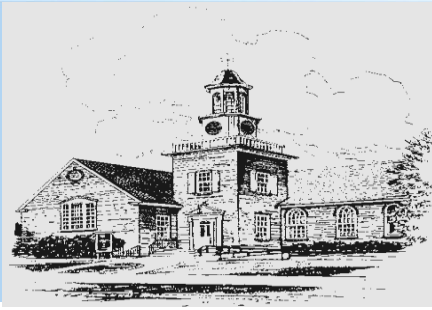


# TOWER CHIMES



Welcome to the  
monthly newsletter  
of

## Community Presbyterian Church

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Community Presbyterian  
Church of Merrick

## CLERK'S CORNER

### Happy New Year's

Another New Year's come and gone. I wish you all the Healthiest and Happiest New Year!

Before we get too far into the New Year, I'd like to thank you all for making the season so joyous. Sorry for repeating myself, but it was another great Vesper Play and Dinner this year. Many thanks to Mary Jane Gould and Lily Kelman-Nelson for pulling the play together. And of course, thanks to the usual suspects for the wonderful music program during all the services. The loving care and attention by both Cathy and her willing accomplice (Brian) is truly remarkable. And the bells sounded great, too (not trying to toot my own horn, of course). And thanks to Pastor Joan who contributed in so many ways.

I was truly impressed by the turnout on New Year's Eve. Around 50 people in attendance on a Sunday that's often low in attendance by any standards.

And last Sunday, the first of the New Year, saw the start of what I hope to be a new tradition – the lighting of the Epiphany candles. Friends new and old came forward to describe the Epiphany moments in their lives. There was not a dry eye in the house. It's moments like these when I realize why I love this church so much. Thanks again to Pastor Joan for the suggestion.

A couple of God sightings during the Christmas season:

- A hardy group of 10 carolers visiting homes of members and friends. The looks on the faces of those being visited were priceless, and for me, was one of the best gifts anyone could receive at Christmas time.
- The youth of our church, one again, bringing gifts TO Santa for delivery to children in need. With all our bounty, why not share? What a real lesson for our children!

We begin 2018 hopeful. Thanks to all of you for all you do! Spread the word about our small fellowship. It may not be so small for long.

Blessings,  
Gary

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## A WORD FROM PASTOR JOAN

*Friends: I hope and pray that the Christmas season and the coming year are blessings to you and your family and friends. I was blessed Christmas Eve at the church; the choir, musicians, readers, and the warmth of the congregation gave me such a sense of joy and peace. The real celebration of our Lord's birth was alive and obvious.*

*Thank you to all for the thoughtful gift and the goodies - all very much appreciated.*

*The following Sunday is usually called 'low Sunday' as people have just been in church for Christmas and many are travelling back to their homes. Yet - the response was inspiring - we even had six children come up for the message.*

*Hopefully, you are all staying warm during this frigid weather. A pastor wrote that although the cold weather can be uncomfortable, it makes the home hearth that much more appealing. My words would be: I like cozy - a warm wrap, fuzzy slippers, hot coffee and a good book or movie.*

*The Community Presbyterian Church of Merrick is a special place with a family of special, welcoming people. I have been encouraged and welcomed since I came here over two months ago. I really believe that the future is bright. I will be praying for God's spirit to keep this ministry of CPC alive and faithful.*

*Merry Christmas to all of you and a wonderful year ahead.*



Those lives lost in Egypt and the families who are mourning.  
For Patricia who needs to find an apartment asap.

"Prayers of thanks for all of the prayers and good wishes sent my way for a successful surgery." – David Brackett  
For Linwood as he will be gone for the next 6 weeks training in Georgia.

For Mona who is not feeling well.

For all Persecuted churches throughout the world – let's pray for them every day, not just on Sundays!

For Anne who is needing guidance for writing a new 1-year program for men in prison.

Happy 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary to Bobbie and Al Lewis!

For Jennifer Gould as she returns to work from maternity leave, and Leo and Delaney head off to daycare.

For the family of Charlie Long, who passed away last month.

For Johnny Anderson, who is dealing with many medical issues.

For my friend, Peter, who has been in the hospital for a with an undiagnosed illness. (David B.)

I pray that all on this earth will follow the word of God. Amen.

For the family of John Weaver who passed last month after a 'good run'...according to his son, Roger.

