



CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the Ewing - Covenant Presbyterian Church – August 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.

CONNECTION THOUGHTS (literally)— Worship helpers/Tech support persons needed!

Dear Congregation Members and Friends,

As I write this, I am filled with joyful anticipation but also must ask for help.

In a very difficult time of pandemic, our Sunday worship service was “broadcast” via zoom, and effectively shouldered by Pastor Paul (who now moves into retirement), Carol Houghton and Natalie Houghton (who will resign at the conclusion of August) and myself. Paul broadcast from the worship space, with Carol, Natalie and myself participating from remote locations.

Just a month ago, on June 20th, we reopened our doors for in-person worship (maintaining safety protocols set forth by the reopening team and adopted by our church Session). Things shifted to now offer “hybrid” worship service (that is in-person combined with zoom), which is quite a challenge. Please know that there are two companies which have submitted bids and proposed plans to help us meet this challenge, and a new team is now forming to review their recommendations and set the path going forward.

In the meantime, your understanding patience are needed because we are just getting back on our feet; deacons are resuming tasks and duties. I realize there is dissatisfaction for some because what works well “in person” and what works well “on zoom” are very different animals, especially when it comes to sound quality. Understanding and patience because the status of the Covid19 virus is ever-changing and our reopening committee and session are continually assessing how worship happens safely.

I ask for your **help** because hybrid worship requires Carol Houghton and I return to traditional roles during worship. We also will begin using a new computer recently upgraded with necessary software. **Help is where you come in:** we need persons to serve as tech assistants. Please contact Pam Miller or Carol Houghton-- both on the worship team—or me if you are willing to do this.

And remember, God is surely with and for us. Let's be kind and patient with and for each other.

In Christ,
Ann

Final Thoughts

As I sit to write these last thoughts, I am still basking in the glow of this past Sunday's wonderful celebration of my and our ministry. Thank you to Carol Hecky and all those who worked to put together the joyful day. And thank you all who gathered to worship and celebrate. I am told there were 100 of us gathered in the Worship Space, with another 30 joining online. What a joyful day it was.

I also want to thank all of you who contributed to the gift that will send us on a delightful trip. Your generosity is overwhelming. And thank you for the cards, and the words you shared on the stars. They are a gift that will continue to shine brightly on into my retirement.

There is one thing above all others that I will cherish from my time with this congregation. It is that we learned together that living into the shared gifts of the Spirit brings with it the reality of the fruits of the Spirit in our midst, to be shared with all. As Paul wrote in Galatians 5: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." You have shown all of these during my time with you. I thank you.

May God continue to bless you.
In Christ's service,
Paul

Paul's retirement contact:

609-947-3748
plrheberg@verizon.net
Paul Rhebergen
9 Center St.
Hopewell, NJ 08525

Pastor Paul's Covenant of Closure

In the Presbyterian Church (USA), part of the process of ending a pastorate is for the Pastor, the Session and the Presbytery to sign a covenant, or agreement about the departing pastor's involvement with the congregation in the future.

This Covenant of Closure is written to remind the pastor and the congregation of the importance of the departing pastor to "step out of the picture" so that the next pastor is able to connect with and develop pastoral relationships in the congregation. In my work as an interim and transitional pastor I have had to overcome the difficulties that are created when a former pastor makes him/herself

available to former parishioners at many of those key moments that provide the context for developing the new relationships. It is natural for you to want the comfort of that dearly beloved past pastor at the time of a hospitalization or death but know that the new pastor will be able to provide that just as effectively for you.

You all already know Pastor Ann, and that will be an asset over the coming year as you need the care and services of your pastor. I am confident that you will turn to her in your times of need.

Below you will find the Covenant of Closure that I have made with your Session and the Presbytery. I encourage you to read it. You will find in the Covenant the rationale for having it, and the and what I promise to do. You will read that the covenant allows the many friendships that have developed to continue. But the role of pastor to you has now ended. I look forward to my retirement. And I look forward to friendships that will live on in new ways.

Blessings,
Paul

A Covenant of Closure Between The Reverend Paul L. Rhebergen, the Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church, and the Presbytery of Central New Jersey

In recognition of the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Paul L. Rhebergen, the Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church, and the Presbytery of Central New Jersey this covenant of closure is formed, effective August 1, 2021.

