



Between the Bricks

November-December 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Read Luke 2: 1-20. Pay particular attention to verse 19.

What a year it's been, hasn't it? In my lifetime I can't think of another year that even comes close to all that we've encountered this year. It's been unsettling and a disturbing year for everyone. The Covid-19 pandemic has altered our lives completely. How have you been doing, how are you feeling in light of all that we faced and encountered? I can't imagine that it's been easy for anyone.

And yet, while we've experienced much this year, the year seems to have flown by quickly and here we are approaching Christmas. For many, I'm guessing, Christmas may not even feel the same as it has in years past? It will certainly be difficult for many families not being able to gather with their loved ones this Christmas. Travel will be restricted. Social gatherings will continue to remain limited. Those annual Christmas getaways will just have to wait until next year. There's a lot that weighs heavily on all of our lives this Christmas season.

While many of the normal "trimmings" of traditional Christmas celebrations will be left on the shelf this season there is something we can do that can "help make the season bright" as the old Christmas song states and Mary's heart and action shows us what it is. Luke 2:19 declares, following the shepherds visit to the manger when they told Mary and Joseph that they had been visited by an angel who told them, "Not to be afraid. I bring you good tidings of great joy which has come to all people. For to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Dr. Luke tells us Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." I really love that!

Mary responded to the shepherds account by concentrating her attention on that which is at the very heart of Christmas, the birth of a Savior, Christ Jesus, the Lord. That's what we should do too! While many of our "normal" Christmas activities will be limited and restricted this year, instead of allowing ourselves to be weighed down with sadness perhaps we should seize this opportunity to concentrate our attention on and ponder afresh that which remains at the very heart of Christmas, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we "treasure" this, the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus' birth will help to lift us out of despair and fill our lives with hope to face all of life's painful trials, even Covid 19, in the confidence living a surrendered life to Christ can bring.

On behalf of the entire Old Brick Reformed Church family, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year. God bless.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Kaden*

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
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<http://www.oldbrickchurch.org>

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Every Sunday - 9:30 AM Worship



November 22 **Christ the King Sunday - Harvest table**

Sermon: Heartfelt Gratitude



Tuesday, November 24th at 7:30p - Virtual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 29 **First Sunday of Advent**

Sermon: Open Your Heart to God's Design



December 6 **Second Sunday of Advent & Holy Communion**

Sermon: Open Your Heart to Friends and Strangers

December 13 **Third Sunday of Advent**

Sermon: Open Your Heart to Silence and Song

December 20 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Sermon: Open Your Heart to Divine Encounters

December 24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of "Carols & Candles"**
Thursday 7:30p at Old Brick Church - Celebrate With Us!



December 27 **First Sunday After Christmas**

Sermon: from Guest Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Old Brick's Harvest Table - Sunday Worship Nov. 22nd at 9:30a

During our morning worship, we will hold our annual Harvest Table. Join us and bring a non-perishable food item for the *Open Door* pantry, in exchange for fruits and vegetables from the Harvest Table for your Thanksgiving meal.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Tues. Nov. 24th at 7:30p

Marlboro Jewish Center will host this year's Virtual Worship service. Give thanks with other faith communities and celebrate Thanksgiving. Everyone is Welcome to join Via Zoom.

Marlboro Jewish Center is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. To Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7325362300?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7325362300?pwd=YXNDRTlqV3RramhHMFdGbG5UUUpxUT09)
[pwd=YXNDRTlqV3RramhHMFdGbG5UUUpxUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7325362300?pwd=YXNDRTlqV3RramhHMFdGbG5UUUpxUT09)

Meeting ID: 732 536 2300 / Passcode: 400053



Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 17th, 2021

We will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting following morning worship in the sanctuary, *not Volharden Hall*. This will be an abbreviated meeting highlighting the essential items the congregation needs to take action on. We hope you'll join us. The snow date will be for Sunday, January 24th.



Note: For those providing Annual Reports for 2020, they need to be submitted to the Church Office by Thursday, Dec. 17th.



