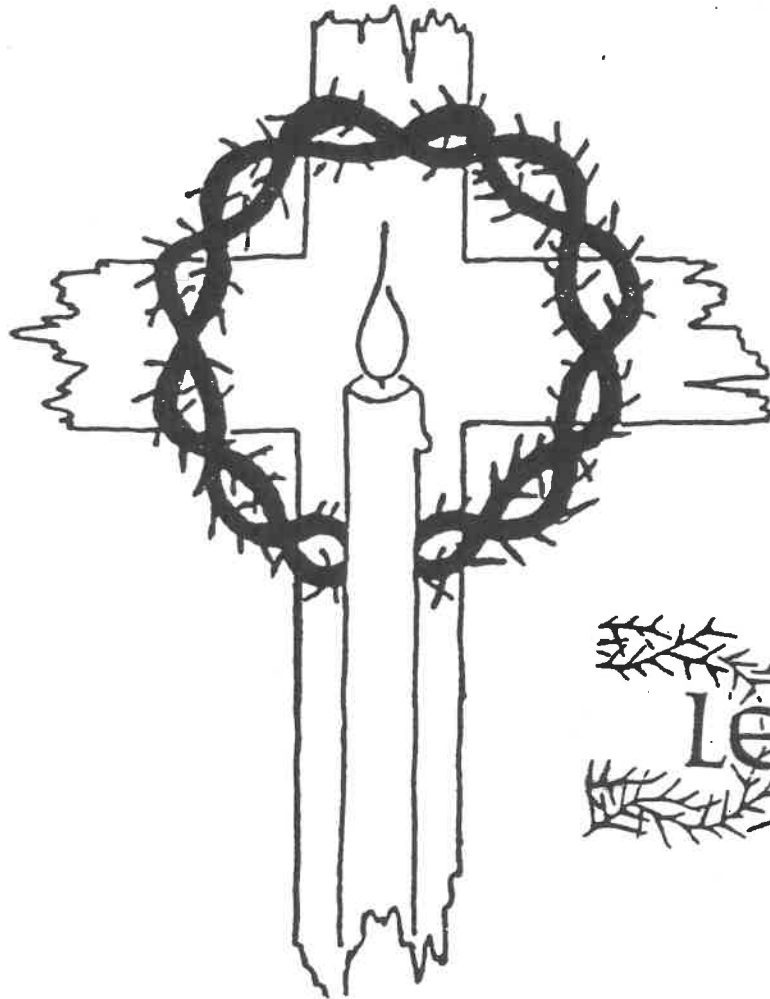


Meeting House Memos



MARCH 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



LENT

And There Was Darkness



The Session has begun the process of looking for a new pastor. It is a long, detailed process designed to help the congregation move forward in establishing a relationship with a pastor that will be healthy and fruitful for both the congregation and the pastor. The Presbytery of Elizabeth will walk with the congregation to guide and assist through this process.

Last Wednesday, the Rev. Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp, the Interim Presbytery Executive, met with the Session to provide an orientation to the process. The Session's first step will be to elect people to create a mission statement for the church. When the mission statement is approved by the Presbytery, the Session will elect a committee to search for an interim pastor. Hopefully, this committee can be formed in late April or early May. The Presbytery will help in identifying people who may be able and willing to serve as the Interim Pastor in Mountainside. The congregation's Nominating Committee will nominate people for both the mission study and the interim search process. The Session will elect those people. If you would like to nominate someone (or yourself), please contact Mark Canevari (mb-canevari@verizon.net). Mark is the chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Once the Interim Pastor is in Mountainside he/she will help the Session do an in-depth mission study of the congregation. This will become the foundation of the pastoral search.

One of the changes that retirement will bring for me is that I will no longer live in the manse. The manse will need to be available for the new pastor. I am in the process of moving out of the manse and into a small house in Roselle. I am living with one foot in the manse and one foot in my new home. My phone and email contacts are still the same and will not be changing so they remain a good way of contacting me.

Grace & peace

Chris Belden

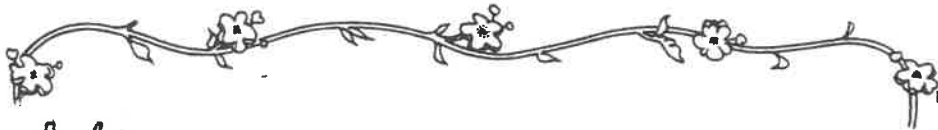




Session - Attendance

January 21	58	January 28	72
February 4	46	February 18	42
February 11	67	February 25	60

Jean Hileman, Clerk



dates
to
remember

Men's Group - Monday, March 26 - 12:15pm
 Break Bread with Belden - Tuesday, March 6 - 12:30pm
 Trustees - Wednesday, March 14 - 7pm
 Session - Wednesday, March 21 - 7pm



From the Deacons: The Deacons will begin collecting food and funding for Easter. All nonperishable foods can be placed in the assembly room and all frozen foods will be placed in the freezer.

