “Plan B – Peace”

December 13<sup>th</sup> – Luke 1:46b-55 – “Plan B – Joy”

December 20<sup>th</sup> – Luke 1:26-38 – “Plan B – Love”

December 27<sup>th</sup> – Galatians 4:4-7 - The Story Behind the Carols

KMPC Financial Summary

2020  
 MTD (October)  
 Receipts – \$15,335.60  
 Expenses - \$15,184.47  
 Difference – \$151.13

YTD (through October)  
 Receipts – \$164,355.55  
 Expenses – \$164,261.55  
 Difference - \$94.00

2019  
 MTD (October 2019)  
 Receipts -\$14,171.67  
 Expenses - \$16,521.75  
 Difference – (\$2,350.08)

YTD (through October 2019)  
 Receipts - \$170,220.11  
 Expenses - \$178,704.50  
 Difference – (\$8,484.39)

The Finance Committee gave a financial update on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> during worship. Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together – it looks like we will finish the year in the black. The upcoming year will have challenges, so please prayerfully consider how you will support KMPC. Pledge cards and stewardship letters will be going out for you to fill out and send back.

We have included a "Donate" button on our website for those that prefer to give online. [www.kirkpatrickchurch.org](http://www.kirkpatrickchurch.org) look for the yellow button in the upper right hand corner. KMPC is charged 2.2% and \$.30 admin fee per transaction. Please consider adding those fees to your donation to cover the costs for KMPC.

# Deacon's December 2020 Prayer List

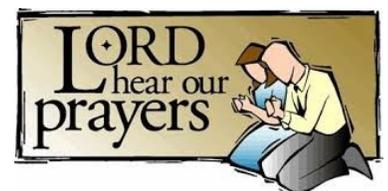


## KMPC Family

Ashlyne – Jen B  
 Bart and Norma  
 Ben D. (military)  
 Barb K (healing)  
 Corliss & Family  
 Dave M. (Wellbeing) – Jen B  
 Dorothy S. (healing)  
 Ginger, Shirley and Bob  
 Irene & Fred K. (Parkinson)  
 Lanie and Husband  
 Mitzen Family (grief)  
 Steve & Terri F. (healing)  
 Shawn and Anthony  
 Tobin Family (grief)  
 Caregivers  
 Families suffering with addictions  
 Homebound members & Shut-Ins  
 Hospice Patients  
 Teachers & /Students  
**Assisted living/ Care Center**  
 Phillis P  
 Millie W  
**Extended KMPC Family**  
 Alice (healing)  
 Amy F. (healing)  
 Barb (broken leg and covid) Roger D  
 sister  
 Barbara (grieving) Betsy's Friend  
 Bob D (Kidney)  
 Bob and Sue he has (Non Hodgkins  
 Lymphoma) and Sue his caregiver  
 Ann D. friend  
 Arlene – (Karen D Neighbor)  
 Vance (liver cancer) Karen D  
 Denise and John (John has bladder  
 cancer) KL  
 Diane F (car accident) Karen D  
 Erick F in rehab hospital (Janice L  
 friend)  
 Franklin (Cancer)  
 Gail K (Parkinson)  
 Gloria H (Massive stroke) Dorothy's  
 friend

Helen B (moved to care facility)  
 Dorothy  
 Jackie -- Betsy P Daughter  
 Jeff (heart) Mike's Brother  
 Jen (Health Issues – Betsy P  
 Kate (Bipolar) Bev K  
 Lolly H.(brain tumor) Norma Z  
 friend  
 Lucas 3 year old great grandson of  
 Gail Abdominal pain  
 Mary (cancer)  
 Nancy F. (Health issues) Kathy's  
 friend  
 Keith P. (healing)  
 Pauline (Alzheimer's) Kathy L. Aunt  
 Richard B. Sr. (Healing, diabetes)-  
 Dorothy  
 Sandra H. (healing)  
 Sherri B. (healing, lupus) – Richard's  
 Daughter  
 Rebecca Case (car accident head  
 injuries & seizures)  
 Renda Family (grieving)  
 Ron and Sandy P. (healing)  
 Stacey (aggressive breast cancer)  
 Annie D. friend  
 Steve (cancer) -Tracy's friend.  
 Toby & Judy N. (healing, Safety)  
 Tom (Lymphoma)  
 Families of Natural Disasters  
 First Responders  
 Military Men & Women and their  
 Families  
 President & Congress  
 Prisoners  
 Refugees  
 Shooting Victims  
 Troubled youth  
 U.S. & World Situations  
 Unemployed  
 Victims of Violence  
 People with flu and virus

