

The Courier



COMMUNITY CHURCH

ONE SPRING STREET, HARRINGTON PARK, NJ 07640

The Courier, published by the
Community Church in Harrington
Park

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The Rev. Charles P. Johnson,
Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. George V. Kaden,

Dear Friends,

I hope by now you've received a letter from our church indicating a couple things: I'm not retiring... yet; and we will be forming a search committee in order to be prepared for the time I do. I'll turn 65 at the beginning of next year, and that means retirement time is approaching. I will have many mixed emotions at that time, as I have come to care for all of you, and our church, a great deal. I don't know exactly when my retirement date will be. We're waiting for our Rhode Island house to be renovated, so it can accommodate a family that seems to be growing about the time you would expect it to be shrinking. I expect it will be in the first half of 2024, but that's about as precise as I can be at this point. Until that time comes, I'm going pedal to the metal in order to help our church continue to move forward. (In the rough draft of my letter I mistakenly wrote, "Petal to the metal," which sort of conveys the opposite intention of how I hope to be working among you. Fortunately, Lori, our faithful administrator, caught the mistake.)

Search times are obviously variable, and the consistory and I are committed to minimizing the time the church will be without a pastor. In order to minimize that time, it seemed wise to approve the formation of a search committee now. The members have not yet been named. We will, of course, let you know who they are as soon as that gets finalized. We hope that they will begin a search process that will bear fruit somewhere around the time I end up retiring.

Part of the typical search process is figuring out who a church is trying to be together. I've always thought that was a bit odd. A church ought to already know who it is trying to be together, especially if the pastor is worth his/her salt. Accordingly, I will be reemphasizing our eight scriptural guiding principles – over and over, until you probably can't stand it anymore – because these are a summation of the ways Scripture tells us to be together. (Some of you have indicated that you don't quite understand these, so I've added a key question that I hope clarifies them a little more. See the separate article in this edition of *The Courier*.) I hope that you're also ready to keep moving and working and being willing to let the Spirit change us individually and together – I refuse to let this be a lame duck time together! It is a privilege to serve Him with you.

Grace and peace,

PS I've spoken in worship a couple times about the TV show, *Ted Lasso*. The brilliant writer and Episcopalian priest, Tish Harrison Warren, recently wrote in her column in the *New York Times* about this show. If you want to read her column, you can find it here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/30/opinion/ted-lasso-holy-fool.html?>



FROM OUR
PASTOR

Are You an Elder?

Read This, Then Email Me! (Richard Bierwas, The Classis of Greater Palisades' classis minister)

The Classis is trying to address a shortage of pulpit supply. Part of our response is to affirm the gifts of elders. There are formally trained Preaching elders and then there are elder who are willing to preach. The difference is more than splitting hairs. My point? The Classis is looking for a few good elders who are willing to be prepared to fill the pulpit of their churches from time to time.

To this end, we have begun to consider all that would be involved in preparing elders who are open to being trained. While the Classis still has considerable work to do, we already have had one elder step forward, **Elder Ron Romaine**, of the English Neighborhood Reformed Church. I have also reached out to another Elder of Classis and await to hear back. Consider joining Elder Romaine as part of our inaugural class.

In the meanwhile, work is underway as to how the Classis should go about this important and timely project. Richard can be reached at rbierwas@hohokuscommunitychurch.com

Worship Committee News

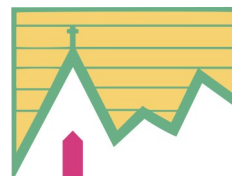
Communion Sunday will be held on May 14, Mothers' Day. The Communion Breakfast & Worship Service with scholarship awards is scheduled on June 18, Father's Day, at 9:30 AM in Founder's Hall.

As much as possible, we are scheduling ushers one week in advance. Please let us know if you would like to serve as an usher.

