

**Saddle River Reformed  
Church**  
worshiping at  
**Old Stone Church**



## December 2022

We invite you to join us in celebrating the seasons of Advent and Christmas 2022

### The Sundays of Advent

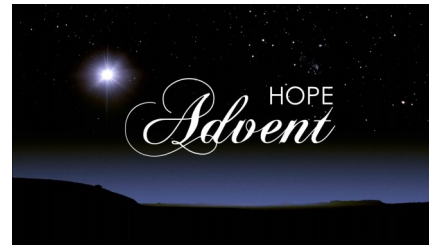
11/27, 12/4 - with Holy Communion, 12/11, 12/18 at 10am

### Nativity of the Lord Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24 at 5pm

### First Sunday after Christmas Day

Sunday, January 1, 2023



### Calendar

Worship - Sundays at 10am  
Old Stone Church  
**Season of Advent**

Bible Study & Lunch Bunch  
Wednesdays at 11am in the  
Lounge

Sew & Sew Group  
Friday, December 2 at 12:30pm  
in the Lounge

Consistory Meeting  
Wednesday, December 7th at  
6pm in the Lounge

Sew & Sew Group  
Friday, December 16 at  
12:30pm in the Lounge

**Nativity of the Lord**  
Christmas Eve Service at 5pm  
Saturday, December 24

Christmas Day  
Sunday, December 25  
No Sunday Worship

If you are unable to be with us to worship in person, you can participate via Facebook Live on our page:

You do not need to be a member of Facebook to access this link.

<https://www.facebook.com/Old-StoneSaddle-River-Reformed-Church-105866604368793>

### Find us on the web and on social media

oldstonechurchonline.org

Facebook: Old Stone/Saddle River Reformed Church

Instagram: oldstonechurchnj

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## **Sew & Sew Group “Bags” Items for Women in Shelters**

The Sew and Sew group has been collecting items that would be useful to women in shelters like toothpaste and brushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, combs, tissues, socks, scarves, hats, and gloves, to name a few. They asked for donations of gently used handbags to transport the items for each person. This project has been ongoing for more than a year with several batches of fully stuffed bags being donated to various social services. In September they donated dozens of backpacks stuffed with items specially chosen for children to use as they begin the school year. The picture shows the latest shipment of over forty bags packed with items for women to use and enjoy. The ladies who have been involved in this project are Christine Van Wetering, Susie Peters, Marilyn Beisler, Linda Kammerer, Lori Geiger, Rosalie Luthi, Joyce McClurg, and Barbara Hendricks as well as other generous church members who donated bags.



*left to right: Lori Geiger, Christine Van Wetering, Linda Kammerer*

## **New Minister Search Update**

*by Cathy Lowden*

Here are the high-level steps we follow when searching for and calling a new minister:

1. Survey Congregation
2. Create Church Profile
3. Gain approval of profile from Consistory
4. Post Profile with RCA, formulary partners and seminaries
5. Potential Candidates submit minister profiles
6. Search Committee reviews profile(s) to determine if candidate(s) should be interviewed
7. Search Committee conducts interviews
8. Search Committee observes candidate leading worship at a neutral location
9. Search Committee recommends candidate to Consistory
10. Consistory approves candidate and invites candidate to lead worship
11. Candidate conducts worship and congregational meeting is immediately held for advisory vote.
12. Consistory and Classis Supervisor draft and sign official Call
13. Classis signs call and extends to candidate
14. Candidate accepts call
15. Plan installation service and celebrations for new pastor

The Reformed Church in America is experiencing a time when there are a number of churches that are searching for ministers. Many ministers are choosing not to serve congregations and are going into specialized ministries instead. While we have received a few profiles, the Search Committee has determined that these ministers are not a fit for our congregation. Please continue to pray for our Search Committee and our next called minister. We have faith that God has a plan for our congregation and He will reveal it in His time.

## **December 2022 Lectionary**

### **Dec. 4 - Communion Second Sunday of Advent**

**Rev. Debbie Pierce**

Isaiah 11:1-10;  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;  
Romans 15:4-13;  
Matthew 3:1-12

### **Dec. 11 Third Sunday of Advent Rev. Tom Larkin**

Isaiah 35:1-10;  
Psalm 146:5-10;  
Luke 1:46b-55;  
James 5:7-10;  
Matthew 11:2-11

### **Dec. 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-16;  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;  
Romans 1:1-7;  
Matthew 1:18-25

### **Dec. 24 Nativity of the Lord Service at 5pm Led by the Consistory**

Isaiah 9:2-7;  
Psalm 96;  
Titus 2:11-14;  
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

### **Dec. 25 Christmas Day No 10am worship service**

Isaiah 62:6-12;  
Psalm 97;  
Titus 3:4-7;  
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

## End of Year Giving & Pledging

Thank you to everyone who filled out pledge cards for the 2023 budget. It's not too late to submit your pledge for 2023 if you haven't done so. Please contact Cathy Lowden, Treasurer, with your 2023 pledge.

