



**We Welcome the Christ Child!**  
**Christmas 2023 with**  
**Presbyterian Church in Leonia**

We welcome the Christ Child, and we welcome you for Christmas at Presbyterian Church in Leonia.

- **Sunday, Dec. 24 10:30 a.m.-** we still celebrate Advent, while we light our last candle for LOVE. We welcome Leo Shim who is home from college and will play Trombone for us, as well as Mineko Yajima on the violin. There will be childcare during the Activity Period.
- **Sunday, Dec. 24 8:00 p.m.- Festival of Lessons and Carols** with Candlelight! This is the night when the music and scripture tells the beautiful and sacred ancient story. Invite friends, family, neighbors! We welcome old and new faces. **Following worship, there is a reception with food and drink to welcome all; please bring a snack to share if you can.**

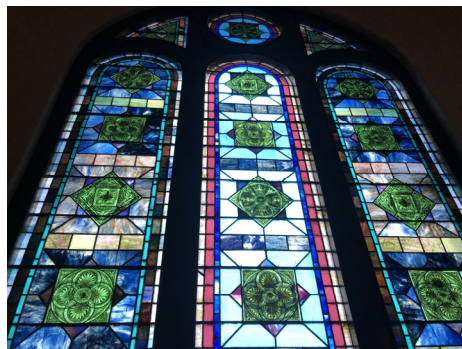
- **Monday, Dec. 25 10:30 a.m.- Christmas Day Worship with Communion.** The tone of this service is relaxed and joyful. Come in your Christmas pajamas, seriously (if you want)! We will take requests of your favorite Christmas hymns and celebrate the sacrament.

*The Nativity art above was designed by our church's member Lilah Carroll!*



## Progressive Dinner ...and other news

- Our Membership and Outreach Committee is planning a Progressive Dinner on Saturday, January 20, 6 pm-10 pm; we begin at the church for the Appetizer course. Then we will split into 4 small groups, in 4 different nearby homes, for the Main Course. Kids will stay at church for pizza and a movie. Finally, everyone returns to church for the Dessert Course. It will be here before you know it so please RSVP with Vicky Li at [vlnamnyak@gmail.com](mailto:vlnamnyak@gmail.com) so the
- Don't forget to make a gift through the Alternative Christmas List of our Mission and Stewardship Committee. It gives differently, by empowering the communities near and far we pray for and serve, addressing housing and food insecurity, immigration justice, youth, and the devastation in Gaza. Our Christmas Joy offering will go to retired Presbyterian Clergy in financial distress, and for scholarships to Presbyterians from racial/ethnic communities to
- Our Sunday School and Bible Study will return the week of Jan. 7.
- Our church office will be closed in the days following Christmas. Pat Major will be in the office Friday, Dec. 29 and Pastor Leah will be working remotely on Thursday, Dec 28 and can be



## In Our Prayers...

We pray for Susheela today following a beautiful memorial service for her mother, Ammal. The recording is still on our church Facebook page in case you missed it. We give thanks that Joyce is home from the hospital and pray for her continuing health. We pray for all who are visiting with family for the holidays, and for those who are alone, as well as those missing loved ones. We pray for those getting over any of the many viruses floating around.

As we take a serious look toward Bethlehem, and consider what it means to welcome the Christ child in this day and age, we pray for the children and women who have made up more than half of those killed in Gaza in the Israel-Hamas war. We pray that these holy days will bring a cease-fire, that the Spirit will illuminate the pathways to peace, and that the world will stirred with compassion to partner beyond partisanship in building healing and repair.

On this Winter Solstice, we pray that God draw near to us during the longest night, and with the dawn help lead us to the light.

With blessing and care,  
Leah

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler, Pastor