Alison Saksena has offered once again, with our sincerest gratitude, to prepare the Easter baskets for the children. Donations for the childrens' baskets may be made out to the CPC Deacon's Fund.

Food and baskets will be delivered to Elizabeth on Monday, March 26.

Thanking you all for your generous support in the past. I know we can count on you to bring Easter joy to the less fortunate families in the Elizabeth Presbytery.

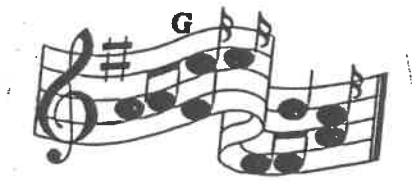
Marion Bass

Trustee Report
March, 2018

We are pleased to report that the painting of the sanctuary and narthex was completed as scheduled in January, and the curtain behind the cross has been cleaned, as well as the wall sconces. Everything is sparkling new for the New Year! Also completed early this year was the conversion from fluorescent to LED lighting in the Christian Ed. Building (all classrooms, hallways, and offices) in addition to the choir room. This will generate savings not only on our electric bills, but also in the frequency of needing to change bulbs, which is a win-win! Both of these projects were funded from the 2020 Capital Fund, which we will further report upon in April.

We are reviewing and updating our 5-Year Plans to reflect anticipated major church, manse, and landscaping needs. And, as always, we are dealing with the “surprises” that occur from time to time, most recently another leak on the kitchen floor which had to be solved by opening a hole in the wall of the Girls’ Room next door.

Spring is just around the corner, so please save the date for Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, May 5th (rain date May 12th), which is hosted by the Trustees.



The United Presbyterian Church will present the World Renowned Morehouse College Glee Club on Sunday, March 18th, at 4:30 pm at the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield. Tickets are \$35 and are available at the door. Seating begins at 3:30 pm. Concert proceeds support United's partnership with the Institute for Music for Children and The Youth & Family Ministries at United.



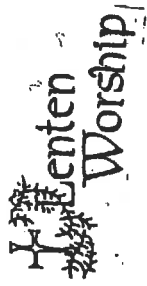
Good news from **Family Promise**: Our Bridge to Success program offers many resources to help our families move forward and succeed. One of our graduate guests, Nichole Allen, benefitted from the Bridge to Success program, as she received tuition assistance to complete her Bachelor's Degree and funding to install a bathtub in her new apartment.

As most of you know, Nichole wrote and published a book, "Letters from God." Our day center is located in the First Baptist Church in Elizabeth. The First Baptist Church is part of the "Operation Warm Heart" program, which gives shelter and food to homeless individuals on "Code Blue," nights (when the temperature drops below 32 degrees). This past Monday, 14 homeless individuals (3 women and 11 men) took shelter at the First Baptist Church. Nichole Allen and her son, Zion, spent three hours with everyone on Monday night. She brought blankets, socks, sandwiches and some toiletry items that were donated from her church for everyone to share. She also brought copies of her book as a gift for each person. Nichole sat and talked with each man and woman, prayed with them, and encouraged them, telling them that Family Promise took her and Zion in when no one else would and she vows to return this blessing to other people experiencing homelessness. She wants them to know that they are not alone. Nichole Allen, our graduate angel.

Thank you all for being part of this story. - Geleen


















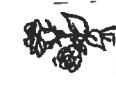
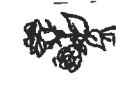




PLEASE REMEMBER! If you enter a hospital or a rehab facility, you must let the church office know. Laws protecting privacy prevent the hospital or rehab center to release any information about you to the church.



March 2018

Build Self Esteem!
Compliment Someone Every Day!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 	5 THINK SPRING	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 
11 	12 	13 12:30 Break Bread	14 Trustees 7:00 PM	15 17 St Patrick's Day 	16 After Hours Youth Group 7:00 - 9:00 PM	17 WA Lenten Brunch 10:30 AM 
18 	19 Book Group 1:30 pm	20 Mount Diablo Schools Early Dismissal* Spring Begins 	21 Session 7:00 PM	22 	23 After Hours Youth Group 7:00 - 9:00 PM	24 
25 Palm Sunday 	26 Men's Luncheon 12:30 pm 	27 Men's Luncheon 12:30 pm 	28 	29 29 	30 Food Friday Tenebrae Service 7 PM 	31 

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

Break Bread with Belden - Tuesday, March 6th - meet at 12:30 in Memorial Room and the group will carpool to a nearby restaurant. Enjoy fun and casual conversation.

