

# The Newsletter

APRIL 2015

## FROM THE PASTOR

We are coming to the end of Lent, and are about to enter Holy Week. The services of Holy Week are for young and old alike. We begin with Palm Sunday, March 29, when we mark Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with pony rides for the children, and a procession with palm leaves for all. It is a festive event, but also looks forward to the trials and suffering of the days to come.

On Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, we gather at our church at 7:30 p.m. with members of the United Methodist Church, to mark Jesus' last supper with his disciples, his arrest and trial. This year we will have a guided meditation, and end with readings of his crucifixion, death and burial. Children who are old enough to understand the story are welcome to join us on Maundy Thursday, receive communion, and hear the story read by candlelight. It is a somber and intimate service, ending in darkness.

On Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Christians from the churches in town will gather at noon and process, with different volunteers carrying a cross from church to church. At each church we stop for a short time of worship and readings of Jesus' crucifixion and death. Each year older children are eager to have a turn to carry the cross between churches, understanding that this was a time of sadness and pain.

Younger children often ride in strollers in the procession. Older adults who are not well enough to walk can skip the procession and drive between churches. By the end of the walk we have over a hundred people, all kinds of Christians, united in our affirmation of Jesus' way of self-sacrificing love.

As Presbyterians, we don't have any mandatory practices or services. In fact, we require very little of our members. But the crucifixion and death of Jesus is the climax of Jesus' life and a central part of our faith, much



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA**  
181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. BOX 448  
LEONIA, NJ 07605  
TEL. 201 944-1358  
FAX. 201 944-6812  
WEBSITE [WWW.LEONIAPRES.ORG](http://WWW.LEONIAPRES.ORG)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: WED.-FRI.**  
9:00 A.M. -12:30 P.M. & 1-2:30 P.M.

more important than Christmas. Without Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, Easter makes no sense. We're not just reading a story. We're taking it in and bringing our suffering and the suffering of

(Continued on Page 2)

## HEADLINERS

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AT THE NEW OVERPECK PARK** Information on page 3

**BINGHAM & STENKEN SCHOLARSHIP** See page 2

**HAVE YOU MET OUR NEW MEMBERS?** See Page 4

**VISIT CAMP JOHNSONBURG**, Information on pages 5

## Worship Schedule

### SUNDAY, APRIL 5 - Easter

6:15 a.m. Sunrise Service at Overpeck Park

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day and celebration of the Lord's Supper

After Worship: Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship Hour

### SUNDAY, APRIL 12 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Church School & Adult Classes

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day

After Worship: Bible Study

3-5 p.m. Japanese Language Worship Service

### SUNDAY, APRIL 19 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Church School & Adult Classes

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day

### SUNDAY, APRIL 26 - 4th Sunday of Easter

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Church School & Adult Classes

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

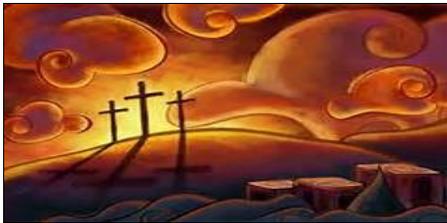
After Worship: Potluck lunch to welcome new people

From the Pastor: (continued)

the world into the light of God, and by God's grace, opening our hearts to the possibility of new life.

I hope you will join us to observe the days of Holy Week with your brothers and sisters in faith.

Blessings,  
Debra Given



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- April 1 A. J. Puzzo  
Jennifer Carriel
- April 4 Cindy Klingner
- April 10 Peter John VanDeWeert
- April 15 Karen Klingner  
Mialy Rakotoselson
- April 23 Olivia Taylor
- April 25 Ruth Dickinson
- April 28 Cynthia Callahan  
Kevin Jonson
- April 30 Debby Sahai

## RAYMOND & EMMA BINGHAM SCHOLARSHIP & STENKEN SCHOLARSHIP

The **Bingham & Stenken Scholarships** are awarded by the session to a person or persons 25 years of age or younger, who have been active in the worship and work of the Leonia Presbyterian church and who have been accepted for an associate or bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university. Application for this year's Bingham Scholarship are due at the church **no later than Sunday, April 30**. Anyone who wishes to apply may obtain an application from the church office (201-944-1358).

THE NEWSLETTER

**USHERS:** 4/5 Christine Banas, Kristen Richter & Lisa VanDeWeert  
4/12 Esther Jeong, Hwan Hee Kang & Dina Razafy  
4/19 Suzanne Broffman, Maryellen Neu & Ammal Varky  
4/26 Susan Dindial, Vicky Li & Fara Razafy

**OFFERING COUNTERS:** 4/5 Olivia Taylor & David Voreacos  
4/12 Hyung Shim & Jonathan Phillips  
4/19 Ginny Brown & Olivia Taylor  
4/26 Hyung Shim & Pete Shanno

**CHILDCARE:** 4/5/15 Teen Help  
4/12/15 Linda McGarry  
4/19/15 Sarah Han  
4/26/15 Yukiko Aoki

**Easter Sunrise Service**

On Easter Sunday, April 5th, there will be a Sunrise Service at 6:15 a.m.. We will gather at the octagon overhang in the new Overpeck Park. Immediately after the service there will be a breakfast at the I Hop, Cedar Lane, Teaneck for those who would like to join us. Seeing the sun rise is always a special “happening”. When the sun rises on Easter Sunday it is an overwhelming JOY!

All necessary directions both the site of the service and breakfast at the I Hop will be on the Ark in the entry room. Also, don't forget there will be a worship service at the church at 10:30 a.m.

For any questions please call Michael Sofia 201-343-6206 or email at [sfmchl@aol.com](mailto:sfmchl@aol.com). If you need a ride, please let us know.

**HELP DECORATE WITH FLOWERS FOR EASTER!**

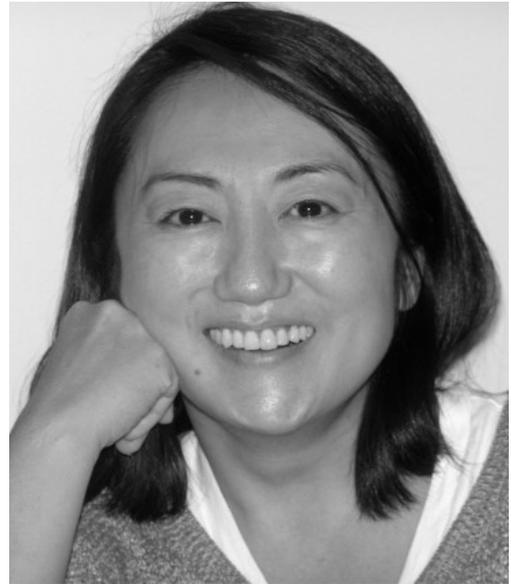
***You may come out on Saturday morning, April 4, at 10 a.m. to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Everyone is welcome to help.***



**Joan Nicholas** is happy to be back at the Presbyterian Church in Leonia where her four sons were confirmed, and her mother's funeral was held. Now a resident of Ridgefield Park, she tried worship services in her town but decided to return to the place where her heart is.

**Esther Jeong** was just passing by our church and was drawn to it. She was also looking for a camp for her brother's children and was happy to find Camp Johnsonburg. Esther has been worshipping with us now for a year and a half. She finds a good feeling in the sanctuary and appreciates Debra's realistic sermons. She wonders why so many people gravitate to the back of the church.

Esther was raised a Presbyterian in Korea and attended a Korean Presbyterian Church in Norwood before joining us. She really enjoyed the Lunar New Year celebration and welcomes the openness of our annual meeting that is for all lay people not just for elders and deacons.



