



# The Courier

*From the  
Pastor*



Dear Friends,

Geese. I sorta wonder what God was thinking when He made geese. There are a whole lot more geese around than there used to be. A few decades ago they went south in the winter, and at least some of them never came back. But now they're here the whole winter and seem to settle even more comfortably in our globally-warmed, iceless ponds and lakes. They leave their messes all over the place.

But, even more annoyingly, they honk. At the most inopportune times. Like at the Easter Dawn Service. I readily admit, I'm not at my best at 6:30 on any morning. But I'm trying my darndest to lead worship in an engaging, joyful (even if fake-joyful) way at that hour. And they take off from the nearby pond with a rush of water that sounds like a major pipe just broke, and, as soon as they clear the surface of the pond, they start honking so loudly that nobody can hear. What a mess.

You know, the Risen Jesus entered messy life. Then re-entered it on Easter. Your life is messy. My life is messy, each of ours in different ways, but all messy. Jesus doesn't stand over and above that mess, but within it. He doesn't stand there beckoning us out of the mess. He slogs through it with us.

In grief, He's with us. In divorce, He's with us. When our kids are out of control, He's with us. When we're out of control, He's with us. And we know the mess never goes away (at least until Christ comes again). And part of what Easter means, is that God doesn't go away either.

Whatever mess you're experiencing now, Christ walks through it with you through the Holy Spirit. It's a privilege to serve Him (and walk through the mess) with you.

## Easter Sermon Series

Every four years, as a presidential election draws closer, I preach a sermon series on important issues to think through as we sort out all the various issues. I will do so again, this spring, through Sunday, May 12. I avoid talking about partisan issues, and certainly about individual candidates, except as what we're talking about applies to both parties. This spring, I want to help us think about some of the overarching issues that affect our citizenship and our thinking – things like: how we get our information; the importance and un-importance of politics; and controversies are controversies because both sides can make good arguments. I hope these things, raised from a biblical perspective, will help us to think more effectively about our citizenship as we move toward the first Tuesday in November.

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**Community Church  
in Harrington Park**

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



We hope you enjoyed the many musicians and singers who elevated our Easter service.

The singing and hearing of *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* gave some of us goosebumps.

To all who brought us such joy, your congregation salutes you!

### Worship Committee News

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!. We encourage you to use these weeks in April/May, leading up to Pentecost on May 19, to grow closer to our risen Lord through prayer and worship.

There are many people to thank for the worship services and music during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. We appreciated Pastor Sayer's inspiring messages every Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. We are blessed with so many talented people taking part in our music program. Thank you to music director, Amy Duran, and the members of the Chancel Choir and children's Alleluia Choir. Thank you to Dot Abelman and the members of the Bell Choir. Also, our thanks to Joan Hoerauf and the children in the Puppet Club for their performance on March 17. A big thank you to all who cooked, set-up, served, and cleaned up for the Easter Dawn Breakfast and coffee hour following the Easter worship service. Many hands made light work!

**Chris Novak and Chris Doyle**

**Looking Ahead:** We will share Communion first on May 5th and again on June 16th at the annual Communion Breakfast.



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 1. 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](mailto:cchp@verizon.net).



Next Courier  
Deadline:  
May 10th

## *Guild for Christian Service*

We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter! The Guild has several great events in the coming weeks we want you to be aware of.

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

Deborah circle will meet in the Johnson Chapel Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30pm and Tuesday, May 14 at 7:30pm.

Rachel circle will meet in the conference room on Wednesday, April 10 at 1pm and Wednesday, May 15 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 28<sup>th</sup> until Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Be on the look out for sign-up sheets, or let Tracy Ciavaglia or Chris Novak know if you'd like to help out!

Is there someone who would like to chair "Books" for the Garage Sale on May 18? The Novaks, having done it for over 10 years, have retired and would be more than happy to explain what's involved. If we do not have a chairperson, we will not be collecting books to sell. Stay tuned for updates about whether to donate books for the sale.

Also, please note there has been a change in date for the Women's Communion Breakfast. It will now be held on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be on sale starting May 5<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate having a very interesting speaker and hope you can join us! It promises to be a beautiful day of spiritual connection and fellowship!

**Tracy Ciavaglia and Chris Novak**



Join us at the annual Blanket Sunday event hosted by The Guild for Christian Service on May 12th (Mother's Day!) and May 19th. Express your love and appreciation to those you care about with three hearts for \$10 that you personalize and pin on the CWS blanket. All proceedings will be donated to Church World Services to provide blankets to those in need. Last year, CWS provided 32,785 blankets globally to people in need. Let's spread love and kindness through this simple yet powerful act of compassion. Visit our table in the Narthex in May!

Many thanks, Jean Greenlaw

The Guild for Christian Service would like to thank everyone who donated baby-related items to our Lenten collection for the New Hope Pregnancy Resource Center. This great local organization supports single mothers by helping them become self-reliant and ensuring their babies thrive.





As you may know, our Pastor, Steve Sayer will be retiring this year.

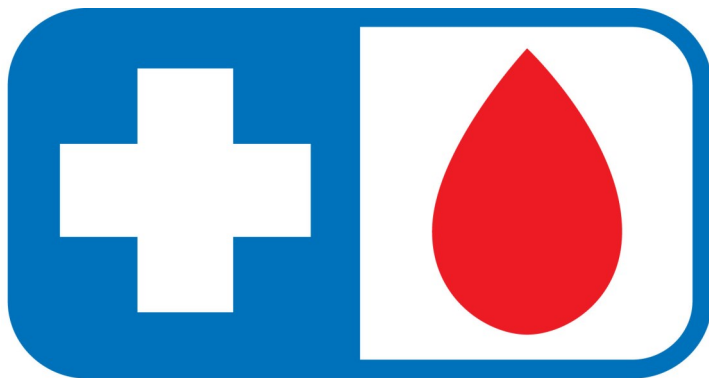
June 23rd will be his last Sunday with us.

