



GOOD TIDINGS

A Monthly Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

February 2019

Lord, open unto me

*Open unto me ...
light for my darkness.*

*Open unto me ...
courage for my fear.*

*Open unto me ...
hope for my despair.*

*Open unto me ...
peace for my turmoil.*

*Open unto me ...
joy for my sorrow.*

*Open unto me ...
strength for my weakness.*

*Open unto me ...
wisdom for my confusion.*

*Open unto me ...
forgiveness for my sins.*

*Open unto me ...
tenderness for my
toughness.*

*Open unto me ...
love for my hates.*

*Open unto me ...
Thy Self for my self.*

*Lord, Lord, open unto me!
Amen.*

*~ a prayer by The Rev.
Howard Thurman, Baptist
minister, theologian, civil
rights activist*

From Our Interim Pastor:

It was so good to be together last Sunday after missing worship the week before because of the icy weather. What a blessing to gather, in Sabbath keeping, to share our life of faith and ministry in community.

I remember the joy that my paternal grandmother took in the Sabbath. She understood it as a gift and a delight --- something that can be missing today in our homes and our churches. The Sabbath at my grandmother's home was special. The entire week seemed but a counting down of days leading up to the crowning achievement of that Friday night's arrival. As the day crackled with the tension of frenetic preparation, the intoxicating smells of roast chicken and freshly made applesauce filled the apartment. Even the air was meant to be savored! My grandmother moved quickly in the kitchen and muttered aloud at the impossibility that all would be finished. Minutes then hours ticked away before the sun went down over the bay at the Jersey shore and whatever wasn't completed was left in its place. The candles were lit; prayer was offered. The candle flame flickered filling the dining room with a soft glow as the time of Sabbath rode in on a wave of immense love and made its connecting embrace on our lives.

The Sabbath has always been both a time to rest from the tasks of work as well as a time to rest from a persistent appetite of consumerism with its tempting morsels of acquisition and hunger for material things. It gives us time to reconnect with the One to whom we truly belong and bear living witness in a response of gratitude. As Christians in a community formed by Sabbath rest, the healing presence of the risen Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath, comes to change our reality and set us free to love God and neighbor.

We are honoring the Sabbath and its expression for the needs of our neighbor as well as ourselves when we choose to commit - whatever the day -- to God's ongoing vision to renew and restore life. As followers of the living, loving God, we demonstrate the intent and mercy inherent in the Sabbath when we act to remove the weight of oppression of any kind, to give food to the hungry, to open our hearts and homes to one another, to refrain from harmful gossip and live out the good news of the gospel we hear proclaimed.

Sabbath keeping is God's invitation to us: to participate and practice God's rhythm of time, of creating and resting, with a heart and mind to savor the goodness of the world that was made and given to us to care for and cherish. Renewal and restoration, joy and abundance -- life in all its fullness -- will be the word of promise spoken and heard in the land and in the lives of those who delight in God who gives us the gift of the Sabbath.

In faith,

Jacqui

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CHURCH COMMUNITY

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Ministry will be holding its monthly pancake and sausage breakfast on **Saturday, February 9th, at 8:30 a.m.** in Westminster Hall.



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, February 26th, at 12:00 noon at Charlotte's Web**, 39 West Clinton Street, Dover. Please call Joan Morgan at 973-538-6077 if you would like to attend.

Book Club

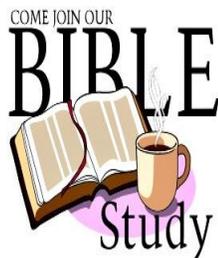
Bookies Book Club will meet on **Monday, February 25th, at 7:30 p.m.**, in the Church Parlor to discuss The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane. All are welcome. Call Pat Olson at 973-539-7941 if you have any questions.

Nurture

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.

BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Night Bible Study, led by The Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet, meets **Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. Please bring your Bible and join us! Come with ideas for our 2019 Lenten Bible Study beginning in March.



