

# Oak Leaves

Vol. LXIV, Number 4

December 2021



## *Looking Back and Ahead*

*by Pastor John*

Rosanne and I are spending Thanksgiving at our upstate home. Our house is an old farmhouse, nearly two hundred years old. It seems an appropriate place for Thanksgiving dinner. In our fast-paced and over-stimulated world, there is some solace in remembering simpler times which existed more in harmony with the natural rhythms of nature. I love Thanksgiving because it invites us to enjoy the gifts of hearth and home. The past can be a source of inspiration and renewal.

Advent and Christmas also bring to mind and heart memories of celebration and relationships. Sometimes our memories drive us toward rather heroic efforts to reclaim such times for ourselves and loved ones. For me, they draw me back to the central mysteries and heart-opening truths of the Christian story. How I need to be reminded of the marriage between flesh and spirit, the human and divine.

I find that the looking back also draws me to a looking ahead. There is much in our present reality that needs deep reform. Remembering how the Spirit touched us and inspired us in our ritual celebrations of the past can encourage us to bring such spiritual energy and direction to the challenges which lie before us. Something in us, previously touched by the Spirit, knows that we have the resources we need to face and to create a more hopeful future. Dig deep in this holy season of the year for the spiritual energy we need for this moment.

Of course, in this coming year, I will be looking back at thirty-seven years of ministry and looking ahead to an unknown, at least to me, journey of retirement. What will Rosanne and I do with this blank slate? We have some ideas, but it is still a journey into the unknown. The same applies to the church. There is the past and the unknown future. God is in it all.

The mystics and contemplatives tell us that the key is to be deeply present to the present moment, which is always where the divine meets the human, if only we are awake enough

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to perceive. That's the spiritual practice—present moment awareness and receptivity. When we catch ourselves drifting away or in an energy of reactivity, we can always pause, breathe, and start over. If we do, we'll find that God is always there, always meeting and supporting us. The circumstances may not be to our liking, but filled with God's presence, we find what we need for living and loving. May that presence fill us in these blessed days ahead!

## *Worshipping Together in December*



**Note:** Except where noted, both online and limited in-person worship options are available at this time. Check our website for updates.

**Sunday, December 5, 2021 @ 9:45 AM (Communion)**

**Sermon: "Christmas Preparations" by Rev. John W. Monroe III**

**Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6**

Most preparations this time of year are of an external nature – gifts. Decorations, celebrations. These texts call us to prepare our interior landscape for transformation.

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

**Christmas Pageant @ 9:45 AM**

**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

**Christmas Cantata @ 9:45 AM**

**Blue Christmas Service @ 7:00 PM**

**Friday, December 24, 2021 @ 4:30 & 8:00 PM**

**Sermon: "Reading the Signs" by Rev. John W. Monroe, III**

**Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14**

Heavenly signs appear in ways that don't sync up with our expectations, which means that we might be inclined to miss them. How might we develop our capacity to see the signs?

**Sunday, December 26, 2021 @ 9:45 AM**

**Sermon: "The Seeing that Transforms" by Rev. John W. Monroe III**

**Scripture: John 1:1-14**

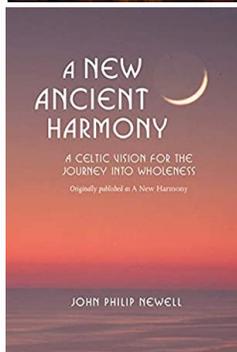
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Which comes first – the seeing or the transformation? The world doesn't see Christ. If it did, it would become born of God and not just of the flesh. Do we see the light yet?

For updates & more services, visit [rumsonpresbyterian.org/upcoming-services](http://rumsonpresbyterian.org/upcoming-services)

## *Adult Nurture*



**Wisdom Wednesdays:** Each Wednesday, from 7:00 – 8:30, our Wednesday Wisdom meetings will focus on John Philp Newell's book, *A New Ancient Harmony: A Celtic Vision for the Journey into Wholeness*. At the present time, these meetings are being held on the Zoom platform which can be accessed on our Church website. We will not meet on Dec. 29.

