



# CONNECTIONS

*The Newsletter of the Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church—March 2022*

## **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.
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## Update with Visioning Team on Sunday, March 6

Please plan to attend a brief meeting immediately following Worship on Sunday, March 6, to learn more about the status of our choice of a permanent church name and selecting the most desired characteristics in a new pastor. Adult Education will still be held but at approximately 11:20 AM.

### Visioning Team Update

The past month was a productive time for the members of the Visioning Team.

· On February 7 via Zoom at a Special Meeting of Session (to which all members of the congregation were invited), we led a conversation with all who were present to narrow down the number of names being considered for the permanent name of our blended church. The revised shortened list for further consideration by the congregation and Session were:

- Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church
- Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church
- Scotch Road Presbyterian Church
- Unity Presbyterian Church
- Vineyard Presbyterian Church

At that same Zoom meeting, the Visioning Team also discussed the results from the survey sent to the congregation in November about *Personal Characteristics Desired in Our New Pastor* at the February open meeting. This list was also discussed and through consensus was reduced to 12 features. See next page.

· Our new advisor/moderator, David Redman from Presbytery, met with the Visioning Team on February 14. Going forward, David will moderate bi-weekly meetings with the team.

· The members of the Visioning Team are wrapping up their individual sections for the Mission Study, and the team is reviewing each other's contributions before submitting it to Session.

In all of its work, the Visioning Team is not forgetting why it is doing its work: to create a document that will present a description of the congregation (and its vision for the future of our church) that represents the feelings of as many members of the congregation as possible to applicants for the position of Installed Pastor.

Yours in Christ,

The Visioning Team: Sandra Austin, Barbara Brezak, Joanne Durham, Rick Durham, Don Lovett, and Ralph Sims

## Desired Characteristics in Our New Pastor

### 1. Theological / Spiritual Interpreter

<b>Preaching &amp; Worship Leadership</b>	Is a consistently effective preacher and worship leader; is able to inspire from the pulpit; communicates a clear and consistent message through sermons that are carefully prepared and artfully delivered; projects the identity and character of the congregation through worship leadership presence.
<b>Spiritual Maturity</b>	Shows strong personal depth and spiritual grounding; demonstrates integrity by walking the talk and by responding with faithfulness of purpose; is seen by others as trustworthy and authentic; nurtures a rich spiritual life; seeks the wisdom and guidance of appropriate mentors; is able to articulate a clear and consistent theology.

### 2. Communication

<b>Public Communicator</b>	Demonstrates a comfortable ease when speaking in a variety of settings (both small and large groups); is effective at addressing a variety of topics; can get messages across with the desired effect.
<b>Communicator</b>	Advances the abilities of individuals and the organizations through active listening supported with meaningful oral and written presentation of information.

### 3. Organizational Leadership

<b>Advisor</b>	An individual whom others turn to for counsel and guidance; provides coaching and expertise for the congregation.
<b>Collaboration</b>	Has a natural orientation toward getting people to work together; shares wins and successes; fosters open dialogue; lets people finish and be responsible for their work; creates strong feelings of belonging among group members; is a good judge of talent and can accurately assess the strengths and limitations of others.
<b>Organizational Agility</b>	Is astute about how congregations work; knows how to get things done through formal and informal channels; understands the importance of supporting good policy, practice, and procedure; appreciates the power in the culture of a congregation; is politically savvy.
<b>Strategy and Vision</b>	Sees ahead clearly, keeping focused on the larger picture; can anticipate future consequences and trends accurately; is future oriented; casts a compelling and inspired vision for a preferred future; sees possibility; crafts breakthrough strategies.
<b>Willingness to Engage Conflict</b>	Steps up to conflicts, seeing them as opportunities; reads situations quickly; good at focused listening; can identify common ground and elicit cooperation from others in crafting mutual solutions.

### 4. Interpersonal Engagement

<b>Interpersonal Engagement</b>	Displays a consistent ability to build solid relationships of trust and respect inside and outside of the congregation; engages people, organizations, and partners in developing goals, executing plans, and delivering results; uses negotiation skills and adaptability to encourage recognition of joint concerns, collaboration, and to influence the success of outcomes.
<b>Self Differentiation</b>	Demonstrates strong and appropriate personal boundaries in relationships; has a healthy appreciation of self, without being egotistical; is emotionally mature; can maintain a less-anxious presence in the midst of turmoil; is not overly dependent upon outside affirmation; works to build a strong personal support system.
<b>Flexibility</b>	Adapts behavior and work methods in response to new information, changing conditions, unexpected obstacles, or ambiguity; remains open to new ideas and approaches; and works concurrently on related and conflicting priorities without losing focus or attention.



## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

We have been graciously invited to West Trenton Presbyterian Church , 490 Grand Avenue, West Trenton, NJ for Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. You may also attend via Zoom:

Zoom information below.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86487489119?pwd=V0l6WUhveDI6b3JjcHNYTEJOdDR1UT09>

## **ZOOM/ IN PERSON MEETINGS EVENTS**

### **Sunday Adult Education - Following worship**

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

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

### **Presbyterian Women**

Tabitha Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 8th at 10 am. Ruth Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:30 pm. The Mission Sewing meeting will be Tuesday, March 15 at 10am

All women are invited. There will be devotions, a Bible study, refreshments and fellowship time. We have a great time, pray and learn and offer friendship and support to one another.

Mission Sewing will meet in the Adult Lounge on Tuesday, March 15 at 10 am. Bring a sandwich. Beverage and dessert will be provided. All are welcome. No sewing ability is required.



**Newly Listed**

- Bill Stettler**, *friend of Will Olson*
- Doris Wiles**, *sister of Harriet Berens*
- Diane Watson**, *niece of Harriet Berens*
- Laura Papas**, *cousin of Harriet Berens*
- Carol Frantz**, *friend of Harriet Berens*
- Ronnie Reading**, *friend of Harriet Berens*
- Michael Coleman**, *son of Jerry Coleman*
- Wayne Allen**
- Sam Weigh**, *on death of his wife Peace*
- Marjorie Burtis**
- Louise Burroughs**
- Chris Hudock & family** *in loss of grandmother, son-in-law to Will Olson*
- The Harvey Family**
- Jane Schwilk**, *on the death of her husband, Sandy.*
- Joseph P Vigilante**, *for family on loss of Joseph.*

*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 let your parish leaders know.*

**LAY READER SCHEDULE**  
 The Worship and Music Committee is putting together a Lay Reader schedule for this church year. The Lay Reader will assist the Pastor 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!



March 4, 1944 - January 28, 2022  
 We mourn the death of church member Peace D. Weigh; she was a blessing to our congregation. and now in the Church Triumphant. Please keep the Weigh family in your prayers. Please comfort one another in your grieving



July 4, 1930 - February 4, 2022  
 We mourn the death of church member Gloria Ruth Vernam, she was a blessing to our congregation. and now in the Church Triumphant. Please keep the Vernam family in your prayers. Please comfort one another in your grieving

## Grief Groups

Are you mourning a loss, or a series of losses? Here are two Grief Groups you might like to join.

At Central Church in Ewing—Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm in-person (609) 882-0252

**Griefshare** is a community outreach support group for people who have experienced the death of a loved one. Each session features a Christian-based video followed by a time of discussion with people who understand. Walk with others as you heal from the loss of a loved one.

At Ascension Lutheran Church near Washington Crossing—Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm in-person

**Grief Support Group:** If you're grieving the loss of a loved one, it helps to know you're not alone. This group is a place to share your feelings while having the support and understanding of others who have felt their own grief. Together, we can help one another heal. Please come join us. For information, please call or email Clark Shuster at 215-539-9185 or [clshuster@msn.com](mailto:clshuster@msn.com)

## Adult Education Offers Lenten Reflection Series



Lent is traditionally a time of deep reflection and spiritual growth as we consider our sin, and the great lengths God has taken to restore us. Join us as we read and discuss together in *A Time to Grow* on Sunday mornings after worship **beginning March 6**.

From Eden to Gethsemane to the garden in which Jesus was buried and raised, our story of faith wanders through much fertile soil. But in our current world of fast food and to-go meals, we often do not make time to explore where our food comes from and how we break bread together. As we journey through the season of Lent, this book will encourage readers to slow down, move through the painstaking process of growth, and end together with the great feasting and celebration of the resurrection. Suggested donation for the book is \$9.00



*One Great Hour of Sharing*

Over the past several years, we've witnessed an increasing cry for help and mercy in a world torn apart by disasters, violence, poverty and hunger, racism, disease (particularly COVID-19), and a host of other human crises. The problems can indeed seem overwhelming. Thankfully, **when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!**

During Lent, we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Please consider giving generously on **Palm Sunday, April 10.**

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.**

### **Per Capita should be paid early in 2022**

Attention all members of Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church of Ewing! The per capita assessment for 2022 is \$40.00 for each adult member of our Church. These funds are used to further the work of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly. Each church is required to pay the per capita.

Since these are really "pass through" funds, we ask that you pay your per capita by the end of January. Your prompt payment will be especially helpful in assuring that pledged dollars support the programs and activities approved for Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church, and don't have to be diverted to cover the per capita assessment. If you have questions, speak with Elder, Don Lovett or Bookkeeper, Jerry Coleman.