A prayer for my son and his family. (Mona Grimm)

For James Smith who is healing from cancer.

For Vicky Liamza's healing.

For Pamela Smith and Ted Parks' relationship.

For Pamela Smith's healing.

And for Donald Smith for housing.

Peace for all those who have lost a loved one.

Please pray for peace on earth!

Healing prayers for James, Kim and Barbara.

For the Humphrey family for comfort for the loss of the matriarch of the family, Ella Humphrey, who passed away on Dec. 29 at the age of 97.

"My friend Debbie who needs healing in her body." (Fran Kelly)

For Ann Polhemus who will have surgery on January 5.

For Glen and his mother, Rosie.

For our dear Barbara Rivera that her injured hand will heal.

"To continue to seek God's will and to have the power to carry out God's will". (Mike)

Prayers of great joy to the Arcuri family on the Dec. 29 birth of Shane.

**PRAYERS OF PEACE, COMFORT  
AND JOY TO ALL  
IN 2018 !**



Thanks to EVERYONE who contributed to our Christmas Toy Drive for the children of the Freeport Emergency Food pantry and the children at the I.N.N.s homeless shelter in Hempstead. Our collection boxes were overflowing, and enough thanks can't be given!

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Rev. Brenda Forde from the pantry was tickled pink, and expressed many thanks to us for our collection and to Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis who transported the gifts to the pantry. We thank you too, Bobbie!



Many thanks to all who participated in the Christmas play and the Vespers Dinner!

The play preceded the dinner and featured the oratory and musical talents of our Sunday School children, the wonderful adult choir, and the ever-gracious Cathy Donahue. The tableau also included thespians from adult members of our congregation with an especially realistic Mary portrayed by Mary Williams. Grandpas Al Lewis and Ernie Bayha joined their grandchildren in the production, and Uncles Joe Nelson and Alex Bard joined their nieces. The cast also included the ever-angelic Kristen Jacobsen, and my son Jonathan Gould, a last minute Joseph. For the first time we had skipping and dancing stars lead the shepherds and kings down the aisle. In addition to the poised and clear narration provided by Lily Williams, Charlie Lechinski, Milan Alexander, Jia Bello, Missy Bello, and Mia Bello, there were lovely piano duets by the two Lilys, and beautiful vocal

solos by Jia, Milan, and Lily. The Little Bells comprised of Ellie Bowani, Emma Williams, Meadow Alexander, and Kent Alexander were accompanied by Lily Williams on piano. Many thanks to Fran Kelly for assisting in directing the play and always being ready with a helping hand. And a huge thank you to Barbara Rivera for being so patient with all the play revisions and photocopying!

After the play, the Congregation was treated to a real feast prepared by Charlie Lechinski and his staff. We are so fortunate to have such a talented and generous cook in our midst. He pulled out all the stops, as did Diane Woods with her table settings!

The children once again presented Santa with toys for less fortunate children and were able to tell him their Christmas wishes. He took photos with each child and gave them a goodie bag. Santa never disappoints! Thank you Santa!

Nancy Stuber led creative and fun games based in knowledge of trivia and accuracy of aim with marshmallows in a game of "Cheer Pong." I think Bob Luce would have loved that one. We have some skilled players among us!

Many hands make light work, and it was nice to see everyone pitch in on the clean-up effort at the end of the evening. We are blessed to be part of this warm, loving Church family.

~Mary Jane Gould and Lily Kelman-Nelson

To my Church Family,

The generosity and love shown by my church family is truly a blessing!

Thank you all for a most generous and thankful

Christmas gift! It is always sincerely appreciated. CPC is truly my home-away-from-home, and I thank God for each and every one of you. May the New Year bring you peace, joy comfort and good health.

~With much love, Barbara Rivera





Thank You!

**A big thank you to our church family for your very generous Christmas gift. Your support and love make our**

**commute from PA each Sunday so much easier!**

**~ Cathy Donohue**

December is always a thankful, but hectic, time not only in our personal lives,

but in the life of our Church as well! From luncheons and dinners, to special services, with special music, to extracurricular events. It's all good, and we wouldn't have it any other way!

But it takes a lot of bodies to make this all happen, and we want to try and thank as many of them as we can because without THEM, there would be no US!

So here we go, and apologies to anyone we've left out.