## *Church School*



Happy Holiday Season Everyone! Wishing you and your families a joyful season of celebration and love. There will be a Christmas Gathering after mass on December 12th. All are welcome, there will be crafts and activities for everyone. If anyone wishes to help out by supervising a stand at the Christmas party, please reach out to me at [churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org](mailto:churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org) or (732) 768-9913.

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### **December Schedule**

- December 5th:** In person Church School
- December 12th:** Pageant/Christmas Gathering
- December 19th:** Choir Cantata/ Family Worship
- December 24th:** Christmas Eve Worship
- December 29th:** Family Worship (winter break)

Please keep in mind that we are always looking for volunteers for the nursery! Please reach out if you are interested or know someone that may be. Pay is \$25 for the hour.

Warm Regards,  
Sandi Van Cleve, Church School Director

## *Music Program*



Dear friends,

First, I'd like to thank everyone who participated in the fall worship services, sharing their gifts and talents by singing and performing. This includes members of the choir and special musical guests. We so appreciate your gifts to the church, and your willingness to share them with others!

There are a few dates to note going forward into December:

**Sunday, December 12th:** In place of a pageant this year, we will be sharing reflections and carols during our regular worship service. If you have a story, memory or reflection of Christmas past, please let me know as we'd love to include you!

**Sunday, December 19th:** Our annual Christmas Cantata.

See you in church! Blessings to you and your family,  
Andreea Fegan, Music Director

# *Mission News*



The Mission Commission met for our final session in 2021, capping a year of great engagement and discussion. We continue to support organizations that we know well and love with donations to the Asbury Park Covenant House, Habitat for Humanity and Family Promise. We learned more about to several local organizations and approved donations to each. We will be earmarking our donations to The Central Jersey Club of the National Central Jersey Club of National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club for the scholarship fund – merit-based awards for high school seniors in the Monmouth and Ocean County area. We will also provide a donation to the Manalapan Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, supporting local veterans and their families by helping them find services and benefits to which they are entitled.

With several new organizations presented to the commission, we decided to approve smaller donations of \$500 each to local groups providing critical services. These include the Save Coastal Wildlife, a non-profit wildlife preservation organization based along the Jersey shore dedicated to educating people about the protection and conservation of marine wildlife that live, migrate, spawn, and feed in the coastal waters (from Raritan Bay down to Delaware Bay); the Period Project organized by the Junior League of Monmouth County to support development and expansion of period supply programs throughout our community for those with an inability to access or afford menstrual hygiene products; the Ocean Harbor House, a 32 year old organization in Toms River that provides a continuum of care for children, youth and young adults who have suffered abuse, neglect and/or homelessness; and, the Blessing Bag Brigade, a Holmdel based organization committed to aiding the homeless and educating the public, creating namesake bags with critical supplies.

The Commission also approved a donation to the Bard Prison Initiative, an organization founded by undergraduates of Bard College in response to the decimation of college-in-prison programs in the '90s, now directed at building alliances to 'rethink access, reduce costs, and redress inequities of higher education'. BPI has expanded the model nationally and offers Re-Entry and Alumni Affairs services for graduates.

Rumson Presbyterian continues a strong partnership with Aslan Youth Ministries. Each year our congregation collects donations for the Aslan Christmas Wish List Program. This year we

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encourage you to donate directly either on-line or with checks payable to Aslan Youth Ministries. Note in the memo field 'Christmas 2021' or if donating on-line, indicate 'Christmas 2021' in the 'About my Donation' field. Checks should be mailed to Aslan Youth Ministries, P.O. Box 270, Red Bank NJ 07701. The Commission also approved a separate donation to Aslan given all the important work this organization is doing year-round.

In closing, the Mission Commission wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and welcomes new joiners when we resume our meetings after the New Year. Blessings to all!