Sanae Tomita McKay and Chris Novak



CCHP offers one-time scholarships to students who have been accepted to or are attending an accredited institution of post-high school education. The scholarships are based on church involvement and financial need. Applications are available on the counter in the church office and are due back by May 15. Once they are reviewed by the scholarship committee and approved by consistory, the recipients will be notified. The recipients are expected to attend worship on Fathers' Day when the scholarships are awarded. If you have any questions, please email Les Cox at lescox@outlook.com.



Church
FINANCES

Our finances are running somewhat behind, currently at a deficit. Please continue to keep up with your pledges and weekly giving. It helps us meet our budget.



**Courier
DEADLINE:**

**Newsletter Articles
June 9th**

**Facebook and
Instagram**

Remember to like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram. You can take a picture of this code with your device, and it will take you right to our Instagram page.



GUILD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Attention Graduates! (or parents of graduates)

THE GARAGE SALE

was a successful fund raiser of over \$2,300 for missions due to your generous donations of saleable items and baked goods. We greatly appreciate the help of over 30 people who set-up, cleaned-up, and worked the day of the sale.



THE WOMEN'S POTLUCK DINNER will be held on Tuesday, June 13th at 6:00 PM in Founder's Hall. We invite all women of the church to come for an evening of fellowship. The Guild will provide strawberry shortcake for dessert and beverages. If you are able, you may bring an entree, salad or side dish.

Tracy Ciavaglia & Chris Novak

Do you have a child graduating from 8th grade, high school, college or higher? If so, please let us know by June 1st so we can include their names in our "graduates" listing in June. You can send it via email to cchp@verizon.net or call the church office at 201-768-2457.



Thanks

To our CCHP Family,

We cannot thank you enough for the great kindnesses you all have shared with us in recent days. Your calls, kind words, cards, flowers, and food have all been so appreciated.

It was also special for our family to have the visiting hours held at the church. Thank you so much for the use of Johnson Chapel and for the wonderful assortment of goodies provided. So many of you have shared fun memories of Arnie with us, too, which is thoughtful. We are so grateful for your wonderful support to our family.

Anene Seymour-Jones and Karen (Seymour-Jones) Madison

We were pleased to celebrate the Sacrament of

Baptism

Baptism on April 30th for Payton Maureen Reilly, daughter of Kayla and Christopher Reilly, granddaughter of Lori and Chuck Anders.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Anonymous
- Lynn Baker
- Craig Ciavaglia
- Harold Friedeman
- Ernie Hepperle
- Nancy Lanzalotto
- Ed Serrano
- Craig Terjanian

New Church Office Hours

We are experimenting with new church office hours. They are:

Through June 19th

Tuesday-Friday, 9 to 1 PM

June 23—September 4

Tuesday-Thursday, 9 to 1 PM

Clarifying our Scriptural Guiding Principles

We're lucky! We don't have to figure it all out by ourselves! Scripture is pretty clear about who the church is supposed to be together and what we're supposed to do. We've distilled all this into eight guiding principles for the church. Once we have a good sense of how Scripture (through these eight principles) is telling us to be together, we get a sense of the beauty, magic, and power of Christ's church. You've certainly seen these principles before, but I've added a key question to them that I hope clarifies what they're saying. Please take a look at them so you'll more fully understand the direction of our church.

Guiding Principles

Belonging together – Fellowship – becoming people who practice the love and care of Christ for each other. (Key question: How do we nurture love and care for and amongst those in the church? What programs, events and processes can we use to show our love and care for people in our church?)

Building Faith – Discipleship – Becoming people who are gradually becoming more Christ-like. (Key question: How do we encourage each other in things like Bible reading, prayer, small groups, etc.?)

Beholding God – Worship – Becoming people who connect with God in worship. (Key question: how do we construct worship practices that leave us really in touch with God?)

Bearing Fruit – Ministry – Becoming people who find and follow how God's calling and crafting us for ministry. (Key question: What programs, processes and personnel can we use to help each other figure out what our call to ministry is, and then take up that call?)

