

# The Newsletter

APRIL 2017

## An Easter for All Creation

*"This earth indeed is the very Body of God, and it is from this body that we are born, live, suffer, and resurrect to eternal life"—*  
Father Richard Rohr

As we move toward the great season of Easter, we witness the cleansing rain that coaxes green from tree and earth and brings flower to bloom. The sun warms us in ways that woo us into forgiveness of March's snowstorms. Some complain of idolatry in attaching Jesus' resurrection to the ancient fertility cult festivals of the Mediterranean; even the name "Easter" is derived from Eostre, the Mother Goddess of the Saxon People of Northern Europe.

Personally, I have no problem with this association; in fact, I think it is brilliant! What better time to celebrate resurrection than the time when after we are pummeled by winter and its Nor'easters (pun unintentional)? Ecofeminist theologian Sallie McFague described the earth as God's body; just as God created humankind in God's own image, all of creation also bears the imprint of God. It is vast and at times mysterious, but it also tells us quite a bit of who God is.

And so, let our Easter Alleluias announce a new day for God's creation! We can take part in the resurrection God is expressing through the earth and through our lives this spring. On April 8, some will go up to Camp Johnsonburg for Spruce Up Day and help tend the camp and helping others to have spiritual and recreational encounters in God's natural creation. Several will be going late April to Ecumenical Advocacy Days, where environmental justice will be one of the issues we will lobby our Congressional leaders when we visit Capitol Hill. On April 29, Leonia has a Climate Change March and our church can take part. May God call us to follow Jesus into new life even as we watch the spring coax new life out of winter.

With care,  
Pastor Leah



**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)**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**MONDAY-8-10 A.M.**  
**TUESDAY & THURSDAY 1:00 –5:30 P.M.**  
**FRIDAY 8:00-12 NOON**



## HEADLINERS

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FOR REVEREND LEAH FOWLER'S INSTALLATION-MAY 7 at 3:00 p.m.**

ENJOY GREAT MUSIC AT THE NEXT JAZZ JAM APRIL 7 8:00 p.m. (see flyer)

START SAVING ITEMS FOR THE GARAGE SALE ON MAY 20 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. (see flyer)

### **USHERS**

April 2: Jeff Im, Kristen Richter, Jihyun Kim (Julia)  
April 9: PALM SUNDAY Lisa VanDeWeert, Roberta Toolen, Christine Banas  
April 16: EASTER Fara Razavy, Vicky Li, Linda McGarry  
April 23: Susan Dindial, MaryEllen Neu, Virginia Cora

### **OFFERING COUNTERS**

April 2: Olivia Taylor, David Voreacos  
April 9: PALM SUNDAY Hyung Shim, Olivia Taylor  
April 16: EASTER Ginny Brown, Jonathan Phillips  
April 23: Hyung Shim, Pete Shanno  
April 30: Ginny Brown, Fumio Ito

### **NURSERY CARE**

April 2: Sarah Han  
April 9: PALM SUNDAY Keyla Garcia  
April 16: EASTER Kristen Richter  
April 23: Elizabeth Evan-Ezra  
April 30: Angie Chung

### **GET THE BREEZE!**

Are you on Breeze yet? Breeze is our new cloud-based church directory software. If you haven't already, open the email Pastor Leah sent inviting you to join Breeze. You will then be given a login and password. To get to the church's login page go to [leoniapres.breezechms.com](http://leoniapres.breezechms.com). If you click on your profile, you can upload your own picture. Don't have a picture to upload? We will have deacons on Palm Sunday and Easter to take your picture after worship, and take your family's picture too! If you want an individual tutorial on Breeze, make an appointment with Pastor Leah; she will give you a tour. Once we get critical mass of people's

### **THE STENKEN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

The Stenken Family Scholarship was established for those seeking further education after high school. Initiated by John Stenken and presently endowed by Richard Stenken, the Stenken Family Scholarship is a testament to the Stenken's commitment as members and leaders of the Presbyterian Church in Leonia. This scholarship is open to persons under the age of 25 who are members and active in the church.

There is also a separate scholarship for young people to attend the Johnsonburg Presbyterian Summer Camp, if they or their parents are members of the church.

Those who qualify and wish to apply for college scholarship assistance should apply now.

Contact Pat in the Church Office for further information or call 201 944-1358.



## SAVE THE DATE

**SUNDAY MAY 7 at 3:00 p.m.**

### **Installation of The Reverend Leah Fowler as Pastor of Presbyterian Church in Leonia!**

We will have the participation of our own church, leaders in the Presbytery, Special Ministry with the Japanese, and clergy from the community participate in this service that will include the laying on of hands as a sign of the transfer of the power of the Holy Spirit on Leah.

