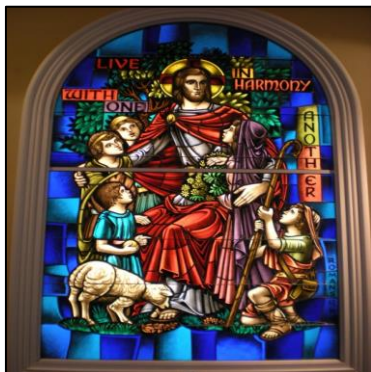


November/  
December  
2016

# The Tower

Harmony  
Presbyterian  
Church



## Mark your Calendar

### November 2016

- 11-6 Communion/Change clocks  
Back/Stewardship Sunday/  
Veteran's Day Celebration
- 11-13 Special Congregation  
Meeting/11:30 – Deacon  
Meeting
- 11-13-20 Hosting Family Promise
- 11-16 Session Meeting - 7 p.m.
- 11-20 Ordination and Installation of  
Officers/ Hanging of the  
Greens (following worship)
- 11-24 Happy Thanksgiving
- 11-27 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

### December 2016

- 12-4 Communion/Member  
Recognition Sunday
- 12-11 Nativity Service/Deacon  
Meeting – 11:30 a.m.
- 12-18 Children's Program
- 12-24 Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service – 7 p.m.
- 12-25 Christmas Day 10 a.m.  
Service
- 12-28 Pastor Scott's birthday

## *Message from the Pastor*

We are coming into the holiday season and things will be getting crazy soon. But I wonder how many people know where the word "holiday" came from. It began as a term for special religious observances and was called a "Holy Day". It wasn't until much later when other non-religious days were added did we get the term "Holiday" which is a derivation of "Holy Day".

It isn't all that surprising that we have moved so far away from the real meaning of this season. When you look around at our country or the world you see a general secularization of all society. Thanksgiving has become a football and food day. Now I love football but I don't ever want to lose the true meaning of the day; God's provision for me. Giving thanks is one of the primary focuses of my prayer life and Thanksgiving should be a special reminder of all we receive from Him every day.

What about Christmas? When you think about Christmas, can you think about it without thinking about Jesus? Probably! Unfortunately! Admittedly!

I want you to imagine God's mission here on Earth without Christmas. I want you to imagine Christmas without the message of "Peace on Earth..." I want you to imagine Christmas without the words of Isaiah 9:6, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." I want you to try and imagine Easter without Christmas. Ultimately, we can't imagine Christmas without these things, maybe Xmas, but not Christmas.

The purpose of Christmas has been lost in our society. The purpose has been sugared-up to the point of covering up the real taste. The real taste is love! You say; "I knew that!!!!" Yes, you did but the love God is showing is deeper and more powerful than we can imagine. We call it "the incarnation", God came to earth as Jesus. God was **embodied** in the human form of Jesus. Jesus was God! Webster's says incarnation is a concrete or actual quality of deity. The God of all creation came into time and was born as a baby to save us from ourselves. What gets lost in the celebrations and decorations is the ugly fact that we are totally depraved and in great need of saving. Jesus/God came to do what we could not do for ourselves. He came as a baby to witness to defenselessness needed by God so he could serve as the perfect sacrifice to save us from our ugly sinfulness.

As it is with most things when it comes to God and His amazingly redemptive love for us, true love is a double edged sword. On one side, we have the unfathomable reality of God's love which continues to chase after us even when we don't embrace it. On the other side, we have the ugly reality of our sinfulness and the need for God to come to us and ultimately die for us.

The true Christmas can only be embodied in the incarnation of God in Jesus, the Christ! May you truly have a Merry Christmas as you celebrate the TRUE love of our God!

**Address:** 2727 Belvidere Road, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

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**UPDATES****Session Update****Regular November Session Meeting**

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

**Regular December Session Meeting**

Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

**Deacon Update****Regular November Meeting**

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

**Regular December Meeting**

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

**Usher Schedule**

November 6	Communion Servers will be the Ushers
November 13	Joyce & Charlie Cummins Rose Bohr, John Ehasz
November 20	Sheri & Scott Aydelotte Niki & Andy Carr
November 27	Dick & Loyce Johnson Rich & Betty Salter
December 4	Communion Servers will be the Ushers
December 11	Joyce & Charlie Cummins Cathy & Joe Haschak
December 18	Russell Scott, John Counterman, Lynn Ehrhardt, Jan Kuhn
December 24	tba
December 25	tba

