



CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church—February 2023





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.**

Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church

100 Scotch Rd. Ewing, NJ 08628 609.882.3673 churchoffice@ewingpres.org



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 PM and online

Rev. Janet Williams officiating

Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church

Worship space

100 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ 08628



Ruth and Tabitha Circles will be having a bake sale right after church on Sunday, **February 12th**. All benefits to go to the various missions supported by PW. Buy some treats to enjoy while watching the Super Bowl.

February 2023 Worship

Preachers for the Month of February

2/5/2023	Rev. Dr. Byron Shafer	An emeritus professor of Biblical Studies at Fordham University and Pastor emeritus of the Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York City. He served on the committee that edited our denomination's A Brief Statement of Faith. In retirement, Dr. Shafer was for 4 semesters Visiting Professor of Biblical Studies at United Theological College in Bangalore, India. He now serves on the Commission on Preparation for Ministry of our Presbytery of the Coastlands.
2/12/2023	Rosa Ross	Rosa Ross thinks faith is a collage of different conversations: whispered words of comfort, shouts of social justice, discussions about what it means to be, and sometimes even jokes about the absurdity of God's beautiful creation. She is particularly passionate about the process of full, unyielding inclusion of all people in this holy collage. Rosa is a student at Princeton Theological Seminary and is seeking ordination in the PC(USA). Before moving to New Jersey, she grew up in Huntington, West Virginia and studied philosophy, religious studies, and classical studies at Marshall University where she is now an adjunct professor (teaching online). She can be spotted around Princeton reading books, eating food, and walking her dog - a pug named Pugg.
2/19/2023	Byron Leasure	Byron Leasure is a retired Presbyterian pastor who has worked for a number of years as a transitional pastor in crisis situations. In the 90's he was a member of the New Brunswick Presbytery and is currently a member of the Philadelphia Presbytery.
2/26/2023	Mark Van Bruggen	Mark lives in New Egypt, NJ with Lisa, his wife of 31 years. Mark and Lisa are the parents of two daughters (Emily & Krista) and have one granddaughter (Karaleigh). Mark was raised in the Presbyterian Church. His father, Rev. Dr. Vernon Van Bruggen, is a retired Presbyterian minister and served for 18 years as the Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of New Brunswick. From 1978 through 1991, Mark regularly worshipped at Covenant Presbyterian Church. After he and his wife married (July 1991 at Covenant Presbyterian Church), they sought a church home and joined the Methodist Church where he remains a member to this day. In 1982, Mark became an Eagle Scout in Troop 15, formerly hosted by Ewing Presbyterian Church. Mark has many fond memories of worshipping at the Ewing and Covenant churches and very much considers preaching at Ewing/Covenant a homecoming.

February Worship

5th Sunday after Epiphany—February 5, 10:00am

Rev. Dr. Byron Shafer, guest preacher

Lectionary: Is. 58:1-9A (9B-12) and Ps. 112:1-9 (10); 1 Cor.2:1-12 (13-16); Matt. 5:13-20

6th Sunday after Epiphany —February 12, 10:00am

Rosa Ross, guest preacher

Lectionary: Deut. 30:15-20 and Ps. 119:1-8; 1 Cor. 3:1-9; Matt. 5:21-37

Transfiguration of the Lord—February 19, 10:00am

Byron Leasure, guest preacher

Lectionary Ex. 24:12-18 and Ps. 2 or Ps. 99; 2 Pet. 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9

1st Sunday of Lent— February 26, 10:00am

Mark Van Bruggen, guest preacher

Lectionary: Gen.2;15-17; 3:1-7 and Ps. 32; Rom. 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11

CURRENT ZOOM LINK FOR WORSHIP at ECPC

Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church will continue to gather both in person and online for worship. For those who prefer to worship online, the Zoom Link has changed:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83261598872>

For those calling in by phone, call +1 929 205 6099 (same phone number!) and when asked, enter the new Webinar ID 832 6159 8872

Deadline for March newsletter is Tuesday, February 21, 2023

If you have an article or photo for the church's March newsletter, *Connections*, should send it to the church office by Tuesday, February 21. For more information, you can contact the Church Office at 609-882-3673 or email churchoffice@ewingpres.org or contact Joanne Durham on the Communications Committee at jedurham99@gmail.com

PRAYER

changes things



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.

