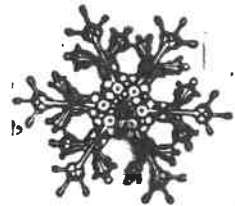


Meeting House Memos JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2018



THE NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR



Show kindness. It's a choice. Choose it.

Show patience. Just remember, you're not perfect either.

Show encouragement. If you do, people will strive for more.

Show compassion. Put yourself in someone else's shoes.

Show wisdom. It's in short supply these days.

Show fairness. Don't stack the deck in anyone's favor.

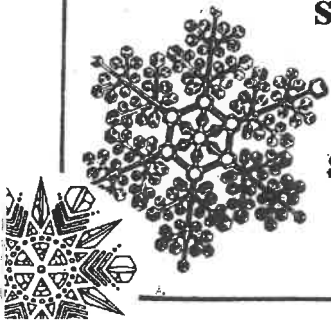
Show leadership. Too many people are followers.

Show humor. Life is short. Don't take it too seriously.

Show concern. Listen to the problems of others.

Show love. It can solve lots of unsolvable problems.

Show forgiveness. You'll help change the world.





FROM
the PASTOR



We have been told that everything has its season and there is a time for everything. The time has come for me to wrap up my labor in the vineyard of Mountainside. It is time for my almost 32 years as your pastor to come to an end.

On Wednesday, January 10th, I informed the Session and the Trustees of my intention to retire on June 30, 2018. This will allow five months of time for us to work together in preparing our congregation for the next steps. The Presbytery of Elizabeth will become increasingly involved with the congregation as we draw closer to June 30th.

Thirty Two years is an extraordinarily long time for a pastorate in this day and age. For me our relationship has been a life time's work. Thirty-two of my forty years as an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament have been spent in Mountainside. It has been decades of learning, challenges and blessings for me. I pray that it has been a time of blessings for the congregation as well.

I am grateful that you have allowed me to share some of your greatest joys and some of your deepest sorrows. While I will be leaving the pulpit of the Community Presbyterian Church, the congregation will live forever in my heart.

Grace & peace *Chris Belden*



SESSION - Attendance

December 3	89	December 24 - 10:30 am	115
December 10	53	December 24 - 5:00 pm	131
Lessons & Carols	113	December 23 - 11:00 pm	81
December 17	60	December 31	32
January 7	53		
January 14	61		

Jean Hileman, Clerk of Session



- Men's Group - Monday, January 22nd - 12:15pm
- Break Bread with Belden - Tuesday, January 23rd - 12:30pm
- Deacons - Wednesday, January 24th - 7pm - Memorial Room
- Confirmation Class - Sunday, February 4th - 2pm - Memorial Room



Over the past few years Coffee Hour has grown into a Sunday experience of fellowship with young and old enjoying the time to socialize. The sign up list is on the wall in Coffee Hour Room. Please don't feel shy about asking someone to help you host a Sunday. Who knows they may also welcome an opportunity to "fight cabin fever".



**Trustee's
January-February
Report**



Winter is in full swing and your Trustee's have not slowed down. The most immediate information that we would like to share has to do with sanctuary painting. Beginning Monday, January 22, CertaPro will be painting the interior of the sanctuary (windows and shutters were painted last year). We hope to have the painting completed within that week, but it may go over a Sunday so excuse the appearance of the sanctuary if the work is not completed as expected. While the painting is taking place we will be having the curtain behind the cross cleaned. This may give us a chance to view the organ bellows on one or more Sundays.

Over the Christmas holiday break our fire alarm system was replaced and upgraded. This work included the installation, in the assembly room, of a Carbon Monoxide detector now required to meet state regulations. We are now in the process of replacing fluorescent light bulbs in the choir room, hallways in the church school building, and three offices. Once this is complete we should save a considerable amount of money on utility bills.

Save the date, **May 5, spring cleanup day** (rain date May12)! Yes spring will eventually come and certainly this is something worth thinking about!!

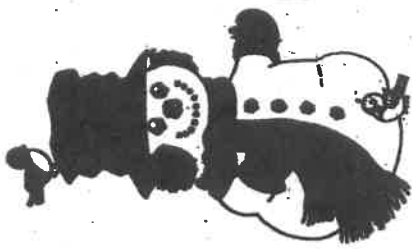


Chris has a blog! You can read his rants, raves and reflections at: www.ministersmusings.tumblr.com. Don't forget to check out our web page regularly. Joseph updates it every week. The address is: www.cpcmountainside.com.



PLEASE REMEMBER! If you enter a hospital or a rehab facility, you must let the church office know. Laws protecting privacy prevent the hospital or rehab center to release any information about you to the church.

+++++



EVERY SUNDAY
 10:30 am
 Worship Service
 11:30 M
 Coffee Hour
 12 noon
 Bible Study

MONDAY-FRIDAY
 9 am
 Nursery School

THURSDAY
 5:00 pm
 Children's Choir
 6:30 pm
 Bell Choir
 7:30 pm
 Chancel Choir



January 2018









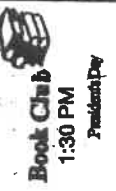

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 New Year's Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Most of the shadows of this life are caused by
 our standing in our own sunshine.
 Ralph Waldo Emerson



February 2018

Love is the feeling that makes you do the right thing for people, regardless of who they are, whether they deserve it or not, and even if they'll never know it.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 	5 	6	7 Ladies' Night Out 7 pm	8 	9	10
11	12 Lenten Bible Study 	13	14 	15	16	17 
18	19 Book Club 1:30 PM Presidents Day 	20	21 Session 7:00 PM	22 Washington's Birthday 	23	24
25	26	27	28 Deacons 7:00 PM	The March Newsletter deadline is Monday, February 26th.		

