

## MISSION @ FIRST

Each month we are highlighting one mission project of First Presbyterian Church on the front page of PresbyNews. This month, **SHALOM**.

SHALOM is an acronym which stands for Serving the Homeless with Alternate Lodging Of Middletown. (*Shalom* is a Hebrew word that means peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility). Now entering its twelfth year of ministry, SHALOM has become a network of local churches of various denominations that “share their bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into their houses” (Isaiah 58:7). Each week on a rotating basis, a church in the network provides meals and shelter within their own church facilities during the winter months. First Presbyterian Church is hosting Shalom January 20-27. Below is a letter and watercolor painting from Darrell Templeton, who coordinates the program at First Presbyterian Church.

### SHALOM—OUR 12th YEAR



First Presbyterian hosts the homeless for the coldest week of the winter and we succeed every year. It's cold outside during the third week in January, but not in Fellowship Hall. Even though it's temporary, we turn our church into a home for those that truly need help.

Our mission is simple, we provide “emergency shelter.” We do not try to solve the myriad of problems they have accumulated in their lives. We just try to be human beings with others for a few days. We eat with them and we are all ears. They talk and talk and talk...we listen. Sometimes, it's all they need.

Good news, Christian Enterprise Baptist Church will again partner with us this season. We serve four days, they serve three. They did a great job last year and are eager to do it again.

Thank you, in advance for your help. First Church will do a great job on this mission and there will be about 25 souls that are very grateful for what we do. Whenever participants express their feelings, we hear gratitude. They enjoy their week with the members and friends of First Church.

# Christian Education and Faith Formation

## Children's Ministry

Children are always welcome in worship! Wiggle bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance to help children feel included and engaged during the worship service. Additional resources for parents and guardians are also available - look for the pinwheel and enjoy!

A loving, Christian environment is provided year-round from 9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. for infants and children up to 5 years old. This month, Sunday School (children ages 6-12) meets following Circle Time, in the Godly Play Room on January 13, 20, and 27. Children will be dismissed in the Gathering Area following worship.

## Youth Ministry

Save the date - Youth Group will participate in the **Mid-dletown Youth Connection** February 10, from 3:00 p.m.-5:00p.m. at The Gathering!

Would you like to receive updates and reminders about Youth Group via text or email? Contact the church office to learn how you can be added to the contact list.

We continue our work with the Log College Project, an innovative initiative at Princeton Theological Seminary to help Christian congregations design, test, and implement new models of youth ministry.

This month, the Design Team will meet in the Youth Room following worship on January 6, 13, and 27. As we begin the first digital course, *Biblical Foundations for Innovation in Youth Ministry*, we will journey together through the Book of Acts, looking at how God worked in the early church and imagining how God might be working in our own context. Design Team Meetings are open to the congregation. Join us and contribute to the process!

## Adult Ministries

**Sunday Night Live** will resume its study of "The Spiritual Brain: Science and Religious Experience on January 6. The program will be "Religion and Mental Health". The schedule of lessons include:

January 13: Religion and Brain Dysfunction

January 20: SHALOM at Church

January 27: Transmitters to God

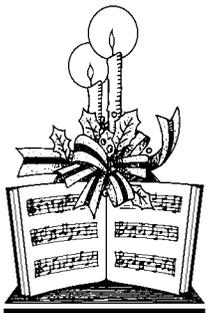
February 3: Stimulated States and Religious Experiences

SNL meets at 7:00 at the home of Paula and Jay Cohen and is open to all. For more information, call Paula at 423-4443.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** meets beginning January 8, at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room. Join us as we study the book of Mark.

## Music Notes

**May the faith, hope, peace, love and joy  
that we celebrated during Advent and Christmas  
season sustain us and guide us during the New Year.**



*My personal thanks to all of the choirs, soloists, instrumentalists, choir directors, special guests, dancers, choreographers, narrators, sound techs, church staff, custodial staff, Joyful Noize Snack chief, and other "elves" who have worked so hard to make the Advent and Christmas season such a blessing. Your proclamation of God's Word through music was glorious from the first Sunday of Advent to the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Thank you for your hard work, dedication and love of Christ!!*

The Music and Worship Ministry Team wishes to thank all of you who purchased a memorial Stained Glass Star Ornament this year. Due to your generosity we are giving \$477 to FISH. *Thank you for being such a blessing to those in need in our community!*

If you have not picked up your Star Ornament, please do so in the Gathering Area after worship.



## December Birthdays!

02.....Jackie Hale	26.....Gene Spaulding
04.....Katherine Oellerich	26.....Bonnie Saunders
05.....Chick Fraunfelter	27.....Anne Frantz
05.....Sam Moon	29.....Letitia Curless
07.....Mary Jo Burns	
09.....Allan Smillie	
11.....Joe Newlin	
13.....Ginny Simonson	
13.....Jay Johnson	
14.....Bob Cover	
15.....Marcia Miller	
16.....Doug Alder	
20.....Bob Sams	



## Bicentennial Bits



2019 is looking to be an exciting year as we celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Church. Throughout the year, you'll discover lots of interesting historical tidbits and other fascinating facts relating to our history. Look for **Bicentennial Bits** in your weekly bulletin beginning January 6.

Each month in *PresbyNews*, we'll be including a photo with corresponding information for a Prayer Walk through the church. See if you can find the space in the church represented in the photo and you'll discover more info and a beautiful prayer by Dianne Gerber.

### Men's Monthly Meeting

The Men's Monthly Meeting is an opportunity to get together and socialize over a meal outside the church. You're welcome to join them on **Tuesday, January 8**, at the Clubhouse Sports Grille, 250 N. Main Street in Monroe @ 5:30 p.m.



### Ladies Night Out!

ATTENTION: ALL CHURCH GALS AND FRIENDS!

You are invited to a fun and casual evening at The Spinning Fork, 2220 N. Verity Pkwy on **Tuesday, January 15** at 6:30 p.m.



### Weddings at First Presbyterian

As part of our Bicentennial celebration, we're calling all brides and grooms married at our church, both in our current location and the old church downtown.

If you have a wedding photo you'd like to share of any couple married at our church, we would love to show it off on our Wedding Wall, which we hope to install in the Memorial Room.

Please make a copy of the photo and include information with the groom's name, bride's name (including maiden name), and the month and year of the wedding.

Hopefully, we can collect a large collection of wedding photos for our display. Please turn them in to the office or give them to Ann Veith (422-9062 if you have any questions).

We hope to have the photo display up this spring!

### Weather Policy

If the Middletown City Schools are closed due to weather, the church office will be closed, and events will be cancelled.

If you have a pastoral emergency, email Michael, michael@fpcmiddletown.com.



New Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9-4 p.m.  
Friday—9-12 p.m.

## Our Mission

...to **SHARE** the good news

...to **NURTURE** the Spirit

...to **SERVE** members and neighbors

## January Worship Services

**Sunday, January 6**

*Communion*

Matthew 2:1-12

Music by Sanctuary Choir

**Sunday, January 13**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

**Sunday, January 20**

John 2:1-11

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

**Sunday, January 27**

Luke 4:14-21

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

Michael Isaacs, Pastor/Head of Staff  
Joyce Zigler, Director of Music  
Lisa Kaufer, Director of Faith Formation  
Kathy Harris, Administrative Assistant  
Corbit Harrison, Facility Manager  
Sandy Fisher, Secretary  
Cheryl Jarbo, Custodian  
Lara Moon, Director of Children Choirs  
Janet Scott, Director of Handbells  
Paula Elliott, Dir. of Kindergarten Readiness  
Kim Flesher, Pre-K Teacher

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Friday—9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Website: [www.fpcmiddletown.com](http://www.fpcmiddletown.com)

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