



CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church—April 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.



EASTER SERVICES

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday April 10th Live Worship at 10:00 A.M. Palms are available for pick-up Thursday through Saturday, April 7-9 on the front porch of the Education Building for those who wish to have a palm but are not available to attend church on Palm Sunday.

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

Phone: 929-205-6099, when asked enter 910 100 569

Maundy Thursday April 14th Live Communion Service at 7:00 P.M.

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

Phone: 929-205-6099, when asked enter 910 100 569

Easter Sunday April 17th Live Worship at 10:00 A.M.

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

Phone: 929-205-6099, when asked enter 910 100 569



Nancy Coleman's 90th birthday

Come join us to celebrate Nancy Coleman's 90th birthday! Bring your good wishes, smiling faces, and happy memories to share, but no gifts please!

When: Sunday, April 3, 2022

Where: Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church Conference Room

Time: 11:15 am - 1:00 pm

Questions? Contact Ken Harvey 609-977-8093 or Terri Harvey 609-977-8094



The Heckys and Pezzillos would like to invite anyone who won't be with their family or friends this Easter Sunday to join together for dinner.

We will meet in the conference room on April 17 at 1:00 for a sit-down dinner followed by a movie. If you would like to bring something to share as a part of the meal, that would be great, but not necessary. Please contact Carol Hecky at 609-273-4848 if you would like to participate.

ZOOM/ IN PERSON MEETINGS EVENTS

Sunday Adult Education - Following worship - except Easter Sunday

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 819 2310 2879

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,81923102879# US (New York)

Presbyterian Women

Ruth Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 13 at 6:30 pm in the adult lounge. The group will continue their study entitled "What Our Grandmothers Taught Us." Tabitha Circle will be joining Ruth Circle for that meeting and all women of the church are welcome.

This meeting will be hybrid. The link is [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89944936942?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89944936942?pwd=cTlvZ2tzdUI2WjcyTVFBbDh3WnlZQT09)

[pwd=cTlvZ2tzdUI2WjcyTVFBbDh3WnlZQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89944936942?pwd=cTlvZ2tzdUI2WjcyTVFBbDh3WnlZQT09). The meeting ID is 89944936942 and the passcode is 883090. The phone number is 1 929 205 6099.

Mission Sewing will meet on Tuesday, April 19 at 10 am in the adult lounge. Bring a lunch and beverage and dessert will be provided. Again, everyone is invited. Rides can be provided for both meetings if needed. Hope to see you there.

Dear Presbyterian Women,

I want to thank you so very much for the honor you bestowed on me by selecting me for a honorary lifetime membership in PW. I appreciate it very much. This has reminded me of the many trips we made to Ter Windsor, Maryland to the Brethren warehouse. Our mission was to deliver shoes, bandages, etc. for Presbyterian Hospitals in Africa and with school bags and hygiene kits for Church World Services. But what is most important is to remind us of the work of service your organization has and is doing to help others by obeying Christ's call to serve others.

*Again, Thank-you
Sincerely,
Wayne Allen*



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 advise the church office.

Newly Listed

- Kate for loss of husband
- Tori and Megan Cameron for loss of dad
- For the Harvey family
- Albert Curving
- Chris Hudock (my son-in-law) & family in loss of grandmother
- Nancy Dykas for loss of husband, Ronald
- Sgro Family
- Kevin Hecky
- Dick Anthony
- Kim Conti and family
- Charlotte Duthie
- All people suffering because of the War in Ukraine

*cousin of Will Olson
requested Will Olson*

from his friends Bob Schofield and Will Olson

requested Will Olson

requested by Sylvia Allen

friends of Jane and Vince Perelli

requested by Carol Hecky

as he recovers from surgery

as they mourn the passing of their sister Missy

friend of Sharyn Danner who is on hospice



February 6, 1940 - February 22, 2022

We mourn the death of church member Gale R. Schwilk; he was a blessing to our congregation. and now in the Church Triumphant. Please keep the Schwilk family in your prayers. Please comfort one another in your grieving

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!