The covenant is established in order that the way may be clear for the next pastor, temporary or installed, to fully develop the deep and significant relationships with the congregation and the community it serves without the unintentional interference of the former pastor. The covenant recognizes the importance of providing for the transfer of the pastoral leadership fully to the next pastor. The importance of this transition in pastoral leadership transcends any need the former pastor may have and the grief and discomfort of members of the congregation that comes with the change in pastoral presence and leadership.

With this Covenant of Closure, the Rev. Paul Rhebergen acknowledges that his role as

Transitional Pastor to the Ewing-Covenant congregation has ended. Therefore:

- He will not involve himself in any pastoral or leadership role in the life of the congregation.
- He will not intervene, support, give advice or opinion regarding the dynamics or business of the congregation.
- He will refer requests for pastoral services made by members and friends of the congregation to the pastor of the Ewing-Covenant Church and communicate the referral to that pastor.
- He will not officiate in any special events in the lives of former parishioners or of the congregation, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, or any special congregational events, no matter where they may be held, unless expressly invited by the Moderator of the Session.
- He will limit participation in social media, now or in the future, with the congregation. Communication will be confined to friendships. The covenants made for in person relationships shall apply to social media in all platforms.
- He will not use church email, contact lists, mailing lists to disseminate information regarding events, programs, and groups that he will be leading or participating in. He may provide such information for any future moderator/pastor to share with the congregation as that person may wish.
- He will not include members of the Ewing-Covenant in online studies, discussion, or chat groups that he personally initiates.
- He will make himself available to the succeeding pastors/moderators at their initiative to assist in any ways that are mutually seen to be appropriate.
- He will continue to pray for the congregation and its pastor as they continue to develop their mutual ministry.

This Covenant of Closure does not affect or require the termination of friendships with individuals in the Ewing-Covenant congregation, but does impact the interactions as in any way related to the congregation and its pastor.

With this Covenant of Closure, the Session acknowledges that the Rev. Paul Rhebergen's

relationship as Moderator and as Transitional Pastor has ended. Therefore:

- The Session and its members commit to working with and supporting the ministry of the Rev. Ann Schoonover as the Moderator and Transitional Pastor of the Ewing-Covenant;
- The Session and its members will encourage the congregation to pray for the ministry of the congregation as it lives into new pastoral leadership, and its full support of the pastor in her ministry.
- The Session and its membership will share in the interpretation of the terms of this Covenant of Closure with the congregation and record this Covenant in the minutes of the Session.

The Committee on Ministry of the Central New Jersey Presbytery shall:

- Interpret this Covenant of Closure to the Session and congregation of the Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church;
- Note the Covenant in the Committee on Ministry minutes; and
- Support Rev. Rhebergen and Rev. Schoonover in the living into this agreement.

The burden of responsibility for ensuring a healthy transition lies primarily with the professional behavior of the pastor who is departing. This transition demands empathy and maturity from all parties—the former pastor, the new pastor, the Session, the members of the congregation, and the representatives of the Presbytery.

All affirm that this covenant establishes the new relationship between the congregation and the retiring pastor. The policy does not expire with the passage of time but remains in effect in spirit even if the pastor is permitted to renew regular ties with the congregation.

We affirm this Covenant of Closure representing the cessation of our pastoral relationship. We give thanks to God for our time as pastor and congregation and now affirm our trust in the provisions of our Lord for our respective but separate futures.

RETURN TO CHURCH COMMITTEE

Sunday Morning Guidelines

We welcome you as you enter for worship this morning. As you enter, we ask the following of you:

1. If you have not already done so, please fill out a "Hold Harmless" form. Remember that you only need to do this once.
2. Fill out the Health Form for the day. This helps us know who is present so that we will be able to track who was in attendance should it become necessary for any health-related reason.
3. We ask that you remain masked until you leave the worship service and are again outside.

WHY DO WE ASK THAT YOU CONTINUE TO WEAR A MASK?

First, know that the Return to Church Committee and the Session are continually examining our protocols and procedures related to the COVID Pandemic. We realize that the State of New Jersey has eliminated almost all restrictions for those who are vaccinated and recommends social distancing and masking for those not vaccinated be continued. Yet, the Pandemic continues to be with us, and the new variants of the disease is heavily striking the unvaccinated. And, while the effectiveness of the vaccine is incredibly high, it is still possible for a vaccinated person to contract Covid while suffering symptoms at a less dangerous level.