In this season of gift giving to family, friends and those less fortunate, we hope you will also consider your gift to the Saddle River Reformed Church. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work.

In addition, in the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one-time donations. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep the Old Stone Church in mind.

We welcome your donations through the online giving page on the church website at <https://oldstonechurchonline.org/> and click on the Give button.

When shopping on amazon.com for your Christmas shopping, INSTEAD shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and choose the "Saddle River Reformed Church RCA" as your charity.



## Thank You!!!

Christine Van Wetering received a thank you note on the church's behalf from Children's Aid and Family Services for the work the Sew & Sew ladies did in filling 15 backpacks with books, coloring books, hats and gloves.



## Christmas Card

If you would like to send Christmas greetings to other members of our church family via the annual church Christmas card, please contact the church office either by email or through the mail by **December 12, 2022**. This is a great way to remember the church family and help the church at the same time.



## We want your photos!!!

Please take a photo of your family around the table or tree at Christmas for our January newsletter. Photos can be emailed into the church office.



## Cemetery Grave Blankets

We are pleased to announce that once again we are offering families the option of ordering Christmas Grave Blankets directly through our office. You can reserve a grave blanket by emailing the church office and **mailing payment of \$45 before December 12, 2022**.

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## The Jesse Tree—An Advent Tradition

### What is Jesse Tree?

Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus's family tree. Each day of Advent, read a Bible story about someone on Jesus's family tree and hang an ornament symbolizing the story on your Jesse Tree. As you decorate your tree, you'll see how God prepared for Jesus to be born through many generations.

### Where does Jesse Tree come from?

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus.

For more information go to:  
<https://www.faithward.org/jesse-tree/>



## Advent Candle Lighting Readings

These Advent candle lighting readings can be used at home with your family. The Advent wreath's circular shape symbolizes God's constant and unchanging nature. On Christmas Eve or Christmas day, the full wreath of Advent candles is lit to symbolize that Christ, the light of the world, has arrived

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

On this first Sunday in Advent, let this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter, so that we will be ready for your face to shine upon us at Christmas.

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We have much to do and we are not sure we will be ready for the day of your coming. In Advent's light, help us to see what is important: to be who you want us to be, and to do what you would have us do.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit's gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your steadfast love shine brightly in us and through us, that all may give you praise and glory.



## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

# St. Nicholas Day - December 6

St. Nicholas, or Sinterklaas, as he was known to the Dutch settlers who brought him to America is a real and ancient saint of the Christian church whose feast day is December 6. The man who became St. Nicholas was born some time in the middle of the fourth century in what is now Turkey, and little is known about him. He was an abbot known for his piety and benevolence, and he became archbishop of the metropolitan church of Myra. He was imprisoned for his faith under the emperor Diocletian, was released by Constantine, and is thought to have been present at the Council of Nicaea.

The facts about St. Nicholas may be sketchy, but legends abound. To read more about St. Nicholas go to:  
<https://www.faithward.org/st-nicholas-day/>

His feast day is an important festival in many places and nearly universally associated with gift-giving, but it is from the Dutch celebration that we in the U.S. draw much of our Santa tradition.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR CELEBRATING ST. NICHOLAS DAY AT HOME

- Follow the Dutch tradition of eating a festive dinner with family or friends December 5, St. Nicholas Eve. Tell the story of the saint's habit of secret giving and care for the poor.
- Since our stocking-hanging ritual comes directly from the St. Nicholas tradition, consider moving it to St. Nicholas Eve. You will be providing a welcome foretaste of Christmas to come as you return significance to the act of small, simple giving. Let everyone into the fun of being St. Nicholas to each other by buying or making small presents for each other that you take turns "secretly" placing in the stockings after bedtime.
- Bake holiday treats early and freeze them. Then, celebrate a visit from St. Nicholas with a special breakfast the morning of the sixth. Include on your table a sample of each kind of cookie for each person. Use your imagination and the time available to plan as festive or as simple a celebration as you like. Keep the remaining cookies frozen until Christmas Day and serve them throughout the twelve days of Christmas instead of during Advent.
- Begin a tradition of anonymous gift-giving in your family by watching for ways each can help the others secretly during Advent. Be St. Nicholases to each other with small gifts or notes of appreciation or encouragement or by making a dreaded chore magically disappear.



