

Meeting House Memos

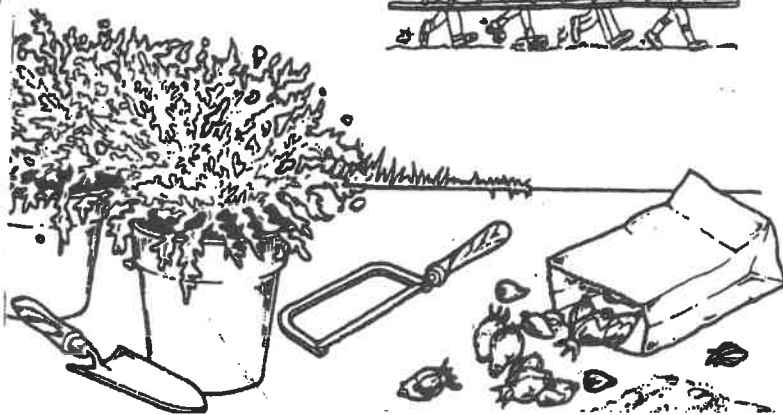


MAY 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SPECIALS FOR SPRING

**CLEAN
UP
DAY**





From the Pastor:

The Episcopal priest and church consultant Tom Ehrich reminds us that the measure of Christian faith is not faith itself. Faith is always about love and trust. Walking the line on doctrine is meaningless. Developing perfect practices and peaceable communities counts for little.

The measure of Christian faith is always our love for one another. This includes the sometimes difficult love for those we consider fools and ingrates whom God has placed around us. You know; the irritating young princess who flounces in, the tiresome old guy who never smiles, the still-adolescent 50-year-olds who turn every public gathering into middle school cafeteria.

We all know the smug man who thinks he knows it all, the relentless "topper" whose every sentence begins in "I," the whiny victim of countless ailments, and, of course, me -- me in all my brokenness and irritating ways -- and you in your bluster and self-centeredness.

When we choose to love one another -- "love" meaning an orientation of the will for the good of the other -- then we shine forth the light of God. Not in any grandeur we produce, but in choosing to be kind and caring. Imagine a fellowship of fools and irritants who choose to be gracious and magnanimous. That's what Jesus imagined.

The chief purpose of church leaders is to reveal the connections we all have to God. Our task is to place all congregants in the context of God's love at all times.

Grace & peace *Chris Belden*





SESSION - Attendance

March 30 - Good Friday	30		
April 1 - Easter	199	April 8	69
April 15	59	April 22	71
April 29 - Confirmation	116		

Jean Hileman, Clerk



SPRING WORK DAY - Saturday, May 5th

- Trustees - Wednesday, May 9th - 7pm
- Break Bread with Belden - Tuesday, May 15th - 12:30pm
- Session - Wednesday, May 16th - 7pm
- Deacons - Sunday, May 20th - following worship
- Men's Group - Monday, May 21st - 12:15pm



Reverend Belden will receive a Proclamation from the Borough of Mountainside Town Council and Mayor on **Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 pm**. This honor will be bestowed on Chris for his many years of guidance, leadership, and ministry to Mountainside. The ceremony is open to the public and will take place at the Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22 East, Mountainside. We encourage you to attend and share this experience with Chris. Reception to follow at the church in the assembly room.

RSVP by **Friday, May 11** if you plan to attend the reception to Susan Vice at vicesf@yahoo.com.

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News from Session: Whenever a pastor leaves, the congregation is tasked with generating a new mission statement to help clarify what they believe they are, right now, at this point in time. Reverend Belden's announcement in January started that process in motion for our congregation. A committee—Jamie Boop, Marjorie Bradshaw, Bonnie Canevari, and Joanne Gepp—was appointed and approved to craft our new mission statement. Their statement was submitted to Session and approved at our recent monthly meeting; we would like to share it with you and thank the committee for their thoughtful and gracious piece.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Community Presbyterian Church of Mountainside, NJ is to share the joy of God's love and the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are inclusive, friendly, encouraging, and responsive within our church and the larger community. We amplify God's spirit through vibrant music and fellowship, as well as serving as a meeting house for multiple and diverse organizations. We strive to treat all who join us as family, forming friendships that span generations, promoting a congenial atmosphere. Our ritual of passing the peace also means sharing our love, caring, and blessings to all.



A Search Committee for an Interim Pastor has been elected by the Session. Those serving on this committee are: Lee Christensen, Nancy Hoydich, Jack McCurdy, Greg Meissner, and Louise Sgarro. Please keep them in your prayers that their search may be quick and fruitful.

Announcing...

The Session recently accepted Joseph Hill's resignation as Administrative Assistant; he will continue in his capacity as Music Director. He will maintain his current duties as Administrative Assistant until the end of June. We truly thank him for his last 10 years of service, attending to a wide variety of duties, including taking out the recycling! Best wishes to you, Joseph!



Save the date! Children's Sunday is set for June 10th! We will recognize the choirs and the Sunday School classes will make presentations. This will also be Chris' last Sunday to preach at CPC before his retirement. Following the service, there will be a picnic. Please plan to attend this important and festive event! Save the date!

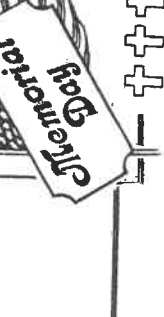
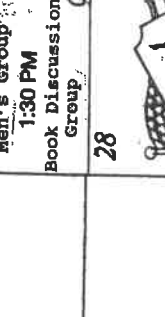
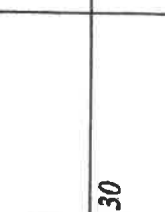
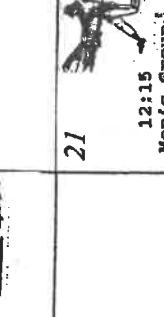
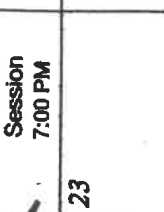
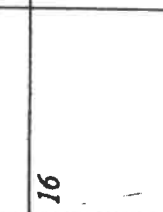
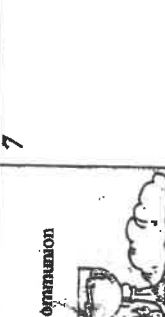
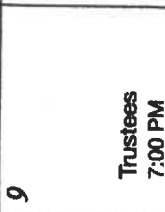
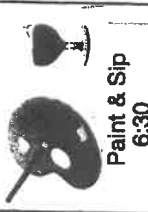


This year's **Vacation Bible School** is set for July 9–13 from 9:30 AM to 12:15 PM for ages 4 years old through 4th grade. Please consider helping out to make this year's program as successful as those in the past. Contact Bonnie Canevari at 908-889-4866 or mbcanevari@verizon.net if you can help. Registration forms are in the narthex!

May 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	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		



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



Seven days without prayer makes one weak

**Trustee Report
May, 2018**

As we all enjoy the warmer weather of spring, memories of the winter nor'easter storms of March are beginning to fade. However, the evidence of their damage to church property still remains, as seen by the fallen trees in the field that still need to be removed and the playground fence that needs to be repaired. There was also minor damage to the manse roof, to a wall in the Memorial Garden, and to the Boy Scout storage shed and trailer in the parking lot. The trustees are working with an insurance adjustor on our claim, and are obtaining costs estimates for the repairs. We ask for everyone's patience as we work towards full recovery from the effects of the storms.

We have contracted for the repair of a major portion of the parking lot in August. The entire section from the garage to the center island and from the brick wall of the building to the playground, will be completely milled and repaved. The parking spaces will be re-lined as they exist now, and a yellow cross-walk will be designated at the nursery school entrance. This project is being funded by the 2020 Capital Fund, along with a substantial donation from the Nursery School, as this is also a heavily used play area during school hours.

Our Spring Cleanup Day will be held this Saturday, May 5th (rain date May 12th), from 9 AM – 12 Noon. Not only will the Trustees provide lunch to all workers, but we will also host the coffee hour on Sunday! Please join us on Saturday as we work on indoor and outdoor projects, and on Sunday for church and coffee hour!



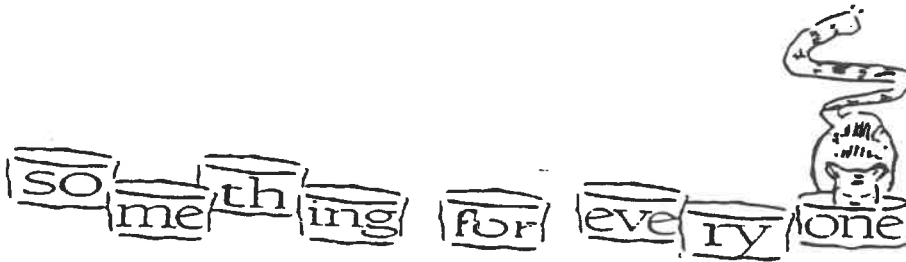


WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

MAY 15 - Breaking Bread with Belden - We will meet in the Memorial Room at 12:30, and the group will carpool to a nearby restaurant. Enjoy fun and casual conversation.

MAY 21 - Book Group - 1:30 at Jean Hileman's home -(181 Gallinson Drive, Murray Hill) We will be discussing "The Underground Railroad" by Colin Whitehead. Please let Jean know if you will be attending (908-665-0429)

SAVE THE DATE - THURSDAY, June 14th - 6:30 pm - Spring Picnic
Flyers will be available with the Sunday bulletins.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY - MAKEMECHIC BOUTIQUE

Need a Mother's Day gift? Great accessory buys can be found at the MakeMeChic Boutique being held by the Friends of the Library this coming **Friday, May 4th (noon to 5) and Saturday, May 5th (10-5).**

All proceeds earned will go directly to the library to provide additional materials, equipment, programs, etc.

For further information, call the Library at 908-233-0115.



CELEBRATE!

1 Scotty Reel
3 Gregory Belden
8 Louise Sgarro
10 Nancy Whitbred
11 Evelyn Keller
13 Bob Hain
Taylor Hoy
14 Matthew Kersey
23 Cynnie Blair
26 Heidi Falso
31 Diane McCurdy

ANNIVERSARIES

2 Bonnie & Mark Canevari
3 Lisa & Reid MacGowan
6 Susan and Scott Hain
10 Chris & Bob Britton
18 Kim & Bob Hain
26 Debbie & Ray Steinberg

The Summer Newsletter deadline will be June 4th. There will not be another newsletter until late September, so this issue will cover June, July, August and September. Please plan accordingly!



New contact information for Dr. Belden.
His new address is: 608 Thompson Ave, Roselle, NJ 07203
His cell phone number remains 908-347-1273
His email remains chrisbelden1@gmail.com



CHURCH MOUSE.....

.....It was wonderful to see so many families at our Easter service. As always, the music was beautiful, thanks to our wonderful choir and organist!

.....Congratulations to our newly confirmed members: Mackenzie Falso, Amanda Galm, Rebekah Gepp, Kevin Hain and Julia Saksena.

.....Now that the weather has improved, you may want to get a little more involved with church and its activities. We have a spring work day on May 5th where you are welcome to help make the church and the grounds more beautiful - indoor and outdoor projects. Also, the women's group is active with Breaking Bread with Belden (lunch on the 15th), book group discussion on the 21st, and our year-end picnic in June. The men's group goes out for lunch on the 21st, which is a casual get-together with food and fellowship.

.....If you have someone graduating from high school or college in May or June, please let us know so that we may include this information in our next newsletter. If it is a high school graduation, please include future plans as well.

.....In our prayers are Erasmus Belden, Lorraine Burgess, Wolfgang Gerhard, William "Tex" Jackson, Maclaine Barre-Quick, the Shoenknecht family, Ann Zakovic, and any others who may not be able to attend our Sunday service.

.....This newsletter is only as interesting as YOU make it! We welcome any news you would like to share. Just leave the information in the church office or send to any of the editors.

.....HAPPY SPRING - Finally!



Your editors three,
Bobbie, Sandy, and Sara

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Think robins...



and suddenly it's Spring!

