

The Newsletter of  
Francis Makemie Presbyterian Church  
francismakemiepc.org  
&  
Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church  
nmpreschurch.org

DECEMBER  
2023  
Volume 1,  
Issue 12

# GLAD TIDINGS



## 'Tis the Season...

*The spirit of the Lord is upon us to bring good news to all the world. May we be strengthened for this work through our time of Advent & Christmas (See Isaiah 61:1.)*

Welcome to the December newsletter. We are filled with joy this season as we welcome people from far and near. November was filled with activity that kept us all on our toes. We were able to be energetic for mission. We continue this theme of caring for others into the month of December. Be on the lookout throughout this newsletter for ways you can be part of the community of faith through your presence, your giving, and your energy. We continue to gather, grow and serve in both congregations. We have many worship opportunities in the coming weeks, as well as a **movie**, meals, caroling, and much more. May this coming season fill you with the promises of Advent through hope, peace, joy and love.

A blessed waiting of Advent and a joyous Christmas

Monica



- First Sunday of Advent, *December 3, 2023*
- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 10, 2023*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 17, 2023*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2023*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 24, 2023*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2023*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2023*
- New Year's Eve *December 31, 2023*

**Pastor-Reverend Monica Gould**  
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### Staff and Elders:

Office Administrator: Jennifer  
Stapleton Organist/Pianist-Mark  
Nuckols, Choir Director-Debbie  
Ryon, Videographer-Mike  
Gould, Head Usher-Suzanne  
Rogers, Nursery Worker-Kamryn  
Mears, Emma Cathey, Treasurer  
-Ron May, Clerk-Jennifer Staple-  
ton Elders:2025 Jennifer Staple-  
ton, Bill Baird, Patty Davis, 2024  
Ron May, Linda Arvidson, Meg  
Adams Class 2023 Megan Ames,  
Rick Turner, Marsh Ryon Web:  
[www.NMPresChurch.org](http://www.NMPresChurch.org) [nao-mimpchurch@gmail.com](mailto:nao-mimpchurch@gmail.com) Go to  
Naomi Makemie Presbyterian  
Church **YouTube Channel** for  
Sunday service.

**Francis Makemie 23355 Back St**  
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23301

### Staff and Elders:

Organist & vocalist-Jill Cathey  
Cynthia D. Hall-clerk Richard F.  
Hall III-treasurer, 2023: Barbara  
Haynes, Joe Boggs, 2024: Wan-  
da Hughes, Tammy Mason,  
2025: Paul Hughes,  
Web: [Francismakemiepc.org](http://Francismakemiepc.org)



### Advent meanings

During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.


The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.

We still have a few Advent kits left if you would like to pick one up from either church. A blessed Advent to you all.



### DECEMBER

Debbie Ryon	12-01
Ted Ames	12-03
Monica Gould	12-04
Nina Moring	12-05
Dave Wilson	12-07
Bethany Shea	12-08
Molly Arvidson	12-12
Debbie Holland	12-21
Diane Kelly	12-21
Julie Chuquin	12-30

December 2023	December 2023	December 2023	December 2023	December 2023	December 2023	December 2023
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUES-	Wednesday	THURS-	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	11/27	11/28	11/29	11/30 Choir 5-6:30	12/1	12/2 Cantata re-hearsal <b>1:30</b> Children's program rehearsal <b>3pm</b>
<b>3</b> <b>COMMUNION</b> <b>9:15</b> FMPC- Sunday school <b>9:45</b> <b>11:00</b> NMPC Baptism Christmas Program	<b>4</b> PW 11:30	<b>5</b> OBCA 5:30	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Prayer mtg 8 Choir 5-6:30	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Christmas in Onancock
<b>10</b> <b>9:15</b> FMPC Elder Vernon Bell Adult Sunday school 9:45 <b>11:00</b> NMPC Rev Steve Doan	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Choir 5-6:30	<b>13</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>Night Potluck &amp; movie at NMPC</b> <b>5:30 'The Nativity'</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>CCYF CHRISTMAS DINNER</b> 5:30 pm at NMPC	<b>16</b> FMPC Program rehearsal
<b>17</b> <b>9:15</b> FMPC Christmas Program <b>11:00</b> NMPC <b>Cantata</b> <b>Cookie Exchange</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Prayer mtg 8  Choir 5-6:30	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>9:15</b> FMPC <b>9:45</b> Sunday school <b>11:00</b> NMPC  <u><b>24 Christmas Eve candlelight &amp; Communion</b></u> <b>7pm NMPC</b> <b>11pm FMPC</b>	<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> No choir	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>





**Christmas Cookie Exchange Sunday at NMPC December 17 as part of fellowship hour.** Bring a dozen or so of *your favorite holiday cookies* and a tin to collect some in. Even if you're not a baker, come join in this special holiday treat and take home a dozen or so variety of cookies.



