



The Courier

Dear Friends,

After each worship service, I stand at the door and greet you folks. It's such a pleasure to do so – it's a great time to catch up with you each Sunday. Anyway, invariably somebody says, "I enjoyed the sermon." I know what they mean – something like, "Thank you for giving me something to think about." But I also have to bite my tongue, because my instinctual response would be something like, "Oh. Then I probably didn't do it right."

We carry around a lot of misconceptions about worship. We often think it's something we should enjoy (though we should!), that we like (hopefully we do), that comforts us (that also ought to happen, at least from time to time). We think the music ought to meet our needs, the sermon should uplift us. But worship isn't really about what makes us feel good.



Sometimes we think it's about edification. We ought to learn something new. Of course, that's always helpful, but that's not it either.

The essence of worship is two things that are really one thing. It's to lay ourselves before God, to offer ourselves up to Him. As Paul says to the Romans, "Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice..." We say to God, "I am Yours. Use me as You need. Ask me to do what You require. Change me as You think best."

There's a second thing that worship is: connecting with God. The Bible often talks about us being "in Christ." Sometimes it talks about Christ being "in us." So worship helps us to be tied to God.

And both of those things are connected, right? When we offer ourselves to Him, we're more tied to God. And, as we're more tied to God, we can more fully offer ourselves.

Worship is so often shaped by our traditions, what we as Reformed Christians "do" each week. But really the way we worship ought to be determined by one key question: how do we construct worship practices that leave us really in touch with God? What practices would help you do that? Think about that question – if some answers become clear to you, let me know. I'd love to hear what would help you offer yourself to God and be more fully connected to God. It's a privilege to serve Him with you.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Steve Sayer".

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NJ 07640

Community Church
in Harrington Park

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

September 17 Is a Special Day

We have SOOOO much going on here on Sunday, September 17. We'll have an outdoor service that day, in the field behind the parsonage. (You could bring a chair if you have one – we'll also have some set up). It's the day that *Lessons from Liverpool*, our fall discipleship campaign begins. The campaign is focusing on the emphases of each of the Gospels, illustrated by a Beatles song. Small groups, which are part of the campaign, start then too. The Ramsey Wind Symphony will be here and playing during the service. Sunday School kicks off that day. And then, after the service, there will be a barbecue, outside of Founders' Hall.

It's also a Bring-a-Friend Day. We think an outdoor service might be a little more accessible for folks who may not have attended worship for awhile. With everything going on that day, it will be a great day to bring a family member, a friend who doesn't have a church, or maybe the new neighbor who moved in this summer, to worship with you. Maybe you could do a bit of praying about who you might bring with you that day.

Small Groups Begin Again after a "Brief" Hiatus

Well, it's been about three COVID-induced years since we've been able to implement our full small group program. We start up again this September 17, as part of our fall discipleship campaign, *Lessons from Liverpool*. Our groups will run for seven weeks, through the week following Sunday, October 29.

We will be using a really excellent set of videos produced by The Bible Project. They summarize the main themes of the Gospels. And so the subjects we look at in each session will similarly look at the primary foci of each Gospel, as will the Scripture lessons and sermon on each Sunday.

We will have three groups this go-round. One will meet on Sundays after worship at around 11:15. Grab a cup of coffee and go up to Johnson Chapel. For the first Sunday only, September 17, we will meet later than that because of the church barbecue. The group on that will begin at around noon.

There will be another set of live sessions that gets together on Wednesday evening at 7:15 by Zoom, beginning September 20. We will ask you to sign up for the sessions, but it's especially critical that you Zoomers sign up, because we'll need to contact you with the link. You can email Steve Sayer at sayercchp@verizon.net to sign up, or call the church office at 201-768-2457. There's group that gathers on Thursday mornings in the Chapel at 10 AM, starting September 21.

You need not do any preparation for these studies. It's worth mentioning that the videos to be viewed in each session are chock full of information – it will be hard to get it all down in one session. You might want to look at them before or after each session to better retain the info. The videos are only six to eight minutes long. If you want to really be prepared, you could look at the half of a Gospel we'll be considering each time we get together. But even without the optional preparation, you'll get a lot out of each video and discussion about relevant passages from each Gospel.

Here's a list of the optional preparation you could do:

Week after 9/17

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/matthew-1-13/>

Read Matthew 1-13

Week after 9/24

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/matthew-14-28/>

Read Matthew 14-28

Week after 10/1

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-mark/>

Read Mark

Week after 10/8

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/luke-1-9/>

Read Luke 1-9

Week after 10/15

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/luke-10-24/>

Read Luke 10-24

Week after 10/22

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/john-1-12/>

Read John 1-12

Week after 10/29

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/john-13-21/>

Read John 13-21

The Congregational Care Committee will host the Church BBQ this Sunday, 9/17, following the church service. It will be a busy day with the start of the Sunday School program and Bring-a-Friend! We are looking forward to a fun day celebrating together. Please join us as we bring the summer to a close and kick off the start of a new school year and other fall festivities.

Congregational Care will be providing the grilled hot dogs with all the fixings.

We are looking for the guests to bring either a side or a dessert item that feeds at least eight people. If you haven't already signed up, please email cchp@verizon.net with the number of people and what you will be bringing.

A large beverage cooler is needed with a pour spout. If you have one you can lend us, please text Jocelyn at 201-370-5268 or Jean at 201-313-8442.



The Women's Breakfast Ministry will begin again on Saturday, October 7, at 9:30 am. Please mark your calendars and plan to come! This is an opportunity to catch up and converse with other women as we share breakfast at 9:30. Then we will have a speaker who will share her faith journey with us. Start your Saturday with fellowship and spiritual inspiration! Bring friends and neighbors, too!

Sandy Bennington



September 17 is our fall kick-off Sunday with the worship service being held outdoors, weather-permitting, followed by a picnic. Plan to invite friends to share in this special event. A discipleship campaign begins that day which includes a seven-Sunday exploration of the Gospel themes from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We are setting up outside for worship, and the picnic at 4:00 PM on Saturday. If you're available, please come and help with tables and chairs.

Sunday, October 1 is **World Communion Sunday**. We will join Christians worldwide who are participating in Communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Saturday, September 30 is a church workday, and the worship committee will be cleaning and polishing in the sanctuary. If you can help for an hour or two, please contact Sanae at sanae.tomita@dannon.com or Chris at cpn105@optonline.net

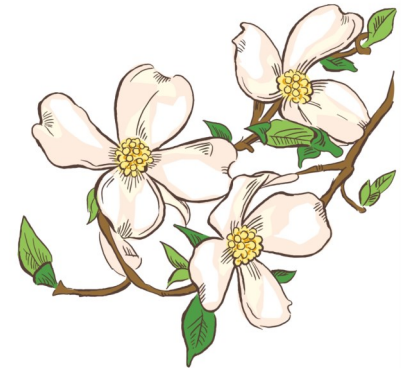
Thank you to all who have ushered and provided nursery care over the summer. Please continue to sign up in the narthex for these two very important Sunday morning ministries.

Sanae Tomita McKay and Chris Novak

Women's Guild for Christian Service

The Guild for Christian Service would like to invite all women of the church to attend one of our circle meetings which happen every month; Deborah Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM and Rachel Circle meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1:30 PM. Both circles are wonderful opportunities of fellowship and spiritual growth. Please join us!

Tracy Ciavaglia and Chris Novak, Guild Co-Presidents



soup's ON!

Please join us for the **Fall Soup Supper on Thursday, October 12th at 6:30pm** in Founders' Hall. All are welcome! We plan to have a variety of delicious, hearty soups. It's not necessary, but if you'd like to help out by bringing a soup or a bread to add to the selections, please contact Tracy Ciavaglia, tracy.ciavaglia@hotmail.com or Chris Novak, cpn105@optonline.net.

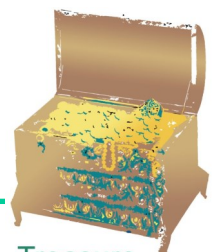
SAVE THE DATE!

Guild Autumn Bazaar

Saturday, November 4th

There will be many great items for sale at Stitchery, Potpourri, Books and Puzzles and foods at Baked Goods and the Lunch Cafe. **PLEASE NOTE:** There will not be a full White Elephant section so you can't donate all of your fall clean-out stuff right now. At the end of October, we will be accepting only donations of gently-used or new costume jewelry, ladies accessories (i.e. purses/scarves/hats) and any holiday decorations. Please save all other types of white elephant treasures for a planned Guild Garage Sale in the spring. Watch for more information and dates for the Bazaar drop-off.

