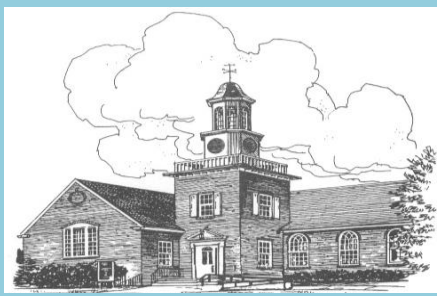


TOWER CHIMES



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Admin. office hours: Mon., Tues., and Thurs. 8:30am-12:30pm, Wed. 11am-4pm, Fri. 12n-3pm

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MOIRA

Welcome to the
monthly newsletter
of

Community Presbyterian Church

2101 William Place
Merrick, NY, 11566
516 – 378 – 7761

E-Mail

cpcmerrick
@optonline.net

Website

www.cpcmerrick.org

Rev. Moira Ahearne,
Pastor

moiraahearne@aol.com

Thomas Rose
Pres. and Treasurer
Trose1@optonline.net

Scott Dodge
Financial Secretary
alansdodge007@gmail.com



Dear CPC Friends,

By the time I write this, I am aware that you probably know by now that session, because of the church's financial situation, has regrettably ended its almost 5-year partnership with the First Presbyterian Church of Freeport and will not be renewing my contract as pastor in April. This is not a decision I supported or asked for although, of course, I understand the rationale that has been given for the decision the Session has taken. Although my contract technically ends April 7, I am extending it to Easter Sunday so I can celebrate our Lord's resurrection one last time with you.

Lent is a time for introspection and seeking renewal. It is my prayer that the Merrick congregation deliberately seeks God's will for its future through prayer, fasting and ongoing mutual reflection. I hope to use the remaining weeks of my pastorate saying good-bye to each of you individually. It has been my great honor and privilege to serve you, and I will carry many precious memories as I, too, seek God's will for the next steps of my journey. You have helped to shape me as a pastor, and I hope to carry these lessons and memories with me as I go forward. Let us pray for each other as God leads us on.

Lent offers us many opportunities to walk with Jesus as he journeys to the cross: devotionals are being sent out weekly, and I hope they are a blessing to you; we are engaging in a weekly zoom bible study on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm entitled "Finding I Am;" on Wednesday evenings, we gather with local churches via zoom to explore "Sacred Cinema: Lenten Film Fest." (Each week a different pastor will discuss a film, and we will watch a clip and discuss its spiritual implications for our lives.) I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal.

Thank you for enriching my life these past years. Know that you will always be in my prayers.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Moira

**THE MONTH OF MARCH – CELEBRATING
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY AND IRISH
AMERICAN HERITAGE, AND FROM
MARCH 13-APRIL 15 – CELEBRATING
DEAF HISTORY MONTH!**



FROM LAST MONTH

~Prayers for all the **victims and families** of the most recent surge in gun violence;
~Please pray for **Steve** as he goes through medical testing and for your support;
~We pray with the **Anthony family** as they seek a new apartment.
~Please join Joe Nelson in prayer for the **family and friends of Jennifer Karr** who died recently.
~Please join in prayer for the **families and friends of the victims of the Syria-Turkey earthquake**;
~We pray with Amanda and Linwood Pitt for his **Aunt Daisy** who had a stroke;
~Please join Laura Asch in prayer for **Sue Bruno** who is battling cancer;
~Please pray for **Ukraine**, its casualties of war, and for **PEACE!**

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! Please let **Deacon Laura Asch** know at **516-303-2188** or the church office (378-7761).

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Frank Gencorelli	2
Fuku Foster	6
Kelly Gallo	10
Forrest Parkinson	16
Gina Gallo	25
Sophea Kellawan	31



*(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 we can add your name to our list.)*



Please join us as we continue our Lenten journey:

**Wednesday nights at 7 pm
'Sacred Cinema Lenten Film'**

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.

