



The Courier

2022

One Spring Street, PO Box 185, Harrington Park NJ
07640

Community Church in Harrington Park

The Courier
published by
the Community Church in
Harrington Park
The Rev. Steve Sayer,
Pastor
Office--201-768-2457;
Cell--570-656-1412;
Home--201-768-2474
Community Church email:
cchp@verizon.net
The Rev. Charles P. Johnson,
Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. George V. Kaden,
Pastor Emeritus

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Holy Week approaches. Here's why it matters.

Perhaps you've been watching the war in Ukraine on your TV. We certainly have. I suspect my view is colored by having three Ukrainian kids, but I also have two Russian kids. This is horrific. Obscene. As has been pointed out recently, it's also the way the world has always been until 1945. We read through the Old Testament and we read of constant invasions and battles: Midianites, Israelites, Assyrians and Babylonians. All of them doing what we're now seeing on our TVs. And we also remember Alexander the Great and Napoleon. Even the United States has invaded a country or two along the way. It's universal. And the horrors of unnecessary, acquisitive war are also universal. The pain that goes hand in hand with it have been a near-constant in our history.

This is why Good Friday matters. This year the sin of humanity ought to be perhaps more clearer than ever as we enter Lent. This is why – we are why – Jesus went to the cross. Our sin is so pervasive, so down-through-the-years, so much a part of each one of us that this is the only way we can be free of it.

But precisely because our sin is so pervasive, it becomes clear that Jesus is our only hope, His church is our only hope. This is why Easter matters. The open maw of Jesus' tomb is hope. The guards lying fainted on the ground are hope. Thomas putting his fingers on the risen Jesus' wounds is hope. The idea that Jesus has been raised and we will be too is hope. The church gathering to sing *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* is hope. The church supporting the homeless is hope. The church as it tries to make the Gospel known is hope. Our lost and broken world desperately needs the hope of Jesus.



FROM OUR
PASTOR



Pastor's Letter(cont'd)

He is, in fact, its only hope!

Perhaps you will be watching this cruel, unnecessary war unfold this Lent. Perhaps a feeling of our pervasive sin will overcome you, as it has me. That's not altogether bad. But let it also be tempered by a feeling of unrestrained hope. As a preacher once intoned: it may be Friday, but Sunday's coming.



Grace and peace,

PS There is a guy, Serge, who facilitated the adoption of our kids. It was a business for him – but a business born of caring for kids. This is a guy who took us to the Ukrainian office for kids in orphanages in Kyiv. The woman there pulled the files for Vika and Yulia and left the office for a moment. Serge “liberated” pictures of them as infant and four-year old, respectively – the only pictures we have of them as young children. Serge was a dual American/Ukrainian citizen and could have left when the war started. Instead he picked up a rifle to fight for the country of his birth. He was killed by a Russian sniper soon thereafter. This represented not only one life that was lost, but dozens of Ukrainian orphans who journey to a family was just made immensely more difficult. The link that follows is one person's reflection about him. Perhaps it will make this war a bit more personal.

https://www.lovewhatmatters.com/ukrainian-man-dies-defending-kyiv-from-russian-attacks-hero-adoption-kindness/?fbclid=IwAR0o2UKGk9hyIWSoA_zQTdxDgzmeQXL1nubh4722HPXII_NLEbfk2k3Xy-c

UNITY PRAYER: God, in a lost and broken world where war, ethnic hatred, and violence against our neighbor is so prevalent, may the Holy Spirit move our hearts to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.



OUTREACH

NINA POND

Exciting news to share about our Community Church website. The outreach committee is now

going to move forward to redesign our website. The website redesign is a detailed process of revamping your site, which includes updating content, refreshing layouts, and improving navigation for better conversions and site performance.

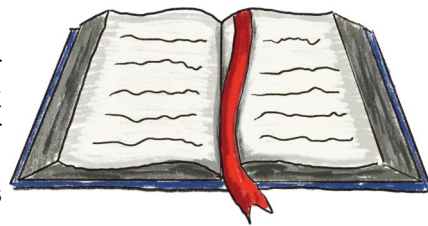
If you have any questions, please call Nina Pond at 646-285-3349 or email her at ninamariepond@gmail.com.



Pastor's Project

HOW ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR BIBLE READING?

As you know, our church is reading a large swathe of Scripture together this year. Each day we have a chapter or two that we read, and we talk about a piece of the weekly reading on Sunday morning (and also in our Wednesday Lenten services). I hope you're doing well with your reading. Over the next few weeks, we're coming to a section of Scripture that's pretty hard to deal with – Joshua and Judges.



There are a lot of battles, destruction and death in these books. If you find yourself wondering how God could be involved in something like this, I would offer one thought. Focus on what these passages intend to teach us, rather than the details. So, for example, as Israel battles for Canaan, remember that God has promised this land to the Hebrews and is trying to keep that faithful promise to this called-out people. This is what the passage is really trying to tell us. There are times when all the inhabitants of a city are expected to be killed. The passage is trying to teach that the people of the land, with their emphasis on idolatry, are a temptation to the Hebrews. Always look for the broader theme and principle.

Keep it up! It's hard to keep reading day after day. If you've fallen behind, you don't have to make it up – just start reading where the assigned passage for the day and keep moving forward.

MUSIC PROGRAM

AMY DURAM, MUSIC DIRECTOR



Looking forward to presenting many beautiful pieces for the season of Lent and Holy Week! Come join the choir during this important time of our Christian faith. Rehearsals are Thursday evening from 7:30-9:00.

*May they sing of the ways of the LORD,
for the glory of the LORD is great.*

Psalm 138:5



THE WARWICK CONFERENCE CENTER IS ALSO SUFFERING FROM COVID

Many of you will know of the Warwick Conference Center, the conference center owned jointly by the Synod of New York and our synod, The Synod of the Mid-Atlantics. They have managed to persevere throughout COVID by being very careful with expenditures. Just when they thought they could open back up again and begin generating revenue, the Omicron wave hit. A number of groups that were expecting to use the facility had to cancel.

They are now at a make-or-break moment. Our church has given them \$5000 from the Foundation. They need a total of \$62,000 to make expenses. If you would like to give, you can send checks to:



The Warwick Conference Center

P.O. Box 349 Warwick

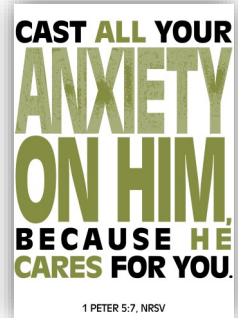
New York 10990

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

STEVE BAUMANN & JOCELYN BRUECK

We are pleased to announce that we are blessed to move towards regular church activities! We are planning to start coffee hour again starting April 3rd. Being able to fellowship once again after church service will be wonderful! A section of Founders' Hall will be set up for those who want to wear masks and fellowship.

There will be a Lenten dinner served by the consistory before the last Lenten service on April 6th starting at 6:15 pm promptly. This will be another opportunity to move towards regular church activities and renew fellowship. We look forward to seeing you at these fellowship gatherings.



Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for the warm welcome that you've given to Norah. Because our future with her is uncertain, it's always been our goal to make sure that Norah's beginning was as grounded in love as it could be. You have helped to make that the case. The generosity with which you've greeted her has been so encouraging to us. She is growing and smiling and waving – all the things baby girls should do. We've come to love her so quickly and profoundly.

We're not sure what will happen in her future. Perhaps she will be adopted; perhaps she will go back to her birth mom; or maybe 17 years from now we'll be teaching her how to drive. We will simply have to hang loose with what is to come – we're not in charge of it. And we commit her into God's hands to guide her future. With much love, Steve and Jer



On behalf of our family, we would like to give a shout out to the Caring and Sharing committee and to the Congregational Care team for the many meals that were prepared and delivered to our home. What a blessing it was! And so beautifully prepared which included spiritual nourishment. Love, the Serrano's



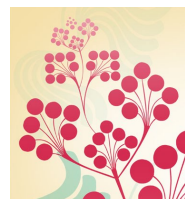
A heartfelt thank-you to all of you for all the support shown to me after my husband Walter passed away. Your hugs, cards, phone calls, flowers, help around the house, and food will never be forgotten during these difficult and lonely days. I have prayed and thanked the Lord for the blessings shown to me. If anyone ever asks you to define a "church family", refer them to me. I've used that term to many friends, and family a lot lately. You're the best. With love, Wini K



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all of your support during the time of my mom's passing. That week was a blur to me but you—the prayers, cards and phone calls helped me get through the tough time. I would like to say thank you for stepping up and making my days a little easier when I wasn't sure how I was going to get all the preparations done. The phone rang at just the right time and the meals arrived when I just didn't want to think about it. The timing was always so perfect! Thank you for thinking of my family...we are very appreciative of our church family!

Hugs, Stephanie, Paul & children



MID-WEEK LENTEN SUPPER



Wednesday, April 6th
6:15 PM
the last Wednesday
service
before Holy Week.

COME JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP!

SUNDAY SCHOOL & PUPPETS

The Sunday School and puppet program are for ages 3 and up. They will meet each Sunday beginning at 10 AM in Founders' Hall. The first half of the session is a Sunday School lesson, and then all the children work with the puppets. Questions about puppets? Feel free to call Miss Joan at (201) 768-0733 or email her at jhoerauf@naihanson.com



JOIN US — weekly
Lenten services

Wednesday at 7:30 PM.

The children's program
is offered for children
ages 3 and up.



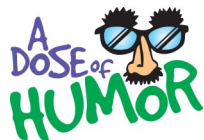
We express our deepest sympathies to the family of John Troast who passed away, February 19th. No service will be held. Please keep John's family in your prayers as they mourn his loss. Condolences can be sent to his daughter at the following address:
Jane Long
48 Lafayette Avenue
Westwood NJ 07675

THE 2022 **FLOWER CALENDAR** is on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs. The cost is \$25 per bouquet. Make your check out to the Guild for Christian Service. Fill out a slip with your dedication wording and leave it on the desk in the church office.

FINANCE

JOAN HOERAUF & LES COX

Time is going by quickly – especially for our high school seniors. Each year CCHP offers scholarships funded by the Foundation, to our graduating seniors going on to college. Applications are available in the church office or by contacting Lori. The application is due by May 1. Scholarships will be awarded at the Communion breakfast held in June. Any questions please call either Joan Hoerauf or Les Cox of the finance committee.



SNL SAVE THE DATE

May 14th at 7:00 pm, Saturday

Robert Caminiti, former assistant director of "Saturday Night Live" will walk the audience through a SNL episode.

Come and join the fun and laughter.

A meeting for all Guild for
Christian Service Members
Tuesday, April 12, 2022
at 7:30 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

If you are interested to join our
meeting email Anne McBride at:

annelmcbride@gmail.com

WORSHIP

SANAE TOMITA & CHRIS NOVAK

The good news is that spring will officially begin on Sunday, March 20 and as the weather warms up and Covid concerns lessen, we hope you will join us each week during Lent for the 10:00 AM Sunday service and the 7:30 PM Wednesday Lenten service. The consistory plans to host a pasta dinner prior to the last mid-week Lenten service on April 6. We hope you will attend. See more information from the congregational care committee.



We are in need of Sunday ushers and greeters. A sign-up board is in the Narthex. Please choose a Sunday to serve the Lord by greeting your CCHP family and collecting the offering.

Looking Ahead: There will be a Maundy Thursday Communion service on Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 PM. On April 17, Easter Sunday worship begins with the 6:30 AM dawn service at Pondsides Park and then 10:00 AM. worship in the sanctuary.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



Anonymous; Lynn Baker; Marilyn Hams; Nancy Lanzaletto; Ed Serrano; Richard Smyth; Craig Terjanian.



Sunday Service

@ 10 am

Worshipping in Our Sanctuary
TO PROVIDE INSPIRATION
AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH



CCHP MEN'S MEETING

BOB CARR

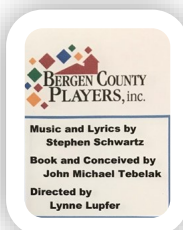


Our Men's Group will be meeting in person Saturday morning March 19 at 9 AM. We invite all men to join this gathering which has proven to be a really positive experience for our guys.



Lynne Lupfer is directing Godspell at Bergen County Players in Oradell. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM and Sundays at 2 PM from March 19 through April 10. Tickets are \$25. Audience members are required to be vaccinated and masked. For more information or to buy tickets, go to:

www.bcplayers.org



WOMEN'S BREAKFAST MINISTRY

SANDY BENNINGTON



We were able to have two women's breakfast sessions on March 5 - one in person in Founders' Hall and one on Zoom for women who are not able to come in person at this time. We are grateful that we were able to sit together and talk about God's promises in both the Old and New Testaments. Our Women's Breakfast ministry will resume again in October. Thanks to the women who have helped and thanks to the women who have been able to attend, whether on Zoom or in person! See you in October!

New Deacon

Jocelyn Brueck will be joining consistory as a deacon, filling the final year of Shirley Parma's term. We thank Shirley for all her hard work. Jocelyn will be installed on Sunday, March 13th. Please pray for all of our elders and deacons as they lead our church.





One Spring Street
PO Box 185
Harrington Park NJ 07640

www.cchpchurch.org



NEXT COURIER DEADLINE:

April 10, 2022

March 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AT A GLANCE

Ash Wednesday — March 2
Lent Services— March 9, 16, 23, 30
World Day of Prayer — March 4
Daylight-Saving Time — March 13
St. Patrick's Day — March 17
First Day of Spring — March 20