

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



January 2023



Calendar

Worship - Sundays at 10am
Old Stone Church

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

Sew & Sew Group
Friday, January 6 at 12:30pm
in the Lounge

Consistory Meeting
Wednesday, January 11 at
6pm in the Lounge

Sew & Sew Group
Friday, January 20 at
12:30pm in the Lounge

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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Epiphany Party Ideas

Epiphany (traditionally on January 6) commemorates the visit of the magi and is sometimes called Three Kings' Day. It is also the final day of the 12 days of Christmas. To honor Epiphany, consider holding a party.

Here's some ways you might remember this important day.

Make a King's Cake or a Twelfth Night Cake. Before baking, it is traditional to hide a coin, trinket, or dried bean inside the batter. The person who finds it becomes the king or queen for the evening. There are many different recipes to use for this; some are like fruitcake or are spice cakes. On the following page is a French version.

Be sure to go outside on Epiphany, the twelfth night, to look at the stars or to take a long walk and celebrate the important journey the wise men took to recognize the Christ Child as their King.

Play "Hide and Seek the Light." One person can hide a battery-run or electric candle, while other players wait in a closed room (they could sing or play Christmas carols to cover up any sound clues). When the light is hidden, the players look for it, like the wise men who followed the star, searching for the birthplace of the Savior. This game can also be played by placing glow-in-the-dark stars in an obvious place on the skin or clothing of all players. The player who is "it" searches for the other hiding players. This can be played inside or outside, depending on the climate.



French Epiphany Cake

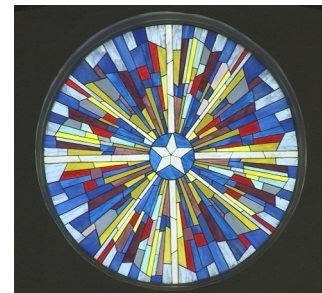
(Source: Festivals, Family and Food, by Cary, Diana, and Judy Large. Gloucestershire, England: Hawthorn Press, 1982, p.154.)

Ingredients

8 oz. butter
3 oz. ground rice
grated rind of lemon
6 egg yolks
5 oz. sifted icing sugar
3 egg whites
3 oz. flour
extra sifted icing sugar

Instructions

- Cream butter and grated lemon rind. Beat in icing sugar.
- Sift flour and ground rice together, add one third of this to the creamed mixture.
- Add two of the egg yolks and repeat with remaining flour and yolks.
- Fold in the stiffly whisked whites and turn into a prepared tin.
- Bake at 350° for about an hour, Decorate with lemon butter icing or sifted sugar. Top the cake with little figures of the three kings or with crowns or stars.



January 2023 Lectionary Year A

Jan 1 - Communion

First Sunday after

Christmas Day

Isaiah 63:7-9 ;
Psalm 148;
Hebrews 2:10-18;
Matthew 2:13-23

Jan 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6;
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3:1-12;
Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 8

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9,
Psalm 29;
Acts 10:34-43;
Matthew 3:13-17

Jan. 15

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7;
Psalm 40:1-11;
1 Corinthians 1:1-9;
John 1:29-42

Jan. 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4;
Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
1 Corinthians 1:10-18;
Matthew 4:12-23

Jan. 29

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8;
Psalm 15;
1 Corinthians 1:18-31;
Matthew 5:1-12

Chalking the Door: An Epiphany Tradition

“Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love.”

Chalking the door is a way of marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols as we ask God’s blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God’s presence and blessing into our homes

In Deuteronomy 6:9 God tells the people of Israel: “These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Chalking the door is a tangible way to honor God in our lives.

The first and last numbers simply refer to the current year. The letters C M B come from the traditional names for the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Some also suggest “Christus Mansionem Benedicat” which means, “May Christ bless this dwelling!”

Epiphany is on January 6th, twelve days after Christmas. Many families gather in their homes to celebrate with friends, food, singing, and gifts... and to chalk the door. **Find some chalk: Any color will do! Gather your household: Everyone should be involved.** For those who live alone, consider inviting a friend or neighbor. **Pray: Use the prayers and liturgy on the following page. Write the inscription: Using the chalk, and taking turns, make the following inscription above the outside of your door.**

20 + C + M + B + 23

Take turns reading the following liturgy and prayers:

Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here. *Amen.*

God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten One to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

As participants take turns making the inscription, a reader says:

The three Wise Men, [C] Caspar, [M] Melchior, [B] and Balthasar followed the star to Bethlehem and the child Jesus [20] two thousand, [23] and twenty-three years ago. [+ +] May Christ bless our home [+ +], and remain with us throughout the new year. *Amen.*

All say the Lord’s Prayer.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25, 2023

January 18-25, 2023 is the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme chosen for 2023 is, “Do good; seek justice.” (Isaiah 1:17) Begun in 1908, these days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: “that all may be one... that the world may believe” (John 17:21).

Prayer for Christian Unity

O God of justice, God of peace, One in the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enliven the unity of your Church on earth. Help us to see that our unity goes beyond unity in doctrinal essentials to an active unity of humanity with you and with one another.