**Christmas Caroling Sunday December 17**  
**Leaving from NMPC at 3:45** to sing at 4pm at Commonwealth Senior Living. This is followed by singing to shut-ins. If you have a family you would like us to sing to please let us know as soon as possible.

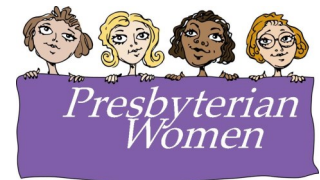
Hi Ladies,

I'm looking forward to our meeting next Monday at 11:30. We will be discussing Lesson 2, Faith at Work, from our new study book by Max Lucado, *Life Lessons from Luke*.

Bring a bag lunch; a brief business meeting will follow lunch. Jennifer will hostess this meeting, and Kate has volunteered to lead our discussion.

See you all on Monday!

Blessings, Pam



**Adult Sunday school meets December 3 and 10 at 9:45 at NMPC.** Children meet December 3rd to practice for program that morning.

#### Christmas Program practice

**Saturday December 2 at 3pm for NMPC**

**Saturday December 2 for the CHOIR at 1:30 pm**

**Saturday December 16 at FMPC**



## Movie Night at NMPC



**December's movie: THE NATIVITY STORY**

**Wednesday December 13**

Jesus and Mary get most of the spotlight in this old story, and that makes sense. But what about Joseph, and his role? What was it like to be in his sandals?

**5:30 pm potluck dinner**

**6:00 pm movie**

Discussion pre and post movie.

## December Missions



**Christmas Joy Offering.** God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place. This Offering addresses the support for leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. It helps support retired ministers who are not able to afford senior living housing.

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS



**Collecting cash for Food Lion gift cards** to help the seniors on the Shore who suffer from Food Insecurity. We are hoping to collect enough cash to **provide \$50 cards to 40 seniors.** Please send your checks to

**FMPC**

**PO Box 680**

**Accomac, VA 23301**

We want to get the cards to the seniors before Christmas.

Thank you for your support.

Check with Paul Hughes for further information.

## ANGEL TREE

**NMPC** will have the angel tree set up with gift selections for a family from the Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Instructions will be given at the tree when picking up an angel.



**NMPC and FMPC use the month of December for their final distribution of Mission funds to local organizations.**

In January we include in the newsletter the final amount shared with our local groups. If you have not made a contribution designated for a particular mission and would like to do so, do not hesitate this month to earmark any of your giving for particular missions or projects of the churches.





**Candlelight Communion**  
**Christmas Eve services**

**Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church at 7 PM**

**Francis Makemie Presbyterian Church 11 pm**  
*Singing Silent Night as the bell rings in Christmas Day at midnight*



**CCYF**  
**Christmas Dinner and celebration FRIDAY**  
**DECEMBER 15 at 5:30 pm**

Ham dinner with sides and dessert. Families of youth are welcome. There'll be a couple of games and prizes.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Please join us at NMPC for the Youth Christmas Program on Sunday December 3rd at 11 am.

The youth will share the story of how the Littlest Star led the way to meet the baby Jesus in Bethlehem.



**Youth Christmas Program at FMPC will December 17 at 9:15 am**

That Glorious Song of Old. The youth will share the story of how the earth stood still to hear the angel sing.



*Christmas Cantata*

**December 17 at 11 am at NMPC**

A variety of anthems, duets, and instrumentals to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Come hear the choir and the narration which highlights the power of Christmas that carries us through the whole year.

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angel is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among all people,  
To make music in the heart.

