

The Newsletter

APRIL 2014

FROM THE PASTOR

During Lent we turn our focus to the cross. As we prepare to observe Holy Week and Easter we meditate on Christ's sacrifice and death. We began Lent this year with "Take Up Your Cross Sunday," and each week we have been singing "I see thy cross, there teach my heart to cling..." as part of our response to confession. What is it about the cross that we are supposed to cling to? Why is the cross so important to our faith?

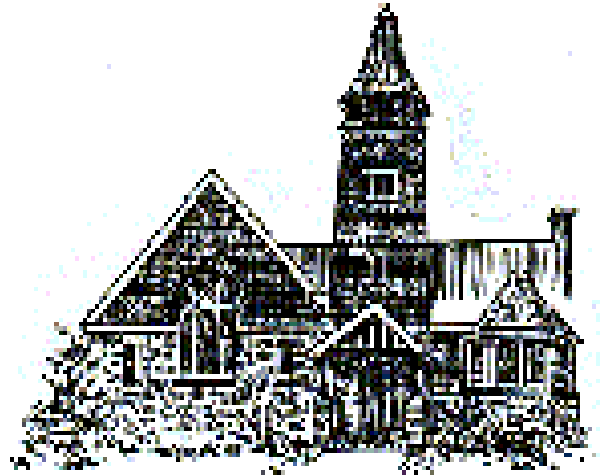
Some people say that by dying on the cross, Jesus paid a debt for our sins. According to this way of thinking, all human beings are sinners and according to God's righteous justice, we all deserve to die. Jesus died instead of us, or for us, and now through him we are able to receive God's forgiveness.

There are a few problems if you take this understanding of the cross literally. Yes, we are all sinners. And you might even go so far as to say we deserve to die for our sins. But the God we worship does not require a punishment in order to forgive. In early biblical times people

offered animal sacrifices for sin, believing it would appease God. But hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the Jewish prophets recognized that God took no delight in animal sacrifice. God is concerned with what happens in our hearts. Psalm 51:16-17 says "...If I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a ... broken and contrite heart..."

God forgave people's sins before Jesus was born. Psalm 103:8-14 says, "God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities...as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us." Jesus did not have to die an excruciating death on a cross in order for God to forgive us.

A Christian writer* said it well: "God offers us life and we reject it. God continues to offer it, in the form of love incarnate, and we crucify him. Yet even now, God will not lash out against us but instead raises Jesus up and sends him back with the same offer of forgiveness and life.



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

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

Christ is God bearing even the offense of the cross, without holding it against us, without giving up on us,* without demanding payment or seeking revenge.

That's something we can cling to.

Debra Given

*Credit to Dan Bell, "Does God Demand Blood?" at www.TheThoughtfulChristian.com

HEADLINERS

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

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GINNY BROWN See Page 4

HELP DECORATE FOR EASTER WITH FLOWERS More information on Page 4

VISIT CAMP JOHNSONBURG, Additional information on pages 4 and 6



Welcome Jackson Daniel Neu. Born March 27 at 8:49 a.m., weighing 7lbs 10oz and 19 3/4 inches long.

Congratulations to proud parents Maryellen and Daniel Neu, big sister Maesyn and grandparents Karen and Jack Peters.

PLEASE NOTE:

Sonia Solano's email address is sonia_solano@aol.com

Harriette Coleman's new address is:
6304 Hilltop Court, Bldg. 6,
Fort Lee, NJ 07024

Worship Schedule

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 - 5th Sunday of Easter

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day. Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Timothy Son

After Worship: Beginner Bible Study

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 Palm Sunday

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

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

10:20 a.m. Procession in Parking Lot

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

After Worship: Beginner Bible Study

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 EASTER

6:10 a.m. Sunrise Service at Overpeck Park

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

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

After Worship: Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship Hour

3:00 p.m. Japanese Language Worship

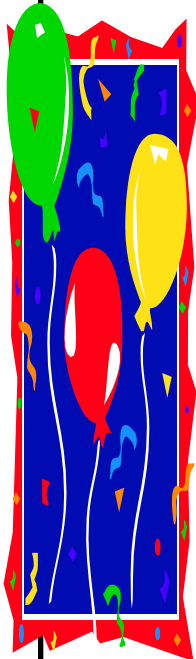
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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

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 20**. Anyone who wishes to apply may obtain an application from the church office (201-944-1358).

THE NEWSLETTER

USHERS: 4/6 Linda McGarry, Jack Peters & Tom Topousis
4/13 Jeff Im, Elin Park & Anne Stebbins
4/20 Rae Giannuzzi, Kristen Richter & Irene Ziganto
4/27 Jeannie Choe, Hwan Hee Kang & Ammal Varky

OFFERING COUNTERS: 4/6 Hyung Kune Shim & Anne Stebbins
4/13 Olivia Taylor & Pete Shanno
4/20 Jonathan Phillips & Fumio Ito
4/27 Anne Stebbins & Jonathan Phillips

CHILDCARE: 4/6 Joe VanDeWeert
4/13 Linda McGarry
4/20 Kazuko Abe
4/27 Kristen Richter



A prayer for a world one day
Where no one needs to be afraid
A world that's full of the knowledge of peace
As the waters cover the sea
As the waters cover the sea.

