

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2023

2618 New Albany Road
Cinnminson, NJ 08077

covenantpreschurh.org




Message from Rev. Higgs

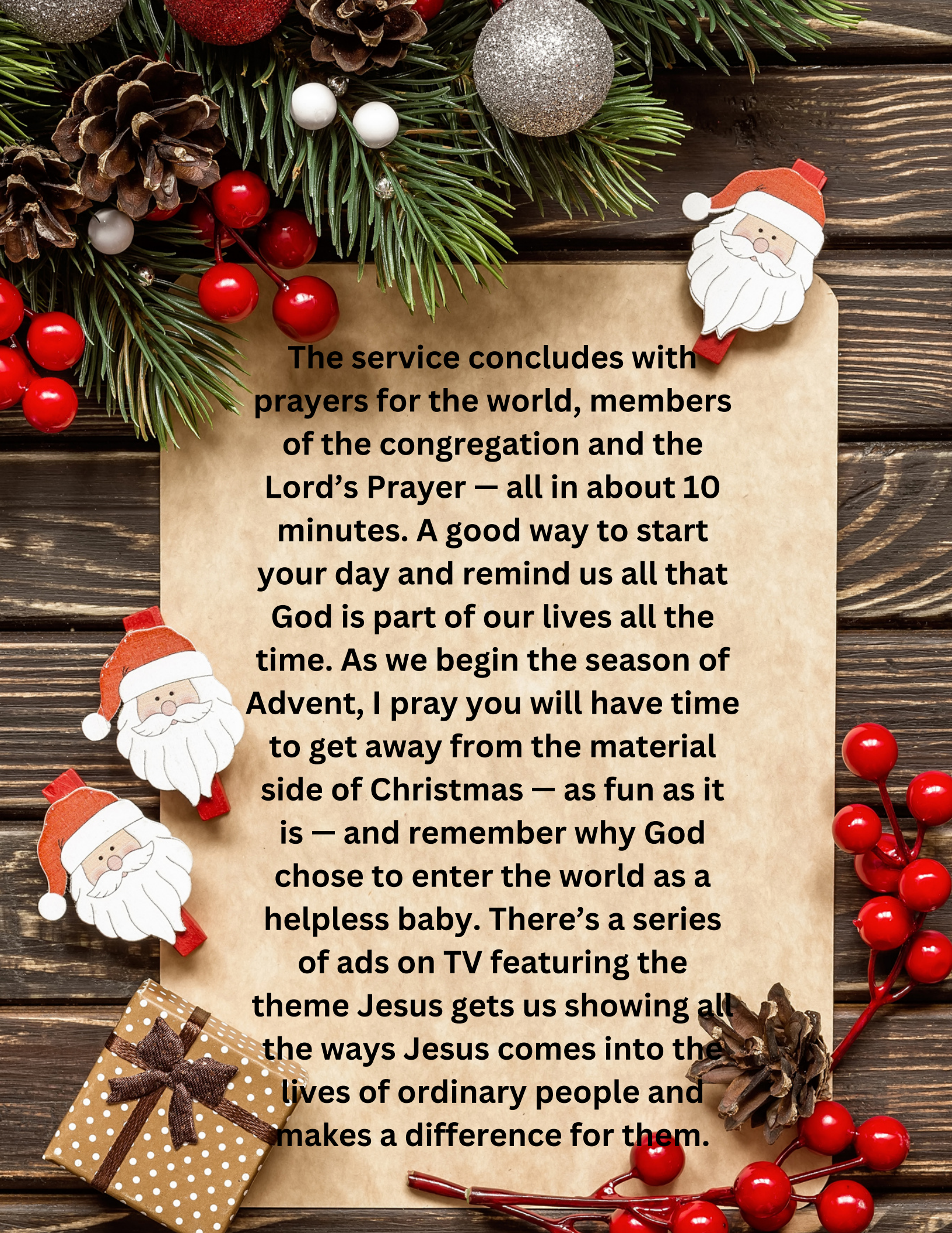
**Grace to you and peace in Jesus
Name!**

**Thanks to you all for the kind
welcome you have extended to
Kelly and me! We are glad to be at
Covenant and look forward to
serving God together.**






I hope by now you have had the opportunity to listen to our new daily prayer service which is delivered by email Monday through Saturday at 2am. We read from the Old Testament, hear a Psalm, and conclude with a Gospel lesson. Over the course of two years, we will cover most of the Bible.



