



THE VOICE

December 2021

Advent to Do*

**“Turn inward this season,
Reflect and renew;
Be mindful of God and His
promise to you.
Let peace overwhelm you,
Let pressures be few,
Let earthly things go,
You have Advent to do.”**



* Edward Alstrom

Dear Friends,

Only about twenty five shopping days left until Christmas Day! While most of us are asking the question: “Are you ready for Christmas?” This Advent hymn asks instead **“Are you ready to do the work of Advent?”** Why? Because we have Advent “to do,” to prepare us for Christmas, to remind us of why it is we observe and celebrate our Lord’s birth!

How are we to do this you may ask? Follow these directions by hymn writer Edward Alstrom and you can’t go wrong.

- Put earthly things on the back burner—**let peace overwhelm you.** *“Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.”*
- Turn upward to God in prayer, **receive and share God’s grace.** *“Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.”*
- Carefully guard your **set aside times of reflection and renewal.** *“What child is this who lay to rest on Mary’s lap is sleeping?”*
- **Release yourself** from to do lists, shopping excursions, online ordering, exhausting baking, excessive decorating. A little of anything goes a long way! *“Take time to be holy.”*
- And finally, in words from the hymn **“Turn Godward now amid these stressful days, allay all your worries by joining in praise. Embrace the time present, it’s God’s gift to you. Make your world wait, you have Advent to do!”**

I hope to see you all these next four Sundays of Advent and for Christmas Eve Worship as well. We have many things planned to “do Advent” and **I pray that you have the very best grace filled, love topped, peace centered holy day of Christmas ever!**

Pastor Viv



Outreach Opportunity Caring Tree

Our **Caring Tree** this year will be adorned with decorative cardboard gift boxes that we hope to fill with \$20 Shop Rite gift cards. These will go to local seniors and families who are clients of the Caldwell Food Pantry. If we collect enough, we'll give some to Family Promise in Montclair, too. To participate, simply order food cards as you normally do and let Ellen know to put your donated \$20 cards aside for the Caring Tree. Elves will box and deliver them! (If you order online, you'll see a category for Caring Tree cards.) This is a great opportunity to help our church (5% of each card comes back to us) and local residents in need.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DINNER!

On October 23, we had our Pulled Pork/ BBQ Chicken dinner, deliciously prepared by Ralph Francavilla. What a joy to work together preparing the meals for curbside pickup and to see friends in person as they drove up to the church. Many thanks to the fantastic team of workers who, as always, did an amazing job. A huge thank you to all who purchased dinners to benefit this mission outreach. Your support is appreciated and necessary to make these ideas become a success. Our profit was \$1500.

Heartfelt gratitude,
Myrtle

You are invited!!!

Our Women's Fellowship Christmas Party

December 10th at 6:30 p.m.
in the church auditorium

Please bring a bagged or wrapped gift for our gift exchange with a suggested \$20 value.

Dinner will be provided.

RSVP by December 3rd

Call or text Myrtle at 973-214-3437 or
email at myrtjohn@optonline.net

P.S. Let me know if you require transportation

December Birthdays

December 6	Scott Plumstead
December 10	Greg Elphinstone
December 13	Lauren Crooks
December 16	William D. Carter Jillian Crooks
December 17	Christine Waddington
December 19	Pastor Viv
December 25	Donald DeBruyne
December 26	Angelo Pezzino

December Anniversaries

December 1, 1973 Ken & Barbara Ingra
December 17, 1972 Glenn & Gail Plumstead

Financial Report through October 2021

Through our ten months of 2021 our income exceeded our expenses versus our projected budget by \$9,715. The majority of this is due to our miscellaneous income being \$7,629 greater than anticipated. Our miscellaneous income includes \$33,675 which is the full amount of the 2nd PPP Loan we received. As of 8/5/2021 our 2nd PPP loan has been forgiven. This also includes the Golf outing income and expenses including West Essex First Aid Squad donation of \$4,500. Overall we exceeded our goal for the golf outing.

Our expenses were \$2,773 less than expected. Savings from our personnel expenses and our ministries were the primary areas that resulted in keeping our expenses less than our budget expectations. As of October, we are up to date with our Conference Billings and Shared Ministries. We have also paid our Workman's Compensation for the year.

On the income side our overall giving was \$1,796 less than our goal to date. Our Faithful Givers were \$970 greater than expected and our Pledgers were \$2,766 less than anticipated.

We will continue to provide updates regarding our financial health throughout 2021.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministries through your pledges and faithful giving.

Sincerely,
Your Finance Committee

Notes from Maxine

The CUMC Choir and Bells began in October to rehearse and share their gifts during our services.

I want to thank you for all your help and support to make this a fantastic start.

Please reach out to me at max13A@aol.com for any info to join or just to "try out for size". Also, if you have musical gifts of any kind to share please reach out.

We rehearse mostly on Tuesdays. The Bells rehearse 4-5 pm in the Sanctuary, and the Choir rehearses Tuesdays at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. However, we are flexible with our schedule.

The CUMC Cantata will be during the Sunday service on Dec. 19th! Please make sure to zoom in or better yet join us at the Church at 10 am.

Thank you all,

Maxine Alstrom
max13A@aol.com



Parish Notices



We are saddened to announce the passing of **Grant Harper** on November 19, 2021. Sympathy cards or notes may be addressed to his wife, Laurie Harper, 37 Gould Place, Caldwell, NJ 07006.



We are very sorry to announce the passing of **Barbara Gordon** on November 24, 2021. Please address cards or notes to Barbara's husband, Jerry Gordon at 4 Hilltop Way, Essex Fells, NJ 07021

THE VOICE

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SAFE SANCTUARY CERTIFIED CHURCH

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE-LIFT



UPCOMING DATES

Saturday, December 4 9 AM Hanging of the Greens

All are invited to decorate inside and outside the church!

Sunday, December 5 10 AM Second Sunday of Advent

Peace Doves to be placed on tree during worship

Friday, December 10 6:30 PM Women's Fellowship Party

All women are invited! RSVP by December 3

Sunday, December 12 10 AM Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 19 10 AM Fourth Sunday of Advent

Choir Christmas Cantata, Readings, Hymns, Anthems

Friday, December 24 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service

Saturday, December 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sunday, December 26 10 AM Worship and Carol Sing!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 AM

AND CHRISTMAS EVE AT 5:30 PM

Zoom in (use the QR code above) or come in person. Through liturgy, prayer, music and message we hope to touch your heart, deepen your faith, and inspire discipleship!

