



The Courier

Dear Friends,

Permit me to challenge you a bit today, please? I'll start with a story. When we're on vacation in Rhode Island, we visit a Lutheran church on Sunday mornings. The service is helpful; the music is great. But we've never been overwhelmed with the welcome. Frankly, we're most often underwhelmed. We're not exactly spring chickens, but we're among the younger people there. We have kids – yes, they're older – but there aren't a lot of kids running around. We're the type of folks – at least on the outside – that they should be looking for. But people don't really engage with us. Because of COVID, the congregation was worshipping out in a field they have. As we were packing up our lawn chairs, one of our daughters – the most forthright of the brood (I'll leave you to guess which one) – said, in an apparently not too quiet voice, "I don't know why we come here. No one ever talks to us."



FROM OUR
PASTOR

An older woman caught up to us in the parking lot and explained, "We're really a friendly bunch, once you get to know us." I guess she didn't realize that's exactly the same thing as saying, "We're not really very friendly." Everybody puts in a little effort to engage with people that they know. That's sort of a minimum requirement for being human. The real question is whether we'll go the extra mile – really more like an eighth of a mile – and engage people we don't know.

Here's my challenge to you: we have been getting some visitors recently. There are too many Sundays in which we're not engaging those folks. They sneak in quietly. They sit towards the back and try to get out as quickly as possible. And, if we're not really intentional about greeting them—first, before we talk to our friends—they'll be gone. As they head out to the parking lot, there's a very real chance they'll be wondering as my daughter did, "Why did I come here. No one really talked to me."

When a person comes into a church, they're taking a big chance. It could be that they haven't been to a church in a long time. Maybe they feel like they've been burned by the Christian church, and they have to muster up some courage to go through those doors again. When they take that risk, the least they can expect is a friendly greeting. The sermon may be uninspiring. The music might be a little off that day. But it doesn't take much for people to leave saying, "Wow! That was a friendly church."

So allow me to challenge you to challenge yourselves. As soon as you enter worship on Sundays, take a look around. See if we have any visitors. Before they even sit down, we are making impressions, and they are receiving impressions. Greet them before the service. Greet them during the service, but don't wait until then. Sit with them during the service. Say, "Hi," after the service is done. Invite them to Founders' Hall. Make sure they feel welcomed.

I ought to mention something else. That Lutheran church I spoke of earlier is in the town our home is in. Someday we hope to retire there. We believe in being in a church in our town, so we can get to know the local folks. It's really one of the only mainline churches in that township. But, we're going to try some other churches in other towns this summer. Truthfully, we're kind of tired of being ignored. We are a great bunch of folks! Let's let our visitors know it. It's a privilege to serve Him with you.

Grace and peace,

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Community Church in Harrington Park

The Courier
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Pastor's (cont'd)

BIBLE STUDY

Sandy Bennington

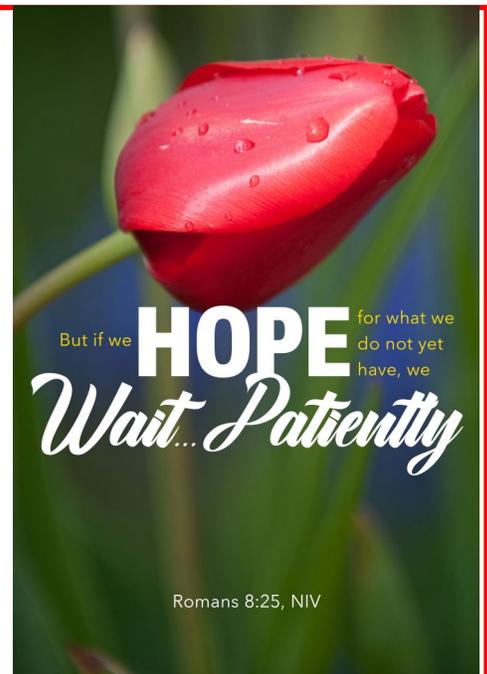
Our time for a Summer Bible Study is only a few weeks away! We will be doing a study by Dr. David Jeremiah entitled "Romans VIII, The Greatest Chapter in the Bible." Are there already verses from that chapter in your memory bank? The answer is probably "Yes!" because some of these verses are among the most comforting and encouraging in the Bible!

Dr. Jeremiah writes: "There is no chapter in all of the Bible which so clearly presents what the spiritual life is meant to be for the believer in Christ. ...If you ever have doubts about your salvation, turn to the truths found in Romans 8 to be strengthened and encouraged in your walk. Romans chapter 8 is the key chapter in the New Testament to help us understand how to effectively live the Christian life -- to live our life the way God intends us to live it." And no matter what our church or denomination, no matter where we are in our Christian life, this study is one that will strengthen our spiritual lives!

You can attend either a Zoom study or an in-person study. The Zoom study is on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 for 6 weeks, beginning June 29 and ending August 3. The in-person study is on Thursday mornings at 10 am, beginning June 30 and ending August 4. (You can also participate in some sessions in person and others on Zoom, depending on your own schedule that week.)

There are 8 lessons in the study; we will be covering these in 6 sessions.) Ideally, before each session, you will have spent time reading the material and answering some/all of the personal questions. But if you just want to sit in, listen, and participate where you choose to, please know that you are welcome!