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE****NOVEMBER 6, 2016 - Communion/ Stewardship Sunday/ Veteran's Day Celebration**

Assisting Elder Dave Swanson  
 Greeters Losco Family  
 Assisting Deacon Ray Lalley  
 Servers Scott Aydelotte, Sherri Aydelotte, Rex LaBarre, Natalie Dutt

**NOVEMBER 13, 2016 – Special Congregation Meeting/**

Assisting Elder June Heyer  
 Greeters Russell Scott  
 Assisting Deacon Vicki Stevens

**NOVEMBER 20, 2016 - Ordination and Installation of Officers/ Hanging of the Greens**

Assisting Elder Karen Rose  
 Assisting Deacon Kate Harris  
 Greeters Ray Lalley

**NOVEMBER 27, 2016 - Fellowship**

Assisting Elder Vicki Stevens  
 Assisting Deacon Jan Kuhn  
 Greeters Carr Family  
 Advent Reader Wismer Family

**DECEMBER 4, 2016 – Communion/Member Recognition Sunday**

Assisting Elder Bert Kuhn  
 Assisting Deacon Suzanne Swanson  
 Greeters Jeri Lynn Flynn  
 Servers Russell Scott, Charlie Cummins, Deb McKenna, Ruth Skirbst  
 Advent Readers Carr Family

**DECEMBER 11, 2015- Nativity**

Assisting Elders Lee Smith Family Aydelotte Family, Rose Family, Carr Family, Indyk Family, Wismer Family  
 Greeters Matlock Family  
 Advent Readers David Ehasz Family

**DECEMBER 18, 2016 – Children's Program**

Assisting Elder John Ehasz  
 Greeters Louise Harris, Ray Bragin, Ben Rose, Olivia Swanson  
 Advent Readers Indyk Family

**DECEMBER 24, 2016 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Assisting Elder Lynn Ehrhardt Assisting Deacon Sue Gentle  
 Greeters Dick & Loyce Johnson

**DECEMBER 25, 2016 – Christmas Day**

Assisting Elder Natalie Dutt Assisting Deacon Ray Lalley  
 Greeters Rich & Betty Salter

### **END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS**

Time is on your side! Your year-end gifts to the church should be received by the last Sunday in December, for your tax purposes and the church's. Thank you!

### **HOME VISITATION**

If you would like Pastor Scott or a member of the Board of Deacons to visit you at home, please contact the church office to set up a date. The Deacons are interested in visiting, providing meals, etc. However, they can not "read inds" so please let the church know of any needs.

### **CHOIR NEWS**

If anyone is interested in joining the Children's Choir or the Adult Choir please see Sandy Vliet. We are always glad to have new faces and voices. Anyone interested in singing in the choir for the Advent/Christmas Season is welcome to join the choir in the Choir Room 40 minutes before each worship. Choir rehearsal is from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Children's Choir meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

### **FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY**

Remember the FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY is the first Sunday of every month. As you come to worship, please place your nonperishable food items in the baskets located in the downstairs hallway. Poverty and hunger, like God, do not take a vacation.

### **REMEMBER THESE FOLKS IN PRAYER**

Randa Barabas, Joan Barry, Kate Beers, Shirley Beers, Dick Collins, Mary Collins, Sheila Costanza, Glenn David, Flo Disarsky, Jean Dutt, Kelly Fox, Denise Frankenfield, Dick Frankenfield, Josephine A. Frankenfield, Paula Freese, Gail Gangaware, Wes Garrison, Sr., Frank Gentle, Anne Ginley-Yerkes, Judy Grace, Hilton Family, Bob King, Eric Kirchgassner, Bobby Kopec, Rex LaBarre, Sam Marino, Tracy Matlock's dad, Veronia Matus, Alice McElhinney, Bill McEwen, Jace Nikoden, Rhonda Olsowski, Irma Cook Peterson, Tom Pointer, Janice Prostack, David Rehrig and his family, Joan Richards, Rich Salter, Vicki Santini, Russell Scott, Amy Shandor, Diane Shipe Armstrong, Sgt Ryan Skibenes, Henry Skirbst, Ron Smith, Earl Steel, Sr., baby Trent, Bob Vannatta, Dave Ward, Diane Wilkinson, Danny Wisner, Debbie Wittschiebe, Donna Youpa and those affected by Hurricane Matthew.

