

The Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016

FROM THE PASTOR

Now that September is upon us, I have been getting flooded with mailings and calls about curriculum. I suppose there are some last-minute planning pastors out there, and sometimes I can be one of them, but come on! Our Christian Education team managed to have a plan for curriculum before summer began!

When some of these salespeople call trying to promote their material, I can sometimes get them off the phone quickly—or when Pat is here, she kindly puts the calls to rest. Other times they offer a pitch that doesn't give me any room to politely decline. The most recent pitch I received got me as far as their website. When I saw that their faith statement included a belief that scripture is the authoritative, infallible word of God, I found the theological rub.

You see, as Presbyterians we place a huge importance on scripture as God's word. The old reformers were known to say "Sola Scriptura"—scripture alone. This is why the worship service traditionally revolves around the reading and proclamation of the word. It is why we value an educated laity, people who know how to read and interpret scripture for themselves, without only relying on the clergy to dispense it to them. It was important 500 years ago; it is important now.

However, we also recognize that the Bible was written by human hands. While we believe that the Holy Spirit was somehow involved in the writing process, and that the Bible is an awe-inspiring account of human perception of God's action in our lives, we know that human hands can sometimes slip, or insert their own agendas, or later scribes

or editors can offer intentional or unintentional word choices that change the entire meaning of a verse. We know how much culture shapes our knowing, and how therefore the ancient Near Eastern beliefs of thousands of years ago about women and their roles pervade the Bible. We also know that Jesus often shook up cultural assumptions that were—and are—taken for granted.

It takes practice, and it takes community, to be able to read the Bible and to discern how God's voice moves through it. As our program year begins, we have teachers well-equipped to help children find delight and wisdom in the study of the Bible. We read the Bible together in ESL Bible Study, and discover the multiple dimensions of scripture as we explore what the trickier words mean in each language. We have Sunday and Wednesday morning Bible study and find the ways scripture connects with our lives and our world—and sometimes admit disagreement or confusion or distaste for what the Bible tells us that day. Over the Fall Retreat we will look at the biblical story of Ruth and Naomi and the journey they took in light of the journey our church is on during this interim season.

While our journeys with scripture are not always clear-cut, we have God and we have each other as we dive in and find life-giving truths! I look forward to exploring with you this fall.

Peace,
Pastor Leah

Rev. Leah Fowler, Interim Pastor



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA
181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. BOX 448
LEONIA, NJ 07605
TEL. 201 944-1358
WEBSITE WWW.LEONIAPRES.ORG

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY 8-10,
TUESDAY & THURSDAY 1-5:30, FRIDAY 8-12



THE NEWSLETTER

Monthly Calendar Dates

<u>September</u>	<u>4</u>	10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Japanese Worship
	5	LABOR DAY
	8	7:15 p.m. CoFia Meeting
	9	8:00 p.m. Jazz Jam
	10	7:15 a.m. Church Retreat
<u>September</u>	<u>11</u>	Church Retreat 10:30 a.m. Worship Guest Preacher: Ed Patterson
	13	7:30 p.m. Session Meeting
	15	3:00 p.m. Japanese Program
<u>September</u>	<u>18</u>	10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Japanese Worship
	20	10:00 a.m. -12noon ESL Registration
	20	7:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m. ESL Registration
	22	7:00 p.m. Oelhaf House Committee Meeting
	23	6:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting
<u>September</u>	<u>25</u>	10:30 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. -12noon ESL Registration
	29	7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. ESL Registration

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

September 4: Communion Sunday and Blessing of the Backpacks as students young and old and teachers prepare for a new program year.

September 11: Our congregation worships in 2 locations—on the retreat, and in the sanctuary! Special guest, Ed Patterson, who is a dear friend of church musician, Renee Guerrero, from Austin, Texas will be our preacher AND musician!

September 18: Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers and Childcare Workers

September 25: Deacons Anointing at Worship- a blessing with oil—a biblical tradition-- will be a reminder of God's presence with you and a hope for wellness. This optional blessing will be crafted into the worship service and all who feel called may receive anointing on their forehead or palm.