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'

*(If you would like to see the movies in-person, they will be shown at the **First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside.**)*



Community Presbyterian Church will be hosting the April 6 Maundy Thursday service at 7PM.



Freeport First Presbyterian Church and Bellmore Presbyterian Church both will be hosting an April 7 Good Friday worship service at 7PM.

Lenten Participating Churches

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

IT'S EASTER FLOWER ORDERING TIME!



Easter Flowers

That's right, it's time to beautify our sanctuary and grounds for Easter, and ultimately your homes, AND make an Eastertime dedication in our

Sunday Easter bulletin!

Our Flower Commissioner, Mary Leschinski, has decided to make available to everyone not only our standard lilies, azaleas and hydrangeas, but tulips and hyacinths as well. The lilies, hydrangeas and azaleas will be \$14 per plant, and you may order them from the form found in this Tower Chimes.

Mary will also make available to you tulips, hyacinths and mini daffodils.....in \$10 increments. Because it's too early to know the pricing for these flowers, Mary will buy for you as many plants as she can with each \$10 given to her with the remainder of

each \$10 being donated to the Flower Fund. For example, tulips may be \$3.99 each at the time of purchase, so with your \$10, Mary would purchase 2 plants for you donating the change (\$2.02) to the Flower Fund. It is a tad confusing, so if you need further clarification, please either call Mary directly at 516-661-5017 or Barbara in the church office.

Out-of-towners may order flowers, too, by just filling out the form or calling the church office or Mary.

Please get your flower order (and dedication) in to Mary by April 2. Forms can be found around the church and on the last page of this Tower Chimes.

You may take your flowers/plants home with you AFTER our Easter Sunday service, You may also designate that the Church may keep them. Thank you, and happy ordering!

You are also welcome to make a donation to the Flower Fund without ordering any flowers!!! (Checks should be made out to 'Community Presbyterian Church' with 'flower fund' on the memo line.)

Mary plans to decorate the Sanctuary and Grounds at 10am on Saturday, April 8. Volunteers welcomed!



3,314! That's the amount of money and food items you donated for **Souper Bowl of Caring 2023!!!** Our anonymous 'Holy Spirit' came through again this year with their \$3,000 donation, \$202

was handed over by Scott from his bottle returns, and there was \$18 in our Pennies-For-People jar! AND 97 cans/boxes of food were also given. Mona was able to purchase 8 \$25 gift cards and 1 \$20 gift card with the money from the bottle returns and the Pennies-For-People jar. Yolanda from the Pantry was ecstatic and thanks EVERYONE who donated!!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to our Deacons, to our donators and to Barbara Rivera!!!

They say that money can't buy you love, and that's a fact. However, you have shown your love for others through your donations. Thank you for creating a way to help so many people.

The 2023 Directory of Members and Friends is done! Please pick one up at the Church, or if you're an out-of-towner and would like a Directory, give Barb a call in the office! Thanks to everyone who updated their info!



BIBLE STUDY – will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 12:30pm via ZOOM. Please be sure to let Pastor Moira know if you'll be in attendance **EACH WEEK** by calling or texting her. Everyone is invited!

Extensive Bible knowledge not necessary!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - MARCH 3

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated on the first Friday of March each year to encourage Christian women to engage in personal prayer and lead communal prayer within their mission auxiliaries and associations. Women have a strong sense of identification with the needs of other women and children and are better suited to provide the appropriate support. Since 1861, despite strong resistance from the all-male mission boards, women have established a number of effective boards for foreign and home missions working directly with and for women and children. World Day of Prayer is an initiative of one such board, which aims to make the lives of women and children easier by offering resources and support.

History Of World Day Of Prayer: In the 19th century, Christian women of the U.S. and Canada began engaging in cooperative activities to support women's involvement in missions across the world. In 1887, Presbyterian women called for a day of prayer for home missions which the Methodist women joined from 1892 to 1894 after calling for a week of prayer. The Baptist started a day of prayer for foreign missions in 1891.

