



GOOD TIDINGS

A Monthly Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

March 2018

Special points of interest:

- Bible Studies
- Coming Events
- Tirzah Circle
- Youth



The Session of the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains is pleased to announce the outcome of the Interim Pastor Search Committee's work with the arrival of The Reverend Jacqui Van Vliet as Interim Pastor.

Rev. Van Vliet, who prefers to be called Jacqui, grew up at the Jersey shore where playing at the beach was a year-round activity. Her earliest memories of church involved attending Sunday worship and Sunday School in Harvey Cedars with her maternal grandparents. She loved hearing the many stories of Jesus, especially in boats and on the sea, which made her feel right at home.

Jacqui earned a B.A. in History from Houghton College and an M.A. in Rehabilitation Counseling from New York University. She received her M. Div. from Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Jacqui has been in church ministry for more than twenty years. She served West Side Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood, NJ as the Director of Children's Ministries and Lay Ministries; Rutgers Presbyterian Church, New York City as the Interim Director of Educational Ministries, and Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA doing interim ministry as the Supply Associate Pastor to Children and Family Ministries. Most recently, Jacqui finished serving as Interim Pastor at The Lamington Presbyterian Church in Bedminster, NJ. Additionally, she has worked outside of the church — in educational, social services, and health related fields—teaching, coordinating, and supervising programs for all ages.

When not at church, Jacqui enjoys walking, reading, going to concerts, movies, and plays, and being by the ocean at any season of the year. She is the mother of an adult daughter who lives in Vermont and works as a learning specialist teacher at a public school.

During this time of transition, Jacqui looks forward to sharing the journey, partnering in ministry and the process of discernment with our community and the Presbytery of Newton, as the vision of what God is calling this church to be in the days ahead becomes clearer.

Jacqui begins her work with us on Sunday, February 25th at the 9:30 service of worship.

INDEX

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

Welcome!

COMMUNITY

Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry will be holding its monthly pancake and sausage breakfast on **Saturday, March 10th, 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, March 27th, at 12:00 noon at Anabelles II**, 401 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains. Please call Pat Olson at 973-539-7941 if you would like to attend.

Book Club

Bookies Book Club will meet on **Monday, March 26th, at 7:30 p.m.**, in the Church Parlor to discuss *Hamilton Affair*, by Elizabeth Cobbs. 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 January gathering of Memory Café will be **March 15th from 2 to 4 p.m.** 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.

Lenten Soup Suppers

The Lenten Simple Soup Suppers will began on Wednesday, February 21st. We will gather with St. Paul's Episcopal Church for dinner at 6:30 p.m. There will be a scriptural reflection beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please bring some soup or bread to share. We will gather at PCMP on February 28th and March 14th. We will gather at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on March 7th and 21st.



BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study



The Wednesday Night Bible Study will meet on **Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. We will be reading and reflecting upon the book *The Social Justice Bible Challenge* for the season of Lent. The book is available on Amazon for \$15. All are welcome.

Club 45

We will have a meeting of Club 45 on **Sunday night, March 11th.** Amy Matlins and Kathy Wright have volunteered to lead in March.

Please suggest a date that you would be willing to lead, and, if you have someone you're willing to lead with, include that person's name too and contact the church office.

4/22—Open

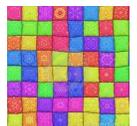
5/13—Open—this is Mother's Day

6/24—Open



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 March Birthday to:

