



# CONNECTIONS

*The Newsletter of the Ewing - Covenant Presbyterian Church – November 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.

As the leaves change color, and the weather turns chilly, our focus turns to a time of harvest and thanksgiving. Just as the particular beauty of each season is worth our pausing and noticing, so is each season of our life in community worth appreciating! While we gather with family and friends to celebrating a Thanksgiving meal this month, it is our church tradition to provide for meals for others in our wider community. See the "Deacon's Doings" section below for details about participating in this effort.

In our worship together, we celebrate "All Saints" on November 7<sup>th</sup>, when we are joined by Rev. Larissa Kwong-Abazio. Thereafter our focus on Mark's gospel begins to shift: Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup> is our "Christ the King" service. On Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup> the liturgical season of Advent begins-- a time of waiting for the birth of the Christ-child. Again, this year, we lift up traditions of Advent as best we can, with a Cantata and other special worship services continuing, albeit using video and by zoom. Our Advent practice of waiting is rich; one particular way of embracing waiting is to open ourselves to (re)new faith and deepen community. In that regard, Adult Ed invites you to take part in its Advent series, offered by hybrid on Sundays following worship. Please contact Pam Hoffman or Sandra Austin with any questions.

In our congregational life, our church has begun its process of nominating persons to fill vacancies in the Session and serve as Deacons, as well as nominating

members for the congregational nominating committee of 2022. (Please speak asap to Carol Taylor, Isaac Mungra, John Damrau, Carol Houghton or myself if you are willing to serve.) This important process requires we gather for a congregational meeting --which will be held on Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup> --to vote on nominees. Please mark your calendars now! Also, that day, Mission Sewing holds its sale to benefit Dr. Katie Wolf's "Friends for Health in Haiti" organization, a long-standing mission partnership of ours. Sylvia Allen and Jane Kidder can answer any questions.

Finally, keeping with themes of harvest and thanksgiving, I encourage each of you to acknowledge the blessings you have known despite this pandemic, and look with eyes of faith to see the blessings of God upon our church. While it is tempting to see only what is missing— such as the normalcy of unrestricted life without wearing masks, etc. -- our call to discipleship compels us to live abundantly knowing the gift of the Gospel, always proclaiming the Good News. Is there a blessing you've overlooked? What unexpected blessing are you are thankful for? How is God blessing you in this very moment? What good news shall you proclaim to yourself and also to your neighbor?

In Christ,  
*Pastor Ann*

## 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.

\* For your convenience, an updated [COVID Screening Questionnaire](#) is now available on the church website.

### 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.

### NOVEMBER WORSHIP at E-CPC

Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church will continue to gather both in person and online for worship through the month of November. 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

#### October 31 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Jenny Lee preaching

*Ruth 1:1-18*

#### November 7 24th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Worship – All Saints Service

Rev. Larissa Kwong-Abazio preaching

*Semicontinuous: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 and Ps. 127;*

*Complementary: 1 Kgs. 17:8-16 and Ps. 146;*

*Heb. 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44*

#### November 14 25th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching

*Semicontinuous: 1 Sam. 1:4-20 and 1 Sam. 2:1-*

*10; Complementary: Dan. 12:1-3 and Ps. 16;*

*Heb. 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25; Mark 13:1-8*

#### November 21 Christ the King

Seminarian Rosa Ross preaching

*2 Sam. 23:1-7 and Ps. 132:1-12 (13-18) or Dan.*

*7:9-10, 13-14 and Ps. 93; Rev. 1:4b-8; John*

*18:33-37*

#### November 28 1st Sunday after Advent

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching

*Jer. 33:14-16 and Ps. 25:1-10; 1 Thess. 3:9-13;*

*Luke 21:25-36*

### ZOOM/IN PERSON MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Led by Sam Bonner

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88286830251?pwd=dUdoVkNuazFTMzdPUVZiaWk3ckY5QT09>

Meeting ID: 882 8683 0251

Passcode: 001763

### Sunday Afternoon Adult Ed. - Following worship

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6762714701?pwd=TLhhdS9nR3J4dWxPaDc3RUFNVEg0Zz09>

By phone: 1 (929) 205 6099; Meeting ID: 676 271 4701; Passcode: 111035

### Chats with Pastor Ann: Tuesday at 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81010467123?pwd=UDNqWG5pNot3MFJUEDN5SFcvQnpzd09>

Meeting ID: 810 1046 7123; Passcode: 271785; By phone: (929) 436-2866

### Grief Group with Pastor Ann – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 2:00 PM

Grief Group will be meeting both in person in the parlor room of the Church Office Building and online via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85946835493?pwd=U1dBbHVvQIRVnU1d25OMThrTmlUZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 4683 5493; Passcode: 891990; By phone: (929) 436-2866

### Lunch Together...from Church and/or Home

is held every 3rd Thursday at 11:45AM in the Adult Lounge. Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 832 7908 9163; By phone: (929) 436-2866

### Presbyterian Women

#### RUTH AND TABITHA CIRCLES

Ruth and Tabitha Circles will be meeting together at 6:30 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month in the Adult Lounge. This will be both an in person and a Zoom/phone meeting. All are welcome. We will be reconnecting after a long year and planning our programs for the year. Come join us even if you have never participated in a Presbyterian Women's event before.