Guild Bazaar Treasure Corner



Treasure
Corner

This particular corner of the Bazaar will feature jewelry, holiday items, and women's accessories. Please contribute things you no longer wear or use. You may leave them in the church office at the end of October, or contact Sharon Brahs at 201-767-8357, and she will pick them up.



CHURCH WORKDAY

Saturday, September 30

Beginning at 8:30 AM

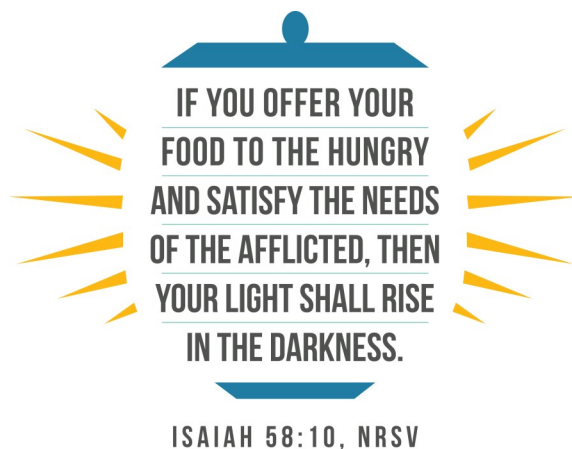
Please get together with your CCHP family and help complete some work that needs to be done.

Small and large jobs— There's something for everyone!

CHURCH WORKDAY

Your food donations are now being delivered to the Norwood Food Pantry, which serves our local communities.

You can bring non-perishable and unexpired food products to church with you. Les and Jill Cox have volunteered to deliver these items.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Anonymous; Lynn Baker; Judy Keith; Janet Kosack, Nancy Lanzalotto; Ed Serrano; Judith Smith and family, Craig Terjanian.

Anene Seymour-Jones has recently shifted apartments at her senior community.

Cards and calls are always welcome. (It's easiest to reach Anene in the evenings after 6 given all the activities she enjoys during her days!)

Anene Seymour-Jones
157 Clark Meadows
Canandaigua, NY 14424
email - caaasj@gmail.com
cell phone - 201-414-7533
land line - 585-905-0013



Attention All Women!
Head "Down the Shore"
2nd Women's Retreat

Saturday, September 23 from 10:00 AM
to 7:00 PM

At the home of Sue and Barry Wood
10 Newark Avenue
Lavalette, New Jersey

(201) 693-1703

Agenda

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10:00 – 11:30 | Coffee and conversation |
| 11:30 - 1:00 | Lunch and Opening Prayer |
| 1:15 -- 3:00 | A time for reflection (led by Merry Mans Kolkebeck) |
| 3:00-- 5:00 | Free time (plenty to do in Lavalette, or simply relax) |
| 5:00 -- 7:00 | Dinner and Closing Prayer |

Tear Here and send to PO Box 185, Harrington Park, NJ 07640

Name

Email and cell # of person wanting to attend
Any food restrictions?

Do you need a ride to Lavalette?

Can you take someone else to Lavalette?



Attention All Men!
Head "Down the Shore"
Annual Men's Retreat

Saturday, October 7 from 10 AM to 7:30 PM

At the home of Barry and Sue Wood

10 Newark Avenue

Lavalette, New Jersey

201-937-6219

Agenda

10:00 Arrival

12:30- 1:30 Lunch

2:00 - 3:00 Discussion

3:15 - 5:30 Free Time (beach, horseshoes, etc.)

5:30 - 7:30 Cook & Eat Dinner

7:30 End of Event

Tear Here and send to PO Box 185, Harrington Park, NJ 07640

Name, email, and cell # of person wanting to attend

Any food restrictions? _____

Do you need a ride to Lavalette? _____

Can you take someone else to Lavalette? _____

Our Church's 125th Anniversary



Sunday, November 19 is we are celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Community Church.

We are planning a special worship service attended by former pastors and members, community officials, and friends of CCHP. After worship, there will be a brunch in Founders' Hall. Watch for the invitation with RSVP which will be sent in late September. We are planning hard copy and digital picture displays. (See the bulletin board at the end of the hallway.) 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.



www.cchpchurch.org