The service concludes with prayers for the world, members of the congregation and the Lord's Prayer — all in about 10 minutes. A good way to start your day and remind us all that God is part of our lives all the time. As we begin the season of Advent, I pray you will have time to get away from the material side of Christmas — as fun as it is — and remember why God chose to enter the world as a helpless baby. There's a series of ads on TV featuring the theme Jesus gets us showing all the ways Jesus comes into the lives of ordinary people and makes a difference for them.



**That's really our message as the church,
isn't it? Jesus makes a difference in our
lives and the life of the world. That is
why we come on Sunday. That is why we
try to follow his example. That is the
real good news we can share with our
friends and family. Jesus gets us and
makes our lives better because He gets
us.**

**I pray you will allow Jesus to fill you and
remind you of the true joy of being alive
in Him so we can be truly alive for
others.**

**Merry Christmas!
Pastor Bob**

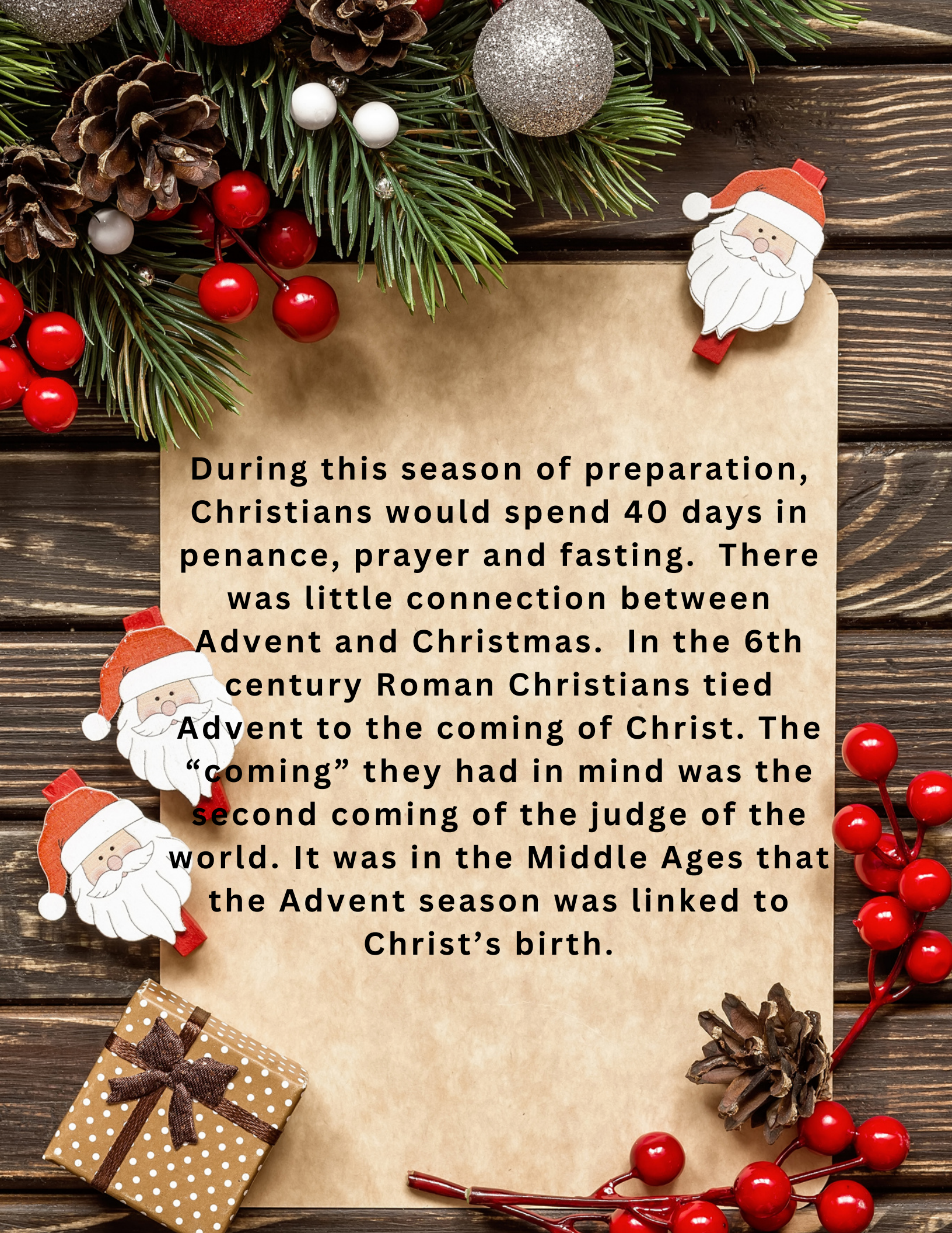


Message from Session

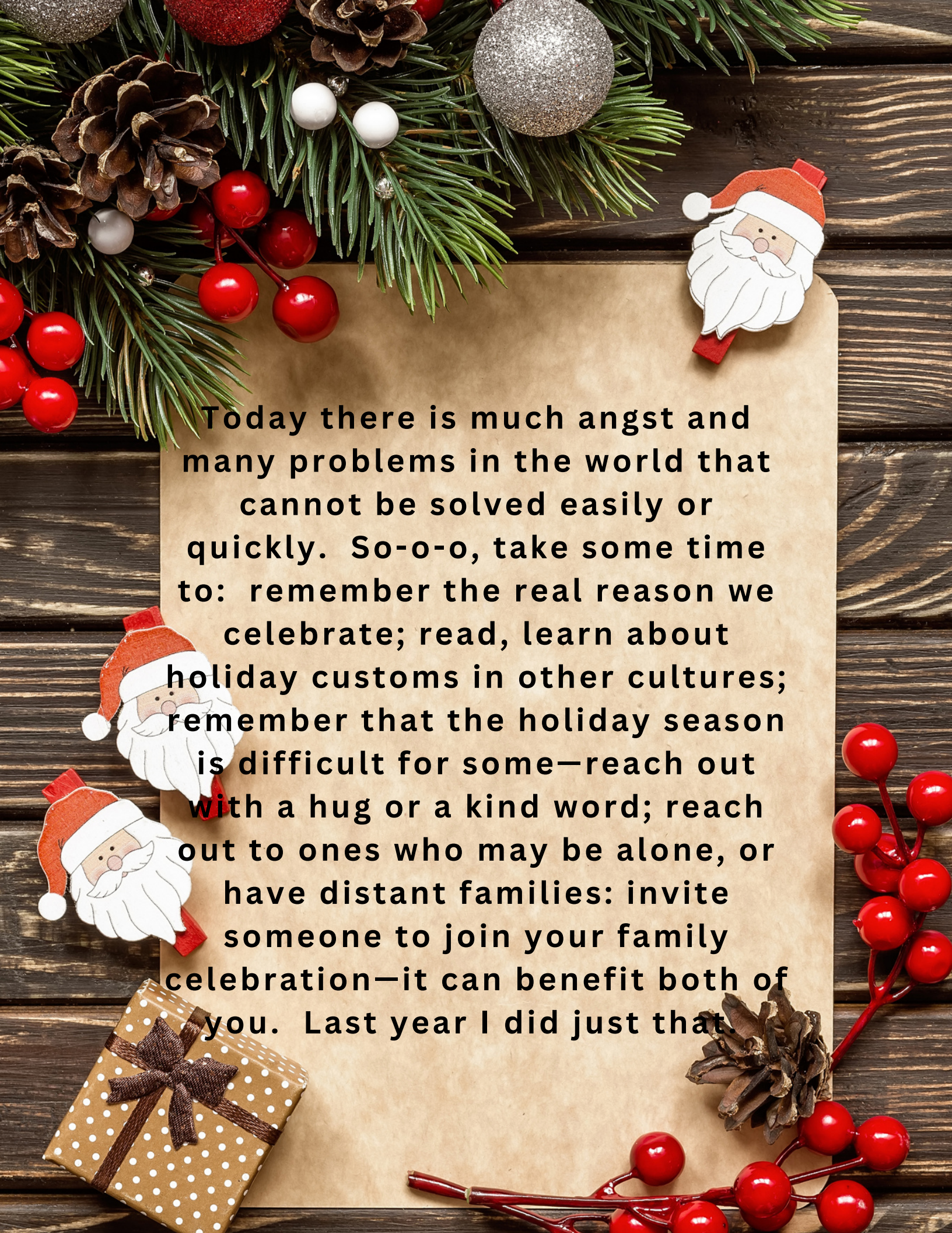
As we are bombarded with Christmas music, sales, and decor well before the season, let us think about Advent and its history.

Per the University of Portland, the word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning coming.


According to scholars, during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany.