## Photos:



## After Worship Church Socials

*Photo credit: Linda Kammerer*

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for Sunday Iced Tea Socials. They are weekly, immediately following the service and provide us with a chance to chat and catch up with our church family while enjoying a treat or two (or three!).

## Sanctuary Decorated at Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving greetings from Lori Geiger and family



Thanksgiving greetings from Rozanne Sullivan and family & friends

# Advent Candle Lighting and Other Festive Decorations in the Sanctuary and Around the Old Stone Church



## People Keep Asking About these RCA International Churches, so the Reformed Church Center Is Asking, Too Looking at a New Kind of Church Multiplication

For the last few years, RCA Church Multiplication and RCA Global Mission have been reporting on new cooperative efforts to help start churches outside of the US and Canada. While there are great and inspiring stories of the work being done, the church is left to discern how this is consistent with the historic RCA mission policy of starting indigenous churches that become self-sustaining rather than branch offices of the RCA. While there have been various reports and explanations, there still seems to be confusion across the denomination about just what this means.

That's why the Reformed Church Center is hosting a conversation around the question **"Is the RCA Planting International Churches, and What Does that Mean?"** on **Thursday, December 8, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm Eastern Time via Zoom**. Staff from Global Missions and Church Multiplication along with local pastors and a commissioned missionary, will explain the plan and ask questions about it, followed by a time for everyone present to join in the discussion.

**JP Sundararajan** is an ordained minister and Director of Global Mission for the Reformed Church in America. Prior to this role, JP had the joy and privilege of ministering for fifteen years back in Bangalore, and all throughout India, as an RCA missionary in partnership with the ministry his parents nurtured when he was a boy. Together, they were able to record the Bible in almost 100 Indian languages. They have also been able to work in over 13,000 villages in India and finished a project that provided audio Bibles to more than 30,000 families in their heart languages. His most recent project involved the creation of the HUM Audio Bible smartphone app ([joinhum.org](http://joinhum.org)) which launched during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Aleta Shepler** served as an RCA missionary in Venezuela from 1989 to 1999 and continues to be a commissioned missionary. She currently serves on the Church Multiplication Committee and coordinates Church Multiplication for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantics. She is on a mission to help Christians find their fresh expression of church.

**Chad M. Farrand** is a pastor with the RCA who serves as Classis Executive for Classis de las Naciones and Assc. Director of Church Multiplication for the RCA. A DMin candidate in Missiology and Global Christianity at NBTS, Chad and his wife live in Orlando, Florida.

**Liz Estes** is an RCA minister and the twenty-third pastor of Readington Reformed Church in Hunterdon County, NJ. Her MA in Philosophy is from Catholic University and her MDiv is from Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Now she is a candidate for a DMin degree in Prophetic Urban Ministry at NBTS. Liz serves as moderator of the RCA's Commission on Theology.

**Dale Assink** has been an RCA Minister of the Word and Sacrament for forty years. He is committed to family and cultivating healthy leaders and churches. Dale pastored local RCA churches for nineteen years, and for the last twenty-two years has worked for the Regional Synod of the Heartland as a coach, a consultant, and a visionary leader with a focus on church multiplication. Dale and his wife Dawn together have four children and eleven grandchildren.

While **"Is the RCA Planting International Churches, and What Does that Mean?"** is free and open to anybody who would like to take part, all participants need to register. Click here to sign up for the Zoom webinar: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2KTWpMksRGCwwG-QL7UQzA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2KTWpMksRGCwwG-QL7UQzA).

REFORMED CHURCH CENTER  
AT  
NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## News from Camp Warwick

### Camp Snowball

Session 1: February 24-26, 2023  
Session 2: March 31- April 2, 2023



Come and join us at Camp Snowball this winter!  
Camper registration and the volunteer application open December 1!

### Sign-up to be a Camp Snowball Volunteer!

Come and spend the weekend with campers and other volunteers for games, singing, sledding (if there is snow), bowling, talent show, and so much more!

- 15+ years old
- available the whole weekend
- interested in working with individuals who have disabilities
- we would love to help fulfill required volunteer hours and paperwork

APRIL 21-23, 2023

# SPRING FLING

YOUTH GROUPS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

REGISTRATION AND PRICING DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE DECEMBER 1

# Community Announcements:

Northwest Senior Activity Center  
46-50 Center Street, Midland Park, NJ 07432 Phone: 201-445-5690 Fax: 201-493-8911

Join Bozema in the Community Room to create

## HOLIDAY CRAFTS

Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 12:30pm



**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER**

If you would like to order lunch, please reserve one day in advance before noon. Lunch is \$1.25 donation and will be served at 11:45am.

