

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

January 4, 2026
2nd Sunday of Christmas



*Knowing that all community is a gift of God,
we affirm there can be no exclusiveness about the body of Christ.
We welcome into our community and membership all people of God,
regardless of ethnic heritage, national origin, age, gender,
marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing;
and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.
Adopted by the session, March 9, 1995*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

*“The Church of the Open Door”, where
All Are Welcome*

- We seek to live out the truth of God’s love*
- Worship is inclusive and inventive*
- Joy is found in nurturing one another*
- We seek to bring comfort to all people*

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ekama Eni

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dianne Waterman

One: Behold, the glistening sign of hope.

All: A distant but shining star is cupped by the darkness that holds gently our future.

One: Do we dare to feel its warming glow in these days so cold with fear?

All: Do we dare to wonder where it leads us, or choose the path we know?

One: The Holy has painted possibility across the night sky.

All: It flickers with potential, trembles with vulnerability, shimmers with beauty, still.

One: Come, seekers.

All: The journey is before us. A new day is born.

*OPENING HYMN 56 The First Nowell

CALL TO CONFESSION

“If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us.” And yet, we know that we need to begin again for we have fallen short of the glory of God. So, we come to the baptismal font seeking a fresh start. With confidence that God hears our prayers and has adopted us as beloved children, let us confess our sins.

CONFESSION

We cry out: “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel,” for we are a people in need of saving. You promise to gather your people, but we confess that we want to put limitations on who is saved. We want you to save those we define as strong and beautiful and wise; You call the blind and the lame, the children and those in labor. Forgive us, O Holy God, for our prejudice and narrow vision. Forgive us for our lack of faith. Forgive us for doubting your promise and declining your invitation. By your Spirit, renew us. Turn our mourning into joy and our sorrow into gladness that we might return to you and your way.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

According to the riches of Christ’s grace, we are redeemed. Hear and believe this good news:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

*RESPONSIVE HYMN Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all **All: And also with you!**

ANTHEM

“Still, Still, Still”

Laura Bach, vocal soloist & Tom McCoy, piano

WE HEAR THE WORD PROCLAIMED

*WE LIMIT NOT THE TRUTH OF GOD

Anglo-German Psalter 1556

**We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
by notions of our day and sect, crude, partial, and confined.
No, let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred,
the Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from the word.**

YOUTH SERMON

QUARTER COLLECTION

Every Sunday, our children collect quarters from the congregation and place them in a tube. When full, it equals the amount necessary to purchase a goat for a needy family through Heifer International.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-9, 10-18 (Pg. 91)

Dianne Waterman

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12 (Pg. 2)

SERMON

“In the Beginning”

Rev. Ekama Eni

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*HYMN 66

We Three Kings of Orient Are

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERING

*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OVER GOD’S GIFTS

COMMUNION HYMN 2267 (STF) Taste and See

THE LORD’S SUPPER (see insert)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*CLOSING HYMN 68

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ekama Eni

POSTLUDE

“The Church of the Open Door” makes every effort to use inclusive language. Realizing that words have power, we encourage substitution of words/images that are most comfortable for you during this time of worship.



Please note our new QR code: a direct way to donate to the church, pay your pledge, or make any other church-related payments. Thank you for contributing to our church and surrounding community!

THIS WEEK:

Monday, January 5

*Greg Smith Music Lessons 2:15 – 6:00 pm
Inner Work of Age Book Group, 4:00 – 5:30 pm, library
Joining Forces Group Meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, library*

Tuesday, January 6

*Greg Smith Music Lessons 2:15 – 4:00 pm
Tom McCoy Music Lessons 3:00 – 6:00 pm
AA Women’s Group Meeting, 7:30 pm, library*

Wednesday, January 7

*Prayer Group, 7:00 am, on zoom
PAPA Meal
Tom McCoy Music Lessons 3:00 – 6:00 pm*

Thursday, January 8

*Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 pm, sanctuary
Bereavement Group, 4:00 – 5:30 pm, library
Yoga Class, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, social hall*

Friday, January 9

*Food Pantry Setup 12:30 – 2:00 pm
Greg Smith Music Lessons 2:20 – 4:00 pm*

Saturday, January 10

Food Pantry 8:30 – 10:00 am

WANT TO DONATE FLOWERS FOR A SUNDAY SERVICE? Please email or call the church.

PRAYER CHAIN for 2026 - Email prayerchain1presbyterian@gmail.com with a prayer request or to be part of the prayer chain to receive prayer requests.

*The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown
10 Academy Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516
Telephone (845) 265-3220*

*The Reverend Ekama Eni, Pastor
Thomas E. McCoy, Director of Music
Diane Phillips, Office Administrator
Thomas Corless, Building Manager/Groundskeeper
Kirsti (Kiko) Lattu, Philipstown Food Pantry Coordinator*

*Pastor’s email: ekama@presbychurchcoldspring.org
Pastor’s cell phone: (240) 899-8386
Pastor’s Office Hours:
Tuesday 1:30 – 4:00 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:30 pm (or by appointment)*

Office Administrator email: 1presbyterian@gmail.com

*Philipstown Food Pantry email: ptfp2481f@gmail.com
Philipstown Food Pantry cell phone (845) 612-2040*

Visit us online for updates: www.presbychurchcoldspring.org

Like and follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ChurchOfTheOpenDoorColdSpring/

Follow us on Instagram at [first_presbyterian_philipstown](https://www.instagram.com/first_presbyterian_philipstown)

*First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown operates on the ancestral homelands
of the Lenape, Munsee, and Wappinger people.*

We gratefully acknowledge their stewardship of this land, past and present.