Prayer Request	Note
All people suffering because of the War in Ukraine	<i>By church family</i>
Bob Wilson	<i>By church family</i>
Brad Shropshire	<i>Brother in-law of Carol & Doug Taylor</i>
Charlie Magee	<i>brother of Judy Carapezza</i>
Dan Hough	<i>By church family</i>
Emily Greschak	<i>Daughter of Barbara Greschak</i>
Janice Rockmore	<i>By church family</i>
George Renwick	<i>By church family</i>
Gun violence in the US	<i>By church family</i>
Kevin Hecky	<i>By church family</i>
Laura Wallin	<i>By church family</i>
Louise Burroughs	<i>By church family</i>
Mary Lou Seidel	<i>By church family</i>
Maryanne Eleuteri	<i>friend of Judy Carapezza</i>
Michael Brezak	<i>Son of Barbara Brezak</i>
Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)	<i>By church family</i>
Rita Freilinghaus	<i>sister of Judy Carapezza</i>
Wayne Allen	<i>By church family</i>



Evelyn Marjorie Burtis
4/16/1919 –
1/11/2023

We mourn the death of our eldest church member Evelyn Marjorie Burtis. She was a blessing to our congregation and is now in the Church Triumphant. Please keep the Burtis family in your prayers.



Eugene Freda
3/26/1928 -1/20/2023

We mourn the death of a long-time church member Eugene Freda. He was a blessing to our congregation and is now in the Church Triumphant. Please keep the Freda family in your prayers.



Bruce White
11/25/1943 - 1/19/2023

We mourn the death of Janice Rockmore's brother-in law Bruce White. He served on numerous municipal and community organizations. Please keep the Rockmore family in your prayers

Vitality Team kicks off the Year 2023

The Vitality Team had its first official gathering after Worship on Sunday January 22. In addition to the members who have pledged to serve on this team – which is open to anyone -- a couple of curious members joined our discussion which added to the rich discussion.

Rick Durham opened with prayer and brought up the following questions:

- What does Vitality mean to you?
- Is there such a thing as consensus?
- What do you think it takes to become revitalized?
- Vitality is a team effort: **Are we doing what God is calling us to do?**

The team later had a Zoom meeting with Rev. Molly Dykstra who brought focus to the Vitality Team's foundational efforts. **Rev. Dykstra, trained in PC(USA) Vital Congregations Revitalization Initiatives, will be leading a town hall discussion with our congregation at 11:00 AM on Sunday, February 19, in the Worship Space.** The purpose of the Presbyterian Church introducing this was to work alongside existing congregations to increase vitality through intentional spiritual practices that take them deeper into following Christ so that lives are transformed and mission of God spreads.

Six (6) members of the congregation have pledged to serve on the new Vitality Team to help support the congregation in living out the new Vision and Mission Statements the church has adopted.

Vitality Team members

Barbara Brezak
Joanne Durham
Rick Durham
Ken Harvey
Carol Hecky
Ralph Sims



Martin Luther King Day of Service

Thank you to everyone who contributed breakfast food and/or toiletries to the church for its annual Martin Luther King Day of Service held on January 16. Approximately 25 volunteers aged 11 through 92 came to assemble and pack more than 150 breakfast bags for Arm in Arm and 100 personal care packs for Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. We appreciate Carol Hecky delivering the goods. We look forward to doing more next year!



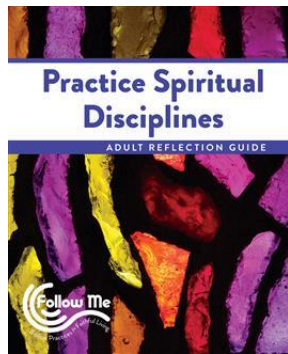




Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

We are meeting regularly and progressing in our search for a new pastor. The PNC has begun the process of reviewing the Pastor Information Forms that have been matched with our Ministry Information Form. This part of the process is done in depth and care in order to search for that one person that is called to us and that we wish to call. Keep us in your prayers.





