



GOOD TIDINGS

A Monthly Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

April 2018

Special points of interest:

- Bible Studies
- Coming Events
- Tirzah Circle
- Youth



INDEX

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Community | 2 |
| Celebrations | 3 |
| Bible Studies | 2 |
| Mission Opportunities | 6 |
| Music | 7 |
| Youth | 4 |

Dear Members and Friends of PCMP,

We have journeyed through Lent walking with Jesus toward the cross. Now we pray and wait for Easter and God’s surprise of an empty tomb and new life.

In the process we’ve been reminded that God’s love will go to any length, even the grave, to express its character, and nothing can defeat it in life or in death. So how do we, the Church, express that love? How do we live out that good news of God’s love in Jesus Christ? For we are called to live out that love, live out our faith, even more than we are asked to understand it.

Such faith permeates our whole being with its power and truth if we allow ourselves to stay open to it and work at it, especially in community.

I am delighted to have entered into a covenant of interim ministry with your community of faith. This time of transition between permanent, installed pastorates can be a hope filled bridge to cross between past and future for a congregation. It is a period of opportunity and renewal, of reflection and growth, of building and dreaming even in the midst of change, of healing wounds, and dealing with a mix of feelings including loss.

While an interim minister is a temporary pastoral position for a limited amount of time, there is nothing half-hearted, incomplete, or less than about the sustained, pastoral leadership and ministry I bring to my relationship and time with you. My covenant with you in this time and place is to be your pastor: preaching, teaching, celebrating the Sacraments, moderating Session meetings, attending Committee meetings, listening, sharing your lives, walking with and being present with you, as you deepen your relationship with God and each other.

I will also be doing the work of interim ministry, being with this congregation to facilitate and guide your community as we intentionally move through this transition, looking into your heritage and history, current context, ways you carry out PCMP’s ministry and mission, and your connections to the larger church. Fundamentally, interim ministry allows the community to use the gifts of time and process to view themselves and remember who they are, while imagining the future, discovering who God is calling them to be and committing to new directions in the days ahead.

What a privilege and joy! I am blessed to share this time with you as your Interim Pastor.

Jacqui

COMMUNITY

Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry will be holding its monthly pancake and sausage breakfast on **Saturday, April 14th, at 8:30 AM.** Joining us will be our brothers from the Market Street Mission, who bring a spirit of joy and celebration to our songs of praise, and to our study.

Copy Cats—Retired Ladies

Copy Cats will be meeting on **Tuesday, April 24th, at 12:00 noon at Hunan Taste, 67 Bloomfield Ave., Denville.** Please call Hildy Benjamin at 973-625-767 if you would like to attend.

Book Club

Bookies Book Club will meet on **Monday, April 23rd, at 7:30 p.m.,** in the Church Parlor to discuss *Victoria & Abduhl: True Story of the Queen's Closest Confidant* by Shrabani Basu. We read varied and interesting books. Please consider joining us. Call Pat Olson at 973-539-7941 if you have any questions.

Nurture Ministry

If you enjoy visiting and chatting, you're a natural for bringing flowers or meals to our shut ins. They always have a lot to share and your help would be a blessing to them. Let Russ Hitchcock (russhitchcock@yahoo.com) know if this is something you can do occasionally.

Memory Café

The April gathering of Memory Café will be **April 19th from 2 to 4 p.m.** We will be entertained by a small group of musicians from the NJ Folk Project. This is an opportunity for anyone in the local community that has mild to moderate cognitive brain impairment to socialize. They and their caregiver are encouraged to attend for social time and support among others on this journey. Please pass this information to friends and neighbors who may be interested in this. Please call Ginny Fisher at 973-229-4145 for more information.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study



The Wednesday Night Bible Study will continue on **April 11th.** Please join us **at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. Bring any ideas for topics you would like to discuss in 2018. All are welcome.

Club 45

We will have a meeting of Club 45 on **Sunday night, April 22nd.** We are working on getting a leader for this night. Please watch the bulletin for more information.

If you are interested in working with this group, please contact Pam Dise-Moran.



LADIES AID

Quilt Projects Needed!

Meet Ladies Aid...the longest continually-running organization at PCMP. They started in 1897 and meet on **Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m.,** sharing fellowship, quilting and adding a little love to each project.



You can have your quilt finished in a professional manner. Bring your quilt top, batting & backing, if you have it, any Thursday morning. Proceeds are passed on to Church-related projects and local missions.

Contact Joan Morgan at 973-538-6077 for more information.

