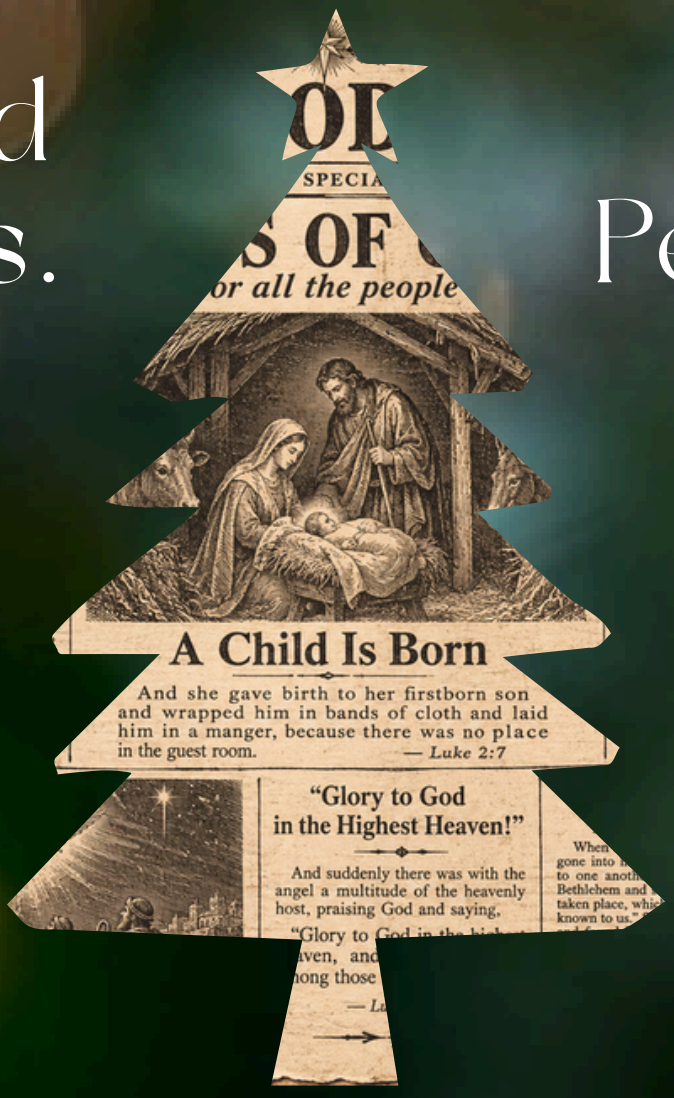
Good News.

All People.



The Presbyterian Church in Morristown

TOWER TIDINGS

WINTER 2026/2027

CELEBRATING ADVENT

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am (Sanctuary and Online) | First Sunday: 8:00 am (Chapel)

NOV 29

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HOPE

Advent Worship Service
10:00 - 11:00 am | Sanctuary and Online

DEC 6

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE

Advent Worship & Communion Services
8:00 - 8:40 am | Chapel
10:00 - 11:00 am | Sanctuary and Online

Annual PW Christmas Brunch and Carol Sing
11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Parish House | RSVP at pcmorristown.org/pw-brunch
Celebrate the joy of the Christmas season! This special event, sponsored by Presbyterian Women, is open to all church friends, families, and children!

DEC 13

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY

Advent Worship Service
10:00 - 11:00 am | Sanctuary and Online

DEC 20

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE

Advent Worship Service
10:00 - 11:00 am | Sanctuary and Online

The Longest Night Dinner and Service
5:00 - 6:30 pm | Chapel
A reflective gathering that takes place on the winter solstice, designed to provide solace and support for those who find this a difficult time of year.

DEC 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve Pageant Worship Service
4:00 pm | Sanctuary and Online
All-ages worship service featuring our annual Christmas Pageant and children's choirs. All children are welcome to participate!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
8:00 - 9:00 pm | Sanctuary and Online
A beautiful, intimate candlelight service featuring the Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers!

WINTER AT PCM

As winter settles in at PCM, there's so much to look forward to!

JAN 3

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Worship & Communion Service
10:00 - 11:00 am | Sanctuary and Online
Celebrate the light of Christ and choose a guiding star word to inspire, encourage, and shape our faith journey in the year ahead.

JAN 18

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Commemorative Breakfast and Worship Service
8:00 am (Breakfast) | 12:00 pm (Service) | Calvary Baptist Church
Join us for a special MLK Day worship service, hosted by the Martin Luther King Observance Committee. Together, we will honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through prayer, music, and reflection that call us to justice, unity, and hope. All are welcome as we celebrate his vision and recommit ourselves to his work.

JAN 25 - JAN 27

SACRED SPACE

A Contemplative Prayer Walk
4:00 - 8:00 pm | Church on the Green
We're excited to once again offer this unique, interactive prayer walk that has become a beloved tradition in our community. Designed as a guided spiritual journey, Sacred Space invites you to move through a contemporary labyrinth at your own pace, listening to recorded reflections and music as you pause at stations along the way. It's an experience that is both communal and deeply personal—an hour set apart to encounter God's presence, reflect, and breathe.

FEB 7

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Including an update from the Vision Realization Team
11:00 am | Sanctuary and Online
We invite all members to join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting, a time to reflect on the past year, celebrate the ministry we share, and look ahead with hope and purpose.



UNSHAKABLE HOPE

Shannon Duke, Director of Youth Ministries

GOOD NEWS. UNSHAKABLE HOPE. ALL PEOPLE
Advent One: Hope | November 29 | Mark 13:24–37

A few weeks ago during the Time with Young Christians, Mrs. Mead asked our kids what they can do to be "ready for Jesus." Grayson, one of the children in our congregation, responded to Mrs. Mead's question by saying, "I try my best to make other people feel better when they're sad. Normally, if I see trash outside I would pick it up, so I'm kind to the earth."

Their conversation has come back to me as I think about Advent, this season of waiting for, and perhaps getting ready for, Jesus. I imagine that many of us don't arrive to Advent with these Markan images of the sun darkening, stars falling, and The Son of Man coming in the clouds. I certainly don't. I have images of Mary and Elizabeth, shepherds, and angels. And yet there's something vitally important that this strange text invites us into as we begin to trod the familiar, well-worn path of the Advent story. God is going to break into the world as baby Jesus, and that means Jesus will one day die, as all of us do.

