



CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the Ewing - Covenant Presbyterian Church – September 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

Dear Friends,

One of the key teachings of John Calvin is this: the knowledge of God is the knowledge of self.

In my own life, I have often returned to this truth to help me move forward into the future God to which God calls me. For the church, too, Calvin's teaching is a wonderful wisdom! It serves as a touchstone during a period of change, a transition from one way to the next way of being a church together. In our church, we have said goodbye to Pastor Paul, and experienced a good ending. And a wonderful and new beginning—to be heralded by our installing a “called pastor”—is in our future. But this present time is an “in-between” place and characterized by the “transitional” work demanded by our in-between circumstance. We are indeed embracing our transition work!

A significant transitional task involves the continuing development of our vision and mission statement. You may ask *What is so important about the vision and mission statement?* The answer is this: we must know ourselves in order to move into God's future for us. And we must engage in a prayerful discernment of God's future for us to truly know who and how we are becoming more of

our self, becoming more and more the community of faith God calls us to be. So, the work of the vision team continues, and the congregation is invited to participate!

The Vision Team invites your input, and your participation. If you would like to serve on the Vision Team, please let me know, or speak with any of the team members: Ralph Sims, Barb Brezak, Rick Durham, Don Lovett, and Joanne Durham.

Also, please attend one or both of our upcoming retreats on Saturday September 18th and Saturday October 16th. The purpose of these retreats is to deepen unity, and further discern how our vision and mission statements will “take on flesh.”

In the meantime, be sure to attend (and bring a friend) to Spirit Sunday on September 12th when worship service will lift up themes of Hospitality and Vitality, as well as introduce educational programs and highlight opportunities for missional engagement. On Spirit Sunday stay to enjoy the Blawenburg Band concert which begins at 1 pm on the church lawn (Bring your own chair please). As is our tradition, ice cream will be served.

Please realize that other tasks of this transition time are ongoing: We are improving our communication – whether with each other, within our own church

family, or with the friends, mission partners, and potential new members beyond our church campus. Also, we are embracing “new ways” of creating hybrid (in-person and via Zoom) worship experience, with goals of increasing joyful vitality, promoting inclusivity, enacting welcome and deepening diversity through proclamation and music.

God deeply desires us and calls us into our future. We respond already, with our deep desire and love, by sharing our joy, missional purpose, and loving community.

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.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP at E-CPC

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

September 5 15th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Worship

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching
Lectionary Texts—Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23;
Psalm 125, 146; Isa. 35:4-1; James 2:1-10, 14-17;
Mark 7:24-37

September 12 16th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Worship – SPIRIT SUNDAY

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching
Lectionary Texts—Prov. 1:20-33, Psalm 19, 116:1-9; Isa. 50:4-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

1:00 pm Deacons Ice Cream Social /Blawenburg Band

September 19 17th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Worship

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching

Lectionary Texts—Prov. 31:10-31, Psalm 1, 54;
Jer. 11:18-20; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-
37

September 26 18th Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am Worship

Rev. Ann Schoonover preaching
Lectionary Texts—Esth. 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22,
Psalm 124, 19:7-14; Num. 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29;
James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

ZOOM/IN PERSON MEETINGS & EVENTS

Sunday Morning Bible Study - 9:00 AM

Led by Sam Bonner

<https://zoom.us/j/564813133?pwd=WXV3dk5zYlkvUGJDUEwZEc2R3REdzo9>

Meeting ID: 564 813 133

By phone: (646) 558-8656

Sunday Afternoon Adult Ed. - 1:00 PM
(will resume September 19th)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81923102879>

Meeting ID: 819 2310 2879

By phone: (929) 205-6099

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81010467123pwd=UDNqWG5pNot3MFJUE5SFcvQnpzdzo9>

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=U1dBbHVVQlRVNnU1d25OMThrTmlUZzo9>

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 7 pm on Wednesday, September 8th 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=aFBINStaeDVUVGxaamZzU1l3c1pPQT09>

Meeting ID: 815 1412 9580; Passcode: 580310

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

NEW STAFF AND OFFICE HOURS: We are excited to announce the onboarding of the new administrative assistant for the church office, Angela Scott. Anna will be working with Angela in the next week to train her on all office procedures. Stop in and introduce yourself to Angela! As we move into the Fall season, office hours will change to **Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. Jerry Coleman, our Financial Secretary will continue to be available to respond to any questions you may have regarding your contributions to the church.

Spirit Sunday—Sept. 12th 

Join us as we are inspired by the Spirit of God working with and through us. We will enjoy a “parade” and join our hands together as we find new ways in which we can embody the Body of Christ within our congregation, our community, and the world.

On **September 12**, we celebrate the beginning of the new church year in which we “gather to develop relationships with God, with each other, and with the world.” We do that as we “find and share the light and love of Christ in prayer, in worship, in fellowship, and in service.” Did you recognize two of the mission statements adopted by our church community?

In order to live into our mission, we must individually and corporately s-t-r-e-t-c-h ourselves to take on something new as we recall

this year's stewardship theme: "Love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **strength** and with all your **mind**" and "Love your neighbor as yourself."
~Luke 10:27



How shall we do that? Come and see!

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL—RESCHEDULED
SUNDAY, SEPTMEBER 12 at 1:00pm.**



Following Spirit Sunday Service, please join the Deacons for the rescheduled annual 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, or Liz Schofield.