- Thank you, Mona Grimm, for arranging the Annual Women's Noel Luncheon in early December. It was a grand success, as it is every year! And thanks to all the attendees for sharing the Christmas joy;

- Thanks to Charlie Leschinski for getting that crèche out for Advent and for always making sure it's in tip-top working order!

- Thank you to Diane Wood for decorating Grafiing Hall so beautifully for the Vesper's Dinner and to Charlie and his band of helpers for the great food; and to Santa for making a guest appearance during this very busy time of year; and to our children for giving Santa gifts for needy children; and to Nancy Stuber for keeping us all entertained!

- We thank our band of carolers who braved the cold on a mid-December night to spread the Christmas cheer to some of our local members and friends: Milan Alexander, Tom & Elizabeth Eldred, Fuku & Matthew Foster; Mary & Charlie Leschinski Jr., Gary Stuber, Diane Wood and Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis. The grapevine says you're ready for American Idol!

- Thanks to this year's Advent candle lighters: The Kelly Family and Kristen Jacobsen; Gary and Nancy Stuber; Mona Grimm and Diane



Wood, Pat and Vinny Lofaro, and Milan Alexander with grandma Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis. You all did a great job!

- Thank you Mary Leschinski and your band of elves for once again beautifying our sanctuary and grounds for Christmas: Mona Grimm, Fran & Rich Kelly, Barbara Rivera, and Gary & Nancy Stuber

- Thank you to our Christmas Play writers and directors and musicians, Mary Jane Gould and Lily Kelman-Nelson. And thank you for that wonderful article on page 3.

- Thank you to our English handbell choir who performed both at our 10am Christmas Eve day service and then again at our 7pm Christmas Eve candlelight service: Karen Bard, Brian Donohue, Cathy Donohue, Pastor Joan, Jo Gencorelli, Kristen Jacobsen, Rich Kelly, Lily Kelman-Nelson, Mary Leschinski, Amanda Pitt, Gary Stuber and Nancy Stuber. You all did a fantastic job, and it was beautiful to hear!

- Thanks to our special musicians and soloists during our Christmas season: Lily Kelman-Nelson (solo) and Rich Kelly on guitar; soprano Lily Kelman-Nelson and alto Karen Bard for a vocal duet; a beautiful tenor solo by Brian Donohue, and musical accompaniments by Jo Gencorelli and Frank Verbsky;

- Thank you to our Christmas Eve readers: Gary Stuber, Mary Leschinski, Joe Schuessler, Jo Gencorelli, and Jun Luke Foster.

- Thank you to you, our wonderful CPC family, who are faithful and generous and dedicated;

- and last, but certainly not least, thank you to Pastor Joan who handled the Christmas whirlwind with grace and ease!



Please remember to 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!

## SANCTUARY

**FLOWERS** will remain the same price of \$18 per Sunday in 2018.



Remember, **more than** one person can make a Sunday dedication and out-of-towners can order by just calling me (516.705.0707) or the office (516.378.7761). Checks should be made payable to Community Presbyterian Church. And THANK YOU for another year of support as we beautify our Sanctuary each and every Sunday!

**Mary Leschinski, Flower Commissioner**

### A FRIENDLY REMINDER TO FULFILL YOUR 2017 PLEDGE!

We're still accepting 2017 pledges, so if you are able, please do not forget to follow through on your pledge made for 2017.

**And if you didn't get a chance to fill out and return the 2018 Pledge card, IT'S NOT TOO LATE! IT'S NEVER TOO LATE! If you need a card, please just call the office and Barb will mail one out to you.**



### TRANSPORTATION

– We'd like to remind everyone that our Deacons can arrange rides for you to and from the church and to and from a

doctor's office. Please call any one of our deacons if you need a ride. (*Jessie Gregorio, Mona Grimm, Rich Kelly, Mary Leschinski, Diane Wood or Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis*)

We'd also like to remind you of several on-going 'programs' that we encourage you to participate in:

**COFFEE AND REFRESHMENT HOURS** – We're always looking for people to help Charlie with our Sunday coffee and refreshment hours or host one of your own! The sign-up book is in the back of the sanctuary. More than one person may sign-up to help, and hosting duties would include supplying

cookies or finger food, preparing the lemonade, setting up a 'serving' table with the necessary supplies and clean-up.

**SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READERS** – We're always looking for volunteers to read scripture on Sunday mornings. You're always given the reading(s) ahead of time which gives you ample time to practice, and you can sign-up in the book on the back table in the Sanctuary.