I think that some of the most hopeful people in the Bible are the women who go to Jesus's tomb to tend his body, not because they believe that they will find their risen Lord but because they believe the things worth doing when Jesus was here remain worth doing when he's gone. Their hope is unshakeable. They've born witness to a terrible trauma, and they are carrying insurmountable grief. Hope is the thing that picks up their feet in spite of suffering. They might not even feel very hopeful, but their actions proclaim this belief that there is still, somehow, good news for all people. They don't know when or if they'll see Jesus again, but they go to the tomb anyway. I don't know if Grayson thinks that one day when he's picking up trash he'll stumble across Jesus, but he picks up the trash anyway.

Each one of us knows far too well that the world is rife with suffering. And yet we have hope that there is still, somehow, good news for all people. God will come again. God is always coming again. So let's pick up trash when we see it. Let's be kind to the earth. Let's be kind to each other.



GOOD NEWS. ALL PEOPLE. AN ADVENT BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM
TUESDAY, DEC 1, 8, 15, 22 | 8:00 - 8:50 AM | ZOOM
Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. These are the gifts at the heart of the Advent season, but what do they really mean for us and for the world around us? Join us Tuesday mornings during Advent for a relaxed, four-week Bible study inspired by our Advent sermon series, *Good News. All People*. Together, we'll read our weekly devotional, explore the Scripture passages from Sunday worship, share conversation, and participate in a few fun and thoughtful activities along the way. **Register at pcmorristown.org/adventstudy**

UNEXPECTED PEACE

Rev. Daniel Vigilante, Pastor



GOOD NEWS. UNEXPECTED PEACE. ALL PEOPLE
Advent Two: Peace | December 6 | Isaiah 40:1

Before the prophet Isaiah speaks of mountains being brought low or valleys being lifted up; before the wilderness becomes a highway and the glory of the Lord is revealed; there is this simple, astonishing announcement: *Comfort, O comfort my people.*

Not a command to be stronger or a demand to try harder. Just the promise that God has not forgotten us. And perhaps that is where peace begins.

We tend to imagine peace as something waiting for us on the other side of our troubles. When the difficult conversation is finally over. When the diagnosis is behind us. When the world grows a little quieter, and the future feels a little more certain. Then, we tell ourselves, we will be at peace.

But the peace of Advent is something altogether different. It does not wait for the world to become peaceful. It comes into a world that is anything but. It comes to a people living in exile, longing for home. It comes to shepherds keeping watch beneath an uncertain sky. It comes to a young mother and a child, born into a world of empires and kings, of fear and fragile hopes.

And it comes to us - not always with the answers we seek, or the certainty we crave. Sometimes it comes as the quiet assurance that we are held in a love greater than our fears. Sometimes as the courage to forgive, the grace to begin again, or the unexpected kindness of someone who reminds us that we are not alone.

This is the wonder of Advent: God does not wait for the wilderness to disappear before drawing near. God makes a way through it.

So wherever this season finds you - whatever burdens you carry, whatever uncertainties lie ahead - may you hear the prophet's words as though they were spoken just for you: Comfort, O comfort my people. The God who comes to us in Jesus Christ is near.

And in that nearness, may you find peace.



PW CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AND CAROL SING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM | PARISH HOUSE
Celebrate the joy of the Christmas season with us at our annual PW Christmas Brunch for traditional Christmas caroling and seasonal music! This special event, sponsored by Presbyterian Women, is open to all church members and friends – individuals, families, and children! Come enjoy a delicious brunch, warm fellowship, and the spirit of the season as we gather to reflect on the blessings of Christmas. Whether you're a long-time member or new to our church family, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect and celebrate together. **Register at pcmorristown.org/pw-brunch**



UNCONTAINABLE JOY

Rev. Audrey Webber, Associate Pastor

GOOD NEWS. UNCONTAINABLE JOY. ALL PEOPLE
Advent Three: Joy | December 13 | John 1:6–8, 19–28

No matter how many Advent messages we might hear, I think so often we think of joy as something that it is not. We often think of it as this happy, positive, delightful thing that is peppy and overly optimistic.

But that's not what joy is. Joy is something so much bigger than that.

Joy is not the absence of sadness. In my work with our grief support group and through pastoral care, I am often reminded that joy and grief can exist together, often so beautifully. Sometimes joy looks like finding the courage to take another step, or sharing a story with someone who understands. At times it is discovering that even in the midst of our greatest losses, we are not alone. Joy does not by any means erase our sadness; it reminds us that sadness does not have the final word.

Joy is discovered in community. I see it in the conversations and friendships that grow through our adult education programs, in the laughter shared over a gathering, and in the quiet, meaningful relationships formed through our Deacons and Stephen Ministers. Sometimes the most important thing we offer one another is not an answer or a solution, but simply the reminder that someone is there to sit with us.

Joy is something we share that comes from God. In this week's Gospel, John the Baptist is described as one who came to testify to the light. He was not (as we quickly learn) the light himself, but pointed others toward it. Maybe that is part of our calling, too. Through the ways we care for one another, learn together, and create spaces for connection, we help each other recognize the light of Christ, even in unexpected places.

This Advent, may we remember that joy is not about pretending everything is perfect and wonderful. It is about recognizing that God's goodness is still present, and that even in the most difficult seasons, there is light to be found. And sometimes, we are blessed to find it in one another.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Alexandra Mead, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries



GOOD NEWS. UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. ALL PEOPLE
Advent Four: Love | December 20 | Lessons and Carols

In my humble opinion, IT IS ALL ABOUT THE LOVE!

Love is the first thing that I talk to the children about in Sunday School, Midweek, and the Nursery School. We discuss how they are children of a God who loves them so completely that nothing can come between them. I have them spread their arms wide and give themselves a hug to remind them that God is with them always; loving them, caring for them, and cheering for them. This is something that we all need to remind ourselves of: *"For God so loved the world that He gave his only son."*

Each year as we travel through the Advent season together as a church community, we are preparing ourselves to greet God's son as a tiny baby on a dark night, born in a land very far away. Who doesn't love babies?! God chose to bring the savior of the world to us as a sweet, innocent child. One we immediately love and have thoughts of holding in our arms.

