The Logan Pres



18 W. Merchant St.

Audubon, NJ 08106

(856) 547-5571

loganpreschurch@gmail.com

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December 2026

Is this a good year for Christmas? That might seem an odd sort of question, especially coming from a minister. But it's germane. These days people don't seem to have regard for Christmas as they did in the past. People hustle about frantically trying to find the perfect gift for the persons on their list. Hence shopping becomes the primary activity of the season.

But while people are busy shopping, I wonder if they remember from whence the practice of gift-giving derives. Cynically some may believe it was instituted by entrepreneurs and capitalists. Actually it goes back very likely to the very first Christmas in ancient Israel. Then it was that some Persian astronomers, also known as magi or wise men, noticed a new and remarkable star in the heavens. They took it to signify that a new king had been born in the land of Judah. So they ventured from their homeland, likely over 900 miles around the northern end of the Fertile Crescent. And the new star in the heavens miraculously led them until they came to Jerusalem, where they inquired about this newborn king and were directed to the town of Bethlehem, which lay around eight miles to the south. There in Bethlehem they discovered the newborn child and presented him with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, three luxury commodities of immense value. It is from the gift-giving of the wise men that our tradition of gift-giving at Christmas stems. We give to others as an act of respect, admiration, and dedication. Let cynics think what they may. The tradition of gift-giving at Christmas stems from the story as recounted by Matthew in his gospel.

And indeed, the Christ-child was a wonderful and miraculous gift! With his birth new hope was kindled that this earth might more closely resemble the world as God intended and intends it to be. That seems like a great deal for just an infant. But all of the great ideas, notions, and institutions which characterize this earth today were birthed somewhere along the line and then fostered into the entities we celebrate today. It is our task to join in the celebration and foster new growth so that indeed there may be "peace on earth, good will toward all men, women, and children" who grace this earth today. And then this will indeed be a good year for Christmas!!

December Worship

December 6- Communion, Congregational Meeting after Worship

December 13- Christmas luncheon after Worship

December 20- Worship

December 24- Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service 7pm

December 27- Hymn Requests

Leaders

Session- Meets the second Wednesday evening, December 9 at 7:00 pm.

Thrift Store

As we enter December, our thoughts turn to colder weather and Christmas. Our sale dates for December are the 5th and the 19th from 9:00 am until noon. The Christmas department, located in the former nursery room, is open and is full of holiday decorations, housewares, and festive clothes. The main store has new items to keep you warm and your house well-stocked. Please come check it out! If you are interested in volunteering, our weekly set up day is Tuesday from 9:00 am until noon. Helping out on sale days is also a rewarding experience. As always, many thanks for your support and donations! Please see Meg Murray if you have any questions.

Christmas Cards

Christmas cards may be brought to share with Logan family members. Please place the cards in alphabetical order by last name to make it easier for the card sorters. Please place them in the collection box by Dec. 10th so that the elves can sort them. Thank you!

Flowers for the Chancel



2027 is just ahead! Check your calendars because each year the Sundays fall in a slightly different order. Call Lesley in the office (856-547-5571) with the date and dedication you desire. Feel free to leave a message on the phone machine after hours. Cost is now $20 for each flower arrangement this year.

Pet Pals

Petpals has reached out and advised that they are in need of 3 Christmas baskets this year. Petpals is a small organization that assists individuals who do not have families, are house-bound, chronically/terminally ill and have pets. Our baskets ensure that these individuals and their pets have a nice holiday meal. Baskets will be collected by Petpals on Sunday, December 20th after the church service. A donation box will be in the hallway walking into the Christian Education building, and a sign up sheet will be in the family life center.

The following items are needed:
3 Dinner Hams
3 jars of ham glaze
6 boxes of stuffing
9 cans of vegetables
3 bags of Christmas candy
3 bags of rolls (please make sure they do not expire before 12/25)
3 packages of Christmas dessert (such as cakes or pies)
3 boxes of dog treats/biscuits (Made in the USA)
12 cans of wet dog food (Made in the USA)
3 **small** bags of dry dog food (Made in the USA- not puppy)
3 dog toys

-You can also give a cash donation to Michael Smith who can shop for you. Any questions? Please contact Mike at 856-981-1549 sadbassethound@gmail.com

Church Directory

Lesley is beginning to work on updating the church directory for 2027 and would like to have all members and friends represented this year. If you are not in our 2026 directory (copies in the rack in the FLC) or if we don't have an updated picture of you, please contact Lesley to be included. Also, please make sure the information we have for you is accurate.

Blessing Boxes

It's that time again!

During December the Women's Association will be collecting Blessing Box coins and donations for scholarships for our high school graduates and special projects at Logan.

Please place your coins in a small plastic bag and give it to Mary Lou or Gladys, or leave it in the basket on Lesley's desk.

Thank you so much.

Zoom Links and Meeting IDs

Worship each Sunday Morning 11:00

Livestream on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2G_il-p0wlw

New Session Members/Deacons

Please prayerfully consider coming on Session or Deacons for the upcoming year. As you know, the church cannot function without these boards. We would love to get your input and showcase your talents as we work on the function and future of Logan Memorial Presbyterian Church. As of December, we need one more Deacon and one more Elder for session in order to have a full slate.

Thank you!



