

THE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2014

FROM THE PASTOR

By now most of you have heard that we Presbyterians (PCUSA) made some historic decisions at our General Assembly meeting in June. For many years our denomination has engaged in passionate debates over how to respond to Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands. And we have debated whether to allow pastors to perform marriages between people of the same sex. This year our conclusions were new and different.

First gay marriage: More than 60% of the commissioners voted to allow (but not require) pastors to conduct marriages between two people of the same sex, in states where it is legal. This goes into effect immediately. And then more than 70% voted to propose an amendment to the church's Book of Order that would define marriage as a covenant between two people, rather than between a man and a woman. This

amendment will now be sent to the 172 presbyteries, and if a majority of the presbyteries approve, it will take effect.

The vote on Israel was much closer. By only 7 votes (310 to 303) our General Assembly approved a measure to divest from three companies we believe supply Israel with equipment used in the occupation of Palestinian territories. The three companies are Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions. The church has about \$21 million invested in them, and has tried for many years to convey our concerns that these companies are profiting from Israel's occupation by selling it bulldozers, surveillance technology and other equipment. But at the same time we voted to divest in these companies, we also affirmed Israel's right to exist, endorsed a two-state solution, encouraged travel to the Holy Land and inter-faith dialogue, and instructed the church to undertake "positive investments" to advance



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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: TUES.-FRI.
9 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. & 1-2:30 P.M.

peace and improve the lives of both Israelis and Palestinians.

While there are still strong feelings on all sides, the process of coming to these decisions was thorough, fair, and respectful. I attended the last General Assembly in 2012 and was impressed with how our church is careful to make sure that people of differing views have the opportunity

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From the Pastor (continued)

to be heard. Those who attended this time felt the same. Our unity as Christians does not depend on everyone agreeing on all things, be they political, social, economic or even theological. We are joined together by God's love for us, demonstrated in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We are united by our shared need for forgiveness and grace, and by our hope for God's kingdom to come, on earth as it is in heaven.

Meanwhile, we live and work together with humility, trusting God's spirit to lead us. I am proud of our church, and I pray that these decisions will strengthen our witness to God's justice, mercy and love.

In Christ,

Debra Given

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

6/29	10:30 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day will include Infant Baptism
7/6	10:30 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day
7/13	10:30 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day will include the Lord's Supper and commissioning of Habitat volunteers
7/20	10:30 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day will include commissioning of Family Promise volunteers. After worship, Strawberry Festival
7/27	10:30 a.m.	Rev. Charles Gilmore
8/3	10:30 a.m.	Rev. Timothy Son
8/10	10:30 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day will include the Lord's Supper and commissioning of Guatemala trip volunteers.
8/17	10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Soon Hee Earm
8/24	10:30 a.m.	Blessing of Backpacks
8/31	10:30 a.m.	Joyce Hamlin—Bring a symbol of your work

Have a safe and healthy summer!!

HELP WANTED

It takes a lot of people to prepare for Sunday services. Debra writes a sermon, the choir practices the songs, the lay leader prepares the readings...and **three people are needed each week** to be sure the doors are unlocked (and locked after the service), the candles are lit, bulletins are handed out, and the chimes are rung. We would love to have some new faces added to our usher schedule for the fall. This is a wonderful opportunity to greet old and new friends and to lend a helping hand. If you would like to be an usher, please speak with Michael Sofia or Jane Wilson. You do not need to be a member of the church to be an usher. Thank You.

DEBRA'S VACATION SCHEDULE

July 25—August 8 and August 14—20

If there is a need for pastoral care in her absence, please leave a message on the church answering machine.

The answering machine will be monitored daily.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- July 1 Leah Toutounjian
- 2 Richard Stenken
Justin Phillips
- 10 Hwan Hee Kang
- 12 Hoshiko Ito
Aidan Toutounjian
- 14 Steve Borer
- 15 Harriette Coleman
- 19 Laurie Johnson
- 22 Vicky Li
- 23 Leo Noah Shim
- 25 Madison Richter
- 26 Jeffrey Im
- 28 Timothy Carriel



- August 2 Susan Shanno
Barbara Sofia
- 7 Roberta Toolen
- 9 Robert Leicht
- 10 Jennifer Dragolovich
- 15 William Toolen
- 23 Nicholas Topousis
- 25 Rawn Sahai
- 26 Anne Stebbins
Marlon Sahai
- 29 Mercedes Williams

USHERS FOR JULY & AUGUST

- July 6 Linda McGarry &
- July 13 Tom Topousis &
- July 20 Michael & Barbara Sofia
- July 27 Virginia Cora & Jonathan Phillips

- August 3
- August 10
- August 17
- August 24 Jane Wilson &
- August 31

Sept. 7

Please contact Jane Wilson or Michael Sofia if you would like to sign up to usher this summer or in the Fall.

