



The Courier



FROM OUR
PASTOR

Dear Friends,

We talk about the church growing—usually we mean the number of people who attend worship. That’s not unimportant; but to be honest, we can’t really control it. The Holy Spirit brings people... or doesn’t. No matter how hard we work at it, it’s the Holy Spirit Who creates openings in people’s hearts.

But there’s another kind of growth that we have the chance to contribute a bit more to. Don’t get me wrong – the Spirit’s still in charge here, too. But, we provide chances for the Spirit to work, and the Spirit, a bit more predictably, does. You could call it discipleship. Or maybe Building Faith, one of our church’s guiding principles. It happens as we read the Bible. As we pray regularly in ways that are wholistic (including adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and placing ourselves under God’s control). As we talk about our common faith with other folks in small groups. As we internalize what happens in worship.

All this is what we mean when we say discipleship. We Christians are disciples of Jesus, no less than Peter, James and John. We are trying to become “Jesus-y.” Being a disciple takes discipline. The word “discipline” comes from a Latin word that means instruction and training. If you go a little farther back in its evolution, it means “to learn.” So a disciple is a person that allows him/herself chances to learn, discover, and train her/himself around what it means to be Christlike.

When we make those opportunities for ourselves, the Holy Spirit pretty regularly helps us to grow. And, when our church makes opportunities for us to grow, we tend to as well. As a matter of fact, this is one of the things that the Bible calls churches to do – provide chances for people to grow deeper in their faith. This fall, our church will be offering a number of chances to become more Jesus-y. I hope you’ll use these disciplines so that you can become even more a disciple of Christ. It’s a privilege to serve Him with you.

Grace and peace,

COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. George V. Kaden,
Pastor Emeritus



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

As you are all aware our Minister, Steve Sayer, announced that he will be retiring next year. A search committee has been formed as follows: Bob Carr and Jeff Pond, Co-Chairman, Joan Hoerauf, Communicator/Liaison to the congregation, Jane Marshall, Chris Novak, liaison to the Consistory, Jill Cox and Justin Johnson. Our Classis Supervisor is Pastor Jodie Wu, pastor of Bogart Memorial Reformed Church in Bogota, New Jersey. She will be attending our Search Committee meetings and provide guidance and advice in our search. We are presently working on the "The Community Church in Harrington Park Profile," which provides a detailed overview of our church. We expect to complete this document in September. Once approved, we will send this document along with a pastor's job description to the Reformed Church in America to post on its website for prospective candidates to review. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the Search Committee members. We will keep you informed as to the progress of our committee.



CCHP Chancel Choir

We hope you had a chance to hear us sing some of our anthems during worship services. We try our best to make your worship experience more meaningful through music.

As we move into the fall of 2023, we are always looking for a few more voices. So, if you are of a mind and voice, we have a music binder waiting for you to sing to the glory of God.

You do not need to read music. (I do not myself.) Come join us beginning on Thursday, September 7 at 7:30 PM.

Our regular rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM and Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM

Dennis Novak, Chancel Choir
President



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We trust that you have had a restful and relaxing summer, sharing special times with friends and family. Pastor Sayer's sermons have been a series of meaningful messages on the theme of "wise sayings related to Scripture." As we move into fall, we will continue our lively and joyous services, always with special music, awaiting you to refresh and reenergize your Christian faith practice.

September 17 is our fall kick-off Sunday with the worship service held outdoors, weather permitting, followed by a picnic. Plan to invite friends to share in this special event. Sunday School and a discipleship campaign begin that day which includes a seven-Sunday exploration of the Gospel themes from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Thank you to all who have ushered and provided nursery care over the summer. Please continue to sign up in the narthex for these two very important Sunday morning ministries.

Worship Committee
Sanae Tomita McKay and Chris Novak

September 17 IS a HUGE Day

Every year the summer winds down and it's time to get rollin' again! Sunday, September 17, is our Kickoff Sunday, with a whole lot of stuff happening. Here's what's going on:

- We begin our fall Discipleship Campaign (see more details later in *The Courier*);
- A seven-week small group program begins;
- Sunday School starts;
- We're having our yearly barbecue (we changed it to fall this year);
- We'll be worshipping outside;
- We're working with the Ramsey Wind Symphony (who uses Founders' Hall each Wednesday evening), and are hoping they can provide some music that day;
- It's one of our semi-annual Bring a Friend Sundays (see more in this edition of *The Courier*).

Please put that day on your calendar. It's a really important day.

If you have plans... cancel 'em. This is bigger. And better!

The Beatles Are Coming... to Our Discipleship Campaign

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah! (That was supposed to be the sound of tens of thousands of people screaming whenever the Beatles played.) The Beatles are coming to the Community Church in Harrington Park. Sort of. In a way. We begin our discipleship campaign on Sunday, September 17. Each Sunday, we'll be using a Beatles' song to drive home the theme for the day. The campaign will go through October 29, with a commitment day on November 5.

Ok, though we're going to be using Beatles songs, the campaign is really centered around an introduction to the Gospels. Most of us know some of the contents of the Gospels, but not many of us know some of the themes that run through each individual Gospel. For example, Luke lifts up the roles of women, outsiders and the poor. John emphasizes the idea of truth and real life. So, we'll be exploring those in worship for seven weeks, and then in small groups that will meet each week of the campaign.

Understanding the themes of each of the Gospels is huge in understanding Jesus – it gives us an additional window into our overall picture of the Christ. We hope this will be a big help to you as you grow in your faith.

Small Groups Starting Again

It's been a long time since we've done small groups. COVID obviously put a big break in our being able to meet in person. Then it took us awhile to get them rolling again. But rolling they are, starting Sunday, September 17.

