



GOOD TIDINGS

A Monthly Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

March 2019

O God, help me to feel your presence everywhere I go today.

To see You in everyone I meet today.

To sense You in all I hear today.

To reflect You in all I do today.

To pray to and trust You in all I experience today.

To struggle to be like You in all I am today.

To speak of and for You in all I say today.

To thank You for everything every day.

~A prayer by Marion Wright Edelman, founder and president emerita of the Children's Defense Fund, a national organization of advocacy for disadvantaged children and youth.

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From Our Interim Pastor:

Ash Wednesday

"Ring around the rosie, pocket full of posy. Ashes! Ashes! We all fall down."

For some reason as I was pondering Ash Wednesday and the coming Lenten season, all I could think of were the words to this familiar and endearing childhood nursery rhyme. Yet, I've always been puzzled as to why the reciting of a poem that came out of the great plague epidemic in the Middle Ages, as legend has it, should be remembered so fondly. Perhaps my scarcity of holy thought was due to the lack of experiencing Lenten rituals as part of my formative years growing up in the Protestant faith of my mother's family.

My first introduction came much later, as a parent, primarily as my young daughter advanced through the children's choir and Sunday School in a Presbyterian church that observed Lent. Even then, I confess that I rarely attended an Ash Wednesday, midweek Lenten Potluck or the Passion Week services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. What was my reason? Why did I turn away from this season of preparation and reflection?

Possibly it was because I heard the voices of my maternal, fundamentalist, Protestant relatives proclaiming the "Romanism" of such observances. A whispered "*This isn't what we do. We do joy-Christmas, Palm Sunday, Easter.*" After all, the only people I knew who followed this church season came to school one day with gray smudges on their foreheads, consumed fish on Fridays and never ate chocolate or ice cream for weeks at a time during late winter and early spring.

Possibly it was because I heard my own voice repeating the fact that those services were at night and so much happened at home during those hours when I was a parent managing dinner, schoolwork questions and bedtime rituals for my daughter. It was difficult to be flexible, though I somehow managed to change routines when other events arose.

More likely, it was because I heard another voice calling, one greater than my own. I was afraid to answer for I would have confronted the powerful truth of that reality and my need to fall down in the face of my own unyielding desire to be in control of all things.

And when we cross the threshold into Holy Week, we see it isn't pretty, these days of betrayal, humiliation, agony and death. We often try too soon to make it seem otherwise with toy bunnies and chicks, with chocolates and sweets, with bright new clothes and the heady scent of hyacinths and lilies. Much as legend has it that those who lived during the great plague of the Middle Ages used pockets full of fragrant posies held bunched to their noses to mask the stench of death that awaited every step they took.

I believe the days of Lent come as an invitation to walk in the steps of Jesus, to experience the full journey of the Word, through sight and sound, through taste and touch, even with all its painful moments. It is in the walk, however tentative and begun in the dust of life's frailty on Ash Wednesday, that our faith is deepened. We awaken with each step to the living reality of God's presence among us. So that when we rise to new life on Easter morning, with believers in every time and place, we can all fall down on bended knee "and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God. (Philippians 2:11)"

In Faith,

Jacqui

CHURCH COMMUNITY

Book Club

Bookies Book Club will meet on **Monday, March 25th, at 7:30 pm**, in the Church Parlor to discuss The Great Alone. All are welcome. Please call Pat Olson at 973-539-7941 if you have any questions.

Copy Cats-Retired Ladies

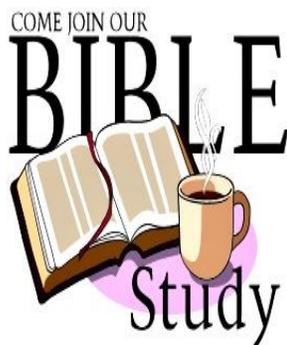
Copy Cats will be meeting on **Tuesday, March 26th at 12:00 noon** at Annabella's Restaurant, 401 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains. Please call Pat Olson at 973-539-7941 if you would like to attend.

Nurture

If you enjoy visiting and chatting, then 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. Please 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 pm** in the Parlor. Please bring your Bible and join us for our study focused on Lent beginning on March 13.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

On Sunday, March 10, daylight savings time will begin. Please remember to set your clocks one hour AHEAD before you go to bed on Saturday.



MISSIONS

Memory Café

The Memory Café will gather on Thursday, **March 21 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm** in Westminster Hall. The café is a social time for those individuals living with Alzheimer's Disease or other mild to moderate cognitive impairments and their caregiver. We have social time and entertainment planned. Ken Galipeau from the Folk Project will be our entertainer. Please pass this information on to anyone in the community that could benefit from this outreach opportunity. For further information, please call Ginny Fisher at 973-229-4245.

