



**March
2024**

The Courier



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

Dear Friends,

For the better part of a year, maybe unbeknownst to you, I've been writing these pastor's letters on the eight guiding principles Scripture gives about who we're to be as the church. These are the same principles that are on the banners in our sanctuary. And this letter brings us to the last one: Boosting Ministry. It's about structures that enable ministry.

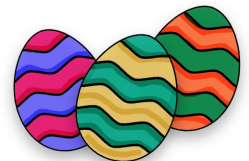
Now when we say structures, we're not necessarily talking about buildings. We also mean budgets, funding, rules and by-laws, committees... and of course buildings too.

There's a reason that we're talking about Boosting Ministry/ structures last (and they're also listed last in our guiding principles). The reason is that it's too easy to put them first - to make them more important than they ought to be. This is a danger the Christian church falls into all the time. Churches default into a kind of institutionalism all too easily. They make the church about the church instead of about Jesus and the people He calls us to be, and the things He calls us to do. And so the church becomes about budgets, funding, rules and by-laws, committees... and buildings. About buildings most of all.

All these things, though, are tools. They are tools for ministry. They are things you use in order to accomplish something more important. When you swing a hammer to build some shelves in your basement, it's the shelves that matter, not the hammer. In the church, we get that reversed all the time. So for us, it's loving fellowship, discipleship, worship, following our call to ministry, evangelism, unity, and helping others that really matter, not the structures.

Now, you're not going to be able to build those shelves without a hammer. And we're not going to be able to do ministry without some of these structures and such. But it's the ministry that matters, not the tools. Good tools help. And we've tried to modify our tools, our structures, to make them as helpful for ministry as we can. But it's all about the ministry. It's a privilege to serve Him with you.

Grace and peace,



Pastor Sayer to Retire toward the End of June

It sounds like the completion of the remodeling of our house in RI and the graduation of our kids from Summit House in Norwood are going to happen at roughly the same time. So it looks like June 23 will be my final Sunday in the pulpit here. We'll call that the semi-official date. There are some variables there. If the search process for our new pastor finishes up early, or the house finishes up late, that could move the date a bit, but it looks like a pretty solid schedule at this point.

It's been, and continues to be, such a privilege to be the pastor of this church. We will miss everyone a great deal. It will also be an adjustment to be home every evening, after 40 years of two to five nights of work each week – I suspect that I'll manage the adjustment okay! I know our search committee is made up of thoughtful people and is doing good work. We can all trust in that.



Palm Sunday, March 24

Worship—10 AM

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Worship—7:30 PM

Good Friday, March 29

Online Devotional Service



Easter Sunday, March 31

Dawn Service, 6:30 AM

At Pondsides Park, Blanch Avenue and Kolder Way, Harrington Park

Breakfast following at 7:30 AM in Founders' Hall

Easter Worship Service

10 AM in the Sanctuary

With the Chancel, Bell, and Alleluia Choirs and Guest Instrumentalists!





This past Sunday we enjoyed an amazing piano/violin duet courtesy of Amy Duran and Rhoda Tillack. We are so blessed to have such talent right here in our sanctuary. Please be sure to attend church on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday for more exciting selections and a display of the talent among us.

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 call the church office at 201-768-2457 or email cchp@verizon.net.



Worship Committee News

Chris Novak and Chris Doyle

Spring is finally coming closer to us!! We have changed to daylight savings time and are looking forward to the first day of spring on March 19. This is a major time in our Christian life too and a good opportunity to bring family and invite friends to church.



We are well into the season of Lent. Each Wednesday, through March 20, please join us at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary for the Lenten worship service. Steve has been sharing very meaningful messages based the congregation's Scripture or topic recommendations on the theme, "What's on Your Heart?" Each week there is a dinner in Founders' Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m., giving us time for fellowship. On March 24, Palm Sunday, regular worship begins at 10:00 a.m. followed by the children's pageant in Founders' Hall.

During Holy Week, we will celebrate Communion on March 28 at 7:30 p.m. for the Maundy Thursday Service which is always very inspiring and moving. Easter Sunday worship begins with a 6:30 a.m. dawn service at Pondside Park followed by breakfast in Founders' Hall. The 10:00 a.m. service in the sanctuary will include the Chancel and Bell Choirs and guest instrumentalists. During the coming weeks, please join us for these opportunities to worship and fellowship.

Just a reminder that if you cannot attend worship or would like to listen to a message or choir selection again, we record all of the services and post them on the church website the same day. You can go directly to our website at cchpchurch.org, click on **OUR COMMUNITY** then **WATCH A SERVICE (VIDEOS)**. All services are available and archived by date.

Guild for Christian Service

The Guild hopes this time of Lent is a welcome time of reflection and fellowship for all! We'd like to thank everyone who attended the Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday! It was a great and yummy opportunity for fellowship!

Here are the circle meeting dates for March and April! All women are welcome to attend any circle meeting they are able:

Deborah Circle will meet in the Johnson Chapel Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30pm and Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30pm.

Rachael Circle will meet in the conference room on Wednesday, March 13 at 1pm and Wednesday, April 10 at 1pm.

Save the Date for the Spring Garage Sale on Saturday, May 4, 2024! Donations can be placed in Founders Hall starting Sunday, April 28th until Thursday, May 2nd. Be on the look out for sign up sheets or let Tracy Ciavaglia or Chris Novak know if you'd like to help out!

