



CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church—April 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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Palm Sunday April 2nd Live Worship at 10:00 A.M. Palms are available for pick-up, Saturday, April 1 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 6th - 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 9th - Live Worship at 10:00 A.M.

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

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

Easter Dinner Invitation



The Heckys and Pezzillos would like to invite everyone who would like to spend this Easter Sunday with their church family to join us for dinner. We will meet in the conference room on April 9th 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 or Sandy Pezzillo 609-468-2999 if you would like to participate.

April Worship

Preachers for the Month of April

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---|
| 4/2/2023 | Rev. Jenny Lee | Rev. Jyungi "Jenny" Lee served Presbyterian Women in the PC (USA) as Moderator (2018-2021). She is the founder and the director of Women Together, Inc, a non-profit organization in Cranbury, NJ, for spiritual formation, empowerment, and leadership development for women. Jenny served as a member of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board and also served many years as the facilitator for the interfaith group which she helped create in west Windsor, NJ where she lives with her husband. Jenny is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and a member of the Presbytery of Coastlands. |
| 4/9/2023 | 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. |
| 4/16/2023 | Rev. Janet Macgregor-Williams | Janet grew up in California. A graduate of Fuller Seminary and Louisville Seminary, she has served churches in Caldwell, Irvington, Elizabeth, and West Milford, before retiring and moving to Lawrenceville. Her husband is originally from England. They have one son, who is a musician and computer programmer. In her spare time, Janet enjoys reading, quilting, and travel (having visited 41 states and 17 countries). |
| 4/23/2023 | Rick Durham | Rick Durham was baptized and confirmed as an Episcopalian in Morris County, New Jersey. As a young adult, he became a Quaker and later worshipped as a Congregationalist during his years in Massachusetts. Rick's passions are History, Biblical History, and revitalization of the Church. Rick is an Affiliate member of ECPC and served on the Visioning Team. He invites you to think about Vitality for this church now. |
| 4/30/2023 | 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. |

April Worship

Palm/Passion Sunday - April 2, 10:00am

Jenny Lee, guest preacher

Palms: Matt. 21:1-11 and Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29

Passion: Isa 50:4-9a and Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11; Matt. 26:14-27:66 or Matt. 27:11-54

Resurrection of the Lord/EASTER DAY - April 9, 10:00am

Rosa Ross, guest preacher

Lectioary: Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6 and Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Col. 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; Matt. 28:1-10

2nd Sunday of Easter - April 16, 10:00am

Rev. Janet Macgregor-Williams, guest preacher

Lectioary: Acts 2:14a, 22-32 and Ps. 16 or Ex. 15:1-11 and Ps. 111; 1 Pet. 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter - April 23, 10:00am

Rick Durham, guest preacher

Lectioary: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 and Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19 or Isa. 51:1-6 and Ps. 34:1-10; 1 Pet.1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

4th Sunday of Easter - April 30, 10:00am

Mark Van Bruggen, guest preacher

Lectioary: Acts 2:42-47 and Ps. 23 or Ezek. 34:7-15 and Ps. 100; 1 Pet. 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

CURRENT ZOOM LINK FOR WORSHIP at ECPC

Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church will continue to gather both in person and online for worship.

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

ECPC CARE TEAM



Just a reminder for church family that the Care Team is still alive and active at ECPC. The Care Team was created to take care of "our sheep"-the congregation. It is supported by members of the congregation and the Parish Leadership. Its purpose is to support church members in need during a tough time, as well as a time, when you just might need a little extra help. There are 5 components to the system:

1. Visitation- visiting those who are homebound, in a nursing home or hospital
2. Meals- meals are organized and provided when you are in need-maybe after surgery, etc
3. Rides-transportation provide to church, doctor's appointment, run errands, etc
4. Respite care- provide a time of respite for caregivers so they can attend church, run errands...
5. Social Services-provide needed information on support services available in our area

If you are in need of any of these services, or would like more information, please reach out to the church office or Sandy Pezzillo 609-468-2999 or Carol Hecky 609-273-4848.