On that day, we will have many special things happening—some during worship and some following in Founders' Hall.

Les Cox invites you to help plan the celebration following the service.

Please email [lescox@outlook.com](mailto:lescox@outlook.com) with "Steve's Celebration" in the subject, see him in church or text him at 201-704-7015 if you are interested in helping in any capacity.

If you have a loved one who is a member of CCHP who is graduating from the 8th grade, high school, college, or higher, please email [cchp@verizon.net](mailto:cchp@verizon.net) and [thomserr@aol.com](mailto:thomserr@aol.com) so that person can be recognized in our June issue of The Courier.



**G I V E**  
*Blood*

Tuesday, April 30th  
1:00 to 7:00 PM

in  
Founders' Hall  
Community  
Church in  
Harrington Park



Appointments are preferred; however, walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.

For an appointment, scan the QR code



Or sign up at  
[www.nybc.org/drive](http://www.nybc.org/drive)



Happy Spring from your search committee. We continue to move forward with our quest for a new pastor. We have reviewed over 20 resumes, had several zoom interviews and have invited a candidate to visit with our committee. We will continue to keep you posted as this process proceeds. Any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the committee – Bob Carr and Jeff Pond – Co-chairmen, Jill Cox, Jane Marshall, Justin Johnson, Chris Novak and Joan Hoerauf. Jodie Wu is our classis representative overseeing this process.

**Your Search Committee**

The next Congregational Care meeting is TBD



**Feed Our Souls** delivered 33 meals in March. A delicious beef stew and lemon cake was enjoyed by many. Another big thank you to the many hands who shop for these foods, prepare them and deliver them, and for their ongoing dedication to others.

Come join our puppets for a fun way to start your Sunday morning. We meet at 10:00 AM in Founders' Hall for about 25 minutes before going to Sunday School. We are looking forward to writing a new skit this week for a presentation to the congregation shortly. We have lots of puppets to share. Any questions please call Miss Joan (201) 768-0733 or email [jhoerauf@naihanson.com](mailto:jhoerauf@naihanson.com)





**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

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

Congratulations to Stephanie and Paul Budinich on the birth of their son, Maxwell Stanley Budinich, on March 21, 2024



Happy birthday to Donna Johnson Who turns 90 On April 24th!!!

Our sympathies are extended to the Koch and HaHer Families on the passing of Denise Koch, Charles' wife and Michele HaHer's sister on April 3rd.

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!!!

# The Community Church

## April/May, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>April 10</i> <b>Feed.Our.Souls</b> 9:00 Courier Assembly 1:00 Rachel Circle 2:30 Worship Committee 7:30 RWS in FH	<i>11</i> <b>Feed.Our.Souls</b> School Set Up for Band Performance at Club 60 on Friday 7:30 Christian Ed 7:30 Choir	<i>12</i> 11-3 Club 60—FH	<i>13</i> 8:30 Men's Group
<i>14</i> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir 11:15 Garage Sale Planning Mtg. 12:15 Confirmation	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 7:30 Special Consistory Meeting 7:30 RWS in FH	<i>18</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir 12:15 Confirmation	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 7:30 RWS in FH	<i>25</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir 12:15 Confirmation	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 1-7 Blood Drive in FH	<i>May 1</i> 10:00 Garage Sale Set-Up 7:30 RWS in FH	<i>2</i> 10:00 Garage Sale Set-Up	<i>3</i> 10:00 Garage Sale Set-Up	<i>4</i> 10:00 Guild Garage Sale
<i>5</i> 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir 11:15 Cong. Care 12:15 Confirmation	<i>6</i> 7:30 Consistory	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 7:30 RWS in FH	<i>9</i> 7:30 Christian Ed 7:30 Chancel Choir	<i>10</i> <b>Courier Deadline</b> 11:30 Club 60 in FH	<i>11</i> 8:30 Men's Group

SS=Sunday School; FH=Founders' Hall; RWS=Ramsey Wind Symphony



I started coming to church when my oldest, Tracy, was five and Sara was four, so they could attend Sunday School. Sharon Brahs got me involved with the white elephant room, and I also served as treasurer of C4 to get me involved. There are many memories of Christmas programs and fairs and of course, cooking with Sue now and the wonderful ladies of the church. **June Anton**

Growing up with CCHP has been a blessing. From PDO with Ms. Linda and Ms. Judy to the Youth Group trip to serve food at Friends to Friends, CCHP has given me amazing memories. I will never forget sleeping over Nonnie (June)'s house every Saturday and walking to church together. **Emma Redfern**

My best memories from the church was helping work the church fair. I would have so much fun going through the jewelry and helping out. It was fun to spend time with everyone. **Meghan Redfern**

My most vivid memory was of Pastor Kaden surprising me at the hospital in Newark at 6 am to pray with me before going in for surgery. He was standing in front of the hospital waiting for me. Love and Peace, **Robin Schwarte**

We were working at the Silent Auction at the Bazaar. Shirley Kolkebeck and I found a book and we rewrote the words and gave it to Sue. We had so much fun writing in it and laughing with Sue as she read it. The Bazaar was a great time of fellowship. **Merry Thompson**



[www.cchpchurch.org](http://www.cchpchurch.org)