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

Adult Education for April



We continue our Lenten reflection as we consider our sin, and the great lengths God has taken to restore us. Join us as we read and discuss the book *A Time to Grow* on Sunday mornings after worship. We will meet through the end of April. (Exception: No Adult Ed on Easter Sunday.)

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 819 2310 2879

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,81923102879# US (New York)



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**. Envelopes will be provided in the worship space. If you mail or drop off a check, simply write "OGHS" on the memo line.

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.

Quake Reveals Day of Jesus' Crucifixion

By [Jennifer Viegas](#) May 28, 2012

Jesus, as described in the New Testament, was most likely crucified on Friday April 3, 33 A.D.

The latest investigation, reported in the journal *International Geology Review*, focused on earthquake activity at the Dead Sea, located 13 miles from Jerusalem. The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 27, mentions that an earthquake coincided with the crucifixion:

“And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open.”

To analyze earthquake activity in the region, geologist Jefferson Williams of Supersonic Geophysical and colleagues Markus Schwab and Achim Brauer of the German Research Center for Geosciences studied three cores from the beach of the Ein Gedi Spa adjacent to the Dead Sea.

Varves, which are annual layers of deposition in the sediments, reveal that at least two major earthquakes affected the core: a widespread earthquake in 31 B.C. and an early first century seismic event that happened sometime between 26 A.D. and 36 A.D.

The latter period occurred during “the years when Pontius Pilate was procurator of Judea and when the earthquake of the Gospel of Matthew is historically constrained,” Williams said.

“The day and date of the crucifixion (Good Friday) are known with a fair degree of precision,” he said. But the year has been in question.

In terms of textual clues to the date of the crucifixion, Williams quoted a *Nature* paper authored by Colin Humphreys and Graeme Waddington. Williams summarized their work as follows:

- All four gospels and Tacitus in *Annals* (XV,44) agree that the crucifixion occurred when Pontius Pilate was procurator of Judea from 26-36 AD.
- All four gospels say the crucifixion occurred on a Friday.
- All four gospels agree that Jesus died a few hours before the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath (nightfall on a Friday).
- The synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) indicate that Jesus died before nightfall on the 14th day of Nisan; right before the start of the Passover meal.
- John’s gospel differs from the synoptics; apparently indicating that Jesus died before nightfall on the 15th day of Nisan.

When data about the Jewish calendar and astronomical calculations are factored in, a handful of possible dates result, with Friday April 3, 33 A.D. being the best match, according to the researchers.

In terms of the earthquake data alone, Williams and his team acknowledge that the seismic activity associated with the crucifixion could refer to “an earthquake that occurred sometime before or after the crucifixion and was in effect ‘borrowed’ by the author of the Gospel of Matthew, and a local earthquake between 26 and 36 A.D. that was sufficiently energetic to deform the sediments of Ein Gedi but not energetic enough to produce a still extant and extra-biblical historical record.”

“If the last possibility is true, this would mean that the report of an earthquake in the Gospel of Matthew is a type of allegory,” they write.

Williams is studying yet another possible natural happening associated with the crucifixion - darkness.

Three of the four canonical gospels report darkness from noon to 3 PM after the crucifixion. Such darkness could have been caused by a dust storm, he believes.

Williams is investigating if there are dust storm deposits in the sediments coincident with the early first century Jerusalem region earthquake.

This story was provided by [Discovery News](#).

Visioning Team Update - April

The main goal now is to finish the Mission Study so that it can be submitted to Session for review. Once a final version is approved, the Mission Study will then be submitted to the Committee on Ministry at the Coastlands Presbytery.

We are excited to announce "... that at their March 16 meeting, the Session approved Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church (without the hyphen) as the official name of our blended churches."

The Visioning Team has been editing the various categories of the Mission Study into a more cohesive narrative, working toward the final draft which will be discussed at a Zoom meeting with our moderator, David Redman, on April 20.

