

# THE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017

## Spirited Communication

Dear Church Community,

Well, it looks like you are stuck with me, or to put a more positive spin on it, we will belong together for quite some time. I am honored to be chosen as this church's candidate for the called position for Installed Pastor. There are still some votes to go—the Presbytery has to affirm this choice by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority, and the congregation has to have a final vote—but I know that the Session has led the congregation through a very thoughtful process that has indicated that we could do well in ministry together. Through the listening process Session engaged, 61 people met through several different small groups, gathering in peoples' homes to discuss mission and leadership in the church. This was very spirited communication!

I look forward to meeting with our ordained leadership at the Officers' Retreat on Feb. 18 to prioritize the feedback gathered from these meetings and to set some goals for our ministry together.

Speaking of communication, our church has installed a new church database that will help us all communicate better. It is called **Breeze**—both because it is so user-friendly (it's a breeze to use!), and to play on the word *ruah*, which in the Hebrew Bible means wind, breath and Spirit. Please check it out! You should have received an email invitation to connect. You can login at our church's Breeze website at [leoniapres.breezechms.com](http://leoniapres.breezechms.com). If you do not know your user name, please let our church staff know; we can resend you an invitation. Please make your church profile your own by adding a favorite picture—eventually we hope to print a picture directory!

As I am getting to know the Breeze system, I am also going through our directory and calling people we haven't seen for some time. I've made some good connections and plan to get out and visit them! I encourage you to stay in touch with church friends we've been missing, as well as get to know our newest church members, always with the goal of cultivating connection in the Body of Christ.

Yours in the Spirit,  
Leah  
Pastor Leah Fowler



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA**  
**181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. Box 448**  
**LEONIA, NJ 07605**  
**TEL. 201 944-1358**  
**WEBSITE [WWW.LEONIAPRES.ORG](http://WWW.LEONIAPRES.ORG)**  
**OFFICE HOURS: MON-8-10 A.M.**  
**TUESDAY/THURSDAY 1:5-5:30 P.M.**  
**FRIDAY 8-12 NOON**



***“Our Three Kings of Orient Are”—January 8, 2017***

*Venge Nyirongo, Jack Peters, Eric Hwang*

**JOIN US FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR ,FEBRUARY 5 (see back page for information)**

**JAZZ JAM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10—(See flyer enclosed)**



***WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2017***

February 5: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
Lunar New Year Celebration!  
Special Music by our Japanese Choir with guest dancer sharing traditional Korean movement. Plan to stay after worship for the Lunar New Year feast and enjoy the wonderful decorations!

February 12: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
Communion Sunday  
Plan to stay after worship for lunch and our Annual Meeting.

February 19: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
A Different Set of Rules-the Christian challenge of loving our enemies.

February 26: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
Transfiguration Sunday and stick around for a Family Bowling trip after church!

USHERS

February 5: Anne Stebbins, Ammal Varky, Judith Nyirongo  
February 12: Jack Peters, Karen Peters  
February 19: Jeff Im, Kristen Richter, Jihyun Kim (Julia)  
February 26: Lisa VanDeWeert, Roberta Toolen, Christine Banas

OFFERING COUNTERS

February 5: Hyung Shim, Jonathan Phillips  
February 12: Diane Borer, Pete Shanno  
February 19: Hyung Shim, Fumio Ito  
February 26: Ginny Brown, Pete Shanno

NURSERY CARE

February 5: Kristen Richter  
February 12: Elizabeth Evan-Ezra  
February 19: Angie Chung  
February 26: Judith Nyirongo

**Dates to remember in February**

**February 6, 2017:**

First day of Spring Semester ESL Classes

**February 7, 2017:**

Session Meeting

**February 10, 2017:**

Jazz Jam

**February 12, 2017:**

Presbyterian Church in Leonia Annual Meeting

**February 15, 2017:**

—Information and notices are due for the March 2017 newsletter to Leah or Pat in the church office.

—Deadline to sign up for Ecumenical Advocacy Day in Washington DC. See flyer attached.

**February 18, 2017:**

Officers' Retreat

**February 19, 2017:**

The Board of Deacons will hold a meeting on February 19 at 12noon.

**February 26, 2017:**

The Sunday School (Christian Education) is planning a bowling trip in the afternoon. All are invited and welcome.

