



GOOD TIDINGS

A Monthly Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

May 2018

Special points of interest:

- Bible Studies
- Coming Events
- Youth



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Dear Members and Friends of PCMP,

This past weekend, I visited some old friends, an Episcopal rector and his wife, at their home nestled in one of the communities along the beaches of Delaware. We sat on their deck watching seagulls line up and take off from a log partially sticking out the water and gazed at the other wildlife flock around the many neighboring birdfeeders. But there was one unusual feeder, slightly larger, open-sided, covered by green roofs with a tower-like structure attached to a longer, one-story space. We decided it resembled a church, a shape quite recognizable to us. Immediately, we began a conversation about how that extremely active birdfeeder – a hub of life -- reminded us of church.



There were birds coming and going in this open and inviting space where feathered friend and stranger could find a spot inside and be fed in this place, a banquet for all who gathered. As wings took flight the seeds were scattered, but not wasted. There was more than enough for others, a mission for good to the larger community of bird and beast outside the feeder to find nourishment. And an invitation for them to return and participate in what's going on inside and out of this busy place of life, this thriving community.



It's the way I see this church, one that is caring and welcoming, making God's love visible in this place, eager to take that love and scatter that seed for the benefit of the larger community outside your walls.

May this community of faith continue to thrive and feed one another even as you begin to discover how God is calling you in new ways to be church in the days ahead.

Jacqui



COMMUNITY

Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry will be holding its monthly pancake and sausage breakfast on **Saturday, May 12th, 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, May 22nd, at 12:00 noon at Anthony's,** 20 Luger Road, Denville. Please call Doris Miller at 973-538-3446 if you would like to attend.

Book Club

Bookies Book Club will meet on **Monday, May 21st, at 7:30 p.m.,** in the Church Parlor to discuss *The Long Haul: A Trucker's Tales of Life on the Road*, by Finn Murphy. 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 May gathering of Memory Café will be **May 17th from 2 to 4 p.m.** We will be entertained by Darrel Courtley who is returning to us from The NJ Folk Music Project. The Café is for anyone who is living with Dementia or other Cognitive impairments. Please call Ginny Fisher at 973-229-4145 for more information.

Tirzah Circle

The TIRZAH CIRCLE will meet again for fellowship and fun on **Thursday, May 17th, 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!

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study



Wednesdays **at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. Led by Rev. Jacqui Van Vliet. Join us as we study 1 Thessalonians, the first written letter by Paul. All are welcome.

Club 45

We will **not** have a meeting of Club 45 for **May.** Karen & Dave Rossi will lead the meeting **June 24th, at 6:00 p.m.** with Amy, Charlene, Lisa & Linda helping. Please watch the bulletin for more details.

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



Stamp Out Hunger

Please Help Stamp Out Hunger By Taking Part in the Letter Carriers Annual Food Drive – Saturday May 12th.



You can help stamp out hunger and make a difference by placing unopened canned and boxed items such as shelf-stable milk, soup, stews and chili, canned fruits and veggies, peanut butter, beans, tuna fish, pasta, sauce, rice and cereal - in a bag next to your mailbox. (Low salt and low sugar items are always welcome!). **Letter Carriers will be picking up these items when they deliver your mail on Saturday May 12th!**

Food collected will be donated to local food pantries including the Interfaith Food Pantry (IFP). **In 2017, the Interfaith Food Pantry helped over 10,000 Morris County residents (35% were children) and distributed over 1.1 million pounds of food... thanks to your help!**

CELEBRATIONS

Happy May Birthday to:

Heckman, Cecelia	5/1
Risko, Ted	5/1
Eapen, Audrey	5/2
Lanza, Virginia	5/3
Thorne, Connor	5/3
Caccavale, Kelly	5/5
Frazzano, Jack	5/5
Mueller, Mary Ann	5/5
Smith, Kim	5/9
Ramirez, Gabriel	5/10
Falcone, Kari	5/11
Olson, Matthew	5/11
Becht, Thomas	5/12
Crain, Avery	5/12
Scherwa, Timothy	5/12
Traetto, Charles	5/12
Ramirez, Leo	5/14
Barwick, Marcie	5/15
Blaicher, Herbert	5/16
Moore, Cliff	5/17
Sheldon, Becky	5/17
Sheldon, Rob	5/17
Sheldon, Tim	5/17
Grossman, Caroline	5/18
Kizzie, Amy	5/18
Timpanaro, Karen	5/18
Burke, Elizabeth	5/19
Case, Tom	5/20



