



CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the Ewing - Covenant Presbyterian Church – July 2021

Our Vision

Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church is called to be a church where people seeking hope find the light and love of Christ and together, joyfully serve the community with abiding love and purpose.

Our Mission - As a church

We find and share the light and love of Christ in prayer, in worship, in fellowship, and in service. We welcome the rainbow of God's children, and we embrace our differences. We gather to develop relationships with God, with each other, and with the world. We are inspired by the Word of God as proclaimed through music, and our love of music strengthens our relationship with the community. We empower others to embody grace, mercy, justice, and peace, guided by the light and love of Christ. We purposely demonstrate compassion, understanding, and generosity to others, inspired by the love of Christ. We open our hearts and our doors to those seeking hope, wholeness, wellness, acceptance, and a place to be seen.

Connecting Thoughts

My brothers and sisters in Christ, this will be the last column of Connecting Thoughts that I will write as your pastor. There are mixed feelings about that reality, mostly because among the many tasks I have had as your pastor, probably my least favorite was writing newsletter articles. But the flip side of that is how glad I am that I have had this opportunity over the past eight years to share my thoughts about the life of this congregation, the underlying biblical and theological understandings that have guided me in my ministry, the intersection of church and community, to think and write about our shared life as a family of faith.

In this last column I want to express my deep appreciation and awe for the ways that you have responded to my pastoral leadership. I know that has not always been easy, but you have been faithful in your promise to work with me, trusting the Spirit to guide us together in the faithful direction. I am human, and I am flawed, and I know that there were ways that I could have served with you, individually and corporately, more fully. I celebrate the ways God has worked through us together in a ministry of reconciliation, of hospitality, marked by the ever-expanding

experience of our shared faith. God has done good things through our time of shared ministry.

I would also share my trust in the providence of God, and my confidence in you as the Ewing-Covenant Church. Both are born of our time together. God has continuously provided the people and resources the congregation has needed to travel a difficult journey. All we have needed God's hand has provided. Your desire for reconciliation and healing, the openness to the building of the road we trod as we walked it together, the lived hospitality in the name of Christ born out of experiences of exclusion, the continuing openness to change that comes, the willingness to live into the new thing God is creating in your midst; all these I have experienced as the presence of the Spirit as we shared the story of Jesus and his love. They sing the song of God's new creation. *

There will be challenges ahead for this faithful congregation: finding ways to connect and share the good news of the gospel with people in an increasingly non-religious society; encouraging the people of the church to witness to their faith and commitment to Christ with each other and the community; inviting others into life within the community of faith even as you go out to meet them where they are; "seeing" the unseen; strengthening

the financial generosity of the congregation so it is not so reliant on income from the cemetery and invested funds; continuing to improve the campus and buildings of the church that they can serve as a way-station, a gathering and sending center for the ministries of the church; continuing to find new songs and new words to glorify God. You have a journey before you.

I am confident that you will do all that and more because God is with you as you move into this next part of your shared journey.

I thank God for the life and ministry we have shared. I thank each of you for your faithful presence through this time. All glory be to God.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Paul

*Bonus points to anyone who can name my four favorite hymns referenced in this paragraph. Additional points to any who can name the book that is referenced, and its author. You will find the answer as you read on in this issue of Connections.

What is it about process? Everything!

In my early career, I worked as a neutral in labor relations. By neutral, I mean I wasn't an advocate with a "side"—that is, I was not representing a union or an employer. Rather, I was basically moving people through a process that I believed was important. The process was about a sequence of tasks to be accomplished, a timeline to adhere to, and an outcome (agreement) to obtain. Now if you are thinking, you are correct that at times, a neutral necessarily advocates for the good of the process, with the assumption that the process is ultimately good for the people. What I saw was the change in people...oftentimes the most exciting change was growth in non-quantifiable experience, such as greater trust, deeper capacity for relationship, patience and acceptance, renewed sense of community, and hope for the future.