Joyce George	Dec 5
Steven Esock	Dec 10
Janice Jarrett	Dec 11
Brian Mundhenk	Dec 12
Keira McDaniels	Dec 13
Luke Verbeyst	Dec 14
Chris Bittenmaster	Dec 14
Tiffany Perangelo	Dec 15
Frank Hulst	Dec 18
James Danner	Dec 19
Mohamed Al-Daqa	Dec 21
Bev Kaminski	Dec 21
Jesus Christ	Dec 25
Tracy Kell	Dec 26
Lori Wonsor	Dec 27
Kim Fulper	Dec 28
Michael Quinn	Dec 28
Mikayla Fulper	Dec 29



Please contact us to have names added or deleted at [admin@kirkpatrickchurch.org](mailto:admin@kirkpatrickchurch.org)

Dear Charity Administrator,

This email is to notify you that Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church (EIN: 22-1977356) has been issued a \$41.17 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2020. The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account on or before November 12, 2020. It may take several days for the donation to appear in the account.

Thank you,  
Your AmazonSmile Team



2021 Offering Envelopes are available in the church library. Please contact the church



The CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE is going virtual for 2020! We are asking folks to purchase and drop off gifts, or order through Amazon Smile and have the gifts delivered to the Manse: 39 John Ringo Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551. It is to benefit the "Friendship Center for New Beginnings".

Cars/Trucks  
Balls  
Dolls  
The New bible in Pictures for Little Eyes  
by Kenneth N. Taylor  
The Action Bible (approx. \$10 in Walmart)  
Diapers Huggies Size 1-5  
Diapers Pampers size 10-5  
Diaper Rash Cream  
Diaper Rash Ointment  
Unscented Baby Wipes  
Infant Sleep n Play/Onesies (No Blanket Sleepers)  
Receiving Blankets  
Crib: Quilts, Pads & Sheets  
Crib Bedding Mattress pads  
Underwear: Toddler to size 12

Toddler Socks  
Girls Snow Pants Toddler to Size 12  
Girls Hats and Gloves  
Girls Fall/Winter Clothing 12mos – 2T  
Girl's Coat Size: Infant thru 14/16  
Girl's Boots (Children's size 10 thru adult size 10  
Girls Socks  
Boys Hats and Gloves  
Boys fall/Winter Clothing 12 mos to 2T  
Boys Snow Pants Toddler to Size 12  
Boy's boots Children's size 10 thru adult size 10  
Boy's coat Sizes: infant thru 14/16  
Boy's socks  
Young Adult Socks  
Adult Shampoo & Conditioner

KMPC has conducted this event for several years, providing a lot of youngsters at the Friendship Center for New Beginnings a merrier Christmas. They are extremely grateful.

## CHRISTMAS BASKETS

As we give thanks to Jesus for our many blessings this year, let us honor him by serving others. As Christmas Day approaches and you go shopping for ingredients to create that special family meal, please keep in mind that not every family in our community is as fortunate. The Deacons are asking our church family to help meet the needs of our community this year by picking up a few extra food items that will be made into Christmas food baskets. Please take this shopping list with you as a friendly reminder. Anything on the following list would be greatly appreciated:

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Cereal
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Apple Sauce
- Rice
- Beans
- Pasta Sauce
- Pasta
- Boxed Potato Dishes
- Frozen Turkey/Ham/Oven Roaster
- Turkey/Chicken/Pork Gravy
- Canned Fruit
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Soup
- Tuna Fish
- Cookie &/or Brownie Mixes (not refrigerated)



If you are able to donate, please leave the items in the bin in the Connector marked "Deacons Food Drive" before Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support!

