



From Bethlehem, Israel to Bethlehem, NJ!

The Peace Light Arrives in our Community



Service and Light Distribution
at Bethlehem Presbyterian Church
2 Race Street, Pittstown, NJ 08867



Sunday December 8th at 3:30 PM

The Peace Light from Bethlehem, Israel arrives in the USA at JFK International on Wed Dec 4th.

Scouts from across the United States will gather at Our Lady of the Skies chapel at JFK on that day to receive the Peace Light and to carry it across the United States, Canada and Mexico bringing a message of peace to all they meet.

This is your opportunity to take the Peace Light home with you. Bring an oil lamp or enclosed candle lantern to the [Bethlehem Presbyterian Church](#) and we will transfer the light to you. We ask that you pass it on within your house of worship, organization or arrange your own Peace Light distribution event in your home and to maintain it through the Christmas holidays. All lanterns need to be labeled with owners name and **left outside** of the church. Scouts will assist with the placement and subsequent lighting of all lanterns.

Everyone in our extended community is invited to participate. Regardless of religious affiliation, the light embodies the spirit and intention of peace and goodwill.

Background:

In the Grotto of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Jerusalem there is an oil lamp that has been burning continuously for centuries. This is the Peace Light flame. Biblical scholars say the Peace Light has been burning since 500 A.D. and clergy have kept it lit 24 hours a day.

Each year, a child from Upper Austria fetches the Peace Light from the grotto. The light is carried in two blast proof miner's lamps on an Austrian Airlines aircraft from Tel Aviv Israel to Vienna Austria from where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it

back, with a message of Peace, to their own countries. Since 2004, Austrian Airlines has flown the miner's lamps containing the Peace Light from Vienna to New York City.

How to Share the Peace Light

The following options are suggestions based on experiences of local Boy Scouts:

- Candle Lanterns--UCO brand of candle lanterns are highly recommended; they are safe and compact. Check out [Amazon](#) and [REI](#).
- Oil Lanterns—Come in all shapes and sizes from affordable camping styles to high-end brass models; visit [vermontlanterns.com](#), [woodstove-outlet.com](#), or [lehmans.com](#).
- Lamp Oil—Be sure to use a high quality smokeless liquid paraffin wax such as sold at [webstaurantstore.com](#) and [Lowes.com](#)
- Safety-- If using a new lantern to transport your Peace Light or one that has not been used in a while, test the lantern for leaks and
- If transporting the Peace Light over long distances, use a 5-gallon bucket with sand.
- Further details and creative ideas available at: [Peace Light Carriers](#)

A temporary lamp may be created by using a 28oz tomato can. Scouts can decorate the can with punch work at least an inch above the base. Purchase an Ultra-Pure Liquid Candle (\$2.99) from Washington One-Stop on Route 31N. Use kitty litter or sand in the can bottom to keep the candle from moving.

Keeping the Peace Light lit through the Holidays

Local scouts have managed to keep the Peace Light burning at their homes throughout the Christmas holiday. Here are a few ways you can keep the Peace Light burning:

- Use the flame from the Peace Light to light a wood burning fireplace and keep feeding the fire
- Re-light the pilot light of a gas appliance such as a water heater or gas fireplace with the flame from the Peace Light
- Use the flame from the Peace Light to light slow burning [7-day candles](#), have a few on hand to last the season

For questions or additional information please contact:

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