



# CONNECTIONS

*The Newsletter of the Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church – October 2023*



**Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
100 Scotch Rd. Ewing, NJ 08628 609.882.3673 [churchoffice@ewingpres.org](mailto:churchoffice@ewingpres.org)  
[ewingcovenantpres.org](http://ewingcovenantpres.org)



## **Our Vision Statement**

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 Statement**

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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*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. -Romans 15:13*

Dear Friends,

My summer was such a whirlwind—leaving Brooklyn for the Garden State, saying farewell to my community there, and jumping into life at Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church has made for a busy few months. Actually, when I look back on the last few years, things have generally just been kind of up in the air, the future uncertain, and there has been way too much change for my liking. I am beyond ready to feel settled.

While I can't say for certain, even if you did not also exchange urban for suburban this August, I imagine a lot of us feel this way. So many of our communities (churches possibly foremost!) have found themselves navigating significant transition and change; it's no wonder a lot of us are looking for a sense of permanence right now. We're looking for something solid.

As I still get to know this place, I think that is exactly what we can find in community together at ECPC. I may not have been here long at all, but my sense already is that this is a place we can put down deep roots. And my own vision for the months ahead is that this will continue to be a church where folks can discover a sense of grounding and meaningful connection, even in those seasons when it feels as if the ground itself may be shifting beneath us.

That is my very simple prayer for us as we head into fall: that we'd find a place of spiritual grounding and a sense of stability in our community together. Amen!

Blessings,

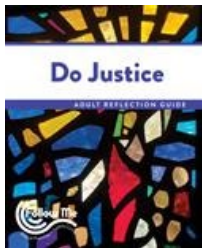
**Rev. Morgan Valencia King**

## Cafe Conversation

**Due to Mother Nature our Cafe Conversation will be Sunday, October 8 after Worship**

If you care about the renewal and growth of *Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church*, come to a Café Conversation on Sunday, October 8 after Worship. Refreshments will be provided. Pastor Morgan Valencia King and the Vitality team are looking to make the coming year one of renewal and spiritual growth. A topic of discussion will be: **the Vitality of a church is determined by the power of its Message. What is OUR message at ECPC? How do we attract (AND keep) a new generation of “Faith Seekers?”** We look forward to hearing your ideas!

## Adult Education—Beginning in October-- *Do Justice*



“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” (*Micah 6:8*)

Join us through the month of October as we explore what it means to “Do Justice.” We’ll meet after worship on October 1, 15, 22, and 29.

Most humans are born with an innate, general sense of right and wrong. Young children can give a detailed explanation of justice through the eyes of the victim when they feel they have been wronged. In the *Do Justice* unit, we learn that we are not always correct in our assessments, but the desire for fairness in the world around us is deeply held. Being human means, in part, experiencing the frustration and anger of injustice, and the sense of restoration and wholeness that comes with justice served.

Through this practice, participants will find that Scripture is filled with the themes of liberating justice in ways that are bold and ways that are subtle, always returning to the need to bridge the gap between the world as it is and the world toward which God calls us. So that we may *do justice* in our lives, this practice explores seeing injustice, checking our own prejudice, speaking up, and doing the work that justice requires.

## Peace & Global Witness Offering

The month of October is *Peacemaking* month. On October 1st (*Worldwide Communion Sunday*) we will be collecting the Peace & Global Witness Offering. There will be an envelope in your bulletin, as well as your offering envelope box and on the table in the worship space. The offering will be collected throughout the month if you are not available on October

1st. Please donate your offering to the church itself, meaning do not mail it into the Special Offering office.

### **Where does this offering go? What is it for?**

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid-councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

## **Presbyterian Women**

[Trick or Treat with PW on Wednesday, October 11th](#) 🎃 or 🍬

The group will hold their regular monthly meeting in the Lower Lounge at 6:30 that evening. Instead of a study, everyone wishing to participate should bring a wrapped gift worth no more than \$10. This gift can be either something nice (a treat) or a gag (a trick) or a combination of the two. Everyone wishing to participate will contribute \$8 for the chance to pick a package. All proceeds will go to support the mission giving of PW. There will also be refreshments and devotions. All are welcome, so come join us for fun and fellowship.

[Mission Sewing](#) 🧵📄

Mission Sewing will meet at 10 am on Tuesday, October 17th in the Lower Lounge. The group is working on items for the Children's Home Society, pillowcases for children in local hospitals, and making items to sell to benefit Friends for Health in Haiti. Bring a sandwich. Beverage and dessert are provided. All are welcome and you don't have to be able to sew.



## **Marrazzo's Receipts**

**Marrazzo's receipts continue to be collected in boxes in the sanctuary foyer and in the scout hut. They may not be over 6 months old and must be from the Ewing store only. The proceeds go into the Deacons' Fund, which is used to help individuals, non-profit organizations and, of course, activities and**

**events for our church.**

## Ice Cream Social

The Blawenburg Band played for ECPC and the greater Ewing community on Sunday afternoon, September 17 after a week's delay due to rain. It was worth the wait as everyone enjoyed the concert and delicious ice cream and toppings. Here are four photos from that memorable day.