CELEBRATIONS

Happy April Birthday to:

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Frazzano, Daniella | 4/7 |
| Cancilla, Amanda | 4/3 |
| Cozzi, Mario | 4/4 |
| Malpere, David | 4/4 |
| Rider, Lynne | 4/4 |
| Hartle, Ava | 4/7 |
| Wright, Doug | 4/7 |
| Huhn, Erich | 4/8 |
| Pencinger, Dylan | 4/9 |
| Hartle, Andrea | 4/10 |
| Jain, AJ | 4/10 |
| Pencinger, Leah | 4/10 |
| Traffet, Charlie | 4/10 |
| Van Eeuwen, Trevor | 4/10 |
| Olson, James | 4/11 |
| Osborne, Leila | 4/11 |
| Simmons, Samuel | 4/11 |
| Stebbine, Judy | 4/11 |
| Karr, Zachary | 4/12 |
| Haas, Terry | 4/14 |
| Smith, Marianne | 4/14 |
| Risko, Sarita | 4/15 |
| Pencinger, Jennifer | 4/16 |
| Caccavale, Tom | 4/20 |
| Carpenter, Audrey | 4/20 |
| Walter, Grace | 4/20 |
| Annuik, Maxwell | 4/22 |
| Cate, Susan | 4/22 |
| Foley, Fiona | 4/22 |
| Cate, John | 4/23 |



Happy April Birthday to, continued:

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Glass, Patricia | 4/23 |
| Smith, Alan | 4/23 |
| Brabandt, Cathy | 4/24 |
| Moran, Alexis | 4/24 |
| Walter, Abha | 4/25 |
| Brabandt, Rob | 4/26 |
| Fisher, Ginny | 4/26 |
| Hartle, Joshua | 4/26 |
| Hill, Sarah | 4/26 |
| Minor, Michael | 4/28 |
| Bushong, Cathy | 4/29 |
| Pencinger, Joseph | 4/29 |
| McManus, Caitlin | 4/30 |

Happy April Anniversary to:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------|--------|
| Eapen, Shaji & Audrey | 4/7 | 15 Yrs |
| Drown, Brian & Whitney | 4/11 | 10 Yrs |
| Traetto, Charles & Arlina | 4/12 | 66 Yrs |
| Smith, Lyttle & Marianne | 4/13 | 11 Yrs |
| Olson, George & Patricia | 4/15 | 57 Yrs |

GATHERING & BELONGING

The Gathering & Belonging Ministry met on Tuesday, March 13th.

We are excited about these fun events!

- On Friday, March 16th, BUNCO night was a blast! We plan to schedule another BUNCO night soon.
- Mark your calendars for the Morris Plains Memorial Day Parade! PCMP will be marching in the Morris Plains Memorial Day Parade on May 26th. Do you want to see Jason ride his Vespa AND lead puppets in song in the parade?! Don't miss it! We will be announcing dates for people and puppet practice soon. Church members and friends of all ages are welcome to march in the parade!

There will be a church family picnic at Central Park in June. We will have a sign-up posted soon. Think lots of fun activities, such as cornhole, volleyball, kickball, conversation and lots of yummy food!

Please come to our next meeting on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:30 pm in the Christian Education room. Contact Pam Dise-Moran (pamdise Moran@gmail.com) or Nancy Johnson (njnancy@verizon.net) with any questions.

YOUTH INFORMATION

The Youth Gathering



March has ended in a roar of wintery conditions, I hope all are safe and anticipating warmer weather!

We have been busy at Youth Gathering; researching, discussing and deciding on our summer mission trip. I am happy to tell you the dates will be from July 22nd to the 27th. A six day trip to beautiful Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Western PA), foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. This is a small mining community struggling to survive. We will be partnering with established ministries in the area to help serve the community and share our faith while showing God's love to others. The ages for this trip are 12 to 17. If you know a youth who would benefit from this trip, steer them our way! The cost of the trip is \$600 which we will slowly cut down with fundraisers. If you have financial trouble, please speak to us and we will make it happen. We are also looking for a female chaperone to come along, please listen to the call and speak to us. Contact Ben Lanza at: 973-625-5989, benellen2001@yahoo.com if interested. Check out the youth bulletin board or go to www.campjburg.org to hear about the exciting events at Johnsonburg this summer!



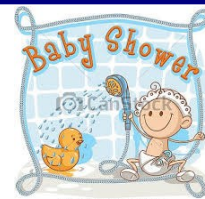
MISSION TRIP

Our Youth Gathering schedule for the next few months is: April 15th & 29th, and May 20th. There will be no meeting on April 1st (Easter) and May 6th (Appreciation Concert).

