

# THE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015

## FROM THE PASTOR

Last Sunday our church celebrated Gay Pride. Our celebration coincided with joyful parades across the country hailing the Supreme Court's ruling to allow same-sex marriage in all 50 states. I'm sure other churches celebrated as well. But the front page of the New York Times on Monday featured an article about a church that proclaimed this a day of deep sorrow, read a Psalm of lament and stated, "We cannot accept or adhere to any legal, political or cultural redefinition of biblical marriage..."

What is "biblical marriage?" In Bible times women were considered property, and it was not uncommon for a man to have more than one wife. King Solomon had hundreds of wives and concubines, many for political reasons. Our idea of marriage has changed drastically since biblical times.

The Bible also has no concept of homosexuality as an orientation, and not just sexual behavior. The Bible does condemn certain homosexual behavior, for example rape, which was used as a weapon of subjugation in war. It also condemns homosexual prostitution which was part of the pagan fertility rites. But it is silent about homosexual love or orientation. They just didn't understand people that way back then.

How about paying attention to the parts of the Bible that speak clearly for justice, kindness and humility? The prophet Micah wrote, "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (6:8). Jesus said we are to judge people by their fruits, by the good or evil they produce in the way they live their lives. And Paul wrote the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If a person is



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LEONIA, NJ 07605  
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WEBSITE [WWW.LEONIAPRES.ORG](http://WWW.LEONIAPRES.ORG)

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

producing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness (or generosity), faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in his or her life and relationships, these qualities come from God. They are fruits of God's spirit. And Paul adds, there is no law against such things (Galatians 5:22-23).

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From the Pastor (continued)

Why would anyone want to forbid love and faithfulness? Some of us Christians give thanks for the Supreme Court ruling, because it allows all people to make commitments of love and faithfulness within the institution of marriage, and to grow in patience, kindness, gentleness, joy and self-control. And for us, that is a joyful thing.

Being openly gay is not a choice to reject God. It's a choice to accept yourself for who you are, and to be honest about whom you love and are attracted to. Rather than lamenting those who want to love, let us speak for justice, kindness and humility, and let the world know our God is a God of love.

Blessings,  
Debra Given

Have a safe and healthy summer!!

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

|      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| 6/28 | 10:30 a.m.  | Service for the Lord's Day<br>Gay Pride Sunday,<br>Reception of New Members<br>and Commissioning of<br>Family Promise volunteers |
| 7/5  | 10:30 a.m.  | Service for the Lord's Day<br>and Commissioning of<br>Habitat volunteers   |
| 7/12 | 10:30 a.m.<br>3-5 p.m.                                      | Service for the Lord's Day<br>Japanese Worship Service   |
| 7/19 | 10:30 a.m.  | Service for the Lord's Day<br>will include the Lord's Supper   |
| 7/26 | 10:30 a.m.  | Rev. Fran Thiessen   |
| 8/2  | 10:30 a.m.  | Rev. Joshua Kim  |
| 8/9  | 10:30 a.m.<br>3-5 p.m.                                      | Service for the Lord's Day<br>Japanese Worship Service   |
| 8/16 | 10:30 a.m.  | The Lord's Supper  |
| 8/23 | 10:30 a.m.  | Rev. Dr. Soon Hee Earm   |
| 8/30 | 10:30 a.m.  | Blessing of the Back Packs   |
| 9/6  | 10:30 a.m.  | Labor Day Weekend<br>Hymn Sing   |
| 9/13 | All Church Retreat at Johnsonburg<br>10:30 a.m.<br>3-5 p.m. | Worship in Leonia<br>Japanese Worship Service  |

## **USHERING 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 this summer and fall. It 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. You do not have to be a member of the church to usher. Thank you.