The Care Team could also use your help to run these programs, if you are available to be a part of this program, as a coordinator, volunteer, or assistant, please reach out to Sandy or Carol. This is a church wide program that we can all be a part of.

Hough Thank You

To My Church Family:

Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, calls, and pudding! You have really kept our spirits up.

Mary and Dan Hough





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> |
| 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> |
| 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> |
| Pam Miller | <i>By church family</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> |



Robert Asher Wilson, Sr.

11/3/1936 -3/13/2023

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

Tres Rios Presbyterian Church – An important ECPC Mission

The Tres Rios Presbyterian Church is a storefront church in the San José metropolitan area in Costa Rica. The congregation was established fifteen years ago by Pastor José Huertas and has been led with the assistance of his wife Flor and their daughter Raquel. In 2019, a group from the (former) Presbytery of New Brunswick was introduced to the Tres Rios PC by Rev. Karla Koll, a PC(USA) Mission Worker in Costa Rica.

The Tres Rios neighborhood is impoverished; many families struggle to survive. In addition to the threat of drug addiction, many young residents risk being victims of physical abuse or human trafficking. It is a challenge to keep youth, particularly teenage boys, in school and out of gangs. Many teenage girls are unwed mothers.



L to R: Rev. Molly Dykstra, Pastor José Huertas, Rev. Sharyl Dixon, Flor Huertas, Rev. Dawn Adamy, Mission Worker Rev. Karla Koll, Don Lovett, and Dave Redman in front of the Tres Rios Presbyterian Church.

One important ministry of this congregation seeks to keep the children and youth safe. To entice participation, this ministry offers meals to local children and youth after the worship service each Sunday and after a spiritual and educational program held each Thursday evening. The church opens its doors to feed any children or youth from the area. Not only does this ministry bring Christ into the neighborhood, but it also provides important programs for the children and youth, teaching them about self-esteem and positive messages about themselves and their bodies. It teaches them to say ‘no’ to perpetrators of physical or sexual abuse and to those who try to coerce them into dealing drugs or becoming victims of human trafficking. In addition to self-esteem exercises, activities have included learning to create container vegetable gardens and engagement in community projects, such as cleaning up local parks and planting trees.

Both EPC and CPC (and now ECPC) have supported both the Tres Rios PC ministries and Mission Worker Karla Koll for several years. Pastor José and Flor have expressed their sincere gratitude to ECPC for its continued financial support during the pandemic, when finances of their congregation were severely impacted. Our donations have allowed their ministries for children and youth to continue throughout the pandemic.

All photos are courtesy of Pastor José Huertas.



Children in front of the Tres Rios PC building, showing off their new backpacks filled with school supplies.



Children in the worship space at Tres Rios Presbyterian Church during Thursday evening programs.



R: Children working in the Tres Rios Sunday school classroom. ● L: PC(USA) Mission Worker Rev. Karla Koll working with youth in the church's courtyard to show how to make container vegetable gardens. ●



R: Tres Rios youth at the end of a trash clean-up project. ● L: Youth preparing to plant trees in a local park.



It's Not Too Late to Be a Good Steward

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

It's not too late to bring your gifts of time, talents, and money that we intend to give to God. To share your intention on giving money, here are your options:

1. Drop a note or pledge card off in the offering plate on any Sunday; or
2. Call (609-977-6348) or email the Financial Administrator Kathy Jordan at the church at kjordan@ewingpres.org or
3. Drop off a note or pledge card at the Church Office any Monday through Friday, 9 AM - 4 PM; or
4. Mail a note or pledge card to ECPC, 100 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ 08628; or
5. Call the Church Office to mail you a pledge card.

Please Remit your Per Capita Assessment of \$40

The Per Capita Assessment is the "dues" that each congregation pays to the Presbytery of the Coastlands, the Synod of the Northeast, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each congregation is assessed a total of \$40 per member for the year. Even if a member does not pay their per capita assessment to ECPC, our congregation still must pay the full amount. We hope that you will contribute the amount of the assessment in addition to your regular pledge.

Please write "Per Capita" on the envelope if you pay in cash or on the memo line of your check. If you have questions about the Per Capita Assessment, contact Treasurer Don Lovett (lovett@tcnj.edu) or Financial Administrator Kathy Jordan (kjordan@ewingpres.org).