God is generous with God's love. God shares it with all of us and, in turn, God wants us to share it with one another. Caring for each other, watching out for each other, and supporting one another as we live our lives together on this beautiful earth that God created for us.

As we prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth let's remember that God called himself "Emmanuel" which means "God is with us" (*Matthew 1:23.*) God is with us wherever we are. He is loving us today and all of our days.

How blessed we are.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AND PAGEANT
DECEMBER 24 | 4:00 PM | CHURCH ON THE GREEN
We invite all children, grandchildren, cousins, friends, and neighbors to join in the celebration on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm! Arrive by 3:45 pm to put on a costume and be part of our nativity scene. We have wise men, shepherds, sheep, donkeys, angels, cows, and of course Mary and Joseph. We have costumes for all ages and sizes - the more the merrier! No rehearsal necessary, no lines to memorize - just the joy of celebrating Jesus!



A CHRISTMAS RELFECTION

Rev. Daniel Vigilante, Pastor

GOOD NEWS. ALL PEOPLE.
Christmas Day | December 25

There is something almost poetic about the way Christmas arrives each year. Just as the days grow shorter and the calendar year draws to a close, the church tells a story of a beginning - one whose promise has endured for more than two thousand years.

I absolutely LOVE that. Because so much of life seems to be about endings and beginnings these days. Seasons change. Leaders come and go. Political power shifts from one set of hands to another. The things that seemed so certain yesterday suddenly feel less certain today. And before we've quite found our footing, the world moves again.

Sometimes, I wonder whether the hardest part isn't any particular change, but the sheer exhaustion of trying to keep up with it all.

And then comes Christmas. Not with the assurance that everything will settle down, or that the coming year will be easier than the last. But with a promise far more enduring: God is with us.

The first Christmas didn't arrive in a particularly peaceful world, either. Israel lived beneath the weight of an empire. The future was uncertain, and hope must’ve seemed a fragile thing. And into that world, Jesus was born. Small enough to be held. Vulnerable enough to need protecting. Ordinary enough that most of the world never noticed.

And yet, in that child, something eternal entered the fleeting circumstances of human life. The God who had always promised to be with us became, quite literally, one of us.

The world will keep changing. So will we. There will be things to celebrate, things to grieve, things to release, and things we cannot yet imagine. But beneath all that movement, there remains a love that does not depend upon the season, the headlines, or the circumstances of our lives. A love that was here before us, that meets us where we are, and that will carry us into whatever comes next.

And maybe that's what makes Christmas such good news...

Everything changes. But the love of God remains.

CELEBRATING ADVENT

Nancy Hults-Rubin, Worship and Music Committee





ADVENT ONE: HOPE | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

On Sunday, November 29 during Fellowship, enjoy creating your own **Advent wreath** by picking up the kit in the Narthex after worship. You'll go home with a golden metal wreath form, purple, pink, and white candles, and an informative booklet for celebrating the Advent season. A wonderful way to bring the **hope** of the season into your home.



ADVENT TWO: PEACE | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

On Sunday, December 6 during Fellowship, pick up your pre-packaged **invitation kit**. Share the **peace** of the season by giving out our postcard invitation and chocolate treats to family, friends, and neighbors inviting them to Christmas Eve services at PCM. What's more heartwarming than celebrating Christmas Eve with the ones you love?



ADVENT THREE: JOY | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

On Sunday, December 13 during Fellowship, bring your **Christmas card** to hang on our Narthex Christmas Tree. We'll provide the hole puncher and colorful ribbons for sharing Christmas **joy** with our church family.



ADVENT FOUR: LOVE | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

On Sunday, December 20 during Fellowship, get ready for **Christmas karaoke**! Grab a friend or just grab the mic. Belt out your favorite Christmas carols to the crowd. It's a great way to share the **love** of this season with the our friends and guests.



GOOD NEWS. ALL PEOPLE.

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 24

In a world where the news so often leaves us divided or discouraged, Advent brings a different kind of announcement: Good News. All People. Not good news reserved for some while others are excluded. But good news of hope, peace, joy, and love - for everyone. Advent anticipates the arrival of God's love, which breaks into the world in the most unexpected way, with an invitation that's wonderfully, radically expansive: all people. No exceptions. No prerequisites. No one beyond the reach of God's grace. This Advent, we'll explore the extraordinary gifts at the heart of that announcement: hope that cannot be shaken, peace that arrives when and where we least expect it, joy too wonderful to contain, and love that knows no conditions or boundaries. These are more than comforting sentiments or distant promises. They are signs of God's kingdom already taking shape among us - and an invitation to become part of the good news we proclaim.



FLOWERS WITH MEANING

Carolyn Crosthwaite, Worship and Music Committee Chair

To all of our friends at PCM… have you noticed from time to time that there are no flowers on the Chancel on a Sunday morning? Or that the flowers, while beautiful, are actually artificial? Both of these have happened. The W&M Committee has wondered why donations for flowers have fallen off since COVID. We would like everyone to think differently about the reason to donate flowers. They do not need to be in honor or memory of someone… they could be in celebration of an achievement, or of a group special to the church. This could also be a shared undertaking to defray the cost to each individual. By the way – these flowers continue to bring beauty beyond the walls of PCM as Deacons take pieces of the arrangement to folks in the hospital or to one of their concerns.

Here are some suggestions for groups or occasions to celebrate:

- Church School Teachers at the end of the church school year
- A PCM group on their return from a mission trip
- The PCM music program, whether through the Chancel Choir, the Chancel Ringers, or the wonderful Children's Choir
- The AAA group, especially after a very difficult project (think Christmas decorations)
- Graduating Seniors on Youth Sunday
- The third-grade class on Bible Sunday (missed it this year, but there is always 2027!)

So, all of you friends at PCM, we challenge you to think about this. If you, as an individual or as a group, would like to donate flowers for some special event, here is the link to the flower donation form from the PCM website: **pcmorristown.org/flowers** or you can contact the front office by emailing office@pcmorristown.org or calling 973-538-1776.

Thank you all for making worship a time to remember and celebrate together.



THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE AND SUPPER
DECEMBER 20 | 5:00 PM | CHAPEL
The holiday season can be a joyful time, but it can also bring feelings of loss, grief, or weariness. Our Longest Night Service, held near the winter solstice, offers a quiet, contemplative space for reflection and prayer. Together, we'll honor the complexities of this season, finding solace and support in community as we navigate life's challenges. This service is open to everyone and serves as a reminder that, even amid holiday celebrations, there is space to acknowledge and embrace all of our emotions. Following the service, please stay and share a warm, home-cooked meal with us.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Ben Riggs, Director of Music



Hi everyone! I'm Ben Riggs, the Director of Music at PCM. It's been my honor to conduct The Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers since August of last year. I am a part-time employee of PCM, on-site Wednesdays and Sundays for planning meetings, rehearsals, worship services, and sorting SO MUCH sheet music in the COG basement.

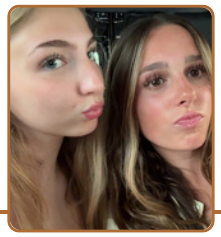
After growing up in the southern mountains of West Virginia, I majored in piano at Wheaton College near Chicago. I went on to study choral conducting at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where my first professional employer was Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver. More than two decades later, I feel especially grateful to be working with the gracious and welcoming Presbyterian congregation members here at PCM!

I live in Jersey City with my husband, The Rev. John Dwyer, an Episcopal priest who works for the seminary Church Divinity School of the Pacific (formerly of Berkeley, CA, now primarily remote). We met in Minnesota while I was the Artistic Director of Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, and we've been married for just over 10 years. Many Thursday or Friday nights you will find us at some theater in Manhattan, either On or Off Broadway, probably grabbing dinner beforehand at Joe Allen. My favorite show currently running on Broadway is Hadestown, a retelling of the tragic Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice featuring a contemporary folk score by Anaïs Mitchell. It's possible I've seen Hadestown... well, let's just say a few times!



RAPID FIRE: TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BEN

1. **Coffee or tea?** Coffee
2. **Favorite Bible verse?** Psalm 121
3. **Favorite place in Morristown?** Tatte Bakery
4. **Dogs or cats?** Dogs
5. **Hidden talent?** I'm a fair Cribbage player
6. **Favorite vacation spot?** Provincetown, MA
7. **Dream job as a kid?** Author
8. **Most-used app on your phone?** Apple Music
9. **If you see me at PCM, ask me about:** The Chancel Choir (especially if you're a Soprano!)
10. **One thing people would be surprised to learn about me:** I once worked as a DJ at a country music radio station



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Adriana Hummer and Mia Polo Reasor

Name: Adriana Hummer | Grade: 11

- Favorite Advent/Christmas tradition: Baking cookies
- Someone at church you're grateful for: My Grandma
- One thing you learned at church that you'll take with you for your whole life: Caring for other people

Name: Mia Polo Reasor | Grade: 11

- Favorite Advent/Christmas tradition: Going into NYC with my family
- Someone at church you're grateful for: Those who help with the youth
- One thing you learned at church that you'll take with you for your whole life: Always forgive





CREATING SENSORY KITS FOR STUDENTS AT LAFAYETTE LEARNING CENTER





VOLUNTEERING AT THE NURSERY SCHOOL'S HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT



EXPRESSING WHAT "LOVE FIRST" MEANS TO US





WE'RE LOOKING FOR CHILI COOK-OFF DONATIONS!

MARCH 12 | 6:30 PM | PARISH HOUSE

The Annual Chili Cook-Off and Silent Auction not only provides the opportunity for chefs to showcase their best chili recipes but also helps raise funds for our youth service trip taken each summer. We need help collecting items to be a part of our silent auction. We had some fabulous gifts and treasures last year that helped us to reach our fundraising goal, so start thinking now! Please reach out to vendors you know or frequent to ask for a donation. Donate a ride on your boat or a round of golf, guitar lessons, a flower arranging class, knitting workshop, anything you are able to donate will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Liz Annis at Elizabeth.Annis@gmail.com with any questions!

COFFEE & CONNECTIONS

Annmarie DeMarzo, Director, Presbyterian Church Nursery School



The Presbyterian Church Nursery School (PCNS) warmly invites all parents from both our nursery school and the greater PCM church community to join us for a morning of coffee, conversation, and connection!

Come enjoy coffee and donuts while connecting with fellow parents in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. We are especially excited to have two of our own PCNS parents, who bring professional expertise in speech and social work, joining us to share their knowledge, answer questions, and offer valuable insights.

All parents are welcome! Whether you're looking for parenting support, hoping to meet other families, or simply want to enjoy a cup of coffee and some friendly conversation, we'd love to see you there!

SCAN ME

PCNS COFFEE AND CONNECTIONS
Date: Wednesday, December 9
Time: 9:30–10:30 am
Location: Erdman Room (Parish House)
RSVP: Scan the QR Code

This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the connections between our nursery school and church families as we come together to support one another in the shared journey of parenthood.

We look forward to connecting with you!



SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS & SUPPORT PCNS!
THROUGH JUNE 2027 | MINTED.COM
Make your holiday shopping a little more meaningful! Now through January, enjoy 20% off stationery, art, gifts, and more when you use code **FUNDRAISEPCNS** at checkout. Even better, 10% of every purchase will be donated back to PCNS!

It's a great way to check a few gifts off your list while giving back to our nursery school. Happy shopping!

NEW FACES AT PCM:

Meet the DeCarlo-Schnepper Family



We are Phil and Jim DeCarlo-Schnepper, proud dads to our triplets, Lance, Lana, and Livia, born in December 2021. Becoming parents to three children at once has been our greatest blessing, teaching us patience, gratitude, unconditional love, and the importance of having a supportive community.

As two dads, we've always wanted our children to grow up knowing that families come in many forms and that everyone deserves to feel loved, accepted, and valued. When searching for a spiritual home, we wanted more than a place to worship. We hoped to find a community where our family could truly belong and our children could grow in faith, kindness, and compassion.

That's what we found at The Presbyterian Church in Morristown (PCM). Its warmth, inclusivity, and commitment to families immediately resonated with us. We officially joined PCM on April 19, 2026, and are grateful to be part of such a welcoming congregation.

Outside of church and parenting, Phil owns and operates four Orangetheory Fitness studios in Parsippany, Denville, Rockaway, and Roxbury, where building strong, supportive communities is central to his work. Jim works in venture capital and investing, helping businesses and opportunities grow. We both believe that true success comes from making a positive difference in the lives of others.