Forgive us for not remembering we are brothers and sisters in equity and justice under your law of love. Help us remember that each of us is created in your Divine image and that we share the dignity of being your children. Temper your justice, O Lord, with mercy to forgive and heal our broken relationships.

Unite us in a fellowship that recalls our baptism, which has conquered sin and death, hate and division in the power of the Paschal mystery of Jesus Christ. Grant all this, O Lord, in his name and by the power of your Holy Spirit, now and forever, Amen.

For a daily scripture & prayer guide go to:

https://geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/prayer_worship/daily_scripture_and_prayer_guide.html

The poster art for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023 speaks eloquently of the theme, “Do good; seek justice” (Isaiah 1:17). Longing for goodness and justice, hands are outstretched from the heat of oppression and division, as if hungry for a morsel of life giving food. The hand of Jesus Christ reaches down from the calm of the heavenly kingdom to offer comfort to those in pain and hunger. The nail mark in his hand reminds us of his own suffering, that through the Atonement, humanity may be gifted with “At-One-Ment” – the gift that brings peace through justice, mercy and reconciliation.

In learning to do good and in seeking justice, we Christians share one Teacher and one source of justice. In the paschal mystery of Christ, we find the compassion for humanity that brings complete justice and complete goodness. If we follow Christ to the cross in a self-emptying of all our vain senses of superiority and judgements, we can build a community of supportive love among all. The cross is our way to salvation.

The colors in the poster are profoundly meaningful. The hands, including that of Jesus, are different colors to emphasize the fellowship of all human beings and the universality of the Incarnation of God. The red in the world below evokes confusion and chaos, disunity and warfare. The blue in the world above speaks of tranquility and hope. The way there is through joining our hands with Christ’s, and through the theme itself.

That they all may be one.



Thank You!!!

The church office received a letter from the Center for Food Action (CFA) for the gift of \$606 raised during the Cozy Soups for Fall event in October. The donation will ensure that more people, families, children, and seniors have nutritious food to eat.

The church office also received a thank you letter from Family Promise of Bergen County. Family Promise empowers homeless working families and those at-risk of homelessness to become self-sufficient by providing temporary housing and personalized support, including job training, financial education, life skills, transportation, childcare, enrichment for children, and more.

Holland Christian Home Foundation sent a thank you note to the church office as well. Holland Christian Home, founded nearly 128 years ago to serve the elderly in a Christ-centered homestyle atmosphere - small enough to care for each resident individually, but large enough to serve in a professional and beautiful setting.

After Worship Church Socials

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!).

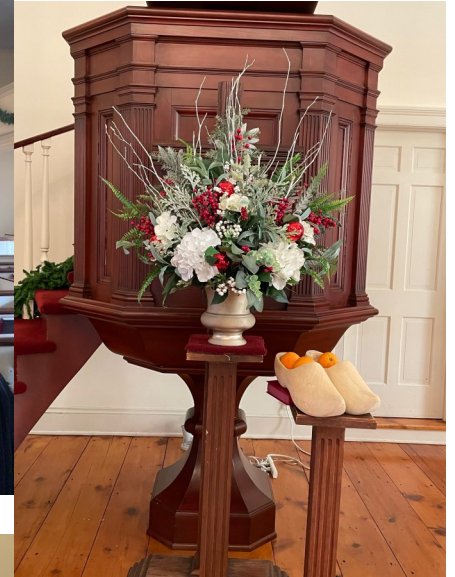


Lori Geiger and family at Matt's 25th birthday celebration. ©



Trevor Hall's father, Andrew Hall (bottom right), at his 99th birthday party on 12/27 in Eaton Socon, England. Trevor and Laura Hall are in the top row behind Trevor's dad.

Christmas & Advent Photos



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

Community Announcements:

Friends of the USR Library will hold their January Book Sale on Saturday, January 14th 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.

Upper Saddle River Woman's Club

Tickets will go on sale for the **Valentine's Day Mega Raffle to benefit USR First responders, scholarships to local students and other charitable causes.**

Ticket order forms can be found on the website (www.usrwomansclub.org) under the Mega Raffle Tab on the menu bar, or can be purchased from any member. The drawing will take place at Borough Hall at 12 p.m. on February 14th.

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



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**

The monthly newsletters are BACK!!! If you have anything for the FEBRUARY newsletter, please email the church office at srrcoffice@verizon.net.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mark Nixdorf	1/2
Christopher Fretz	1/6
Amanda Armstrong Flanagan	1/10
Elyse Moore	1/10
Elaine Armstrong	1/11
Nicholas Peters	1/14
Justin Moore	1/19
Betsy Reichelt	1/23
Mary Bergquist	1/29
Dot Coblentz	1/29

Norm & Ruth McGowan 1/24

Any updates or additions, please email the church office at srrcoffice@verizon.net

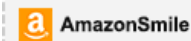
2023 Pledging & Giving

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.

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

Give

When shopping on amazon.com, INSTEAD shop at smile.amazon.com and choose the "Saddle River Reformed Church RCA" as your charity.



Saddle River Reformed Church

worshiping at

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