### *DEBRA'S VACATION SCHEDULE*

*July 7, July 23 to August 7 and August 18 to 24*

*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 2 Richard Stenken  
Justin Phillips  
10 Hwan Hee Kang  
12 Hoshiko Ito  
14 Steve Borer  
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  
23 Nicholas Topousis  
25 Rawn Sahai  
26 Anne Stebbins  
Marlon Sahai



## USHERS FOR JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

July 5 Roberta Toolen & Hwan Hee Kang  
July 12 Susan & Pete Shanno  
July 19 Eulalia Cabrera & Judith Nyirongo  
July 26 Sonia Solano & Susan Dindial

August 2 Roberta Toolen  
August 9 Vicky Li & Nancy Salvati  
August 16 Roberta Toolen  
August 23 Jane & Philip Wilson  
August 30 Roberta Toolen & Susan Dindial

Sept. 6 Roberta Toolen  
Sept. 13

*We still have some openings! We need two people each week. Please contact Michael Sofia if you would like to sign up to usher this summer or in the Fall.*

## OFFERING COUNTERS

July 5 Ginny Brown & David Voreacos  
July 12 Fumio Ito & Diane Borer  
July 19 Anne Stebbins & Pete Shanno  
July 26 Hyung Shim & Jonathan Phillips

August 2 Ginny Brown & David Voreacos  
August 9 Anne Stebbins & Diane Borer  
August 16 Jonathan Phillips & Pete Shanno  
August 23 Hyung Shim & Fumio Ito  
August 30 Ginny Brown & Pete Shanno

Sept. 6 Fumio Ito & David Voreacos  
Sept. 13 Ginny Brown & Jonathan Phillips

*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 jam's and jellies. 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.

### **HAVE YOU PAID YOUR PLEDGE?**

Please keep your pledges current over the summer months, if possible.

Thank you.

### **Family Promise: Keeping Homeless Families Together**

This is the 4th summer our congregation will be working at the temporary shelter housed at First Presbyterian Church in Englewood. Our service dates are **Wednesday through Friday, July 1, 2 and 3**. The job is to provide dinner for 15 people each of these nights. Two people also stay on site over night, until the guests are picked up at 6AM each morning.

We recommend that 2 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 7:00PM.

Overnight volunteers are welcome 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 6:30AM.

Depending on the ages of the children, activities can be provided. For instance, 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 can help as a volunteer, please speak to Linda McGarry.

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Can you help for one or two days at **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** in Paterson? Our church is volunteering for two days Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July. We have reached our number of volunteers for Saturday, but we still have space on Friday. Please speak with Karen Klingner or Pete Shanno if you would like to help to help build a home. No skills are required, but you must be 16 or older and in good health.

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

### **ALL CHURCH RETREAT**

Nature, hiking, worship, music, thoughtful discussions, crafts, creativity, boating, archery, games, silence, camaraderie, good food, and smores; all this at the Annual Retreat, September 12 and 13. This year's theme is "You Are Not Alone—the 23rd Psalm!"

Staying over on Saturday for adults is \$90, and children are \$55. If you want to come for Saturday only, adults are \$55 and Children \$25. Children 3 years and under are free. Financial aid is available. We want everyone to come!

Come with us and let's explore the wonders of the moments we spend together. Please have your money in by July 12 at the latest. Linda McGarry will be accepting your payments. We need early reservations to confirm our use of 2 cabins. After July 12 we will accommodate over-nighters only as space is available.

Remember: "You Are Not Alone!"

**REGISTRATION FORM**

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

*All-Church Retreat      September 12-13, 2015*

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

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

**ADULTS:** Adult (s)-\_\_\_\_\_

Saturday & Sunday: \$90 \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday only: \$55 \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDREN 4-12:**      *Child care will be available. Please indicate which children will attend.*

Children/Youth \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday & Sunday \$55 \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Childcare? \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday only:      \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Childcare? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Childcare? \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarships are available. We want everyone to come! 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.

**CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND? IF YES, AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Payment in full must be received by July 12.**

(If you need to pay in a few installments, please let us know.)

**There will be no refunds after September 1<sup>st</sup>**

Need transportation

Can give others a ride?

