

The Messenger

December 2025

The First Baptist Church of Haddonfield

Volume 34, No. 12

Room in My Heart for Jesus

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7)

My heart gets cluttered. All kinds of distractions, attractions, reactions, appeals, worries, etc., command my attention. Unless I purposefully create inner and outer space for my relationship with Jesus, I lose hold of the joy and peace that His presence brings.

Jesus’ birth in a stable “because there was no place for them in the inn” has been used as an illustration of this prevailing tendency of all believers – and I would add especially in our “information and entertainment age” fueled by social media and the internet. Jesus is present where He is welcome, where time and space are provided. He invites us to “open the door” of our hearts to receive Him (Revelation 3:20). For me this is an ongoing process of making room for Jesus.

Years ago I learned this lesson well. Present at a Christmas concert, critical and negative about the service, over-extended and weary in my life, we sang the Advent hymn, “*Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*”. The words began to sink into my heart and became a prayer that transformed that service for me as I experienced anew the peace and joy that Jesus brings.

*Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.*

*Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,
And in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.*

I pray for you the joy of this season which comes from making room in our hearts for Jesus.

Pastor Bob

The First Baptist Church of Haddonfield



We are located at 124 Kings Highway East ~ Haddonfield, NJ 08033.

Weekly worship services are held at 11:00 am on Sundays in person and via Live Stream on Facebook.

Like and Follow our Facebook page at First Baptist Church of Haddonfield.

Visit our website at **www.fbchaddonfield.org** to view our calendar, worship services and so much more.

Contact us by phone at 856-429-2326 or by email at katie@fbchaddonfield.org.

The Church office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

If you have a Pastoral emergency outside of office hours, please call the church office and leave a message.

We stand ready to help and someone will return your call.

VISION STATEMENT:

IN A MISSION THAT IS LOCAL AND GLOBAL, WE WILL INTRODUCE OTHERS TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST,
WE WILL GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER AND GROW IN OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS.

Preaching Pastor

Rev. Bob Santilli - bobsantilli@hotmail.com

Pastoral Care

Rev. Dr. David H. Yu - revhjy@gmail.com

Organists

Robert Gardner - bob@fbchaddonfield.org

Mark Cole - mark@fbchaddonfield.org

Minister of Music

Caela Johnson - caela@fbchaddonfield.org

Office Administrator

Katie Williams - katie@fbchaddonfield.org

Cemetery Administrator

Betty Willingmyre (856-429-1644)

Maintenance Engineer

David Funk

December Birthdays



1st	Frances Mockus
2nd	Michael Sweeney
6th	Carol Bowman
8th	Julie Keller
14th	Sandra Mezger
22nd	John Yezzi
26th	Linda Bugoski
26th	Sherwood Wheeler
31st	Lloyd Wood
31st	Moses Chandran

December Anniversaries

29th	Bob & Sherry Gardner
31st	David & Sandra Lamont

Prayer Requests

- * **Pastoral Search Committee**
- * **LaNetta** ~ breast cancer
- * **David B.** ~ on hospice care
- * **Bruce** ~ needs liver transplant
- * **Ed** ~ chronic back pain
- * **Sandra D.** ~ in recovery program
- * **David** ~ recovering from surgery
- * **Marietta** - battling cancer
- * **Eleanor** ~ recovering from surgery
- * **Betty** ~ ongoing medical treatment
- * **Donna** ~ recovering from surgery