Adult Education in Lent

February 26 – April 2

God's central invitation to followers of Jesus is to draw near to God in Christ and to allow God, through the Holy Spirit, to transform us into Christ's image. Christian spiritual disciplines and spiritual practices are ways in which we do that. Spiritual disciplines are usually thought of as those things that help us draw near to God and might include different forms of prayer, meditation, study, and service. Spiritual practices are seen as those things Jesus did, said, or embodied; we as Jesus' followers try to do so as well. Many of the spiritual disciplines covered in this unit have emerged over the centuries as Christians have experimented with ways to make space in their lives to be with Jesus and to allow Jesus to transform them.

You are invited to join more than a dozen other members of our church family as we grow in faith through the study, practice and sharing of spiritual practices. We will meet for six weeks during Lent, **February 26 through April 2**, exploring the following spiritual disciplines:

- Fast (Matthew 4:1–4, 6:16–18; Acts 13:2–3)
- Pray (Matthew 6:9–13; Philippians 1:3–11)
- Listen to God (1 Samuel 3:1–11; Mark 1:35–39)
- Embrace Simplicity (Matthew 6:19–21; Philippians 4:11–12)
- Unplug (Genesis 2:1–3; 6:30–34)
- Try Different Practices (Isaiah 43:19; Hebrews 4:15–16) –

Adult Education in February

February 5: We will conclude our “Honor Sabbath” journey of renewal and rest.

February 12: Our congregation donates a very significant amount of our time and resources to Eastern Service Workers Association (ESWA). *But why?* What does that organization have to do with the work of the church? Might working alongside ESWA be one way that we are called to be a “Matthew 25” congregation? If you know about ESWA, let's get an update. If not, let's learn more about their mission, and how YOU might be called to participate.

February 19: Vitality. We all want to be part of a growing congregation, faithful to God's will. How do we get there from here? Our Vitality Team is committed to ensuring that we live and grow into our vision and mission statements. And Rev. Molly Dykstra is committed to helping us do just that!!! Let's learn together what that means, and how we can help.

February 26: We begin our Lenten study of Spiritual Disciplines, and how we can grow closer to God.

Thank you, Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church!



Thanks to the wonderful work of ALL our church member volunteers we are alive with lots of activity, outreach, and wonderful Worship experiences. It's been one year since our church has not had a pastor and thanks to our collective efforts we are still able to worship Christ and honor God with our faith and works in the community. An expression of celebration was held at the Annual Meeting on January 29 with a big cake and coffee. THANK YOU!!!

Please Remit your Per Capita Assessment

The Per Capita Assessment is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA) connect, participate, and share in the work of the wider church. The Per Capita funds support the work and the missions of our own Presbytery of the Coastlands, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly.

For 2023, each church in the Presbytery will contribute \$40 per member. These funds cover our share of the costs of belonging to the denomination and is collected at the beginning of the new year.

Members of *Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church* are asked to make a \$40 contribution to cover the church's cost for the assessment for each of the adult members of the congregation. Please use the blue Per Capita Apportionment envelope provided in your box of offering envelopes, or indicate "Per Capita" on the memo line of your check. (If you haven't picked up your 2023 offering envelopes, they are available on the back table of the Worship space.)

If you have questions about the Per Capita Assessment, contact Treasurer Don Lovett (lovett@tcnj.edu) or Financial Administrator Kathy Jordan (kjordan@ewingpres.org or call the church office).



“Stewardship 2023: Being Good Stewards”

There is no doubt that Ewing Covenant Church is a generous and caring congregation! What more can we do? Rather than trying to “one up” ourselves in a world of competition, we might do well to look at stewardship as a way of living that calls us ever more to live faithfully in response to God’s loving provision.

Above all, maintain constant love for one another... Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 4:8-11)

Over the past couple of years, we have looked at our stewardship as loving God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, and as following the Star of Christ to serve the Lord with hope, peace, joy, and love. This year we continue to bring our Vision and Mission statements to life as we focus on Matthew 25 as a guide to faithful living.

As you contemplate passages from Matthew 25 as well as our Vision and Mission statements, please consider how you can stretch your faithfulness this coming year. Being a good steward is living a life in response to God’s steadfast faithfulness, generosity, grace, and love.

On Sunday, February 26, we will bring the gifts of time, talents, and money that we intend to give to God this coming year.

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY TAMALES BENEFIT



**A benefit for
Eastern Service
Workers
Association's**

**WINTER
SURVIVAL
CAMPAIGN**

Order a dozen (or two or three or more) delicious homemade tamales, and ask your friends and family to order.