Women' s Circle

In December, there is no meeting since the Circle members meet for lunch to celebrate the advent season.

Our meeting location has changed. Starting in January we'll be getting together in the Old Pastor's Study behind the sanctuary. Gathering here will be more convenient for us than our former meeting location. We meet monthly, except for July and August, at 1:00 pm and take turns being hostess. The hostess provides a dessert and a lesson, Bible reading, poem, etc., something meaningful that is spiritual or inspirational. Mary Lamey will be our hostess for January. We hope more women from the church will be able to join us.

We have donated $50.00 to purchase supplies for making sandwiches for Joseph's House. A few of us will also be joining in after church on November 22 to assemble the sandwiches.

Starting also in January, we'll be collecting used eyeglasses, cases and hearing aids for the Lions Clubs International. Since 1925, Lions have been helping combat vision loss and more recently hearing loss throughout the world. There are several drop off spots locally. A donation basket for them will be in the Mission area.

In His Name,

Sandy

Worship and Music

October saw about 40 congregants celebrating Communion, the Crop Walk, Jonathon Miller preaching in Rev. Schmitt's absence, and followed by a coffee hour. Communion in November saw a slight uptick to about 46 people receiving it. Stewardship Sunday, Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving mark the first three events after Communion on the first. Sanctuary decorating for Christmas will occur after services November 22nd as we usher in Advent.

Holy Cow Survey

In order for us to begin the process of organizing a Pastor Nominating Committee, we are required to conduct a survey of the congregation which will help gauge the current health of our congregation and identify where to focus in the future. The survey will also help us determine what kind of qualities we would hope to find in our new pastor.

The survey can either be completed on-line, or by paper survey. To complete the survey by computer, please use this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LOGANMPCNJ
If you want a paper copy to complete the survey, please stop by the church office. All congregants are asked to complete a copy. For instance, if there are four members in your family, then all four should complete the survey. All responses remain anonymous. If using a paper copy, please drop it off at the church office, or place it in Al Murray's mail box located just outside the office.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	James Evans
3	Cassandra Nary
4	Amanda Evans
5	Scott Simpson Ken & Jennifer Cashman
10	Rich Latini
16	Anne Murray
21	Annamarie Hendricks
22	Shirley Phillips
23	Frank & Linda Goulburn
24	Megan Gamble Auger
25	JESUS
26	Dorothy Andrews Katie Evans
27	Luanne Cross
28	Kim O'Hara Joe & Kathy Giambri
29	Colin O'Hara
31	Kenneth Cashman Tracy Heylman

Mission Moments by Lori Corker

Well…here we are, Christmas 2026, the Advent season celebrating how our Savior was sent to us by our Father as a baby. Can we think of a better reason to be more joyful?



While nothing can be more joyful than having Christ sent to us as a human being, my reason this month must be the lessons and connections that I have felt as your mission chairman for the past 3 years. Your devotion to missions has been deeply felt by me personally; so, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for giving me more reasons to feel connected to God knowing that Logan is a church that serves His people trusting in His love.

Logan's December mission choice is to continue our wonderful partnership with our Audubon Schools to help provide **NEW** mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks for the Center for Family Services (CFS). This nonprofit organization has a proven track record of accomplishments working with neighborhood residents, schools, government leaders, corporate partners, and social service providers across the community. To read more about the work that CFS provides, go to ***https://www.centerffs.org/***

PLEASE USE THE CHRISTMAS TREE LOCATED IN THE MISSION AREA FOR YOUR DONATIONS OF NEW WINTER APPAREL. THANK YOU.

MISSION UPDATES

October—CROP Hunger Walk: Logan raised $250.00 and $1,320.00 was donated online for our group, the Haddon Heights (Interboro Ministerium). Thank you to **ALL** who participated, donated, and most importantly prayed to help Church World Service end hunger one step at a time.



A Christmas Prayer of Peace

May the quiet wonder of this season
settle softly in your heart.
May every room you walk into
feel lighter because His presence is near.

Let the peace He promised long ago
wrap gently around your life,
reminding you that you are held,
loved, guided, and never forgotten.

This Christmas, may joy return in full,
may hope rise again within you,
and may the Light of Christ shine
warmly over everything you're praying for.

May His perfect peace be your greatest gift this Christmas.



DECEMBER 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Thrift Store Workers 9:00 - noon	**2** Choir 6:30 p.m.	**3**	**4**	**5** Thrift Store 9:00-noon
6 Choir 10:30 Communion **Worship 11:00** ***Congregational Meeting 12:00 p.m.***	**7**	**8** Thrift Store Workers 9:00 – noon Women's Group Luncheon	**9** Choir 6:00 p.m. Session 7:00 pm	**10**	**11**	**12**
13 Choir 10:30 **Worship 11:00** *Christmas Luncheon*	**14** Deadline for January newsletter articles	**15** Thrift Store Workers 9:00 – noon	**16** Choir 6:30 p.m.	**17**	**18**	**19** Thrift Store 9:00-noon
20 Choir 10:30 **Worship 11:00**	**21**	**22** Thrift Store Workers 9:00 – noon	**23** Choir 6:30 p.m.	**24** ***Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm***	**25** 	**26**
27 Choir 10:30 **Worship 11:00**	**28**	**29** Thrift Store Workers 9:00 – noon	**30**	**31**		