Anita Waters, Mission Chair

## *Other Church News*



### Blue Christmas Service



We will have a Blue Christmas Service this year on Sunday, December 19 at 7:00 PM. Blue Christmas, also called the Longest Night, is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year; and is observed either on or near the Winter Solstice. It is a time when worshippers acknowledge the reality of loss and grief and look toward the light to illumine the darkness. This service converges with the traditional feast day for Saint Thomas, who struggled to believe in the resurrection, thereby affirming that struggle and doubt are a part of the journey toward healing and faith.

# Aslan Youth Ministries



Aslan Youth Ministries is looking for gift cards and/or financial donations for their Christmas Wish List program for Aslan youth.

## **Gift Cards:**

1. Suggested stores: Kohl's, Target, Walmart, GameStop, CVS, Walgreen's, Rite Aid, Claire's, Amazon, etc.
2. Suggested amount = \$20-\$25.

## **Financial Donations:**

1. Please make checks payable to: Aslan Youth Ministries
2. In the memo field, please write: Christmas 2021

## **If you prefer to make a payment online:**

1. Go to <https://aslanyouth.networkforgood.com/causes/1725-aslan-in-the-usa>
2. Choose a Donation Amount and a Donation Frequency
3. In the Additional Instructions About My Donation field, please write: Christmas 2021

Please deliver all gift cards and checks directly to Aslan at the following address:

Aslan Youth Ministries  
P.O. Box 270  
Red Bank, NJ 07701

If people want to physically drop something off at the Aslan office, they are in the basement of Tower Hill Church. If you use the lower level parking lot behind the church (there's an upper level and a lower level), you'll see their office/mailbox. The address is 257 Harding Road.

Deadline: Friday, December 3, 2021

For more information, please contact Claire Harbeck, Director of Volunteers at [claire@aslanyouth.org](mailto:claire@aslanyouth.org).



## 2021 CROP Hunger Walk—Last Chance to Give!



**Walk. Give. Change the world.**  
**Donations are being accepted until December 31!**

We participated in the 2021 CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS (Church World Service) and help families who are struggling with hunger. We're asking you to join us - with your steps or your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world.

Please visit our team page (<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/rumson-presbyterian-church-2>) to support us by making a donation today! Thank you!

### Giving



Rumson Presbyterian Church is excited to partner with the Presbyterian Foundation and Vanco Payment Solutions to bring you our GivePlus Online Giving page (<https://rumsonpresbyterian.org/giving/>).

We are also listed in the GivePlus Mobile App, which can be downloaded to your smartphone, making Online Giving even easier. This YouTube video explains how to get and use the App. In addition, here are links to two more documents about the service and the App: “Vanco GivePlus Church FAQs for Donors” and “Vanco GivePlus Church How it Works”.

Note: 2% of your GivePlus donation will be retained as an administrative fee by the Presbyterian Foundation.

# Community News



## Early Risers



If you want to stop drinking call: 1-908-687-8566  
or (toll free from NJ area codes): 1-800-245-1377  
24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

For a list of other local A.A. meetings, visit [www.nnjaa.org/#](http://www.nnjaa.org/#)  
For information about A.A. visit [www.nnjaa.org](http://www.nnjaa.org)

Meetings: Fri. from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM at Rumson Presbyterian Church

## Waterspirit



### Event Calendar

**Meditation for Earth** Every Tues. from 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM (ET)

Please join Waterspirit for a "Meditation for Earth" . We read a short blessing, followed by an excerpt from Hal Borland's 12 Moons of the Year. Then we lead a simple meditation followed with silence, for a flourishing Earth. The meditation and silence last approximately 30 minutes. There are two ways to meditate for Earth with us: 1) In-person in the Sanctuary at Rumson Presbyterian Church; 2) Online on our YouTube channel. All of our meditation videos are filmed by our Programs and Communications Consultant, Abbey Koshak, with loving care.

