



# CONNECTIONS

*The Newsletter of the Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church—May 2023*



**"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever." Isaiah 40:8**



## 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

## Ewing Covenant Celebrates



### Homefront's Diaper Challenge

Our Goal

Collect 100 packages of Diapers All  
Sizes and Baby Wipes

From May 7th through  
May 14<sup>th</sup>

Diapers can be dropped off at the  
Scout Hut  
Behind the Church or the Worship Space



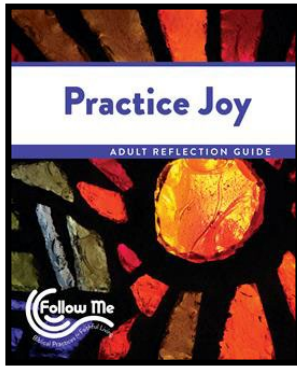
Blanket Sunday and Mother's Day is just around the corner! Celebrate those special people in your life that are or have been a mother to you with a gift of a blanket or a tarp shelter in the world's disaster areas. The signup sheets will be in Fellowship Hall May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>, so the names of those you wish to celebrate with these gifts will be published in the church newsletter and listed in the bulletin.



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 &amp; Doug Taylor</i>
Charlie Magee	<i>brother of Judy Carapezza</i>
Dan Hough	<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>
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>
Dana Matlock	<i>By church family</i>
Judy Carapezza	<i>By church family</i>

## Adult Education—Beginning in May



### ***Practice Joy***

We usually think of joy as a feeling, a response to something we experience. Scripture, however, invites us to experience joy as more than a passive response; instead, we practice joy as a faithful choice. Joy is something that we experience, something we savor, and something that is gifted to us by a loving and merciful God. While we experience joy individually, it is also a communal practice, one that is experienced in different ways by all God's people.

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

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/Tabitha Circle** will meet on Wednesday, May 10 at 6:30 pm in the Adult Lounge. The group will continue their study entitled "What Our Grandmothers Taught Us."

This meeting will be hybrid. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89944936942>

**Mission Sewing** will meet on Tuesday, May 16 at 10 am in the adult lounge. Bring a lunch and beverage and dessert will be provided. Everyone is invited! Rides can be provided if needed. See you there!

## May Worship

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - May 7, 10:00am**

Rev. Dr. Andrew Scales, guest preacher

*Acts 7:55-60 and Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16 or Prov. 4:10-18 and Ps. 119:9-32; 1 Pet. 2:2-10; John 14:1-14*

*Legacy Giving Sunday; Older Adult Week begins*

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 14, 10:00am**

Rev. Dr. Byron Shafer, guest preacher

*Acts 17:22-31 and Ps. 66:8-20 or Ezek. 34:1-7a and Ps. 115; 1 Pet. 3:13-22; John 14:15-21*

*Mother's Day*

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 21, 10:00am**

Mark Van Bruggen, guest preacher

*Acts 1:6-14 and Ps. 68:1-10, 32-35 or Isa. 45:1-7 and Ps. 21:1-7; 1 pet. 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11*

*Intercultural Church Sunday*

*Mission Worker Sunday*

*Presbyterian Heritage Sunday*

**Day of Pentecost – May 28, 10:00am**

Rev. Dr. Janet Macgregor-Williams, guest preacher

*Acts 2:1-21 or Num. 11:24-30 and Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; 1Cor. 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39*

**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

## Preachers for the Month of May

5/7/2023	Rev. Dr. Andrew Scales	Andrew Scales and his spouse Len Turner Scales serve as the Chaplains and Executive Co-Directors of Princeton Presbyterians. Andrew served as co-chair of the presbytery's administrative commission for blending Ewing Covenant. As a campus minister, he's excited about an emerging relationship with Ewing Covenant in the work of planting a new Presbyterian fellowship at TCNJ. Thank you for welcoming him this morning!
5/14/2023	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.
5/21/2023	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 at homecoming.
5/28/2023	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).



### **News from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**

The members of the PNC have been conducting online interviews and are delighted to report that two candidates have come to the fore. We will be having further in-depth conversations with both of them during the next few weeks. We ask for your continued support and prayers as we continue this discernment process.



### **Vitality Team Update**

The Vitality Team hosted a town-hall style open meeting with the congregation after worship on April 23. Rick Durham moderated the meeting which was also held on Zoom and taped. A number of excellent action items were discussed by the attendees and will be communicated again for assignment to individuals or small groups. All of them were in response to the three Strategic Priorities set by the Visioning Team with the blessing of Session and the congregation last year.

- Maximize and enhance social media presence
- Use digital sign more effectively
- Coordinate church activity events
- Increase community media presence (i.e., Ewing Observer)
- Start "Save the Date" and six months at a glance calendar
- Create Welcome booklet for visitors, community events and community outreach



## Celebratory Easter Dinner with Church Family

The Pezzillos and the Heckys hosted an Easter dinner and movie after worship for approximately 20 members of the congregation on April 9. The food was delicious, and everyone had a wonderful time. Here are some photos from this memorable day.



## *Save these Dates!*



- May 7: Rev. Dr. Andrew Scales from *Princeton Presbyterians* preaches
- May 14: *Homefront Diaper Challenge* deadline
- May 14: *Blanket Sunday* deadline to contribute to Church World Service for blankets or tarps
- June 11: Scholarship Sunday at ECPC
- June 18: Habitat for Humanity collection for Father's Day
- July 16: ESWA Picnic
- July 29: Trenton Thunder Baseball Game
- September 10: Blawenburg Band at ECPC
- September 30: We exhibit at TCNJ's *Community Fest*



### **Thank You for your Gift to *One Great Hour of Sharing***

God bless you! Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church collected \$1,020 for the One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent. **Thank you for your generosity!**

Presbyterians join together to give to *One Great Hour of Sharing* to help our neighbors in need around the world. One third rebuilds hope through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, helping after the devastation after a natural or human-caused disaster. Another third goes to Presbyterian Hunger -- a program taking action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty. The last third goes to Partnering in Progress: self-development of people. This invests in responses to racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice.

MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship 10am</b> <b>11:15 Adult Ed</b>	<b>1</b> 11:30-1:00p Echo Line Dancing  6:30p-9:30p NJ Chorale Society	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:00p-7:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Regular Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Worship 10am</b> <b>11:15 Adult Ed</b>	<b>8</b> 11:30-1:00p Echo Line Dancing  6:30p-9:30p NJ Chorale Society	<b>9</b> 1:30p-3:30p ESWA Mission Service Group	<b>10</b> 6:30p-7:30p Ruth/Tabitha Circle	<b>11</b> 6:00p-7:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Regular Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Worship 10am</b> <b>MOTHER'S</b> <b>DAY</b> 	<b>15</b> 11:30-1:00p Echo Line Dancing  6:30p-9:30p NJ Chorale Society	<b>16</b> 10:00-12:30p Mission Sewing	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11:45-1:30p Lunch Together  6:00p-7:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Regular Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Worship 10am</b> <b>11:15 Adult Ed</b>	<b>22</b> 11:30-1:00p Echo Line Dancing  6:30p-9:30p NJ Chorale Society	<b>23</b> 1:30p-3:30p ESWA Mission Service Group	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:00p-7:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Regular Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Worship 10am</b>	<b>29</b> <b>MEMORIAL</b> <b>DAY</b> 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			