Happy May Birthday to, continued:

Lipka, Lorri	5/21
Popiel, Evangelina	5/21
Romano, Heidi	5/21
Rossi, Dave	5/21
McCormick, Beth	5/23
Toye, Brody	5/23
Cregan, Cari	5/24
Close, Parker	5/26
Garrett, Vivienne	5/26
Roos, Jean	5/26
Olson, Michael	5/28
Van Orden, Carole	5/28
Stock, Erich	5/29

Happy May Anniversary to:

Case, Tom & Andrea	5/4	32 Yrs
Spidell, Sue & Don	5/7	7 Yrs
Martin, Debby & Paul	5/8	42 Yrs
Lanza, Ben & Ellen	5/10	21 Yrs

We would like to thank everyone for the support, prayers and dinners following the untimely death of Ellen's brother, David Sayers. They are all greatly appreciated! We have a wonderful church family.

The Lanza Family

GATHERING & BELONGING

FUN FRIDAY – Beginning in May, we will have a monthly Fun Friday gathering instead of our Wednesday evening potluck dinners. Our first **Fun Friday** will be **Friday, May 18th**. Our Fun Friday gathering will include a potluck dinner from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. followed by Bunco! from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Come whenever you can for however long you'd like. If you can't make it by 6:00 p.m., come as soon as you can for dinner. If you'd just like to have dinner, that's fine! If you are only interested in playing Bunco!, that's OK too!. There will be a sign up in Westminster Hall closer to the date. Our final potluck dinner will be Wednesday, May 2nd. Be sure to come and welcome the Morris Club!

PCMP will be marching in the **Morris Plains Memorial Day Parade on May 26th**. Don't miss it! Church members and friends of all ages are welcome to march in the parade! There will be meetings on **Sundays, May 13th and 20th**, after worship ends, for about 30 minutes. Join us and plan to march in the parade with PCMP!



There will be a **CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC at the Gazebo at Community Park in Morris Plains on Sunday, June 10th**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We can caravan over to the park right after the morning service. We will have a barbecue with lots of yummy food and a cake to celebrate our confirmands. There will be lots of fun activities, such as cornhole, basketball, kickball, and of course, fabulous conversation. There will be a sign up in Westminster Hall closer to the date.

Please come to our next meeting on **Tuesday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m.** in the Christian Education Room, room 3. Contact Pam Dise-Moran (pamdise Moran@gmail.com) or Nancy Johnson (njnancy@verizon.net) with questions.



YOUTH INFORMATION

The Youth Gathering



Hello my brothers and sisters in Christ. Hopefully by this time our mission trip for July 22-27 is full? Please see me if you are interested in going.

Others ideas we are working on are: lock in & movie night; car wash; rafting trip; escape room; game night; Camp Johnsonburg days. Our summer is booking up fast. If you have an idea let me know.

Also we are booking kids for yard clean ups or light jobs around the house. Let me know at our next meeting. Bring a friend and help double our size.

Next meetings: April 29th & May 20th - 6:00 p.m. dinner & 6:30 p.m. meeting - bring a friend!

Respectfully,
Ben Lanza

MISSION MINISTRY

Thank you everyone who donated and helped pack the 25 Easter Food boxes on Palm Sunday! Twenty one were delivered to families in need in Dover and 4 to our community.



Next up we will be hosting, for dinner, the **Morris Club on Wednesday, May 2nd at 6:30 p.m.** Please come out and bring a dish to share with these wonderful guests. We have formed such a bond with this group and they always look forward to coming to our church. As in the past, we will also put together "Cookie Bags" for each to take home. Please drop off your cookies by Wednesday morning.

Hebrews 13:16 - *"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."*

Ginny Fisher

POT LUCK

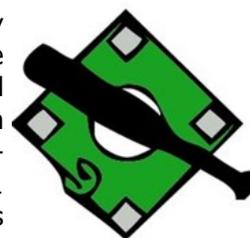
SOFTBALL



The last Wednesday evening pot luck supper will be on **Wednesday, May 2nd at 6:30 p.m.** with Morris Club. Bring a dish to share and welcome the Morris Club group.

Calling All Softball Players and Fans -

Our Church will again be participating in the North Jersey Christian Softball League. 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. Our home games are on May 3, 17, 31, June 21 & 28. 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.njcsll.com) for additional information.



MAGIC PENNIES

Many Gift-Giving opportunities lie ahead! Magic Pennies Gift Cards make great gifts for :

Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduation, Teacher/Coach Thank You's, Weddings and more!