**ONE-FOOD-ITEM-A-SUNDAY** – We're still participating in the ONE-FOOD-ITEM-A-SUNDAY program. The donation bins are located in the narthex and in the back hallway near the handicapped bathroom. All donations benefit the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry.

**PENNIES-FOR-PEOPLE** – Every Sunday our coin jar can be found on the back table in the Sanctuary. All proceeds are given to the Freeport Emergency food pantry.

We're one small church, but it's amazing how much we can do!

### CAPITA APPORTIONMENT FOR 2018

It's that time of year again when we ask you to pay your per capita to CPC!

What's Per Capita? - In essence, per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system. Per capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church, to give meaning to the interdependent nature of Presbyterian polity. Per capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian:

- Our theological identity.
  - Our connectedness.
  - Our system of mid councils that allow elders and ministers together to discern the mind of Christ
  - Our ecumenical connections that make us part of the church universal
  - Our core structures that keep us together as a church
  - Our call to work for full participation in decision making. Per capita allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.
- ~continues on next page

The per capita apportionment for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for 2018 is **\$36.78** per active member. These monies are sent to the Presbytery and are distributed as follows: The Presbytery of Long Island receives \$25.00; The Synod of the Northeast receives \$4.05; The General Assembly receives \$7.73.

CPC pays PCUSA on your behalf. Please help offset CPC's apportionment expense by writing a check in the amount of **\$36.78** made payable to *Community Presbyterian Church*.



**Baby congratulations to Justin and Clair Arcuri on the birth of their second child - Shane Phoenix Arcuri born on Dec. 29!**

**Avery is now a big sister, and Joe and Ginny are now grandparents for the 5<sup>th</sup> time! CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR EVER-GROWING FAMILY!**

## **JANUARY**

### **January ~ Blessing of Silence & Rest**

The start of a new year: a time to renew and get back on track. But before carrying out our resolve for the year, it serves to remember that rest and silence are also valuable.

Winter's natural stillness allows a welcomed pause to the frenzied pace of our lives. As the activities of the year come to an end, we may also feel the need to slow down. The boisterous hum of family life and work is now replaced by quietness, if only for a moment.

The month of January is a good time to avail yourself to silence and rest. Do these appear as strangers to us? With practice, silence and rest can become trusted friends that fill us with deeper awareness, recharge us, and provide greater creativity for the tasks that await us in the coming spring.

## **January Birthdays:**

Lily Williams	10
Joseph Arcuri	15
Teresa Carter	15
Anne Schuessler	16
Bobbie Lewis	28



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

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**



Attention, Ladies! Our Women's Fellowship Breakfasts are back! We will be hosting the next Women's Fellowship breakfast here at CPC on Saturday, January 13 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.

Any articles for the **Tower Chimes** are due into the office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the prior month, so all articles for the February edition are due into the office by January 15. Thank you!

**ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE INTO THE OFFICE BY Jan. 14! NO EXCEPTIONS PLEASE!** The 2017 reports will be made available to the congregation on January 21, and Barb needs the entire week to prepare them.

## **ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUNDAY**

Please join us as we ordain and install the newest members of our Board of Deacons and Session on Sunday, January 28, during worship service.

### **Session**

(Alan) Scott Dodge - Ordained and Installed  
Ernest Bayha - Installed  
Fran Kelly - Installed



**Board of Deacons**  
Ramona Grimm – installed  
Diane Wood – installed

We are still looking for 1 volunteer for our Auditing Committee and 2 or 3 volunteers for our 2018 Nominating Committee. Please speak with any one of our elders or leave a message in the office if you're interested.

We profusely thank our outgoing volunteers who have rotated off our committees: **Amanda Kelly** from Session; and **Fran and Rich Kelly** from our Nominating Committee.

And thank you to **Ernie Bayha and Fran Kelly** (from Session) and **Ramona Grimm** (from Deacons) who, even though their terms were up, decided to stick around and stay on for another round!