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/81514129580?pwd=aFBINStaeDVUVGxaamZzU13c1pPQT09>

Meeting ID: 815 1412 9580;

Passcode: 580310

Or call in by phone by dialing: (929) 436-2866



### DEACONS DOINGS

Our church will be taking a collection to assist our Head Start families during the Thanksgiving holiday. The



goal is to collect **\$1,200 for 12 grocery store gift cards worth \$100 each.** Please write checks to "Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church" with "Deacon's Holiday Fund" on the memo line. All donations should be in by **Monday, November 22nd.** If you have questions, please contact Suzie Wentworth at [suziewent@gmail.com](mailto:suziewent@gmail.com) or 609-462-5090.

### HEALTH IN HAITI

Sale to Benefit Friends for Health in Haiti



On Sunday November 21st, following worship, Mission Sewing will hold a sale of antique quilts, handmade teddy bears, and other items in the adult lounge. Proceeds will benefit Friends for Health in Haiti. Question should be directed to Sylvia Allen and Jane Kidder.

### LAY READER SCHEDULE

The Worship and Music Committee is putting together a Lay Reader schedule for this church year. The Lay Reader will assist Pastor Ann during the worship service. If you are interested in being a Lay Reader, there is a **sign-up sheet** available on the table in the entrance to the worship space, or you can contact Pam Miller, Jane Perelli or the church office. Thank you!



**Betty Newberry and her daughter Carolyn Parham**

**Beatrice Mould**, friend of Will Olson

**The Anthonys**

**Judy Ecuyer**, friend of Betti Schubert

**Charlie Magee**, brother of Judy Carapezza

**Maryanne Eleuteri**, friend of Judy

**Carapezza**

**Caitlyn Webster**, granddaughter of Nancy Coleman

**Carol Martin**, friend and former Covenant member

**Winifred Smith, friend of June Scott**  
**Wayne Allen**  
**Judy Carapezza**  
**Ingrid Pope**  
**Esther Clark, friend of Janice Rockmore**  
**Pam Miller**  
**Marjorie Burtis**  
**Loise Burroughs**  
**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**

*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.*



October 31, November 7, 14, 21

Consider this: We live in polarized times where many curate their communities (particularly on social media) to include only those who share their politics, religion, or favorite sports teams. A person can even choose what news channels to watch for information that is interpreted to confirm what they already believe. Family holiday dinners are infamous for devolving into arguments where people talk past one another and forget why they are at the same table in the first place. How do we navigate this uphill climb to form a more authentic community with the people around us?

**Let's explore together how we can follow Jesus by cultivating a life that bridges differences within our families, our congregation, our community, and ultimately the world.** Stay after worship for four (4) sessions on this topic, including biblical examples, questions to expand your thinking, and intriguing discussion.

There is a helpful reflection guide for participants to use during the session, and at home when preparing for or reviewing the topics (suggested donation of \$7). Contact Sandra Austin at 609-658-2379 if you'd like a copy.

Our members who are in the church triumphant:

**Betty Sutterly**

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1920 – October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021



**Mari Berens**

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1966 - October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021



## Thanksgiving Food Drive!

Once again, **ESWA** will be holding a Thanksgiving food drive to help their members get through the holidays. Please see the list below of needed items. Food can be dropped off at the Scout Hut before November 22nd. If you have a Turkey or ham to donate, they can be brought to church on a Sunday or call Carol Hecky 609-273-4848.

### Items needed:

Frozen Turkey and ham, rice, stuffing, oatmeal, pasta sauce, pasta, potatoes-white and sweet, cake mixes, dry and canned beans, peanut butter and jelly, cranberry sauce, canned fruit-no sugar added, canned vegetables, cereal, gravy, tuna, soups



**THANK YOU!!!!**



## Memorial Flowers – Now Scheduling



We are now scheduling Sunday Memorial Church Flowers, beginning Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 the church office at [churchoffice@ewingpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@ewingpres.org) or 609-882-3673

## Suggestion Box!

NEW CHURCH NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFORMATION (phone or email): \_\_\_\_\_

Submit this form by snail mail to the church office, email it to [churchoffice@ewingpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@ewingpres.org), call into the church office by dialing 609-882-3673, or put this suggestion into a box provided in the narthex!



# NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Visioning Team 7pm	<b>2</b> Chat with Pastor Ann 10am Grief Group 2pm Big Committee 7pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Bible Study 9am Worship 10am Adult Ed. 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (All Saints service)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Chat with Pastor Ann 10am	<b>10</b> Allocation Team 6pm Presbyterian Women 6pm	<b>11</b> Return to Church meeting 6pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Bible Study 9am Worship 10am Adult Ed. 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Chat with Pastor Ann 10am Mission Sewing 10am Grief Group 2pm Deacon's meeting 7pm	<b>17</b> Session Meeting 7pm	<b>18</b> Lunch Together 11:45am hybrid	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Bible Study 9am Worship 10am Adult Ed. Christ the King Sunday and Congregation meeting!! Mission Sewing Sale to Benefit Haiti	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Chat with Pastor Ann 10am Presbytery Meeting (evening)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving Day! 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Bible Study 9am Worship 10am Adult Ed. 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Chat with Pastor Ann 10am			N.A. 7PM – 3rd 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.