You'll also hear us speak passionately about two organizations close to our hearts: Family Equality, which advocates for LGBTQ+ families, and The Trevor Project, which supports LGBTQ+ young people through suicide prevention and crisis services. Their missions reflect values we cherish and see echoed at PCM: compassion, acceptance, and the belief that everyone deserves a place to belong. For us, faith isn't just about what we believe; it's about how we love, support, and show up for one another.

We came to PCM looking for a church, but we found something much more meaningful: a spiritual home and an extended family.

We look forward to building friendships, giving back, and watching our children grow alongside this wonderful community.

With love and gratitude,
Phil, Jim, Lance, Lana, and Livia DeCarlo-Schnepper

NEW FACES AT PCM

Chris Smith



When I planned my first visit to PCM earlier this year, I didn't expect to join as quickly as I did. As a history buff who stops to read historical markers, including those on the Green, I was drawn to PCM by the church's rich history.

Once inside the doors, I found a meaningful, fulfilling worship experience with thoughtful, relevant preaching. I heard beautiful music that sometimes lifts the roof, sometimes settles my soul, and sometimes does both. With many voices leading worship, there are multiple opportunities to learn a common nugget of truth that propels me forward into the week.

I also found a sense of community and shared purpose. Sometimes it's spiritual – like worship or a class. More often, it's simply living, doing, and serving alongside each other. It's a conversation on a hike, gathering at someone's home, packing backpacks for kids in our community, or dancing at the second-chance prom. I'm not sure that words do it justice – the idea of understanding each other as children of God is something that needs to be experienced.

A recent business talk helped me see it from a different angle. The expert encouraged the audience to develop meaningful relationships with people in every decade of life, from their 20s through their 70s and beyond. It occurred to me that PCM is an extraordinary place because you can connect easily with people at every stage of life who are going through all kinds of challenges and celebrations. It creates opportunities to listen, learn, help, and, most of all, seek and trust what God has in store for each of us.

On a personal note, I'm adjusting to my empty-nest status as my three children grow more independent by the minute. I'm fortunate to lead a mission-driven business that collects patient and caregiver insights to guide the development of new medicines. I live in Morristown, love to hike and camp in the Adirondacks, and I cycle whenever I can. My French Bulldog, Calvin, is named after the cartoon, "Calvin and Hobbes" (not John!). If we haven't met yet, I look forward to it.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Lois Honigfeld, Art Team Member

As an artist, I am always aware of all the creativity and talent in our church. The choir and the musicians that contribute to our service, and everyone who contributes to making our church so special, these are all gifts that we receive from God and love to share with others. When Audrey approached me and some other visual artists in our congregation about displaying art in our church, I loved the idea.

When I look around my church, there is so much physical beauty. The stained-glass windows were created by artisans. The ceiling, the woodwork, and the fact that we are so blessed that we can worship God amongst all this beauty.

I also appreciate that the church is not the building, but the people in it. The people make our church beautiful. And the fact that we are fortunate enough to have so many people offering their talents only adds to what makes our church what it is today. So we worship God in all these ways, and showing artwork is another expression of how God has blessed us.

About 13 years ago, my husband Rob, who was then my fiancé, and I were looking for a church service to attend on Christmas morning. We had no family around us at the time, and we were looking to try to make this day special and memorable. The only church that was offering a service was PCM. So we attended the Christmas day service that morning in the Chapel, and it was so lovely and beautiful that we made a decision that we were going to give this church a try. And that was the beginning of our love for PCM.

So that was 13 years ago, and here we are today still loving and appreciating our church and all the people that make it so special.



THINKING OF MAKING PCM YOUR CHURCH HOME? LET'S DO BRUNCH!
JANUARY 10 | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM | PARISH HOUSE

Our next Prospective Member Brunch is coming up, and we would love for you to join us! Whether today is your very first time stepping through our doors or you've been part of our community for a while and are beginning to wonder what the next step might look like, this brunch is for you. We'll talk about your faith journey, what you sense God might be calling you to next, and answer any questions you have about membership at PCM. We hope you'll pull up a chair and join us for a morning that might just be the beginning of something new. **RSVP at pcmorristown.org/brunch**

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Stephanie Crean, Chancel Choir Member



What called you to serve in the choir and as a librarian?
I first became involved with PCM about five years ago. I joined the choir because I love singing, and music has always been an important part of my life, starting with violin lessons in second grade. My family moved about every five years when I was growing up, following jobs and new opportunities. Everywhere we landed, music gave me a way to make friends through a common language. Singing helped me earn scholarships for college, where I studied to become a teacher. This came in handy, as my moving adventures continued after I met and married the man of my dreams, Bill Crean! Every community needs teachers!

My path to becoming a librarian was a little different. My teaching career began with middle and high school science, but I wanted to find a way to make a broader impact on educational equity. Along the way, I worked with teachers through Texas Instruments, helped launch a new science museum, and finally became an elementary school Library Media Specialist (with several moves along the way).

Being a school librarian is delightful! I get to reach every child in the school, encourage curiosity and a love of learning, develop new initiatives, and work with parents and teachers. So many wins! What I love most is having the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children, whether it's helping a reluctant reader discover a book they love or introducing students to something they never imagined they could do.

Where have you experienced God recently?
I often experience God in small, unexpected moments of kindness. Sometimes it's as simple as walking into church on a difficult day and being greeted by a warm smile from someone who has no idea how much I needed it. Those little moments remind me that we don't always know what someone else is carrying or how much a simple gesture might mean.

I also see God at work in my school. There are countless moments when a little extra patience, encouragement, or kindness makes a real difference for a student. I think God works through us in those moments, often without our even realizing it. It's a reminder that we all have opportunities to be a source of comfort, encouragement, or joy for someone else.

With our youngest child recently leaving for college, I've also been thinking more intentionally about friendship, community, and the relationships that sustain us through different seasons of life. I'm finding that God's presence is often most evident in the people who show up for one another, sometimes in the simplest ways.

What keeps you connected to PCM?
Bill and I have now lived in New Jersey for eight years. This is the longest I've ever lived or worked in one place! The people at PCM are what keep me coming back. Bill has found a place here where he feels genuinely connected and happy, and that means a great deal to me. I've also developed wonderful friendships with people in the choir and throughout the congregation. There's something special about being part of a community where people genuinely care about one another.

