



The Church News

Greenwich Presbyterian Church

January 2023

*Authentic worship, Building Community, Sharing God's Love,
for more than three centuries*

The Hard Work of Hope

"But hope is not a wish. ... Hope is trusting that no matter what pains or tragedies befall us, no matter what darkness envelopes us, no matter what grief we live with, that God is still here."

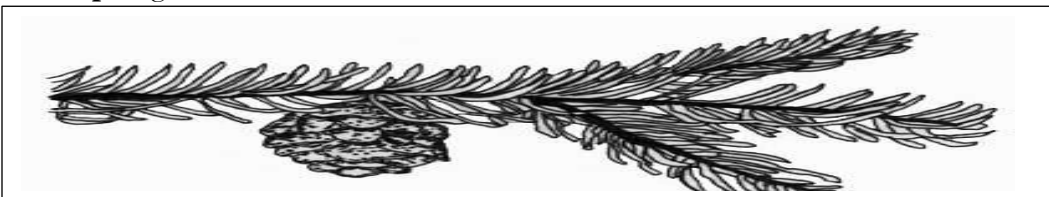
A conversation, quickly moved to the inevitable first question of: "What do you do?" As a pastor, I never know what kind of reaction I'll get to my "job." Sometimes folks tell me where they worship. Sometimes I hear why they've stopped going to church. Sometimes I hear an entire life story. Sometimes I hear confessions and life trials. Sometimes I receive a muttered, "huh, interesting." But that day I heard a new response that has forever touched my heart. When I said I was the local Presbyterian pastor, this woman insightfully said, "That must be so hard: giving people **hope** every week."

Hope is hard work, she said.

God spoke to me that day through a conversation with a stranger. I still treasure her words in my heart. They gave me a renewed understanding of my faith walk. The hard work of **hope** is the good work of ministry. **Hope** is hard, which is precisely why we need to keep going.

The hard work of **hope** is the purest, most basic description of what we do as the church of Jesus Christ. We hope and yet, we don't always define our work as "**hope** work." Day after day, the church works hard to be **hope** for its community. Week in and week out, God's people preach **hope** in midst of everyday struggles. Year after year, we faithfully live in **hope** for what God will do next. Generation after generation, the body of Christ brings **hope** to a weary and broken world.

We **hope** right in the middle of the hard.



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We proclaim a light shining in the deepest darkness. We sing about good news of great joy for *all* people. We believe that a baby, born in a barn is the **hope** of the world. We tell the story of God becoming flesh, born in pain and blood, among the animals, and the muck. We stand in awe at the **hope** of the Magi, who followed the sky in search of God. We **hope** beyond **hope** as we read of this young family, fleeing to Egypt to save the life of the Son of God. We light candles to shine **hope** when the world is at its darkest point. Yet, too often we throw around that “**hope**” word as if it doesn’t have this deep, profound meaning. We say: “I **hope** you have a good day.” Or “I **hope** it stops raining.” Or “I **hope** my team wins” or “I **hope** for a white Christmas” or “I **hope** you have a Happy New Year.” We use the word “**hope**” in place of the word “wish.” But **hope** is not a wish. **Hope** is not an ask for happiness. **Hope** is trusting that no matter what pains or tragedies befall us, no matter what darkness envelopes us, no matter what grief we live with, that God is still here. **Hope** is knowing that our loving and merciful God walks alongside us, fleshed among us, shining a light in the darkest night.

No matter our “jobs” or livelihoods, “hoper” is on all our resumes. For God has called each and every one of us to the vocation of **hope**. We **hope** in the face of fears. We **hope** in the face of sorrows. We **hope** in the face of hardship. Every day, we keep going. Every day, we **hope**. **Hope** may be hard work, but as Apostle Paul reminds us, “**hope** does not disappoint us” (Romans 5:5).

Eliza C. Jaremko is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Haddon Heights, New Jersey.



Save the date:

Sunday, Jan 8	7:30 a.m.	Men’s Breakfast at Green Olive Diner
	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School for Adults and Children
	9:45 a.m.	Choir practice
	10:00 a.m.	Worship and Communion
	11:00 am	Coffee and Fellowship
	5 to 6 p.m.	Choir practice

Monday, Jan 9 7:00 pm Finance and Property Meeting
Sunday, Jan 15 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Adults and Children
 9:45 a.m. Choir practice
 10:00 Church
 11:00 am Coffee and Fellowship
 5 to 6 p.m. Choir practice
Thursday, Jan 19 6:00 p.m. *Adult Movie Night, dinner, and popcorn*
Sunday, Jan 22 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Adults and Children
 9:45 a.m. Choir practice
 10:00 a.m. Church Service
 11:00 am Coffee and Fellowship
 5 to 6 pm . Choir practice
Saturday, Jan 28 6:00 p.m. *Children's Movie Night, Lightyear, and pizza*
Sunday, Jan 29 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Adults and Children
 9:45 a.m. Choir practice
 10:00 a.m. Church Service
 11:00 am Coffee and Fellowship
 5 to 6 p.m. . Choir practice

***Wednesday's 1:00 p.m. Bible Study will resume in February**

Church Family Needing Prayer

Mary Bowen, Warren Carr, Grace Daniels, Linda Gerhard, Rob Hill, Josh Hood,
Diane Lang, Family of Claude McAllister, Family of Patrick McAllister, Jr.,
Ann Nieu Kirk, Patti Towles, Kevin Hood and his mom, Elaine Avant.

Members of our Communities Needing Prayer

Christine Abresch, Matthew Arp, Elaine Avant, Esther Bartholomew, Michael Bartone,
Faith Bodine, Cathy Cline, Laura's sister, Russ Collins, Rev. Jeanie's dad, Cynthia Costa,
Michell D'Agostino, Josh Cliff, Wendy Danner, Bob Dick, Justin F.,
Bernard Grenier, Josephine Godwin, Katie Horney, David Hull, Ryan Iaconelli,
Kylan, Fran Lambert, Ralph, Peggy, and Dean Jenkins, Maud Lawyer,
Tom Marks, Frank and Helen Mazzoli, Diya McCarley, Larry Miller, Marcella Miller and her
daughter in law, Heather, Kathy Probasco, Sue Thrasher,
Patty Table, Ruth Trullender, Keith Varner, Linda Ward, Beth Williams, Ed Zimmerman,
our Church, First Responders, the families in the Ukraine,
those suffering from mental health and addiction,
and prayers for the children.

Serving Our Country

Pvt. Colin Manson, Rev. Jeanie's son,

January Birthdays

Tim Smith – 18

Russell F. Haggerty – 23

Cameron Ruth Agnesino – 25

Emily Wolf – 25

Frank D. Pillsbury - 26

The Greenwich Coalition is a collection of people of Faith, Methodists, Quakers and Presbyterians and area concerned citizens who try to provide meals for families in need. Throughout the Holidays we have helped more than 16 families in our area, ten families who meet the criteria of free lunches in Greenwich – Stow Creek Schools and several who are known only to our group. Whether illness, lack of work or other hardship has struck someone in our community, we wish to provide caring through our food bank.



The little Yellow Pantry has been used regularly throughout the summer and fall and we need canned fruits and meats such as **Spam, Ham, Chicken, tuna, peanut butter, Mayonnaise, Spaghetti sauce, pasta, packaged stew, canned soups.** A few cans purchased as you shop and delivered through the week or on a Sunday to the shelving near the nursery or the box outside will spread our love to the community.

If there is anyone would like to be on our email list for the newsletter, please let us know, provide your email. Call Joan McAllister on her cell phone

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