*If you have a prayer need,
contact us at 856-429-2326
or email katie@fbchaddonfield.org.*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:45am - 10:45am Adult Sunday School (Boardroom) 9:45am - 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Traditional Worship Service (In Person & Livestream)	1 6:00pm - 8:30pm Cub/ Boy Scouts (Social Hall) 7:00pm - 8:00pm GriefShare	2 7:00pm - 8:00pm Mission Board 8:00pm - 9:00pm Diaconate Meeting	3 2:00pm - 3:00pm Ladies Bible Study (Conference Call) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 11:30am - 1:30pm AA Group Meeting (Board Room) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Carillon Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Room)	5 7:00pm - 7:30pm Live Nativity (Show # 1) 7:30pm - 8:00pm Live Nativity (Show # 2)	6 8:00am - 11:00am Saturday Work Crew
7 9:45am - 10:45am Adult Sunday School (Boardroom) 9:45am - 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Traditional Worship Service (In Person & Livestream)	8 6:00pm - 8:30pm Cub/ Boy Scouts (Social Hall) 7:00pm - 8:00pm GriefShare	9 7:00pm - 8:00pm Finance Board 8:00pm - 10:00pm Executive Board	10 2:00pm - 3:00pm Ladies Bible Study (Conference Call) 5:30pm - 8:30pm Boy Scout Leader Meeting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:00pm Music & Arts Meeting	11 11:30am - 1:30pm AA Group Meeting (Board Room) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Carillon Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Room)	12	13 8:00am - 11:00am Saturday Work Crew
14 9:45am - 10:45am Adult Sunday School (Boardroom) 9:45am - 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Traditional Worship Service (In Person & Livestream) 3:00pm - Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble Christmas Concert 7:00pm - Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble Christmas Concert	15 MESSENGER DEADLINE 6:00pm - 8:30pm Cub/ Boy Scouts (Social Hall) 7:00pm - 8:00pm GriefShare	16	17 2:00pm - 3:00pm Ladies Bible Study (Conference Call) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 10:30am - 11:30am Sandwich Collection for Cathedral Kitchen in Church Parking Lot 11:30am - 1:30pm AA Group Meeting (Board Room) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Carillon Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Room)	19	20 8:00am - 11:00am Saturday Work Crew
21 9:45am - 10:45am Adult Sunday School (Boardroom) 9:45am - 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Traditional Worship Service (In Person & Livestream) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Longest Night Service	22 6:00pm - 8:30pm Cub/ Boy Scouts (Social Hall) 7:00pm - 8:00pm GriefShare	23 7:00pm - 8:00pm Christian Ed Meeting	24 5:30pm - Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27 8:00am - 11:00am Saturday Work Crew
28 YOUTH SUNDAY 9:45am - 10:45am Adult Sunday School (Boardroom) 9:45am - 10:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:00am - 12:00pm Traditional Worship Service (In Person & Livestream)	29 6:00pm - 8:30pm Cub/ Boy Scouts (Social Hall)	30	31 2:00pm - 3:00pm Ladies Bible Study (Conference Call) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	1	2	3 8:00am - 11:00am Saturday Work Crew

KEY: S - Sanctuary, L - Lounge, MR - Middleton Room, BR - Boardroom, N - Nursery, SH - Social Hall, K - Kitchen, SR - Scout Room, ABC - ABC Room, SL - Skylight Room, G - Green Room, B - Bell Room, M - Music Room

Live Nativity Celebration



TWO SHOWS

Friday, December 5, 2025

7:00 pm and 7:30 pm



FREE EVENT

Handbell music begins at 6:45 pm.

Shows take place outdoors. Please dress appropriately.

The First Baptist Church of Haddonfield
124 Kings Highway East ~ Haddonfield, NJ 08033

www.fbchaddonfield.org



What's Happening at the Cemetery???

For the month of October, the cemetery had one gravesite sold and two interments performed. A donation was also received. Financially, the checking account had a balance of \$11,536.99 in September and \$10,229.70 in October. The business saving account received thirteen cents interest and the account closed out with a balance of \$15,907.74.

The Haddonfield Historical Society had five nights of *"Haunted Haddonfield"* in October. 25-35 people participated in this event each night.

Five scouts placed flags in medallions to honor veterans with help from Scout leaders and adults. The flags usually stay in place for a week. Ms. Barbara, a scout leader for the younger scouts, instructed the scouts to say as they were placing the flags in the medallions, *"Thank you for your service."* This is the phrase that I heard all Saturday morning. Thanks for a job well done. Mark Zeigler, a reporter from the Collingswood Retrospect, was also present. The cemetery will be featured in the newspaper for about three weekly articles. Ken McGowan was featured in the first one, Reverend Sisty in the second and the third is a combination of history and possibly the scouts honoring the Veterans in the cemetery.