USHERS:

September 4	Susan Shanno, Pete Shanno, Jane Wilson
September 11	Jack Peters, Karen Peters
September 18	Jeff Im, Elin Park, Kristen Richter
September 25	Lisa VanderWeert, Roberta Toolen, Christine Banas

OFFERING COUNTERS:

September 4	Fumio Ito & David Voreacos
September 11	Ginny Brown, Jonathan Phillips
September 18	Anne Stebbins, Fumio Ito
September 25	Hyung Shim, Pete Shanno

FLOWERS:

September 4:	Venge & Judith Nyrongo
September 11:	Beth Blood Parrillo
September 18	Jiho Song



October 2: World Communion Sunday! We celebrate with sister churches, First Presbyterian of Teaneck and Bethany Presbyterian of Englewood in a truly multicultural, international worship service. We bring many cultures together in the praising of our one God and in celebration of the body of Christ. We feast in worship on bread and juice, and we feast after worship with foods from all our backgrounds. Please plan to bring a dish to share if you can!

Pledge Update: We are slightly below our target income from household pledges for this point of the year. If you have pledged, please do not forget about your church during your travels! If you have not pledged and would like to give a commitment to the church, we are happy to speak with you. No matter how small or big your gift is, God can work through you and your offering to build a church that dares to live faithfully into Christ's call. Please speak with Pastor Leah or with our Church Secretary, Pat Major, to find out how you can support the congregation.

Christmas Week at Family Promise

Family Promise assists working families with children who are temporarily homeless. It is an international organization. Our church works with 24 host congregations and 50 support congregations to provide this service in Bergen County. Thanks to the hospitality of the Leonia Methodist Church, their building is temporarily being used as the shelter site since the fire destroyed First Presbyterian Church in Englewood. Our next service week is scheduled from December 25, 2016 to January 1, 2017. Please think about how you can serve this worthy cause when you start planning your holiday activities. Working at the shelter is truly a gift of love. For more information about Family Promise you can go online or speak to Linda McGarry.

Go, Do...Sunday School!

Last Sunday during church, one of our students, Wanangwa Nyirongo, spoke about his experiences at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. He spoke about his enjoyment of worship service and the people he met there. This is what children find exciting about church: worshipping the Lord with a glad heart and making new friends. We hope that Sunday School will also be another opportunity for our children to sing, pray, laugh, and enjoy time with one another. So, please join us on Sunday, September 18th, for the beginning of the 2016-2017 Sunday School Year.

We will start at 9:30 a.m. with worship music and then break up into classes. We will have four classes this year: pre-K/K taught by Kayla Garcia, Sarah Han, Vicky Li, and Judith Nyirongo; 1st/2nd grade taught by Suzanne Broffman; 3rd-5th grade taught by Joe VanDerWeert; and, 6th grade and up taught by Jonathan Phillips. Our curricula this year comes from two publishers. We will use Spark House (<http://www.wearesparkhouse.org/>) for the pre-K/K class and Seasons of the Spirit (<http://www.seasonsonline.ca>) for the elementary school classes. After class, children are invited to the worship service; we will not be having Activity Period on the 18th. Nursery for children up through kindergarten will start at 10:30 a.m. Starting the following week, Sunday, September 25, we will have Activity Period during worship service for children in 1st through 4th grade.

In addition to our regular Sunday School, I am also looking forward to fellowship and volunteer activities like we have done in the past such as watching a baseball game, going bowling, packing snacks for the Rotary Club, and packing meals for Hunger Now. If you have ideas or you want to lead up an activity please let the Christian Education Committee know because we would love to have your help and your enthusiasm.

One final thing. This year's Triennium theme was "Go, Do!" as in the Lord's commands to "go and do likewise" or "go into every nation." The word "go" is an action verb and Christianity is not a spectator



ADULT EDUCATION

There is a Sunday School class for adults that runs concurrent with the children's Sunday School; please meet at 9:30 am in the Tower Room beginning Sept. 18. For more info, please contact Philip Wilson at WilsonPhilipE@gmail.com.

Most Sundays, beginning Sept. 18, we will have an English as a Second Language Bible Study following the fellowship after worship. It meets in the Fireplace Room for lunch and study, from 12 noon-1 pm. For details please contact Vicky Li, victoriali@earthlink.net.

Wednesday Bible Study begins again on September 14 in the Tower Room, from 10:45-12 noon. Anyone is welcome to this class that reads scripture and discusses with humor as we build on friendship and faith. For more info contact Pastor Leah at pastorleoniam@gmail.com. New members welcome!

BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER!!

TO ALL A HAPPY AND HEALTHY BIRTHDAY !!