MISSIONS

Memory Café

The Memory Café will gather on Thursday, **February 21st** from **2 to 4 p.m.** in Westminster Hall. This is an opportunity for anyone in the local community who lives with Alzheimer's Disease or other mild to moderate cognitive impairment to gather in a judgment free environment to socialize and relax. We will have a member of the Folk Music Project here to perform for us. Please share this with anyone who you think may be interested in this opportunity. For more information, contact Ginny Fisher at 973-229-4145.

2018 Missions Update

The Mission Committee would like to thank all who donated to the November food baskets and who purchased items for the Salvation Army Angel tags. We have made the holidays so much brighter for the recipients of your "good will!" We are still collecting non-perishable food on the first Sunday of the month to give to the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Looking forward to an AMAZING 2019 of Mission and Outreach at MPPC! We are always looking for more help so please let me know if you are interested. Ginny Fisher

Summer Mission Opportunity

Share your gifts with those in need.

Summer Mission with Carpenter's Helpers...14 years and older...join some of our members in working with Appalachia Service Project to restore and renew homes.

The time for planning the **July 13-21, 2019 mission trip to Chavies, Kentucky** is underway. Information packets are available in the church office.

Please let us know ASAP if you are interested as we need to make travel and lodging arrangements. For further information, contact Bill Sempier at Bill.Sempier@gmail.com or Anne Arp at granny.1223@me.com



CELEBRATIONS

Happy February Birthday to:

Hill, Pat	2/1
Caccavale, Frank	2/8
Jain, Aleah	2/9
Bohn, Jennifer	2/10
Becht, Kristin	2/12
Lathrop, Ryan	2/12
Van Eeuwen, Alyson	2/12
Sempier, Zachary	2/13
Ferrara, Elaine	2/16
Swope, Emily	2/16
Bergeron, Andy	2/17
Liotta, Paula	2/18
Koch, Richard	2/19
Caccavale, Nicky	2/20
Benjamin, Hildy	2/23
Smith, Madalyn	2/25
Ayres, Jeffrey	2/26



Happy February Anniversary to:

Miller, Edward & Doris	2/14	50 Yrs
Martella, Arthur & Mae	2/16	11 Yrs
Fox, Arpana & Tom	2/23	6 Yrs

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Sunday School



Share your gifts with the children of the Sunday School. Join a team of dedicated adults who pass on lessons of faith to children of all ages during worship. To learn more, please contact Kathy McNall at 973-627-8708.



Stewardship News

This year, all offering given by the children during Sunday School will be dedicated to the Heifer Project. Help us purchase a flock of hope, a hive of bees, or possibly a goat! This will help support a family in need.

Crib Room

This year we have begun to staff the Crib Room for children 2 years old and younger. Betsy McKeever and Terry Haas have volunteered to provide loving care to babies and toddlers while their parents worship nearby in the Sanctuary. Parents are encouraged to use the Crib Room as needed and to feel comfortable that their children are being well cared for.

Kid's Corner

A new addition for our children is Kid's Corner in Westminster Hall during coffee hour on Sunday mornings. This is a spot for the kids to gather, to eat a snack, color, do an activity sheet or just hang out while their parents have a chance to have fellowship and coffee.



Youth Gathering

The next Youth Gathering meeting will be on Sunday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m. There will also be a parent meeting to discuss the youth mission trip. Youth in grades 6-8 are always welcomed to join us.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BLANKET SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 17, PW will sponsor their annual special offering collection for Blanket Sunday. Our church's contributions will be dedicated, along with those from churches around the world, to the Church World Service collection for purchase of blankets and other supplies to be distributed to those recovering from disaster, seeking shelter from the cold, etc. We hope you'll consider a contribution to this worldwide mission. Special envelopes will be provided for the collection.

ANNUAL LENTEN BREAKFAST



On Ash Wednesday, March 6, Presbyterian Women will host their annual Lenten Breakfast beginning at 10:00 am in Westminster Hall. All women are welcome to come, and bring a friend, for light brunch, fellowship and Holy Communion. Please contact Laurie Fu (973-452-0320, lfu87@aol.com) if you would be willing to contribute a casserole or pastry for the brunch.