Yours in service, The Youth & Ben Lanza

MARTHA CIRCLE

Thanks to all who partied with us and for all the donations for NorthPorch Women & Children's Center. Our church donated \$228, \$100 gift card to Shop Rite and \$50 Bed Bath & Beyond, plus a great supply of diapers, wipes, formula, baby blankets, bottles, bibs, adorable clothing, hand knitted blankets and much more. We hope to supply the Morristown and the Dover distribution sites.



POT LUCK



The Wednesday evening pot luck suppers will continue on **April 11th at 6:30 p.m.** Bring a dish to share and join us for a mid-week meal together.

SOFTBALL



Calling All Softball Players and Fans - Our Church will again be participating in the North Jersey Christian Softball League. We are looking for players (16 or older) and fans (of all ages). The season starts in mid-April and ends by mid-July during which we play a 12 game semi-competitive schedule usually 1 night per week. Home games are played at Morris Plains Borough School on Thursdays starting at 6:30PM. At the end of the regular season, there are playoffs and an Annual Charity Softball Tournament. Please contact Mark Ruiz (201 602-9583) or Bob Romano (973 580-3259) or check out the league website (www.njcsf.com) for additional information.

SESSION MEMBERS

| Session Member | Email Address | Ministry |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Susan Vigilante-Williams | swvigilante@gmail.com | Clerk of Session |
| Mike Burke | mike@burkesrus.com | Personnel |
| Pamela Dise-Moran | pamdisemorán@gmail.com | Gathering & Belonging |
| Ginny Fisher | quilts38@gmail.com | Missions |
| Russ Hitchcock | russhitchcock@yahoo.com | Nurture |
| Alec Jain | alecjain@yahoo.com | Finance |
| Nancy Johnson | njnancy@verizon.net | Gathering & Belonging |
| Kathy McNall | kjmcnall@yahoo.com | Christian Education |
| Elissa Minor | elissa3@optonline.net | At-Large |
| Bill Nunn | hunternunn@aol.com | Facilities |
| Dave Rossetti | daverossetti@gmail.com | Communication |
| Rich Rubin | rhr1@yahoo.com | Nominating |
| Don Spidell | donald_spidell@hotmail.com | Stewardship |
| Judy Stebbins | judynyjets@verizon.net | Worship & Music |
| Amy Traver | amytraver3@gmail.com | Joyful Noise |

CONFIRMATION



We meet on **Sundays at 10:40 a.m. in Room 1**. Please watch the bulletin for dates. For more information see the schedule below or call Kathy McNall at 973-627-8708.

CONFIRMATION

| | | | |
|------|----------------------------|---|--|
| 4/1 | No Class | Easter | |
| 4/8 | No Good, Dirty Sinner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We're all sinners Sin is anything that's contrary to God's will. Sin is messy, and tricky, and impossible to get out of without God's help | Cain Genesis 4 |
| 4/15 | Idol Factories and Tyrants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sin makes us like to worship things and people other than God. Sin makes us like to take control out of God's hands. God's grace can cut through our false worship and desire for control and can restore us. | Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego Daniel 2-3 |
| 4/22 | Ministry of Reconciliation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God has reconciled the world. God calls us to be agents of reconciliation in the world. SPIRITUAL GIFT ASSESSMENT DUE | Peter John 21 |
| 4/29 | Faith Statements | | |

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Community Blood Drive

There is a Blood Drive scheduled for **Saturday, April 14th — 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Westminster Hall.** To schedule an appointment, please call Larry Ripley at 973-539-4598.

TIRZAH CIRCLE

The TIRZAH CIRCLE will meet again for fellowship and fun on **Thursday, April 19th, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. Bring any ideas for service projects that you would like to pursue, and join us for some fun and fellowship! All are welcome!



JOYFUL NOISE

With the arrival of spring we hope to be finally climbing and sliding outside, riding trikes, and drawing with chalk on the pavement all of which are some of our favorite activities! For more outdoor fun, our 3s will be taking a walk to the library for a tour and a story, while our Pre-Ks will travel by bus to the planetarium at CCM.



© Can Stock Photo



Inside, we will continue to encourage literacy with this year's read aloud program, *Put Me with a Book*. Parents, grandparents and older siblings, along with children from the Boro elementary school, will be visiting our classrooms to read to all of the children.

Registration for the fall continues, while registration for the summer is about to begin!