### **DECORATE THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS IS COMING**

It's time to "Hang the Greens"  
**Sunday, November 20, 2016** (after worship service)

There is something for everyone to do as we "deck the halls" with boughs of holly, greens, poinsettias, lights, and tinsel. The carols will be sung as we begin the special season of Advent, as we prepare for the arrival of the birth of Jesus. All are welcome, plan on being part of a special family time as we enjoy fellowship and a covered dish luncheon. Please let the Church office know how many are attending at 859-0355.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Children's Christmas Program will be held during worship on Sunday, December 18, 2016. Mark your calendars and be sure to join us then!

## CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

**December 24**

**7:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

**10:00 a.m.** Christmas Day Service

There will be **no Church School** on December 25.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you are interested in offering flowers in memory or honor of a loved one for the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight worship, please call Cathie Fischer at the Church. The cost will be \$8. Order forms will appear in the bulletin; the deadline is December 4, 2016.

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary please contact the church office at 908-859-0355 or send e-mail to [tomcat507@verizon.net](mailto:tomcat507@verizon.net). Please note that the birthday and anniversary lists will be no longer appear in the Tower but will be available on our website [tpcnh.org](http://tpcnh.org).

## FAMILY PROMISE OF WARREN COUNTY

**Our next week as host church is : November 13 – November 20**

Please prayerfully consider when you can give the most priceless gift of all – your time – to those who are in need of help at this time in their lives. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Jan Kuhn at 908-859-5721 for more information.

## HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

Please begin to think of the needy families in our church and community. We will be collecting food for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for these families. Please give generously so we can make the holidays better for them. Items such as turkeys, potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, dessert mixes, etc. are needed. Please supply any small boxes. Please leave these items in the baskets in the hallway opposite the kitchen. Thank you for your donations to families who are less fortunate and those who need some holiday cheer.

**In an attempt to save postage costs, the newsletter will be on the church website. If you would be interested in not receiving a copy in the mail – please notify the church office. Thank you.**

## Call to Meeting

There will be a Special Congregation Meeting of the Presbyterian Church in Harmony, on Sunday, November 13, 2016, immediately following worship, regarding the election of Elders, Deacons and Trustees. All members of the Church are asked to be present to do the business of the Church.

By order of the Session, Rev. Scott K. Bohr, Moderator

## BAPTISMS

We are always pleased to welcome God's children into our church family. Baptized on September 18, 2016 was Collin Horvath, born on February 20, 2016, son of Jason Horvath and Jennifer Schilling. Baptized on October 16, 2016 was Ava Marie Fazekas, born on April 21, 2015 daughter of Jennifer Fehr.

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Stewardship letters along with pledge cards will be in the mail shortly. Bert Kuhn, Stewardship Chairperson, will be addressing the congregation on November 6 during worship. Come and hear his message.

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

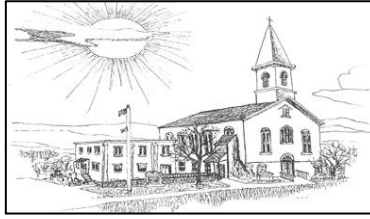
Do you want to remember a loved one? Or would you like to honor a special person or day, such as a birth, anniversary, marriage or birthday. Chancel flowers are only \$30 for two vases. You can take the flowers with you after the service or the Board of Deacons will see that they are distributed to a church member who is ill or shut-in. A sign-up chart is located on the door to Fellowship Hall. Please place your donation in the offering plate and make the envelope "flower fund." If you have any questions or if you can't come in to sign the chart please call the church office.

## NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you are interested in becoming a member of Harmony Presbyterian Church we are having a new member class on November 6 after worship. Please call the Church office at 908-859-0355 if you are interested.

## CHRISTMAS IS A TIME OF GIVING

The Deacons are planning to provide gifts on our Giving Tree for the veterans at Veterans' North home and also for local children who are in need. Please look for more information in the bulletins and also for the trees in fellowship hall with tags. We can brighten the holidays for those who need some cheer and experience the love of Christ.



**THE STAFF WISHES YOU ALL A VERY JOYOUS AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY!**

May the peace and blessings of our Lord descend upon us all during this Holy Season!

“Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David , a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill toward ALL.” Luke 2:14

A sincere thank you to all the volunteers who help our church run so smoothly by devoting so many hours of service throughout the year.

*Rev. Scott Bohr*

*Cathie Fischer*

*Sandy Vliet*

*Sandi Skibenes*

**HARMONY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2727 Belvidere Road  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865