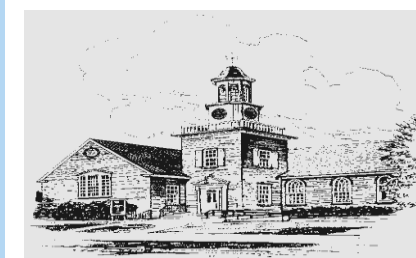


TOWER CHIMES



2020

OFFICE HOURS: Barb M, T & Th 8:30-12:30, W 8:30-2:30, F 8:30-10:30 / Pastor Moira Wednesdays from 10:30-3pm

Welcome to the monthly
newsletter
of

Community Presbyterian Church

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Community Presbyterian
Church of Merrick

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOIRA

Dear Merrick Family:

I am about to celebrate my 17th wedding anniversary with Forrest on February 1. We were married at James Chapel at Union Theological Seminary. It was an event where everyone pitched in. Of course, we wrote the liturgy and vows. Friends played some good ol' bluegrass music at the service and during the reception. A cousin baked the delicious wedding cake. Other friends brought flowers to grace the tables. Others contributed disposable cameras (remember those?) so people at each table could take some shots. Speaking of shots, champagne and other beverages were also gifted. It was a beautiful gathering, even Michelle, Forrest's grandmother's toy poodle, was a special guest. Wonderful memories!



In John's Gospel, Jesus' first great sign, or miracle, occurs at a wedding (2:1-12). It seems surprising to see Jesus celebrating at a wedding. We forget Jesus laughed, enjoyed life, listened to music, and looked forward to celebrations as much as anyone else. So here he is, in Cana of Galilee, and his mother discreetly lets him know of a looming disaster: the wedding is about to run out of wine. Even for a modern day event, we can understand what a fiasco this would entail. Families have scrimped and saved to put on as lavish a feast as they could afford, which often involved the entire village and extend for as long as an entire week. To run out of wine would be a huge embarrassment. Some would doubt the reputation of the family. With compassion Mary talks to Jesus about their problem. Jesus in turn, responds tersely: *"what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come."*

However, as we see here in the story of the Wedding feast of Cana, Jesus does indeed take action. He instructs the servants to fill six stone jars holding 30 gallons each with water. When the Chief Steward draws the water, he is astonished and says to the bridegroom, *"Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."*

Somehow even Jesus realized that this was a right time to do a good deed – saving a wedding by providing more wine. It was one of Jesus' most important miracles. It preserved the dignity of a family at a critical time of its life. It started a couple off on the right foot. It allowed a community to continue to celebrate, even in the midst of typical first-century hard life.

February is the "month of love" with Valentine's Day around the corner. Let us remember this month that Jesus died to show us the path to love. Whether we are married or not, we are pledged to love.

This is the mission of the Church – to love well. So, let us pitch in and give our very best. We discover in giving our best that our hour to do good is now, after all.

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Moira



CLERK'S CORNER

Our Annual Congregational Meeting

Last Sunday we held our annual congregational meeting.

First off, many thanks to you all for staying behind for the meeting. It was well-attended, with the quorum requirement easily being met, and with others staying for the light lunch served by our Fellowship Commission. (Thanks again, Charlie and his team.)

Second, I appreciate the positive attitude exhibited by those in attendance. The past couple of years have been difficult as we mainly deal with our financial issues. I'm guessing that some of things accomplished over the past year have contributed to this improving mood; the addition of the Power House Church now worshipping with us, a potential tenant in the works for our school space, and some visible property improvements in the church as well as in the manse.

We plan for more of these in the future and will keep you posted. If in your later reviewing of the annual report you have any additional questions or suggestions, please reach out to members of our Session.

Thanks again to our fellowship, which is strong in faith, if not yet in size. Spread the word!

Blessings, Gary



(From Jan. 5): Happy 2nd birthday today to our grandson, Shane Arcuri;

A friend who mourns the loss of her mother (Amanda KP);
For our Jewish friends and neighbors that they know they are supported during this rise in antisemitism;
Joe Cuozzo 3 weeks in CCU doing better but fighting pneumonia;
Mona

(From Jan. 12): Prayers of strength for Elizabeth during a difficult time. (Amanda KP);

Happy Birthday to my father, Ron Kelman!;
Please pray for healing for Leo. (Cathy and Brian D.);
Healing for Frank Gencorelli who was hospitalized and for Jo who injured her shoulder;
For those who have nobody to believe in them;
A prayer of healing for Jessie;
For healing...John Cassara Sr., Roger Walker, Elizabeth Walker and Annette Werner;
For our sister, Wendy, who is having some exploratory procedures performed this week.

