



Between the Bricks is the mortar that binds the individual bricks together to form a strong, unified structure. This newsletter, published for the members of the Old Brick Reformed Church, is the mortar that binds us together, and helps us to minister as a vital congregation of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday
Wednesday and Thursday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Pastor

Reverend George Kaden
pastor@oldbrickchurch.org

Director of Music

Edward L. Krogstad
krogorgan@aol.com

Administrator

Diane Randolph
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Webmaster

Thomas Bynoe
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OLD BRICK REFORMED CHURCH

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Between the Bricks

November-December 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Luke 2: 10-11 "But the angel said to them (the shepherds), 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.'" NRSV

A number of years ago someone sent me the following story written by an anonymous author that I believe will stimulate your thinking as the holiday seasons, particularly the *Advent* and *Christmas* season, begins the first Sunday in December.

A woman was Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable and after hours of hearing both of her children ask for everything they saw on those toy shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

As she waited for the elevator to arrive, she was feeling what so many of us often feel during the holiday season - overwhelming pressure, to go to every party, taste all of the holiday food and treats, bake a lot of delicious goodies, get that perfect gift for every person on our list, and make sure we don't overlook anyone.

Finally, the elevator door opened, and there was a crowd inside. The woman then pushed her way into the elevator, dragging her two kids and all the purchases she'd made with her. When the doors closed, she couldn't take it anymore, and she said, "*Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot!*"

From the back of the elevator everyone heard a calm, quiet voice respond, "*Don't worry, we already crucified Him.*" For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Pretty thought provoking stuff, wouldn't you say? As we approach what is often, the hectic Christmas season, let's not forget to keep the One who started this whole "Christmas thing" in our every thought, word, purchase, and deed. If we all keep our eyes fixed on Him, He'll completely change our perspective in everything we do. AND...LET'S YOU AND I BE THE CALM, QUIET VOICE ON THE ELEVATOR.

Keep Christ in Christmas. A very Merry Christmas to all!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Kaden*

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Every Sunday - 9:30 AM Worship
10:45 AM Family Coffee Hour



November 4

Sunday School

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost & Holy Communion

Sermon: *"Before the Wind Blows"*

November 11

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon from *The Rev. Cindy Wilcox*, Jersey Shore Hospital Pastoral Care.
Pastor Kaden has a week of study leave.

November 18

Sunday School

Thanksgiving Sunday

Sermon: *"Growing in Gratitude"*

November 20

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Old Brick Church

Tuesday, 7:30p in our Sanctuary

Everyone is Welcome to this Special Gathering of Faith Communities.



Pastor Kadens' Advent & Christmas Sermon Series Begins: "What's Christmas All About?.."

November 25

Christ the King Sunday

Sermon: *"Christmas is More than Tinsel and Decorations"*

December 2

Sunday School

First Sunday of Advent & Holy Communion

Sermon: *"Christmas is About What God Has Done"*

December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon: *"Christmas is About How We Respond to What God Has Done"*

December 16

Sunday School

Third Sunday of Advent

Sermon: *"Christmas is About How We Respond To Others"*

December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sermon: *"Christmas is About Being Joyful"*

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of "Carols & Candles"

Monday, 7:30p at Old Brick - Celebrate with Us!



December 30

First Sunday After Christmas

Sermon: *"Christmas Is About Changed Lives"*

NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone,

Here it's mid October...wasn't it just the start of 2018? I was trying to come up with some words that define church life. Obviously **FAITH** is the first word that comes to mind. Another, that I think of, is **SERVICE**.

Churches need many things from their members. Big churches have employees take care of many chores and duties...but Old Brick doesn't have that luxury.

Ever wonder who picks up the flowers for the alter, who prepares communion, who puts the flag up/down, counts the money, takes the *Open Door* donations to Freehold, takes care of *Coffee Hour* or *Chat and Chew*, prepares luncheons, decorates/undecorates for Christmas.....I could go on and on but I won't!

These jobs, and many more require volunteers. Without volunteers doing these normal duties, and those that answer calls when maintenance is needed, Old Brick would have ceased to exist long before now.

Would you like to learn one or more of these chores...or, would you be able fill in when needed (or share the job with someone?). Your church needs you! If you have the urge to **SERVE**, we have a spot for you. Come volunteer, or call me with your interests. (Laura Hogan 732-513-0578 or lbhogan1979@aol.com).



Check the schedule of Holiday Services and special programs....HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

Laura Hogan, VP Consistory

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Old Brick's Harvest Table - Sunday, Nov. 18th

In morning worship, we'll be holding our annual Harvest Table. Join us and bring a non-perishable food item for the *Open Door* pantry, to be exchanged for an assortment of fruits/vegetables from the Harvest Table for you to use for your Thanksgiving meal.



Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Old Brick Church - Tuesday, Nov. 20th at 7:30p

We are hosting the *Interfaith Thanksgiving Service*, at 7:30 in our Sanctuary. Joining us in worship are, *The Marlboro Jewish Center, Monmouth Worship Center, Morganville United Methodist Church* and *Temple Rodeph Torah*. This is a wonderful community gathering, so come give thanks with other faith communities to celebrate Thanksgiving. Light refreshments follow service. **Everyone is Welcome!**



Christmas Decorating of the Sanctuary - Saturday, Dec. 1st at 9:15a

Please join us 9:15 am to decorate our beautiful Sanctuary for Christmas! We need help getting the Church ready for Christmas AND with many hands, it's only an hour. On Jan. 5th we'll ask for assistance to take the decorations down. Thank you for any time and effort you can offer to assist, it's greatly appreciated.



Chancel Flower Dedications:

As holidays approach, we think of family that is no longer with us. You can remember and honor loved ones by dedicating flowers in their memory! Our florist, does lovely arrangements, and it's easy to dedicate chancel flowers to a loved one. Send a note to Diane, or put in the collection plate. Make check to OBRC for \$20 with "Flowers" on memo line. If you have several throughout the year, send a note and it will be scheduled for those weeks...you can send one check or space them out. It would be nice to have a dedication each week, so that we can all share the joy of those that have gone before us.



MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Volunteers Wanted: To lead the congregation in the Advent and Christmas Eve Candle Lighting (5 people or families) and, also need 6 people to do a reading at our Christmas Eve Service. Call Diane in the Church office to volunteer or speak with Pastor Kaden.



Christmas Poinsettias Dedications: Dedication forms for loved ones will be available in the bulletin. Poinsettias are still only \$15.00 each. Call/contact the church office: 732-946-8860 or secretary@oldbrickchurch.org.



Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 20th: Please provide the church office with all Annual Meeting Reports by **Friday, Dec. 14th.**

CHURCH LIFE AND EVENTS



Come Join the Fun...at 'Little Bricks' Sunday School

Our 2018/Spring 2019 Sunday school is off and running smoothly. We are blessed with some very wonderful teachers and resource people: *Jillian Wojtaszek, Thomas Bynoe, Kristina Cain, Melody Chen, Danielle Jones Rugnetta, Nicole MacDonald and Sharon Mahoney.*

Sunday school meets every other Sunday. **The November through January dates are as follows:**

Nov. 4 & 18, Dec. 2 & 16, Jan. 6 & 20. All children (4-12 yrs) are welcome. Sunday school begins in the sanctuary at 9:30a, then after the children's message, they are escorted to Volharden Hall for Sunday school. ***It's not too late to enroll your child/children or grandchildren and please invite your unchurched neighbors to join us too.***

Interfaith Support Ministry Update

As you know, Old Brick has played a pivotal role in creating ***No esta's solo*** (You are not alone), an interfaith ministry in the Pediatric unit at Jersey Shore Hospital. Our group is committed to 3 things:

- * **Honoring God**
- * **Provide assistance to pediatric families in need**
- * **Provide support to the Pediatric/Neo-natal and Palliative Care staff at the hospital**

This wonderful ministry has blessed many needy families, and many of the hospital Pediatric staff as well. We have provided *Size 1 diapers, wipes, Enfamil, warm clothing* and other things, as well as purchasing gift cards at Target or Walmart so families may buy prescriptions or other items for their family.

Your prayer support, generosity, and financial help, let us assist poor families with their struggles. We have large jars at the church for gifts, or you may send a check to the church office (noting it's for ***No esta's solo.***) Thank you so much. None of us will ever fully know the joy we bring to the families we help through our gifts of love.



Trash & Treasure Recap 2018

Thanks to all who spent months on this project! Also, all those who donated, baked, set-up, packed boxes, priced, and here working the event itself. You all made it another success! Our YTD income: \$2,100!!

Remember The 3 "P"s

Old Brick Church needs your **PRAYERS**, your **PRESENCE**, and your **PARTICIPATION**.

For Old Brick to grow and thrive, as we all hope it will, we need YOU!

We can exceed 40 in worship. OUR NEXT GOAL 45-50.

Join us in worship as we depend on God and you to help to make it happen!



NOTES FROM THE LOFT



Interested in Being in the Choir...Members are Always Welcome!

Choir rehearsals are each Thursday, at 6pm in the Sanctuary.

Music Director, Ed Krogstad.



SAMARITANS PURSE - OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child provides joy to needy children around the world, giving them basic necessities and simple toys, in a wrapped shoebox to open for Christmas. Last year we collected 53 boxes for kids, let's collect more this year. It's a rewarding project for the family to fill a shoebox and bring a smile to a needy child.



We need your filled shoeboxes at Old Brick by Sunday, Nov. 4th.