**July 12<sup>th</sup> (Fri) 8:00 PM**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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 10, 2015 (Friday)  
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
Open: 7:30 pm  
Next Session: August 14, 2015 (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)



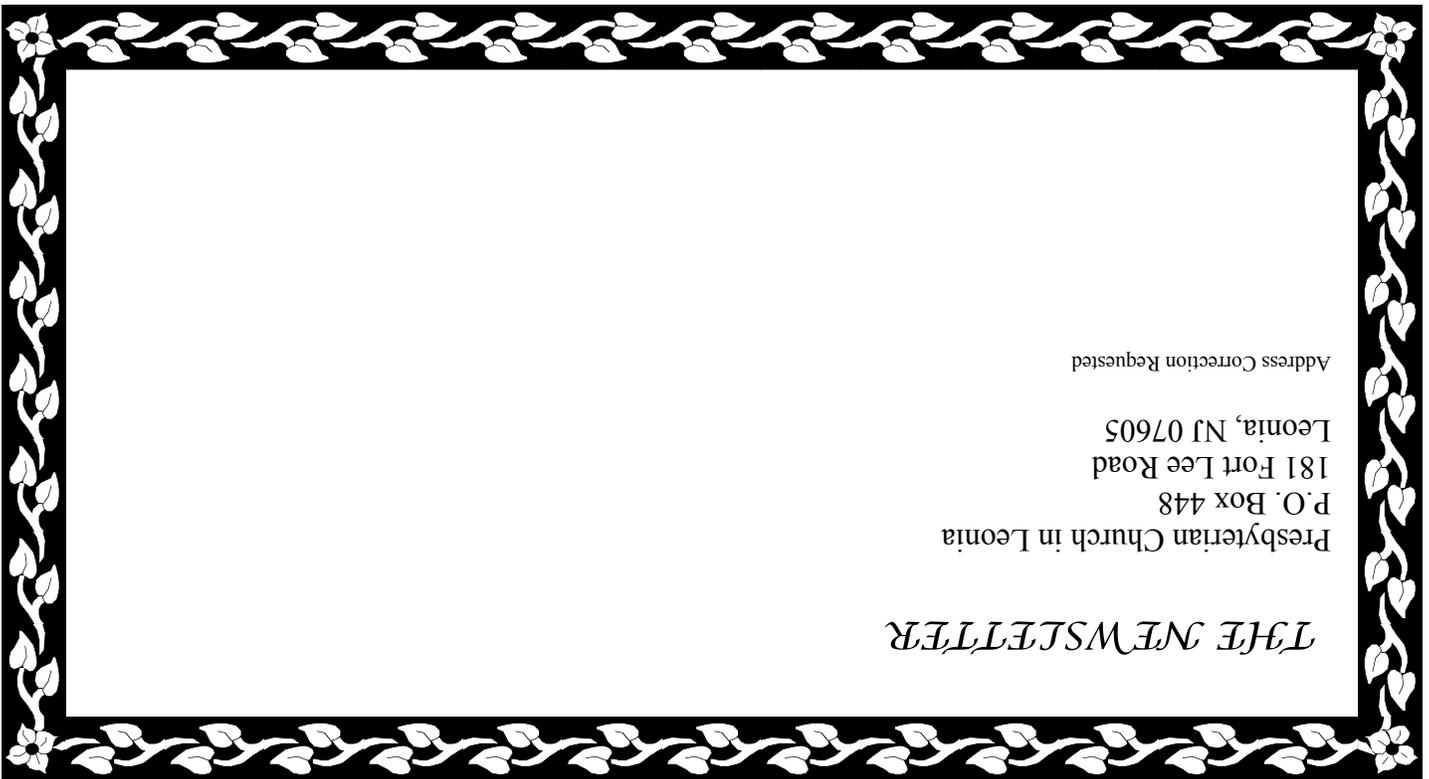
**Please contact the following for any question.**

Church: [secretaryleonia@yahoo.com](mailto:secretaryleonia@yahoo.com) or 201-944-1358

Coordinator, Mike Ito: [mike.ito@verizon.net](mailto:mike.ito@verizon.net) or 201-679-6616

**Church website:** [www.leoniapres.org](http://www.leoniapres.org)

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



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*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](http://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](mailto:secretaryleonia@gmail.com)).

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

Have a good summer!