



## THE SPIRE

January 2019

Dear Friends in Christ:

Clergy are accustomed to working through the month of December to make the season meaningful and beautiful for others. Breaking my ankle the day before Advent meant I could do very little of that.

My personal Advent journey was one of healing. I have marveled at the capacity of the human body to recover from trauma—by God’s design—and I am deeply grateful for the medical professionals, church folk and my attentive husband through whom I’ve received all the care I could ask for or need.

I’ve never broken a bone before, let alone several all at once! But the truth is, I was broken before I fell down the stairs, and I’ll still be broken after my bones heal. I try not to hide my brokenness from you in my ministry. The truth is we’re all broken in one way or another. Redemption comes when we admit our brokenness and make plain our need for mercy and help. The song, “Anthem,” by Leonard Cohen comes to mind:

*Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That’s how the light gets in.*

In the New Year, let us be open with God and one another about our brokenness. Even more so, let us expect to be amazed at the ways God’s light shines in our brokenness to heal and to save.

To paraphrase John 1:5, “the light shines in our [brokenness] and our [brokenness] did not overcome it.”

Gratefully yours in Christ’s Service,

*Ruth L. Boling*

Ruth L. Boling, Pastor

## JANUARY WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

On Epiphany Sunday, January 6, worshipers will receive “star gifts” as we did last year. A star gift is a word written on a construction paper cut-out star to take home, ponder, and live into in the coming year.

“Shine!” is the title of a new sermon series that Pastor Boling will begin on Sunday, January 13, exploring all the ways that the light of Christ warns and warms us in our darkness.

**Jan. 6**      **Epiphany/The Lord’s Supper**  
Matthew 2:1-12  
Meditation: “Home by Another Way”

**Jan. 20**    **Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
John 2:1-11  
Sermon: “The Light of Laughter, the Wine of Joy”

**Jan. 13**    **Baptism of the Lord**  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22  
Sermon: “To Save and to Serve”

**Jan. 27**    **Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
Luke 4:14-21  
Sermon: “A Clear Sense of Mission”



*Be sure to call the church office phone for building closings in case of inclement weather. The message will be updated at 6:30 a.m.*

## JANUARY WORSHIP NOTES

*“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10*

Join us at 10:45 a.m. every Sunday in January to worship and praise God as we begin a New Year of work and witness in our community. As we take time to pack away the Christmas ornaments and the excitement of gift giving and receiving, it is good to know that God is with us in the ordinary, everyday moments of our lives. Listed below are some scripture texts to prepare your heart and spirit for worship as we recognize the journey of the Wise Men, the baptism of our Lord, and the ordinary time that comes between the high holy days of Christmas and Lent on the church calendar.

**Sunday, January 6** – Epiphany – Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12

Wise Men follow a star with gifts for a newborn king.

**Sunday, January 13** – Baptism of the Lord – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jesus begins his ministry as his cousin John the Baptist baptizes him.

**Sunday, January 20** – Ordinary Time – Psalm 36:5-10

A reminder that God’s love is steadfast in spite of our sinful nature.

**Sunday, January 27** – Ordinary Time – Psalm 19

The heavens proclaim God’s glory. God’s perfect law revives the soul.

*“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight. O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14*

## **FROM THE CLERK'S DESK:**

Notes from the Session meeting of November 14, 2018. . .

### **Clerk's Report:**

1. Shared a letter of thanks from Mission Co-Worker, Rev. Leslie Vogel - "It was a joy and an honor to share with you in worship and Christian Education. I am grateful for your interest in my work as a mission co-worker and, more importantly, your interest in how God is at work in Guatemala and Mexico and on the United States/Mexico border."

### **Buildings and Grounds Team:**

1. Provided updates on various repairs and jobs in process around church buildings. Take note of the detailed reports provided by the team in the SPIRE each month.

### **Education Team:**

1. Voted to reactivate Boy Scout Troop 2 for boys and to establish a Boy Scout Troop for girls at the request of parents who will take leadership roles for the troops. The Boy Scout troops will meet on the same night as the Cub Scouts. Scott Maciag will serve as Institutional Representative.