(From Jan. 19): For the Persecuted Church throughout the

World we pray, remembering the letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 13 verse 3, "Continue to remember those in prison as if you were with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."

Continued healing prayers for C.H. to end his addiction;
For the healing of a marriage...that my spouse would fall back in love with me. Please, Lord!

God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we can't change; the courage to change the things we can; and the wisdom to know the difference.

Mary, may you feel better. (Charlie and Charlie);

Prayers for healing of Colleen;

Prayers for my sister on the passing of her husband, and in thanksgiving for my good test results;

Frank and Jo Gencorelli – for healing and peace. (Barbara R.);

Prayers for healing for Jo Gencorelli and her husband Frank who was just moved to rehab in Sands Point (Amanda KP);

For Brian as he looks for a new car. (Rich K.)

From Jan. 26): Continued prayers of healing for C.H.;

Prayers of gratitude for Joe S. and crew for clearing the icy church steps this wintery Sunday morning!

For Michael Thomas Santosus who is 3-days old and having medical ills, that God would strengthen him and console his parents. (Joe S.);

Continued prayers for Jo and Frank Gencorelli; Prayers for my friend, Rich D.; and

Prayers for my friend, Stephanie, in her time of loss. (Amanda KP);

For my nephew, Matthew, to have a speedy recovery from his surgery. (Pat D.);

Please pray for Andrew Wildgust who is undergoing surgery tomorrow. (Cathy & Brian D.)

PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT FOR 2020

As mentioned in last month's Tower Chimes, CPC pays PC(USA) on your behalf for being a Presbyterian member. Please help offset CPC's apportionment expense by writing a check in the amount of **\$38.05** made payable to *Community Presbyterian Church*. Thank you.

AND A FRIENDLY REMINDER to please share your joys and concerns (and birthdays) with one of our deacons or Barbara in the office. HELPING HANDS loves nothing more than to reach out and let you know we share in your joys as well as in your heartaches. We're here for you, but you must let us know! Diane can be reached at 516-623-9495.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

On January 12, Rev. Moira Ahearne, assisted by Elder Gary Stuber, installed CPC's newest officers. We welcome and thank our newest members of our Session and Board of Deacons!

2020 Deacons

Jessie Gregorio – Memorial Fund and Treasurer

Ramona Grimm – Moderator and Secretary

Rich Kelly – Helping Hands Visitations

Mary Leschinski – Flowers

Diane Wood – Helping Hands Correspondence

Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis – Communion and Ushers

And ALL our deacons are sharing the TRANSPORTATION assignment. You can call any one of our deacons if you need a ride to or from church or a doctor's office. They will do their best in arranging transportation for you. (Please give them as much advance notice as possible!)

2020 Session

Rev. Moira Ahearne

Ernie Bayha

David Brackett

Alan Scott Dodge

Lily Kelman-Nelson (newly ordained and installed)

Fran Kelly

Charlie Leschinski

Alfred Lewis (newly ordained and installed)

Gary Stuber

Nancy Stuber

Our Elders will be going over the Session commissions at their February meeting, and we'll report any changes in the March Tower Chimes.

Welcome Class of 2020!

CPC cannot run without YOU!

THE 2020 DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IS ALMOST READY!

It should be finished this month, so be on the lookout.

WINTER MISSION PROJECT



Thank you, Joe

Schuessler, for taking the second wave of coats, hats, gloves, scarves and mittens over to the Pantry.

This haul contained 4 sweatshirts, 12 coats, 11 hats, 9 gloves, 8 scarves, 1 thermal shirt, 1 bag of ties and 1 pair of socks! Thanks to everyone who donated items.

We will continue this Drive as long as it stays cold!



Attention

Handbell Ringers:

Get ready to ring! Our first rehearsal will be after coffee hour on Sunday, March 1. We will rehearse every Sunday following until Easter which is April 12 and ring for our Easter service.

If you are interested in joining this happy group, no music reading skills are necessary, but let me know of your interest as soon as possible!

Let's make a Joyful noise unto the Lord!

Cathy Donohue

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY Birthdays:

Denise Creighton

Barbara Rivera

Christopher Williams

22

26



(If your name did not appear here, it's because we don't know it's your birthday! Please call Diane Wood at 623-9495 so we can add your name to our list!)

SOUPER BOWL CHALLENGE 2020!

The SOUPERBOWL CHALLENGE of 2020 is ON!!! Are you ready to **rumble**?!?!? (Oops, wrong sport.) Okay...are you ready to help feed the homeless right here in our community?