September	2	Dane Clarke Esteban Mosquera
	4	Ethan Seojin Han
	6	Luis Laboy
	8	Troy Sahai
	18	Dennis McGarry Jonathan Mark Phillips
	19	Amanda Fernandez Ayoung (Jenny) Han
	22	Ray Addabbo
	23	Linda Green Lillian McNaughton
		Allyn Joy Ponella
	26	Justin Phillips



Member Profile:



Meet **Jihyun** (phonetically said Ji hie-uh-ohn) **Kim**

Jihyun came to the United States to be enrolled in a Bloomfield College program for South Korean mathematics and science teachers. She spent 6 months studying there for her US teaching certification and taking ESL classes to become proficient at English. She was already well qualified to teach mathematics with an undergraduate degree in Mathematics and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Seoul and has held various teaching positions since graduation. Upon completion of the program she started working in the Bronx and moved to Palisades Park to lessen her commute. Her mother and younger brother live in South Korea. She has held strong to her religious beliefs since her sophomore year at college. Prayer led her to become a teacher, to this country, and in January, to our church. And here she has worshipped regularly with us, participated in ESL Bible Study, and is registered to attend our fall church retreat at Camp Johnsonburg. On August 7 Jihyun was hit by a car as she was crossing the street near her house. She has kept a wonderfully upbeat attitude while trying to navigate through the health care and legal system. Her mantra is "I know I am lucky to be alive". Born on December 13, 1986, she fits the description of a classic Sagittarius: independent, optimistic, honest, and intellectual. Even during difficult times she maintains a positive disposition and an optimistic outlook. If you have not yet met Jihyun, introduce yourself. You'll be happy you did!

September 9th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION! Sponsored

by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Join us for this COOL event in Air Con'd room!

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 9, 2016 (Friday)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Next Session: October 14, 2016 (Friday), 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: secretaryleoniam@gmail.com or 201-944-1358

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

Church website: www.leoniapres.org

Questions, Calling, Community, and Campfire!



Presbyterian Church in Leonia Fall Retreat
September 10th & 11th 2016

Presbyterian Camp & Conference Center
Johnsonburg, NJ

Come and worship in a different place, in a different way, with the same church family! Our program begins at 9:00 a.m. Saturday at Camp Johnsonburg. The day includes intergenerational time together for spiritual and playful reflection about transitions in our church and our lives, as well as time on your own. There will be a planned program with children's activities, lunch, free time, dinner, and a campfire. Those coming for only the day can choose to stay for the campfire or head home earlier as needed-- or your family can stay the night in shared lodges and join in worship and communion under the trees Sunday morning. During free time there will be hiking, boating, archery, napping, games, etc.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

< Sponsored by Presbyterian Church
in Leonia >

英会話クラスのご案内 영어 회화 프로그램

Clases de conversacion en ingles

October 3rd - December 15th (2016 Fall Semester)

Everyone is welcome, From Beginner to Intermediate/Advanced.

初心者から中級者、上級者まで、何方でもご参加ください。

이 프로그램은 초급, 중급, 고급반 과정으로 나뉘져 있습니다

Todos son bienvenidos, desde principiantes hasta intermedio/avanzado.

- Practice speaking English • Find out about American culture • Make new friends!
- 英会話を話しながら、アメリカの文化に触れ、お友達を作る事も出来ます。



Registration Days, 登録日, 등록날짜, Fechas de registraci3n

WHEN: September 20 (Tuesday) & September 29 (Thursday)

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.)

MATERIALS/ADMINISTRATION FEE: 費用、수업료, COSTO.

Classes meeting once a week: \$25.00/semester, 1学期に付き, 한 학기, 1 Semestre.

2nd class, if space is available: \$5.00/semester, 追加のクラス, 추가등록시, 2da clase.

Visit our website for more detail, 자세한 정보는 홈페이지를 참조하시기 바랍니다.

詳しくは下記のウェブサイトまで。Visite nuestra p3gina web para m3s informaci3n.

www.learnenglishinleonia.org

Please contact the following for any questions or assistance.

ご質問等ありましたら、下記に連絡ください。

등록에 관한 문의는 아래 연락처로 하시기 바랍니다.

Para asistencia o preguntas contactar a:

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

한국어; 심형균: hkshim@gmail.com 917-952-2559

日本語では; Mike Ito: mike.ito@verizon.net 201-679-6616

En espa3ol: Susan Shanno: susannpete@aol.com 201-944-4603

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