Early in my ministry, while working on a committee to complete the difficult and sad process of dissolving a church, I was asked how I could best help. I said that working to bring people together around an established process was discerning the Kingdom of God. This shocked some of the people

who heard me say this, most of all myself. Yet at the time, it was a deep truth I spoke; one which I am still trying to articulate in my ongoing ministry. I believe that the experiences which go unmeasured, even when a process has reached its conclusion, are the experiences which are the most spiritual. So, it is not by chance that I have enjoyed ministry with Pastor Paul, and this in the midst of this now "one" congregation.

Just the other day, I heard myself saying that Pastor Paul is one of the most patient persons I know! Yes, we do not always agree, even when it comes to process, we have differing techniques and theoretical understandings/practices. But it is the synergy of process in the church, overtly combined with spiritual growth and deepening, which I suspect anchors us both in ministry. Pastor Paul is a true mentor in ministry; I have come to respect him and see the light of the Kingdom shine forth in him and in his ministry unto all of us.

It is not by accident that the scriptures (and our canon) are anchored by images of a garden: a garden of creation in Genesis and a garden where Mary Magdalene understands the transformative truth of the Gospel. And a garden is an almost perfect image for "process": in addition to its literal sustenance of our very lives, the garden delights us, and blesses us with spiritual gifts and closeness with God.

Pastor Paul may God's blessings for you continue in this next season of your life.

Peace,

Pastor Ann

July Worship at EC-PC

Our gathering for worship is now hybrid, combining in person and on-line gathering at 10:00 on Sunday morning. The on-line link continues to be:

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

Or by telephone dial 1-929-205-6099, if asked, enter the Webinar ID: 910 100 569. Come join us for a summer of relaxed worship. At this time, we continue to follow protocols for Covid safety, signing in, social distancing and masking.

Sunday, July 4th 6th Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 Worship Sacrament of Communion
Rev. Paul Rhebergen preaching

Independence Day and Immigration Sunday
Lectionary Texts: Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2
Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

Sunday, July 11th 7th Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 Worship
Revs. Paul Rhebergen and Ann Schoonover
preaching in dialogue
Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 2:11-22;
Mark 6:14-29

Sunday, July 18th 8th Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 Worship
Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22;
Mark 60:30-34, 53-56

Sunday, July 25th 9th Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 Worship
Pastor Paul's Farewell Service and Celebration
Texts for the Day: Romans 12:1-2; Galatians
5:22-23; Luke 10:17-28

Zoom/In Person Meetings and Events

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

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 Chats with Pastor Ann

Tuesdays at 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81010467123?pwd=UDNqWG5pNot3MFJUEwZEc2R3REdz09>
Meeting ID: 810 1046 7123 Password:
271785 By phone 1- 929- 436-2866 Password:
271785

Thursdays Chat at 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/960150849?pwd=bTdYTVV3S1MoR2xmenZSWlc5MnhMUT09>
Meeting ID: 960 150 849 Password: 079496
By phone 1-929-436-2866 Password: 079496

Grief Group with Pastor Ann Tuesdays at 2:00 PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85946835493?pwd=U1dBbHVvQlRVNnU1d25OMThrTmlUZz09>
Meeting ID: 859 4683 5493 Passcode: 891990
Dial by your location 1 929 436 Meeting ID: 859
4683 5493 Passcode: 891990

Lunch Together...from Church and/or Home is held every third Thursday at 11:45AM.
In the Adult Lounge. Please mark your calendar
to attend: Thursday July 15th.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83279089163>
Meeting ID: 832 7908 9163
By phone by dialing 1 929 436 2866 and then
provide Meeting ID: 832 7908 9163

Woman's Association

Ruth and Tabitha Circles will be meeting on
Wednesday, June 9th at 6:30pm in the Adult
Lounge. If you do not feel comfortable meeting
in-person or cannot attend for some
other reason, the meeting will be accessible on
Zoom. All are welcome. Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84680928271>
Meeting ID: 846 8092 8271
Or call in by phone by dialing: 1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 846 8092 8271

Our congregation has been supporting the Eastern Service Workers Association (ESWA) for quite some time. We now have an opportunity to assist them in our own church home by performing various clerical tasks. We will meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 PM in the Upper Meeting Room. We started meeting this past June 22. *If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Sandra Austin at 609-658-2379.*

ECHO, Inc. extends **Best Wishes** and a **Happy Retirement** to Pastor Paul Rhebergen, Transitional Pastor of Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your support, concern and encouragement, and all you did to help us transition to our new home.