Forming a committee in 1897, women from six denominations would eventually start a united day of prayer for home missions. These women took turns in the other participating denominations and organized the common worship service. In 1912, the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions decided that there should be a united day of prayer for foreign missions that would be observed in different parts of the world.

After the success of the Ecumenical Missionary Conference in New York City in 1900, a group of laywomen organized an interdenominational Central Committee for United Study that prepared publications, summer conferences, study days, and courses so that women could be up-to-date about the lives of women in other parts of the world. These courses also enabled them to study biblical foundations and important issues related to mission work. Women took initiatives to organize interdenominational structures that were effective and cooperative in home and foreign missions. In 1908, the women founded the Council of Women for Home Missions that assumed responsibility for the rehabilitation of immigrants and other social issues, and for the preparation of the joint day of prayer. (*Nationaltoday.com*)

International Women's Day - March 8

Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated.

Together we can forge women's equality.

Collectively we can all **#EmbraceEquity**.

Celebrate women's achievement. Raise awareness about discrimination. Take action to drive gender parity.

IWD belongs to everyone, everywhere. Inclusion means all IWD action is valid.

To learn more about International Women's Day, please visit their website:

Internationalwomensday.com

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Our March Women's Fellowship breakfast will take place on **Saturday, March 11 at 10am** in Grafing Hall. **Please call Fran and let her know if you're attending.**



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 at 516-221-3561.

MARCH 12 BEGINS DAYLIGHT

SAVING TIME! - Don't forget to turn your clocks

AHEAD one-hour Saturday night (March 11) when you go to bed

because Sunday, March 12, begins Daylight Saving Time! You'll be late for church if you don't!!



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



*May the Irish hills caress you.
May her lakes and rivers bless you.
May the luck of the Irish enfold you.
May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you!*

A Plea from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance....

Syria-Turkey Earthquake



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in the aftermath of the 7.8- magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks in Syria and Turkey. Thousands are reported dead and injured, numbers that will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.

PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people affected by this catastrophic earthquake?

GIVE: PDA's emergency response and specialization in long-term recovery is fueled by your generous gifts. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/give-STearthquake, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR999999-ST earthquake" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



PRAY: God of mercy, we join in prayer for our siblings in Syria and Turkey, and all other regions affected. In the face of the terrible images that come to us, we ask that your Spirit, O God, once again move in the midst of chaos and destruction. May you provide protection, energy and strength through your presence.

☐ \$500 ☐ \$125 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



TSE23-BI

Coming in early April

April 2 - Palm Sunday, OGHS offering, and a children's Easter Egg hunt after worship service

April 6 - Maundy Thursday - 7pm service at CPC

April 7 - Good Friday - 7pm services at First Presbyterian, Freeport and Bellmore Presbyterian

April 8 - 10am decorate sanctuary for Easter

April 9 - Easter Sunday, 9am worship service

Palm Sunday - April 2



Passion / Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, a time in the church year when we remember how Christ gave his life in love for the world. As this service opens, the crowd waves palm branches, wanting to crown Jesus as king, shouting "Hosanna, Hosanna." But as the story of the passion unfolds, their shouts of praise turn to demands for his crucifixion; he receives a crown of thorns as he is handed over to be mocked and killed.

On this day palms are received, and we participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Special OGHS offering envelopes will be included in the April Tower Chimes and will be available to you at all April worship services. Please mail your offering to the church or place it in an offering plate on any given Sunday in April. If you are writing a check, please write OGHS on the memo line with the check payable to the church.

OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), *Restorers of Streets to Live In* works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters. PDA receives 32% of funds raised.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), *Share Your Bread With the Hungry* takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. PHP received 36% of funds raised.

Self-Development of People (SDOP), *Lose the Bonds of Injustice* invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills. SDOP receives 32% of funds raised.