During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer and fasting. There was little connection between Advent and Christmas. In the 6th century Roman Christians tied Advent to the coming of Christ. The “coming” they had in mind was the second coming of the judge of the world. It was in the Middle Ages that the Advent season was linked to Christ’s birth.



Today there is much angst and many problems in the world that cannot be solved easily or quickly. So-o-o, take some time to: remember the real reason we celebrate; read, learn about holiday customs in other cultures; remember that the holiday season is difficult for some—reach out with a hug or a kind word; reach out to ones who may be alone, or have distant families: invite someone to join your family celebration—it can benefit both of you. Last year I did just that.




She later told me it was wonderful—she hadn't laughed that much in over a year! That was one of my best gifts. May your home be filled with warmth and happiness during the coming Christmas holiday and in the coming year.

Betty Herskovitz, Elder



Schedules

Ushers/Greeters



12/3: Linda Ballenger and Karen Schwartz

12/10: Barbara and Paul VanTassel

12/17: Donna and Scott Scioli

12/24 (AM): Betty Herskovitz and Carol Ortlip

12/24 (PM): Chris Todd and Steve Peak

12/31: Marge Jeffries and Leslie Todd







Refreshments

12/3: Sandi Pascone

12/10: Cynthia Joffe

12/17: Janette Hutchinson

12/24: Ann Rosica



Chancel

Pat Rothenhofer

Jeanne Martin

Carol Ortlip





Music

Choral Anthems


12/3: Bring Us Hope,
Schram

12/10: Come, Emmanuel,
Come arr. Joel Raney

12/17: Cantata

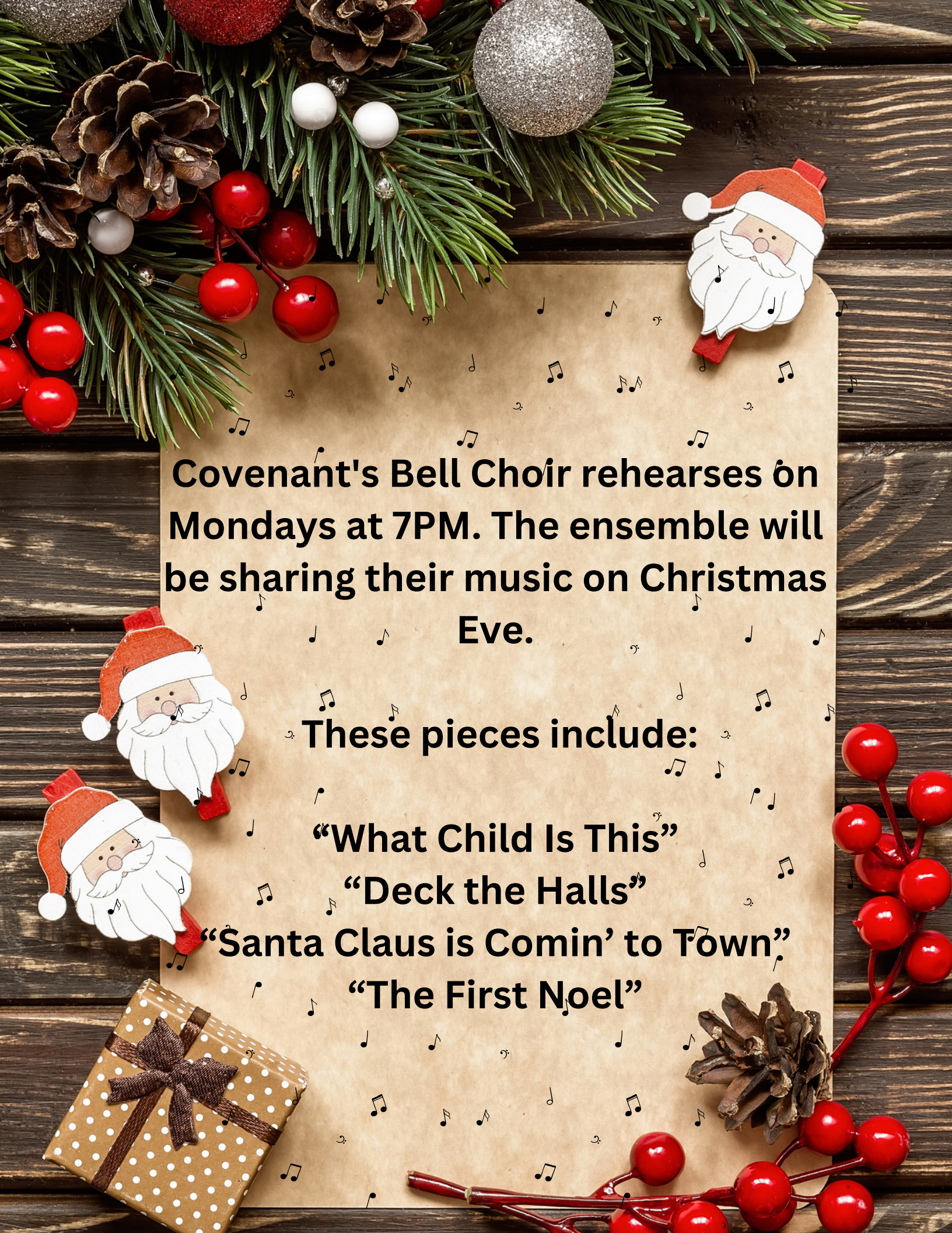
12/24: Three French
Çarols, arr. Pethel

Gesu Bambino, by Yon



Covenant's Chancel Choir will be performing throughout December. All are welcome to sing! Rehearsals take place after worship services at 11 AM in the choir room.

We welcome Elisa Muzzillo and Nina Zubaidi for our Christmas Eve Service.



Covenant's Bell Choir rehearses on Mondays at 7PM. The ensemble will be sharing their music on Christmas Eve.

These pieces include:

“What Child Is This”

“Deck the Halls”

“Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town”

“The First Noel”



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/2: Julia Slater

12/10: Samantha Lambersky

12/12: David Raymond

12/14: Laura Brenner

12/17: Mike Cain

12/18: Cassie Cinque

12/23: Jerry Cicchini

12/24: Carol Grunigen



12/30: Colin Connolly