If you are unable to make your appointed day, please make arrangements for someone to replace you. Thank you.



PLEASE NOTE **NEW EMAIL ADDRESS**

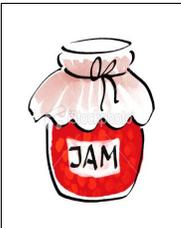
We have new email addresses, please use the following addresses for:

Debra:
pastorleonia@gmail.com

Secretary/Church Office
secretaryleonia@gmail.com

OFFERING COUNTERS

Please check the ark in the entry room for the schedule. If you are unable to make your appointed day, please make arrangements for someone to replace you. Thank you.



Save those small glass jars and their lids for Jane's wonderful and delicious jams and jellys. Yes it is the season for Jane to begin her canning for the Holiday Fair. If you can help, please leave the jars in the kitchen, and she will pick them up.

Family Promise: Keeping Homeless Families Together

This is the third summer our congregation will be working at the temporary family shelter housed at the First Presbyterian Church in Englewood. Our service dates are **July 21, 22, and 23**. The job is to provide dinner for 15 people each of these nights. Two people also stay on site overnight, until the guests are picked up at 6 a.m. each morning.

We recommend that two people work together to plan, purchase and prepare the meal. Food can either be cooked at home or on site. Cooks will be told a week in advance about food preferences, allergies, etc. Dinner is served at 7 p.m.

Overnight staffers are welcomed to arrive in time to eat dinner with the cooks and guests. You will have an air mattress to sleep on but should bring your own pillow and bedding. In the morning you will put out "bag and go" breakfast foods that have been provided in advance. Once the guests depart, you will close up the kitchen before you leave by 6:30 a.m.

Depending on the ages of the children, activities can be provided. For instance, in past summers we have put out sprinklers on the lawn, had movies on the DVD player, and have played games. Extra volunteers, including children, can participate in planning fun things to do.

If you are interested in volunteering, please speak to Linda McGarry.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Can you help one day at **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** in Paterson? We will be volunteering for two week-days in July this summer, **but the dates have not yet been determined**. For more information, speak with Karen Klingner. No skills are required, but you must be over 16 and in good health.

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

The FALL RETREAT will be **Saturday, September 13** and **Sunday, September 14** at Camp Johnsonburg in western New Jersey. **We want you all to come!** For more information, speak with one of the members of the Retreat Committee or Linda McGarry. Fliers are out in the Entry Room. A Registration Form is attached.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR PLEDGE?

**Please keep your pledges current over the summer months.
Thank you.**

REGISTRATION FORM

Camp Johnsonburg
822 Rte 519, Johnsonburg, NJ 07846
908-852-2349

All-Church Retreat September 13-15, 2014

The retreat starts at 9 a.m. on Saturday and is over after lunch on Sunday.

**SEND/GIVE TO: Linda McGarry
 526 Highbridge Ave.
 Cliffside Park, NJ 07010**

 Saturday & Sunday **Saturday only (lunch & dinner)**

ADULTS: Adult (s)-_____

Saturday & Sunday: \$85 _____

Saturday only: \$50 _____

CHILDREN 5-12: *Child care will be available. Please indicate which children will attend.*

Saturday & Sunday \$50 Children/Youth_____

Saturday only: \$20 _____ Age:_____ Childcare?_____

_____ Age:_____ Childcare?_____

_____ Age:_____ Childcare?_____

Scholarships are available. Contribution to scholarship Fund? If yes, amount \$_____

Please speak to Debra Given,
or Linda McGarry. And if
you'd like to contribute
to the scholarship fund,
Please note that on this form.

Enclosed: \$_____

Payment in full must be received by July 13.

(If you need to pay in a few installments, please notify Linda McGarry.)

There will be no refunds after September 1st.

 Need transportation

 Can give others a ride?

July 12th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION! Sponsored

by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Audience or Player, everyone is welcome!

*** To Player: Bring instruments and play with pro.**

Any level of player is welcome!

Please bring tunes from "The Real Book".

*** No fee but small donation is accepted to cover utility cost.**

WHEN: July 11, 2014 (Friday)
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Open: 7:30 pm
Next Session: August 9, 2013 (Fri), same time.
Program will continue once a month,
Every second Friday night.

WHERE: The Presbyterian Church in Leonia
181 Fort Lee Rd. Leonia, NJ 07605
(Between Broad Ave. & Grand Ave.)

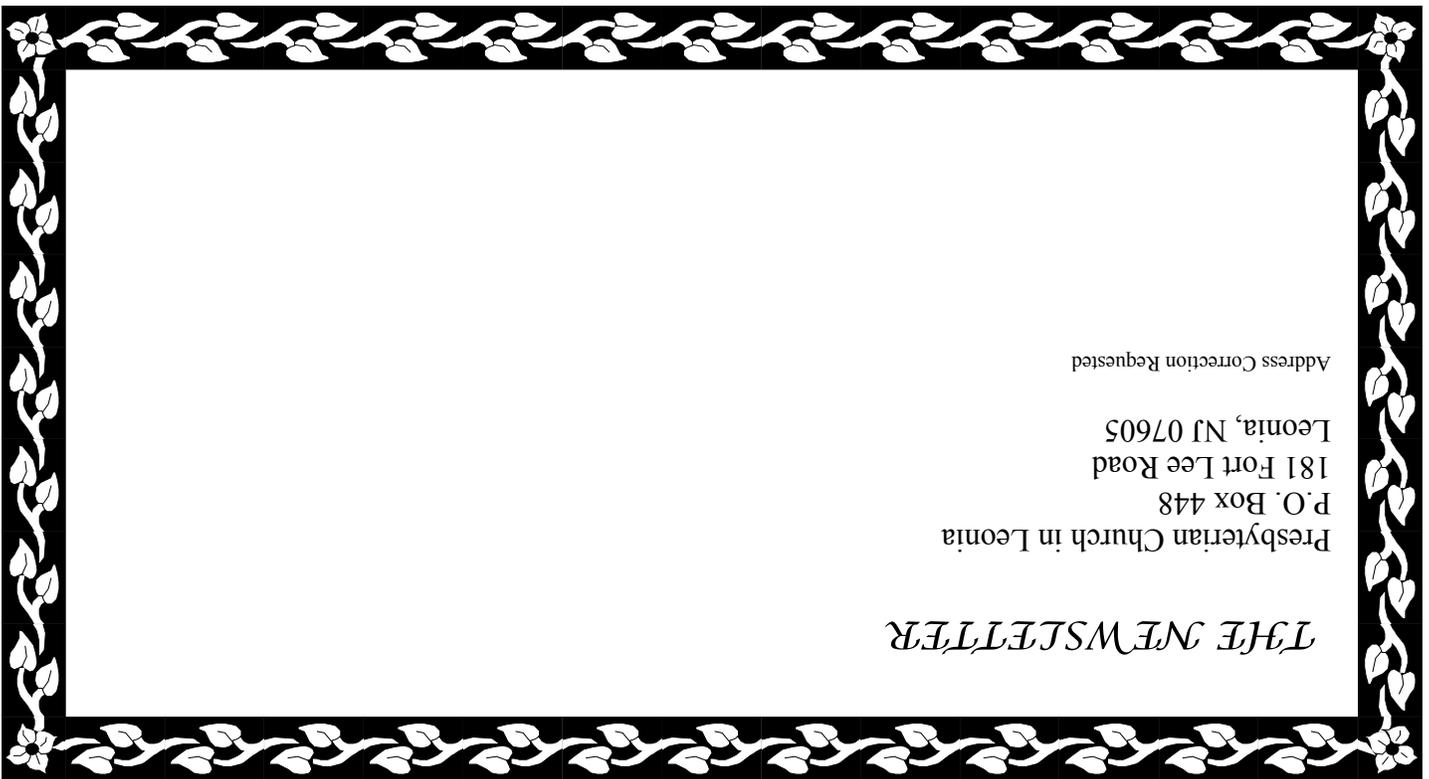
Led by: Foreign Exchange
Michael Hinton (Piano)
Yoshi Koyama (Sax)
TBA (Bass)
Ethan Johnson (Drums)
April Johnson (Keyboard)
Mike Ito (Guitar)



Please contact the following for any question.
Church: secretaryleonia@yahoo.com or 201-944-1358
Coordinator, Mike Ito: mike.ito@verizon.net or 201-679-6616

Church website: www.leoniapres.org

The Presbyterian Church in Leonia 181 Fort Lee Road, Leonia, NJ 07608



Address Correction Requested

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P.O. Box 448
181 Fort Lee Road
Leonia, NJ 07605

THE NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER NEWS

Do you like receiving the Newsletter? The Newsletter is sent out on a monthly basis (with one summer issue for July and August) and can also be found on our website (www.leoniapres.org). We would like to keep you informed of past and present members, births and deaths, graduations, marriages and what is going on in the Leonia Presbyterian Church on a monthly basis. Thank you to all those who have requested the Newsletter on line, we appreciate the financial savings. If you are still picking it up or receiving it by mail, but would rather read it on line, please let Michele know (201-944-1358 or email secretaryleonia@gmail.com).

Remember, Hyung Shim is making audio copies of our Sunday sermons available through our website www.leoniapres.org. Click on "Sermons." You can also subscribe to our podcast via iTunes.

Have a good summer!

Please keep the following members & friends
in your thoughts and prayers
Harriette Coleman and Bill Toolen