Book Group - Monday, March 19th - 1:30 pm - at Dottie Collins' home. NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE! We will discuss Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express".

Lenten Breakfast - Saturday, March 17th - 10:30 am - Assembly Room



Community Presbyterian Nursery School is now registering for Fall 2018. We have openings for the 2's, 3's and 4's programs. We are very excited to offer an 8:30 start time next year, as well as a morning 2's class. Please call Stacey Cole at (908) 232-9490 to schedule a private tour so you can see the wonderful program to be found at CPC.



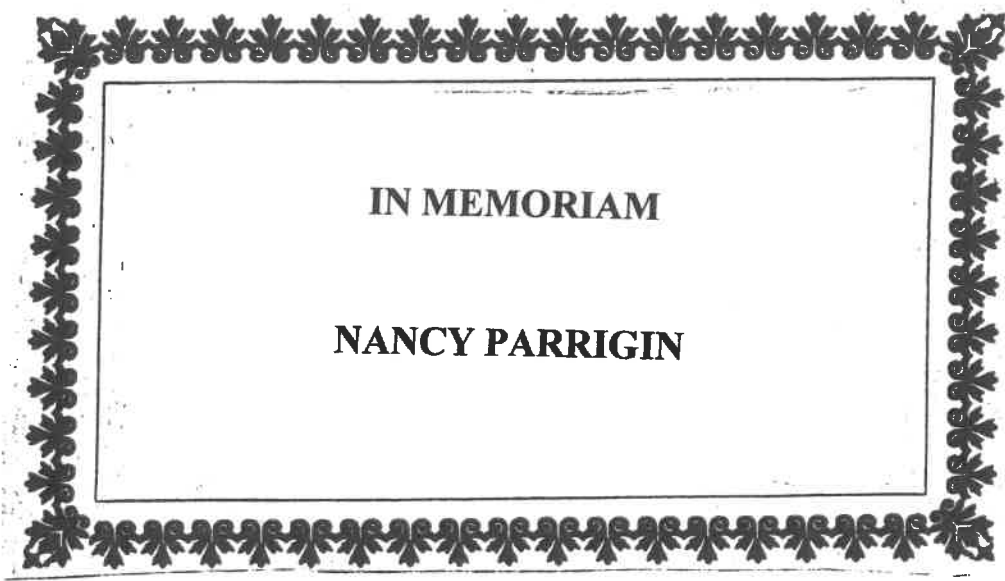
FOR LENT: Try giving up

**the sweetness of revenge,
the bitter herbs of resentment,
the sharp spices of gossip,
the bland puddings of complacency,
the ego-building proteins of vanity,
the strong stimulant of prejudice,
the heavy bread that nourishes unkindness, and
the drugging wine of self-pity.**

F. Baldwin



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!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|------------------------|
| 4 | Luke Hoydich | 25 | Julie Fristensky |
| 5 | Gary Cantagallo | 29 | Chrissy Souder |
| 10 | Bonnie Canevari | | Ann Zakovic |
| 21 | Barbara Christoff | 31 | Kristin Joham Blaylock |
| 24 | Connie Fayen | | |
| 24 | Andi Hoy | | |
| | Laurie Weeks Thomas | | |



CHURCH MOUSE.....

.....The Women's Group enjoyed "Ladies Night Out" at Cosimo's Restaurant in Westfield. Thanks to Diane McCurdy for arranging this dinner.

.....The Men's Group continues to enjoy monthly luncheons at nearby restaurants with Chris.

.....Volunteers are needed to sign up for future Coffee Hours. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Assembly Room. Coffee Hour does not need to be elaborate—coffee and a few "goodies" are all you need...people look forward to this informal gathering after Sunday service.

.....Our prayers include Erasmus Belden, Lorraine Burgess, Wolfgang Gerhard, William "Tex" Jackson, the Schoenknecht family, Ann Zakovic and all those who cannot attend our weekly services.

.....Sympathy to the family of Nancy Parrigan who was a charter member of this church.

.....This newsletter is only as interesting as YOU make it! If you have any news items you would like included, please notify the office or one of the editors.

.....Spring is around the corner—even if we have all of March yet to go—Daylight Savings Time begins on March 11th - don't forget to change your clocks!

.....The deadline for the April newsletter is Monday, March 26th, at 10 am.



Happy Spring from your editors three,

Bobbie, Sandy and Sara



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