

# THE FANFARE

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FANWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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THE FANFARE

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**Fanwood Presbyterian Church**  
**Growing in God's Love,**  
**Serving All God's People**  
**through Rejoicing, Renewing and Reaching Out**

## Happy New Year!

Our God is a God of new beginnings. And boy do we all need one after almost two years of living with a pandemic. And because new and eternal Life was born in the midst of a great trial, we know that God is with us in the midst of this dark trial and will raise us up out of it in God's good time.

The length of this trial takes me back to Jesus' birth and early life. He was born in a stable after his parents could not find sanctuary anywhere else. Shortly thereafter, wise men visited and warned them to flee the wrath of a jealous King so they escaped to Egypt where Jesus spent some time as a foreigner. So from his earliest days and for an extended period of time, Jesus experienced the trials of a fallen world, teaching us that he is our Emmanuel – God with us – in all that we go through.

In God's time, however, it was safe for Mary, Joseph and Jesus to return to their hometown. And the same will be true for us who will get back to a place of feeling safe; back to our friends and more of the things we enjoy together; back to extended family members whom we have not been able to travel to and visit; back to the sanctuary of God and regular worship; back to ourselves as our minds and spirits heal from years of relative isolation.

So let's look forward to that, remembering in this Epiphany season that just as God led the wisemen via a star in order to worship the true King of creation and warn the family, so we have been enlightened, warned and kept safe. And just as God spoke to Joseph in a dream that it was time to return home, so too will God bring us back home to Life in God's eternal sanctuary. Pastor David

## Session and Committee News

### Thanksgiving for Wonderful Holiday Services



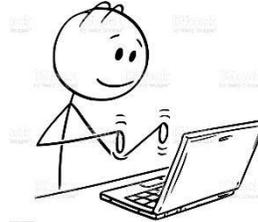
I want to thank Sarah Zimmerman for beautiful lead singing throughout the holiday season and especially on Christmas Eve and Dec. 19th when she portrayed Mary. Graeme Daniskas has been amazing as well, both with his voice and with his help behind the scenes in so many ways. Alongside him was Nemat Iddisah, doing an excellent job with the Livestream. Lauren Comerford and Linda Macari did an amazing job with the kids' pageant (along with many other youth, including Dietrich Jahnke, Charlotte Middleton, Michael Donofrio and Allison Eggert.) Seth Jahnke filled in last minute musically as well, thanks be to God.

Kris Adams, Bruce Paterson, Hailey Kim and Michael and Michael Howell (sr. and jr.) decorated the sanctuary beautifully and Hailey and Elizabeth Martinson took care of communion, as usual.

Thanks to everyone, including those I have not named, for a great team effort in putting together wonderful holiday services which welcomed many new guests to a beautiful church setting and meaningful services celebrating the saving power, mercy and Love of God.



### YouTube Livestreaming of Services



We had a successful test run last Sunday of a combined Facebook and YouTube Livestream so, God-willing and with few to no glitches, this will now be a regular Sunday offering. So whenever you cannot make it to church (or do not feel comfortable coming), please tune in now via either Facebook or YouTube.

### Prayer Night, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>

Check out Graeme's brief but important Message at the opening of our amazing Prayer Night on YouTube. I was deeply moved by the Spirit of peace, beauty and hope. Thanks to Graeme and our youth for hosting and leading us toward the Kingdom. They now have a standing committee and will be sponsoring the following event below.



We hope to have some testimonies and/or messages from guest speakers, along with some guest musicians. Come join a wonderful night of loving God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Lauren independently wrote about the same below so the Spirit is at work! Let's pay attention.