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2	Janet Baur
9	Betsy Voreacos
14	Gretchen Harders
20	Maribel Santana
21	Anne Stebbins Jane Wilson
23	Molly Voreacos

A Happy and Healthy Birthday to Everyone!

## **BIBLE STUDYS**

Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. we have a weekly Bible Study. Our Wednesday Bible Study meets at 10:45 am and our ESL Bible Study meets every Sunday from noon-1pm, and includes lunch. New members are always welcome to any of these classes. Come and explore faith together and make closer relationships in the process.

**TIME AND TALENTS SHEETS** Please find attached a Time & Talents Sheet. Every parishioner has a special gift to share with the congregation and we would like to capture your commitment. Please consider your commitment time and talents and fill in the sheet. Completed sheets can be left in the collection plate or sent to the church office.

## **Per Capita Apportionment for 2017**

The amount for the year 2017 is \$40.00 per church member and is distributed as follows:

- A Presbytery Per Capita  
(\$28.40 per member)
- B Synod Per Capita  
(\$4.10 per member)
- C General Assembly Per Capita  
(\$7.50 per member).

If you are a member of our church, please contribute to our per capita payment if you are able.

## **2017 PLEDGES**

Everyone who has asked for 2017 weekly envelopes should have received your box. If you should have any concerns or questions about the system or with pledges, please contact Pat Major or Rev Leah.





### **We welcome and we say goodbye...**

In the past month, we have welcomed newborn babies: Jeremiah, son born to mom Sibon Mwenifumbo, and Sia, daughter born to Elin (Eunjoo) Park and Jeffrey (Sweung Hyun) Im. We are so happy to have them in our church family! We also welcome four new members: Sueyeong (Chelsea) Woo, Jihyun (Julia) Kim, Allen and Joanne Terrell (who also have two middle school daughters, Eden and Noel).

We say a fond goodbye to Grace Ceragno, a member of our church for many years, who has moved to Venice, FL to be closer to family.

We say a different kind of goodbye to member Ruth Dickinson, who died on Jan. 24. Ruth was a faithful church member, a smart and accomplished woman, and a dear friend to those who were close with her. May she rest in God's good care.

*A Thank You Note From Ammal Varkey:*

*I would like to say THANK YOU to all the members, past and present, of the Leonia Presbyterian Church. I am so grateful to have served as a Deacon and Elder over the past 40+ years. I had the privilege of getting to know several committed Christian members of our church. That experience has enriched me spiritually, emotionally and in many other ways. You have been there to support me when I needed help.*

*Leonia Presbyterian Church is very special to me. My family had one wedding for George's niece, Susan, whose husband, Koshy Mathews, is now an Episcopal minister in Phoenixville, PA, and two funerals, for my beloved husband, George Varky, and son, Suresh Varky. I will never be able to reciprocate your kindness and love.*

*As I retire from the deacon-ship this year, I want to wish this Church and its members the very best as we try to follow what the Bible says: "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your Lord" (Micah 6:8)*

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.  
HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOD BLESS!!!**

**NAME, TELEPHONE AND EMAIL**

**TIME AND TALENTS COMMITMENT FOR 2017**

As a good steward of all of God's gifts, I commit or recommit myself to serve in the following area (s) of the church's life and mission (please indicate areas in which you wish to continue to serve, or would like to begin serving):

Worship

- Chancel Choir
- Special Music
- Usher
- Read Scripture

Church School and Child Care

- Christian Education (Teach Church School/Adult Education)
- Sunday Morning Nursery Volunteer
- Elementary childcare during Sunday service
- Child care for special events

Mission Outreach

- Teach English Conversation Classes
- Help at Family Promise Shelter
- Loaves & Fishes-Prepare meals every other Monday
- Oelhaf House Interfaith Committee
- Habitat for Humanity summer building project
- Community of Friends in Action (CoFiA) outreach to Day Laborers
- Drive members to hospital or doctor appointments
- Transportation to church
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Odd Jobs

- Newsletter Collating
- Painting
- Minor Building Repairs
- Yard Work
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Miscellaneous

- Retreat Planning
- Cluster Event Planning
- Serve as a "Prayer Partner" for one of our committees

## ***Committee Membership***

Committee members are not only welcome, but needed to do the vital work of the church. Please indicate which of these committees you would be willing to serve on. Experience is NOT required, merely an interest and a willing spirit.

**Asian Ministry** Develops outreach to our Asian neighbors and plans programs to foster appreciation and understanding between people of different cultures. Asian Ministry runs our English Conversation program and oversees the Jazz Jam.