While the percentage of our congregation who have been vaccinated is high, we also know that there are those in our midst who are not able to be vaccinated for any number of reasons, including choice. We are an open congregation, welcoming any and all who come to gather with us in worship. We ask that all who attend our worship in person remain masked in order to respect and protect everyone, from the youngest child who cannot be vaccinated, to the oldest person who has been vaccinated but is still vulnerable to the Covid virus. It is for "the least of these" in our midst that we will continue to ask people to wear their mask during in-person worship.

We recognize that masking is difficult for some. If your mask becomes unbearable, we encourage you to step out of the worship service (yes, even during the sermon) and remove your mask once you have passed to the outside.

AUGUST WORSHIP at E-CPC

Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church will continue to gather both in person and online for worship through the month of August. Those who attend in person are asked to be masked and to continue to practice social distancing. For those who prefer to worship online, the Zoom Link remains the same:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/910100569>

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

August 1 6th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Worship

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia preaching:
WHAT NOW?!

August 8 7th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching

Lectionary Texts—2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33;
Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:51-58

August 15 8th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching

Lectionary Texts—1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

August 22 9th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching

Lectionary Texts—1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

4:30 pm Deacons Ice Cream Social /Blawenburg Band

August 29 10th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching

Lectionary Texts—Song of Solomon 2:8-13;
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-25; Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23

ZOOM/IN PERSON MEETINGS & 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=UDNqWG5pNot3MFJUE5SFcvQnpzdzo9>

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=bTdYTVV3S1MoR2xmenZSWlc5MnhMUTO9>

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=U1dBbHVVQlRVNnU1d25OMThrTmlUZzo9>

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

OFFICE HOURS: Over the remainder of the summer, the Church Office Hours will continue to be Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. With the departure of Eileen Bernie from our staff, Anna Lovett will be providing assistance in the office. Jerry Coleman, our Financial Secretary will continue to be available to respond to any questions you may have regarding your contributions to the church.

MISSION SEWING—POSTPONED!



Due to ongoing concerns with COVID-19 and the delta variant, Mission Sewing in-person meetings will be postponed until further notice.

Big Committee Night **will not be held** Tuesday evening, August 3rd.

WANTED!

Sunday School teachers to assist, substitute or teach the children of our congregation on Sunday mornings. All age levels. We have a new curriculum we are excited about that comes with lots of lessons and activities. Please reach out to Carol Hecky 609-273-4848

ICE CREAM SOCIAL—SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22 at 4:30pm.



The Deacons are once again having our annual summer Ice Cream Social, featuring the Blawenberg Band. Please bring relatives, friends, neighbors to this fun outside event. Please remember to bring your own chairs. We will not be providing tables outside due to social distancing.

Any questions please contact Ken Harvey, Jarred DeWees, or Liz Schofield.



ECPC Assisting Eastern Service Workers Association (ESWA).

ESWA SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Once again ESWA is collecting school supplies for the children in the Trenton area. They need your help. They are especially in need of backpacks, spirals, 3-ring notebooks, lined paper, crayons, markers, and scissors.

Donations can be dropped off in the Scout Hut until August 26th.

You may also make a financial contribution which will help purchase supplies if you are unable. Checks made out to the Ewing/Covenant Presbyterian Church noting in the memo: *ESWA school supplies*
Questions-contact Carol Hecky 609-273-4848

ESWA MISSION SERVICE GROUP-4TH TUESDAY EACH MONTH

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. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Sandra Austin at 609-658-2379.



A Big “Thank You!” to All Who Donated to the 2021 Anchor House “Virtual” Ride for Runaways

Thank you to all who donated to my Anchor House ride again this year! This year’s ride was once again a “virtual” event and included both cyclists and walkers. Thanks in part to the generosity of members of Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church, riders and walkers were able to raise over \$400,000 so far this year! All in all, my fundraising effort was very enjoyable and a big success. (I exceeded my personal goal of raising \$1,500 thanks to many of you!)

