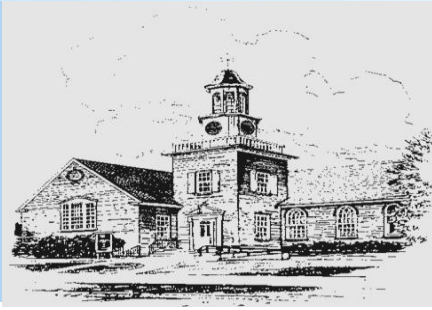


TOWER CHIMES



APRIL

2017

Welcome to the
monthly newsletter
of

Community Presbyterian Church

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Community Presbyterian
Church of Merrick

CLERK'S CORNER

Spring is Here! (Almost!) Part 2

By the time you read this, Spring will have officially arrived. (Tell that to Mother Nature who continues to bombard us with winter weather!)

But I can happily report that my daffodils have survived the storm, and are nearly ready to start blooming after being encased in ice most of this past week.

We, the “Frozen Chosen”, came out in force last Wednesday for the Joint Lenten program held at our church. Over 60 people braved the remnants of the storm to discuss Jesus’ sermon on the mount. I was in the choir loft, and our group discussion veered off on a tangent (like so many other discussions) to focus upon how best to reinvigorate our small fellowship going forward.

Our fellowship has always taken pride in its service to others and to the community. Our missions to the food pantry and to our shut-ins are just two examples of our service to God.

But if we are to achieve greater success, we need an “All Hands On Deck” call to our membership, as the needs are great, and more is yet required.

Currently, we are taking small steps towards improving how we get the word out to our community and beyond. And I ask each of you to reach out to your neighbors, and even to some of our less active members, to come and see who we are, and who we hope to be.

Easter is nearly here. It’s a time for new beginnings, fresh starts, and rededications to the many tasks at hand. Thanks to everyone who helps to continue to make this all possible.

In faith,
Gary

In This Issue

- Clerks' Corner
- Prayer Requests
- 2017 Commissions
- Changes to 2017 Directory
- Easter Flowers
- Bible Study
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Facebook News & Pictures Requests
- Music News
- April Birthdays
- Women's Fellowship Breakfast
- Joint Lent continues
- Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Sunday)
- BRIGHT SUNDAY
- June 3 Garage Sale
- Summer Worship
- SouperBowl of Caring final tally
- Nominating Plea
- April Calendar
- Communion for shut-ins
- Thank You From Mona Grimm
- Easter Flower Order Form



For Elizabeth Walker who is starting treatment for lung cancer

For Trevor and his parents for a solution for a serious medical condition

For Karen, a friend who had a successful ablation (to correct an irregular heartbeat). Thank you for your prayers. (David B.)

Thank you from my relatives in England for the prayers given for Peter Cole who underwent successful surgery last month. (Jo G.)

For Lisa who is dealing with breast cancer

For Tyrone Williams who is experiencing confusion

For Ann Polhemus who is in the hospital (Mary Jane G.)

For the family and friends of a dear family friend, Brian Cirigliano, who died too young at the age of 40 (Lily KN and Mary W)

For the persecuted church throughout the world, that they will be able to forgive their persecutors.

For Mary and Charlie to have a safe trip and a safe return.

For Katherine Callahan

For Jeanie Pleahis

For the family and friends of Donna Lowsie who passed away (Fran K.)

For the family & friends of Betty Younkings who passed away. (Fran K.)

To Debbie's friends and family on the anniversary of her death (David B.)

Our 2017 Session has been working diligently to fine-tune our commissions. Below please find the fruits of their labors. Welcome Slate of 2017!

Worship

Amanda and Fran Kelly

Property, Use of Building, and Technology

Ernie Bayha and Tom Rose

Membership, Stewardship and Mission

Nancy Stuber

Social Education & Action, and Peacemaking

Mary Jane Gould and Amanda Kelly

Finance

David Brackett and Tom Rose

Christian Education

Mary Jane Gould

Fellowship, Outreach and Publicity

David Brackett and Charles Leschinski

Clerk of Session

Gary Stuber

CHANGES TO 2017 DIRECTORY - We've got two minor changes to the **2017 DIRECTORY**.

On page 10 under Amanda and Linwood Pitt's address....please change the zip code to: **21401**.

And under the Local Hospitals (on page 13), Winthrop University Hospital has a new number. It's **663-0333**.

*Time's running out to order your **EASTER FLOWERS!** The ordering form is on the last page of this **Tower Chimes**.*



They are \$14 each again this year, and you have your choice of hydrangea, lily and/or azalea. Orders and dedications must be in by April 9, Palm Sunday.



BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!

