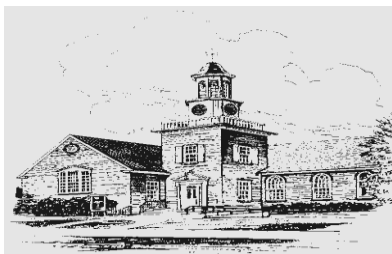


# TOWER CHIMES



2023

Office Admin. Hours: Mon. 8:30a-12:30p; Tues. 8:30a-12:30p; Wed., 11-4p, Thurs., 8:30a-12:30p, Fri. 12noon-3p

Welcome to the monthly  
newsletter  
of  
**Community  
Presbyterian Church**

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516 – 378 – 7761

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Community Presbyterian  
Church of Merrick

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOIRA

Dear CPC Family,

Christmas is long over. The ornaments and decorations are taken down for another year. Outside the trees are bare, the air is chilly; we're waiting for that first big snowstorm of the season. Meanwhile, most of those New Year resolutions have flown out the window. It's dark when we leave the house in the morning; it's dark when we get back. We can't wait for Spring!

So where are we? What is this in-between place?

We're in the season of Epiphany. The time of "making manifest." It began with the journey of the magi to the infant Jesus. But as we continue with the process of "revealing" – we see Jesus at the beginning of his ministry: getting baptized, attending a wedding, preaching in Nazareth, getting into trouble, calling disciples, teaching, reaching out and healing, living into his call as his fame grows throughout the countryside, and the light of God shines, every step of the way.

In our overcast, wintry days, we are invited to manifest our ministry. To join Jesus as he ministers, touches people, changes people's lives. In the dead of winter, we manifest the warmth of love and caring. We learn how to follow, how to be disciples. We uncover the precious gifts of CPC-Merrick, some of them shining brightly in our tender fellowship and inspiring worship. We begin to feel the quickening of those gifts not quite matured -- but definitely there – the faithfulness of ministries to homeless and hungry, to children and youth, AA meetings, music, people stepping up and taking on roles to revitalize the CPC community.



*(continues on next page)*

All these acts of kindness have revealed the love and giftedness of the congregation, and its eagerness to serve the Lord and neighbor. All these are important themes for us to consider as we get ready to prepare for the season of Lent which falls on February 22. I would like to remind us of the goals to Draw Nearer to Jesus, following the example of the wisemen. At the beginning of Epiphany we talked about naming the “stars” that lead us to Jesus. We talked about naming the “Herods” or evil that blocks our way to Jesus. We talked about naming our “gifts” we will dedicated to Jesus in 2023. If you haven’t filled out the worksheet we discussed at the beginning of January, it isn’t too late! Reread Matthew 2: 1-12. In addition, you will find a copy of Drawing Nearer to Jesus 2023 worksheet included in this Tower Chimes. Reflect on how you are drawing nearer to Jesus as the weeks of Epiphany go by. What are you doing to manifest your gifts, in this season of Epiphany to build a foundation of a stronger spiritual life in 2023?

So where are we? We’re in an exciting place. A Place of revelation. Of manifestation. Of Epiphany. We’re right where we should be. As the “revealing” unfolds as we journey to Lent, let us see how, in even these cloudy, cold days of winter, the Light of God shines brightly in our hearts and in our church.

Faithfully yours,  
*Pastor Moira*



~Please join the First Presbyterian Church of Freeport in prayers for Elder **Glenn Naidoo**, who is recovering at home from quadruple bypass surgery.

~We pray with Amanda and Linwood Pitt for his **Aunt Daisy** who had a stroke;

~Amanda is asking for prayers for her friend, **Javier**, for his kidneys;

~Prayers of thanks for **Ken Niepert** who is doing much better!

~Please join Laura Asch in prayer for **Sue Bruno** who is battling cancer.

~Please pray for **Ukraine**, its casualties of war, and for PEACE!

~Prayers for **Steve** who is having health concerns.

### WINTER MISSION PROJECT

We are still collecting winter clothing (coats, hat, gloves, sweaters, etc..) for patrons of the Freeport Pantry.

If you have clothing but can't get it down to the church, please give the office a call and we'll figure something out!