## Save these Dates!

- Sunday, October 1: World Communion Sunday
- Sunday, October 8: Cafe Conversation on church growth & renewal
- Sunday, October 29: Honoring David Redman, Interim Moderator for ECPC 2022-2023
- Sunday, November 19: Congregational Meeting



*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>
Alice Haines	<i>By church family</i>
Cathy Holland	<i>By church family</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>
Judy Carapezza	<i>By church family</i>
Maryanne Eleuteri	<i>friend of Judy Carapezza</i>
Pam Hoffman	<i>By church family</i>
Rita Freilinghaus	<i>sister of Judy Carapezza</i>
Robin Salant	<i>By church family</i>
Erica McLean-Cowan	<i>By church family</i>

## October Worship Liturgy

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 21 – October 1, 10:00am

Rev. Dr. Janet Macgregor-Williams, guest preacher

*Semicontinuous: Ex. 17:1-7 and Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16;*

*Complementary: Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32 and Ps. 25:1-9; Phil. 2:1-13; Matt. 21:23-32*

*World Communion Sunday*

*Peace & Global Witness Offering*

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 22 – October 8, 10:00am

Rev. Morgan Valencia King, Pastor

*Semicontinuous: Ex. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Ps. 19;*

*Complementary: Isa. 5:1-7 and Ps. 80:7-15; Phil. 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46*

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/ Proper 23 – October 15, 10:00am

Rev. Morgan Valencia King, Pastor

*Semicontinuous: Ex. 32:1-14 and Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23;*

*Complementary: Isa. 25:1-9 and Ps. 23; Phil. 4:1-9; Matt. 22:1-14*

*Children's Sabbath; Educate a Child, Transform the World*

21<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/ Proper 24 – October 22, 10:00am

Rev. Morgan Valencia King, Pastor

*Semicontinuous: Ex. 33:12-23 and Ps. 99;*

*Complementary: Isa. 45:1-7 and Ps. 96:1-9 (10-13); 1 Thess. 1:1-10; Matt. 22:15-22*

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 25 – October 29, 10:00am

Rev. Morgan Valencia King, Pastor

*Semicontinuous: Deut. 34:1-12 and Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17;*

*Complementary: Lev. 19:1-2, 15-18 and Ps. 1; 1Thess. 2:1-8; Matt. 22:34-46*

*Reformation Sunday*

*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 October

10/01/2023	Rev. Dr. 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 45 states and 17 countries).
10/08/2023	Morgan Valencia King	Morgan is a 2014 graduate of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, where he majored in Religious Studies. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2018. Upon graduation, Morgan was hired by Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City as Director of Engagement. In 2021, Morgan was ordained and hired as an Interim Pastor at Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, New York. During his time there, the congregation grew in membership and took on new initiatives. On June 25, 2023 the Ewing Covenant congregation voted unanimously to have him serve as our next full-time installed pastor.
10/15/2023	Morgan Valencia King	Morgan is a 2014 graduate of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, where he majored in Religious Studies. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2018. Upon graduation, Morgan was hired by Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City as Director of Engagement. In 2021, Morgan was ordained and hired as an Interim Pastor at Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, New York. During his time there, the congregation grew in membership and took on new initiatives. On June 25, 2023 the Ewing Covenant congregation voted unanimously to have him serve as our next full-time installed pastor.
10/22/2023	Morgan Valencia King	Morgan is a 2014 graduate of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, where he majored in Religious Studies. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2018. Upon graduation, Morgan was hired by Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City as Director of Engagement. In 2021, Morgan was ordained and hired as an Interim Pastor at Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, New York. During his time there, the congregation grew in membership and took on new initiatives. On June 25, 2023 the Ewing Covenant congregation voted unanimously to have him serve as our next full-time installed pastor.



**Thanks so much for the beautiful flowers brought to me to help celebrate my birthday. Also, the many lovely cards I received were a real mood lifter. All were so much appreciated.**

**~ Ruth Tantum**



## Church Picnic

The Church Picnic was a great time of fellowship for a new year and to welcome Pastor Morgan Valencia King and his husband Jorge. It was a beautiful day with delicious food provided by the PNC and Vitality Team. Here are some photos from that day.



October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Worship 10am</b> Adult Ed 11:15 am	<b>2</b> 11:30-1:00 Line Dancing Worship Space	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6-7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Worship 10am</b> Cafe Conversation 11:15 am	<b>9</b> 11:30-1:00 Line Dancing Worship Space	<b>10</b> 1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge	<b>11</b> 6:30pm PW Circle	<b>12</b> 6-7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Worship 10am</b> Adult Ed 11:15 am	<b>16</b>  11:30-1:00 Line Dancing Worship Space	<b>17</b> 10am-Mission Sewing	<b>18</b> 7pm Session Meeting by Zoom	<b>19</b> 11:45-1:30 Lunch Together Lower Lounge  6-7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Worship 10am</b> Adult Ed 11:15 am	<b>23</b> 11:30-1:00 Line Dancing Worship Space	<b>24</b> 10am Care Givers Support Group  1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6-7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Worship 10am</b> Adult Ed 11:30 am David Redman is honored	<b>30</b> 11:30-1:00 Line Dancing Worship Space	<b>31</b>				