Stop by during Coffee Hour to see our wide selection!



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



You may notice our Confirmands, Danielle Becht, Sarita Risko and Briana Thomas around church soon because as part of their class work they will be serving as ushers, teaching church school, serving communion and helping to lead worship. Please keep them in your prayers as they write their Faith Statements and prepare to meet with session so they may be received by the congregation on **Sunday, June 10, 2018.**

We will meet on the following dates at 10:40 a.m. in Room 1.

5/6	No Class	Note: Prepare & help serve communion – Meet in Sanctuary at 9:00 am
5/13	No Class	Mother's Day
5/14	Monday 4-5 pm	Wrap up Faith Statements, Prepare for meeting with Session & Youth Led Worship
5/20		Pentecost—Youth Led Worship, Bibles presented, Serve as Worship Assistants—Meet in Sanctuary at 9:00 am
5/22	Tuesday 6-7 pm	Dinner Meeting with Session, Presentation of Faith Statements
5/27	No Class	Memorial Day Weekend
6/10	Confirmation!!!	Meet in the Parlor at 9:00 am with parents, presentation on Confirmands in

Adult Mission Opportunity with Presbytery of Newton and Nairobi Partnership Team (NNPT) - July 2018

The NNPT is seeking interested Healthcare/ Medical Practitioners, i.e. Medical Doctors, Dentists, Advanced Practice Nurses, Registered Nurses and possibly other healthcare professionals to become part of a small mission team to travel to Kenya in July, 2018. Self-financed, volunteers would work together in our partnership's Kasasule Health Center and nearby villages/schools for 5 days (July 9-13); then have the option to experience a magnificent 3-day (July 15-17) Kenyan safari in Masai Mara National Reserve.

If interested, please contact **Jim Dieterle; tel. 732-329-2722; email— jdieterle@aarp.org**

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Community Blood Drive

There is a Blood Drive scheduled for **Saturday, May 5th — 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

May is always a special month, but we think this year will be extra sweet as we finally see less of cold stormy weather! Our **musical Celebrations** will take place **May 14th and 15th**, and Genesis is our theme. It is always a joy hearing the children practice as their little voices fill our hallways. We would love to see our church families join us during these very special and enjoyable evenings.



In our classes we will be thinking of our moms as we create memorable Mothers' Day gifts. Then mid month we will celebrate our Joyful Noise staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. The month will conclude with marching bands and floats when we walk with church families in the Morris Plains Memorial Day Parade.

Registration continues for our summer and fall programs so be sure to tell your friends and neighbors.

We wish all our church families a lovely month of May, and we thank you for your prayers and support!

Jane Whitehead and the Joyful Noise Staff

CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

The Church School Year is winding down and we are beginning to prepare for our youth led worship service on **Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018. This is a Sunday you do not want to miss!**



There will be a parade, special music, presentation of Bibles to our three-year olds and third graders, teacher recognition, **cake** and an unforgettable message from our youth.

So, get your red on and make sure you are there to support our youth and celebrate the gift of the holy spirit!

This is also the **last day** of church school; children will worship with their families for the month of June.

Summer church school, for children in **third grade and younger**, will begin on **Sunday, July 8th** and run for 8 weeks ending on **Sunday, August 26th.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Annual PW Spring Dinner "Our Great American Melting Pot"

Friday, May 11th, 6:15 p.m.—Westminster Hall



Women of all ages are invited to join us for an evening of Food, Fun and Fellowship as we celebrate and share the varied cultures and backgrounds that make us unique yet bring us together as one family! Come—bring friends! Feel free to bring items from your heritage that you would like to share, or wear items of clothing that represent your family background. Tickets will be sold in Coffee Hour. Adults: \$26, Seniors: \$22, Children under 14: \$12 Questions? Call Laurie, 973-452-0320 or lfu87@aol.com.

1st SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

On **May 6th** 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 celebrating its 50th anniversary. The **Appreciation Concert** on **Sunday, May 6th at 6:00 p.m. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)**, featuring our current bell choirs, an alumni bell choir and our former directors, **is free and open to the public**. More than 60 former ringers and directors are planning to participate, and we hope the entire church family and friends will join us. 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



SPRING SPRUCE UP DAY – On **Saturday, May 19th, 9:00 a.m.** till we're done. Bring rakes, shovels, gloves, wheelbarrows, etc. Coffee and donuts will be served. If you have any questions, contact a Facilities member.



**The
Presbyterian Church
of Morris Plains**

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TO:

EVERYONE is welcome here to worship the Lord!

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