


CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of the Ewing - Covenant Presbyterian Church

February 2021

“Enough”

Years ago, I heard a sermon which has really stuck with me. At that time, the church I belonged to was in the midst of a capital campaign. I don't recall the scripture the preacher used as her sermon text that day, but I do recall her saying this: “If you decide not to give to this church campaign, then at least give a financial gift to something or someone as you deem fit. Just give.” Her words struck me as rather self-defeating at the time because her goal was to exhort us to financial generosity towards the church and its campaign for funds. As it turned out, her message was very impactful because the church project was one hundred percent financed, and then some!

During this month of February, as a church we enter further into a discussion about decision making with regard to stewardship. What is on my mind these days is the question of “enough”. What is enough? Sometimes stewardship is discussed as tithing one tenth of your income. This is an interesting idea and a good rule of thumb in most ordinary circumstances. But what about this year, at a time when we are nearly 12 months into a pandemic and experiencing a “slow rollout” of a vaccine for Covid19? What, pray-tell, is “enough” to give to our church in a time such as this? Afterall, the national and world economies have been greatly impacted and it is still unclear what is to come. The need of communities for financial donations is staggering and reflects the depth of suffering which is experienced now in our country. And each of us have a unique circumstance and perspective from which we discern our giving to the church. What will the year hold for us? Will our savings be enough to tide us over if need be? Do we just scrape by paycheck to paycheck? Do we still have a job?

For weeks now, I have been pondering generosity.... what is it that motivates us to be generous? I can say that for myself, it is two main factors in addition to means. One is that I have to feel a passion towards what I am giving to. The other is that I have to be grateful in order to give. That is how I know it is the right thing for me to do! Of course, if you are like me, you are already very committed to the church, and pouring yourselves out, day after day, for the sake of the Gospel. This is a profound generosity which is achievable by all of us. But a level of financial generosity will, of course, vary among us. And it may be that this year, some of us will be able to give more, and there are those of us who will necessarily give less than we otherwise would have.

Whatever your circumstance, find something which you are grateful for. Whether you are able to give to the church or not...just give... to something or someone.

In Christ,

Pastor Ann



February Worship at Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church

During this Pandemic Season, we will continue to worship on Zoom at this link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/910100569>

Or by telephone dial 1-929-205-6099, if asked, enter the Webinar ID: 910 100 569

Please feel free to invite your friends and family to join us in this continually worshipful experience. Recordings of our worship services can be accessed through our YouTube channel, Ewing Covenant

Worshipping Community, as well as through our Website and Face Book page.

Each Sunday we invite you to have your Unity Candle ready to light at the beginning of worship as we remember all those battling the Covid-19 Virus and pray for our nation.

Sunday, February 7 5th Sunday after Epiphany
10:00 Worship via Zoom

The Sacrament of Communion - Have your own bread and juice ready to join in the Sacrament.

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching

Lectionary Texts: Isaiah 40:21-30; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 14 Transfiguration of the Lord

10:00 Worship via Zoom

Stewardship Dedication Sunday

Rev. Paul Rhebergen preaching - Love the Lord with All Your Being

2 Kings 2:12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 17 Ash Wednesday

7:00 PM Worship via Zoom

The Sacrament of Communion

Revs. Rhebergen and Schoonover leading worship

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 21 1st Sunday in Lent

10:00 Worship via Zoom

Rev. Paul Rhebergen preaching

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 19:9-15

Sunday, February 28 2nd Sunday in Lent

10:00 Worship via Zoom

Rev. Paul Rhebergen preaching

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:00 AM

Led by Sam Bonner

<https://zoom.us/j/564813133?pwd=WXV3dk5zYlkvUGJDUUEwZEc2R3REdz09>

By phone, dial 1-646-558-8656 and enter when asked the meeting ID 564-813-133

Tuesday and Thursday Chat's with Pastor Ann

Tuesdays at 10 AM to 11 AM.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81010467123?pwd=U>

[DNqWG5pNot3MFJUE5SFcvQnpzdzo9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/DNqWG5pNot3MFJUE5SFcvQnpzdzo9) Meeting ID: 810 1046 7123 Password: 271785 By phone +1- 929- 436-2866 Password: 271785