### **Evangelism and Outreach Team:**

1. Reported that the team is contacting church members who have not participated in the work and ministry of the church for several years.
2. Reported that the Food Pantry would be distributing approximately 40 Thanksgiving turkeys and sides to Pantry clients this week.
3. Approved closing the existing Thrift Shop bank account as of December 31, 2018 and transferring the funds to the regular church account, credited to the Thrift Shop budget line.

### **Finance and Stewardship Team:**

1. Provided an update on the Stewardship Campaign.

### **Personnel Team:**

1. Approved the 2019 Church Office Holiday Schedule as follows -

Tuesday, January 1 - New Year's Day	Monday, January 21 - M.L. King Birthday
Monday, February 18 - Presidents' Day	Friday, April 19 - Good Friday
Monday, May 27 - Memorial Day	Thursday, July 4
Monday, September 2 - Labor Day	Monday, October 14 - Columbus Day
Thursday/Friday, November 28/29 - Thanksgiving	
Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas	

### **Treasurer's Report:**

1. Reported that 2019 budget preparations have begun.

### **Questions or Concerns for Session?**

Drop a note in the Clerk's mailbox in the Church Office or see me after Sunday worship. I will be happy to listen and to answer your questions or direct you to those who can.

Respectfully, Ethelyn L. Fulton, Clerk of Session

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## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for Sunday, February 3, 2019 (snow date February 10) in the Chapel immediately following morning

worship. This meeting will include election of officers and action on revised church by-laws. The printed Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 27.  
Ethelyn L. Fulton, Clerk of Session

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### **JANUARY MISSION OFFERING - PRESBYTERIAN MINISTRIES**

In January we will receive our annual special offering for Presbyterian Ministries. This offering is used to support the ministries and mission of our church at the Presbytery, Synod and National levels. Where our Per Capita offering supports the overhead and governing expenses of these bodies, this offering supports the actual work that is done. We know there are many people in need locally and throughout the world. Following Jesus, Presbyterians are engaged throughout the world in seeking thoughtful solutions to the challenges of our time. This offering provides the financial assistance to meet these challenges while sharing the good news of God's love. You may place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it directly to the church office. Thank you for your continued financial support of our monthly mission offerings.

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### **WHAT IS THAT "INITIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE"?**

When you first open your 2019 Offering Envelope box you may notice a pale yellow envelope in the front and wonder what it's for. Your \$3 donation inserted in this envelope will defray the cost of providing envelopes for the collection and receiving of gifts. It is one small way you can help.

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### **HELP A FAMILY AT CHRISTMAS**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Help-a-Family at Christmas program sponsored by MEND! Your generosity allowed us to send Michael's family of six children, ages 5 months to 16 years old, more than 20 beautifully wrapped gifts and gift cards that will show forth God's love to a family in need this holiday season.

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### **BLOOMFIELD MLK DAY OF SERVICE ACTIVITY IN THE PARISH HOUSE**

On Saturday, Jan. 19, as part of Bloomfield's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, we will be opening the Parish House for a community-wide service project to assemble hygiene kits. The activity begins at 8:00AM. Mark your calendars and watch for more details on this opportunity to partner with service-minded community members for a worthy cause.

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### **JANUARY FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE NOTES**

One year ago in the January 2018 Spire, I introduced the congregation to my new role (part time, unpaid) as Faith Community Nurse. I included my *Vision Statement* - Caring for self and others in Christ - and my *Mission Statement* - Through prayer, advocacy, education and counseling, the Faith Community Nurse seeks to promote an understanding between faith and health, and helps to empower individuals to care for body, mind and spirit in self and others.

I am very happy with how the role has developed and the needs I have been able to meet for many of you in the church family. I have made numerous hospital, rehab and home visits. I have accompanied folks for their medical appointments. I have used phone calls and text messages to keep in touch. I have answered questions about health, illness, medical tests and procedures, medications, and health care resources. I have offered support to members and families dealing with illness and the loss of a loved one. It has been a most rewarding year . . .

at times an extremely busy year. I welcome your feedback on what I have done and look forward to being there for all of you in 2019.