**Budget & Finance** Recommends the annual church budget and, along with the Treasurer monitors income and disbursements throughout the year. They are also responsible for long-range financial planning.

**Christian Education** Oversees the Sunday Church School and nursery; recruits and trains Church School teachers; recommends curriculum; helps provide for adult education and any special events for families.

**Fellowship** Plans social events, fellowship hours, and maintains the Sunday beverage cart.

**Membership & Outreach** Evaluates our church's communication, both within the congregation and to the wider community. Proposes, plans and executes various efforts to welcome and incorporate new members.

**Mission & Stewardship** Plans and conducts programs for the financial stewardship (including special offerings of the congregation, and interprets and promotes our mission locally and worldwide.

**Personnel** Oversees the work of church employees, conducts annual performance reviews, and makes compensation recommendations to the session.

**Property** Oversees the regular maintenance of the church building and grounds; proposes and implements improvement projects.

**Retreat** Plans and implements one-day or overnight retreats of the congregation.

**Worship** Conceives and plans special services of worship, provides for services in the Pastor's absence and for routine tasks, such as communion preparation, reading of Scripture, ushering, and preparation of the sanctuary for worship and special services.

**Please either put in the collection plate or send to the church office.  
Thank you.**



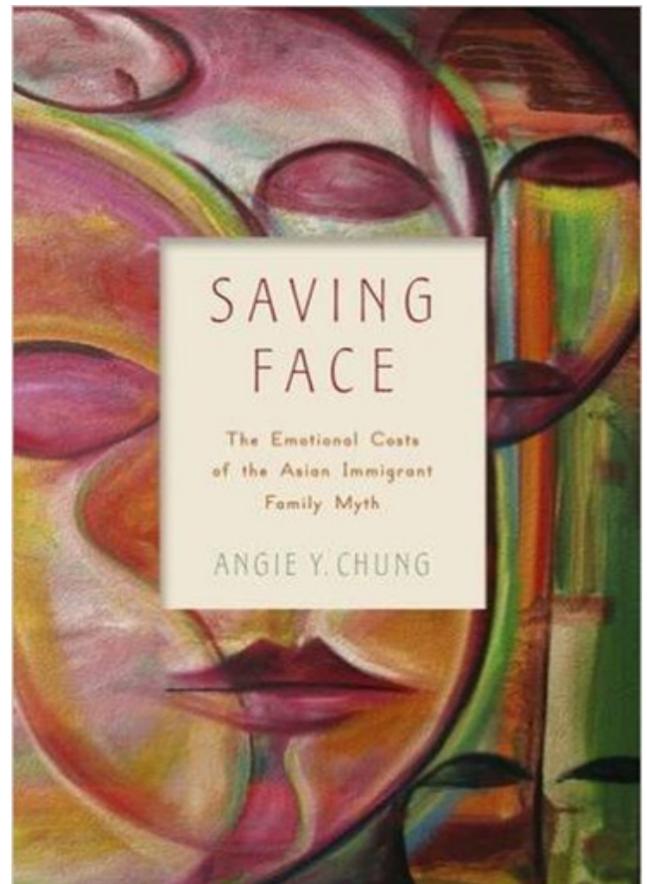
**Women's Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg** April 28-30, 2017

Come for a weekend of spiritual renewal and rest at this retreat led by the Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, who was the 221<sup>st</sup> Vice-Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly and now serves on staff at Princeton Theological Seminary. Register online at [www.campjburg.org](http://www.campjburg.org) or call (908)852-2349—and let Pastor Leah know if you plan to attend so other participants from our church can connect with you.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. CHUNG!**

Congratulations to church member Dr. Angie Chung on the publication of her book, *Saving Face: The Emotional Costs of the Asian Immigrant Family Myth*. Angie is a sociology professor at SUNY and attends church with her husband Eric, his mother Sejin, and daughters Sofie and Marisol. We can learn much from Angie about our family relationships across generations and across cultures.

Angie will present her book in a lecture and lunch at our church on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 12noon.





## **Presbyterian Church in Leonia Mission Trip Dates: July 9-15, 2017**

Campbell Farm is a ministry of the PC(USA). They are located in Wapato, Washington, on the Yakima Indian Reservation.

