

The Pastor's Pen December 2022

The Season of Advent is upon us and the celebration of Emmanuel, God with us in Jesus Christ (Christmas day) is just over two weeks away. As we close out the year of 2022 and usher in the new year there are a few things I would like to share with you the congregation of Manasquan Presbyterian Church.

First, we are very excited to announce that the Rev. Cindy Wilcox will be returning to the staff of Manasquan Presbyterian Church as part-time Parish Associate. Cindy and her husband Dennis have been members of MPC for nine years and was under care of our Session through her theological education at Princeton Seminary and ordination process in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Cindy previously served on our staff as Sunday School and Youth Group Leader.

This weekend I will be away in Chicago to attend my wife's (Cindy Dunson) Christmas Party. Cindy Wilcox will be preaching at all three services and administering the Sacrament of Communion at the 8:00 Service. On the fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18, we will have our "Lessons and Carols" service. There will only be one service of "Lessons and Carols" at 9:15 AM in the sanctuary and we encourage our contemporary service that meets at 10:30 to join us at 9:15. On December 18th, we will have the 8:00 AM Communion service, but it will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas and New Years day fall on Sundays this year so for each of these Sundays (December 25 and January 1) we will have one service only. We usually celebrate the Sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of the month, but since we are having only one service on January 1, 2023 we have moved Communion to January 8th, for all three services (8:00 AM, 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM).

This fall we began a midweek service on Thursday evenings. We had 9 services before we had our last service of the year on December 1, 2022. We are exploring the potential to bring this back in 2023, so look for updates that may come.

Finally, we thank you for your patience amidst some of the complexities we experienced this fall. With three services, each being different, complexities arise. We are always looking at everything as a whole together while attempting to give each service the greatest chance to grow. Without going into every detail this is why we moved the Contemporary service to 10:30 in hopes that the earlier time will assist in that services continued growth. We continue to look at past decisions and future solutions as challenges arise. One challenge has been coffee hour. For the time being coffee hour after the 9:15 AM service will be downstairs in the newly named "Apostle Room". The pictures of the apostles in this room were given to the church in honor of former pastor Rev. Alec Wendell upon the finish of his call here in 2001. After taking these pictures down for painting, they found a new home in one of our newest classrooms, LL4, which now is the Apostle Room.

Merry Christmas to all, we will see you soon as we celebrate the birth of Christ this Season!

Pastor Jim