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# CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of the Ewing - Covenant Presbyterian Church

March 2021

## Connecting Thoughts

On Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, the New Brunswick Presbytery ceased to exist. This regional connection among Presbyterian congregations dates back into the colonial period of the United States and carried with it a lot of the history of our denomination. Its origins came in theological conflict, its churches and the fledgling seminary that was to become Princeton, were cast out of Philadelphia Presbytery. Its history includes revolutionary pastors, supporters of slavery and abolitionists, prohibitionists, and anti-prohibitionists. A rich history.

Yet, Presbyteries are ultimately about relationships, and congregations making connections to carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ in a particular area. They are about leaders of the congregations, both ministers of word and sacrament and ruling elders coming together to see how the work of sharing the gospel might best be done. Presbyteries work to prepare people for ministry, and to find ways that the resources of the many might be used to share the mission of the church in particular places.

And, as was said in the worship of the Presbytery, presbyteries are about change. They are about adapting to the movement of the Holy Spirit in the gathered body of the church; they are about adapting to the changing realities of ministry. The Spirit has been at work to bring about this change. The Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church will now be a part what for the time being will be called "the Central New Jersey Presbytery. The Presbyterian Churches of Mercer County will be joined with those of Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties (and one from Somerset, Kingston) to form a presbytery that goes from the Delaware to Sandy Hook, from Iselin in the north down to New Egypt and Point Pleasant Beach. We will be saying

goodbye to our friends in the churches of Hunterdon County, but meeting new partners in mission and in ministry.

Yet with all this change, there is one thing that is certain: God will still go before us to show us the way. After all, Ewing-Covenant has learned a good bit about finding new partners and friends with whom to share new directions in ministry. Perhaps we might teach the churches of the new Central Presbytery a thing or two.

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Paul



*Of course, it is one of my favorite television shows: All Creatures Great and Small, airing Sunday evenings on PBS. Loving animals since I was a kid, I am enthralled by the adventures of veterinarian James Harriot as he sets about working among the people (and creatures) of a quaint English town. The story proves irresistible to me.*

This past Sunday's episode was no exception. For those of you who may yet decide to view it, I provide only a few details here, so as not to spoil it for you. Here goes: A tale of the precariousness of new life plays out when a much-loved mama dog struggles to give birth to her litter of pups. James is called in to help; he and a friend hasten to aid the mama dog, determined that all shall be well.

With much skill James facilitates the delivery of the first pup, but its survival is uncertain. As he lifts the tiny pup to breathe into its mouth, I found myself tearing up...I drew in my own breath. I forgot I was sitting in my living room. Rather I was caught up in

## March Worship at Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church

something bigger, the drama of life and death, even if it was only playing out on my tv. As James placed the pup with its mother, there was nothing to do but wait. That's when Hope filled the dramatic space—and tv time seemed to mimic eternity. I mouthed words so familiar to me: whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Although just a tv drama, I saw a beautiful image of James and his friend as God and His midwives, offering us new life, calling forth from us hope, asking for our trust. I can't help but recognize and respond to the real dramas of our own lives as, again and again, God's divine benevolence and love is freely given to us.

As we journey together through this season of Lent, we must necessarily ponder our creatureliness. We are at times vulnerable, seeming to be rendered powerless, and teetering on the brink of life and death. At our most vulnerable, we can slip into forgetfulness—feeling dislodged from our belonging within God's great miracle of life. But in truth, we are never separate from God even when we *feel* lost in separateness. Marcus Borg writes about the experience of moving from such forgetfulness into renewed identity as *"the act the remembering God, reminding myself of the reality of God, I feel a lightness of being—a rising out of my self-preoccupation and burdensome confinement. We are called again and again to come forth from our tombs."* Baptized into Christ, we experience dying and rising with Christ, again and again, throughout our human lives.

May we have the wherewithal to look for God's mid-wives as God enacts divine love and benevolence for us, again and again. Perhaps such midwives are indeed hiding in plain sight: the parish leader who call us on the phone, the spouse who calls us home when we forget the way there, the pastor whose sermon melts the coldness which has crept into our heart, the much-loved family pet whose presence and unconditional love comforts us as we go about our daily lives, or perhaps it is the neighbor who does not look like us or worship like us but yet beckons us to become closer to God, together.