Singing continues to be a source of joy for me, but it's really the sense of belonging that makes PCM special. For most of my life, music helped me find my place wherever we happened to land. Now, after so many moves and new beginnings, it's especially meaningful to feel that we are finally putting down roots. **PCM has become part of what makes New Jersey feel like home.**

CELEBRATIONS & MILESTONES

Every milestone tells a story!

One of the gifts of being a church family is celebrating life's blessings together! From new babies and graduations to milestone birthdays, anniversaries, retirements, and other special moments, we want to celebrate the joys and accomplishments of our PCM Family.
Share your news at **pcmorristown.org/celebrate**



TAYLOR AND MEGAN FENSKE
Welcomed baby girl, Elizabeth Ann Fenske to the world on 11/13/26!



KEVIN AND SUSAN HUBBARD
Welcomed the arrival of their first grandchild, Peyton Carol Lahart, born May 22, 2026 to Lily Hubbard Lahart and Eric Lahart!



STEPHANIE AND MICHAEL NESS
Welcomed our third addition, Ryan Joseph, to the Ness family. Born on October 7!



KEN HASHAGEN
Welcomed granddaughter, Alexandra Mary, daughter of David and Samantha Hashagen, to the world on October 8!



DAVID AND ALEXANDRA MEAD
Celebrated the engagement of their son, Pierce, to Becky Gohsler in July!



RICH AND LORI WILSON
We have two special announcements about two precious new grandsons born one day apart!

- Leo Wilson Barone, born 11/16/26, to our daughter Lauren and son-in-law James
- Wes Newell Wilson, born 11/17/26, to our son Matt and daughter-in-law Gillian

YOGA FOR EVERY BODY

Christine Volinsky, Christian Yoga Leader



Movement, Meditation, and Mindfulness: Yoga for Every Body

Looking to pause, breathe, and reconnect? Join the Christian yoga group as we come together to quiet our minds and move our bodies in a supportive, playful, spirit-centered environment.

This group is intentionally designed for every body—regardless of your age, fitness level, flexibility, or prior experience—we honor where your body is today. We focus on mindful movement to improve strength and balance. We offer a dedicated time for prayerful reflection.

- **When**: Weekly
  - Tuesday 5:00 - 6:00 pm
  - Thursday 9:45 - 10:45 am
  - NEW! Chair Yoga: Tuesday 4:00 - 4:40 pm
- **Where:** Parish House - Multipurpose Room
- **Cost:** Free to attend; donations welcome!
- **Register:** pcmorristown.org/yoga



Come as you are, move at your own pace, and enjoy a restorative hour dedicated to body, mind, and spirit. All are welcome!



A SPACE FOR EVERYONE

Janet Foster, Church History Tour Group Member

During Morristown's Fall Festival there were many people who stopped in to see the church. Business picked up even more as it started to rain. Christine, Mikey, and I were busy the entire afternoon giving history tours. At one point, a group of friends came in. I welcomed them. But the first thing one guy said was "*I'm Jewish - am I even allowed in?*" maybe expecting to politely be told to leave. And I was so proud to be able to say "***Yes, of course, you are welcome here.***" He loved the building and was very impressed at the Washington stained glass window and the story of inclusion it told. I then could flash a copy of the bulletin to show that earlier that Sunday morning our Chancel Choir had sung a Jewish song. He stayed quite a while, enjoying the space and its details even more than his friends.

I feel so blessed to be part of PCM.



MINISTRY IN ACTION

Betty Darcy, Welcome Team Leader

Did you know that PCM had separate teams of ushers and greeters before the pandemic?

Every Sunday, and for special worship services, 8-10 people served in these roles. I had been coordinating the greeters in 2018 when I came across a brilliant quote "*Don't wait for people to be friendly, show them how.*" What better place to be friendly than church? The roles were merged and became The Welcome Team in 2022.

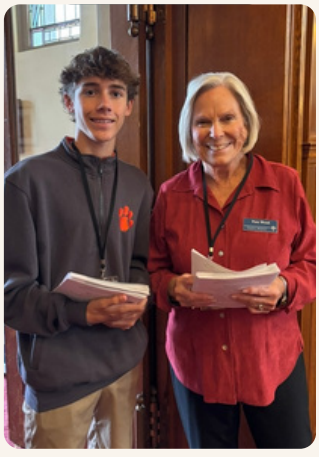
One of the most rewarding things about serving as coordinator of the Welcome Team is feedback from new members. Upon joining PCM, so many people share how they felt welcomed when first visiting and appreciate being greeted each time they come. Several people serving now joined the team shortly after becoming members!

We can always use more volunteers. You may sign up as you wish: each week, once per month or whenever you can - just bring a smile. Contact Betty Darcy at bettydarcy55@gmail.com.

Even if you are not on the Welcome Team, you can model hospitality as part of our faith community. Feel free to be friendly at one of our biggest services this year on Christmas Eve!





JOIN THE PCM WELCOME TEAM!
SUNDAYS | 9:30 - 11:00 AM | CHURCH ON THE GREEN

Think back to your first Sunday at PCM. Was it the warm handshake, the friendly smile, or the person who remembered your name that made you feel like you belonged? Chances are, someone on our Welcome Team was part of that moment! Our Welcome Team is all about creating that same experience for others—showing every person who walks through our doors that they are seen, valued, and loved just as they are. From greeting at the door to helping people find their way around, this team makes the first impression that often becomes the reason someone stays. If you love meeting new people, sharing a smile, or simply making others feel at home, we'd love to have you join us. Sign up to serve on the Welcome Team: **pcmorristown.org/welcometeam**

WHY I VOLUNTEER

Lori Wilson, Elder, Outreach Committee, Vision Realization Team Motion 2E Committee Chair



A middle-aged woman who had battled addiction for many years sought services from Family Promise of Morris County (FPMC) when she needed housing and supportive services. She hit rock bottom when she was arrested. Many years ago on Christmas Eve, I visited her in jail. When she was released, I drove her to a New Jersey drug rehab facility. After she successfully completed rehab, FPMC warmly welcomed her back into its program and maintained a relationship with her for as long as she needed. Today, she is employed, stably housed, thriving, and reconciled with her family. She often says that FPMC's support was lifesaving and enabled her to live a full, healthy life.

