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## First Presbyterian Church of North East

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# NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW

**DUE TO THE PA GOVERNOR'S RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC GATHERINGS AND THE RISING CASES OF COVID 19, WE WILL BE WORSHIPPING ONLINE BETWEEN NOW AND JANUARY 4, 2021.** Stay home, stay healthy, stay safe, and stay connected by worshipping with us online each Sunday and on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Pastor Gregg is always available via phone, email, or text.

**GATHER YOUR ADVENT CANDLES.** For online worship, please gather 5 candles to use for our weekly Advent candle lighting. You don't need any special colors or sizes of candles. Whatever you have on hand will work.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO AN ONLINE VERSION OF OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 7:30 PM (EST).** Pastor Gregg will share a special message, "Born of a Virgin Mary," as we will light the Christ candle and celebrate the birth of our Savior. You'll need one Christ candle and a small candle for each family member to use as we sing "Silent Night."

**PASTOR GREGG WILL LEAD US IN AN ONLINE CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION SERVICE AT 10:30 AM (EST).** Open your gifts, gather communion supplies, and join us on Facebook LIVE to celebrate the greatest gift of all.

**END 2020 AND USHER IN 2021 BY JOINING US FOR ONLINE WORSHIP** on Sunday, December 27 at 10:30 AM (EST). Come prepared to sing, as we are planning a service filled with readings and carols.

**LEARN HOW TO "SIMPLIFY YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE" AND JOIN PASTOR GREGG FOR AN ONLINE BOOK DISCUSSION** on Tuesday, December 22 at 7:30 PM (EST) via Zoom. Pick up the book "SIMPLIFY YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE: SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FOR THE OVERWHELMED" by Donald Whitney at your favorite book seller.

**JOIN US FOR PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 7:30 PM (EST).** With "Putting the Pieces Back Together: God Rebuilds His People," we are studying the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zephaniah. Check the church Facebook page for a Zoom link. We will meet following the Wednesday Evening Prayer and Devotional.

**EACH YEAR, IT IS OUR JOY AS A CHURCH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NORTH EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BOXES.** This year will be a little different. Due to pandemic safety concerns, the Council is planning to provide a gift certificate to each approved applicant. The gift certificate will be dedicated toward local businesses and will strive to be comparable to the food value provided in past years. If you'd like to contribute, please make your donation payable to "Community Christmas Boxes" and mail to:

**Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross | c/o Anne Bardol | 51 West Main Street | North East PA 16428**

**THE SESSION IS WORKING TO CLEAN OUT VARIOUS ROOMS AND HAVE A NUMBER OF ITEMS THAT SOMEONE MAY FIND USEFUL.** Please contact Steve Seymour or Cindy Lilly if you have interested. Please note that you must make arrangements to pick up and haul from the church. Here are the items that are free to a good home:

- Stand-alone foosball table
- Air hockey/pool/foosball 3-in-1 mini table
- Guitar Hero for Sony Playstation (not sure if it works)
- Sony boombox with CD/cassette/radio
- VHS/DVD player
- Tan 6-piece sectional couch

**FEBRUARY IS FPCNE'S MONTH TO WORK AT THE NORTH EAST FOOD PANTRY.** During the month of February, we need a couple of volunteers that can help pack food on Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. We also need a few others to help with distribution on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to noon. Please email Steve Seymour at [smsinne@hotmail.com](mailto:smsinne@hotmail.com) if you can help.

**BECOME A MEMBER OF FPCNE!** Do you consider FPCNE your church home? Is FPCNE where you receive pastoral care? Is FPCNE where you are fed on God's Word? Then you should speak with Pastor Gregg about becoming a member. It doesn't matter where you live. The church is not a building... the church is the people.

**IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, JOY OR CONCERN TO SHARE,** please speak with Pastor Gregg or call or text his cell phone at (814) 460-3123. You can also email our prayer chain at [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com) or text Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135. **If you haven't joined our e-prayer chain, email Jane and ask to be added to the email list.**

### WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND DEVOTION

Join Pastor Gregg on Facebook LIVE every Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM (EST) for a time of prayer and devotion. Please contact Pastor Gregg directly to share any prayer requests.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

DATE	TIMES (EST)	EVENT
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The church office is closed to the public due to the pandemic, except by appointment. Please contact Pastor Gregg if you need assistance.

Wednesday, December 16	7:00 PM 7:30 PM	- Evening Prayer & Devotional (via FB LIVE) - Pastor's Bible Study: "Putting the Pieces Back Together" (via Zoom)
Sunday, December 20	10:30 AM (EST)	- Sunday Worship Service (In-Person or via FB LIVE) - Fourth Sunday of Advent

### CONTACT INFO YOU MIGHT NEED

- Contact Pastor Gregg anytime at (814) 460-3123 (call or text) and [pastortownsend@yahoo.com](mailto:pastortownsend@yahoo.com).
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and [jlivingston@neo.rr.com](mailto:jlivingston@neo.rr.com).
- Please send announcements or calendar events to Jane.