**On Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> Ewing-Covenant Church will be hosting a Sock Drive in conjunction with Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson’s sponsorship of *NJ Socks for the Homeless Day*. The drive is to benefit one of our communities most vulnerable, the homeless population.**

**Every shelter agrees that socks are one the most requested item but is the least donated item. We take for granted the simple task of being able to put on a clean pair of socks daily, our homeless population does not have the same privilege. Most do not have the means to wash their clothes on a regular basis, so it is necessary to have more socks than the average person. More often than not, they only own a single pair and rarely are they in good condition or are warm enough during the winter months.**

**How can we help?**

**On Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, bring pairs of new socks to church. They can be brought to the church or the Scout Hut before the 13<sup>th</sup> (collection boxes will be in both locations), but the 13<sup>th</sup> will be *Sock It to Me Sunday*. So, feel free to wear a pair of fun socks that day as well.**

**What type of socks are best?**

**NEW socks for men, women and children are greatly appreciated and needed year-round. There is a greater need for men’s black crew socks.**

**The socks will then be donated to the Rescue Mission in support of the *Socks For Homeless Day*.**





## 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.

## MARCH WORSHIP at E-CPC

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

### March 6 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

10:00 am Worship

Luke 4:1-13

Deut. 26:1-11

### March 13 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

10:00 am Worship

Gen.15:1-2a 5-6. 16:1-6

Gen.16:7-16 17:15-22

### March 20 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

10:00 am Worship

Luke 13:1-9

Isa. 55:1-9

### March 27 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

10:00 am Worship

Ps 32

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## Deacon's Doin's

The Board of Deacon's is a small but mighty group this year. Suzie Wentworth is Moderator, Carol Houghton is our Recording Secretary, Jane Perelli is our Social Secretary and Ralph Sims is our Treasurer. We also have Liz Schofield, Mary Hough, Jewel Hand and Ruth Palmer.

The Deacons are in need of Ushers during church services. Ushering is simpler than in past years. Arrive around 9:15, place water bottles in the pulpit for the minister and assistant, light the altar candle, place flowers on pedestal and bulletins in the hymnals and hand them out with a warm welcome. There are a couple of other small items as well. We will have instructions inside the closet door near the hymnals. If you would like to work with a deacon your first time in a while, we will be more than happy to accommodate that. Please contact Suzie Wentworth at 609-462-5090 if you can help with this very important activity.

### **New Sound System & Microphones**

*Congratulations to the Sound and Technology Committee on updating the sound system in the Worship space!* Besides a greatly enhanced podium microphone due to a new sound amplifier, we have two brand new handheld microphones and two new lapel microphones.

More importantly, we also have two headsets for anyone who would appreciate enhanced sound during Worship. Just see the Deacon on duty to request using one.

*Thank you* to Chair Pam Miller, Rick Durham, Carol Hecky, Carol Houghton, and Bob Kull for their time and dedication to making these changes for our church.

**Memorial Flowers – Now Scheduling**

**We are now scheduling Sunday Memorial Church Flowers. 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**

**Memorial Flowers – Now Scheduling**



**Sunday 2/6/22 Flowers donated by Mary Hough for Mary and Dan's 50<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday 2/13/22 Flowers donated by Jane Perelli & family in memory of Thelma Walsh**

**Sunday 2/27/22 Flowers donated by Pam and Gary Miller in memory of brother, Gregory Miller**

**Ewing-Covenant Presbyterian Church**

**100 Scotch Road**

**Ewing, NJ 08628**

**609.882.3673**

**<https://ewingcovenantpres.org>**

Please refer to the worshipping schedule portion of this newsletter for all Zoom and phone-in connections. MARCH 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 10:00 Mission Sewing – Adult Lounge	<b>2</b> <b>Ash Wednesday At West Trenton Pres.</b> 9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mtg-Adult Lounge	<b>3</b> 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Regular Choir Fellowship Hall	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Worship 10am 11:00 Visioning Team Update 11:20 Adult Ed	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 1:30 ESWA Mission Service Group-Upper Lounge 10 am Tabitha Circle	<b>9</b> 9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mtg-Adult Lounge 6:30 Ruth Circle Adult Lounge	<b>10</b> 6:00 RTCC – by Zoom 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Regular Choir Fellowship Hall	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Worship 10am 11:15 Adult Ed	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00-12:30 Mission sewing – Adult Lounge	<b>16</b> 9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mtg - Adult Lounge 7:00 Session Meeting via Zoom	<b>17</b> Lunch Together 11:45 – 1:00 Adult Lounge 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Worship 10am 11:15 Adult Ed	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 1:30 ESWA Mission Service Group Upper Lounge	<b>23</b> 9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mtg-Adult Lounge	<b>24</b> 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Worship 10am 11:15 Adult Ed	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mtg-Adult Lounge	<b>31</b> 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall		