

Oak Leaves

Vol. LXV, Number 4

December 2022



Dear Congregation...

by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Paul Kirbas, and I am the new Interim Pastor here at Rumson Presbyterian Church. It is a privilege and an honor to partner with you as we go through the process of preparing this church for its next chapter of life and ministry, and to find the new permanent pastor who will lead you down that road. There are several steps in this process, but the first one is similar to any beginning of a pastorate. It is building relationships. It is for me to get to know each of you, and learn about your history, as well as your hopes and dreams for this beautiful church. It is also important for you to get to know me, and to become comfortable with my style of pastoral leadership. Once those relationships are built and there is a good foundation of confidence and trust in place, we can proceed to the next steps in the transitional ministry that is ahead of us.

I am here for a few weeks in December, to settle into the church and the Manse. I will be leading worship during those weeks, as we celebrate together the inspiring season of Advent. Prior commitments will require me to return home to Florida for Christmas, but I will



be returning to Rumson right after the New Year, along with my spouse Jennifer. She is also a Presbyterian minister, and will be assisting me in some areas of the ministry, particularly liturgical leadership and pastoral care. Both Jennifer and I are eager to get our feet planted in Rumson, and are excited about the journey that is ahead of us in the new year ahead.

It has been a blessing to have visited with your Interim Pastor Search Committee. They have been so welcoming, and the hospitality they have shared with us has been wonderful. We also had the privilege of meeting with John and Roseanne, who gave us a tour of the church manse. They are delightful people, and I

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am sure that you miss them very much. John has left a strong legacy of faithful ministry in this church and community. Our mission is to honor that legacy, while at the same time imagine together what the future could look like after John's ministry. It can be a journey of loss and gain, of sadness and expectation, of valleys and mountaintops. But through it all, God is with us.

And do you know another term for "God is with us"? It is the word "Immanuel". And that brings us back to Advent. It is fitting for us to begin this new ministry together in a season that tells us, over and over again, that God is with us. So, "O Come, O Come, Immanuel". That should be our prayer, during this advent season, and during this interim season. For if God is with us, all things are possible!

I look forward to meeting you in church this Advent season. It is wonderful to be here!

In God's Love,
Paul J Kirbas

Worshipping Together in December



Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2022 @ 9:45 AM (Communion)

Sermon: "The Pygmalion Passages" by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 1:39-45**

The season of Advent is filled with expectation. Both our Old Testament passage and our New Testament passage lift up this theme. What difference does expectation make? What power does it hold?

Christmas Cantata Service

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2022 @ 9:45 AM

Meditation: "The Leap for Joy" by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46-55**

We have certainly heard a lot of news in the last years about the force of contagion. Although it is mostly a cautionary tale, there is something else that is contagious, and it is one of the most positive forces in the world.

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Christmas Memories and Carols Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2022 @ 9:45 AM

Meditation: "Immanuel: The Ministry of Presence" by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-23**

Both our Old Testament passage and our New Testament passage give the promise of "Immanuel". What does this promise mean, and how can we continue to offer this gift to the world?

Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, December 24, 2022 @ 5:00 PM

Sermon: "Grace in the Ordinary" by Rev. Linda Goeddel

Scripture: **Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Luke 2:1-14; John 1:1-5**

The good news of Christmas is that a Savior who was born in stable is likely to show up for you in the least likely places at the most unexpected times.

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2022 - NO SERVICE!

For updates & more services, visit rumsonpresbyterian.org/upcoming-services

Church School



Hello everyone!

December is by far my most cherished season as there are so many beautiful memories we get to make together. The Cantata(12/11), Christmas Memories and Carols and our Christmas Coffee Hour (12/18) are all not to be missed.

I'm wishing you all a wonderful, healthy Christmas Season spent with family and friends. Please email me directly at churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org and let me know how I can support your family in any way.

As always, looking for "volunteers" for the Nursery. Please reach out to me at churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org or (732)768-9913 if you know someone who may be interested. The pay is \$25 per session or credit for volunteer hours.

Warm Regards,
Sandi Van Cleve, Director of Christian Education

Music Program



Happy December, everyone!

I'd like to highlight the our upcoming Christmas season services:

December 11: Cantata Sunday

We will be having a beautiful service of narration and carols, speckled with some lovely anthems from cantatas past. We will also be joined by the choir, guest musicians, such as additional vocalists, percussion, and flute.

December 18: Christmas Memories and Carols

This is the service that replaces our annual Christmas pageant. Last year was our first Christmas Memories and Carols service, and we enjoyed hearing our congregational family members share their Christmas memories with us. We're excited to do this again this year. Please join us!

December 24, Christmas Eve

There will be a 5:00 service, with the choir and many guest musicians.

Looking forward to seeing you all in church!

Blessings to you and your families,
Andreea Fegan, Music Director

Mission News



The Giving Tree

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The Mission Commission is interested in collecting feedback on organizations and charities that inspire you. As we organize for the upcoming year, we are soliciting your recommendations, which can be provided anonymously if preferred.

Please write the name of the organization on the slip of paper located in a basket on the table outside Wilson Hall and place it within the branches of the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. We will collect these recommendations at the end of the holiday season.

Mission Commission members thank you in advance for your engagement!

Blessings to you and your families,
Anita Waters, Mission Chair

Other Church News



2022 CROP Hunger Walk—Last Chance to Give!



Walk. Give. Change the world.

Donations are being accepted until December 31!

Once again, we participated in the 2022 CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS (Church World Service) and help families who are struggling with hunger. This year the Red Bank Crop Hunger Walk raised over \$72,000, of which our church raised over \$1800! There is still time to join us with 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/2022/team/rumson-presbyterian-church-2>) to support us by making a donation today! Thank you!

Giving

GIVEPLUS⁺

YOUR CHURCH GIVING APP

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/#
For information about A.A. visit 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**

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 is approximately 30 minutes.

Stormwater Success Stories **Wed., Dec. 7** from **12:00 PM - 1:00 PM** (Virtual)

On December 7 we’re presenting the final of the 4 part series for local and county officials on stormwater management education! Hear stormwater management and green infrastructure success stories from across the country.

Hand-dipped Candle Making with Waterspirit **Thu., Dec. 6** from **6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

Don’t you love the scent of hand-dipped candles? Join Waterspirit and you can make your own taper candles the old-fashioned way. Participants are encouraged to BYO wine and snacks to enjoy as we dip our candles, listen to festive music, and delight in each other’s company. Infuse your candles with your intentions for the winter season. When lit, the illumination will spread your energy into the universe for your highest good. All materials will be provided to make and take your own hand-dipped candles. They make great gifts. An even better gift is to buy an extra ticket and bring a friend to enjoy the evening together. Ages 14 and older.

Community Advocacy Meeting **Thu., Dec. 15** from **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

How can local organizations and governing bodies protect those they serve by making a statement individually or together? This month we will explore resolutions and partake in role playing interactions all along the way to getting them passed. Help us protect what we hold so dear!

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

Join Waterspirit and friends as we commemorate the deeper meaning of the winter season with reflections, contemplation, music, and movement. The winter solstice is the longest night, when we are tipped as far away from the sun as we will get this year. The official start to the cold winter season is marked by the sun seeming to stand still in the sky. We huddle up against the cold and seek the comfort of our hearth fires and heart-fires. Great Mother Earth, bless us with true understanding of the cycles of your seasons!

All are welcome. Please visit their website (waterspirit.org)
for more information about these events.

Caring for God's Earth



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

**Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC)
Advent Daily Devotional is Here!**

ADVENT 2022 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Let Heaven and Nature Sing!



PRESBYTERIANS FOR EARTH CARE

presbyearthcare.org
presbyearthcare@gmail.com

In this Advent season, PEC has prepared daily devotions from a perspective of caring for creation. This year PEC is emphasizing personal and congregational actions with the theme “Let Heaven and Nature Sing!” The hope is that this devotional will help congregational groups, families and individuals with new insights on beloved texts during this Advent season, and will inspire more people help care for God’s creation in these challenging times.

Two formats of the devotional are available on PEC’s website - online version and printable version. Visit <https://presbyearthcare.org/devotional-and-worship-aids/> to download your copy.

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 for calendar updates~

DECEMBER 2022

Dec 4	Sun	2nd Sunday of Advent	9:45AM
Dec 6	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Dec 7	Wed	Stormwater Success Stories *	12:00PM
Dec 8	Thu	Candle Making with Waterspirit *	6:00PM
Dec 11	Sun	3rd Sunday of Advent & Cantata	9:45AM
Dec 12	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00AM
Dec 13	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Dec 15	Thu	Community Advocacy Meeting *	11:00AM
Dec 18	Sun	4th Sunday of Advent & Carols	9:45AM
Dec 20	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Dec 20	Tue	Session	7:00PM
Dec 21	Wed	Winter Solstice Celebration*	7:00PM
Dec 24	Thu	Christmas Eve	5:00PM
Dec 25	Sat	Christmas Day - No Service	
Dec 31	Sat	New Years Eve	

JANUARY 2023

Jan 1	Sun	New Year's Day	
Jan 3	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 6	Fri	Epiphany of the Lord	
Jan 8	Sun	Baptism of the Lord	
Jan 9	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00AM
Jan 10	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 16	Mon	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
Jan 18-25		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
Jan 17	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 17	Tue	Session	7:00pm
Jan 22	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00AM
Jan 23	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30PM
Jan 24	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 31	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM

**Waterspirit sponsored event. All are welcome.*

Please visit the Waterspirit website (waterspirit.org) for more information.



www.rumsonprebyterian.org