

THE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015

FROM THE PASTOR . . .

Do you know Psalm 23 by memory? And have you ever thought about what the words mean?

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.
He guides me in straight paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

In preparation for our all-church retreat (September 12-

13), I have been reading the book The Lord is My Shepherd; Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm, by Harold Kushner. Kushner writes, "The Twenty-third Psalm gives us an entire theology, a more practical theology than we can find in many books. (It) teaches us to look at the world and see it as God would have us see it. If we are anxious, the psalm gives us courage ... If we are grieving, it offers comfort and we find our way through the valley of the shadow. If our lives are embittered by unpleasant people, it teaches us how to deal with them. If the world threatens to wear us down, the psalm guides us to replenish our souls. If we are obsessed with what we lack, it teaches us gratitude for what we have. And most of all, if we feel alone and adrift in a friendless world, it offers us the priceless reassurance that 'Thou art with me.'"

Psalm 23 does not promise that God will keep bad things from happening in our lives.



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: WED. ,THUR. & FRI. 9 A.M. -12:30 P.M. & 1-2:30 P.M.

But it promises God's presence with us, no matter what is happening. As Kushner writes, "Much of the time we cannot control what happens to us. But we can always control how we respond to what happens to us. If we cannot choose to be lucky, to be talented, to be loved, we can choose

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HEADLINERS

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From the Pastor (continued)

to be grateful, to be content with who we are and what we have, and to act accordingly." Psalm 23 offers us a way to respond in a life-giving way.

I hope you will join us on our retreat to ponder the wisdom of Psalm 23. We still have openings for people who want to come for Saturday only (The deadline to sign up is Sunday the 6th). And if you can't join us, I encourage you to take some time on your own to let the words of Psalm 23 sink into you. There's a reason this Psalm is beloved and memorized by so many. May the wisdom of the Psalm assure you of God's presence and bring you strength and life, no matter where you are on life's journey.

Blessings and Peace,

Debra Given



Sept. 6	Luis LaBoy
Sept. 8	Troy Sahai
Sept. 18	Dennis McGarry
	Jonathan Mark Phillips
Sept. 21	Michael Sofia
Sept. 22	Ray Addabbo
Sept. 23	Lillian McNaughton

COME, LET US WORSHIP GOD...

Sunday, Sept. 6

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

Sunday, Sept. 13, 9:15 Choir Rehearsal

No Church School and Adult Classes

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day in Leonia led by Rev. Fran Thiessen

At Camp Johnsonburg—Outdoor worship and celebration of the Lord's Supper

3-5 p.m. Special Ministry to the Japanese Worship Service

Sunday, Sept. 20, (in the Sanctuary)

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

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

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day will include celebration of the Lord's Supper and commissioning of Church School Teachers

Sunday, Sept. 27, 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

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

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

October 4 11:00 a.m. World Communion

Sunday at the Presbyterian Church in Leonia.

Come celebrate the diversity of God's family with Presbyterian Churches from Teaneck and Englewood.

HOLIDAY FAIR—NOV. 21

Plan to be there and to help: setting up, selling, cooking, baking, making chili and soup, and cleaning up. We are also in need of some good baskets for our tricky tray. Please bring them to the church and let Karen Peters (201-592-8413) know they are there. More details to follow.

CHOIR NEWS

The choir is scheduled to begin rehearsing on **Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 a.m. before worship. If you would like to join the choir**, come that day or speak with Renee Guerrero-Harris. Choir rehearses every Sunday at 9:15 and after worship at 11:45 a.m.



Congratulations and Blessings to Rev. Debra Given and Tom Phillips, whose daughter Talitha was ordained as a pastor (Teaching Elder) at the Broadway Presbyterian Church on Sunday, August 22. She has been called to the Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland, California as their Coordinator for Children, Youth and Family Life and will be installed there in September.

Our prayers and wishes go out to you, Talitha.

THE PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets every Thursday at 12:15 pm in the Tower room. Depending on the needs of those present, the meeting may last a ½ hour to 1 hour. You are welcome to bring your own favorite prayer or a picture of a loved one for whom you are offering prayers. We have included a litany of healing as a regular feature of our time together. We always play soft background music and light a candle (digital, of course) for inspiration. The following is a sample of a prayer shared in the group.

Lord, my heart is not large enough,
My memory is not good enough,
My will is not strong enough:
Take my memory and give it quicker recall,
Take my will and make it strong,
And make me conscious of thee
Ever present,
Ever accompanying.