Thursdays at 7 PM to 8 PM.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/960150849?pwd=bTdYTVV3S1MoR2xmenZSWlc5MnhMUT09>

Meeting ID: 960 150 849 Password: 079496By phone dial 1-929 -436- 2866 Password: 079496

Wednesday Conversations with Pastor Paul 7:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86079729283>

By phone dial 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 860 7972 9283

Grief Group with Pastor Ann

Tuesdays at 2 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85946835493?pwd=U1dBbHVVQlRVNnU1d25OMThrTmlUZzo9>

Meeting ID: 859 4683 5493 Passcode: 891990

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 859 4683 5493 Passcode: 891990



A new year has arrived with all its optimism and promises. Your board of deacons is still meeting via Zoom with hopes that sometime this year we can once again welcome you as we usher at church, plan, and hold fellowship activities and visit and deliver flowers in person. In the meantime, the board continues to reach out to you in every way we can via phone calls, cards, porch visits and most of all in trying to help those in need in both our own congregation and the community at large.

New officers have been elected for 2021. They are Ken Harvey, moderator; Jarred DeWees, vice moderator; Liz Schofield, recording treasurer; Jane Perelli, corresponding secretary and Ralph Sims, treasurer.

At the January meeting, there was discussion as to how the church, through the effort of the deacons, can help those in need of instruction with technology or the obtaining of technology to better access Zoom services and meetings. Please make us aware of your concerns and needs in this area. Also, the board welcomes any thoughts as to how we can better serve you in this time of separation.

We close every meeting, as do the members of the Women's Association with the Mizpah Benediction so I will close this short update with it also.

"May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are apart from each other."

Jane Kidder



Newly Listed

Grace Venanzi, requested by Ginny Saiia

Cora Baker

Sue Reeg

Bonnie and Gary Brandt

Mickey Reilly, requested by Jane Schwilk

Duane, friend of Pam Miller

Diane & Frank Szachtowski, Family of Mike & Carol Hecky

Jewell Hand and Family

Michael Brezak, son of Barbara Brezak

Louise Burroughs

Steve Carter, friend of Mari Berens

Janet Corbin

The DeWees Family

Maryann Eleuteri, friend of Judy Carapezza

Rita Freilinghaus, sister of Judy Carapezza

Karen Fuchs, sister of Laura Wallin

Alice Haines

Kevin Hecky

Lydia Hill, cousin of Cathy Holland

Joan and Joe Hodak

Cathy Holland

Dan Hough

John Kelso, friend of Ginny Saiia

Nancy Kriegner

Charlie Magee, brother of Judy Carapezza

Paul Matyas

Maureen, friend of Barbara Gigliello

Samuel Meservey, grandson of Lois Meservey

Aaron Morgan

Rachel Morgan

Carolyn Parham, daughter of Betty Newberry
brother of Ingrid Pope.

Laura Ryan, niece of Sandra Gwin

Shirley Sandford

Michael Baily Schafer, grandnephew of Mary Hough

Brad Shropshire, Doug & Carol Taylor's brother-in-law

Dave Snedecker

Gwen Thomas

Travis Turner, nephew of Gay McGraw

Gloria Vernam

Kaitlynn Webster, granddaughter of Nancy Coleman

Sam & Peace Weigh

To keep the prayer list timely, listings will remain for two editions of the Newsletter (two months' time) and then be taken off. In the event you desire a listing to run longer, or for a shorter time, please contact Pastor Ann, or otherwise let your parish leaders know.



Super Bowl Sunday Tamale Benefit for ESWA

Choice of chicken, vegetarian (cheese & jalapenos),
or vegan (black bean) homemade tamales.

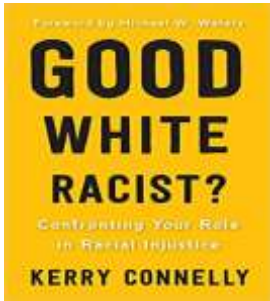
Suggested donation: \$20 a dozen; \$10 a half dozen.