We all know that times are tough out there, and a hot meal can make all the difference in the world for a family in need. Please bear in mind that most public schools are closed for winter break for a week in February, which means that kids who are entitled to a free breakfast or lunch at school may go hungry without our help.

How horrifying is that?! Are you ready to give it your all to help our community? Good! – grab your supermarket ads, your coupon envelope and tell your family, friends and neighbors! The game is ON!!

As you'll remember, we've been in a friendly competition for the last 8 years with other Presbyterian Churches. Last year's **grand total** from the 5 participating Presbyterian churches was 21,141 (food and monies combined)! (Nationwide, over \$9.6 million in food and money was collected.) CPC came in 2nd place overall with 4,150 in donations (3,260 of which was monetary donations!). First place in our hearts, of course, will always be the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry. (As a reminder, each participating church chooses its own recipient of the donations.)

This year, however, we will NOT be competing with the other churches. Betty, who has been the coordinator of this challenge for many, many, many years is in the process of retiring from the Middle Island Presbyterian Church and has stepped down as coordinator. We thank Betty for heading up this challenge every year and wish her well in her retirement! Gooooooooooooooooo Betty!!!

Let's not let this lack of competition amongst the other churches affect OUR giving! Let's try and pass our last year's total!

As a reminder, here's how the game works:

- Simply bring your food or money donation to church with you on Sundays or drop them off in the church office during the week. A table will be set

up in the Sanctuary from Feb. 1 – March 1 to receive your donations. Money is just as good as food items, so if it's easier for you to write a check (made payable to **Community Presbyterian Church** with '*Souper Bowl of Caring*' in the memo line), please feel free to do so. If you are donating actual 'cash', please **hand** it to one of our deacons, Pastor Moira, Gary, or Barbara in the office. If you want to make an **ANONYMOUS DONATION**, please just put it in an envelope marked '*Souper Bowl of Caring*', and drop it in the mail slot to the office door.) Barbara will see it in the morning and add it to that week's total.

Here's a quick recap of the rules:

- Non-perishable **FOOD**, **MONEY** and **SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS** will be collected during the month of February.

- The contributions are tallied as such:

Cash/Check	\$1 = 1 can of soup
Grocery store gift cards	\$1 = 1 can of soup
Nonperishable food items:	1 package/can = 1 can of soup

Diapers	5 diapers = 1 can soup (i.e., one package of 30 diapers = 6 soup cans)
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We thank everyone in advance, and

REMEMBER THAT WE CAN DO IT!!!

(get it?... 'can' do it?!)



Our Deacons and Outreach Committees say:

LET'S WIPEOUT HUNGER!!!

READY SET.....DONATE!!!

Bible Study continues into February!



Please join Pastor Moira for Bible Study on Wednesdays at 12noon at CPC. At present the Book of Revelation is being

discussed. You can join this discussion on any Wednesday, and Bible 'knowledge' is not a prerequisite. Come and learn a few things while sharing your questions and Bible interpretations with others!

Pastor Moira asks that you let her know **each week** if you will be attending that Wednesday's class in case a class has to be canceled at the last minute.

You may text or leave her a message at 917.327.2119.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



The next Women's Fellowship breakfast will be here at CPC on Saturday, **February 8 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.

FEBRUARY 14....



All TOWER CHIME ARTICLES each month will be due by the 15th of the prior month. If you have something for the March Tower Chimes, please email or deliver it to the church office by February 15. Thank you!



Session will be meeting on Thurs., Feb. 20 at 7pm at CPC in the Pastor's office.

February 23 – Transfiguration of the Lord!



Transfiguration Sunday celebrates the glorious revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ's manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Jesus' radiant appearance on the mountaintop evokes the devouring fire of the glory of the LORD at Mount Sinai

(Exodus 24.17). Here, as at Jesus' baptism, God claims him as a beloved child, in whom God is well pleased.

In their account of this event, the synoptic gospels offer an enlightening *tableau vivant*, with Christ flanked by Moses, representing the law, and Elijah, representing the prophetic tradition. With this vivid image, the gospel writers demonstrate the relationship of the human Word of God to the tradition of Israel and set forth the hermeneutic by which they read the Hebrew Scriptures.

Hope of the ages

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 148-149)

The Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday is an appropriate time to celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, because this event marked a transition in Jesus' ministry in which he "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), where he would die.

In Jesus' transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages. Jesus is the One who fulfilled the Law given through Moses, the one dreamed of by the prophets, of whom Elijah is the greatest.