Our small groups are being done in coordination with our discipleship campaign for the seven weeks from September 17 through October 29. The discipleship campaign will be exploring the themes of each individual Gospel. We will be using really excellent videos from The Bible Project that provide summaries of the main ideas of each Gospel.

There are three opportunities each week to attend a small group: Sunday morning after worship (grab a cup of coffee and then adjourn to the Chapel {except for the first Sunday, where we hope you'll grab a burger and then go to the small group}), Wednesday nights by zoom at 7:15, and Thursday mornings at 10 AM in person in the Chapel.

Please be a part of this seven-week time of small groups. There's no better way to grow in your faith than to talk through issues of faith with other friends and Christians.

Our Church's
125th Anniversary



Have you received the "CCHP 125th Anniversary" postcard? They are on a table in the narthex or have been mailed to those out of the area or unable to attend church. This year we are celebrating 125 years of Christian growth with the first community Sunday School meeting in Harrington Park in 1898, followed by the building of the church on Columbus Ave. and affiliation with the RCA in 1908. We are planning a celebratory worship service and brunch on Sunday, November 19. Former pastors and members, as well as community officials and friends, have received the "save-the-date" card. A more formal invitation with RSVP will be sent in late September. We are planning pictorial displays, both hard copy and digital. Please send any photos to the church at P.O. Box 185, Harrington Park, NJ 07640 or email to cchp@verizon.net. Contact Chris Novak with questions or suggestions, 201-887-0717 or cpn105@optonline.net.

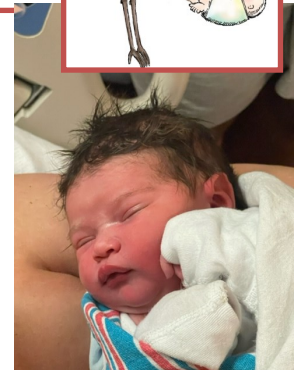
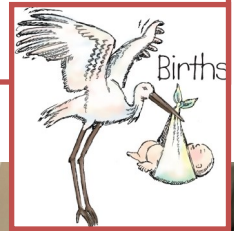
**Please Bring a Friend on
September 17!**

We have a really fun day of worship planned for September 17. We hope you'll bring a friend or family member to worship that day, to see if the Holy Spirit stirs something in them.

Because we all miss COVID so much, we will be recreating our outside COVID worship. Ok, we may not miss those days, but we do think that outdoor worship may be a little more accessible for folks who may not have attended worship in awhile (or maybe ever). Walking into a church might be a little intimidating, but outside is probably less so.

We're working to have the Ramsey Wind Symphony be part of our service that day. That will be great. This will be the start of our discipleship campaign. On each Sunday in the seven weeks of our discipleship campaign we'll be weaving a Beatles song into our worship. And then, right after worship, we'll be moving to a barbecue right after worship is done – eating, of course, is one of the most fun things Christians do.

We believe that bringing people to worship may be the best way to get people thinking about Jesus. The Holy Spirit seems to often act on folks who come to worship for the first time in awhile, especially if the Spirit has been preparing them. And, to be honest, in the kind of secular culture of the Northeast, this seems to be the least threatening way to get folks to think about Jesus. So please think about who the Holy Spirit may be guiding you to bring to worship on Sunday, September 17.



Congratulations to Craig and Liz Budinich on the birth of their granddaughter, Evvy Alexandria, to parents Olivia and Jerome Evans on July 14th.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Lynn Baker
- Roger & Deanna Carman
- Judi Keith
- Janet Kosack
- Nancy Lanzalotto
- Debra Parma
- Ed Serrano
- Craig Terjanian



Our sympathies are extended to Kimberly Kaiser and her family on the passing of her husband, Jim, on July 10th. Please continue to remember the Kaiser family in your prayers.

Thank you for all your prayers. They have been a tremendous comfort to us. It has been an extremely difficult time, but the love and kindness shown by the church have been a blessing. From all the cards to the home-cooked meals prepared for us, we have truly felt the emotional support, and it has lifted us up.

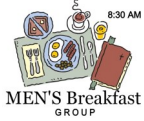
We feel so fortunate to be part of such a compassionate church.

*With much appreciation and gratitude,
The Kaiser family*



The Community Church in Harrington Park

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					September 1	September 2
September 3 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Congregational Care Meeting	September 4	September 5 7:30 Consistory	September 6 7:30 RWS in FH	September 7 5-7 HPBOE in Founders' Hall and Conference Room 7:30 Choir	September 8	September 9  8:30 AM MEN'S Breakfast GROUP
September 10 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS	September 11 7:45 Bell Choir	September 12 7:00 Outreach 7:30 Deborah Circle	September 13 1:30 Rachel Circle 7:30 RWS in FH	September 14 7:30 Choir	September 15	September 16
September 17 Bring a Friend Day! 9:00 Choir 10:00 Kick-Off Worship 11:30 Church BBQ Small Groups begins	September 18 7:45 Bell Choir	September 19	September 20 7:00 Property Committee 7:30 RWS in FH	September 21 5 – 7 PM HPBOE in FH and Conf. Room 7:30 Choir	September 22	September 23
September 24 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS	September 25 7:45 Bell Choir	September 26	September 27 7:30 RWS in FH	September 28 7:30 Choir	September 29	September 30
October 1 World Communion Sunday 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:30 Cong. Care Meeting	October 2 7:45 Bell Choir	October 3 7:30 Consistory	October 4 7:30 RWS in FH	October 5 5 – 7 PM HPBOE in FH and Conf. Room 7:30 Choir	October 6	October 7 9:30 Women's Breakfast Ministry

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

Snack Pack Event

Thursday, August 24, 2023

10 AM to 12 Noon

Help us assemble 1,000 Snack Packs for children to ensure they get enough food on weekends and holidays.



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