EVERY SUNDAY

- 10:30 am Worship Service
- 11:30 M Coffee Hour
- 12 noon Bible Study

MONDAY-FRIDAY

- 9 am Nursery School
- THURSDAY
- 5:00 pm Children's Choir
- 6:30 pm Bell Choir
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir





Women's Association News

Thank you to Kristy Boyce and Judy Kersey for preparing the delicious Advent Dinner, and to all the other elves who provided hors d'oeuvres, beverages, decorations and kitchen duty. It is always such a special evening of friendship and faith. Thanks to Sue Winans for being the pianist while we sang Christmas carols.

Break Bread with Belden Lunch - Tuesday, January 23rd - meet at 12:30 pm in the Memorial Room, and the group will carpool to a nearby restaurant. Enjoy fun and casual conversation.

Monthly Book Group - Monday, February 19th - 1:30 pm. Hosted by Sara Meissner (1116 Sylvan Lane). Please let Sara know if you will attend. The book to be discussed is Geraldine Brooks' "The Secret Chord".

February Girls' Night Out - Wednesday, February 7th - 7 pm
Meet at **Cosimo's Restaurant** on East Broad Street in Westfield to beat the winter doldrums. (ordering off the menu) Please RSVP your attendance (and if you need a ride) to Diane McCurdy by email to diane.mccurdy@wakefern.com or 908-400-1486.

Volunteers are needed to help with all our activities. Volunteer forms were included with the September mailing and can be left in the church office. Or you can contact Diane McCurdy (908-400-1486) or at diane.mccurdy@wakefern.com to sign up.

We are **organizing meals to help the Schoenknecht family**. We are asking church members and friends to please prepare meals that are easily frozen (casseroles, mac and cheese, lasagnas, baked ziti, pasta sauces, soups, etc). Please bring frozen meals to the church (labeled) and leave them in the church freezer in the garage. We will take meals to the Schoenknecht family as needed. If you have any questions, please contact Roxann Haggerty at 908-654-3905.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Gerald Morehead
5	Ryan Hoy
6	Elizabeth Perrin
10	Janinne Kissel
11	Peg Moser
12	Marjorie Pires
13	Kim Hain
17	Joan Lowe
18	Jean Hileman
19	Abigail Pires
	Betty Pracht
21	Trevor Hain
25	Wylie Haggerty
	Alexandra Steinberg
27	Helen Borchert
	Gisela Groiss

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Jack McCurdy
4	Travis Boop
5	Mira Lark Flath
7	Louise Fristensky
8	Wayne Boyce
	John Perrin
	Jennifer Pires
12	Andrew Hoydich
15	Scott Hain
23	Katelyn Pires
25	Daniel Kelk
26	MacKenna Rose
	(Thomas) Mirabella

If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in the monthly newsletter, please let the church office know

ANNIVERSARIES

30 Bobbie and Ted Weeks



COMMUNICATION We want to be in touch with you. So much is going on so much of the time! The bulletin boards in the hallway by the church offices are updated daily with news of the congregation, the Presbytery of Elizabeth and community events. The bulletin boards in the Assembly Room are updated regularly. There is a literature table in the narthex (the sanctuary foyer). Help yourself to the magazines, devotionals and flyers that are there. Check out our website (www.cpcmountainside.com/) at least a couple of times a week. There is news about worship and music. There is a link to the pastor's blog. There is an interactive church calendar and more!

CHURCH MOUSE....



.....December is always such a special month at our church with lovely music and decorations. "Lessons and Carols" was wonderful with some new music this year. Thanks to Joseph and the choir members for bringing us joy through your music.

.....Thanks to all who helped decorate and undecorated the church and for the Barré-Quick/Quick family for donating the Christmas trees. They were beautiful!

.....Kudos to Bonnie Canavari for coordinating the children's pageant. Everyone enjoyed it!

.....About three dozen adults and children went caroling to ManorCare Brighton Gardens and to homes of some of our congregation who are unable to join us on Sundays in church. They were so appreciative! After caroling, a light meal at church was organized by Joanne Gepp. Thanks, Joanne!

.....The Deacons and some other helpful elves helped to load and unload groceries and Christmas gifts for Elizabeth. Thank you to all who helped, as well as those who donated food and/or beautifully wrapped gifts. The recipients were very grateful, and we made Christmas a little better for many families.

.....Congratulations to our new officers! Those recently installed were Joanne Gepp, Susan Vice, and Sara Meissner as Elders; Leigh Peter and Julianne Podolski as Deacons, and Doug Galm and Carlos Gomez as Trustees. We are grateful to these members who are giving their time and talent to our church.

.....In our prayers are Erasmus Belden, Lorraine Burgess, Wolfgang Gerhard,, Anne Zakovic and the Schoenknecht family.

.....We wish you a happy and healthy 2018! Remember, this newsletter is only as good as YOU make it - we rely on you for news and information.



Your editors three,

Bobbie, Sandy, and Sara

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