In celebrating this event, we rejoice in the divine majesty of Christ, whose glory shone even when confronted with the cross. It is given us for our journey through Lent toward the agony of the cross and the victory of the empty tomb. We celebrate this mystery in order that our faith may be renewed. We are transformed into the new being in Christ as we join Christ in his death and resurrection in Lent and Easter.

(from the Presbyterian Church USA website)

Ash Wednesday – February 26

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow



creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience, we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever.

Historically, Ash Wednesday was a time when penitents were presented for church discipline during Lent, culminating in reconciliation on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is also the occasion when would-be disciples of Christ known as catechumens were enrolled in the catechumenate, a special time of learning the basics of the faith in preparation for baptism on Easter Sunday or during the Easter Vigil. In some traditions, Ash Wednesday is a fast day, beginning the Lenten time of fasting and preparation for the Great Three Days that culminate in Easter.

'A time to turn'

An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 109-110)

The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. This first day of Lent reminds us that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. In many traditions, this is symbolized through the imposition of ashes — placing a cross on one's forehead. During the imposition of ashes the words: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) are repeated again and again. We are to remember that we are but temporary creatures, always on the edge of death. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten trek through the desert toward Easter.

Ashes on the forehead is a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not to show off

one's faith. The ashes are a reminder to us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die.

Trusting in the "accomplished fact" of Christ's resurrection, however, we listen for the Word of God in the time-honored stories of the church's Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed "on the way" to Jerusalem and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of *metanoia* ("turning around"), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross.

(from the Presbyterian Church USA mission website)

We will be joining again with some of our local churches to share the Lenten season, so please be on the lookout in the bulletins and on our website for the dates, times and places of these shared services, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 26.

Sat., Feb. 29 "Activate – What is not mine to do?"

Would you like to attend a Workshop about how you can help when there is so much help needed throughout the world?

Would you like an opportunity for activism, to actually help and make a difference?

Would you like to attend a concert?







All for Free?

Did I hear you say YES?!?! Then please join singer, songwriter, activist and author David Lamotte on February 29. The Workshop will take place at the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow (Melville) at 9:30am. (Gathering and Fellowship at 9am); The Opportunity for Activism immediately follows as led by the Presbytery of Long Island's Salt and Light Committee. And to finish the day, a Concert will take place at The Community Presbyterian Church (Deer Park) at 7:30pm. It's all free and everyone is welcomed! What a perfect way to end February!

**And oh,
by the way,**



February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesda	Wednesday	Thursd	Friday	Saturday
						1
<p>2 9am Worship Service; Pastor Moira in the pulpit; Communion (Joe Arcuri, David Brackett, Scott Dodge, Jessie Gregorio); CHILDREN WILL WORSHIP WITH THE FAMILIES IN THE SANCTUARY; Usher Team #2 (Fran Kelly, Alfred Lewis and Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis); Kick-Off of our month-long SOUPER BOWL OF CARING food and \$ drive; Special Coffee Hour; NASC 1-6pm; PHC 11:30am-2:30pm</p>  	3	4	5	6	7	8
		AA 7:30-9:30p	12 noon BIBLE STUDY	NA 7:30-9:30p	AA 6:45-9:30p	10am Women's Fellowship Breakfast in Grafing Hall
<p>9 9am Worship Service; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #3 (David & Jamie Brackett, Mona Grimm, Joseph Nelson); SUNDAY SCHOOL; Coffee Hour; PHC 11:30-2:30 & 4pm-6:30pm</p> 	10	11	12	13	14	15
		AA 7:30-9:30p	12 noon BIBLE STUDY	NA 7:30-9:30p	AA 6:45-9:30p	March Tower Chimes articles due
<p>16 9am Worship; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #4 (Jessie Gregorio, Tom Rose, Joe Schuessler and Diane Wood); SUNDAY SCHOOL; Coffee hour; PHC 11:30-2:30 & 4pm-6:30pm</p> 	17	18	19	20	21	22
		AA 7:30-9:30p	12 noon BIBLE STUDY	7pm Session meeting in Pastor's office NA 7:30-9:30p	AA 6:45-9:30p	
<p>23 9am Worship; Pastor Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #5 (Joe Arcuri, Frank Kost, Pat and Vinny Lofaro); SUNDAY SCHOOL; Coffee Hour PHC 11:30-2:30 & 4pm-6:30pm</p> 	24	25	26	27	28	29
		AA 7:30-9:30p	Ash Wednesday 12 noon BIBLE STUDY Evening Ash Wed. service TBD	NA 7:30-9:30p		LEAP DAY!! 9am 'Activate' workshop in Melville / 7:30pm concert in Deer Park Powerhouse Church in Grafing Hall 11am-4pm