**Winter Solstice Celebration** Tue., Dec. 21 from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Please save the date for Waterspirit's upcoming Winter Solstice Celebration, a commemora-

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tion of the season with prayer, contemplation, and music. Learn more on our programs page (<https://www.waterspirit.org/equinoxsolstice>).

All are welcome. Please visit their website ([waterspirit.org](http://waterspirit.org)) for more information about these events.

## *Caring for God's Earth*



Submitted by **Diane Burke** and **Sue Smith**

We are running a series of articles from Mission Crossroads, a publication of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, on the impact of climate change around the world.

### **Real climate change is possible — and urgently needed**

**Climate change is 'a human struggle that we must inevitably overcome together'**

by **Noah Westfall | Mission Crossroads**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — I spent the last year as a Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Austin, Texas.

In my role as a YAV, I served with Texas Impact, an interfaith advocacy organization representing the mainstream faith traditions of Texas. I worked on a research project related to Hurricane Harvey recovery and began to draw connections between climate change and this local disaster. After a few months into the project, I had the opportunity to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland.

Before attending the conference, I knew about climate change, but it was never something that kept me up at night. It was not until I physically stepped into the conference space and could viscerally feel the urgency around me that I realized I was working on such an important issue. It was humbling to be surrounded by thousands of passionate people all working tirelessly to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement and limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius.

It was eye-opening to see how my privilege has allowed me to think of climate change as something that did not directly impact me. I could engage with climate change more as a

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topic for intellectual stimulation rather than seeing it as a tangible crisis. I had a change in perspective after I attended a panel event led by faith leaders from around the world. It was challenging to come to the realization that climate change affects all of us. People are suffering. It has become a human struggle that we must inevitably overcome together. We must ask ourselves not only about the kind of world we want to leave our children and grandchildren, but also about the world we want to leave our neighbors' children and grandchildren.

The current research presented at the conference paints a very stark picture of the current trends and potential future of our planet. It may be easy to become overwhelmed by current reports, to be dismissive or to fall into despair. Perhaps it is more convenient to ignore the current state of affairs as something that the next generation has to deal with. However, the overall theme of the conference was not focused on discouragement but urgent hope. I am also inspired by people like Greta Thunberg, a teenager from Sweden and climate justice activist, and so many other young people who have chosen to call out inaction.

After the conference, I thought about my own values. Similar to the paradox of faith is the paradox of activism. It is grounded in the conviction that despite incredible challenges, insurmountable barriers and apparent impossibility of producing any real change, there is the radical belief that we always have a choice to act, so that the status quo never has the final word.

Consider supporting the Young Adult Volunteer program: [pcusa.org/donate/E04907](https://pcusa.org/donate/E04907)

*Noah Westfall served as a Young Adult Volunteer in Austin, Texas (2018–19). He is currently completing a master's degree in public health at George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health in Washington, D.C.*

## *A Meditation*



Center for  
Action and  
Contemplation

### **Spirituality and Addiction : Seeing Ourselves as God Sees Us**

by [Richard Rohr, OFM](#)  
November 18, 2021

*In this conversation, CAC teacher and therapist James Finley shares his belief that we can only be freed from our addictions by healing our original wound—a loss of connection with divine love. Jim speaks here about the healing nature of seeing ourselves as God sees us.*

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We can say that the deepest question of my life, really, is not what my father . . . or my mother thought of me, or what my husband or wife thinks of me, or what my pastor or my boss thinks of me. Really, the deepest issue isn't what I think of me, but *can I join God in knowing who God knows me to be?* Can I join God in seeing who God sees me to be when God sees me? This is salvation.

In order to do this, I have to let go of my own present way of seeing things, and I discover I can't. We're afraid to lose the control that we think that we have over the life that we think that we're living, and we're addicted to what blinds us. . . . The mystery of the cross, then, is this mystery of just being liberated from this deep addiction to the illusion of an ultimately isolated self that has to make it on its own. To realize I'm in the presence of the love that loves us and takes us to itself. . . .