Tracy Ciavaglia and Chris Novak



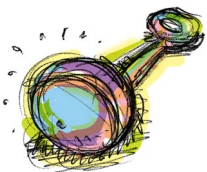
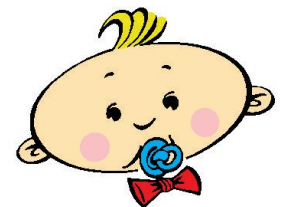
GUILD SERVICE PROJECT



The Guild is holding a Lenten Service project through the month of March collecting items for the New Hope Pregnancy Resource Center in Westwood.

We are collecting diapers (all sizes), wipes, baby shampoo and lotion, along with any other baby-care related items.

Contributions can be left on the table set up in the narthex.





Your Search Committee is still receiving resumes, sorting through them, and continue to have ongoing zoom interviews with selected candidates. Please continue to pray for us as we tackle this most important task.

If you have any questions, you may reach out to any one of the members – Bob Carr and Jeff Pond, Co-chairmen, Jill Cox, Jane Marshall, Justin Johnson, Chris Novak or Joan Hoerauf.

The next Congregational Care meeting will be on Sunday, April 7th at 11:15 AM.



Feed Our Souls delivered 33 meals in February. We are so blessed to have this wonderful ministry at CCHP. Another huge thank you to the many hands who shop for these foods, prepare them and deliver them, for their ongoing dedication to others.

We are very excited that we will be doing a skit on Sunday, March 17 – “Welcome Ed Lucas”. We wrote our own skit and can’t wait to share it with you. We will also have a little sing along – “Jesus Loves Me” a longtime favorite. Come join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM in Founders’ Hall. We have lots of fun with our many puppets, listening to various Bible stories as well as real life stories. We teach our puppets how to sing. We meet for about 25 minutes, then it’s on to Sunday School. Open to children from 3 years old and up. Any questions call Miss Joan (201) 519-1782 or email jhoerauf@naihanson.com





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Anonymous; Lynn Baker; DeAnna and Roger Carman; Ernie Hepperle; Janet Kosack; Nancy Lanzalotto; Ed Serrano; Craig Terjanian, the Search Committee.



Ketchup
Coffee (instant and ground)
Tea (regular and decaf)
Corn Beef Hash
Boxed Mashed Potatoes
Spam (turkey & low salt)

Les and Jill Cox are kind enough to deliver your donations to the Norwood Food Pantry. So, bring your donations to church with you on any Sunday. Thank you!!!

What is Lent?


The word *Lent* is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word for springtime, which literally translates in modern English to "the lengthening of the days." In the early church, the Lenten period was used as a time for preparing new converts for Baptism on Easter Sunday. Today it is a time for preparation, reflection, growth, and change. The liturgical color for Lent is purple, a solemn color, a color for royalty and repentance. The liturgical color for Easter Sunday and the Sundays between Easter and Pentecost is white, signifying purity.



The Community Church

March/April, 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					March 15	16
17 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir 11:15 Steve Baumann Shepherding Group	18 7:45 Bell Choir	19	20 10:00 Worship Committee 6:30 Lenten Supper 7:30 Lenten Worship 7:45 Ramsey Wind Symphony, FH	21 7:30 Chancel Choir	22	23
PALM Sunday 24 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir 11:15 Guild Exec.	25 7:45 Bell Choir	26	27 7:30 Ramsey Wind Symphony, FH	28 MAUNDY Wednesday 7:30 Worship with Communion	29 GOOD Friday	30
31 EASTER Sunday 6:30 Easter Dawn 7:30 Breakfast 10:00 Worship,	April 1	2 7:30 Consistory	3 7:30 Ramsey Wind Symphony, FH	4	5 Courier Deadline	6
7 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir 11:15 Cong. Care 11:15 Greenlaw Shepherding Group	8 7:45 Bell Choir	9 7:00 Outreach 7:30 Deborah Circle 7:30 Finance/Facilities	10 <i>Feed Our Souls</i> 9:00 Courier Assembly 1:00 Rachel Circle 7:30 Ramsey Wind Symphony, FH	11 <i>Feed Our Souls</i> 7:30 Christian Ed 7:30 Chancel Choir	12 11:30 Club 60 in FH	13 8:30 Men's Group

SS=Sunday School; FH=Founders' Hall; HPBOE=Harrington Park Board of Education



Our daughter, Denni, was married here in 1979. I earned my master's degree and Joan Hoerauf typed my thesis. I loved singing in the choir when Don McDaniel was director. **Donna Johnson**

I remember....Sunday School 1960-1968; 1970 my brother created "Ultra" - A Coffee House" - in Founders' Hall; Mission trips to Venezuela in 1991 and Honduras in 1992.

Parents' funerals attended to capacity; Ongoing chance to share musically. **Fred Fisher**

I love being in the choir. I have so many memories where we laughed with each other. Everyone in the choir has been so supportive of singing. They are such wonderful people to be with. I also love singing for everyone. **Sarah Tillack**

Enrolling my daughter Emma in Sunday School brought me back to the church. **Dan Bolla**

I met my lady friend here at CCHP and we had a beautiful relationship for 16 years. **Harold Friedeman**

I grew up in HP since 1960 with Sunday School and VBS. Later as an adult I still was involved in both. **Lois Parma**



www.cchpchurch.org