Please welcome our 2018 governing bodies:

**SESSION CLASS OF 2018**

**Charlie Leschinski, Gary Stuber and Nancy Stuber**

**BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2018**

**Jessie Gregorio and Mary Leschinski**

**SESSION CLASS OF 2019**

**David Brackett, Mary Jane Gould and Tom Rose**

**BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2019**

**Rich Kelly and Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis**

**SESSION CLASS OF 2020**

**Ernie Bayha, Alan Scott Dodge and Fran Kelly**

**BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2020**

**Mona Grimm and Diane Wood**

**AUDITING COMMITTEE**

**Scott Dodge (2018), Alfred Lewis (2019)**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2018**

**We need volunteers to step forward!!!**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of our annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation called for Sunday, January 28, to be held in Grafing Hall at 11:30am. Annual Reports will be reviewed and such other business as has been properly presented will come before the meeting. Brunch will be served prior to the meeting. A quorum will be required, so please be sure you attend this meeting. Thank you.**

**What's Coming Up in February?**



**We will again be participating in the February Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive! Grocery items or cash will be accepted.**

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 – Feb. 28 to receive your donations. We suggest that if you are donating cash or check, that you give it directly to any Session member or Barbara Rivera in the office. 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 'Souperbowl of Caring' in the memo line, please feel free to do so.

***ALL our proceeds to benefit the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry!***

Our Outreach Committee says:  
**READY ..... SET.....DONATE!!!**

**More info about the Souperbowl of Caring will be in February's Tower Chimes.**



**Ash Wednesday and Lent** are coming early this year... Ash Wednesday is on February 14, and Lent begins on February 18.

We **will** again be participating with the Bellmore Methodist and Presbyterian churches, Seaford Methodist, and Merrick Methodist in the shared Lenten experience, however, CPC will **not** be hosting any of the services or programs.

As soon as we receive the joint Lenten schedule, we'll make it known to you.

# JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesda	Wednes	Thursda	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Happy New Year 2018!</b></p>	<p>1</p> <p>OPA 7-10pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>AA 7:30-9:30p</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm Session meeting at CPC</p>	<p>4</p> <p>NA 7:30-9:30p</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Epiphany Of the Lord</p> <p>AA 6:45-9:30p</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 <b>Epiphany Sunday</b> 10am Worship Service; Rev. Joan in the pulpit; <b>Communion</b> (servers Joe Arcuri, Tom Rose, Joe Schuessler, Diane Wood), <b>Usher Team #5</b> (Joe Arcuri, Pat Lofaro, &amp; Vince Lofaro); <b>No Sunday School</b>; <b>Refreshments after service</b>; <b>NASC 1-6pm</b></p>	<p>8</p> <p>OPA 7-10pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>AA 7:30-9:30p</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>NA 7:30-9:30p</p>	<p>12</p> <p>AA 6:45-9:30p</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am Women's Fellowship Breakfast at CPC; <b>Set-up of Grafiing Hall for tomorrow's Coffee Hour</b></p>
<p>14 <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> 10am Worship; Pastor Joan in the pulpit; <b>Usher Team #1</b> (Pat Dubovick, Charlie Leschinski, Nancy Stuber and George Weeks); <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>; <b>Coffee hour after service</b>; <b>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</b></p>	<p>15 <b>February Tower Chimes articles due</b>; <b>1pm Deacon meeting at Mona Grimm's home</b> OPA 7-10pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>AA 7:30-9:30p</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>NA 7:30-9:30p</p>	<p>19</p> <p>AA 6:45-9:30p</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 10a Worship; Pastor Joan in the pulpit; <b>Usher Team #2</b> (Scott Dodge, Fran Kelly, Alfred Lewis and Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis); <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>; <b>Refreshments</b>; <b>Annual Reports available to the congregation</b></p>	<p>22</p> <p>OPA 7-10pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>AA 7:30-9:30p</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>NA 7:30-9:30p</p>	<p>26</p> <p>AA 6:45-9:30p</p>	<p>27 <b>Stated Meeting of Presbytery in Bridgehampton</b>; <b>Set up Grafiing Hall for Sunday's congregational meeting and brunch</b></p>
<p>28 <b>Ordination and Installation Sunday</b> 10am Worship; Pastor Joan in the pulpit; <b>Usher Team #3</b> (David &amp; Jamie Brackett, Mona Grimm, Joe Nelson); <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>; <b>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WITH BRUNCH AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE</b></p>	<p>29</p> <p>OPA 7-10pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>AA 7:30-9:30p</p>	<p>31</p>			

**FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:** Souperbowl of Caring food and money drive during the month of February – ALL proceeds to benefit the Freeport pantry!

Ash Wednesday – February 14

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent - February 18; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent – February 25