We wish you a life in retirement filled with rest, relaxation and many new and exciting experiences.

BAPTISED ON THIS DAY

June 27th, 2021



Jackson David Harvey
son of Terry and Ken Harvey

DEACON DOINGS

The Deacons have been steadily working all throughout the Pandemic. Although most activity was behind the scenes, we are alive and continuing our work for the Church!



At our June meeting, our finances were finally resolved, thanks to Don Lovett and staff. This information will allow us to continue our ministry for the Church and various groups. We are continuing to support Ewing Helping Hands, providing funds to purchase food for our Ewing school families. If you would like to contribute to Ewing Helping Hands, please send a check to the Church office, with Ewing Helping Hands indicated on the memo line.

We are trying to make arrangements for the Blawenburg Band/Ice Cream Social. A tentative date is planned for August 22nd. The band's schedule is in flux at this time, so alternate ideas are being discussed. We will keep you advised.

Ken Harvey – Moderator

Sunday, July 25 – The Farewell Party for Pastor Paul Volunteers are needed for the planning and arrangements for the congregation's celebration of Pastor Paul's ministry in our midst.

Please contact the Church Office to sign up to help. Churchoffice@ewingpres.org, 609-882-3673.

Blanket Sunday Donations

May 9th was Mother's Day, a time when we honor or remember those who are or have been like mothers to us.

In memory of our mothers, Aileen Allen and Magda Sofia Johnson, *Wayne & Sylvia Allen*

Father's Day June 20th

We honor all those men who have repaired our lives when we were hurt or afraid. They repair broken things around the house as well. They are always building.

In Memory of Jack Bahan and Robert Tantum, *Jill & Jim Tatum*

In Honor of my Son & Sons-in-law, *Janice Rockmore*

In Memory and in Honor of the Grand Dads in our family, *Jane Kidder*

In Memory of Milton J. Evans, *Marilyn E. Carroll*

For Kenneth Murphy and Leroy Coleman, *Nancy Coleman*

In Memory of my Dad Byron Engler and Dick Schenck, *Laura Beaumont*

In Memory of our Fathers Robert Pollison and W. Hudson Lovell, *Carol & Dave Pollison*

In Memory of Ray Olson, *Don Lovett*

In Honor of Fathers and Grandfathers, *Bette Schubert*

In Memory of William Gettler, Robert Schofield Sr., Conrad Gettler, Michael Lehman, Charles Schofield, Leroy Dougherty and Frank Dragos, *Liz & Bob Schofield*

In memory of H. Wayne Berens, the Rev. George Berens, Harry Olson and Martin Hopper, *Harriet Berens*

In Honor of Matthew Ciccione and Harry Martin Olson, *Harriet Berens*

For Walter Everitt Robert Miller, *Gary and Pam Miller*

In Honor of Francis Szlachtowski, In Memory of James Hecky and J. Richard Bigler, Carol and Michael Hecky

In memory of Dick Schenck and Gene Taylor, in Honor of Doug Taylor, Nick Hatch and Mike Langford, *Carol and Douglass Taylor*
For Paul Hoffman and Andrew Hoffman, *Pam Hoffman*

In memory of our Fathers, Edwin Johnson and Roland Allen, *Wayne and Sylvia Allen*
George Renwick

**You are Invited! Sunday, July 11
3- 6pm Cadwalader Park Pavilion**

You are cordially invited to join Eastern Service Workers Association (ESWA) members, volunteers and supporters for a Sunday afternoon picnic at the beautiful pavilion in Trenton's Cadwalader Park to celebrate ESWA's 46th Anniversary of landmark organizing in Central New Jersey.

ESWA is one of the organizations our congregation supports as it works toward changing systems that result in poverty in our community, for a future in which no one is left behind. ***If you can attend, please contact Sandra Austin (609-658-2379) or the church office so we can RSVP.***

Thank you.