God's Peace be with you,

Pastor Ann

We will continue to worship online through the month of March. The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, March 7 and on Maundy Thursday, April 1. We encourage you to have bread and juice available for you to join the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

**As always, the Zoom link for our worship is:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/910100569>  
Or by telephone dial 1-929-205-6099, if asked, enter the Webinar ID: 910 100 569

### **Sunday, March 7** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

10:00 Worship Online

the Sacrament of Communion

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching

Lectionary Texts: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1-14  
Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

### **Sunday, March 14** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday on Lent

10:00 Worship online

Rev. Paul Rhebergen preaching

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians  
2:1-10; John 3:14-21

### **Sunday, March 21** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

10:00 Worship Online

Rev. Paul Rhebergen preaching

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-  
10; John 12:20-33

### **Sunday, March 28** Palm/Passion Sunday

10:00 Worship online

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching

Mark 11:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a;  
Mark 15:1-39

### **Thursday, April 1** Maundy Thursday

7:00 Worship online

Communion and Tenebrae Service

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12=19; 1  
Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:00**

**Led by Sam Bonner**

<https://zoom.us/j/564813133?pwd=W XV3dk5zYlkvUGJDUUEwZEc2R3REdz09>

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

## **Sunday Afternoon Adult Ed. - 1:00 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81923102879> By phone, dial 1-929-205-6099 , Meeting ID: 819 2310 2879

## **Tuesday and \*Thursday Chat's with Pastor Ann**

**Tuesdays at 10 AM to 11 AM.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81010467123?pwd=UDNqWG5pNot3MFJUeDN5SFcvQnpzdzo9>

Meeting ID: 810 1046 7123 Password: 271785 By phone +1- 929- 436-2866 enter password: 271785

**\*Effective Thursday March 4th, Pastor Ann's Thursday evening chat will now be offered as an afternoon chat during the hour 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. The same link/information can be used to access the meeting and participate.**

**\*Thursdays Chat at 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/960150849?pwd=bTdYTVV3S1MoR2xmenZSWlc5MnhMUTo9>

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

**Grief Group with Pastor Ann Tuesdays at 2:00 PM (Group will resume on Mar. 9)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85946835493?pwd=U1dBbHVVQlRVNnU1d25OMThrTmlUZzo9> Meeting ID: 859 4683 5493 Passcode: 891990 Dial by your location 1 929 436 Meeting ID: 859 4683 5493 Passcode: 891990

**NOTE: Pastor Paul's Wednesday evening conversations have stopped for the Lenten Season.**

**Wednesday Lenten Study, 12:15-1:15**

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

By phone dial 1-929- 205- 6099 Meeting ID: 860 7972 9283

Pastor Paul will continue to lead the online study of Lent in Plain Sight. Join in the weekly conversation of "A Devotion through Objects". Follow Jill Duffield's daily devotions and join in the conversation. (having the book is not a requirement, though copies are available through the church office and online. Here is our schedule of the objects of: Lent in Plain Sight:"

March 3 – Bread

March 10 – Cross

March 17 – Coins

March 24 - Shoes and Oil

March 31 - Coats, Towels, and Thorns

**Lunch Together...from Home** is being held monthly, every third Thursday at 11:45 AM. Please mark your calendar to attend Thursday March 18th. Here is the way to participate via zoom, by video or by phone call in:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83279089163>

Meeting ID: 832 7908 9163

Or call in by phone by dialing 1 929 436 2866 US (New York) and then provide Meeting ID: 832 7908 9163

*I know that this is not quite the same as our former in-person approach, but I feel hopeful that we can make it work. There will glitches of course but we will prevail :)*



## **Spotlight on Mission**

January and February have been busy months at Ewing-Covenant church with a Day of Service on MLK Birthday where we filled hygiene bags for TASK, wrote condolence letters to families of victims of gun violence for Mom's

Demand Action and bagged a van load of groceries for Arm in Arm.

Helped ESWA members cook, wrap, and give out Tamales for a major fund raiser for Eastern Service Workers Association.

We have donated the following funds to the following organizations as different ways to help them during this time of need:

\$200.00 each to TASK, Mercer Street Friends Food Pantry, The Rescue Mission of Trenton, and Arm in Arm.

\$500.00 each to Friends for Health in Haiti and to LifeTies.

As always Mission, and it place in Stewardship, are ongoing forward moving as the Spirit directs us in giving and loving with our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Thank you all for your generosity.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** will be received Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **The Deacons voted unanimously to support two new ventures.**

**BLESSING BOX:** To be used as a food pantry for Head Start families where anyone can contribute or withdraw food items from the box. Deacons voted to spend \$300.00 to purchase the box and Ken will order. It will be placed outside the Head Start entrance door on the porch for easy access.

**EWING HELPING HANDS:** Started by two Ewing Fisher Jr. Middle School teachers, the organization is in the local Ewing PBA Hall #111 and distributes 50 food bags a week to local families who have children in the school district facing hard times due to COVID. The Deacons voted to donate \$375.00 (through Amazon) for each of the remaining school months (March thru June) totaling \$1500.00 All purchases will be done via Amazon. At this time, they are not accepting any monetary or food donations. Stay tuned. \_\_\_\_\_

**Don Lovett's daughter Meghan and son-in-law are moving back to New Jersey from England with their son, who will be 9 months old when they arrive.** Although they will be shipping items to the US, they will need baby items immediately upon their arrival. In particular, they will need the following: highchair, play pen, crib or portable bed, changing table, car seat, baby gate, baby utensils, and 12-month-old clothing (he's a big boy!) for April weather. Please contact Don at 609-439-6107 or [lovett@tcnj.edu](mailto:lovett@tcnj.edu). Thank you.