As you begin a new year, don't forget to take some time for self-care. It is so easy to get caught up in work, school, children's activities, housework, and volunteer activities. But God wants each of us to take time to care for ourselves - mind, body and spirit. Remember to schedule some daily *Me Time*. Me time can be anything that takes you away from the hustle and bustle, and brings you joy and contentment - prayer, devotionals, exercise, yoga, gardening, hand work, reading, meditation - to name a few. Me time is an investment in your well-being. If we maintain our own mind, body and spirit, we will have the energy to meet all of the other demands life throws at us. Wishing each of you a Healthy and Happy 2019.

Janice Fulton RN - Faith Community Nurse

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## **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION**

Our Sunday morning adult education series on the Heidelberg Catechism continues in January. We meet from 9:45AM to 10:30AM in the parlor. Everyone is welcome to attend, whether you want to attend consistently or occasionally. There is a place here for YOU! If you have any questions or want your own copy of the catechism, please contact Glenn Maciag.

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## **BOOK GROUP**

Our next once a month book group meeting will be on Monday, January 14 in the education building. We meet at 7:30PM. We will continue to work through "The Cross: God's Way of Salvation" by Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Our focus at our January meeting will be on chapter 5 "The Triumph of the Cross." If you have questions or want a copy of our book, please contact Glenn Maciag.

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## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS**

- Most of December was spent getting things ready for Christmas.
- We thank you for all your donations of Mason Jars.  
Thinking positive and knowing I wrote this before Christmas, we are expecting our luminaries to look magnificent.
- We cleaned and prepared the sanctuary to be open the night of the live nativity.
- We continued to do some work on a couple of real stubborn Parish House chandelier lights.
- We are making arrangements for a locksmith to come in to fix the ramp door on the education building and the front door of the Parish House.
- We gave the Parish House gutters a cleaning (as best we could- much of the stuff in the gutters was frozen). Anyone like cleaning gutters?
- We started working on cleaning the custodial closet in the Parish House.
- We continue to try to clean out room 203 C.
- We fixed the lock on room 201.
- We removed the carpeting from the Finance Office due to mold.



## **LET THERE BE LIGHT**

It is amazing what new lights can do!! Have you been on the second floor of the education building lately? The new lights really brighten the place up! (Pun intended) We are also hoping that the ceiling lights in the worship space will be done by the time you receive this. If not, we will just wait a little longer but we are hoping this will update our space and make it more inviting and user friendly. Good things come to those who wait.

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## **SHINE THE LIGHT CAMPAIGN**

When Session approved the expenditure on the lights we also voted to run a fundraising campaign to offset the cost of the lights. Throughout the month of January you are welcome to contribute to the “Shine the Light” campaign. The ceiling lights in the worship space will cost just over \$7,000 and the lights on the second floor cost a little over a \$1,000. We do have an anonymous donor who has offered to match contributions, dollar for dollar, toward this goal! Give as you can, Give from the heart. \$1, \$10, \$20, \$100 or more. Every cent helps, every little bit is a blessing. Checks may be made payable to the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green, with “Shine the Light” in the memo line.

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## **DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?**

We continue to look for people who are skilled in various trades.

Can you replace a window?

Can you replace a washer? (Plumbing washer not clothes washer.)

Can you do basic electrical work?

Anyone want to take on installing gutter guards in the Spring?

Do you do small engine repair?

Any good with electronics?

The more we can do ourselves, the better. Have a friend who can help us out? Friends are welcome!

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## **A WORD ABOUT CLEANLINESS AND SECURITY**

We continue to ask for your help and assistance on an every day basis. If you use a room or facility, always try to leave it cleaner than you found it. If you unlock something, please make sure it gets locked. If you see something unlocked that shouldn't be, please lock it. Having a very small staff and not a lot of people around makes it even more crucial that everything that can be locked, is locked. We appreciate everything that people do, but as a congregation we cannot afford to stop being vigilant.

Clean up your pew after service.

Make sure your cups and water bottles make it into the garbage and recycling bin.

