

# Fairfield Good News

WORSHIPPING THE LORD FOR 300 YEARS!

*December 2020*

## December

**Dec. Sundays  
1:00 PM In Person  
Worship  
(10 AM online  
Worship)**

**Dec. 7  
Consistory  
meeting**

**Dec. 10  
Hanukkah begins**

**Dec. 24  
Christmas Eve  
Service**

**Dec. 25  
Christmas Day**

**Tuesdays 7 PM  
Prayer Meeting**

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oldchurchnewsong/

## The Extra Electric Train A Christmas Memory

Though money didn't flow as freely as the rain that winter, my parents worked with joyful anticipation to give my brother and me a Christmas present we would never forget. They scrimped for months and then spent more than they could probably afford for a Marx electric train.

Then the day before Christmas, a cousin stationed at a nearby military base pulled into the driveway. Opening the trunk of his car he lifted out a large heavy box. My brother and I could hardly wait to see what it was. On Christmas morning we opened it first. Eagerly we unwrapped an expensive new electric train set. Wow! You had to pull us down off the ceiling. A Lionel train, too! Then we opened the presents from our parents--another electric train. Ho hum. And not nearly as extravagant as the one from our cousin. Guess whose we played with most?

Mom and Dad were hurt. The outlay for an unmarried Air Force lieutenant was nothing compared to the sacrifice my parents had made. But all we saw was the glamour of an expensive train. We counted our parents' gift as merely a nice accessory.

Our heavenly Father spends many a disappointing Christmas. Amidst the glittering ornaments and flashing Christmas lights, the hurry and hustle of shopping and wrapping and family get-togethers, parties and presents, trees and turkeys--who really cares about His gift? What gets more attention from us: our Father's gift of life in Jesus Christ or the quickly-wrapped department store gifts from our cousins?

Thank you, Father, for Jesus. Thank you for the abundant life that we, His disciples, can enjoy now. Thank you for sending us a most expensive gift--your own life. Thank you!

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## Worship Services

Our worship services will continue to be held in person in our sanctuary at 1:00 PM on Sundays through December and for the foreseeable future.

The usual social distancing precautions will be in place.

For those who cannot attend our in-person services, First Reformed in Lincoln Park livestreams their service on their website: <https://www.frc-lpnj.org/page/180007493/180121159/Live-Streaming> <https://>

and facebook page: [https:// www.facebook.com/1stLP](https://www.facebook.com/1stLP).

Or you can watch it later on their YouTube site:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy27VJQiqsgZgEvSWKkpxWA?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy27VJQiqsgZgEvSWKkpxWA?view_as=subscriber)




- 11 Gene Favatella
- 19 Jeremy Boling
- 22 Sarah Basile

**Monday, December 7th**

Consistory Meeting

**Note:** Tuesday evenings at 7 PM, prayer warriors gather in Fellowship Hall to pray for the needs of the church. You are welcome to be a prayer warrior and join.

This month, the meeting will NOT meet on Tuesday, Dec. 22 and Tuesday, Dec. 29.

We gave Samaritan's Purse \$312 for "The Greatest Journey" Discipleship Program. This gift provides the Greatest Journey classes for **52** children who get the OCC shoeboxes this year. Thanks to all who participated!! Hopefully, next year we will be able to assemble shoeboxes again with school, hygiene and fun items for kids around the world and in the US. 

*Recently we received notification that the RCA would no longer sponsor/host church websites. Many thanks to Roberta for setting up our "new" site, she will be doing more with it later. Sooo, check it out:*

<https://www.fairfieldreformedchurch.com>

## ADVENT

### **Sunday, November 29 was the First Sunday of Advent: HOPE**

We celebrated with a communion service "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

### **Sunday, December 6 is the Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE**

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

### **Sunday, December 13 is the Third Sunday of Advent: JOY**

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

### **Sunday, December 20 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

### **Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 8:00 PM**

Shared Worship Service at First Reformed Church  
60 Chapel Hill Rd, Lincoln Park, NJ 07035 (973) 694-4336  
Rev. Tim McHugh will bring the message.

