

CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church – November 2023



~ Give Thanks by Cynthia Farrell Johnson. Used with permission.

Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church
100 Scotch Rd. Ewing, NJ 08628 609.882.3673 churchoffice@ewingpres.org
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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*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

Dear Friends,

I know it's only November 1st, but I'm already counting the days until we fill our table with sweet potato casserole, sourdough bread, and mac and cheese. And while for me the food is much of the hype, I long for days like Thanksgiving when we gather, break bread, and remember all that we have.

Still, I know that with so much injustice and suffering around this nation and the whole world, attempting to list our blessings may seem uninspired or even disconnected from reality. It can be difficult to know where to even begin. That makes sense, though, because gratitude isn't always easy or simple. It is, after all, a spiritual discipline- one that takes time and practice to cultivate.

This month, I invite you to spend regular moments in prayer asking God to bring to mind the blessings of your life (if you aren't sure how to begin, see the prayer later in this issue of Connections!). And then express that gratitude: Tell your friends, your family, and the folks around you at Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church. May our gratitude sustain us and inspire us in the days ahead!

Blessings on each of you,

Rev. Morgan Valencia King



All Saints' Day Worship

On Sunday, November 5th we will observe All Saints' Day in worship. We invite you to share the names of any loved ones who have passed in the last year with the church office by Tuesday, October 31st.



Special Called Congregational Meeting, Sunday, November 19 at 11:00 AM

Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church will hold a special Called Congregational Meeting for the sole purpose of electing new elders of Session, new members of the Board of Deacons, and members of the Nominating Committee for the coming year. All members are urged to come and vote at this meeting.



A Service of Installation

On December 3rd at 5pm in the 1867 Sanctuary, the Presbytery of the Coastlands will install Rev. Morgan Valencia King as our permanent pastor. Please make plans to join us for this important worship service!

A Prayer of Gratitude from the Presbyterian Church (USA) National Office

"God, our Provider, Giver of All Good Things, you open your hand and lavish good gifts upon us. So, we give you thanks. You create the beauty of the earth and stock it with abundance to sustain human life. You give us friends who share the journey of our lives; family who make us laugh with joy and dry our tears of sorrow; strangers who minister to our needs with generous kindness. You knit us into your larger family called church to encourage us in your Way. Though we may have seen our fortunes fall this year, we praise you for hiding our treasure in Jesus Christ our Lord, whom not even death can destroy. Though we miss those whose places sit empty at this year's table, we give you thanks for lending them to us for what time we had. For all your providence with the feast of life that you set before us, we give ourselves to you with all we are in thanks and praise. Amen"



Vitality Team Update

It's been a couple of weeks since our Conversation event, and the church leadership has had time to analyze the results, which were a successful kick-off to a year of renewal and regrowth. Now the question arises, **"What's Next?"**

Working with Pastor Morgan, who is already taking action on the priority steps mentioned in the Conversation, we plan more Café Conversations on our journey of renewal. We will continue to expand on our exploration of "Vision" and how it relates to ourselves (in reach) and to our community outreach. We will also explore the topic of "Discipleship."

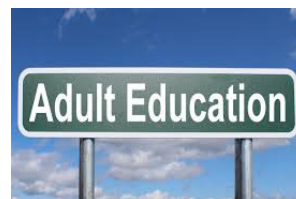
And in the coming months, we will continue to ask ourselves the **never-ending** question, **"How can we attract and keep a new generation of "seekers of faith?"**

Bullets to discuss:

- Taking our "Message" to the people
- Building community support
- Building a community of churches
- Building a three-year plan to generate growth and vitality

Vitality Team Members

Barbara Brezak, Joanne Durham, Rick Durham, Carol Hecky, Ralph Sims



Invitation to Adult Education in November

Join us in early November as we finish exploring the topic of justice. We meet in the Fireplace Room after Worship. On November 5, we will address the final issues presented about fairness in the world and the wholeness that comes with justice served. Participants will find that Scripture is filled with themes of liberating justice in ways that are bold and also subtle. On November 12, we will have a guest speaker from the Rescue Mission of Trenton tell us what their work involves.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CIRCLE MEETING - Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 8th at 6:30 in the Lower Lounge. After the business meeting and devotions, the group will begin to sort through the PW closet and then enjoy refreshments. Please join us. Everyone is welcome.

MISSION SEWING - The group will meet on Tuesday, November 21st at 10 am in the Lower Lounge. Time will be spent making pillowcases for cancer patients and getting items ready for a pre-Christmas sale, proceeds to go to Friends for Health in Haiti. Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverages are provided. You don't need to sew, and it is a great fellowship time.