The cemetery is getting ready for winter. The irrigation system has been blown out this week. Ken McGowan is cutting up leaves along with the grass. The maintenance and preservation fund has been paid for the third quarter.

Enjoy every day ~ Betty Willingmyre



presents

Frosty Toes & Sparkly Bows

Sunday,

December 14

at 3pm and 7pm

First Baptist Church

124 Kings Highway E.

Haddonfield, NJ



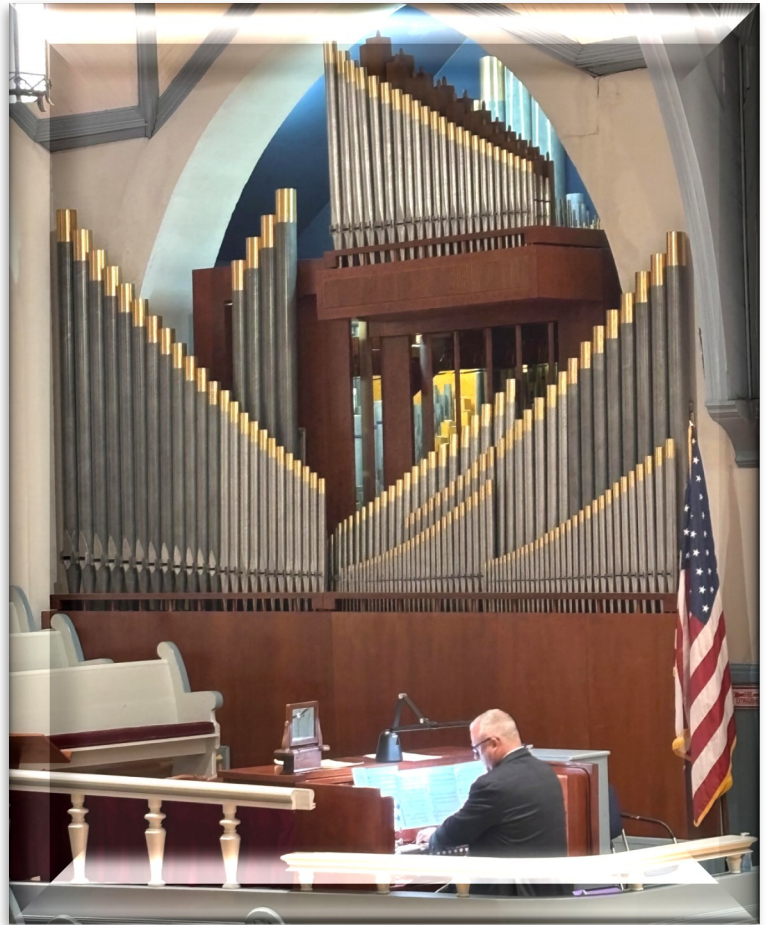
Tickets are required to ensure adequate seating.

To secure **FREE** tickets, visit www.fbchaddonfield.org

Click on the "FREE TICKETS" button from the homepage



Thank you, Mark Cole,
for providing an evening of
inspiring music and
enlightening education!



NOVEMBER 15, 2025

Longest Night Service

Encouragement for those feeling
sadness this Christmas season

**DECEMBER
21ST AT 7 PM**

**THE FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF HADDONFIELD
124 KINGS HIGHWAY EAST
WWW.FBCHADDONFIELD.ORG**

Dear Church Family and Friends,

DECEMBER IS HERE AND WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE WITH JOY, GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE TO US, HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST. DURING THE MONTHS OF 2025, YOU DEMONSTRATED YOUR LOVE AND CARE FOR GOD'S CHILDREN BY YOUR GENEROSITY IN MONTHLY DONATIONS OF SANDWICHES, HEALTHY SNACKS, WATER DURING THE EXTREMELY WARM MONTHS, HAND HELD FRUIT, UTENSIL PACKETS AND PERSONAL CARE ITEMS FOR CATHEDRAL KITCHEN'S HOT MEAL GUESTS. THANK YOU.