Fill me with your love, O God
Pour your justice over me
Flood me with your power to forgive
And soak me in your peace.
As the waters cover the sea.

Eric H.F. Law

Easter Sunrise Service

Last year our Easter Sunrise Service was so successful, we're going to do it again. This time it will be in the New Overpeck Park in Leonia on April 20th at 6:00 a.m. Immediately following the service those who wish can continue our celebration by sharing breakfast at the 4 West Diner. There will be plenty of time to make it back to church for our 10:30 service.

25 people attended last year, some from other churches and some passerby's. The sight of the sun gradually rising in the sky was an exhilarating moment revealing a new day, a refreshing new beginning. Please see Michael Sofia for more information on where to meet in the Park. We hope you can join us!

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 11. 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.

Photographs by Ginny Brown

The photography of Ginny Brown will be featured from Sunday, March 30 until April 30. Ginny has studied photography seriously for 10 years. Two well-known photographers have been especially important to her: Nancy Rotenberg and Eddie Solway. Ginny often traveled with groups led by Ms. Rotenberg, a gifted teacher and spiritual person. Since Ms. Rotenberg's recent death, Ginny has continued to explore with fellow students. Her photographs feature places such as the Oregon Coast, the Pocono mountains, the Palouse Hills in Washington and Zion National Park. Please come and join us to see her beautiful photographs.

Spruce Up Day at Camp Johnsonburg

822 Rte. 519, Johnsonburg, NJ 07846

Saturday, April 26

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

908-852-2349 or email: office@campjburg.org

Camp Johnsonburg's Staff & Alumni Reunion—May 23-25

Calling all Staff and Alumni! Come back to camp and bring your camp shirt, pictures and other memorabilia to share. Bring your family to show them where you spent some of the best summers of your life! Register for the full weekend or just Saturday (Special BBQ included).

Register now! 908-852-2349 or email: office@campjburg.org

1 Day Pass: Full day of activities and 3 meals per person. Saturday Is our BBQ in the meadow.

Weekend Pass: 3 nights lodging (lodge or cabin) 2 + full days of activities and 7 meals included.

HELP DECORATE WITH FLOWERS FOR EASTER!

Help us decorate the church sanctuary for Easter by ordering **FLOWERS**. The cost is \$20 for lilies and \$12 for bulb plants, which could be hyacinths, tulips or daffodils depending on what is available at the time of purchase. Please call the church office (201-944-1358) no later than Friday, April 4. Checks should be made out to the Presbyterian Church in Leonia and designated for "Easter Flowers." Please let me know to whom you would like them dedicated and if you wish to pick up your plants or distribute to homebound friends.

***You may come out on Saturday morning, April 19 at 10 a.m.
to decorate the sanctuary for Easter.***



Christine Banas

Although Christine was born in New Jersey, she grew up in Chicago and Northern Virginia. After graduating from Mary Washington College, Christine worked for the federal government in Washington D.C. It was here that she met her husband, David Levine. Later the couple moved to New Jersey and worked in theater and television. Christine helped produce the Tony award winning play, “Da,” and “As the World Turns.” Three children joined the family through adoption: Alexander, 23, Dahlia, 20 (she sings in our choir) and Darius, 19. With family responsibilities, Christine left television, got her master’s and now works in special education in Englewood. She is part of our church group that goes to Guatemala in the summer to help build schools.

Leiko Okamoto

Leiko was born in Fukuoka, Japan and went to teacher’s college there. She taught kindergarten and enjoyed that very much. In 1956 Leiko came to live in the United States. Though raised a Buddhist, she became a Christian when she attended the Hackensack Baptist Church. After attending beauty school, she worked as a beautician for many years. Leiko loves to read Christian books and is an avid gardener. Her favorite flower is the cosmos. She found our church when the Japanese church group moved their ministry here from a nearby United Methodist Church.



Mialy Rakotoselson

Mialy began life in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. But when she was four her family moved to the United States where they lived in Queens. Mialy has few memories of Madagascar but does fondly recall the family home there. Later, the family moved to New Jersey. She has already attended five schools and is now at Palisades Park high school. She enjoys school and gaining new knowledge and, of course, loves to be with her many friends. Mialy is on the Junior Varsity basketball team where she plays the position of guard. After her brother Andri’s death, she returned to Madagascar for his funeral and burial. While it was a sad time she did enjoy getting to know her many cousins and is especially close to one of them. Mialy helps at church by caring for the children during the activity period.



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 socks and sweaters. They fit new shoes on children who had never worn shoes in their life. They watched as children danced around their mosquito nets, making up songs about how they would never get malaria again. They bought many different kinds of books to stock a new library. You can visit the website www.childrenofuganda.org for pictures and more information about the organization. Last year we raised over \$2,000 for this worthy cause. Please join us on Saturday, May 17.

Date: May 17th (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@yahoo.com 201-944-1358 or
Mike Ito at 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

CAMP JOHNSONBURG SUMMER 2014 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Camp Johnsonburg, a ministry of the seven New Jersey Presbyteries, is now accepting registrations for our 2014 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 on-line, 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 4, 10 a.m.—3 p.m.

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

To register, or request a brochure, call the camp office at 908-852-2349, email us at info@campjburg.org or visit our website at www.campjburg.org.