



FBC News

“There is a baby to be born--and a world that needs saving.”

Laura Alden

DECEMBER 2021

Making Peace with Christmas

Making Peace with Christmas is our Advent theme this year. As Kristi Pless, Natalie Massaglia, Laura Alden and I talked together, we reflected on how different last Christmas, and perhaps this one as well, were and are from the ones before. You know, back in the pre-COVID “good old days.” Lots has happened to all of us: COVID 19 has unleashed a trauma upon an already wounded world; so many lives lost, so much political manipulation of people and facts, so many things changed, so much that remains uncertain. It’s difficult to think that here we are, weeks away from Christmas once again and still the uneasiness lies thick around us. What have we lost? Is there really something new waiting to be born?

Perhaps Christmas won’t look familiar to you. People come and go from our lives for many reasons. More than once, we might remember when “what we always do” suddenly didn’t fit any more. But if we think about it, we can also remember the adjustments we made (willingly or not), the new traditions we started, the ways in which we were creative and caring and resilient and found that sometimes because of us and sometimes in spite of us, Jesus is born! Christmas comes. And we did just fine.

“Each year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we have another opportunity to bring Jesus into the world without all the baggage of the past,” writes our own Laura Alden in “Midwives at the Manger” in the 25th Anniversary edition of The Christian Citizen. “The question is--will we have the courage to do it?”

“The months and years of COVID have forced us to change many of our traditions. Babies do that too. They upend our priorities--an understatement, for sure! What if we looked at the manger that way each year? Time to bring Jesus into the world.”

Laura goes on to suggest that perhaps we could become “midwives at the manger,” “partners with God in bringing hope, peace, and the possibility of salvation and justice to the world.” Maybe we can make peace with Christmas--not the Christmas we used to know but the one that is here now. The one that comes in spite of or perhaps in order to soothe our troubles and invite us to experience of change as a way to discover a sense of hope, of peace, of joy and of love.

I join Laura in concluding, “There is a baby to be born--and a world that needs saving.” Let’s get ready for a new birth!

God’s peace,
Marcia, with significant help from Laura Alden



Together We Accomplish So Much

On Sunday, Nov 14th, we gathered in Echo Hall to prepare for the Advent season! We put together projects for our Little Free Libraries and packaged hats and scarves to give to our community. We got the candles and luminaries ready for Christmas Eve. We created Advent jars for members of our congregation and so much more.



Thank you to all who helped get everything ready to celebrate Christmas in our neighborhood and in our congregation!

Giving to our Community

We've received letters from the Cluster, Tree House Books and Trellis for Tomorrow to thank us for the donations to their missions.

In Nov and Dec, we're collecting cans of turkey gravy for the Cluster's Christmas dinners, and we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Cluster, too. Please drop them off at the church by Dec 9th.

We are also collecting gifts for our community. Regifting on the FBC Steps! Bring wrapped gifts with a description of the gift on the tag. The items can be new or something you're regifting. We'll put them on the front steps for our neighbors! The gifts are due by Dec 19th, so you can bring them when you come to sing!

When are we singing?!

Our time singing together in October was so much fun that we have two more opportunities to sing as a group coming up in December!

On Dec 19th at 1pm, we'll gather on the front steps at FBC (301 King St) to sing carols for our neighborhood. Don't worry! We won't be walking around, and we'll have chairs and hot beverages for anyone who needs them. Bring your mask and any gifts you want to put out on the front steps.

Then we'll worship together on Christmas Eve at 7pm in the FBC courtyard. We'll have decorations, a firepit, candles, luminaries and lots of fellowship. Pastor Marcia will lead us through a service of Lessons and Carols as we sing the songs of Christmas joy and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

What's Happening at FBC!

Check out these upcoming events! Visit us online to find links at www.FBCPottstown.org.

- Nov 28th at 4:30pm Worship for First Sunday in Advent
- Nov 29th at 7pm "Understanding Christmas" Podcast
- Dec 5th Pledges due in FBC office
- Dec 5th at 4:30pm Worship for Second Sunday in Advent
- Dec 6th at 7pm Book Study
- Dec 6th at 7pm "Understanding Christmas" Podcast
- Dec 8th at 7pm Board of Community Care & Connection Meeting
- Dec 9th Cans of gravy and toys for the Cluster due in FBC office
- Dec 12th at 4:30pm Worship for Third Sunday in Advent
- Dec 13th at 4:30pm Board of Spiritual Life Meeting
- Dec 13th at 7pm "Understanding Christmas" Podcast
- Dec 16th at 7pm Ministry Coordination Team Meeting
- Dec 19th Gifts for our Community due in the office
- Dec 19th at 1pm Caroling on the Front Steps at FBC
- Dec 19th at 4:30pm Worship for Fourth Sunday in Advent
- Dec 20th at 7pm "Understanding Christmas" Podcast
- Dec 24th at 7pm Christmas Eve Service in FBC Courtyard
- Dec 26th at 4:30pm Sunday Worship – A Christmas Story
- Jan 2nd at 10:30am Sunday Worship
- Jan 3rd at 7pm Book Study
- Jan 23rd at 12pm Congregational Meeting to approve 2022 Budget

Financial Info

Our thanks to all who support the life and ministry of FBC. We continue to come together to do the work of ministry in our neighborhood and in the world. Your gifts make this happen!



Offering Income in Oct	\$11,528.66
Rental Income in Oct	\$ 6,143.12
Other Income in Oct	\$ 0.00
<hr/> Total income in Oct	<hr/> \$17,671.78
 Expenses in Oct	 \$ 7,439.25
 Net Gain for Oct	 \$10,232.53

Reaching out to Eleazar and Speciose

Eleazar and Speciose Ziherambere are presently in North Carolina at the home of their daughter Liliane. We are saddened to say that Eleazar has been diagnosed with cancer. You may send a card of support and affection to them at the address below:

Eleazar and Speciose Ziherambere
2142 Peace Ridge Court
Greenville, NC 27834



Do you have anything you'd like to add to the next edition of FBC News?

Email details to the office at office@FBCPottstown.org by Dec 13th!