We've made several trips already to the Pantry and they are looking forward to several more!

Thanks to everyone whose been donating!

### PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT FOR 2023

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 **\$38.95** made payable to *Community Presbyterian Church*. Thank you.

### JANUARY HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to Ernie and Elain Bayha on the baptism of their grandson, Phoenix, on January 8 and to Sophea Kellawan on the baptism of her children, David and Tanya, on January 15!

Pastor Moira baptized all the children with Ernie and Diane Wood assisting, respectively.

Special coffee hours were held afterwards in celebration of the baptisms! What a great way to start off the new year!



**We welcomed 4  
new members  
to our CPC  
Family on  
January 29!**

Ashley Anthony, Sophea Kellawan, Kristin Favata, and Donna Jeffrey! We are delighted they joined our Church family and look forward to sharing the CPC experience with them!

Prior to their joining, our four new members all took New Member classes with Pastor Moira as well as meeting with Session before they made their final commitment to CPC.

A celebratory coffee hour in their honor was enjoyed by family and friends on January 29 after worship service.

## **FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS**

### **FEBRUARY Birthdays:**

Denise Creighton	
Brian Asch	13
Kayla Anthony	14
Barbara Rivera	22
Christopher Williams	26
Zoey Anthony	29



*(If your name did not appear here, it's because we don't know it's your birthday! Please call Laura Asch at 516-303-2188 so she can add your name to our list!)*

### **SOUPER BOWL CHALLENGE 2023!**

CPC is again gladly participating in the SOUPERBOWL



CHALLENGE of 2023!!! Let's go **forward** with our challenge and **score** a **touchdown** for the needy 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 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 and **kick** hunger to the curb? Good! – grab your supermarket ads, your coupon envelope and tell your family, friends and neighbors! The game is ON!! Let's **tackle** hunger!!

Our Deacons are again **quarterbacking** this project, and want to remind you that last year CPC collected 186 food items and \$3,303 in money bringing our 2022 total to 3,489. Let's not get **sidelined** this year. 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. An area will be set up in the back of 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, which might be the case this year due to the pandemic, please make it payable to **Community Presbyterian Church** with '*Souper Bowl of Caring*' on the memo line). 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 or pop it in the regular mail. Barbara will add those numbers to the totals when she receives them.

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)

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 TACKLE HUNGER!!!**

**READY ..... SET.....DONATE!!!**

## **Bible Study continues into February!**



Please join Pastor Moira for Bible Study on Wednesdays at 12:30 via ZOOM. You can join this discussion on any Wednesday, and Bible

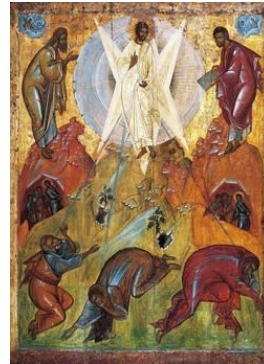
'knowledge' is **not** a prerequisite. Come and learn a few things while sharing your questions and Bible interpretations with others!

Pastor Moira asks that you let her know **each week** if you will be attending that Wednesday's class so she can send you the ZOOM invitation to the study class and in case a class has to be canceled at the last minute.

You may text or leave her a message at 917.327.2119 or [moiraahere@aol.com](mailto:moiraahere@aol.com).

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.

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**



Attention, Ladies! The women's Fellowship Breakfast in February will be on the **11th** at CPC at 10am. Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring your

love of God!

## **LOVE FEAST**

The Powerhouse Church of God has invited us all to join them for a "Love Feast" on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 2:30pm in Grafing Hall. If you're interested in attending, please call the office.



FEBRUARY 14.....

## **February 19 – 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).

All **TOWER CHIME ARTICLES** each month will be due by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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!

## **COMING THIS LENT:**

This Lent, we are happy to share accessible and inspiring daily devotions via email (paper copies can be provided) thanks to Presbyterian Outlook.

Called ***Examen: Inward work for outward living***, we will explore the ancient spiritual practice of examen that focuses on **honest assessment and reflection**. With a different theme for each week of Lent, readers are invited to explore the connection between **internal contemplation and outward action**.