Order by Wednesday, February 3rd

by phone 609-273-4848 or email Heckycarol@gmail.com

Pickup on Saturday, February 6th, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
at E-CPC in front on circular driveway

**A Benefit for the Eastern Service Workers Association's
Winter Survival Program**



Please join the Adult Education discussions each **Sunday afternoon at 1:00 pm** via Zoom. Adult Education is continuing the discussion on systemic racism using the book “Good White Racist” at 1pm each Sunday afternoon Jan. 24th, Feb. 7th, and 14th. We will be discussing Chapters 7-10 from now until the beginning of Lent in February.

It is a fascinating way to look at our own ingrained racism and systemic racism so that it is possible to reimagine what the world might look like. There is one copy of the book at the Church office or books can be ordered online from most major bookstores.

- What is our role in dismantling these evil practices?
- How can we work together so that we, and our society, act justly and with mercy as we walk with our God as we bring forth the epiphany light into our world?
- How is God calling you (and us) to respond?

“*Good White Racist?* Offers a razor-sharp and readable analysis of the covert racism perpetrated by white people who mean well. Connelly tackles these topics in a way that encourages personal insight and accountability. Her frank observations (and occasionally snark) make for a relatable book that left me cringing with recognition and motivated to change. It is an important read for all white people.” Kristen Howerton

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81923102879>

Meeting ID: 819 2310 2879 +1 929 205
6099 US (New York)

FYI: A Lenten Study will begin February 21st.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – SERVICE IN ACTION



Above: Deacons, Care Team, and Adult Ed. Mission & Social Justice joined hands in preparing hygiene bags for TASK, and groceries for ARM IN ARM. Condolence letters were written to the families of victims of violence for Moms Demand Action. Grateful thanks to all for your service. Submitted by Pam Hoffman

The Ewing -Covenant Presbyterian Church

January 28, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10



Over the last several Sundays, we have been examining *stewardship as loving God **with our whole being**. Stewardship is how we “love God with all of our **heart, soul, strength and mind**” and “our neighbors as ourselves.”* As faithful stewards of God’s grace, we are to love God and one another with every gift we have received for the well-being and good of everyone. Each Sunday our Stewardship Witnesses have spoken to how this has been lived out in their lives.

As our season of Epiphany draws to a close, we reflect upon how the light of Christ, our Messiah, has revealed God’s reconciling love to us, and to all creation. The Light of the World continues to illumine our path as we respond to God’s love by loving God and all people by following Jesus’ example of restoring relationships and valuing each person as a child of God. And Jesus has assured us that the *Spirit of God will be with us* as we seek to do God’s will.

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12: 7

We have been focusing on stewardship of our *whole life*, and not just on money. We would like you to prayerfully consider the ways you might give of your heart, soul strength, and mind, and then make a commitment to yourself, your church, your God to live that out in the coming year. You will find space on this year’s Stewardship Commitment Card to name that commitment.

And yet, ***our financial gifts are a very important part of our stewardship***, of ensuring that the ministry of our congregation remains strong. Please prayerfully consider what your financial commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ through this congregation will be.

We urge you to complete the Stewardship Card that is included in this mailing, and return it to the church by **Thursday, February 11**. It is your opportunity to declare how you intend to love God and others this coming year. Indicate ways in which you plan, with God’s help, to love God and others with all of your heart, soul, strength and mind. And of course, please also consider your financial giving to the ministry of this congregation. Your commitments will be offered to God during our Dedication worship service on February 14.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all you mind” and “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Pastor Paul

Rev. Paul Rhebergen
Transitional Pastor

Sandra Austin

Elder Sandra Austin
Vice-President of the Corporation

Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church 2021



“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all you mind” and “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:7

This is how I intend to love and serve the Lord this year.

With my Heart	
With my Soul	
With my Strength	
With my Mind	

With my Financial Giving:

\$ _____ per (circle one) week month year

Printed Name

Signature

Date



An Update Regarding Three Program Offerings

Because of the ongoing circumstances of covid19, two of our programs-- the monthly lunch group and our quarterly ROAM events—will now be offered on-line via zoom. A third offering is a new grief group which meets weekly. Here is more detail regarding these three programs:

The former Senior Lunch (Ewing) and Lunch Bunch (Covenant) becomes “Lunch Together...from Home” and takes place on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Mark your calendars: the first-ever “**Lunch Together ...from Home**” happens Thursday February 18th starting at 11:45. I look forward to seeing all of you; I extend a warm invitation to new persons who may be able to attend, too. The routine will be the same: gathering, conversation, a joke or two from Buzz Dakin, saying Grace, breaking bread together, and group sharing before we end. Participation is via Zoom by phone call in or by video (such as an iPad, laptop computer or other device). And yes, you will need to prepare a lunch for yourself to enjoy at home. *Find the “Lunch Together...from Home” zoom link, meeting ID number, and necessary call- in information in the listings below.*

ROAM (Regional Older Adult Ministry) will resume quarterly events via zoom. You may recall that **ROAM** began as a collaborative effort of Covenant, Ewing Presbyterian, and Historic “First” Presbyterian Churches, as well as ECHO, Inc. Back then, ROAM’s programming was carried out by a working group which encouraged collegiality among pastors, and nurtured emergent leaders. Each ROAM event, designed for older adults’ unique spiritual and practical concerns/needs, provided an in-person experience of fun, care, enrichment, growth, and community. Usually, a hot meal was served.

Although on-line programming will undoubtedly change ROAM events, our hope is to continue ROAM’s knack for finding the nexus where community-building, the arts, and spirituality all come together. Ideas are currently being vetted! In terms of meal, possibilities include sharing a special recipe so that we can all partake of something special, or perhaps a lunchbox may be dropped by your home for you to enjoy during the event. If you have ideas for making these events special, please let me know. *Meanwhile, keep an eye out for more information which will be coming soon!*

Finally, a **grief group** will begin this month for persons who have experienced the death of a loved one, either during the pandemic or earlier. It is now accepted that Covid19 challenges one's capacity as well as opportunity to process grief as one might otherwise do under more normal circumstances. Rituals surrounding grieving have been adversely impacted by Covid19, and isolation imposed by the virus has heightened loneliness felt by those who are bereaved. We will explore Christian traditions around grieving while we gently converse and faithfully walk together through our contemporary experience of loss, grief, and healing. This group meets Tuesdays at 2 pm. Here are the Zoom links:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85946835493?pwd=U1dBbHVVQlRVNnU1d25OMThrTmlUZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 4683 5493 Passcode: 891990

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 859 4683 5493 Passcode: 891990

--Pastor Ann



Presbyterian Mission
**Mission Engagement
& Support**

Thank You!

January 13, 2021

The Mission Committee of
First Presbyterian Church Of Ewing
100 Scotch Rd.
Ewing, NJ 08628

Dear Fellow Partners in Mission,

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we are standing at the threshold of a new year. As 2020 has been a difficult time for many, we are looking to John's words from the Book of Revelation, God is "making all things new" (Rev. 21:5).

As we begin a new year, I'm writing on behalf of Presbyterian Mission to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support of our mission efforts. On December 14, 2020, we received \$500.00 for B051792 Jinishian Memorial Program.

Your contribution changes lives for the sake of the gospel around the world. Thank you once again for your support, dedication and partnership in furthering God's mission around the world. You are a valued partner.

As always, please let me know how I can support you in your mission efforts.

Yours in Christ,

Lynne Foreman

Lynne Foreman
Mission Engagement Advisor
Office of Mission Engagement and Support
(502) 526-7164
lynne.foreman@pcusa.org



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Pastor Ann's 10am Prayers/ Fellowship Zoom	3	4 Pastor Ann's Evening Conversation 7pm Zoom	5	6
7 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm Zoom	8	9 Pastor Ann's 10am Prayers/ Fellowship Zoom	10	11 Pastor Ann's Evening Conversation 7pm Zoom	12	13
14 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed.1pm Zoom	15 President's Day – Church Office Closed	16 Pastor Ann's 10am Prayers/ Fellowship Zoom Deacons Meeting	17 Worship 7pm Ash Wednesday Zoom Conversation with Pastor Paul 7pm Zoom	18 Pastor Ann's Evening Conversation 7pm Zoom	19	20
21 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm Zoom 1 st Sunday in Lent	22	23 Pastor Ann's 10am Prayers/ Fellowship Zoom Session Meeting	24 Conversation with Pastor Paul 7pm Zoom	25 Pastor Ann's Evening Conversation 7pm Zoom	26	27
28 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm Zoom 2 nd Sunday in Lent						

Please refer to the worshipping schedule portion of this newsletter for all zoom and phone in connections.