# A Call to Prayer in the New Year

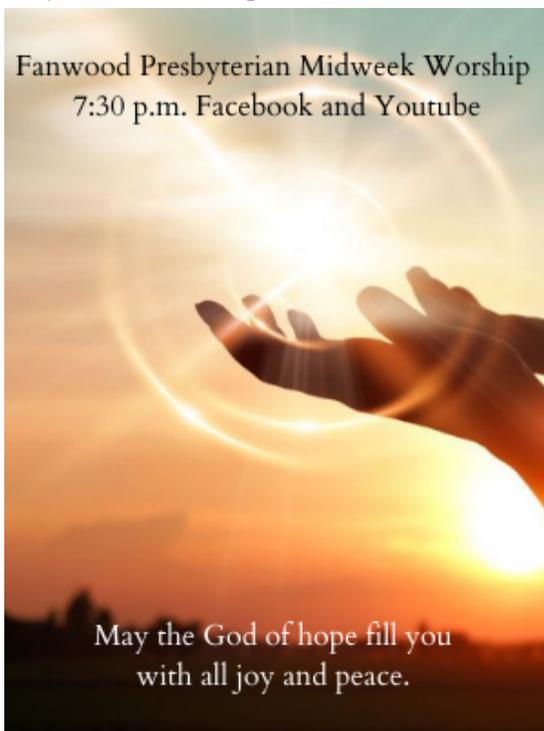
## January Worship Schedule

**Jan. 12th** -- Midweek Worship at 7:30 p.m. on Youtube and Facebook (1-2 Chronicles)

**Jan. 16th** -- Blended Worship (Likely continuing in 1-2 Chronicles)

**Jan. 23rd and 30th** -- Blended Worship (See Bible books in 'Journeying through the Bible Project' article)

Feb. Worship will continue with blended worship and you can study in advance by looking at the 'Journeying through the Bible Project' books for specific weeks. (See below.)



*Please join us on Wednesdays, Jan. 12th, 26th, Feb. 9th and 23rd for 5-10 minutes of Re-generating your souls for good work the rest of the week.*

## Seeking a Faithful and Passionate Worship Leader



FPC members, please let me know if you know a gifted, charismatic **guitarist** who might like to serve our great church. We are also looking once again for our next **Traditional Music Ministries Director**. Thank you for your prayers. See more info. below re: the Praise Leader position:

The Fanwood Presbyterian Church is looking for our next worship and praise band leader. This person will love God, people, worship, prayer and great new contemporary praise music. He or she will be a gifted guitar player and music director, guiding our very talented musicians into heartfelt, beautiful praise. The job will start at five hours a week with pay commensurate with experience. We are deeply committed to presenting the gospel in-person and streaming. Please send your resume to [pastordpjohnke@gmail.com](mailto:pastordpjohnke@gmail.com)



# A Call to Prayer in the New Year



## Mission Committee

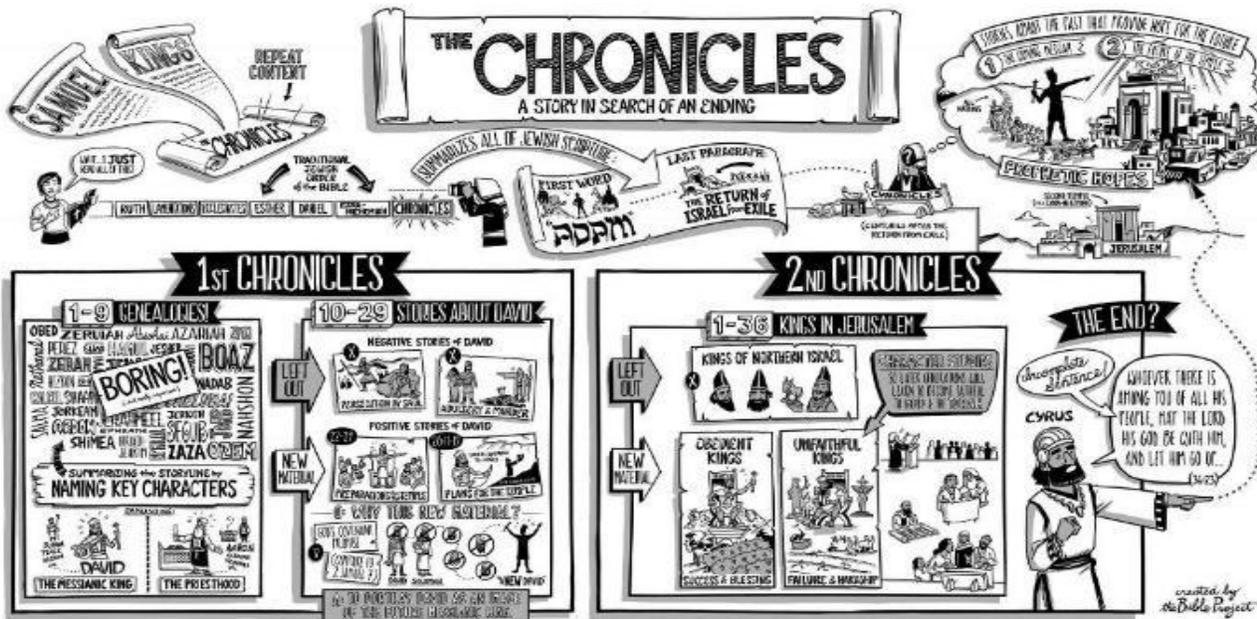
The Food Bank continues to provide basic staples to a record number of families each month. In addition to the basics, Holiday bags provided special treats in November and December. Your continuing support of this ministry is greatly appreciated.