Lunch Time

**Saddle River Valley Junior Women's Club** will host the annual USR Tree Lighting on Saturday December 3rd at 4:00 p.m. in front of Borough Hall. There will be festive holiday music, performed by the Bogert chorus, and refreshments. A special guest from the North Pole will arrive to greet everyone and will be available for pictures. Please brighten the holidays for those less fortunate by bringing an unwrapped new toy for the children of Valley Hospital.

## Senior HelpLine (201) 336-7400

A service of the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)

**Bergen County**  
Department of Human Services  
Division of Senior Services



Northwest Senior Activity Center  
46-50 Center Street, Midland Park, NJ 07432 Phone: 201-445-5690 Fax: 201-493-8911

## HOLIDAY SHOW

Monday, December 5, 2022 at 10:30am

**ENJOY PERFORMANCES BY:**

The Syncopated Seniors, have been regularly practicing at our center for more than 25 years. Led by a former Radio City Rockette, this talented group performs at different venues in the community. We are thrilled to welcome their performance at our holiday event this year.

**THE SYNCOPATED SENIORS**

We are happy to welcome back The Pettets. Their distinguished careers brought them to Broadway, movies, television and radio. They have performed at the White House and sing the National Anthem for the NY Mets, as well as performing for and honoring Veterans. Join us as they sing classic holiday favorites!

**THE PETTETS**

**MENU:**  
PIZZA, SALAD, COFFEE, TEA & SOFT DRINKS  
DESSERT GOODY BAG.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED \$8.00 SUGGESTED DONATION**

**Friends of the USR Library** will hold their December Book Sale on Saturday, December 10th from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Be sure to mark your calendar to find your next great read! There are special monthly sales and any child who comes to browse may select a free book. Be sure to stop by and buy! All proceeds support the programs the Friends fund like the museum passes, children's summer reading program, mango languages, Kindle e-book titles and more.

Northwest Senior Activity Center  
46-50 Center Street, Midland Park, NJ 07432 Phone: 201-445-5690 Fax: 201-493-8911

Join us  
**Wednesday, December 14th,**  
at 12:30pm to watch  
**"A CHRISTMAS STORY CHRISTMAS"**

"Ralphie reconnects with old friends when he returns to his childhood home in Cleveland to give his kids a magical Christmas like the one he had growing up."

**PETER BILLINGSLEY RETURNS AS RALPHIE**

**ENJOY COOKIES & COCOA**

**WHILE WATCHING THIS SEQUEL TO, "A CHRISTMAS STORY."**

If you would like to order lunch, please reserve one day in advance before noon. Lunch is \$1.25 donation and will be served at 11:45am.

Lunch Time

The Center for Food Action in Mahwah at 90 Ridge Road is open M-F from 10am-2pm to accept donations. Their most needed items are Supermarket Gift Cards, Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, etc.), Canned Hearty Soups, Canned Vegetables, Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Tomato Sauce, Toothpaste, Toothbrush & Dental Floss, Cold Cereal (low sugar) & Oatmeal, Powdered Milk &/or Boxed Milk, such as Parmalat, Canned Fruits, Instant Potatoes, 100% Juice, Baby Formula & Diapers sizes 4, 5 & 6, Bar or Bottled Soap, and Canned Dog Food & Canned Cat Food.

**Call 988 For Mental Health Emergencies**  
The Federal Communications Commission recently approved a new 3-digit dialing code, 988, for mental health crisis and suicide prevention. The 988 line will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for calls, texts, and chat.

## UPPER SADDLE RIVER PROUD TO BE STIGMA-FREE

# December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jon Peet	12/1
Hal Peters	12/1
Jay Breen	12/2
Andrew Dente	12/2
Landon Peet	12/2
Gail Wershing	12/3
Carol Ciancia	12/4
Suzanne Peters-McCaig	12/6
Fred Hampton	12/17
Larry Gorga	12/20
Jack Tudisco	12/21
Cathy Lowden	12/25
Nancy Peet	12/30
Jeff & Ashley Giletto	12/31

Any updates or additions, please email the church office at [srrcoffice@verizon.net](mailto:srrcoffice@verizon.net)

The monthly newsletters are BACK!!! If you have anything for the JANUARY newsletter, please email the church office at [srrcoffice@verizon.net](mailto:srrcoffice@verizon.net).





**Saddle River Reformed Church**

worshiping at  
**Old Stone Church**  
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[www.OldStoneChurchOnline.org](http://www.OldStoneChurchOnline.org)