*Jim envisions God saying to each of us, in the midst of our struggles:*

You know what? . . . I'm in love with you. I'm so in love with you that I'm utterly giving myself away [to you] as invincibly precious in my eyes, in the midst of the unresolved matters of your heart. I find in these unresolved matters no obstacle to how infinitely precious you are to me as I pour out and give myself to you as life of my life. . . .

*Jim concludes:*

That's faith in the higher power. But what if the brokenness has no authority at all over us? What if only love has the authority over us? That's the essence of the gospel. The essence of the gospel is there. That's why I say the miracle stories of Jesus, when you really look at the healing stories, they're all the same, basically. A person brings suffering; Jesus listens to the suffering, responds to the suffering. But Jesus sees the essence of their suffering isn't that their daughter died or they can't see or they can't walk, or they're a prostitute or a tax collector. The issue of their suffering is they think they are what's wrong with them. It's the idolatry of their shame. Reflected in [Jesus'] eyes, they see their true face before they were born, hidden with Christ in God forever. That's experiential salvation.

James Finley, "Mystical Sobriety," "Addiction," *Living School Alumni Quarterly*, issue 3 (Fall 2019), video teaching.

## ***Pastor John's Weekly E-Mail "Blasts"***

### **A Season of Reflection (Nov. 3)**

This Sunday, November 7, is Communion Sunday. Elements will be distributed in the sanctuary again this month and worshippers at home can participate as they have throughout the pandemic. The Scripture reading is Mark 12: 38 – 44 and the sermon title is "The Self Be-

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neath Appearance.” The “hymn” after the sermon will be “Pride (In the Name of Love)” by U2. This Sunday we will also install Andy Kirkpatrick to serve on Session. It also returns us to Standard Time. Remember to fall back!

Every year, it seems to catch us by surprise when the end-of-year holidays arrive. A clergy person has dubbed this time of year Hallowthankmas, in a nod to the three holidays of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is a busy time of year for many. My hope is that it is a reflective and prayerful time as well.

There is a natural tendency to go inward as the days grow shorter and colder. There is a turning to hearth and home, and with this turn, there can be a pull toward reflection and prayer. This holiday season recognizes and encourages such a turn. Rosanne had an instinct last week, on her birthday, to celebrate the Day of the Dead. We set up pictures of and items related to dear ones who had died and spent some time in conversation remembering them and giving thanks. Halloween, All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day invite us to reflect on the close ties between life and death, the physical and spiritual.

Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas also invite us into a period of deeper reflection on our lives and the deep significance of our being here. The season calls us to think about why we are here and what our lives are for. These holidays give us clues of their meaning in the Scripture passages we read and the dimensions of our souls that these readings evoke in us. Our Scriptural tradition tells us that our lives are holy and that we are here to make real the loving presence of God in the world, through our transformed hearts and sacrificial lives. Giving ourselves to the logic of the holy is what fills us with joy, not filling ourselves with stuff. Pausing to reflect, pray and wonder is what makes this time of year potentially life-giving and transformative. As the psalmist tells us, “Be still and know that I am God.”

This is my prayer for us all, that in the days ahead, we may taste of the dimension of the holy which is the truest part of who we are. In this tasting, lies the hope for which we all long and the answers to the great challenges before us. Blessings all!

## **Allowing Mystery (Nov. 11)**

This Sunday, November 14, the Scripture readings are Daniel 12: 1 – 3 and Mark 13: 1 – 8. The sermon title is “That Which Holds the Chaos.” The “hymn” after the sermon is “Peace Train” by Cat Stevens.

Now that we are back to observing Standard Time, our nights are descending before dinner for most of us. It’s a new rhythm of life in which darkness plays a greater part. The church calendar, along with its prescribed readings, also move from the “light” of our own usual understandings and perspectives into the “darkness” of what is mysterious and unknown. If you come to worship in these next weeks, pay attention to how the Scripture readings invite

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us into the strange and mysterious realms of God.