For information about our summer program and fall enrollment, call the Joyful Noise office at [973-539-9514](tel:973-539-9514) or visit our website, www.joyfulnoise400.org We wish all our church family a bright and sunny spring, and thank you for your prayers and support!

Jane Whitehead and the Joyful Noise Staff

THANK YOU



Thank you to the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee, Russell Hitchcock, Kim Lappe, Laurie Fu, Pam Dise-Moran, and Elissa Minor, for their service in finding our church a Interim Pastor.

Also, thank you to Ginny Fisher who made new banners for the Sanctuary.

We are indeed grateful to have such dedicated members.

1st SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

On **April 1st** we will commune with our Lord as we celebrate communion. We'll have just a little bit of bread and a tiny bit of the cup, but in that taste we will experience the real presence of Christ with us. Throughout his life, Jesus acted always for the benefit of those who were in need and on the margins. When we are fed by the Lord's Supper, not only is our spirituality nourished (our sense of connection with God), but so is our faith (our beliefs and actions that result from that connection). As a symbol of our deep connection with Christ and a sign that we are his hands and hearts at work in the world, we will bring a non-perishable food item to worship on the days we celebrate communion. They can be left in the back of the sanctuary with the ushers or brought forward and placed under the communion table. As God feeds us, we feed our neighbors.

The most needed foods are: dry milk, Parmalat, evaporated milk, calcium fortified milk alternatives (soy, rice, almond milk), soups, pasta, canned fruit, canned beans, tuna fish, Rice-a-Roni, Hamburger & Tuna Helper, Boost, Ensure, Glucerna, Enfamil, baby food, baby wipes.



FEED THE HUNGRY

MUSIC MINISTRY

MUSICIANS & VOCALISTS

We are looking for experienced players from High School age all the way through adults to join our Praise Band. Any instruments are welcomed but we would love another guitar player and a drum set player along with a vocalist. If you or someone you know has interest, please email Jason Hill at worshipartspastor@gmail.com.



Are you looking to get involved?!

Come and join the Music Ministry!

Do you love to sing or play a musical instrument? Everyone can worship through music! Contact Jason Hill at worshipartspastor@gmail.com.

Do you want to get involved with operating the sound board and screen projector? Volunteers are always welcome! Contact the church office.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Handbell Choir opportunities are available for all! Contact Kathy Opsasnick at katharine.opsasnick@gmail.com or Carl Loutzenheiser at carl.bells@mppresby.org.



HANDBELL OPPORTUNITIES

The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir Program welcomes all children second grade and above and any adults who would like to participate in the music ministry of handbells. The Bell Choir Program includes several handbell choirs, with ringers generally grouped by age and experience. To become a ringer it is not necessary to currently be a part of our church family or to have previous handbell or music experience.

Handbell choirs rehearse each week and take part regularly in worship services. They also have opportunities to play outside the church, including extending their musical ministry in the local community and participating in events with other handbell choirs.

If you are interested in ringing, have questions about the handbell program, or would like to suggest other potential ringers, please contact Kathy Opsasnick, (973-627-6425), katharine.opsasnick@gmail.com, or Carl Loutzenheiser, (973-267-1258), carl.bells@mppresby.org.





WALSH MEMORIAL BELL CHOIR

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir, established in 1968 as a memorial to the Rev. Joseph E. Walsh, is planning a celebration of its 50th anniversary. The bell choirs in the program today, as they have for 50 years, bring the message of Christian love to others through *ringing praise with joy*.

All former Walsh Memorial Bell Choir ringers and directors and their families are invited to join the anniversary celebration on Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6, 2018 at the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains. Our former directors have indicated that they expect to be with us that weekend. The celebration plans include a social gathering and a dinner at the church on Saturday, worship together on Sunday morning and formation of a bell choir of interested alumni. The final activity will be our annual Appreciation Concert on Sunday evening.

We are excited about the celebration of this anniversary, and hope you and the entire church family and friends will plan to join us. The Appreciation Concert on **Sunday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m.**, featuring our current bell choirs, the alumni bell choir and our former directors, is free and open to the public. There will be a reception following the concert to meet and greet the alumni ringers and directors.

If you have questions, or if you have information about former ringers, please contact us.

Kathy Opsasnick, (973) 627-6425, katharine.opsasnick@gmail.com

Carl Loutzenheiser, (973) 267-1258, carl.bells@mppresby.org



**The
Presbyterian Church
of Morris Plains**

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Web: mppresby.org

TO:

EVERYONE is welcome here to worship the Lord!

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM, Coffee & Fellowship at 10:30 AM