Anchor House supports homeless, abused, runaway and at-risk youth, including those who are aging out of the child welfare system, in the Trenton area. Anchor House’s programs help connect youth to support systems where they live and help them gain the skills they need to become productive and independent adults. To learn more about this great organization, please visit <https://www.anchorhousenj.org/>
I can’t say enough good things about the staff at Anchor House and all the good they do in the community (check out the testimonials from kids and this year’s scholarship winners on their website). So, thank you again for your continued support this year. I’m always so touched by your generosity.



Newly Listed

Carol Stawski

Jim Disler

Peace Weigh

Carol Martin

Lois Miller, *sister of Joan Hodak*

Trey Byrd, *friend of Bette Schubert*

John Hodak, *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 Saiia*

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 Weigh

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

Remembering Our Beloved Departed

May the souls of all
the faithful departed rest in peace



Lillian Kopcsik

Memorial Flowers – Now Scheduling

We are now scheduling Sunday Memorial Church Flowers, beginning Sunday August 8th. If you would like to schedule for a loved one, please fill out the form below. Please make your check for \$48 out to E-CPC and indicate "Sunday Flowers" in the memo line.

DONATED BY: _____ **Requested Sunday Date:** _____

CONTACT INFORMATION (phone or email): _____

NAME OF PERSON(S) FLOWERS ARE IN MEMORY OF: _____

Flower Memorials will be in the Sunday Bulletin

Please cut this form out and send or bring into to the church office along with your donation.

Questions? Please contact Anna in the church office at churchoffice@ewingpres.org or 609-882-3673

Thank You, Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church!

July 15, 2021

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$2,200 to support our food distributions this summer, and for your help making our 46th Anniversary Celebration a great success.

We've started the summer with some very important advances: our building is running on solar energy as of last month (which ECPC helped facilitate), we added a monthly general medical session with a volunteer doctor providing exams for members without insurance, and we helped two members win back a combined \$17,500 in unpaid wages after months of advocacy.

We greatly appreciate the ever growing support, and look forward to working together through our upcoming Back-to-School distribution in late August.

Best wishes for the remainder of your summer!

Sincerely,

Michael Clark
for ESWA



Choosing Between Household Bills or School Clothing and Supplies for Your Kids?

It is a reality for more families than you think!

Help make the beginning of the school year a time of hope and excitement for ESWA members and their children!



Summertime...but the livin' ain't easy!

To narrow the year-round gap between incomes and necessary expenditures, ESWA members have built ESWA's budget-saving Benefit Plan II, including distributions of clothing and school supplies for children of enrolled members, so they can use their already stretched

funds for food, utilities, medical care and other necessary expenses.

Donations can be dropped off in the Scout Hut until August 26th. You may also make a financial contribution which will help purchase supplies if you are unable. Checks made out to the Ewing/Covenant Presbyterian Church noting in the memo: ESWA school supplies.

EASTERN SERVICE WORKERS ASSOCIATION (ESWA) is a free and voluntary membership association of low-paid service, temporary and domestic workers

and others organizing to end poverty conditions. ESWA members enrolled in ESWA's budget-saving Benefit Plan II program can save more than \$500 for

They Need:

Backpacks

Spirals

Folders

Crayons

Markers

Scissors- safety and for older kids

3 ring notebooks and lined paper

their families through our Back-to-School clothing and supply distribution — gaining more stability so we can organize to end the root cause of our poverty conditions.



2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed.1pm 10th Sunday after Pentecost	2	3 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Grief Group 2:00pm	4 ECHO Smartphone Workshop 1:30- 3:30pm	5 Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm	6	7
8 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed.1pm 11th Sunday after Pentecost	9	10 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Grief Group 2:00pm ESWA Mission Service-1:30pm	11 Woman's Association 6:30pm	12 Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm	13	14
15 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed.1pm 12th Sunday after Pentecost	16	17 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Grief Group 2:00pm Deacons Meeting	18	19 Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm	20	21
22 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm 13th Sunday after Pentecost Ice Cream Social & Blawenburg Band Starts 4:30pm	23	24 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Grief Group 2:00pm ESWA Mission Service-1:30 Session Meeting	25	26 Pastor Ann's Afternoon Chat 4:30 – 5:30pm	27	28
29 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm 14th Sunday after Pentecost	30	31 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Grief Group 2:00pm				N.A. 7PM – 3 rd Mon. ea. Month C.A. Tues. – 8PM New Way to Live - Thurs.– 8PM Fri. Night Lights - 8:30PM Venture to Help - Sat.– 3PM

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