One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

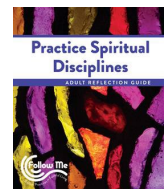
Each gift helps to improve the lives of the people in challenging situations through impactful programs:

32% rebuilds hope through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance—helping after the devastation of natural or human-caused disaster.

36% goes to growing food security through the Presbyterian Hunger program—taking action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

And 32% goes to Partnering in Progress—self-development of people. This program invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustices and educates Presbyterians about the impact of their societal ills.

One Great Hour of Sharing runs through the season of Lent. Your donation to OGHS can be made out to Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church with OGHS on the memo line. The dedication is April 2, but donations will be accepted during April.



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)



AN UPDATE FROM THE
Pastor Nominating
Committee

We have been doing a lot of listening this past month; to sermons online and some early “meet and greets” of possible candidates, as well as continuing to review new *Pastor Information Forms*. So, we are slowly narrowing things down to a **reasonable number** of candidates to look into in deeper ways. Please continue to pray for the PNC and this process called “Call”.



Vitality Team Update

The Vitality Team invited Rev. Molly Dykstra, with PC(USA) Vital Congregations Revitalization Initiatives to speak to the ECPC congregation on Sunday, February 19, 2023, in an open Town Hall format, resulting in much discussion.

In response to that meeting, the Team received a good deal of reflective thoughts and directions for increased vitality and spiritual practices. While we examined these during March, we also looked back to previous meetings with the

congregation discussing Strategic Priorities and Concerns the congregation wished to address. Next the Vitality Team will be looking at suggested Action Steps that we can take to further enhance our Vision and Ministerial Growth in the coming months.

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



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 of your choosing, as you are able. 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 2ND.

Easter Flower Donation

(Please print very clearly)

In Memory of _____

Given by _____

_____ I will take a plant following the 11 a.m. Easter Service

_____ I will NOT take a plant following the 11 a.m. Easter Service

Deadline for May newsletter is Friday, April 21, 2023

If you have an article or photo for the church's April newsletter, *Connections*, should send it to the church office by Friday, April 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

Want to Go to Trenton Thunder?

Our church is gathering interest in attending a baseball game for just \$8 at Trenton Thunder on July 29. If you are interested in going, please tell Joanne Durham after church; or by emailing her at jedurham99@gmail.com or call her at 609-882-4317.



TRENTON THUNDER

Saturday, July 29th @ 6:30pm

TRENTON THUNDER vs. **WILLIAMSPORT CROSSCUTTERS**

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

Pregame Faith Based Music
on the Approach!

FIREWORKS

\$8
TICKETS
(Groups over 20)

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT
Daniel Lentz
(609) 394-3300 x. 1111
dlentz@trentonthunder.com

The graphic features a collage of images: a blue mascot holding an American flag, a woman and child smiling, a golden retriever holding a baseball bat, and another mascot. The background shows a baseball stadium filled with spectators.

APRIL 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|-----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Worship 10am OGHS Dedication | 3 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ Choral | 4 | 5 | 6 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service | 7 Good Friday Church Office Closed | 8 |
| 9 Worship 10am Easter Sunday | 10 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ Choral Society | 11 1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge | 12 6:30-8:30 pm Ruth & Tabitha Circles Lower Lounge | 13 Lunch together 11:45-1:30 Lower Lounge ECPC Bell Choir - 6:00-7:30 ECPC Choir - 7:30-9:00 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Worship 10am | 17 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ Choral Society 7:00 PM District 24/NA | 18 Newsletter Articles are Due | 19 | 20 ECPC Bell Choir - 6:00-7:30 ECPC Choir - 7:30-9:00 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Worship 10am | 24 11:30-1:00 Echo Line Dancing Worship Space 6:30-9:30 Central NJ Choral Society | 25 1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge Caregiver Support Group 10:00-11:30 Upper Mtg Room | 26 | 27 ECPC Bell Choir - 6:00-7:30 ECPC Choir - 7:30-9:00 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Worship 10am | | | | | | |