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in answering God's call. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Thank you.



MAUNDY THURSDAY is April 6 this year, and CPC will be having a **7:00pm Last Supper Tenebrae service** in the Sanctuary. The

service will also be recorded and posted to the internet at a later date. The service will be different from past years, but just as meaningful!

Our Tenebrae service recreates the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events leading up to Good Friday, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day.

On **Good Friday**, April 7, we have a choice to join with either First Presbyterian Church of Freeport or Bellmore Presbyterian Church for a **7:00pm** Tenebrae service.



As you know, Good Friday is the day we remember Jesus' crucifixion.

What you may not know is that the hours of noon to 3 p.m. are particularly significant as these commemorate the time Jesus hung on the cross. It is an especially important time to pray for the church and the world for whom Christ gave his life.

Their service is also being recorded and will be posted to the internet later that evening.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER and DEDICATION FORM

Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____

TYPE AND QUANTITY OF FLOWERS ORDERED

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

Tulips (\$10 increments)

White _____
Pink _____
Yellow _____
Purple _____

Hyacinths (\$10 increments) _____

Mini daffodils (\$10 increments) _____

Grand total enclosed: \$ _____



Mary will purchase as many plants as she can with each \$10 order increment.

Please return this order form along with your check made payable to 'Community Presbyterian Church' to the church office or Mary at (307 N. Linden Street, Massapequa, NY 11758) by April 2.

I will be picking up my plant(s) after the Easter service _____

I would like Mary to deliver them to me after Easter _____

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!

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:30 ZOOM Bible Study 7pm ZOOM movie and discussion "Jesus Christ Superstar"	2 NA 7-9pm	3 World Day of Prayer AA 6:45-9:30p	4
5 2nd SUNDAY IN LENT 9am Worship Service; Communion; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ; Usher Team #5 (Kristin, Charlie L. senior & Bobbie on standby); Coffee Hour ; PHC 11:30-2:30pm; NASC 1-6pm	6	7 AA 7:30pm-9:30pm	8 Int'l Women's Day 12:30pm ZOOM Bible Study 7pm ZOOM movie and discussion "Jerry and Marge"	9 NA 7-9pm	10 AA 6:45-9:30p	11 10am Women's Fellowship Breakfast in Grafiing Hall Turn clocks AHEAD 1 hour tonight when you go to bed!!!
12 3rd SUNDAY IN LENT Daylight Saving Time Begins; 9am Worship; George Petersen in the pulpit; Sunday School ; Usher Team #6 (Joe A., & Donna with Joseph N. on standby); Coffee Hour ; PHC 11:30-2:30pm & 4-6:30pm	13	14 AA 7:30-9:30p	15 12:30pm ZOOM Bible Study 7pm ZOOM movie and discussion "The Prince of Egypt" April Tower Chimes articles due	16 NA 7-9pm 7pm Session meeting	17 	18
19 4th SUNDAY IN LENT 9am Worship; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Sunday School ; Usher Team #7 (Ashley & Joseph N. with Pat L. on standby); Minute for Mission; Coffee Hour ; PHC 11:30-2:30pm	20 Mr. Rogers Day! Hello First Day of Spring!	21 AA 7:30-9:30p	22 12:30pm ZOOM Bible Study 7pm ZOOM movie and discussion "Up" or "Big Fish"	23 NA 7-9pm	24 AA 6:45-9:30p	25
26 5th Sunday in Lent 9am Worship; Pastor Moira in the pulpit; Sunday School ; Usher Team #1 (Al & Bobbie with Charles III on standby); Minute for Mission; Coffee Hour ; PHC 11:30-2:30pm & 4-6:30pm	27	28 A 7:30-9:30p	29 12:30pm Bible Study 7pm ZOOM movie and discussion "Babette's Feast"	30 NA 7-9pm	31 AA 6:45-9:30p	April 1 Happy April Fool's Day!!