Our guest preacher, Cláudio Carvalhaes, is a colleague Leah knows from Chicago, who now teaches at Union Theological Seminary.



## Worship Schedule

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

"Resurrection: The Prequel"

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

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

12 noon ESL Bible Study

3-5 p.m. Japanese Language Worship

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 9—PALM SUNDAY**

Presbyterians with Palms in a Percussion

Procession! Max Wang will lead the parade with his drumming. The children will sing in worship.

Please bring your One Great Hour of Sharing offerings and fish boxes!

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

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

12 noon ESL Bible Study

### **THURSDAY APRIL 13 7:30 p.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Service with Tenebrae.** We welcome the Leonia Methodist Church to share in this worship with us. Bring 30 pieces of silver (or coins!) to drop in the buckets.

### **FRIDAY APRIL 14 Noon.**

**Leonia Ecumenical Good Friday Service.**

Beginning at noon at the Mount Zion Baptist Church and walking in procession through six Leonia churches (rides are also available). (see locations and times on page 9)

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 16 EASTER SUNDAY**

**Christ is Risen!**

**Sunrise Service at 6:40 a.m.-Overpeck Park (middle dock)**

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day, with special music and a time to welcome all into our joy and Christ's love.

3-5 p.m. Japanese Language Worship

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 23 —Earth Day Sunday!**

**Guest Preacher comes while Pastor Leah & others from church are at Ecumenical Advocacy Days**

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

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

12 Noon ESL Bible Study

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 30 —"Stranger Things"**

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

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

12 Noon ESL Bible Study

### **Christian Education**

Saturday April 1 Karaoke Night 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Sunday April 8 Camp Johnsonburg Spruce up Day  
( see page 5 for more details)

Sunday April 16 Easter Egg Hunt (following worship)



There is an Adult Study Group that is led by Philip Wilson that meets at 9:30 am Sundays; Children's Sunday School classes for all ages also meet at 9:30 am. Our English as a Second Language class meets at noon following worship, with lunch and scripture reading that goes at a slow pace for newer English speakers to take part.

There will be no Sunday School or Bible Study classes on Easter Sunday. Our Wednesday Bible Study at 10:45 am is reading through the Passion story in Mark's Gospel until Easter, then it will read Genesis.

Newcomers always welcome! If you have an idea for an Adult Education topic, please let Pastor Leah know!

On March 6, 2017 Jonathan Lee of Ridgewood became an American citizen. Here is his photo at his American Citizen Oath Ceremony. Jonathan was active in our choir over Christmas holidays.

**Best Wishes and Congratulations to Jonathan on this memorable occasion.**



## CAMP JOHNSONBURG SUMMER 2017 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Camp Johnsonburg, a ministry of the seven New Jersey Presbyteries, is now accepting registrations for our 2017 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.

Please don't let finances prevent you from considering camp. Our church and our Presbytery have scholarships for those who need financial assistance to attend. Contact the church office or Rev. Leah if you have any questions about this.

### **Spruce Up Day at Camp Johnsonburg**

822 Route 519, Johnsonburg, NJ 07846

**Saturday, April 8, 2017**

We will be carpooling if necessary, great chance for families to spend time outdoors, meet new people, and enjoy lunch together with others who help maintain this Christian camp.



### **FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL**

April 1	A. J. Puzzo
	Jennifer Carriel
April 4	Cindy Klingner
April 10	P. J. VanDeWeert
April 15	Karen Klingner
	Mialy Rakotoselson
April 23	Olivia Taylor
April 28	Cynthia Callahan
	Kevin Jonson

**April 7th (Fri) 8:00 PM**

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION!**

**Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia**

**Happy Easter!**

**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 donation is accepted to cover refreshments & utility cost.**

**WHEN:** April 7th, 2017 (Friday)  
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
Next Session: May 12th, 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)  
Masahiro Yamazaki (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](http://www.leoniapres.org)**



## **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:** The total cost is about \$800-\$1000, depending on airfare costs. However, the church wants to make this more affordable so we are hoping to cover the costs of staying at the service site and our ground transportation, so you would just have to pay airfare (about \$600). Please let Leah know of your intentions ASAP; if you need help with airfare too, the church can help with that.

**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)

# **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 attend school due to the cost, and many do not have things we consider basic in the United States, such as shoes.

**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](http://www.childrenofuganda.org) for pictures and more information about the organization. Last year we raised \$2,000 for this worthy cause. Please join us.

**Date: May 20th (Saturday) 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!**

The Presbyterian Church members will set up the tables and chairs; sellers will bring their tagged merchandise for sale by 9:30AM.

All merchandise should be unused or slightly used. Any left over merchandise should be removed by the seller.

Sellers will donate all or a portion of their sales towards our fundraiser.