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Poage, Katrina | 3/1 |
| Frazzano, Pete | 3/2 |
| Bohn, Cheryl | 3/3 |
| Cantrell, Madelyn | 3/3 |
| Rosenfeld, Jillian | 3/3 |
| Rosenfeld, Ted | 3/3 |
| Thorne, Melissa | 3/3 |
| Lioi, Joan | 3/5 |
| Oakley, Judy | 3/5 |
| Wright, Kathy | 3/6 |
| Robinson, Seth | 3/8 |
| Martella, Mae | 3/9 |
| Karr, Andrea | 3/11 |
| Oakley, Bill | 3/11 |
| Rossi, Karen | 3/11 |
| Benjamin, Art | 3/12 |
| Koch, Quinn | 3/12 |
| Williams, Karl | 3/13 |
| Williams, Trevor | 3/13 |
| Gibson, Sandra | 3/14 |
| Kress, Christine | 3/14 |
| Kress, Ryan | 3/14 |
| Morgan, Deborah | 3/14 |
| Smith, Joshua | 3/14 |
| Koch, Lauren | 3/15 |
| Barwick, Brendan | 3/16 |
| Barwick, Meghan | 3/16 |
| Barwick, Ryan | 3/16 |



Happy March Birthday to, continued:

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Falcone, Michael | 3/16 |
| Faundez, Lorenzo | 3/17 |
| Lanza, William | 3/17 |
| Beeck, Ryan | 3/18 |
| Kattermann, Suzanne | 3/18 |
| Thomas, Carissa | 3/18 |
| Fox, Matthew | 3/19 |
| Foley, Colin | 3/20 |
| Rossetti, Erica | 3/20 |
| Talbert, Grant | 3/21 |
| McKeever, John | 3/22 |
| Ramirez, Lucas | 3/23 |
| Toye, Keagan | 3/23 |
| Martin, Debby | 3/24 |
| Risko, Judy | 3/25 |
| Foley, Lisa | 3/26 |
| George, Marge | 3/27 |
| Crain, Kevin | 3/29 |
| Csengeto, Melissa | 3/29 |
| Fisher, Jessica | 3/29 |
| Rosenfeld, Rich | 3/30 |
| Brabandt, Timothy | 3/31 |
| Toye, Camryn | 3/31 |

Happy March Anniversary to:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------|--------|
| Bushong, Charles & Joan | 3/1 | 32 Yrs |
| Olson, Don & Mary | 3/5 | 18 Yrs |
| Rossetti, Dave & Debbie | 3/21 | 26 Yrs |

GATHERING & BELONGING

The Gathering & Belonging Ministry met on Tuesday, February 13th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Christian Education room at PCMP. We are excited for these upcoming fun events!

- On **Friday, March 16th**, we are going to have a fun BUNCO night in Westminster Hall at **7:30 p.m.** Have you played before? "Yes, I'm an expert." Fabulous, come and show us how it's done! "No, what's Bunco?" Come and let's learn together! Please plan to come join the fun! (If anyone has card tables that we can borrow, please let Pam Dise-Moran (pamdisemoran@gmail.com) or Nancy Johnson (njnancy@verizon.net) know.
- On **Easter Sunday, April 1st**, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt following the service. We are collecting plastic Easter eggs and egg stuffers. Please bring them to church and give them to Pam Dise-Moran or Nancy Johnson.
- **The Morris Plains Memorial Day Parade** - Mark your calendars! PCMP will be marching in the Morris Plains Memorial Day Parade on **May 26th**. If you would like to be part of the parade team, please reach out to Pam Dise-Moran (pamdisemoran@gmail.com) or Nancy Johnson (njnancy@verizon.net).
- **A Church family picnic in June** - If you would like to be part of the picnic planning and preparing, please reach out to Pam Dise-Moran (pamdisemoran@gmail.com) or Nancy Johnson (njnancy@verizon.net).

Please come to our next meeting on **Tuesday, March 13th at 7:30 p.m.** in the Christian Education room (Rm 3). Please contact Pam Dise-Moran (pamdisemoran@gmail.com) or Nancy Johnson (njnancy@verizon.net) with any questions.

YOUTH INFORMATION

The Youth Gathering



The Youth Gathering is for all youth 6th—12th grades. We eat dinner, play games, get to know each other, bring a friend and get to know God better, too.

The Youth Gathering has been busy. Our hoagie sale profit was \$340 towards missions. Our collection for Hannah Cerullo as the Souper Bowl of Caring, came to \$365. Thank you for your generosity!