An October 17, 2025 appeal from the Cathedral Kitchen's Executive Director, Carrie Kitchen-Santiago, "**STANDING WITH CAMDEN FAMILIES DURING THIS UNCERTAIN TIME**" noted " while others worrying about when checks or benefits will arrive, our doors remain open. We will continue serving hot nutritious meals 6 days a week- no questions asked- to offering groceries, personal care items, case management and support for anyone who needs it." During October and November the number of daily meal guests increased to over 800. Your support has helped to meet the needs during the "uncertain times" with your donations for the "take along bag meals" and personal care items. Your pledge to the Mission Budget throughout 2025 donated clothing such as hooded sweat shirts, men's underwear, rain ponchos, throw blankets and personal care items. The need is **URGENT** for Cathedral Kitchen's nutritious meal program including your sandwich donations for the bag meals continues, as those attending continue to struggle with paying for food, medications and housing.

**Stand with Camden Families
During This Uncertain Time**



**JOIN US IN THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AS THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS
DONATE SANDWICHES, SNACKS AND FRUIT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025 from 10:30-11:30 AM**

GUIDELINES FOR MAKING SANDWICHES:

- ⇒ Sandwiches should be made no earlier than 1 day prior to donations and refrigerated
- ⇒ Cathedral Kitchen requests we work on sanitized surfaces and wear gloves
- ⇒ Any type of bread is fine (wheat is even better)
- ⇒ Turkey or *Beef Bologna with Cheese *(religious/cultural preferences)
- ⇒ Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches...please place peanut butter on each slice of bread with jelly in center to prevent soggy sandwiches
- ⇒ Please do not include dressings (mustard, mayo, tomatoes, etc.)
- ⇒ No need to slice sandwich in half
- ⇒ Place each sandwich into a sealed plastic baggie & label appropriately
- ⇒ Please separate PB&J Sandwiches from Turkey/Beef Bologna with Cheese
- ⇒ Place all sandwiches into a plastic or paper bag and label appropriately

We will continue donations to Cathedral Kitchen on the third Thursday of each month. Invite a friend or neighbor to join us on Thursday, December 17, 2025 between 10:30 AM- 11:30 AM at the First Baptist Church Haddonfield Parking Lot. Please pray for the Lord's direction for the Hands and Feet for Jesus Sandwich Ministry. If you have any questions, contact Jane Brick.

In His Service, Jane

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CATHEDRAL KITCHEN AND OTHER WAYS TO VOLUNTEER, VISIT www.cathedralkitchen.org

The First Baptist Church of Haddonfield

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

DEC 24th at 5:30 pm

A family service in the church sanctuary
ending with outdoor candle lighting
(weather permitting)

DEC 24th at 11:00 pm

A candlelight service with
traditional harp and organ music

★ 124 Kings Highway East ★
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

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Poinsettias For Sale:

As in the past, we have Red and White Poinsettias for sale this Christmas season. Each plant costs \$10 and will be used to decorate the sanctuary during the month of December. Flowers can be taken home after the Christmas Eve services or donated to homebound members.

If you would like to purchase poinsettias in honor or memory of someone, the details of the dedication will be shared in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

To order, please use the envelope in the Middleton Room and include cash or a check made payable to “*First Baptist Church of Haddonfield.*”



***“Glory to God in the highest heaven
and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.”***

Merry Christmas with Love from

Pastor Bob Santilli, Pastor David H. Yu, Bob Gardner, Mark Cole,

Caela Johnson, Betty Willingmyre, Dave Funk & Katie Williams

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124 Kings Highway East
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Deadline to submit for next issue: JANUARY 15th

WE ARE A RECYCLING COMMUNITY! PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER!