Please include labels (Boy/Girl & Age). For labels/info. See website: samartanspurse.org/occ.

How to Pack Your Shoebox (new items only)

1. Incl. "wow" item: quality toy, doll, soccer ball w/ pump, stuffed animal etc. **2. Add other fun things, hygiene items, school stuff etc.** "Dollar Store" has: **TOYS:** cars, jump ropes, balls, light-up toys w/batteries. plastic figurines. **School:** pencils, crayons, markers, notebooks, picture books(no words). **Hygiene:** toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths. **Accessories:** t-shirts, hats, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlight etc.



Don't Include: Toothpaste, Liquid/lotions. Candy, chocolate, food, gum, seeds, fruit roll-ups. No war items: toy guns, flags, military figures. Vitamins. Glass/breakable items

REMINDERS & MEETINGS



Daylights Savings Time is Sunday, Nov. 5th.

Remember To "Fall Back" and turn clocks back 1 hour at 2:00a.

November

Thursday, 15th: Consistory - 7p

Sunday, 18th: Old Brick Church - Thanksgiving Harvest Table, 9:30a Worship

Tuesday, Nov. 20: Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Old Brick at 7:30p

Sunday, Nov. 4th: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due.

December

Saturday, 1st: Sanctuary Christmas Decoration at 9:15a

Wednesday, Dec. 5th: Marlboro Township Christmas Tree & Menorah Lighting at 6p

Friday, Dec. 14th: Congregational Annual Reports due.

Thursday, 14th: Quarterly Administrative & Consistory Mtg at 6:45p

Monday, 24th: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 7:30p



Wishing Everyone....

A Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas Season!



November 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
			C. Scouts 6:30p			
4 Worship/Holy Communion 9:30a Sunday School	5 B. Scouts 7p	6 C. Scouts 6:30p	7 C. Scouts 6:30p	8	9	10
11 Worship 9:30a	12 B. Scouts 7p	13 C. Scouts 6:30p	14 W. Workers 7p	15 Consistory Mtg. 7p	16	17
18 Worship 9:30a Sunday School	19 B. Scouts 7p	20 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7:30 p 	21 C. Scouts 6:30p	22 	23	24
25 Worship 9:30a	26 B. Scouts 7p	27 Aspen Grp. 6p	28 C. Scouts 6:30p (?)	29	30	

December 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						<p>1 9:15 a Decorate the Sanctuary</p> 
<p>2 1st Sunday Advent Worship/Holy Communion 9:30 a</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday School</p>	<p>3 B. Scout 7p</p>	<p>4 C. Scouts 6:30p</p>	<p>5 C. Scouts 6:30p</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marlboro Tree Lighting 6p</p>	6	7	8
<p>9 2nd Sunday Advent Worship 9:30 a</p>	<p>10 B. Scouts 7p</p>	11	<p>12 W. Workers 6:30p</p>	<p>13 Admin. & Consistory Qtrly Mtg. 6:45p</p>	14	15
<p>16 3rd Sunday Advent Worship 9:30 a</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday School</p>	<p>17 B. Scouts 7p</p>	<p>18 C. Scouts 6:30p</p>	<p>19 C. Scouts 6:30p</p>	20	21	22
<p>23 4th Sunday Advent Worship 9:30 a</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Worship</p> <p>Carols & Candles 7:30p</p> 	<p>25</p> 	26	27	28	29
<p>30 Worship 9:30 a</p>	31					

Old Brick Reformed Church

P.O. Box 153

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First Class

“So Blessed Are We”

So long ago God whispered in a garden, it is not good for us to be alone. We need companionship and affirmation. Life can be hard, our hearts like heavy stones. We long to be surrounded with compassion, encouraged in the values that we own.

So steep, so difficult the trail we're climbing, at times we wonder if we can go on? We slip and fall. At times we're even bleeding. Our journey can seem torturous and long. But when we walk in step with one another the darkest night becomes a hopeful dawn.

So, let us be transparent with each other. Confessing things we hope for, fears and needs. Without the insight that a friend can offer, we're often blind to ego, lust, and greed. Temptations hold is strangely weakened, when, linked in prayer, we boldly intercede.

So blessed are we to be joined to each other on this adventure that we share as one. The curse of loneliness has now been broken. The joy of heaven seems to have begun. What God intended for His chosen offspring we know firsthand through friendship with His Son.

- written by a pastor, Greg Asimakopolus

Our Mission

We are the people of God committed to doing the work of Christ in our congregation, our community, and the world.

Our Vision

As we walk on our journey of faith together we will seek opportunities to share our resources, respond to need, and welcome growth to show God's love for all. We will do so by the giving of our gifts and talents for the glory of God.

Our Values

Perseverance, Support, Faith,
Sharing, Caring, Praying