Our Youth Gathering schedule for the next few months is: March 4th & 18th, April 15th & 29th, and May 20th. There will be no meeting on April 1st (Easter) and May 6th (Appreciation Concert).

I also encourage everyone to come to the next few meetings so we can discuss what we want to do for mission trips this year. Any question, please call me at 973-625-5989 or email at benellen2001@yahoo.com.

Ben Lanza

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will meet on **March 6th at 7:30 p.m.** in Westminster Hall, to hold a baby shower for NorthPorch Women & Infant centers. They assist women and families in Morristown with supplies for young children & babies. The whole church is welcome to participate with baby items.



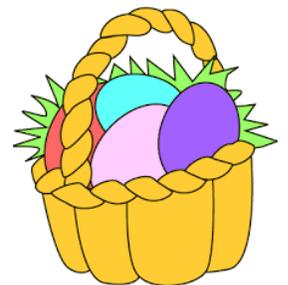
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Diapers, newborn to size 4
Toys/ books/ rattles
Clothes for children to age 3
Infant Pacifiers
Bibs
Burping Cloths

Unscented baby wipes
Baby Blankets
Onesies
Baby Bottles
Crib Sheets

TIRZAH CIRCLE

The TIRZAH CIRCLE will meet again for fellowship and fun on **Thursday, March 22nd, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. We will be stuffing Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday, and we will be assembling Easter tray favors for Morris View Nursing Home. Please join us!



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 | pamdise Moran@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.

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 3/4 | The Word and the Word | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As Presbyterians, we use the Book of Confessions to help us to understand the Bible, and we read the Bible to help us to get to know Christ. Scripture helps us to order our lives around Christ. As Christians, we're part of a great tradition that spans thousands of years. Although we hold the Bible as the authoritative word of God, we know that God still speaks to us today. | |
| 3/11 | All Good Gifts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our gifts are unique—nobody else has quite the same combination of gifts that God has given each of us. God gives us gifts for a purpose. As Christians, we're called to use our gifts in glorifying God and serving others. | Esther Esther 4 |
| 3/18 | BLING! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greed makes us fools. God calls us to share our blessings—both spiritually and physical. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) | The Rich Young Man Matthew 19 |
| 3/25 | Very Good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Sunday God calls us to be good stewards of creation. We love and honor the Giver by taking care of the gift (i.e., creation) APOSTLE'S CREED DUE | Adam & Eve Genesis |

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Community Blood Drive

There is a Blood Drive scheduled for **Saturday, March 3rd — 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

The fun continues at Joyful Noise as we welcome the month of March! At this time of year we highlight reading aloud to children at home and at school, with a little friendly competition to see which classes can read the most. Joining us in the classrooms will be parents, grandparents and siblings as we read aloud!

Along the way we will be wearing green and enjoying St. Patrick's Day, striking our best poses for Picture Day, and preparing for Easter with visits to the sanctuary, music and Bible stories.



Registration for the 2018-2019 year is ongoing, and plans for our summer programs are coming together.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, or have friends or neighbors who may be, now is the time to call for more information ([973-539-9514](tel:973-539-9514)) or visit our website (www.joyfulnoise400.org.)

As always, we thank you for your prayers and support!

Jane Whitehead and all the Staff of Joyful Noise

MISSIONS

March is upon us and the Missions Ministry is excited to bring you two opportunities to spread God's love with those less fortunate. First, we will hear 4 ways we can help by giving to the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING campaign. **Easter arrives April 1st**, and we will also be collecting food for our **25 Easter boxes** that will be packed and delivered at the end of the month. Please plan accordingly, with your shopping trips to the food store. Look for a list in our weekly bulletin for what food is needed. Thank you in advance for your support.



Proverbs 22:9—*"A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor."*

Ginny Fisher
Mission Ministry Chairperson

1st SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

On **March 4th** 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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Morris Plains, NJ 07950 Fax: 973-539-1225
Web: mppresby.org

TO:

EVERYONE is welcome here to worship the Lord!

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