The Mission Committee thanks you for your support of our recent coat and winter hat, gloves and scarf collection. All items were donated to El Centro in Plainfield and will be given to families in need this winter.



## FOOD BANK

This has been a harder year for many families, and more people than ever are food-insecure. Please donate canned and dry items to the FPC food pantry when you can. There is a plastic bin outside the parking lot entryway where you can drop off food. Thanks for your support.



## Journeying through the Bible in the Weeks Ahead

Week of Jan. 10th -- 1-2 Chronicles; Week of Jan. 17th -- Ezra/ Nehemiah; Week of Jan. 24th -- Esther  
 Week of Jan. 31st -- Job. All are welcome to our Tuesday at 1 p.m. in-person and zoom group or our Thursday at 7 p.m. zoom only group. We are hoping to start another 30-minute session monthly, bi-monthly or weekly for parents and children and youth to join together with David and Lauren. Please let us know of your interest and how often would work best for you. You can also study on your own through the emailed links that Pastor David provides. Let me know if you need any past materials.

Ten Prayers for the New Year **by DENNAE PIERRE, DECEMBER 29, 2021 Christianity Today**

*2021 was a year filled with trials and troubles for many. Let's start this next one on our knees. Linda Macari*

- 1. A prayer for a fresh start:** Lord, thank you for another year of life and all that you provided for us last year. We lay before you all the disappointments and unfinished work, and we ask for your mercy, peace, and joy as we look to the year ahead. May we delight in the gift of your presence as we discern the journey you have for us in this new year.
- 2. A prayer for our habits:** Lord, we confess that we spend much of our day thoughtlessly consuming the things around us. Our habits often lack intention and cause us to live distracted, self-focused lives. Would you bring to our attention the unhealthy ways we spend our time, energy, thoughts, talents, and money? Show us old habits to turn away from and new habits to practice. Shape us by your Spirit into more merciful people who love you and neighbor with greater intention.
- 3. A prayer for relational healing:** Lord, there are many ways we fall short in our relationships. We failed to carry each other's burdens, we harbored offenses, and we judged each other's motives. Help us to confess our sins against each other. Help us to forgive and seek forgiveness. May your Spirit heal wounds and bring unity to fractured relationships—that we might love one another as you love us.
- 4. A prayer for the weary:** Lord, the last few years have been filled with sickness, death, job loss, isolation, anxiety, fear, and division. We are weary. In our weariness, we confess our cynicism and our skepticism and we ask for your renewal. Give us eyes to see the kingdom life Christ has promised—and fill us with a hope that allows us to live each day with soberness, generosity, and joy.
- 5. A prayer for the lonely:** Lord, you are the father of the fatherless, and you place the lonely in families. This year, help us join you in that work. Give us eyes to see those around us who may feel alone. Help us to notice the orphans, single parents, the elderly, the incarcerated, the homeless, and the refugees in our midst. Expand our capacity to be hospitable to those who desire belonging and family.
- 6. A prayer for those suffering:** Lord, bring to mind those in our lives who are suffering, and help us to be faithful in prayer for and service to them. We also ask that you strengthen your servants, scattered around the world, to be the hands and feet of Jesus—especially in places where war, violence, famine, and sickness are devastating families and communities.
- 7. A prayer for our neighbors:** Lord, help us to notice our neighbors more this year. May we learn the names of those who live next door to us, the people who serve us coffee and gas each week, and the families we run into at the park. Remind us to be a source of blessing, even in the most ordinary and simple ways, as we learn to abide in your love and extend it toward our neighbors.
- 8. A prayer for our work:** Lord, you have placed Christians in every industry and city. Help us to steward our work this year—not only for our families, but also for the flourishing of others. Allow us to be a restorative presence in our places of work. Align our organizations to reflect your creativity, goodness, and justice. Help us to act righteously and generously to those whose work is often marginalized by society.
- 9. A prayer for Christian community:** Lord, help us not to be consumers in our local churches, or to think transactionally about our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith. Instead, show us how to nurture true Christian community in our lives this year. Give us the initiative and insight to know how to cultivate a greater love for God's people. Help us to share our lives with one another in such a way that the people we meet are ultimately drawn closer to you.
- 10. A prayer for our hands and feet:** Lord, bless our hands to serve you more faithfully in the year to come. Guide our feet to walk in your steps, imitating the example you set for us during your time on earth. Help us to follow and obey you. Empower us by your Spirit to love one another in consistent and creative ways.