12/30: Caitlin Connolly

12/31: Richard Craft




VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Members are invited to participate in our services. Please let Bonnie Cain (bcain117@comcast.net) or Greg DiBona (covenantpreschurch@comcast.net) know if you are interested in reading scripture or leading our worship services. We are also in need of more volunteers to operate the camera and soundboard! Contact the church office if you are interested:

(covenantpreschurch@comcast.net) 856-829-7522

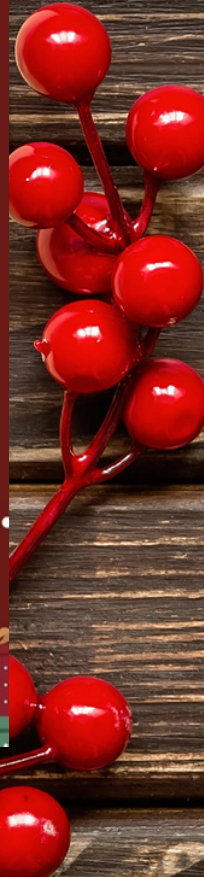




Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, 2023
4:00 PM



Covenant Presbyterian Church
2618 New Albany Road
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077





Bible Study

Bible study is located in
the Lounge on Mondays at
11 AM. We hope to see you there!



Christian Caring Center

Non-perishable food items may be
brought the 1st Sunday of the month and
placed in the narthex. Thank you for your
continued generosity.





Angel Tree

The Deacon's Angel Tree is ready for the 2023 season. We're sponsoring two local families in need who could use our help making this Christmas a little brighter. The items on the Angels are specific to these families, not generic items as in past years. All the gifts are things the families have requested. Beginning Sunday, December 3rd. You will be able to take an Angel from the Angel Tree and help make a very special Christmas for these needy families. All items should be returned unwrapped, with the Angel tag attached, by Sunday December 17th. You can direct any questions to Jeanne Martin. Thank you.





Poinsettia Order Form

I wish to purchase _____ POINSETTIA PLANT (s) at \$11.00 each.

The Christmas Eve Bulletin will include a listing of names of donors (if desired) and mention the names of those in whose memory or in whose behalf the poinsettia plants are presented.

Mr./Mrs./Family

In memory/gratitude

Enclosed please find my check for the sum of \$ _____

Signed

Phone _____

Please return form to the church office no later than Sunday, December 10, 2023.

POINSETTIAS MAY BE PICKED UP AFTER THE DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

PLEASE CHECK ONE!

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia

_____ I would like the Deacons to deliver my poinsettia to someone special



**Thank you to the Scouts
for gifting Covenant two
Christmas swags!**



Highlights from Brunch









MERRY
Christmas

Happy
NEW
YEAR