COFFEE HOUR

If you have been in church during the past month, you may have noticed that we have started up coffee hour again. The treats and conversation have both been great, but we need your help! It is simple as when you go grocery shopping, pick up a coffee hour supply- a can of coffee-regular or decaf, a quart of half and half, a baked treat, a cute package of napkins. Other ways you can help is to offer to set up the coffee one Sunday (we will show you how), help to put out the treats, or help to clean up. We all enjoy coffee hour, but it must be a group effort if we are to keep it going! --Deacons

Preparing for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service at Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church!

On Monday, January 15th the Mission and Social Justice Committee will host a "*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service*" event in the church's education building. We will be assembling items for our neighbors in need -- Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), Arm in Arm, as well as working on other service projects for that day. Please help us collect items which are listed below and on the church website for this event. **Purchasing large quantities of one item is more helpful than one of each but all donations are welcome. Items should be dropped off at the Scout Hut by Sunday, January 7th.** Come and make a difference in your life and theirs! If you have any questions, contact Carol Hecky at 609.273.4848 or heckycarol@gmail.com or Joanne Durham at 609.882.4317 or jedurham99@gmail.com. Thank you!

Breakfast Bags for Arm in Arm

Oatmeal packets
Tea bags
Hot chocolate packets
Individual boxes of cereal
Individual serving shelf ready milk
(Parmalat)
Juice boxes
Breakfast bars

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) Personal Care Kits

Shampoo or body wash
Toothpaste
Toothbrush
Deodorant
Bars of Soap
Disposable Razors
Shaving Cream
One-gallon, closable, plastic storage bags

November Worship Liturgy

All Saints' Day – November 1st, Observed Sunday Nov. 5th

Rev. Morgan Valencia King, Pastor

Rev. 7:9-17 and Ps. 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matt. 5:1-12

23rd Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 26 – November 5, 10:00am

Rev. Morgan Valencia King, Pastor

Semicontinuous: Josh. 3:7-17 and Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37;

Complementary: Michah 3:5-12; and Ps. 43; 1 Thess. 2:-9-13; Matt. 23:1-12

Daylight saving time ends

24th Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 27 – November 12, 10:00am

Rev. Morgan Valencia King, Pastor

Semicontinuous: Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25 and Ps. 78:1-7;

Complementary: Amos 5:18-24 and Ps. 70; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

Hunger and Homelessness Sunday

25th Sunday after Pentecost/ Proper 28 – November 19, 10:00am

Rev. Morgan Valencia King, Pastor

Semicontinuous: Judg. 4:1-7 and Ps. 123;

Complementary: Zeph. 1:7, 12-18 and Ps. 90:1-8 (9-11), 12; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 25:14-30

Christ the King/Reign of Christ – November 26, 10:00am

Rev. Andrew Scales

Semicontinuous: Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24 and Ps. 100;

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



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>
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>



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.



Save these Dates!

Sunday, November 5, 10:00 AM: All Saints Day Observed & Worship

Thursday, November 16, 11:45: Lunch Bunch with Mission Worker Rev. Dr. Karla Koll

Sunday, November 19, 11:00 AM: Congregational Meeting to elect new Elders and Deacons and members of the Nominating Committee.

Sunday, December 3, 5:00 PM: Installation of Rev. Morgan Valencia King at 1867 Sanctuary

Sunday, December 24, 10:00 AM: Final Worship Service of Advent

Sunday, December 24, 5:00 PM: Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols at the 1867 Sanctuary

Recognition of David Redman

The Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church congregation took time at the end of the Worship service on October 29 to thank David Redman, Elder from the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery of the Coastlands, for his 18 months of service. Carol Houghton and Jane Kidder, co-chairs of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and Church Treasurer Don Lovett acknowledged David's leadership, unbridled dedication, and calm demeanor for bringing us to this new season at ECPC. Joanne Durham, Clerk, presented David with gifts and a card from the PNC and Session. Rev. Morgan Valencia King gave a closing prayer with the laying of hands on David.

In February 2022, David Redman was assigned to ECPC by the Presbytery of the Coastlands to moderate since we were between pastors. Initially, he moderated the Visioning Team to finish its goal of creating a Mission Study so that a PNC could be formed. With that completed in June 2022, he then moved on to moderate the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) who were charged with finding a full-time pastor. Concurrently, he moderated 18 months of Session meetings as well as the initial meetings of the Vitality Team.



NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  All Saints Day	2 6-7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 Worship 10am All Saints' Day Observed	6	7	8 6:30pm PW Circle	9 6-7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10  OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 Worship 10am Adult Ed 11:15 am Rescue Mission	13	14 1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge.	15 7pm Session Meeting by Zoom	16 11:45-1:30 Lunch Together Lower Lounge 6-7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 Worship 10am Congregational Meeting 11am	20	21 10am-Mission Sewing	22	23  OFFICE CLOSED	24 THANKS-GIVING DAY EXTENDED OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 Worship 10am	27	28 1:30-3:30 pm ESWA Mission Service Group Lower Lounge.	29	30 6-7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		