~Pastor Moira



**Welcome! To  
our 2023  
Shared  
Ecumenical  
Season of  
Lent!!**

CPC will again this year participate with other local churches to share in a joint, ecumenical Lenten experience. The participating churches are:

**Rev. Dr. Jim Barnum**  
Bellmore Presbyterian Church  
2740 Martin Avenue, Bellmore  
(516) 785-2590

**Rev. Forrest Parkinson**  
Community Church of Syosset  
36 Church Street, Syosset  
(516) 921-2240

**Rev. Moira Ahearne**  
Community Presbyterian Church  
of Merrick  
2101 William Place, Merrick  
516-378-7761

**Rev. Russ Roth**  
First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin  
717 St. Lukes Place, Baldwin  
(516) 223-2112

**Rev. Moira Ahearne**  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Freeport  
178 So. Ocean Avenue, Freeport  
(516) 379-1114

**Rev. Russ Roth**  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Oceanside  
701 Oceanside Road, Oceanside  
(516) 766-5916

**Rev. Lucie Tshama**  
Merrick United Methodist Church  
1425 Merrick Avenue, Merrick  
(516) 378-9222

**Rev. Dr. Marjory Roth**  
Roslyn Presbyterian Church  
140 E. Broadway, Roslyn  
(516) 621-3139

We will start out this year's Season of Lent with **TWO SHROVE TUESDAY** events on **February 21:**

**A Pilgrimage dinner at Bellmore Presbyterian Church**

for an all-you-can-eat pancake dinner served with wonderful syrup from Vermont, sausages, potatoes, beverages, and dessert. **Seating will take place between 5pm and 7pm in Rambo Hall.**

**Tickets are \$10:00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 5-12, and free for children 4 and under.**

Tickets can be purchased at the door or you may call the office for tickets in advance and pay when you pick them up. Pancake *'take-it-to-go'* is also an option!

Monies raised will be used for events throughout the year for all of their youth activities.

**AND**

**An all-you-can-eat Pancake dinner at First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside!**

Pancakes and syrup, sausages, beverages, and dessert will be served at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. *(Please enter the Church by the side door.)*

**AND PLEASE BRING A GAME TO SHARE!**

There will be a **free-will offering** to benefit the Youth Group.

*(They would like to thank IHOP for providing the pancake batter, syrup, & sausages!)*



Lent, as you know, begins each year on Ash Wednesday, 46 days before Easter Sunday. This year Lent will start on **February 22**; and if you are following the 40 days

tradition, Lent will then end on Holy Saturday, April 8.

Lent can be helpful for families, in the same way, that Advent helps parents prepare their children for Christmas. The season of Lent provides an opportunity for families to strengthen spiritual discipline together. Rather than engaging in the distraction of the



baskets and egg hunts, Lent can help your family focus on the real meaning of Easter and what Jesus' sacrifice means for our salvation.

The First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin is hosting an Ash Wednesday service with a Soup Supper from 6 to 7:15 pm. Adults: \$7; Children: \$3; Family Maximum: \$20.



Following the Soup Supper will be a 7:30pm worship service with the receiving of ashes. *(The costs are only for the Soup Supper and you may attend the service and not the supper.)*

**And then, beginning on Wednesday nights in March, you are invited to participate in a 'Sacred Cinema Lenten Film Fest!'**

**Each Wednesday night during Lent at 7:00 pm, a clergy member of the community will introduce a movie clip for us to enjoy along with some queries for reflection for our Lenten journey. A zoom link will be sent out on Tuesdays. (And if you'd like to see the movies in-person, the First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside will be showing them.)**

**Here's the schedule:**

- March 1:** 'Jesus Christ Superstar'
- March 8:** 'Jerry & Marge'
- March 15:** 'Prince of Egypt'
- March 22:** 'Up' or 'Big Fish'
- March 29:** 'Babette's Feast'



All Maundy Thursday services (April 6) will be hosted by home churches. More information to follow as the date gets closer.



A Good Friday worship service will be hosted by Bellmore Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm on April 7.