For those of you attending CCHP, you can pick up your study guide in the Narthex and fill out the sign-up sheet. For others of you from our area or long-distance, please email me to let me know that you need a study guide I will make sure you receive one - either by delivering one or mailing one to you. (There is no cost for the study guide.) My email: sbennington@optonline.net



In early June, we had eight members participate in our CPR event who have achieved the Lay Person Certification. Our church is also fortunate to have seven members of the town's ambulance corps who are EMS CPR certified. We hope their skills are not ever required, but it's good to know we have 15 members who can assist if an emergency arises.

Thank you to the outreach committee for making this CPR class possible.

WORSHIP

SANAE TOMITA & CHRIS NOVAK

In June, five young Christians were confirmed and scholarships were presented to three others who will begin college in September. Please continue offering your warm wishes and prayer support to these young people.

Due to present levels of Covid cases, our annual Communion Breakfast is re-scheduled for Sunday, July 24 with breakfast served from 9:15 - 9:45 AM. Worship will begin promptly at 10:00 AM.



The Men's Group will meet again on
Saturday, July 16 at 8:30 AM.
All men are welcome to join us!

Looking for a way to help your church?

Are you good with the computer?

Do you like to work with
Microsoft Publisher?

Perhaps you'd be interested in serving
as our Courier editor.

If so, contact Lori Anders at
cchp@verizon.net or call her at
201-768-2457



A volunteer or volunteers are
needed to take the food/supplies
that are donated and bring them
to the food pantry. If you're in-
terested in filling this need, please
call Lori Anders in the church of-
fice at 201-768-2457 or email her
at cchp@verizon.net.

THE UNITY PRAYER

6/19/22: We seek your forgiveness, God, when we exhibit more
excitement and joy pursuing life's pleasures than traveling on our
walk of faith.

2022 SUMMER OFFICE HOURS!

June 21 - Sept. 2

Tuesday - Thursday, 9 AM to 3 PM

Regular office hours will resume

9 AM to 3 PM on September 7

The Ramsey Wind Symphony will be performing a free concert on the back lot, corner
of Glen Avenue and Dean Street, on Sunday, June 26 at 3 PM, weather permitting.



Bring a chair and enjoy some great music!

It will be cancelled if it rains.





Dearest loving church family,

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for your love and support. The celebration and acknowledgments were so moving and heartwarming. Thank you everyone!

Our church family has been the center of our life. Every church member in some way has touched our hearts: from 1960 through 2022 we have been embraced by this loving genuine extended family. Our journey began with Anne being a young confirmand, to marriage with David, then becoming parents of three children who were baptized and confirmed at CCHP. You were all there; you prayed with us through all our challenges, both joys and concerns; your prayers, hugs, smiles and kind words have been cherished and stored in our soul.

We have tried our best to follow God's lead to share in our gifts and talents, whether with music, technology, fellowship and outreach. Thanks to all the members who worked beside us, cheered us on, and gave a nod of approval. We all work together as God wants us to share his love and support his people. It has been an honor and a privilege to be God's disciple of this great church family. Thank God for all our blessings and thank you Community Church in Harrington Park.

In God's Grace,

Anne & David McBride

510 Sandpiper Bay Dr

Sunset Beach, NC 28468

Come visit!



*In Memory of
John Troast*

Many folks may remember John Troast who passed away at 100 years of age in February. John was a devout Christian who was always a presence at church. John was always in a suit, no matter how warm it was, as he worshipped the Lord. John served his country during World

War II as a cook on a submarine. He worked for the post office for many years and was a volunteer fireman in Westwood. John and his wife, Ruth, have two daughters—Jane and Beverly. He lived in Westwood on a large piece of property where he grew flowers and vegetables and even a chestnut tree. He was known for his gladiolas, which he enjoyed decorating the church with when in season. He was a private man of strong character and few words. He was modest and did not seek attention or praise from men. The church has planted a crepe myrtle bush in front of the main window of Johnson Chapel in his memory. When you see it bloom, hopefully this summer, may it remind you of John and his love for the Lord!



*With
Deepest
Sympathy*

We mourn with Phyllis Skae over the death of her son, Richard, on May 19. Please remember Phyllis and her family in your prayers. You can read the obituary here:

www.donellanfuneral.com/obituaries/Richard-A-Skae?obld=24919581



We celebrate with Ann Froeder the marriage of her daughter, Elyse Wunschel, to George Puccio on June 4th.

We also celebrate with Alyssa and Justin Johnson the marriage of their daughter, Hannah, to Frank Favata on June 17th.



Happy 69th Wedding Anniversary on June 12th to our pastor emeritus,

The Rev. Charles Johnson and his wife, Donna!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Anonymous; Lynn Baker; Deanna and Roger Carman; Ernie Hepperle; Nancy Lanzalotto; Ed Serrano; Richard Smyth; Craig Terjanian.





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Congratulations to our 2022 Graduates

High School

Brielle Kaiser, attending University of Vermont

Yulia Sayer, attending Summit House and BOCES to study animal care

Johanna Serrano, attending Rochester Institute of Technology

College

Bryan Baker, University of Texas at Austin

Graduate School

Jillian Johnson, Master of Public Health (MPH) in Behavioral, Social and Health Education Sciences from the Rollins School of Public Health (Emory University)

Ally Johnson, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) from
Columbia University