**Takashi and Yukiko Aoki** (and little **Ryan**) came to our church from the Japanese community that worships at our church on Sunday afternoon. The Rev. Takako Terino and Fumio Ito were responsible for introducing the Aoki's to the church. Takashi comes from LaJolla, California and Yukiko is from Nagasaki, Japan. They met at a Japanese investment bank and reside in Cliffside Park.

Yukiko is expecting a baby in June.

Dear Debra and my church family at the Leonia Presbyterian Church,

What an incredible, happy surprise to receive a notification from the Presbyterian Mission Agency that a gift in my honor was given them for the youth Triennium. What a thoughtful, meaningful personal gift to me.

Thank you so much. I am honored, especially that it is designated for the Youth Triennium. I know how life changing an event like that can be for a young person. Thank you all very much, I am touched.

How I miss you and our worship, and work together. SO MUCH! Love, D.A.

We just received another note from D.A., which said: "I thought you would be interested in the church I am attending—the big inner-city one that sold their huge building to a UCC charity. The church uses (rents) a space made into a sanctuary. My Carolyn has been moderator for many years, and during that major transition—good stewardship. About 50-60 each Sunday. I miss Leonia church so much. It is hard to be a "new" person and not know many — I miss everyone. I will be thinking of you during Holy week. Love, D.A.

### **CAMP JOHNSONBURG SUMMER 2015 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

Camp Johnsonburg, a ministry of the seven New Jersey Presbyteries, is now accepting registrations for our 2015 summer programs ranging from one night to two weeks for campers from K-12th grade. Don't miss out on the sessions you want for you and your family. For a full look at all of our offerings for this summer please visit: <http://www.campjburg.org>. You can register online, or pick up a brochure in the entry room of our church.

When your children attend one of the camp sessions they will meet new friends, work under the guidance of a select and well-trained staff, get closer to God's creation in nature, and learn ways to make good choices and live a Christian life in a complicated and changing world.

**Open House—SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1 p.m.—4 p.m.**

Bring your family and friends to meet the staff and see what's new around camp.

Please don't let finances prevent you from considering camp. Our church and our Presbytery have scholarships for those who need financial assistance to attend.

### **Spruce Up Day at Camp Johnsonburg**

822 Rte. 519, Johnsonburg, NJ 07846

**Saturday, April 2**

Be part of the crew to help get the camp ready for Summer!

908-852-2349 or email: [office@campjburg.org](mailto:office@campjburg.org)

# Garage Sale to benefit Ugandan Children in Africa

## Japanese, Korean & American sellers

Uganda has suffered severe trouble due to war and AIDS. Many children have lost parents and cannot afford school, and many do not have things we consider basic in the United States.

The Presbyterian Church in Leonia is sponsoring a Japanese, Korean & American Garage Sale to raise funds for the Children of Uganda. The funds raised will be used for school materials, clothing, mosquito nets for the children, medicines, and much more. Representatives from our church have traveled to Uganda in summers past. They have had the joy of seeing how much a donation of ten or twenty dollars can do for orphans in Africa who don't have parents to buy things like shoes, socks and sweaters. You can visit the website [www.childrenofuganda.org](http://www.childrenofuganda.org) for pictures and more information about the organization. Last year we raised over \$2,300 for this worthy cause. Please join us on Saturday, May 16th.