**That will bring us up to Palm Sunday and Easter in April with each church holding its own services.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** of our annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation called for Sunday, **Feb. 26, immediately following worship service in Grafing Hall.**

The purpose of the meeting is to review the 2022 Annual Reports and such other business as has been properly presented and to elect our 2023 slate of serving elders and deacons.

A quorum will be required, so all members are asked to please attend this meeting. Thank you.

**2023 RULING ELDERS AND DEACONS**

Presbytery has once again allowed all our elders and deacons to re-up for another year, so CPC's 2023 slate will remain as it has with one exception....

Elder Alfred Lewis has decided to rotate off Session this year. We're indebted to him for his past three years of service and thank him profoundly!! May God bless you!

**2023 Session**

- Rev. Moira Ahearne, Moderator
- Joe Arcuri – Property, Use of Building, and Outreach
- Ernie Bayha - Property
- Alan Scott Dodge – Technology, Mission and Stewardship
- Fran Kelly -Worship
- Lily Kelman-Nelson - Christian Education
- Charlie Leschinski - Fellowship
- Tom Rose – Treasurer, Property, Use of Building, and Technology
- Diane Wood – Neighborhood and Membership

**2023 Board of Deacons**

- Laura Asch - Helping Hands Correspondence
- Jessie Gregorio – Memorial Fund and Treasurer
- Ramona Grimm – Moderator and Secretary
- Rich Kelly – Helping Hands Visitations
- Mary Leschinski – Flowers
- Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis – Communion and Ushers

**We welcome our upcoming class of 2023!**

**CPC cannot run without YOU!**



3. What/who are the Herod's in your life that block your way to Jesus? Name them.

4. What are your gifts? Name them. Take the time to talk to three different people and name their gifts for them. Ask them to name your gifts for you. Dedicate your gifts to Jesus and resolve to use your gifts in 2023 in ways that pay Jesus homage.



# February 2023

Sunday	Mo	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursd	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 12:30pm BIBLE STUDY	<b>2</b> GROUND HOG DAY  NA 7-9pm	<b>3</b> AA 6:45-9pm	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Kick-Off of our month-long SOUPER BOWL OF CARING food and \$ drive; 9am Worship Service; Pastor Moira in the pulpit; Communion; NEW Usher and Communion Servers Team #1: Al and Bobbie Lewis with Charles Leschinski III on stand-by; YES TO SUNDAY SCHOOL; Coffee Hour; NASC 1-6pm; PHC 11:30am-2:30pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> AA 7-9pm	<b>8</b> 12:30pm BIBLE STUDY	<b>9</b> NA 7-9pm	<b>10</b> AA 6:45-9pm	<b>11</b> NO Women's Fellowship Breakfasts yet.
<b>12</b> 9am Worship Service; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; NEW Usher Team #2: Mona Grimm and Charles Leschinski III with Donna Jeffrey on standby; NO SUNDAY SCHOOL; Coffee Hour; Meeting after worship of Ushers/Communion servers; PHC 11:30-2:30 & 4pm-6:30pm; 2:30pm PHC LOVE FEAST in Grafing Hall – we're all invited!	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!	<b>15</b> Tower Chimes articles due into office 12:30pm BIBLE STUDY	NA 7-9pm	<b>17</b> AA 6:45-9pm	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD! 9am Worship; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; NEW Usher Team #3: Sophea Kellawan and Joe Schuessler with Al Lewis on stand-by; SUNDAY SCHOOL; Coffee Hour; PHC 11:30-2:30	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> AA 7-9pm	<b>22</b> Ash Wednesday 12:30pm BIBLE STUDY	<b>23</b> NA 7-9pm	<b>24</b> AA 6:45-9pm	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 1st SUNDAY IN LENT 9am Worship; Pastor Moira in the pulpit; NEW Usher Team #4: Pat and Vinny Lofaro with Joe Arcuri on standby; SUNDAY SCHOOL; 10am ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN GRAFING HALL; Coffee Hour; PHC 11:30-2:30 & 4pm-6:30pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Bd. of Elections special election in G. Hall 5am-9:30pm AA 7-9pm downstairs	<b>Mar. 1</b> 12:30pm BIBLE STUDY	<b>2</b> NA 7-9pm	<b>3</b> World Day of Prayer AA 6:45-9pm	<b>4</b>