George Appleton
Submitted by Barbara Sofia

USHERS FOR THE MONTH

Sept. 6	Roberta Toolen &
Sept. 13	Tom Topousis &
Sept. 20	Anne Stebbins, Jeff Im & Elin Park
Sept. 27	Christine Banas, Kristen Richter & Maryellen Neu

OFFERING COUNTERS

September 6	Fumio Ito & David Voreacos
September 13	Ginny Brown & Jonathan Phillips
September 20	Anne Stebbins & Fumio Ito
September 27	Hyung Kune Shim & Pete Shanno

NURSERY CARE

September 6	Linda McGarry
September 13	Sarah Han
September 20	Vicky Li
September 27	Lisa/Joe VanDeWeert

TO OUR HELPFUL FRIENDS, THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who helped at Paterson Habitat for Humanity this summer:
Ingrid Brennan, Suzanne Broffman, Ken Dindial, Hwan Hee Kang, Karen Klingner, Kwan Seog Kwang, Jason Lee, Virginia Phillips, Pete Shanno, Hyung Shim, Joe VanDeWeert & Roland Weimer

And thank you to Karen Klingner who made the arrangements. If you go to our website you will see pictures of our volunteers hard at work.



The Blessing of the Animals will be held at the church on Saturday, October 3rd at 4pm. (rain or shine). This event will be officiated by Rev. Debra Given and will take place on the greenery on the side entrance of the church. Refreshments will follow.

Our pets are an invaluable addition to our families. Because they don't yet come to the church worship service, Saturday, October 3 is a special day set aside for them. Don't miss this one time opportunity during the church year to have your loving pet blessed.



Blessing of the Animals

For further information please speak with Michael Sofia (201-343-6206) or sfmchl@gmail.com

"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.

We ask you to bless our pets. By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen."



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th

This year's World Communion celebration will held at our church. The Teaneck Presbyterian Church and Bethany Presbyterian Church in Englewood will also join us for worship at 11:00 a.m. We will have a joint choir and joint Sunday School classes. You are invited to bring food to share at a reception following worship: more information to come. Our congregation has been working and celebrating with our cluster churches for many years now. Please join us for this festive event, and celebrate our communion with Christians throughout the world.

*We extend our **deepest sympathy** to the family of **Joan Nicholas** who died
August 2, 2015.*



ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

Daytime and Evening Classes

Beginning the Week of September 28th, and Ending the week of December 7th.

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia

**Everyone is welcome,
From Beginner to Intermediate/Advanced!**

- Learn English vocabulary and idioms
- Practice speaking English
- Find out about American culture
- Make new friends!

Registration for Fall Semester

WHEN: Tuesday, September 15, 2015

10:00 am – 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Thursday, September 24, 2015

10:00 am – 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

WHERE: The Presbyterian Church in Leonia

181 Fort Lee Rd. Leonia, NJ 07605

(Between Broad Ave. & Grand Ave.)



Please contact the following for any questions or assistance.

In English; Mark Roger: englishinleonia@gmail.com 201-641-0067

Korean; Hyung Shim: hkshim@gmail.com 917-952-2559

Japanese; Mike Ito: mike.ito@verizon.net 201-679-6616

Spanish; Susan Shanno: susannpete@aol.com 201-944-4603

Church Office; secretaryleonia@gmail.com 201-944-1358

MATERIALS/ADMINISTRATION FEE:

Classes meeting once a week: \$25.00/semester

2nd class, if space is available: \$5.00/semester

Visit our website: www.learnenglishinleonia.org

September 11th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION! Sponsored

by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Fall for Jazz! Happy Harvest!

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: September 11, 2015 (Friday)
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Open: 7:30 pm
Next Session: October 9, 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)
Yoshi Hosuke (Bass)
Shai Rodriguez (Drums)
April Johnson (Keyboard)
Mike Ito (Guitar)

Please contact the following for any question.

Church: secretaryleonia@gmail.com or 201-944-1358

Coordinator, Mike Ito: mike.ito@verizon.net or 201-679-6616

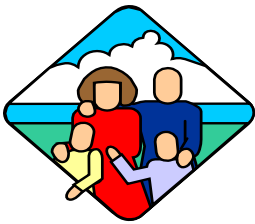
Church website: www.leoniapres.org

THE NEWSLETTER

Address Correction Requested

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

THE NEWSLETTER



Sunday School Begins September 20th

Get Ready! We will start a great new year of Church School activities! Register your child and yourself on **Sunday, September 20th at 9:30 a.m.** You do not need to be a member of the church to register or attend. Invite other families and children who you think might be interested. All students and their parents or guardians will register in the entry room at 9:30 and then proceed upstairs for a gathering time and classes. (Important dates: Sept. 13, no Church School in Leonia due to the retreat.)

The Adult Study Group is meeting at 9:30 a.m. beginners Bible Study for adults is after worship service every Sunday!

If you would like to help with the Sunday School, please contact Jonathan Phillips or Suzanne Broffman.

Teachers are: Pre-K & K: Vicky Li and Sarah Han
Elementary: Suzanne Broffman and Lisa VanDeWeert
Older Elementary & Middle School: Joe VanDeWeert (Sub: Jonathan Phillips)