### **SERVICE IN ACTION - Tamale Fundraiser**

Once again Eastern Service Workers held their annual Tamale Fund Raiser on Super Bowl weekend. ECPC was able to help with this event by offering the use of our kitchen facilities. While no tamales were actually made in our church, we did use the kitchen to prepare the ingredients and cook-steam hundreds of tamales. ESWA took orders for 200 dozen tamales. That is a lot of tamales to make and of course, get eaten! Most of the tamales were made at the homes of members of ESWA due to pandemic safety issues, but many were made on Saturday, the 6th, at Trinity Methodist Church right down the street. Our church was also used as a distribution center for pickup of the tamales by volunteers and donators/tamale eater from TCNJ and ECPC. Through the help of church members such as Don Lovett, Suzie Wentworth, Nina and Rachel

Morgan, Cindy, and Maegan Strain, and the Hecky family, ESWA was able to host a successful fund raiser for their organization.

*Thank you to all who helped in some way.*



*Newly Listed*

**Marilyn Parker**, *friend of June Scott*  
**Sandra McIntyre**, *friend of June Scott*  
**Todd Lewis**, *grandson of Margie Burtis*  
**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*  
**Jewell Hand and Family**

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**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*

**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**

**Diane & Frank Szachtowski**, *Family of Mike & Carol Hecky*

**Gwen Thomas**

**Travis Turner**, *nephew of Gay McGraw*

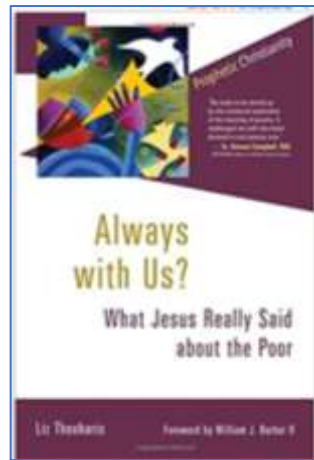
**Gloria Vernam**

**Kaitlynn Webster**, *granddaughter of Nancy Coleman*

**Sam & Peace Weigh**

To keep the prayer list timely, listings will remain for 2 editions of the Newsletter (2 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.

## Adult Education – Stewardship of the Mind



**Sundays at 1:00PM**

***What did Jesus really say about the poor?***

The book study will examine what Scripture has to say about poverty. Be sure to join us as we examine the causes of poverty, and how we can try to alleviate it.

Click on this adult Ed. link to join the zoom meeting:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81923102879>

By phone: 1 929 205 6099, 81923102879# US (New York)

Books are available at the church office (suggested donation is \$22, but not required). Or you may order the book from Amazon or a bookstore of your choice.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:00**

**Led by Sam Bonner**

<https://zoom.us/j/564813133?pwd=W XV3dk5zYlkvUGJDUUEwZEc2R3REdz09>

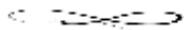
By phone, dial 1-646-558-8656 and enter when asked the meeting ID 564-813-133

## *Remembering our Beloved Departed*

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

**Nancy Kriegner**

October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1951 – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021



**Doris Ann Gwin** – mother of Keith Gwin

## *One Great Hour of Sharing*

During Lent, we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Please consider giving generously on Palm Sunday, March 28.



For more than 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided us with a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work toward a better world. Your gifts make this work possible! The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is divided among three Presbyterian programs:

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)** Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees. (32%)

**PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)** Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. (36%)

**SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)** Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. (32%)

**WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**



# March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Pastor Ann's 10am Prayers/ Fellowship Zoom	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm Zoom	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm Zoom 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent Communion	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Pastor Ann's 10am Prayers/ Fellowship Zoom  Grief Group – 2:00pm	<b>10</b> Wednesday Lenten Study, 12:15-1:15pm	<b>11</b> Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm Zoom	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm Zoom 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Pastor Ann's 10am Prayers/ Fellowship Zoom Grief Group – 2:00pm  Deacons Meeting	<b>17</b> Wednesday Lenten Study, 12:15-1:15pm	<b>18</b> Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm Zoom  Lunch Together 11:45am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm Zoom 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Pastor Ann's 10am Prayers/ Fellowship Zoom Grief Group – 2:00pm  Session Meeting	<b>24</b> Wednesday Lenten Study, 12:15-1:15pm	<b>25</b> Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm Zoom	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm Zoom Palm/Passion Sunday One Great Hour Of Sharing	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Conversation with Pastor Paul 7pm Zoom			

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