Since the Enlightenment and the birth of the modern era, we have given our attention and our hearts to the gifts and intoxications of the intellect. Collectively, we have unraveled mystery after mystery, and created tremendous advances to human health and wellbeing. Understandably, we have a bias against mystery and for understanding.

We find ourselves, however, at a climactic moment in human history, as the modern era is showing signs of collapse and a new, unknown era begins to assert itself into our consciousness. In times of stress, people are tempted to look for quick and easy solutions. Usually, the temptation is to look backwards for what is familiar and what used to work. Our biblical tradition assures us that God is always doing something new and surprising in and among us, and, that God can be trusted even though we cannot see the way through just yet.

In the emerging, many are calling it integral, era, the task being asked of us is to transcend our dualistic bent of mind, where one side of a polarity must destroy the other side. In the modern era, enlightenment overcame the darkness of mystery. In the integral era, I believe that human beings are being called to hold the tension of the polarity between knowing and not knowing, enlightenment and mystery. We are being asked to be people of reason and faith at the same time, and current events are witnessing to how hard this new move of consciousness is proving to be for us.

Our culture wars are an expression of our inability to hold the tensions of our various polarities. We want simple answers. We talk in memes and jingoisms. We avoid thinking hard and expansively. We resist moves of compassion which take into our hearts the so-called enemy and find a place for them in the whole of which we are merely a part.

Our current stress shows that the light is not complete without the darkness. We need both. The truth is that we do not know everything and when we pretend that we do, ironically, we demonstrate that we do not. When the light is shining well within our minds, we see clearly that mystery is real, that there is more that we do not know, than that we do. This will always be so, because we are finite creatures, dwelling in and as an expression of a universe that we are only beginning to understand. Our Scriptures in the weeks ahead witness to this "dark" and unknowable dimension, which through faith, at least, becomes accessible to us.

May this faith journey in the weeks ahead begin to strengthen in us the beginnings of a new consciousness, one which can hold the tensions which now are before and within us. God is in it all. Blessings!

## **Transformative Feasts (Nov. 18)**

This Sunday, November 21, is Christ the King Sunday, which brings the church calendar to an end. A new church year begins with Advent the following Sunday, November 28. This week's

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Scripture readings are Daniel 7: 9 – 10, 13 – 14 and John 18: 33 – 37. The sermon title is “Our Only Security” and the “hymn” after the sermon is “All You Need Is Love.”

Session decided this week that a very simple coffee hour can be moved inside, as colder weather arrives. Tables and chairs will not be set up as in the past, and the offering will be quite modest for the time being. After worship this Sunday, we will set up the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. All hands are welcome.

The schedule for December has been set. The Christmas Pageant will be December 12 and the Christmas Cantata will be December 19. Both of these services will be at our normal time for worship—9:45 AM. Again, this year, we will offer a Blue Christmas service on December 19 at 7:00 PM. On Christmas Eve, we will have services at 4:30 and 8:00 PM. All services will be in-person with at least one option for virtual access.

Next week, we will observe Thanksgiving, which centers around a meal and our offering of gratitude. Banquets are symbolic, in the Bible, of God’s kingdom. Meals were a big part of Jesus’ ministry of healing and reconciliation, where those who were excluded in the rest of society were welcomed and honored. Jesus was even accused of being a winebibber and a glutton. No doubt, many of us will over consume wine and food on Thanksgiving Day. Perhaps we can do so without regret.

The movie, *Babette’s Feast*, can serve as a model for us. Circumstances send Babette, a gourmet chef, to a small religious community which had lost its zeal and whose relationships had grown lifeless through the rather normal collections of petty grievances over the years. After serving there for a while, Babette comes upon a handsome sum of money—enough to send her back to France to resume her former life.