Old Brick Reformed Church Finance Update

As you can certainly understand, this year has been a difficult year for Old Brick Reformed Church concerning our annual offering through tithes and offerings. Would you consider making a "special" end of the year donation to support the ministry of Old Brick Church? Your gifts are much needed and will alleviate some of the financial pressures we have encountered this year. Thank you!



Old Brick Flower Committee

We need some volunteers to help pick up our flowers for Sunday worship at *Colonial Flowers* in Tinton Falls. Please contact Jill Lambert for more info.: Jillalto627@gmail.com or 732-409-3631. Thank you for any assistance.

CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS....



Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

Our special Christmas tradition is to decorate our Sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias plants. If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia in *honor* or *memory* of your loved ones, Poinsettias are only \$15.00 each. Fill out a Dedication form in Sunday bulletins, or contact the church office: 732-946-8860 / secretary@oldbrickchurch.org.

Praying for friends
to comfort you,
faith to uphold you,
and loving memories
to heal your heart.

The congregation of Old Brick expresses our heartfelt sympathy, prayers and support to *Laura Hogan* on the recent passing of her husband *Bill Hogan* on October 19th.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child provides joy to needy children around the world by giving them basic necessities and simple toys in a wrapped shoebox to open for Christmas. This is a very rewarding project that brings smiles and joy to many appreciative children!

Unfortunately, Operation Christmas Child will look different at Old Brick this as we are not collecting shoe boxes. Instead we have envelopes available for money donations that are always needed at Samaritan's Purse. Thank you for your tremendous generosity shown this ministry in the past 10 years.



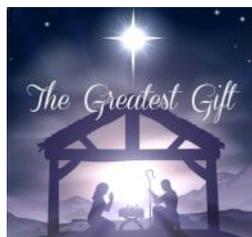
You can also pack a personalized shoebox online at: samaritanspurse.org/occ.

What a Wonder: A baby asleep in a manger, yet He is the Savior of the world. A man who drove merchandisers from the temple yet He willingly laid down His for the same. The King of all kings who came to die as a lamb. The One who owned it all yet laid it all aside, How can we explain such a man? We can't. We must bow in awe and worship.

- Marie Norton

This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift - the Christ

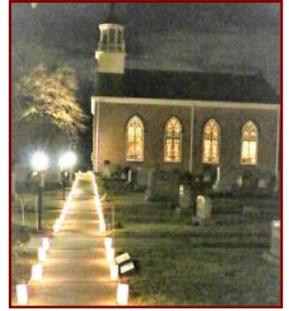
- Frank McKibben



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT OLD BRICK CHURCH



Christmas Eve December 24th at 7:30p *Service of Carols and Candles*



Again this year, we will be holding our annual
Christmas Eve Service of Candles and Carols

on Christmas Eve night, Thursday, December 24 at 7:30 pm. However, in keeping with the Covid-19 safety guidelines, we will have a number of restrictions.

First, sanctuary seating will be limited to 50 people, therefore, to maintain social distance, seating will be on a first come, first serve basis. Provisions are being made for “overflow” above 50 people in Volharden Hall. Seating will be available there for another 20 people where the service will be simulcast for your participation.

We are sorry for this inconvenience. However, to take as many precautions as possible this is, we believe, a necessary action. Ushers will be located at the sanctuary doors and in Volharden Hall to direct and assist. If attending service in person still leaves you unsettled, (and we certainly understand), you will be able to watch the service at home via a Zoom link that we’ll be sending out a week or two before the service.

For those attending, everyone is required to wear a mask throughout the service. No offering will be received by ushers. Offering plates are available on either side of the chancel for your Christmas offerings. And, so that we spread no germs through the air blowing out our candles we’ve purchased electric candles that will be available to everyone upon entering the sanctuary.

To help us gain a better idea of how many people may be attending the Christmas Eve service in person, may we ask you to call the Church office (732-946-8860) and let us know how many people will be coming. Thank you.



**We thank you in advance for your understanding
and trust your patience as we muddle our way
through these very murky waters of coronavirus.**