**Cost:** About \$700 for registration, food at Campbell Farm, housing, service projects, and ground transportation. Participants must pay for meals and extra activities outside the Farm, and pay for and arrange their own airfare (about \$400). We will suggest several flights to Seattle within a 2-hour window so that we all arrive and depart generally at the same time and can share ground transportation. Scholarships are possible. A \$200 refundable deposit is due by Feb. 15 to show your intention to go.

**Work:** The Farm can accommodate different ages, including children. We would have some choice in our work according to our abilities. There is always need for handiwork and carpentry on the farm and in the homes of surrounding neighbors. There is also use for people to participate in feeding ministry, childcare, gardening and other farm activities. We are willing to supervise high school aged youth who come without parents—and put them to work!

**Context:** Wapato has about 95% living at or below the federal poverty rate. The area includes people who are all or part Native American (Yakima) and also Spanish speaking migrants who work the orchards. The Director, Carman Pimms, does a thoughtful job of teaching the history that has contributed to the problems of domestic violence and child abuse, addiction, and poverty that impacts most of the participants in the Farm's programs.

**Housing:** Workers would stay at the Campbell Farm, and sleep in a house with shared dorm-style accommodations, with several bunks per room.

**Spiritual Program:** The Farm offers evening reflections where people share prayer and singing as stories are told about daily encounters. The week usually ends with Communion and a traditional native Smudging ritual.

Website: [www.thecampbellfarm.org](http://www.thecampbellfarm.org)



## FOR GLOBAL PEACE WITH JUSTICE

*Make your voice heard on public policy! This high impact weekend, sponsored by the ecumenical Christian community, is grounded in biblical witness and our shared traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Our goal is to strengthen our Christian voice and mobilize for advocacy on specific U.S. domestic and international policy issues.*

**SAVE THE DATES!**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 21 – MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Cost:** Conference Fee is \$200 for early registration; \$225 after March 25. Hotel Fee is \$125 per night at Doubletree per room if reserved early; rooms and costs can be shared. Conference includes 3 meals; other meals are out of pocket. Transportation can be by carpool, train or bus - we will coordinate together. Participants who are 30 and younger are eligible for denominational scholarships if they register early. Please let Leah know by Feb. 15 if you intend to go.

**Schedule:** Beginning with lively worship with music and keynote Friday evening, the conference will be full of workshops on Saturday-Sunday on themes related to peace and justice. You can choose your track or take workshops in varied areas, including Environmental Justice; Education; Immigration; Domestic Issues; Nuclear Disarmament; Gender Justice; Child Welfare; Latin American Justice; Africa; Asia; Middle East and more!

Plan to stay through 5 pm Monday because we will be scheduled to meet at our US Senators' and Representatives' offices to lobby all day Monday. There will be some time to go adventuring in DC as well.

Interested? Contact Rev. Leah Fowler at [pastorleonia@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleonia@gmail.com) and check out website [www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org) for updated info.

**FEBRUARY 10<sup>th</sup> (Fri) 8:00 PM**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION!**

**Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia**

**Happy Valentine's Day!**

**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: February 10, 2017 (Friday)**

**8:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

**Next Session: March, 17 2017 (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)**

**April Johnson (Keyboard)**

**Yoshi Hosuke (Bass)**

**Max Wang & Nick Iannantuano (Drums/Percussion)**

**Mike Ito (Guitar)**

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

**Church: [secretaryleonia@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryleonia@gmail.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 Rd., Leonia, NJ 07605**



---

THE NEWSLETTER

If you have not signed up for **CHANCEL FLOWERS** for a specific Sunday, please do so by signing up on the Flower Calendar which is on the wall above the coffee cart in the Entry Room. You will be contacted before your chosen date about what you would like printed in the weekly bulletin. If you live out of town and would like to donate flowers for a loved one, anniversary, birthday or an other special occasion, please call Jane Wilson (201-947-1688) or the church office (201-944-1358). The cost is \$40 and we ask that you pay the Presbyterian Church in Leonia when you sign up. You may take your flowers home after the service, or if you choose, the deacons will distribute the flowers to members and friends of the congregation who are sick or unable to come to the worship service.



**LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION** service in worship is 2/5/17. This year's animal is the Rooster. A Korean fan dance will be performed by Hyunju Lee who is the one of the best Korean traditional dancer in USA. After the service, we will have Lunar New Year luncheon. Please bring any dish to share with people. If you cannot make a dish, suggested donation is \$5.00 and family max. is \$15.00 Signup sheet is in the Fireplace Room.