GATEWAY HEAD START

E-CPC is excited to welcome back Head Start students IN PERSON for the upcoming school year. Head Start has 35 children enrolled to begin school on September 8th. Due to COVID-19 regulations they will be managing a staggered arrival/departure in lieu of standard school hours. Head Start asks that all people entering the Fellowship Hall building be mindful of when school is in session and avoid entering the Education wing. Head Start is limiting any additional people coming into the Education space; any folks entering the school will need to be COVID screened and masked upon entry.



Christian Education Resumes

This year, we will explore "**Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living.**" And who among us wouldn't like to live more faithfully in response to God's love for us? The first four-week unit explores how we can "**Welcome All**" in keeping with the mission statement: "*We welcome the rainbow of God's children, and we embrace our differences.*" This curriculum has something for *all age groups!* Plan to join us beginning **Sunday, September 19.** More details to follow.

FRIENDS FOR HEALTH IN HAITI

Friends for Health in Haiti is a medical mission founded and run by Dr. Katie Wolf, from the Kingston Presbyterian Church. Our church and particularly the women from Mission Sewing have sent money and supplies to them for years. The clinic is located near Jereme, Haiti, close to the epicenter of the recent earthquake. The clinic, itself, only received minimal damage but many of its clients lost homes, businesses and/ or were injured. The bridge between the clinic and the town is unsafe and the roads nearly impassable.

HOW TO HELP HAITI

You can provide help through the church:

- Donate by writing a check to Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church; write "*Friends for Health in Haiti*" in the memo line
- Donate on-line at friendsforhealthinhaiti.org

You can provide help through the PCUSA:

- Donate by writing a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); write "*Disaster Relief-Haiti (DR000064)*" in the memo line. Mail to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
- Donate on-line by visiting: pma.pcusa.org
- Donate by calling 1-800-872-3283

ECPC Assisting Eastern Service Workers Association (ESWA).

*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.



Newly Listed

Judy Carapezza

Ingrid Pope

Esther Clark, *friend of Janice Rockmore*

Pam Miller

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.

Remembering Carol Stawski

25 Dec 1927 - 9 Aug 2021



Remember the family of Carol Stawski in your prayers during this time of loss.

Learn more about her life and legacy [here](#).

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

New Faces at Ewing-Covenant!

We are excited to welcome some new faces to Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church this September. Learn more about Angela Scott, the new church office assistant, and Rosa Ross, this year's seminarian from Princeton Theology Seminary. Be sure to introduce yourself and wish Angela and Rosa a warm welcome!

ANGELA SCOTT- Church Office Administrative Assistant



Angela is a native of West Trenton, New Jersey and currently resides in Delran, New Jersey. She previously worked for the Department of Human Services where she supported the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for six years, along with the Department of Emergency Management in Hamilton, New Jersey. She attended Mercer Community College majoring in Social Services and Liberal Arts.

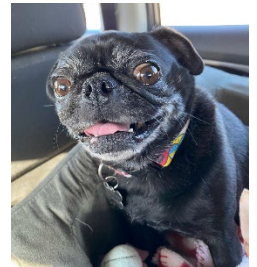
Angela is also a professional singer/songwriter and spoken word artist and has performed at different venues in New Jersey/New York, Connecticut and Maryland. Her hobbies include writing, performing and professional organizing.

Contact: churchoffice@ewingpres.org/(609) 882-3673

ROSA ROSS – Seminarian



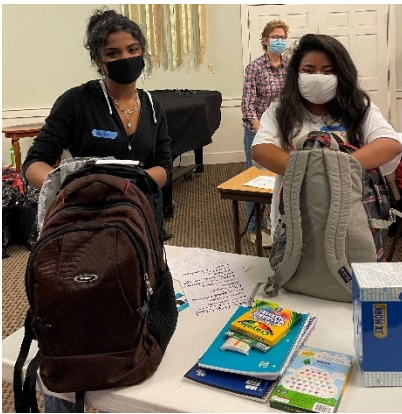
Hello! I am so excited to meet everyone and begin a year-long internship at Ewing-Covenant! Currently, I am a second-year student at Princeton Theological Seminary where I live with my little dog, a pug named Pug. My hometown is Huntington, West Virginia where I also went to college studying philosophy at Marshall University. I am eager to learn from y'all and share in work and worship as we get to know one another. I feel particularly called to a church in transition as an opportunity to reflect on our current situation as the Church is always in transition. I believe as Presbyterians we are not only Reformed but Reforming. I look forward to getting to know y'all!



Eastern Service Workers Association School Supplies Drive



The pictures say it all! The kids are so excited to get their backpacks! Thank you for all your support during the ESWA collection of school supplies. Saturday morning, August 28th we packed up 150 backpacks for the kids in Trenton and New Brunswick. Your support is very much appreciated.



Thank you to all who donated and volunteered!

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 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 ECHO Smartphone Workshop 1:30- 3:30pm	2 Sound/Tech Team	3	4
5 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am 15th Sunday after Pentecost	6	7 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Grief Group 2:00pm ESWA Mission Service-1:30pm Big Committee Night	8 Vision Team	9 Return to Church Committee	10	11
12 <u>Spirit Sunday!</u> Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Ice Cream Social Reschedule 1:00pm 16th Sunday after Pentecost	13	14 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Deacon's Meeting	15	16	17	18 Church Retreat 9-12pm
19 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. Resumes 1pm 17th Sunday after Pentecost	20	21 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Grief Group 2:00pm ESWA Mission Service-1:30	22 Session Meeting	23	24	25
26 Worship 10am Bible Study 9am Adult Ed. 1pm 18th Sunday after Pentecost	27	28 Chat with Pastor Ann 10:00am Presbytery Meeting	29	30		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.