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle has an ongoing collection of magazines that can be mailed to our men and women serving in the armed services. We're told that current magazines are a favorite request among the troops. If you have magazines that you'd like to contribute, please leave them on top of the PW box in the church office to be included in mailings throughout the year.



TIRZAH CIRCLE



The TIRZAH CIRCLE will meet again for fellowship on **Thursday, February 28th, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. Come join us!

Tirzah Circle is a group of moms, of all ages, who have come together for fellowship—to share time, experiences, personal challenges, while growing in our faith together. In past meetings we've read and discussed Bible verses and reflected on how they relate to our own experiences and beliefs and discussed parts of "The Social Justice Challenge," a 40-day Bible challenge. In others, we've had fun getting to know each other better while creating prayer boxes, making tray favors for Morris View residents, organizing the church Easter egg hunt, and more.

Contact Elissa Minor at elissa3@optonline.net for more information about the Circle.

MAGIC PENNIES

Tired of the ccccCold winter weather already? THINK SPRING!

And when making your plans for Spring Break, THINK MAGIC PENNIES! We have all kinds of cards you'll find useful for your Spring Break travel plans during coffee hour after worship. We have cards for airlines, hotel chains, spas, cruise lines, eateries, gas stations, car rentals, Disney and more! Come check out our selection. A percentage from each card purchased benefits the church—so easy and no extra cost to you!



FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

On **February 3 and March 3**, 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

FINANCE NEWS

Annual Per Capita Apportionment for 2019

Per Capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PCUSA's system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system. In 2019 we are assessed \$37 per active church member. A donation of any size helps our Church to pay our annual apportionment. Please place your contribution in a blue Per Capita envelope (found in the pew racks and in your box of giving envelopes) and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

My Tithe / Offering

When we give God leads the title that is His as begins with His blessing as abundantly spiritually and physically. Notice that God says He commands others to "love their own as just as Myself" Hebrews 13:1

DATE: ____/____/____

NAME: _____ TITLE: \$ _____

ADDRESS: _____ OFFERING: \$ _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ OTHER: \$ _____

PHONE: _____ TOTAL: \$ _____

EMAIL: _____

Author: www.churchgiving.com ©2011

NEW! On-Line Giving at PCMP

Now your offering can be made using a Debit or Credit Card or by Electronic Funds Transfer. Make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations. To make web donations, visit www.mppresby.org and click on the "GIVE NOW" button.

OR to donate via text message, **text "give" to (973) 671-3053.**

It's easy and secure, and your giving supports the mission of our Church!

Contact Dave Rossetti (daverossetti@gmail.com) with any questions.



A WARM WELCOME

We welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Alexandra Argiris. Alexandra began work on January 14. She comes with administrative and bookkeeping experience. She grew up in Michigan and moved to Morris Plains, NJ soon after she got married. Alexandra has been living in Wayne, NJ with her husband and three children for almost seventeen years. We are delighted to welcome her to the PCMP staff.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



There are Blood Drives scheduled for **Saturday, February 2 and March 2 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Westminster Hall.** To schedule an appointment, please call Larry Ripley at 973-539-4598.

JOYFUL NOISE

This month at Joyful Noise our winter fun continues. On these very cold days, we are especially grateful for our "Big Room" and the opportunity to get much needed exercise and play. In our classrooms we will be creating winter habitats, while having fun with ice, shaving cream, glue and making all manner of snowy scenes! We also look forward to parent/teacher conferences over the next several weeks, our annual Dad's Day (for dads, grandpas and uncles, and other men special in the life of a child too!), and all of the excitement of Valentine's Day.



We also continue to enjoy our 50th anniversary year. We have many alumni pictures in our hallway. If you or anyone in your family attended Joyful Noise, please send us, or drop off, a picture and we will post it on our "wall of fame".