Mission Ministry

We are gearing up for One Great Hour of Sharing and also prepping for our Easter Food Baskets. A list of what is needed will be available in the weekly bulletins and in the April Good Tidings. Please keep our ministry in your prayers and God Bless! If you wish to join us, please contact Ginny Fisher at 973-229-4245 or quilts38@gmail.com.

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



FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

On **March 3 and April 7**, 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 those gifts, we will experience the real spiritual 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**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Sunday School

As Lent approaches, the Sunday School will focus on grade level assignments and our Sunday School students and their families will be encouraged to make these assignments part of their Lenten practice. Each grade level has an assignment to learn a key creed, prayer or Bible verse that is important to our Christian faith. For example, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed and Bible verses like Matthew 7:12, The Golden Rule. Look for our children to take a lead in worship using their newly acquired knowledge and check our Sunday School booklet for the complete list of assignments.



The Sunday School offering this year will be going to The Heifer Project and they are on their way to buying a goat! Goats are known for providing delicious milk, which can be used to create cheese that can be sold for income. This enables a family's children to go to school. Goats also make ideal pets for children because of their natural curiosity and intelligence! Sunday School offering envelopes are available from your child's Sunday School teacher. (<https://www.heifer.org/>)



As always, there are openings on the teaching teams and the Sunday School could use your help! As we focus on our faith and prepare for the miracle of Easter during this Lenten season, we pray that you will be part of one of the teams! Please contact Kathy McNall at 973-627-8708 for more information.

Youth Gathering

The Souper Bowl of Caring was a great success. We raised \$300 for Missions and \$320 was given to Sarah Duffy. Thank you to everyone who donated and bought hoagies. We will be meeting on March 3 and March 17 at 6:00 pm. We are still looking for youth ages 11-18 who are interested in a mission trip. We would like to have a lock-in at the church on Saturday, March 30 from 6:00 pm until Sunday morning and then go to Arbor Terrace after church service. Ben and Ellen Lanza will be the chaperones. We are also looking for female adult chaperones for other events. Please contact Ben Lanza at 973-625-5989 or benellen2001@yahoo.com for more information and for ideas and dates available for the mission trip.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Annual Lenten Breakfast

On **Ash Wednesday, March 6**, Presbyterian Women will host their annual Lenten Breakfast at 10:00 am in Westminster Hall. All women are welcome to come and bring a friend for light brunch, fellowship, and Holy Communion. No reservations are necessary. Please contact Laurie Fu at 973-452-0320 or lfu87@aol.com with any questions.



Martha Circle

Women of our church are welcome to join Martha Circle. We meet four to five times a year doing service projects for a Marine unit overseas and for a young mothers' support group. Three heavy packages (36lbs.) of magazines, coffees and cookies were mailed to a new Marine detachment whom we are supporting overseas. A note was sent in honor of Brian McNally. You will be notified when we hear from them. Thank you to everyone who contributed magazines, coffee and money for postage.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30 pm. We plan to update our records on sending cards, visiting shut-ins, and planning a baby shower in late April or May for North Porch or another group. Please contact Patty Malpere at 973-714-7880 if you are interested in joining.

Tirzah Circle

Please join us for our next meeting on Thursday, March 28 at 7:30pm in Westminster Hall. We will be stuffing Easter eggs for our Church Easter Egg Hunt. All church members are asked to help with donations of items for our plastic egg stuffers. A bin will be provided in Westminster Hall between March 3 and March 24 to collect these items. Any donations of non-edible items would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Elissa Minor at elissa3@optonline.net for more information about the circle.



GATHERING & BELONGING

Gathering and Belonging will have its next meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 7:30pm in room 3. They will plan activities for the year with the focus on March events and prep Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday.



Easter Egg Hunt

Simple Suppers



We will also be hosting "Simple Suppers"-potluck dinners during Lent on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm in Westminster Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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:

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	34 Yrs
Olson, Don & Mary	3/5	20 Yrs
Rossetti, Dave & Debbie	3/21	28 Yrs

FINANCE NEWS

Magic Pennies

Tired of the cccCold winter weather? THINK SPRING! And when making your plans for Spring Break, THINK MAGIC PENNIES! We have all kinds of cards you will find useful for your Spring Break travel plans after worship during coffee hour. We have cards for airlines, hotel chains, spas, cruise lines, eateries, gas stations, car rentals, Disney and more!

Also, plan ahead for the Easter season. Magic Pennies cards make great gifts and fit perfectly in any Easter basket. Come check our selection. A percentage from each card purchased benefits the church-so easy and there's no extra cost to you!



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.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

There will be blood drives on Saturday, **March 2 and April 13 from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in Westminster Hall.** To schedule an appointment, please call Larry Ripley at 973-539-4598.



JOYFUL NOISE NURSERY SCHOOL

The fun continues at Joyful Noise as we welcome the month of March. As 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!