Suggested donation: \$20 a dozen, \$10 a half dozen.

Your choice of chicken, vegan or vegetarian tamales.

Order today - Time and supplies are limited!

Volunteer Drivers & Cooks Needed: Friday, 2/03 through Sunday, 2/12

Masks required for all volunteers. Please test for COVID before coming.

Eastern Service Workers Association (ESWA) is an all-volunteer, non-government funded membership association of service workers, temporary workers and others who are low-income, joining together to address some of our immediate survival needs while building organization to fight for permanent solutions to our poverty conditions. **Your participation is urgently needed.**

EASTERN SERVICE WORKERS ASSOCIATION

6 West End Ave. | Trenton, NJ 08618 | (609) 695-9562

By choice and necessity, your financial gifts to ESWA are not and never have been tax deductible. For that reason, your donations are doubly appreciated!

Join ESWA's Fight for Winter Survival!

Ninety thousand temporary workers living in New Jersey package and process products for some of the largest corporations in the world. But even before the pandemic, temporary and other service workers have faced extreme gaps between our incomes and the costs of food, rent, medical care and utilities. Now the situation is dire, as workers facing sub-survival wages or joblessness struggle to make it through the winter. Government stimulus programs, eviction moratoriums and pandemic moratoriums on utility shutoffs have all ended.

EASTERN SERVICE WORKERS ASSOCIATION

(ESWA), a free and voluntary, unincorporated private membership association of service, temporary and other low-paid workers in Central New Jersey, organizes a free-of-charge, self-help Benefit Program, including emergency food, preventive medical care, nonemergency dental care, legal assistance and more, forging unity among membership families and allies to collectively fight to eliminate our poverty.

ESWA's Winter Survival Campaign includes special benefits to aid members during the harsh winter months, including supplemental food, warm clothing and blankets, utility advocacy and other resources to help families survive a time when costs are up but employment is down. With this added stability, members can better participate in organizing projects to advance the fight to end poverty at its root.

Call ESWA today about the Super Bowl Sunday Tamale Benefit and the Winter Survival Campaign!

Winter Survival Campaign Supplies Needed:

- ❄ Winter coats and jackets
- ❄ Winter boots and work shoes
- ❄ Hats, gloves & scarves
- ❄ Safe space heaters
- ❄ Nonperishable foods
- ❄ Blankets
- ❄ Weatherization materials

YES, you can count me in. I want to join ESWA!

- Call me about how I can help with ESWA's Super Bowl Sunday Tamale Benefit.
- Call me to volunteer full-time part-time, starting _____.
- I can join ESWA's door-to-door membership canvasses and/or utility advocacy sessions.
- I can make phone calls for ESWA's Operation Winter Watch to check in on elderly & disabled members.
- I can drive with my car van truck 4-wheel-drive vehicle.
- I can arrange for ESWA volunteers to speak to my class, club, organization or place of worship. I can help publicize the need for collections of blankets, winter clothing, heaters, and/or nonperishable, nutritious foods.
- I can host a neighborhood food drive.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

WORK PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL: _____

**Fill out and return to: Eastern Service Workers Association
6 West End Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08618**

For more information call: (609) 695-9562

Labor donated

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 ECPC Bell Choir - 6:00-7:30 ECPC Choir - 7:30- 9:00	3	4
5 Worship 10am	6 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ Choral Society	7	8 6:30-8:30 pm Ruth & Tabitha Circles Lower Lounge	9 ECPC Bell Choir - 6:00-7:30 ECPC Choir - 7:30- 9:00	10	11
12 Worship 10am	13 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ Choral Society	14 	15	16 Lunch together 11:45-1:30 Lower Lounge ECPC Bell Choir - 6:00-7:30 ECPC Choir - 7:30- 9:00	17	18
19 Worship 10am 11:00 am Congregational Gathering on Vitality	20 Office Closed 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ Choral Society 7:00 PM District 24/NA	21 10:00 -2:00 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge 7 pm Session Meeting Newsletter Article Due	22 Ash Wednesday Worship 7 pm	23 ECPC Bell Choir - 6:00-7:30 ECPC Choir - 7:30- 9:00	24	25
26 Worship 10am Stewardship Dedication	27 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ Choral Society	28 Caregiver Support Group 10:00-11:30 Upper Mtg Room				