Bellmore Presbyterian

Church has generously invited us to participate in their **weekly Bible Study and Prayer Gathering** on **Thursdays at 1pm** in their Parlor. Amy Plympton Fortunato is leading this group, and she may be reached at 631.617.9335 if you have any questions. Bellmore Presbyterian said don't be shy and come on down!



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** serves to help change the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. One Great Hour of Sharing, received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

Thank you for your longtime support of this offering, as together we are sharing hope that is a witness to God's love for all creation.

An envelope is enclosed in this Tower Chimes for your convenience. You may mail it to the church or bring it with you on **Palm Sunday, April 9**, when we will be receiving this offering. Envelopes will also be in the pews on April 9.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Cathy Donohue is now updating our **Facebook Page** and our **Website**, but she needs your help!

If you have a Facebook account, please go to: **Community Presbyterian Church of Merrick** and click 'follow and like'. This will insure that you will receive all the postings. If you see something of interest, please share with your friends and ask them to "like" us too. We want to reach as many people as possible. If you don't have a Facebook account, open one. It's fun and easy. If you need help setting a Facebook account up, please let Cathy know and she will assist you.



Take out your iphones, androids and cameras! **Start taking pictures of events at our church.** Pictures say a thousand words. Your pictures don't have to be of big events. They can be of our coffee hours, children's activities, Sunday School, Choir, Handbells, individuals, our building. Be creative. Please send all pictures via email to Cathy Donohue at emmalou3272@gmail.com.

We can also use paper pictures. **Do you have old photos of church activities?** We can use those as well. Just put them in Cathy's mailbox in the office with your name, and your picture/s will be returned to you promptly. There are never too many!

Also, please let Cathy know of any other events taking place at the church. The more information she receives, the better our website and Facebook page will be!

Remember that at our church, we take the word "community" seriously. Let's let our community know we are here to serve them, to welcome all.



MUSIC NOTES - We are happy to report that our **Youth Handbell Choir** is going very well. The youth are enthusiastic and anxious to

enhance our **Palm Sunday worship service** with their music. Be sure to attend the **Palm Sunday** service on Sunday, **April 9 at 10:00 AM.**

Our Choir has been working diligently as usual. We presented a lovely piece for our Wednesday night Lenten Service on March 15 including special narration by Gary Stuber. It was very well-received.

We have also been working on our Easter music. We welcome **Matthew and Fuku Foster** who will be singing with us on Easter Sunday. Also, **Rich Kelly** will be joining us on that day--we hope permanently!

Our **Handbell Choir** has also been working hard and will play for us on Easter Sunday as well. Be sure to come and celebrate this joyful day on Sunday, **April 16 at 10:00 AM.**

There is always room for more! Please consider joining our choir and/or Handbell Choir. We always have fun, fellowship, and make a joyful noise to the Lord!

APRIL HAPPENINGS

April Birthdays:

Lois Leimbach	2
Melissa Crummy	5
E. David Houghton	6
Ann Peterson	9
Lily Kelman-Nelson	13
Charles Leschinski	21
David Brackett	23
Margaret Smith	25
Irma Rios	27
Marissa Bello	30



(If your name did not appear here, it's because we don't know it's your birthday! Please call Jo Gencorelli at 868-1710 so we can add your name to our list!)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



Attention, Ladies! Our next Women's Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, **April 1 at 10am** in Grafing Hall. Please

join us for light refreshments, prayer, praise, and a good time! Be sure to bring a friend! If you have ANY questions, please call Fran Kelly at 221-3561.

APRIL 3-6 Grandma babysitting duties are required the week of April 3-6, so Barb's hours will be sporadic. If you need to see her, we suggest you call the office first to make sure she is there. (Her son, Dave, and new daughter-in-law, Kerry, will be off on their honeymoon.) Barb said to call her on her cell anytime. (516.359.1286)

OUR JOINT LENTEN EXPERIENCE CONTINUES!

And here comes HOLY WEEK!

Please continue to join us as we wind down the shared, ecumenical Lenten journey with Bellmore Presbyterian, Freeport Presbyterian and the Bellmore, Merrick and Seaford United Methodist churches!

The last of our "**Seeking Peace in a Troubled World**" Wednesday evening programs will take place on **April 5** at Seaford Methodist (see below).

Children are encouraged to attend and participate in the separate children's program being offered.

April 5
6:45-7:30pm shared fellowship and food
7:30pm program
@ Seaford United Methodist Church,
785-8877

2160 Washington Avenue
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

APRIL 9 THROUGH 16

APRIL 9 – PALM SUNDAY commemorates the entrance of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem to the shouts of "Hosanna, Hosanna." Please join us at 10am for a palm service with the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering**. Our NEW Youth handbell choir will also be making their debut under the leadership of Lily Kelman-Nelson!