During this month, 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 2019-2020 school 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, then now is the time to call for more information (973-539-9514) or visit our website at www.joyfulnoise400.org.

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

CALLING ALL SOFTBALL PLAYERS AND FANS

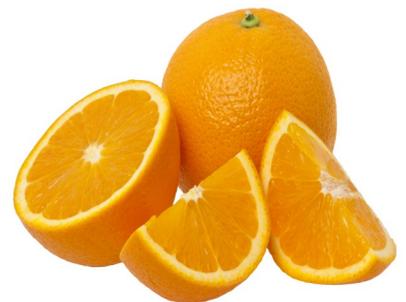


Our church will be participating again in the North Jersey Christian Softball League. We are looking for players 16 or older and fans of all ages. The season starts in Mid April and ends by mid July during which we play a 12 game semi-competitive schedule usually one night per week. Home games are played 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 at 201-602-9583 or Bob Romano at 973-580-3259 or visit the league website at www.njcsll.com for additional information.

FRUIT SALE

The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir Program would like to thank everyone who helped support their fruit sale. The fruit will be delivered on Saturday, March 2. Extra fruit was ordered and some may still be available.

If you are interested in fresh delicious fruit for yourself, as a gift or to donate to a local charity, please contact Carl Loutzenheiser at 973-267-1258 or carl.bells@mppresby.org or come to the church on March 2 after 11:00am.



WALSH MEMORIAL BELL CHOIR NEWS

The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir program continues to ring their praises to God. All the choirs continue to ring in the morning worship services as well as the community outreach performances/programs. The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir performed at the New Jersey Music Educator's Association (NJMEA) Conference on February 22nd. Their performance was well received. The Walsh Bell Choir was the first handbell choir to ever participate as a performing group in the NJMEA Conference. Well done Walsh Bell Choir!

Preparations are well underway for the Walsh Choir's 2019 tour. The Choir will be traveling to Switzerland from July 2nd-July 9th. Many thanks to Charly and Joanne Wurster for their guidance and assistance with the tour preparations.

We also thank the congregation for their continued support with all of the ongoing fundraisers to support the bell choir program. The Walsh Bell Choir will also be having an Ashley Farms fundraiser in March. Cheesecakes, cookie dough, additional frozen food items, and candles, are available for purchase and will be delivered prior to Easter. Thank you again for your support.

The Dolce Bell Choir (beginner ringers) are excited to be participating in the Hudson Valley Young Ringers Festival on Saturday, March 23rd. This is the first bell festival for many of the ringers in the Dolce Choir. The choir will travel to Warwick, NY for the day and participate in a concert at 4pm. All are invited.

We invite and encourage anyone who is interested in ringing bells to inquire with Carl Loutzenheiser. No previous bell experience is necessary.

Walsh Memorial Bell Choir (Youth 6th-12th grade)

Director: Elizabeth Nowik , e.nowik@mppresby.org

Rehearsal: Thursdays, 6:15-8:45

Grazio Bell Choir (Adults, Walsh Alumni)

Director: Carl Loutzenheiser, carl.bells@mppresby.org

Rehearsal: Mondays, 7:00 - 8:30

Dolce Bell Choir (Beginner ringers - all ages beginning in 2nd grade)

Director: Debbie Rossetti, debrossetti@gmail.com

Rehearsal: Sundays, 8:30-9:20am

Bell Quartet (Select ringers)

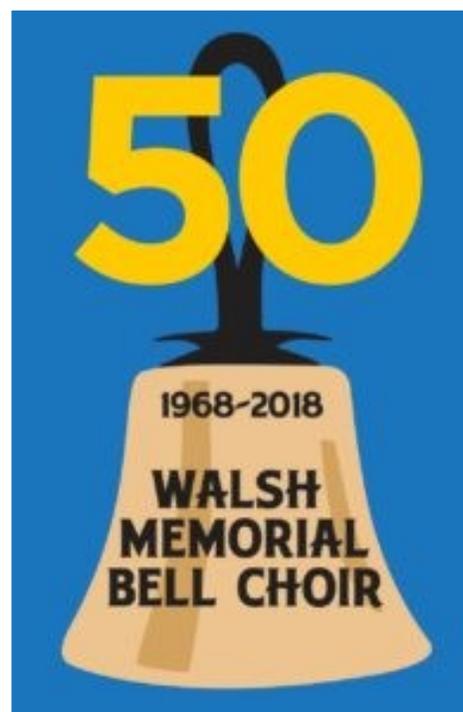
Director: Kathy Opsasnick, katharine.opsasnick@gmail.com

Rehearsal: TBD

Alumni Choir (Alumni Ringers)

Contact Person: Kelly Caccavale

Rehearsal: TBD



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	Nominating
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



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Phone: 973-539-3481
Fax: 973-539-1225
The Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet,
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.