A husband, wife, and their beautiful young children entered FPMC's shelter program many years ago after the husband lost his job. He'd had a great warehouse job until a forklift accident left him seriously injured and hospitalized. After his long recovery, he learned his employer had replaced him, and his wife's salary as a medical technician wasn't enough to make ends meet. For many years, I led a ministry at the church I attended then, which partnered with FPMC. Our church family lovingly provided shelter, meals, companionship, encouragement, career mentoring, furniture donations, and move-in assistance when this family was ready to transition from shelter to housing. Both husband and wife now have stable careers, and the family continues to enjoy sustainable independence.

These are just two of many reasons I've devoted much of my work and volunteer life to serving disadvantaged community members since 2009 and why I'm passionate about actively supporting PCM's partnerships with area nonprofits. Congregations and nonprofits fill gaps that families and government agencies can't or won't. We're not all born with equal advantages, and it's not always obvious that the community members we encounter daily are struggling with generational poverty, chronic health challenges, jobs that don't pay a living wage, insufficient financial safety nets, and the lack of support networks many of us take for granted.

When my husband, Rich, and I joined PCM, the Outreach Committee was a natural fit for me. On this committee, I currently serve as the liaison for FPMC and nourish.NJ, as the housing affordability and food insecurity crises persist in Morris County. I've also volunteered to chair the newly formed Vision Realization Motion 2E Committee, as I strongly believe PCM's community presence and impact can be further enhanced through active, holistic, relationship-based partnerships with local nonprofits. I also believe that meaningful collaboration with nonprofits can foster closer relationships among PCM community members!

Join us, for the good work our Heavenly Father has assigned to us is far from finished...

Deuteronomy 15:11: For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'



OPERATION LOVE

Marnie Kaller, Outreach Committee Member

For over 40 years, the Presbyterian Church in Morristown and the Church of God in Christ in Morristown have partnered in this Christmastime effort to bring "love, comfort, and joy" to those in our community who need both. This year, Operation Love is serving approximately 480 individuals and 16 families in the Morris School District who are unhoused.

Please join in this wonderful, fulfilling outreach effort to help Morris County families and senior citizens celebrate Christmas with food and gifts. To make sure recipients get exactly what they need, we will be donating ShopRite, Walmart, and Five Below gift cards. We are also seeking volunteers to help wrap the cards and deliver them to their local recipients.

How to participate in Operation Love:

DONATE

- From **Sunday, November 22 to Sunday, December 6**, please drop off the following types of gift cards at the Parish House office (Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm) or bring to Sunday service:
  - Shoprite ($25)
  - Walmart ($20, $25)
  - Five Below ($20)
- Give online by visiting **pcmorristown.org/operation-love**
- Mail or drop off a check: Presbyterian Church in Morristown, 65 South Street, Morristown, NJ 07960 and note "Operation Love" on the memo line.

VOLUNTEER

- Wrap Gifts: Join other volunteers at the Church of God in Christ to wrap gift boxes Thursday and Friday, December 10 and 11, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.
- Deliver Gift Bags: Help deliver gift bags on Saturday, December 12, from 8:45 am - 12:00 pm. Meet at the Church of God in Christ.
- Sign up to volunteer at **pcmorristown.org/operation-love**






MCCF GIFT DRIVE

Dick Kaller, Finance Committee Member



The Morris County Correctional Facility (MCCF) Christmas Gift Bag Program is a heartfelt outreach initiative supported by our church community. This year, we invite you to join us in donating essential items to create gift bags for approximately 430 individuals at the facility, helping to provide comfort and connection during the holiday season. By taking part in this program, we can embody the spirit of Christmas, sharing God's love and reminding those in our community that they are not forgotten.

How to participate in MCCF Christmas Bag Program:

DONATE

- From **November 22 - December 13**, please drop off donation items to the marked bins at the Parish House or the Church on the Green.
- We ask that you donate only the following approved items, which have been cleared for security:
  - Men's white crew neck t-shirts in M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL (no v-neck or pocket)
  - Men's white briefs in M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
  - Men's white sports socks in Avg, or L (may have gray under sock line)
  - Women's white sports bras in All Sizes (no underwire)
  - Women's white sports socks in All Sizes (may have gray under sock line)
  - Toiletries:
    - Toothpaste – Medium and large tubes
    - Soap – Individually wrapped bars, scent-free or neutral, avoid floral scents
    - Deodorant – Roll-on, no pumps or sticks, scent free, neutral, avoid floral scents
    - Body Lotion – No pumps, scent free or neutral, avoid floral scents

VOLUNTEER

- Gift Bag Assembly - Join us on Monday, December 14, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Calvary Baptist Church in Morristown to assemble gift bags.
- Sign up to volunteer at **pcmorristown.org/mccf**




VISION UPDATE

Christy Allison and Brian Delle Donne, VRT Co-Chairs

Here are some highlights of the progress being made across the VRT Motions. For additional updates or to submit a question, please visit the Vision Hub at pcmorristown.org/vision.

COG and PH Teams (Motions 1B and 1C):
The Church on the Green (COG) and Parish House (PH) teams have been coordinating in surfacing legal, zoning, and other technical questions to the Legal team. A meeting was held in November to fully examine the issues involved with the Morris County Historic Preservation Grants we have been receiving. The COG and PH teams also recognized many common threads of both motions. As such, there is a collaborative effort to develop personas of the constituents who have a stake in the two initiatives. The persona development will work to assure that we consider voices of all stakeholders who may be affected by the direction of the vision we have for the future. The PH team is working to get a complete picture of the current operating expenses of the PH, parking lot, and Cottage. This team is also researching and tabulating the space requirements of all the current uses of PH. These findings will be the essential input to the COG team as they begin to evaluate how and where those space needs might be satisfied in the One Campus objective we are working towards.

Relational Evangelism (Motion 2B)
This team has embraced the design thinking process and is well along in developing an empathetic perspective to realizing relational evangelism as part of our future operating model.

Relational Ministries: (Motion 2E)
Start-up phase for this team concentrated on discovery about the current Outreach Committee focus and practices of our outreach programs. Objectives now being addressed include reexamination of the rationales for our program of supporting the nonprofits we now do, developing more hands-on ways to participate in outreach, and preparing a communications initiative to more widely explain our outreach mission and opportunities.

Covenant of Membership (Motion 3A)
The team has developed a draft Covenant that is being shared with Session.