If you drop something, please pick it up.

As much as we do not have a formal sanctuary to worship in, our current worship space deserves the same respect, seriousness of purpose, discipline and dignity. Please respect the facility and what we do in that space.

See something that needs attention? Make sure you let Buildings and Grounds know.

See something, find something, fix something. As always we thank you for your support.

## MAKE SURE YOU SAY “THANK YOU!”

Never underestimate the power of saying thank you! Say “Thank you” to someone for something. It goes a long way. Thank you to the Buildings and Grounds Committee of: William Watson, Carlos Monteagudo, Le Vuong and Manny Rodriquez for all their time and effort. A thank you to all the others who go above and beyond in any way, shape or form.

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## ON THE WANTED LIST!

Nope, not the one in the post office. We are in need of a carpet remnant about 12 feet by 12 feet with at least one finished edge. We had to rip up the carpet in the Finance Office and are hoping someone has something lying around in good condition that we can have. If you have something or know where to get something at a very reasonable rate please see Scott Maciag.

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2... Hellen Motoma  
9... Diann Cornell  
Marie Hicks  
10.. Judy Skorupski  
12.. Daniel Monteagudo

13.. Susan Marshall  
18.. Nolan Nerahoo  
Laurel Zigarelli  
19.. Evelyn Ferraro

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## SUNDAY WORSHIP FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday worship, please sign up on the *2019 Flower Chart* in the rear of the Chapel. The cost of our Chapel flowers is \$45.00 per week, but donations of any amount are appreciated. Checks should be made out to BPCOG with a note on the Memo line: *Flower Fund*. Please be sure to fill out a *Flower Dedication Form* which can be found in the envelope attached to the bottom of the Flower Chart. Flowers may be dedicated “In Memory Of” or in “Honor Of” family members and friends. Following worship, the flowers are delivered to our shut-ins, those in the hospital, those recovering at home, and those in our church family celebrating special occasions.

If you are unable to sign up on the Flower Chart and would like to provide Sunday flowers, you can use the form below and mail it into the church office with your donation. If the Sunday you requested is not available, we will contact you to offer an alternative date. Thank you for your support of our flower ministry.

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Sunday Worship Flowers (\$45.00 suggested donation)

Requested Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## THE CHURCH IN PRAYER

*"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10*

**To:** Our Church Family  
**From:** Charlotte Cade, Ethelyn Fulton, Eve Space  
**About:** Our Church Family Prayer Journey  
**Purpose:** To develop the discipline of prayer  
To build relationships centered and focused on prayer  
To pray in one accord with all members of the church family  
**Who:** Individuals or Prayer Triplets  
**What:** Read and discuss scripture texts, pray  
**Where:** Any place that is comfortable for you  
**When:** Any time that is workable and comfortable for you  
**January Theme:** Praying as Jesus Taught Us – Our Lord's Prayer  
In his book *When You Pray: Making the Lord's Prayer Your Own*, Philip Graham Ryken writes, "The more we pray, the more deeply we are drawn into communion with God. And the more we study the Lord's Prayer, the better we are able to pray."  
**Scripture Texts:** Matthew 6:5-15      Luke 11:1-4

*"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

Matthew 6:10

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## CONDOLENCES

to Margretta Colangelo, whose father Frank Truncali went home to the Lord on November 9th.

*"In my Father's house are many rooms... I go to prepare a place for you..." John 14:2*

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## PRAYERS

Please pray for our homebound church members and those for whom special prayers have been requested: Allegra Hoots and family, Margretta Colangelo and family, Ellen Smith, Doris Elmer, Joan Caramagna and family, Lucille De Fabritis, Beverly Monahan, Rev. Paul Boger, Rev. Rick Sommers, Lois Erickson, Michael Lewis Jr., Laura Boger, Helen LeDoux, Indira Bissoondath, Candy Antoine

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## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT





## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The 25th Annual Women's Interfaith Forum will be held at Temple B'nai Abraham on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 (Snow date Thursday, January 24) at 6:45 pm.