## Christmas Success

Despite the ongoing impact of Covid we managed to successfully pull off an in-person Christmas pageant this year. It did not come without its trials with kids having to drop out all the way up to Christmas Eve, but we made it work and the kids successfully told the story of Jesus' birth for the congregation! We also managed to visit a few of our shut-ins to sing Christmas Carols which was such a joy since we were unable to do that last year. All ages gathered for a Christmas movie night where we watched Elf and drank lots of hot chocolate!

## Youth Involvement: Let's Follow their Lead

For those of you who have not been to in-person services, I must share my pride with how active and involved many of our high schoolers are who were just confirmed in May. Every Sunday most of our A.V. and live streaming is handled by the high schoolers, and our 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service was completely run by high schoolers from lighting, to livestream to backstage help. Our high schoolers also hosted a prayer night on January 7th! I hope their enthusiasm and involvement acts as an encouragement for us all to be more involved in church life, and we start the New Year by building more spiritual habits by following the lead of our youth. Sincerely, Lauren



## A Word From Westminster Preschool

It has been a very busy start to our school year and we are always so thankful for the support of our church community and the Westminster Families. We have had some bumps along the way but our students are happy and thriving in our preschool! We once again had 3 successful celebrations of The Christmas Story, with the children and their families. Looking ahead through the winter months the children will continue our literacy based curriculum along with learning about Winter and the changes we will see with this cold season. We are so proud of the children and their resilience during this time of uncertainty. Their excitement keeps us moving forward while creating fun, new ways to learn in the classrooms.

We will begin registration for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year and we are excited to be able to take another step back to normalcy by bringing back our afternoon classes. It is a great step forward and we look forward to welcoming new families to our wonderful preschool.

It is important to recognize our amazing teachers who come to the school every day to spend time with the children. They are truly why Westminster is the school it is today and I am grateful for each of them. Wishing everyone a very Happy, Healthy New Year. Kim Russo

## January Birthdays

Date		Date		Date		Date	
1	John Stueck	9	Rhaena Lindemann	17		25	
2	.	10		18		26	
3	Diane Knechtel Alex Poulos	11	Samantha Howell Margaret Weber	19		27	
4		12	Joan Poe Elizabeth Schwartz	20	Kimberly Shoback Katherine Dreyer	28	
5		13	Matthew Dreyer Karen Thomson	21		29	
6		14		22	Hannah Charnock	30	Karyn Alvarez
7		15	Braelyn Brandl	23		31	
8		16		24	Carol McClure		

## February Birthdays

Date		Date		Date		Date	
1		9		17		25	
2	Michael Howell	10		18	Liz Henderson	26	
3		11		19		27	
4	Theodore Bassman Jr. JH Stephan Fallon	12		20		28	
5		13		21			
6		14		22	Michael Donofrio Norman Gustafson		
7		15	Susan Kelly	23			
8		16		24	Genine Schwartz		

*Sorry if we missed your birthday or have it mistaken. Please let us know, if so.*

**Fanwood Presbyterian Church**

Box 69, FANWOOD, N.J. 07023

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*JAN - FEB*

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