SCOUT SUNDAY

Please join us for worship on Sunday, February 10th as we acknowledge the mission of all Scouts for Scout Sunday. We invite all Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to wear their uniform to church on February 10th. Opportunities are available to participate within the service. We are looking for greeters, ushers, and assistance with the Worship Leader responsibilities. Please contact Debbie Rossetti if you are interested in participating within the service, or if you have any questions: debrossetti@gmail.com. Thank You!



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



WALSH MEMORIAL BELL CHOIR NEWS

The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and again thank you all for the support and love that this congregation provides to us. The Bell Choirs had a very busy holiday season with many performances. Both Grazio and Walsh Memorial Bell Choirs played several concerts in the local area in addition to ringing at the Christmas Eve services.

The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir has the honor of being invited to perform at the NJMEA (New Jersey Music Educators Association) Conference on February 22nd, 2019. They will be the first bell choir to ever play in the history of the Conference. Congratulations to the Walsh Memorial Bell Choir!

The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir has also begun preparations for their 2019 tour. They will be attending the Area 2 Handbell Festival in Lancaster, PA from June 28th to June 30th.

They will then be touring in Switzerland from July 2nd to July 9th. We thank Charly and Joanne Wurster who are assisting us with the tour itinerary. We are asking the congregation if anyone has a friend or family member that could provide us with additional contacts for performance venues as well as host families to provide housing and/or meals during our stay in Switzerland. Please contact Debbie Rossetti, Elizabeth Nowik (Walsh Director), or Carl Loutzenheiser if you can provide us with any contact information. As always, we'd like to thank everyone for your support of our musical mission trips.

We currently have four active bell choirs at the church. We invite anyone to participate in our ringing choirs. No particular bell ringing experience is required. Please contact any of the directors with questions.

Dolce Bell Choir: Beginner ringers starting in 2nd grade

Rehearse: Sundays, 8:30-9:20

Director: Deb Rossetti debrossetti@gmail.com

Handbell Quartet: Director: Kathy Opsasnick katharine.opsasnick@gmail.com

Walsh Memorial Bell Choir: Auditioned choir of youth from 6th-12th grade

Rehearse: Thursdays, 6:15-8:45

Director: Elizabeth Nowik e.nowik@mppresby.org

Grazio Bell Choir: Adult bell choir and Walsh alumni

Director: Carl Loutzenheiser carl.bells@mppresby.org

FRUIT SALE

Even though you may still be enjoying citrus fruit from the December delivery or if you wish you had more, it is time to think ahead to the spring sale by the Walsh Memorial Bell Choir Program to help support its musical mission. Fresh, delicious fruit will arrive on Saturday, March 2, and will be delivered to your home that day. Orders will be taken through February 10. Come to our table at coffee hour for information and to place an order.



2019 SESSION ROSTER

Session Member	Email Address	Committee
Susan Vigilante-Williams	swvigilante@gmail.com	Clerk of Session
Mike Burke	mike@burkesrus.com	Personnel
Ginny Fisher	quilts38@gmail.com	Missions
Pam Gilly	pamela.gilly@gmail.com	Christian Education
Russ Hitchcock	russhitchcock@yahoo.com	Nurture
Alec Jain	alecjain@yahoo.com	Finance
Nancy Johnson	njnancy@verizon.net	Gathering & Belonging
Kim Lappe	dklappe83@aol.com	Personnel
Mae Martella	mlgrandusky@yahoo.com	Gathering & Belonging
Kathy McNall	kjmcnall@yahoo.com	Christian Education
Elissa Minor	elissa3@optonline.net	Joyful Noise
Bill Nunn	hunternunn@aol.com	Facilities
Dave Rossetti	daverossetti@gmail.com	Communication
Don Spidell	donald_spidell@hotmail.com	Stewardship
Judy Stebbins	judynyjets@verizon.net	Worship & Music



**The
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The Rev. Jacqui Van Vleit,
Interim Pastor

TO:

EVERYONE is welcome here to worship the Lord!

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m., Coffee & Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.