### **Friday, December 25 = Christmas Day**

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

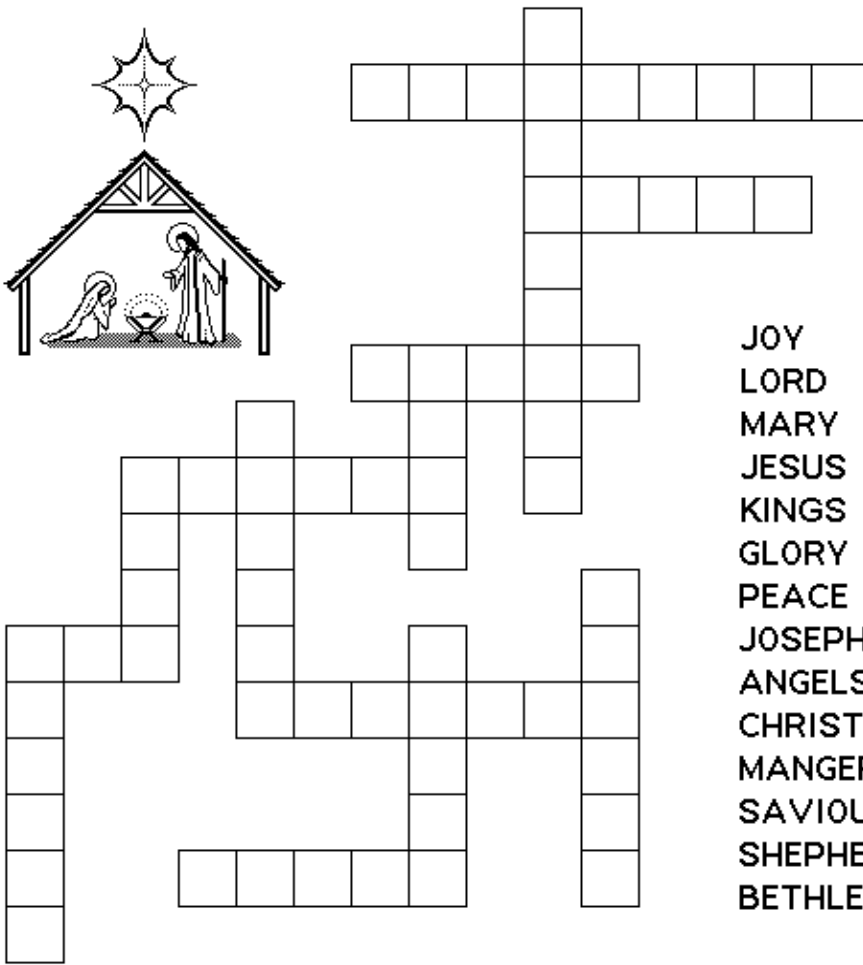
### *The First Christmas Card*

*A prominent educator and patron of the arts, Henry Cole travelled in the elite, social circles of early Victorian England, and had the misfortune of having too many friends. During the 1843 holiday season, those friends were causing Cole much anxiety due to their letters. An old custom in England, the Christmas and New Year's letter had received a new impetus with the recent expansion of the British postal system and the introduction of the "Penny Post".*

*As Cole watched the stacks of unanswered correspondence he fretted over what to do. It was considered impolite not to answer mail. Then he hit on an idea. He approached an artist friend, J.C. Horsley, and asked him to design the idea that Cole had sketched out in his mind. Cole then took Horsley's illustration and had a thousand copies made by a London printer on a piece of stiff cardboard 5 1/8 x 3 1/4 inches in size. At the top of each was the salutation, "TO:\_\_\_\_\_" allowing Cole to personalize his responses, which included the generic greeting "A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year To You." It was the first Christmas card.*

# Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is only used once.



- JOY
- LORD
- MARY
- JESUS
- KINGS
- GLORY
- PEACE
- JOSEPH
- ANGELS
- CHRIST
- MANGER
- SAVIOUR
- SHEPHERDS
- BETHLEHEM

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*Hope*

  
**PEACE**



*Joy*

*Love*