Online Remote Ministries (Motion 3D)
This team has been identifying the current members of our online community. Beyond that, they are working on designing ways of making online worship more appealing and meaningful, including evaluating offering sacraments with online worshipers.

Communications:
A Chapel Chat was hosted on October 4 to update members and respond to questions that surface. The VRT emphasized its conscientious efforts to promote transparency throughout the process. All members are encouraged to attend to hear updates and ask questions. Please save the dates for future Chapel Chats: **February 7** (Annual Meeting), **April 4**, and **June 27**. The time is following worship, held in the Chapel. Please visit **pcmorristown.org/vision** for more updates and information.

A SMART WAY TO GIVE

Bruce Smith, Finance Committee Chair



A Smart Way to Give: Using Your IRA to Support PCM

If you are a taxpayer that must take required minimum distributions (RMDs), a charitable gift can count towards your annual RMD obligation while also reducing your taxable income. That means you can support PCM while potentially lowering your taxes!

To do this, simply ask your IRA custodian to send your donation directly to the church. The funds must go straight from your IRA to PCM to qualify as a "QCD" or Qualified Charitable Distribution.

If you'd like to learn more about how this works, speak with your financial advisor or contact the church office on how to send your IRA gift.



JOIN THE MEDICAL TEAM!

Phil Scaduto, Safety Ministry Team Member

Calling All Medical Professionals: Join Our Medical Commanders Team!

Do you have a background in healthcare and a heart for serving our church family? We are looking for dedicated volunteers to join our Medical Commanders ministry!

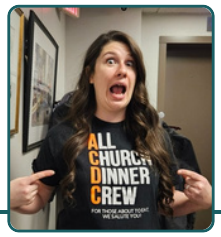
Who We Need: We are inviting licensed or certified medical professionals (MD, DO, PA, NP, RN, LPN) and EMTs/paramedics in our congregation to lend their expertise to help keep our worship services safe and welcoming for everyone.

What the Role Involves: Serving on the Medical Commanders team is a vital, low-time-commitment way to use your professional skills in ministry:

- Sign In: Simply check in at the Ushers' Table when you arrive on your scheduled Sunday, so our Welcome Team knows you are in attendance.
- Worship as Usual: Sit with your family and enjoy the service as you normally would.
- Be Ready to Respond: Remain available to step in and provide immediate assessment or care in the rare event that someone experiences a medical emergency during worship.

Why It Matters: Having trained medical professionals on standby gives our congregation and guests tremendous peace of mind. Knowing that capable, compassionate hands are ready to act in the critical first moments of an emergency makes a world of difference.

Ready to Serve? We rotate volunteers based on your availability, so you only serve as often as your schedule allows. If you are qualified and would like to learn more or be added to the rotation, please contact Phil Scaduto at pscadu83@gmail.com or stop by the Ushers' Table after the service



LET'S FIND YOUR PLACE!

Amanda Tufts, Director of Community Engagement

Church life extends far beyond Sunday! One of the best ways to find your place at PCM is to **connect in a group** or **serve on a team**. Check below to see if anything interests you. If you'd like to learn more, visit pcmorristown.org or email me at atufts@pcmorristown.org. I'd love to help you take your next step!

Care & Support:
Give or receive prayer and support through life's seasons.

- Caregivers Support Group
- Grief Support Group
- Samaritans Team
- Stephen Ministers

Faith & Spiritual Growth:
Ask questions, deepen your faith, grow in relationship with God.

- Donuts and Theology Adult Ed
- Faith on Film
- Parent Bible Study
- Women's Bible Study

Service & Outreach:
Make a difference by serving our neighbors and community.

- Church History Tour Team
- Homeless Solutions Dinner Team
- Jan's Closet Clothing Bank Team
- Nourish NJ Food Prep Team
- Spring Hills Worship Team

Worship & Church Life:
Help care for our shared spaces and make Sundays happen.

- Decorating Team
- Lay Readers
- Pew Crew
- Production Team
- Triple A Work Team
- Welcome Team

Community & Fellowship:
Meet new friends through shared interests and experiences.

- Holy Shenanigans Online Group
- Mah Jongg Mavens
- Moms' Group
- Potluck Presbyterians
- Presbyterian Women
- ROMEO Men's Group
- Sew and So Crafters' Group
- Young Adults' Group

Music & Arts:
Connect through music, visual arts, and creative expression.

- Chancel Choir
- Chancel Ringers
- Visual Arts Team

Wellness & Mindfulness:
Make space for movement, reflection, and renewal.

- Christian Yoga
- Hiking Group
- Tai Chi

Something New Is Coming in 2027!
We're getting ready to launch a new online hub that will make it easier than ever to find your place at PCM. You'll be able to explore groups, discover new interests, connect with others, make new friends, and find meaningful ways to serve on a team. Think of it as your one-stop shop for getting connected and finding your people. Keep an eye out for more details in the new year!





GATE 4







Love
First




The
PCM Yoga Gr


TODAY!
ANNUAL


YANKEE STADIUM
DELTA



Ian's
Closet
Clothing
Drive

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Please contact the office to update your contact information.

We worship weekly in-person at 10:00 am (Sanctuary and online)
Our weekly 10:00 am service is livestreamed and available for replay at: **pcmorristown.org/livestream**

The **Sanctuary, Chapel, and Howard House** are located at 57 E. Park Place
The **Parish House** is located at 65 South Street

Please feel free to contact our offices at the Parish House at **973-538-1776**

PCM STAFF

Rev. Daniel Vigilante | Pastor
Rev. Audrey Webber | Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Brennan Breed | Parish Associate
Alexandra Mead | Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries
Amanda Tufts | Director of Community Engagement
Dr. Ben Riggs | Director of Music
Madelyn Ortiz | Director of Children's Music
Kevin Graf | Organist
Shannon Duke | Director of Youth Ministries
Annmarie DeMarzo | Director of Presbyterian Church Nursery School
Kay Smith | Administrative Assistant
Kevin McAllister | Finance Administrator
Juliana Wilson | Wedding Coordinator
Kristo Pango | Sexton
Sigris Lorena Girón Sorto | Weeknight Custodian
Cory VillNeuve | Weekend Custodian
Carly Tufts | Childcare Coordinator

FIND US ONLINE PCMORRISTOWN.ORG

LOVE FIRST.