



Connecting with PCL

The Passing of Joyce Hamlin—We began Thanksgiving Week with the news that Joyce passed away early Tuesday morning. Joyce beamed the light of Christ until the very end. Even on her hospice bed, she glowed, sharing stories of miracle and gratitude. It is bittersweet to share this news with our church family—Joyce's presence will be sorely missed on this earth, but she is now free of pain and in perfect union with her Creator, the source of her earthly joy.

Worship this Sunday



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30

"How Does a Weary World Rejoice?"

Rev. Mike Eller



How does a
weary world
rejoice? We acknowledge
our weariness

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

Sunday School for all ages at **9:30am**

Worship Service at **10:30am**

*Activity Period is available for children 4th grade
and younger following the Children's Message*

SUNDAY'S LEADERS

Elder: Ellen Lazzaro

Second reader: Ewan Maclean

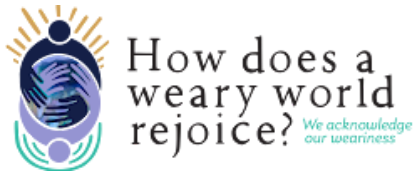
Candle Lighting & Reading: The Ellers (Mike,
Katie, Elsa, and Lavender)

Greeter: Karen Peters (month of November)

Ushers: Vicky Li, Mineko Yajima

Coming Up

2025 ADVENT THEME



How does a
weary world
rejoice?

We acknowledge
our weariness

This season, our worship will center on the idea that **Joy** is often a companion to many other emotions. We can feel joy in addition to feeling many other things at once: grief, anticipation, anxiety, excitement, disappointment, exhaustion. Perhaps many of us live with the myth that joy is not something we deserve—or that it is wholly out of reach.

But our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Can you tether yourself to that deep truth? You deserve to feel joy—fully. The world needs your joy, even if you are weary. Our joy is better when it is shared.

I hope you will join us for worship each week as we seek to answer the question: **“How does a weary world rejoice?”**
(adapted from an Advent resource found at asanctifiedart.org)

ADVENT CRAFT, THIS SUNDAY



Following the service this Sunday, we will have an **Advent Craft** that is intended for children and adults alike. You'll have a lot of fun putting this together! This craft will be something everyone can use throughout the Advent season (pictured). It won't take too much time to prepare.

We'd also like to ask that a few parents and other adults stick around and assist with the craft for those who require extra assistance.

HANGING OF THE GREENS, DEC. 7



Following the morning service on this day, stay around for our **Hanging of the Greens** as we transform our sanctuary for the Advent season. Whether you can hang a wreath, fluff a bow, or simply lend a cheerful hand, we'd love your help! Many hands make light work!

SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP, PRAYERFULLY PLEDGE

For CHURCH RECORDS Envelope # _____ (for office use)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I plan to give beginning _____ each ☐ week ☐ month ☐ Annual Total _____

For our church's ministries \$ _____

Donation to Northeast NJ Presbytery \$ **38 Per Capita** \$ _____

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.

☐ I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church-related institution in my will.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Tilling the soil, planting seeds Mark 4:3-9

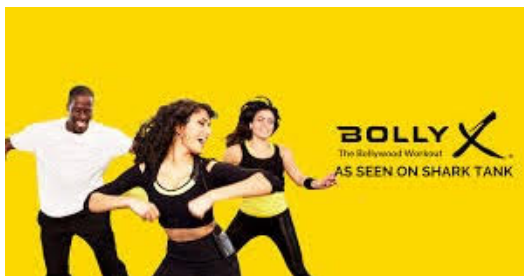
It's not too late to consider giving a pledge during this season of stewardship, to support our church and her ministries. Your faithful giving sustains every aspect of our shared ministry: worship and music, mission outreach, ministries, education, fellowship, and the stewardship of our building. Each gift helps us plan wisely for the present while planting strong roots for the future.

A **Pledge Letter** was sent out recently to explain in more detail our financial need and goals for 2026. If you did not receive this, please request one from Rev. Mike, David Voreacos, or Tom Topousis.

Ways to give your pledge:

If you do pledge, please consider **automated giving**, which provides convenience for you and much-needed consistency for our congregation. There are several ways to set up automated giving: **1)** You can set up an automatic payment through your bank to go to Presbyterian Church in Leonia, PO Box 448, Leonia, NJ 07605; **2)** You can give through our website, www.leoniapres.org "Giving" tab; or **3)** If you use our online church database, Breeze, you can set up automatic giving there: <https://leoniapres.breezechms.com/give/online>.

BollyX OPPORTUNITIES



Get started on your new year exercise routine early! There will be a few opportunities to take part in a BollyX class at the church in the coming weeks: on 12/11, 12/18, 12/26, and 1/1. For more information and to register, see Susheela Varky.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, DEC. 21



A highlight of the Christmas season is this Sunday when children will be featured in the worship service—playing instruments and putting on this year's Christmas Pageant called **A Very Special Child**, which is Luke's telling of the Christmas story, beginning with Zechariah and Elizabeth. Many thanks to our pageant director, Lindsey Austen!

Mark Your Calendars, HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



Mark your calendars with some important dates to close out the year.

November

30 — First Sunday of Advent, Advent Craft (following worship)

December

7 — Hanging of the Greens (following worship)

21 — Christmas Pageant in worship, Congregational meeting (election of officers)

24 — Christmas Eve Service (8pm)

25 — Christmas Morning Worship (10:30am)

This Week at PCL

November 30 (Sun)

9:30 am—Sunday School / Choir

10:30 am—Worship

December 1 (Mon)

10:00 am—ESL Class

December 2 (Tues)

10:00 am—ESL Class

December 3 (Wed)

10:00 am—ESL Class

10:00 am—Bible Study (online)

December 4 (Thurs)

10:00 am—ESL Class

December 5 (Fri)

10:00 am—ESL Class

December 6 (Sat)

10:00 am—Support Group Meeting

December 7 (Sun)

9:30 am—Sunday School / Choir

10:30 am—Worship

2:00 pm—Renée's Piano Recital (Teaneck Public Library)

Rev. Mike Eller (he/him/his)

Interim Minister

revmike@leoniapres.org

(917) 687-5709

General Office Hours

Pastor's Office

Mon-Thurs: 10-3 pm

Sun: *Schedule with Mike*

The Presbyterian Church in Leonia | 181 Fort Lee Road | Leonia, NJ 07605