**If interested in being a seller, please contact:**

**Pat at [secretaryleonia@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryleonia@gmail.com) 201-944-1358 or**

**Mike Ito at [mike.ito@verizon.net](mailto:mike.ito@verizon.net) 201-679-6616.**

**You must register in advance. There is no fee to attend.**



ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY WITNESS:  
Station Locations and Times for Leonia Walk

Station One: 12 Noon.  
Mount Zion Baptist Church  
124 Schor Avenue

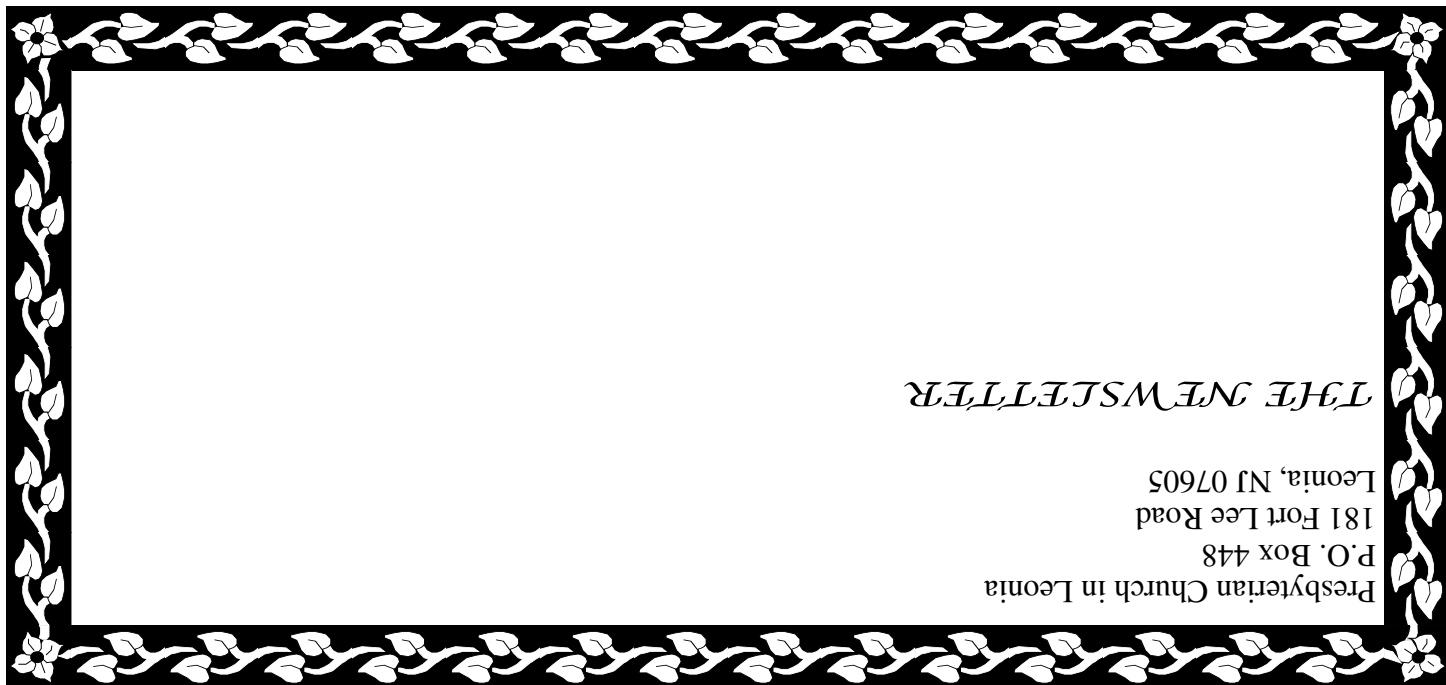
Station Two: 12:40 p.m.  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
150 Park Avenue

Station Three: 1:20 p.m.  
The Presbyterian Church in Leonia  
181 Fort Lee Road

Station Four: 1:45 p.m.  
Leonia United Methodist Church  
396 Broad Avenue

Station Five: 2:10 p.m.  
Leonia United Methodist Church  
Outdoor Worship Area  
396 Broad Avenue

Station Six: 2:35 p.m.  
St. John the Evangelist  
Roman Catholic Church  
470 Broad Avenue



## THE NEWSLETTER



### **Church Karaoke Night!**

Saturday, April 1, from 5-7 pm you have permission to make a fool of yourself and still be respected and loved. It is April Fools' Day, and no better time to try out your tunes and moves with the church. We will welcome friends of all ages, and will have prizes for top talent (or most fun performance, regardless of talent). Too scared to sing? We will take you as a backup dancer! The church will order pizza and we ask that you bring along a side of your choice!