Newly Listed

Lois Miller, sister of Joan Hodak
Trey Byrd, friend of Bette Schubert
John Jodak, husband of Joan Hodak
Mike Cieplechowicz
Jane Crane, Lucy Smith, Anita Swallow, friends of Betty Ranson
JoCarolyn Dent-Clark
Margie Burtis
Kathy DiGiacomo, friend of Terri Harvey
Jessica, friend of the Harvey Family

Wayne Allen, husband of Sylvia Allen
Mari Berens, daughter of Harriet Berens
Bonnie and Gary Brandt
John Breckenridge
Michael Brezak, son of Barbara Brezak
Louise Burroughs
The Burtis family, which grieves the death of Todd Lewis,
Steve Carter, friend of Mari Berens
Janet Corbin
David Dakin, son of Buzz Dakin
Jo Carolyn Dent-Clark
Jarred DeWees & Stacy Robson and their Families
Jim Disler, husband of Shirley Disler

Maryann Eleuteri, friend of Judy Carapezza
Eleanor Everitt, sister-in-law of Pam Miller
Carol Frantz, friend of Harriet Berens
Rita Freilinghaus, sister of Judy Carapezza
Karen Fuchs, sister of Laura Wallin
Alice Haines
Jewell Hand and Family
Kevin Hecky
Lydia Hill, cousin of Cathy Holland
Cathy Holland
Dan Hough
John Kelso, friend of Ginny Saia
The families of Vijay Nandagopalan and Sheela Christy.
Charlie Magee, brother of Judy Carapezza
Paul Matyas
Maureen, friend of Barbara Gigliello
Samuel Meservey, grandson of Lois Meservey
Burt Milstead
Aaron Morgan
Rachel Morgan
Jesse Moss, great-grandmother of Dyshel Harvey.
Carolyn Parham, daughter of Betty Newberry
brother of Ingrid Pope.
Susan Reisinger, aunt of Jarred DeWees
Laura Ryan, niece of Sandra Gwin
Shirley Sandford
Michael Baily Schafer, grandnephew of Mary Hough
Megan Scarborough
Brad Shropshire, Doug & Carol Taylor's brother-in-law
Dave Snedecker
Zachary Stewart, grandson of Ken and Terri Harvey
Gwen Thomas
Travis Turner, nephew of Gay McGraw
Gloria Vernam
Kaitlynn Webster, granddaughter of Nancy Coleman
Sam & Peace Weigh

***The answers to Paul's challenge:**

The hymns: Great Is Thy Faithfulness, Lift Every Voice and Sing, I love to Tell the Story, My Life Flows On (How Can I keep from Singing).
The book: The Road We Make By Walking, Brian McLaren.

*Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church
First Anniversary Gathering & Picnic - June 27th, 2021*





2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm 7PM – Bell Choir	2 Church Office closed Summer hours	3
4 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed.1pm 6 th Sunday after Pentecost Independence  Day	5 Holiday- Church Office Closed	6 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Grief Group 2:00pm	7 Woman's Association 6:30pm	8 Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm 7PM – Bell Choir	9	10
11 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed.1pm 7 th Sunday after Pentecost	12	13 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Grief Group 2:00pm Deacons Meeting	14	15 Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm Lunch Together 11:45am 7PM – Bell Choir	16	17
18 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm 8 th Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day	19	20 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Grief Group 2:00pm Session Meeting	21	22 Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm Lunch Together 11:45am 7PM – Bell Choir	23	24
25 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm Farewell for Pastor Paul 9 th Sunday after Pentecost	26	27 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Grief Group 2:00pm	28	29 Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm Lunch Together 11:45am 7PM – Bell Choir	30	31 C.A. Tues. –8PM New Way To Live - Thurs.– 8PM Venture To Help - Sat.– 3PM Fri. Night Lights - 8:30PM

Please refer to the worshipping schedule portion of this newsletter for all current hybrid/zoom and phone information.

Summer days bring the need to stay cool and safe! Please take good care of yourself by doing the following:



- Seek out cool, air-conditioned places.
- drink additional fluids (water) to avoid dehydration.
- Use cool water (showers, baths) to cool down.
- avoid being in cars unless they are air-conditioned.

Signs of heat stress include headache, nausea, dizziness, thirst, elevated body temperature, weakness, fatigue, muscle, abdominal cramps...If you experience these, seek help and/or call 911.