The Visioning Team spent the past month editing and combining text to finish the Mission Study in a more cohesive format. A Zoom meeting was held in March to discuss the logistics of how to combine, edit and streamline text for the 20 categories. Visioning Team members are writing Mission Study sections into narrative; reviewing each other's rewrite, and submitting comments to create a finalized draft which we'll discuss at a Zoom meeting with our moderator, David Redman, on April 11.

As always, we want to present a description of the congregation and its vision for the future of our church that represents the thoughts and feelings of our congregation to potential 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

Sock It to Me Sunday was a Huge Success!

THANK YOU to everyone who donated socks by March 13 to support the Rescue Mission in Trenton! We collected 367 pairs of socks which were all delivered to help our homeless brothers and sisters.

Kudos to the Mission Committee for organizing this and making it a reality.



Deacon's Doin's

Head Start now has a "Blessings Box", which is a tall, gray cabinet on the back porch of the Education Building. The idea is the Head Start families can help each other by leaving nonperishable items in the cabinet and taking what they need. Teri, the Head Start Director, has asked us to place our donations of nonperishables in the Blessings Box, rather than in the Scout Hut where we have been leaving them. If you prefer to leave your donations in the Scout Hut, we will see to it that they get to the Blessings Box. If you have any questions, please contact Suzie Wentworth at 609-462-5090.



Bruce Wentworth at the Blessings Box.



Easter Flowers



Tulips and daffodils will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter as an honor or memorial to family and friends. If you wish to contribute toward the flowers, please complete the information below and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office. Also, on Easter please be sure to take a plant home with you.

This year we are suggesting that you donate any amount that you want, but no less than \$5.00. Please make checks payable to “Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church” and note “Easter Flowers” on the memo line.

The deadline for donations is Palm Sunday, April 10th.

Easter Flower Donation

(Please print very clearly)

In Memory and/or Honor of

Given by

_____ I will take a plant following the 10 a.m. Easter Service

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 are 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. **On March 16th, the Session voted to continue wearing masks during worship and while in the church office, and they request that you follow the CDC guidelines of wearing a KN95 or a surgical mask for everyone's protection.**

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.

APRIL WORSHIP at ECPC

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

April 3 5th Sunday in Lent

10:00 am Worship

Psalm 126

John 12: 1-8

April 10 Palm/Passion Sunday

10:00 am Worship

Holy Week begins

Psalm 118:1-2 19-29

Luke 19: 28-40

April 14 Maundy Thursday Service

7:00 pm Worship

John 13: 1-17 31b-35

April 17 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day

10:00 am Worship

Isaiah 65 17-25

Luke 24: 1-12

April 24 2nd Sunday of Easter.

10:00 am Worship

Psalm 118: 14-29

John 20: 19-31

Sunday Memorial Flowers – Please Sign Up

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 ECPC 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 or 609-882-3673

Sunday 4/3/22 Flowers donated by the Durhams in honor of Nancy Coleman's 90th birthday

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. APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship 10am 11:15 Nancy Coleman's Birthday 11:20 Adult Ed	4	5 1:30 ESWA Mission Service Group-Upper Lounge	6 9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mtg-Adult Lounge	7 5:45 RTCC – by Zoom 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Regular Choir Fellowship Hall	8	9
10  Worship 10am 11:15 Adult Ed	11	12	13 9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mtg - Adult Lounge 6:30 Ruth and Tabitha Circle	14  7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	15 GOOD FRIDAY 	16
17  EASTER Worship 10am	18	19 1:30 ESWA Mission Service Group Upper Lounge 10:00 - 2:00 Mission Sewing	20 9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mtg-Adult Lounge 7:00 Session Meeting via Zoom	21 Lunch Together 11:45 – 1:00 Adult Lounge 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall	22	23
24 Worship 10am 11:15 Adult Ed	25	26	27 9:00-12:00 Echo Weekly Mtg-Adult Lounge	28 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall	29	30