Bringing Others – Evangelism – Becoming people who assist the Spirit to help others make connections with Christ. (Key question: How do we encourage one another to bring friends to worship so the Spirit may be able to work in them?)

Being One – Unity – Living as people who are one, not letting barriers of ethnicity, education, economic, theology, or personal feelings divide us. (Key question: How do we manifest the diversity of our area in our church?)


Bestowing Mercy – Helping people in need – Becoming people who serve the world in compassion and love. (Key question: How do we show our love to the world outside our doors in ways that are impactful, continuing and personal, and more than occasional and financial?)

Boosting Ministry – Administration, and leadership – becoming people who figure out structures that encourage all these things to happen. (Key question: How do we support ministry through providing appropriate financial resources, helpful buildings and grounds, helpful, empowering committees, constructive practices and leadership development?)

Be merciful,
JUST AS YOUR FATHER
is merciful.
LUKE 6:36

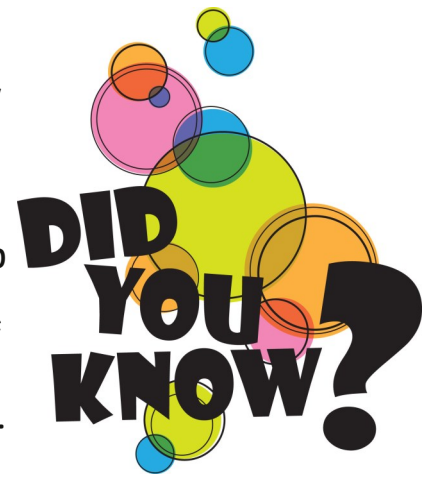
The Community Church
in Harrington Park



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6
May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13
		1:00—7:00 Blood Drive in FH 7:30 Deborah Circle	9:00 Courier Assembly 1:30 Rachel Circle 7:30 RWS in FH	7:30 Christian Ed mtg. 7:30 Choir	11:00—3:00 Club 60 in FH	 MEN'S Breakfast GROUP Girl Scouts Mothers' Day Tea in FH
May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20
 Happy Mother's Day! 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Children's Choir	7:45 Bell Choir		Feed Our Souls 7:30 RWS in FH	Feed Our Souls 7:30 Choir		
May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27
9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Children's Choir 11:30 Worship Committee Mtg.	1:30 HP School Evacuation Drill in FH 7:45 Bell Choir		Feed Our Souls 7:30 RWS in FH	Feed Our Souls 7:30 Choir		3:00 PM Boy Scout Eagle Ceremony
May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31	JUNE 1	JUNE 2	JUNE 3
9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Children's Choir	 Memorial Day		7:30 RWS in FH	7:30 Choir		
JUNE 4	JUNE 5	JUNE 6	JUNE 7	JUNE 8	JUNE 9	JUNE 10
9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:15 Children's Choir 11:30 Guild Exec. Mtg.	8:00—3:00 HPBOE in FH	8:00—3:00 HPBOE in FH 7:30 Consistory	9:00 Courier Assembly 7:30 RWS in FH	7:30 Choir	COURIER DEADLINE 11-3:00 Club 60	 MEN'S Breakfast GROUP

SS = Sunday School; FH = Founders' Hall; HPBOE = Harrington Park Board of Education
RWS = Ramsey Wind Symphony

On a spring day in 1865, Waterloo, NY druggist Henry C. Welles watched as a lone widow walked to the cemetery to place flowers on the grave of her deceased Civil War soldier husband. "How soon they forget," Welles thought, resolving to do something to



make sure that those who gave their lives in defense of their country would not be forgotten. Working with Gen. John B. Murray, Welles planned the first Memorial Day in Waterloo in 1866, and for 150 consecutive years, Waterloo's citizens have remembered. With parades, prayers and ceremonies.



On May 26, 1966, that consistency inspired President Lyndon Johnson to sign a Presidential Proclamation recognizing Waterloo as the official Birthplace of Memorial Day.



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