The Topic is: "Reality Check: How Far HAVE Women Come in 25 Years?"

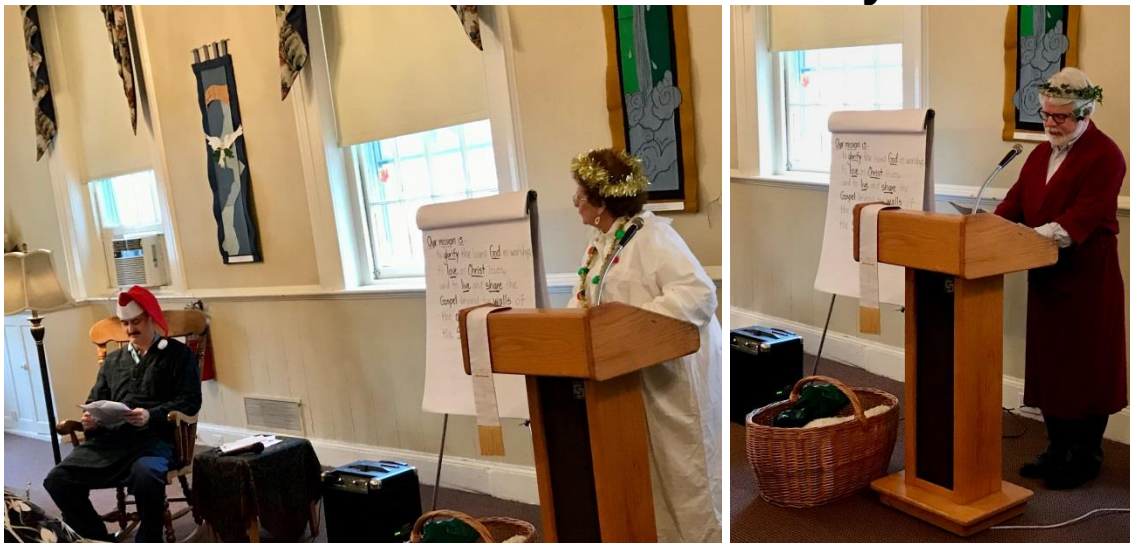
A vegetarian/ dairy buffet supper will be served. Reservations are required - Please contact Eve Space (973-517-0153) or Linda Rosania (201-306-2353) no later than January 13, 2019. There is no charge for the event, however, seating is limited.

The Women's Fellowship will be "un-decorating the Chrismon Tree on Sunday, January 6, 2019 after Worship. You are cordially invited to be one of the Chrismon Crew to show how "many hands make light work!"

Wishing you and yours: Faith, Love, Health, & Happiness in 2019.

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### Scenes from Consecration Sunday



## 2018 Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

Given by	In memory/honor of
Rev. Ruth Boling and Dr. Carlos Monteagudo	In memory of Dr. Robert & Jean Boling and Iluminado & Gilda Monteagudo
Women's Fellowship	In celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ!
John Bolland	In memory of John & Ethel Bolland and Margaret Cordasco
John Bonnet	In memory of Marge Bonnet and Gail Russomanno
John Bonnet	In memory of Ruth Soper, Judy Meade, Betty Beyer, Agnes Turnbull
Don and Diann Cornell	In honor of our children and grandchild
Ethelyn and Janice Fulton	In memory of our Mom and Dad
Ethelyn and Janice Fulton	In memory of family and friends
Ethelyn and Janice Fulton	In honor of Ellen Smith, a charter member and our oldest living member
Eloy Hernandez	In memory of Ofelia C. Hernandez
Eloy Hernandez	In memory of Margaret (Peg) Sherlock
Lulu and Marie Hicks	In memory of Delfin and Cora Bernardez
Joan L. Ingram	In memory of my husband: M. Robert Ingram
Joan L. Ingram	In honor of my three grandchildren and two great grandchildren
Matt, Jennifer and Christopher Kohnen	In honor of Catherine Kohnen In memory of Dolores Rupp, Jacqueline Kohnen, Matthew Kohnen
Kathleen M. Le Gay	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. George B. Ottley, Sr.
Glenn Maciag	In memory of Charlotte Fulton and Ed Stewart
Glenn Maciag	In memory of Barbara Thal and Olive Logan
Glenn Maciag	In memory of Bruce Arlett, Sr. and Ofelia Hernandez
Glenn Maciag	In memory of family members
Glenn Maciag	In honor of Rebecca and Eric
Glenn Maciag	In honor of the fellow choir members
The Maciags	In memory of family members
The Maciags	In memory of Barbara Thal, Olive Logan, and Bruce Arlett, Sr.
The Maciags	In memory of Otto Groel and Charlotte Fulton
Mala Maharaj	In honor of daughters: Kristal and Karina Maharaj
Beverly Monahan	In memory of her husband Albert Monahan
Beverly Monahan	In memory of sister Catherine and baby Lily
The Murray Family	In memory of our beloved wife and mother Doris Murray
Linda Rosania	In memory of Barbara Thal
The Board of Deacons	In memory of Ina Campbell, Audrey Moore, and Doris Murray
Barbara and Bruce Turnbull	In memory of our parents: Marion & Bill Devonald and Betty & Bob Turnbull, and our brother, Dave Turnbull
Barbara and Bruce Turnbull	In honor of our children: Bruce, Susan, Stuart & Peter and our grandchildren; Stephanie, Drew, Abigail, Cory & Jordan

# JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA and NA meet in the Parish House unless otherwise noted AA meets: Sunday at 10:30 am, 2:00 pm and Tuesday at 8:00 pm NA meets: Thursday at 7:30 pm  Spanish Church : Wednesday at 7:30pm  Cub Scouts meet in the Parish House or in the Library		<b>1 New Year's Day</b>  <b>Church office is closed</b>	<b>2</b>  Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:30 Finance & Stewardship (History Room)	<b>3</b>  7:00 Lenape Trails (Parlor) 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b>  Food Pantry Thrift Shop	<b>5</b>  Thrift Shop
<b>6</b> 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Un-decorate the Chrismon Tree	<b>7</b> Cub Scouts  7:30 Prayer Group (History Room)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Food Pantry Thrift Shop	<b>10</b>  7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> Food Pantry Thrift Shop	<b>12</b> Thrift Shop Pinewood Derby workshop in the Parish House
<b>13</b> 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service 11:45 Youth Choir rehearsal  Session Reports Due Annual Reports Due	<b>14</b>  6:00 Cub Scouts (Art Room) 7:30 Book Group (History Room)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Food Pantry Thrift Shop  7:30 Session	<b>17</b>  7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> Food Pantry Thrift Shop	<b>19</b> Thrift Shop 8am – MLK Day of Service Kit Assembly (Parish House)
<b>20</b> 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service 11:45 Youth Choir rehearsal  Monthly SPIRE Articles Due	<b>21</b> <b>Church office is closed</b>  5:00 Feed the World	<b>22</b>  Noon – Naomi Circle (Parish House)	<b>23</b> Food Pantry Thrift Shop	<b>24</b>  7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> Food Pantry Thrift Shop	<b>26</b> Thrift Shop Food Pantry Pinewood Derby
<b>27</b> 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service 11:45 Youth Choir rehearsal	<b>28</b> 7:30 Prayer Group (History Room)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Food Pantry Thrift Shop 10:00 SPIRE Team	<b>31</b>  7:30 Choir Rehearsal		

Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green  
147 Broad Street  
Bloomfield NJ 07003



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**Please deliver by January 1**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## **Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green**

147 Broad Street, Bloomfield NJ 07003  
The Reverend Ruth L. Boling, Pastor

Phone: 973-743-1796

Thrift Shop: 973-743-8425

Fax: 973-743-0262

[www.bpcog.org](http://www.bpcog.org)

Worship : Sunday 10:45am

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am – 1pm

Thrift Shop: Wednesday and Friday, 10:00am - 2:30pm, Saturday 10am - 1pm

Food Pantry: Wednesday and Friday, 9:30 -11am, 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 10:00-noon

**Feeding Body and Spirit**