But Babette decides to spend it all on a feast for the community. The combination of the finest of foods, wines, cutlery, china, crystal, and Babette’s exquisite act of love prove to be transformative. Old grudges melt away and new meaning and love are unleashed among the community.

Meals can be such sacramental events, if the ingredient of sacrificial love permeates the gathering. As my wife says, “The key to a good meal are good ingredients.” She also knows that the most key ingredient is loving and mindful preparation and presentation. Add to that a little softening of ego boundaries with a glass or two of good wine, and magic can occur. New life can be infused into hardened hearts. Forgiveness and compassion can flow. May such be our experience this Thanksgiving. Blessings all!

## **When Heaven Arrives (Nov. 24)**

This Sunday, November 28, is the first Sunday in Advent. We had a larger number of people in the sanctuary for worship and we hope this trend continues. For those worshipping on

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Zoom the internet connection went bad and we lost you. I hope that some of you connected on livestream. The Scripture readings will be 1 Thessalonians 3: 9 – 13 and Luke 21: 25 – 36. The sermon title is “Beginning at the End” and the “hymn” after the sermon will be “Imagine” by John Lennon.

In the early church, Advent was not merely a time to get ready for Christmas. It was a time of preparation for Christ’s return, for the culmination of history in Christ. This Sunday, the readings are filled with images of Christ’s return. What are we to make of this?

Even Jesus said that he did not know when the end would come, so I choose not to get overly concerned about thinking about the end. These passages carry for me more immediate relevance. I think that they point to the possibility of human beings becoming more aware of the heavenly dimension’s presence already within and among us. They imagine something new happening when heaven begins to take root here on earth. If this sounds fanciful, recall the words of the Lord’s Prayer: “thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.”

Our calling as Christians, is not to escape from this earth to some heavenly realm separate from it. Our calling is to bring the presence of heaven into our own awareness and into our interactions in this earthly realm. This aim is at the heart of our worship and life of prayer. We seek connection with God in these practices, so that we can draw upon what we learn there to infuse our interactions with the breath of heaven. May this season be a time where heaven touches us deeply and through us touches others as well. Blessings all!

**First Presbyterian Church of Rumson NJ**  
**P.O. Box 399**  
**East River Road at Park Avenue**  
**Rumson, NJ 07760**

**Nonprofit Organization**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED**

~Please check our website at [www.rumsonpresbyterian.org](http://www.rumsonpresbyterian.org) for calendar updates~

**DECEMBER 2021**

Dec 1	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00PM
Dec 5	Sun	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>	
Dec 7	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Dec 8	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00PM
Dec 12	Sun	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent &amp; Pageant</b>	
Dec 14	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Dec 15	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00PM
Dec 19	Sun	<b>4th Sunday of Advent &amp; Cantata</b>	
Dec 19	Sun	<b>Blue Christmas Service</b>	7:00PM
Dec 21	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Dec 21	Tue	Session	7:00PM
Dec 21	Tue	Winter Solstice Celebration*	7:00PM
Dec 22	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00PM
Dec 24	Fri	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	5:00 & 9:00PM
Dec 25	Sat	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
Dec 26	Sun	<b>First Sunday of Christmas</b>	
Dec 27	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30PM
Dec 28	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Dec 31	Sat	<b>New Years Eve</b>	

**JANUARY 2022**

Jan 1	Sat	<b>New Year's Day</b>	
Jan 4	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 5	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm
Jan 6	Thu	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>	
Jan 9	Sun	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>	
Jan 11	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 12	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm
Jan 17	Mon	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	
Jan 18-25		<b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</b>	
Jan 18	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 18	Tue	Session	7:00pm
Jan 19	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00pm
Jan 24	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30PM
Jan 25	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 26	Wed	Wisdom Group	

*\*Waterspirit sponsored event. All are welcome.*

*Please visit their website ([waterspirit.org](http://waterspirit.org)) for more information about their events.*



[www.rumsonprebyterian.org](http://www.rumsonprebyterian.org)