



# The Courier

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This past Sunday we were talking together about how Christians, without a good knowledge of Scripture, can lead each other astray. I used, as an example, our denomination, The Reformed Church in America. 29%, or something like that, of our churches have recently left the denomination, largely, though not totally, over issues of human sexuality. I mentioned that issues of sexuality don't dominate the pages of Scripture, but we treat them like they do. Yet issues of unity and togetherness, and the humility and gentleness they require, are found over and over again in the Bible. And I said that, because folks didn't have a complete understanding of Scripture, they overemphasized sexuality issues and deemphasized unity issues. And when they led their churches out of the denomination, they misled a lot of Christians in their churches.



That's all correct, insofar as it goes. But it's a bit more nuanced and complicated. It makes it sound as if conservatives are at fault for the disunity our denomination has experienced. While that's partly true, it's not completely true. Part of the issue that conservative churches have had with the RCA is also over the ordination of women. From 1980 to 2012, we had as part of the Book of Church Order two conscience clauses, dealing with the ordination of women to church offices. The first dealt with the ordination of women as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The second dealt with the ordination of women to all church offices, including deacon and elder. Here's what it said: "Ministers of the Word shall not be pressured in such a way as to lead either one who supports or one who opposes, on scriptural grounds, the ordination of women to church offices to offend against his or her conscience. Nor shall any church member be penalized for conscientious objection to, or support of, the ordination of women to church offices. Nor shall any minister of the Word or church member obstruct by unconstitutional means the election, ordination, or installation of a woman to church offices."

The intent was this: if you looked at Scripture and found legitimate objections to the ordination of women (or also the opposite), you couldn't be penalized for that. This had the practical effect of protecting more conservative folks in our denomination. In other words, it was saying, "You fit. Even as we take a position different from yours, there is a place for you in this big tent of what it means to be Reformed."

In 2012, the "leftier" wing of the RCA moved to do away with the conscience clauses, which was done. That had the effect of saying, "If you're a biblical conservative and oppose women's ordination, you no longer fit." To be frank, though I support women's ordination, I thought at the time that was a huge mistake. We were telling some significant portion of the Reformed Church that there was no place for them here. The effect of that change, pushed by more liberal folks in our denomination, can't be underestimated. It probably wasn't determinative in all those churches leaving, but it played a significant role. It fits neatly into the conservative narrative, both within and outside of the church that, "We're tired of these liberals telling us how to live, and what's right and wrong." (cont.)

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,  
Office--201-768-2457;  
Cell--570-656-1412;  
Community Church email:  
[cchp@verizon.net](mailto:cchp@verizon.net)  
The Rev. Charles P. Johnson,  
Pastor Emeritus  
The Rev. George V. Kaden,  
Pastor Emeritus

(continued from previous page)

Okay, that was a lot of context. Here's my point. Things are rarely cut and dried. If we're going to live together in and out of the church, we have to make allowances for each other. We need to make sure everybody knows there's a place for them, and they fit. We have to show gentleness and humility with each other. When we fail to do that, we create raw, wounded emotions. Decisions like leaving the denomination in which not only you were raised, but also your parents, and maybe your grandparents and great-grandparents, are not likely the product of systematic thought (I disagree with such and such a stand of the RCA). Rather, they are the result of emotions – "I don't fit here anymore. This denomination (or organization, community, or country) has left me behind and it hurts." There's a sensitivity and empathy we need to cultivate in order to nurture unity and oneness.

By the way, you have shown a great deal of sensitivity, gentleness, and humility with me, and I'm very grateful for that. It's a privilege to serve Him with you.

Grace and peace,



## Worship Committee News



The Worship Committee is happy to share that our attendance has been steadily rising in 2024. We welcome several newcomers and invite you to continue worshipping with us.

On Sunday, May 5 Pastor Sayer shared that he was thinking about his last sermons before retirement on June 23. He said, "I would like to try to leave you with some stuff that I think is really important, things that may help to guide our church, and I will always think of this as our church into the future". Please continue to attend Sunday worship and hear Pastor Sayer's parting messages.

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

**June 2 - Pastoral Candidate, Rev. Zach Waldis**, will lead us in worship. You should have received a letter from consistory regarding Pastor Waldis' visit. A copy follows on the next page.

**June 16 - Annual Fathers' Day Communion Breakfast**

Breakfast begins at 9:30 AM in Founders' Hall with bagels, pastries, breads, cereal and fruit. The worship service begins at 10:00 AM.

**June 23 - Pastor Sayer's Last Worship Service**

10:00 AM worship followed by a farewell luncheon in Founders' Hall.

**June 30 and Beyond - Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM**

Our CCHP lay preachers and a few guest ministers will fill the pulpit until a new pastor arrives.

**Pictures?** - If you have any pictures of the Sayers, please give or send them to Chris Novak, [cpn105@optonline.net](mailto:cpn105@optonline.net).

**Chris Novak and Chris Doyle**

Dear Friends in Christ:

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the consistory has invited Pastor Zach Waldis to lead our worship service at the Community Church in Harrington Park on Sunday, June 2, 2024 as pastor-candidate. After a thorough presentation by the search committee and having opportunity to speak to Pastor Waldis, the consistory unanimously agreed with the search committee's recommendation and took the following actions:

- On Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, Pastor Waldis, his wife Mishona and his two children Miriam and Mark, will be available to meet and greet members of our congregation in the Johnson Chapel from 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- On Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pastor Waldis will lead our worship service at 10:00 AM.
- Immediately following worship, the consistory hereby calls a special congregational meeting for the express purpose of allowing the congregation to express their will regarding the candidate. We will conduct a vote.
- After this meeting, the consistory will meet and determine whether to invite Pastor Waldis to become our full-time pastor.

We have been truly blessed by a very capable and committed search committee. The Lord has guided us and is leading us to a new pastor. Please plan to meet and greet Pastor Waldis and his family Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and join us for worship on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Sincerely,

Les Cox  
Vice President



## *Guild for Christian Service*

The Guild would like to say "Thank You" to all those who helped to make our spring garage sale a success! We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who helped with set up, pricing, selling, packing up, and those who baked! It is because of all that hard work that we raised \$2,365 for our outreach missions list and we are so grateful to everyone who helped out!

The Women's Communion Brunch is on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30 AM with the Communion service in the sanctuary. After the service at approximately 10:15 AM, we will gather in Founders' Hall for a delicious brunch, served by the CCHP Men's Group, and a program. Our worship leader and program speaker, Rev. Liz Testa, is an RCA pastor and sister in Christ who is passionate about biblical hospitality, multi-cultural ministry, the power of prayer, and encouraging others to embrace their God-given gifts and callings. Since 2014, she has served the RCA as staff executive for Women's Transformation and Leadership and Equity-Based Hospitality. Prior to that, Rev. Testa served 12 years at Marble Collegiate Church in New York City. We invite women of all faiths to join us for fellowship and what promises to be a spiritually-uplifting morning. Tickets are \$5 and will be sold in advance and at the door. Please contact Sharon Brahs if you'd like to attend!

And last but certainly not least is the Guild Potluck Supper which will be held on Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Founders Hall. Please bring a dish to share. This is always a great time for sharing and fellowship and all women are welcome!

**Tracy Ciavaglia and Chris Novak**

### **New Members Class**

We will be holding a new members' class in the very near future. One of the participants cannot make the originally scheduled time. So, if you would like to be a part of this new members' class, please contact Steve ([sayercchp@verizon.net](mailto:sayercchp@verizon.net) 570-656-1412).

We will figure out a time that works for everyone.



**Next Courier  
Deadline:  
June 7th**

Greetings from “The Puppet Club”. We are busy working on a skit for the end-of-the-year program for Sunday School and Puppets on June 23. The Sunday School and Puppets will coordinate their efforts together. Please come join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM and see what its all about. A hint – there will be some ferocious animals, or maybe not-so-ferocious animals involved. Any questions, please call Miss Joan (201) 519-1782 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; Lois Parma; Ed Serrano; Craig Terjanian

**RAMSEY WIND**  
*Symphony*  
will present  
**"Melodic Inventions"**  
A Free Concert  
Sunday, May 19, 2024 • 4:30 PM  
TENAFLY HIGH SCHOOL  
19 COLUMBUS DRIVE  
TENAFLY, NJ 07670  
**Featuring Guest Clarinetist  
Benjamin Baron!**  
BenjaminBaron.com  
The program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the Bergen County Division of Historic & Cultural Affairs from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council of the Arts.



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.

MONDAY  
MAY 27TH  
2024



# MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

REMEMBER AND HONOR

Lineup begins at 8:30am at HP School

Parade begins at 9:30am

All residents and organizations invited to participate

Speeches will be moved indoors in inclement weather  
Ice cream for participants provided by OLV Knights of Columbus

\*Event and details subject to change at any time

Sponsored by the American Legion

## Updated Needs:

\$25 gift cards

Jello

Pudding

Bread crumbs

Salad dressings

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



Nourishing The Person  
Beyond the Plate


**VOLUNTEER  
DONATE**

201-394-4089  
chenjfoodpantry@gmail.com



# The Community Church

## May/June, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>May 15</i> <b>Feed Our Souls</b> 9:00 Courier Assembly 10:00 Worship Committee 7:30 RWS in FH	<i>16</i> <b>Feed Our Souls</b> 7:30 Choir	<i>17</i> Guild Cooking & Set-Up for Saturday	<i>18</i> 9:30 Women's Communion Brunch
<i>19</i> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 7:30 RWS in FH	<i>23</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir	<i>27</i> 	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 7:30 RWS in FH	<i>30</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>31</i>	<i>June 1</i> 10-12 Noon Meet and Greet the Waldis Family Girl Scout Event in Founders' Hall
<i>2</i> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir 11:15 Cong. Care	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 7:30 Consistory	<i>5</i> 7:30 RWS in FH	<i>6</i> 7:30 Choir	<i>7</i> <b>Courier Deadline</b>	<i>8</i> 8:30 Men's Group
<i>9</i> 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 6:30 Guild Pot Luck In FH 7:00 Outreach 7:30 Finance/Facilities	<i>12</i> 9:00 Courier Assembly 7:30 RWS in FH	<i>13</i> 7:30 Christian Ed 7:30 Chancel Choir	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>

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



January 16, 1976, Chuck Johnson married Anne and me. We had a wonderful wedding and Chuck sang "The Lord's Prayer". All of our three children were baptized here as well.  
**David McBride**

Youth: We walked from the elementary school at lunchtime to shop at the Bazaar! I bought gifts for Mom and Dad, Christmas gifts for 25 or 50 cents. 1976: David and I were wed in January by Chuck Johnson and Donna sang "One Hand, One Heart." Remembering my church ladies and being a member of the Deborah Circle and all the good cakes and casseroles. Our daughter, Candice, and Elyse Wunschel "met" on their baptismal day and have been friends ever since.  
**Anne McBride**

Memories--where to begin: 30 years in the choir; Don McDaniel leading us in "The Acts"; the Sunrise Singers; my banjo group, Phil Boyd, Ralph Clark and George Wunschel; the softball championship when I was manager; those great Fellowship Club outings; and that magical Sunday when I played guitar while accompanying my 9-year old daughter, Kim, singing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."  
**Bob Martin**

Back in the day, 20 or so young folk like myself gathered in the Fireside Room and talked often about/or studied the Epistles. Often Louise Holert, our leader, would say, "Remember what Paul said." Sitting there, I was startled to hear my name - but for the life of me, I couldn't remember when I said that - but it did sound very important and biblical. I was better at remembering how to rotate properly at the volleyball game later in Founders' Hall.  
**Paul Nelson**

Special appreciation to Steve when we needed support the most.  
**Keith**

After being invited many times by Sharon Brahs who I had met at Jr. Woman's Club, I began attending church in 1980 following the birth of our daughter, Kathryn, Chuck Johnson baptized her and he and Donna sang The Lord's Prayer, standing at the pulpit. It was so beautiful and our extended families were in awe. After the service, Dennis and I were in the narthex being congratulated by everyone and Bill Wright and Lulu Switzer came through. Bill was carrying his dachshund who always came to church and Lulu gave us a silver dollar (which we still have) to mark the occasion.  
**Chris Novak**



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