After the service, please then join us for a coffee hour and our **children's Easter egg hunt**. This year the hunt will be a bit different. We're going to have the children collect four eggs each, with a word in each spelling out "He is Risen. Alleluia!" If a child has all four words, they come collect a chocolate rabbit. If they find any extra "He" or other word, they rehide the egg for another child to find.

Our Christian Education commission decided to make this change to better educate our children on the 'real' meaning of the Easter season.

Monday, April 10 – our deacons are getting together to assemble and deliver Easter baskets to a few of our friends and members who don't get out much. **They always** have a 'hopping' good time! If you'd care to join them, please give them a call.



APRIL 13 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

will be observed at our traditional **7:30pm** Tenebrae service. We will gather in Grafing Hall and remember, through the reading of scripture passages and singing of

hymns, the last week of our Lord's life. This candlelight service prepares our hearts to remember the events that led to the Crucifixion of our Savior. We will also receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

APRIL 14 (GOOD FRIDAY) –

commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary. A **7:30pm** shared worship service will be held at **Bellmore United Methodist Church (221-1220, 2657 Clarendon Avenue)** under the direction of Rev. Elon Sylvester. Members and friends of Community Presbyterian along with those of the other participating churches are invited to share together this important day.



"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for there is the kingdom of heaven."

April 15 - 10am!!! Come help Mary adorn our Sanctuary and grounds for Easter Sunday! She can always use a helping hand, or two, or three, and there may even be a thank-you-for-helping light brunch involved!

Any articles for the Tower Chimes are due into the office by the 15th of the prior month, so all articles for the May edition are due into the office by **April 15**. Thank you!

EASTER - APRIL 16 - a day when we join with millions of other Christians around the world to proclaim that greatest affirmation of our Christian faith: "**He is Risen, He Lives!**" and celebrate Christ's Resurrection. Our Sanctuary will once again be splendidly decorated with lilies, azaleas and hydrangeas and filled with special Easter music. Our Easter communion service will begin at 10am.

And LADIES, don't forget to wear your Easter Bonnets. Let's keep the tradition alive!



The FREEPORT EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY IS MOVING!

- On April 17, they will have a new, permanent home: **230 Hanse Avenue in South Freeport**. Their new hours will be **M-F 9:30AM-12noon, and 1pm to 3:30PM**, and their phone number will stay the same (**868-4989**). Directions: Merrick Road (pass over Meadowbrook Parkway); Left on Miller Road; Left on Hanse Avenue (just past St. Johns Place); **Pantry on right side just past Rider Place**.



Please join us as Rev. Wright continues the Easter celebration with Bright Sunday, a special service filled with laughter, smiles and giggles. It's a light-hearted celebration contrasting with the more serious formality of the Easter service. Both are joyous events; why not celebrate with joyous laughter because that's the good news, referring to the Christian tenet of Christ's triumph over death and the God's promise

of everlasting life to those believe in him. Wear your brightest colors to help celebrate this most joyous season!

GUESS WHAT? Our Board of Deacons is having another GARAGE SALE on Saturday, June 3 from 10am-4pm!



And you know what that means.... We need YOU and YOUR STUFF! Volunteers will be needed **before, during and after** the sale, and we need you to go through your garages, cars, sheds, lockers, attics, closets, and basements for donate-able merchandise!

We'll accept almost all merchandise prior to the SALE (you can start dropping off at CPC now), with the really big and bulky items the morning of between 8am and 9:30am. Any big items that do not sell must be taken back by you.

We won't be able to accept any 'personal care items' or items that are broken or have missing parts.

What we CAN accept is: **(but not limited to):** Clothes (donated hangers needed), shoes, jewelry, small furniture, housewares, glassware, tools, rugs, throws, luggage, pocketbooks, computer and car stuff, books and magazines, baby items, knick-knacks, pictures and frames, pet items, linens (**washed**), games, toys, etc. Quality items are always accepted, whether they be new or antique. These items will be put on a 'special quality table'. Tax forms are also available, if requested, for all donations.

~ You may drop off your smaller items at church (on the stage) during Barbara's office hours, and/or on Sundays before or after church. Please get in touch with one of our deacons if those times are not convenient to you.

~ If you want any of your unsold items back, you'll have to pick them up after the sale. Any unclaimed items will be at the disposable discretion of the deacons.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL!

We'll also be selling some **vegetable and herb plants** for all you home growers out there! Our May Tower Chimes will be more detailed, but for now, consider the 'seed' planted!



APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tue	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10am Women's Fellowship Breakfast in Grafiing Hall
2 5th Sunday in Lent 10am Worship Service; Rev. Ralph Wright in the pulpit; Communion (Alfred & Bobbie Z-Lewis and Gary & Nancy Stuber); CHILDREN WILL WORSHIP WITH THE FAMILIES IN THE SANCTUARY ; Usher Team #2 (Scott Dodge, Fran Kelly, Alfred Lewis and Bobbie Z-Lewis); Minute for Mission; Refreshments ; NASC 1-6pm	3 OPA 7-10pm	4 AA 7:30-9:30p	5 6:45pm Food and fellowship / 7:30pm Lenten PEACE program at Seaford United Methodist	6 NA 7-9:30p	7 AA 6:45-9:30p	8 Set-up of Grafiing Hall for tomorrow's Coffee Hour OPA Party 3:30pm – 11pm
9 Palm Sunday 10am Worship Service; Rev. Ralph Wright in the pulpit; Receiving of the Palms ; Youth handbell Choir ; Usher Team #3 (David Brackett, Jamie Brackett, Mona Grimm and Joe Nelson); OGHS Offering ; Easter Egg Hunt after service; SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Coffee Hour	10 10am Deacons assembling and delivering Easter baskets OPA 7-10pm	11 AA 7:30-9:30p	12	13 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30pm Tenebrae service in Grafiing Hall / with communion NA 8:30pm (downstairs)	14 GOOD FRIDAY 7:30pm joint service at Bellmore United Methodist AA 6:45-9:30p	15 10am decorate Sanctuary May Tower Chimes articles due
16 Easter Sunday 10a Worship; Rev. Ralph Wright in the pulpit; Communion (Janel Crummy, Joe Nelson, Lily Kelman-Nelson and Mary Williams); Adult Handbells perform ; Usher Team #4 (Janel Crummy, Jessie Gregorio, Tom Rose and Joe Schuessler); SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Refreshments	17 OPA 7-10pm	18 AA 7:30-9:30p	19	20 NA 7-9:30pm	21 AA 6:45-9:30p	22
23 BRIGHT SUNDAY Bring your sense of humor with you today and be prepared to laugh! 10am Worship; Rev. Ralph Wright in the pulpit; Usher Team #5 (Joe Arcuri, Pat Lofaro & Vince Lofaro); SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Refreshments	24 OPA 7-10pm	25 AA 7:30-9:30p	26	27 Session 7pm at CPC NA 7-9:30p	28 AA 6:45-9:30p	29
30 National Day of Prayer recognized 10a Worship; Rev. Ralph Wright in the pulpit; Usher Team #1 (Pat Dubovick, Charlie Leschinski, Nancy Stuber and George Weeks); Refreshments						



All the numbers are in, and the amount (food items and money) collected from the 9 participating Presbyterian Churches for 2017 was

24,628! CPC's grand total was

2,565, thanks in large part to a \$2,000 donation during week 4. Overall, we came in 3rd place with CPC Malverne in first place and Yaphank Presbyterian in second.

Wally at the food pantry was beyond thrilled when we delivered our portion of the challenge.

The Deacons can't express enough thanks for your continued support of this worthy cause.

May God bless you all!

NEWS FROM OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As you know, we have a vacancy on our Board of Deacons and on our Nominating and Auditing committees. There is also an opening on our Ushering Team #5.

We're looking for a few good souls to fill in the gaps. Please speak with Gary Stuber or Mona Grimm if you can find it in your heart to volunteer.

COMMUNION NEWS for SHUT-INS!



If you, a family member, or neighbor you know of would like to receive home communion, please

call the office and let us know. Pastor Wright and the deacons will be giving home communions once a quarter to those wishing to receive it.

AND A FRIENDLY REMINDER to please share your joys and concerns (and birthdays) with one of our deacons or Barbara in the office.

Jo Gencorelli has joyfully decided to temporarily help out the deacons by 'manning the cards' until another deacon is installed. So, if you hear of someone who could use some 'reaching out to', please let Jo know. Her number is 868-1710. Thank you.

Dear Church family,

I am grateful I am on my way to recovery after many months of health challenges, but what I am most thankful for during these difficult times are the many acts of kindness from all of you.

Your visits, cards, phone calls, and especially your prayers brought great comfort to me. I thank God every day for my church family and the SPECIAL friends and family I have been blessed with.

Bless you all, Love Mona

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Name: _____ **Contact Phone #:** _____

TYPE AND QUANTITY OF FLOWERS ORDERED

Type	\$ per plant	Quantity	Total \$
Easter Lily	\$14	_____	\$ _____
Azalea	\$14	_____	\$ _____
Hydrangea	\$14	_____	\$ _____
Grand total:			\$ _____

Please return this order form along with your check made payable to 'Community Presbyterian Church' to the church office or Mary (34 Wynsum Avenue, Merrick, NY 11566) by Palm Sunday, April 9.

I will be picking up my plant(s) after the Easter service _____ CPC may keep my plant(s) _____
 I do not want to order any plants, but I would like to make a donation to the Flower Fund _____ Cash / Check

DEDICATION: _____

Thank you for your continued support of CPC and our Flower Fund!