**Date: May 16th (Sat) 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. (rain or shine)**

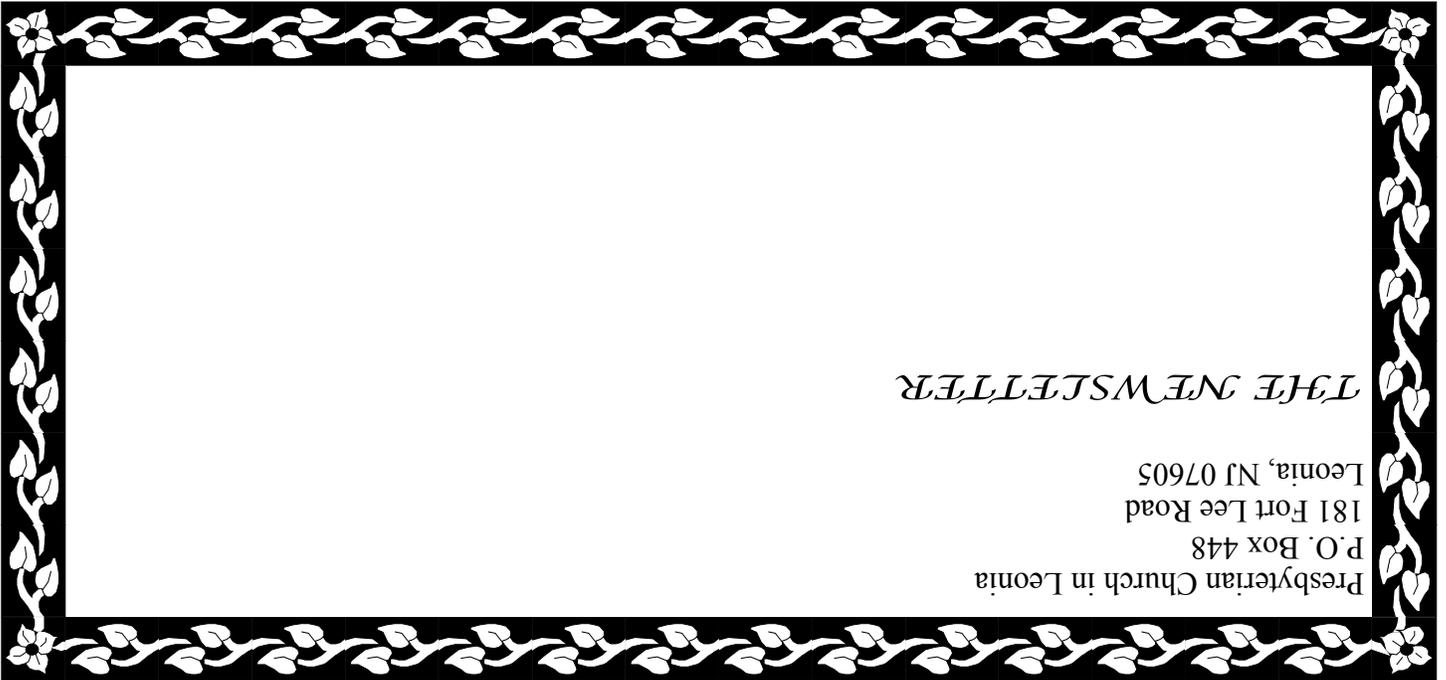
**Place: Presbyterian Church in Leonia  
181 Fort Lee Rd., Leonia, NJ 07605**

**Beverages will be available for sale all day.**

### **Sellers Wanted!**

1. The Presbyterian Church members will set up the tables; sellers will bring their tagged merchandise for sale by 9:30 a.m.
2. All merchandise should be unused or slightly used. Any left over merchandise should be removed by the seller.
3. Sellers will donate all or a portion of their sales towards our fundraiser.
4. **If interested in being a seller please contact Michele at [secretaryleonia@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryleonia@gmail.com) 201-944-1358 or Mike Ito at [mike.ito@verizon.net](mailto:mike.ito@verizon.net) 201-679-6616.**  
**You must register in advance. There is no fee to attend.**

Mike Ito  
Presbyterian Church in Leonia  
Asian Ministry Committee



*THE NEWSLETTER*

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

THE NEWSLETTER

**JAZZ JAM SESSION**

Musicians or audience, everyone is welcome! Every second Friday of the month at the Presbyterian Church in Leonia, 181 Fort Lee Road.

The next date is Friday, April 10. Doors open at 7:30, we begin playing at 8 p.m. and end at 10 p.m. Please contact the Presbyterian Church 201-944-1358 or Mike Ito 201-679-6616 if you have any questions or concerns.

NO fee. A small donation is requested to help cover utility costs.