- Howard Thurman

## NEW MEMBERS @ FMPC & NMPC

### Introducing our new members



Please welcome **Jean & Dick Freeman** to the fellowship and full communion of **Francis Makemie Presbyterian Church**. Their transfer of membership request has been accepted.

Please welcome **Jean Beard** to the fellowship and full communion of **Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church**. She was welcomed on November 19. Please welcome **Brad Davis, Suzanne Rogers, Nancy Bateman, Linda & Dave Wilson, Nina & Mark Moring** to the fellowship and full communion of **Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church**. They were received on November 26. Our congregations are blessed as you continue to gather, grow, and serve together.

**Brad Davis.** Four years ago, after retiring from Homeland Security, Brad and his wife Patty moved to Onancock from the Philadelphia suburbs. They both enjoy waterfront living, boating, fishing and searching far and wide for antiques. Happy to have found a second family at NMPC!



**Jean Beard** is new to the area and is currently building a new home in Greenbush. She is a life-long Presbyterian transferring her membership from Three Chopt Presbyterian in Richmond. A proud mother of two sons, two daughter-in-laws and grandmother to two granddaughters. A retired Horticulturist she loves creating art, crafting and gardening.



**Nancy Bateman** came to Onancock in July 2022, after raising her family across the Bay in Dunkirk, Md. A native of Alexandria, Va., Nancy previously worked as a litigation legal assistant in patent law before staying home as a full-time mother. Her son Nicholas lives with her in town, daughter Annika recently graduated from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Or and daughter Isabel is a junior at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. As an artist specializing in ceramics and fiber art, you can find Nancy in her studio when not enjoying sea kayaking and hiking. She is honored to be part of Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church.



**Mark & Nina Moring** are relatively new to the Shore, having moved here in November 2022. Mark is a writer who specializes in fundraising for nonprofits, and Nina is an educational therapist who works with children who have learning disabilities. Nina enjoys being a part of the choir and education committee at NMPC, and Mark enjoys hosting our monthly movie nights at the church. They live in Onley with their young adult son, Pete. Their other son, Paul, lives in Chicago. They are thrilled to be a part of this fellowship.



**Dave and Linda Wilson** feel blessed to have found their new church home at NMPC! They come to us from Neelsville Presbyterian Church in Germantown, MD where Linda recently served as an Elder and chair of Children and Family Ministries. Additionally, she was a choir member and served on the Worship Committee. Over the years, Dave has served as a Deacon and been involved in Sunday School, Men's Bible Study groups, and planning a men's retreat! The Wilsons retired to the Virginia Eastern Shore from the Maryland suburbs of Washington DC where they spent the last 15 years raising their son, Greg (23 years old) and living close to Dave's daughter, Lauren (42 years old) and her partner, Kam.





This is the amazing food that shows up at **movie night**. Come December 13 at 5:30 for another great movie night



## Pictures from Oct & Nov.

Helping unload pumpkins for the pumpkin carving in Onancock



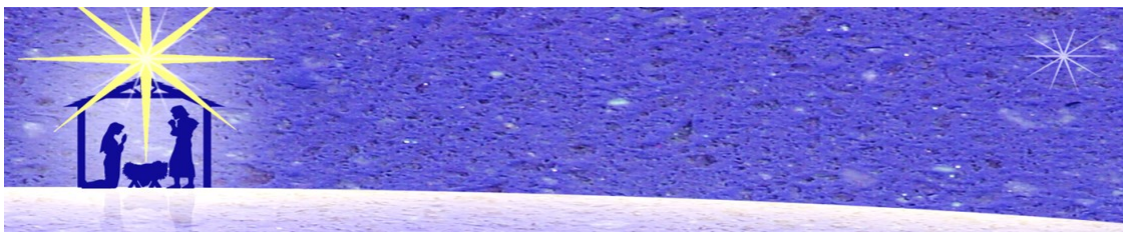
Halloween helpers. Pat helped me bag over 400 bags of candy. Charlie made his own costume. Kristina, Oliver & Kamryn helped pass out candy. Patty, Brad, Rick, & Jean were there too.



Operation Christmas Child dedication







## Pictures from November



Spaghetti Dinner! Success!!



Choir & brass ensemble playing Thanksgiving music. Awesome!



CCYF Bowling outing



Onancock Calendars are still available. \$5 for refills. \$10 for complete set.

