

THE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

Sharing the Journey of Discipleship

Last month, JunHee Han shared a testimony from his faith journey. In it, he reflected on the disciple Thomas' doubt even as the resurrected Jesus stood right in front of him. JunHee shared some of his own stumbling blocks to faith. If we are honest, we all have questions that do not have answers; we have stories of when the church let us down; we have all seen Christians who do not behave the way Jesus taught us. We have been those people too!

These struggles are not new to the faith. The ESL Bible Study class is reading First Corinthians, a letter Paul wrote to one of the early churches in his missions. The church in Corinth had these same struggles too! But as Paul said, it is in a community of faith that we hold one another up. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (1 Cor. 12:26).

We are already a church that does this well in the care we show for one another. I think we can also do it in the encouragement of faith. There is something about being part of a community of believers that makes this journey of following Jesus so much more worthwhile than trying to go it alone. Sure, sometimes we may annoy or disappoint one another. But if we believe the resurrected Jesus might appear beside us today, where better to look than to those who are also struggling to practice the faith, even if imperfectly?

I am so excited to journey together with you as we share the joys and challenges of faith. Please plan to come to my Service of Installation on May 7 at 3 pm, and take part in asking God's blessing on our ministry together.

Your companion on the journey,

Leah



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REMINDERS

INSTALLATION OF THE REVEREND LEAH FOWLER—MAY 7 AT 3:00 P.M.
(SEE PAGE 3)

GARAGE SALE Saturday, May 20 Articles on pages 4 & 10

JAZZ JAM Friday, May 12 at 8:00 p.m. Flyer on page 12

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 7

10:30 a.m. Worship with the Jazz Band

3:00 p.m. Installation Service of the
Reverend Leah Fowler as Pastor

Sunday, May 14

10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
Remembering our Mothers

Sunday, May 21

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day
Children's Garden blessing after worship

Sunday, May 28

10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day
Worship: "All That Is Mine, Is Yours"



Adult Church School – Sundays 9:30 AM Weekly

For visitors and congregation members who want to study Scripture or grow in their Christian faith the Adult Church School offers an easy to attend Sunday morning class. The session is 45 minutes, 9:30 AM till 10:15 AM almost every Sunday morning through the school year. This year the class has been reading the Minor Prophets (Hosea, Amos, Micah, etc.) who wrote during the time of Israel's captivity and exile, and then progressed to Esther (also during the exile), ending with the return to Jerusalem as described in Ezra. It's been an exciting year.

We will continue to finish up this reading and start to plan for next year. In the past we have read various books, including ***Abraham the Father of Three Faiths, Tattoos on the Heart*** and others. But we also could continue to read Scripture and understand its message to us. All suggestions and all participants are welcome.



A Wonderful Day for our Church Family: Sunday, May 7 @ 3:00 pm: 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.

Keep in mind that Pentecost Sunday is on **June 4!** We will be hosting worship at our church, with the congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Teaneck as our guests! The Rev. Gloria Tate will preach, and we will enjoy fellowship afterwards. (This image is by Japanese artist Soichi Watanabe, and is called "The Coming of the Holy Spirit").



Garage Sale for Children of Uganda

Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

For the eleventh year in a row, it is time for the Garage Sale for Children of Uganda. We need new or gently used items to sell. We can sell most everything you can donate with the exception of brown tube TVs and used shoes (flat screen TVs and monitors are fine). You may drop off all items Wednesday, May 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Thursday, May 18, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon and Friday, May 19, 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 7:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. If these hours are not good for you, please contact Fumio Ito. Please leave all items behind the ark in the Entry Room. Anything that is not sold should be picked up by the donor at the end of the sale or on Sunday morning.

In order to make the most money possible, we are asking for YOUR help. Can you donate a case of water and/or soda? We also need 30 bagels, butter and cream cheese. And finally, two large thermal trays filled with ice. If you can help with any of these things, please speak with Fumio Ito.

We also need your help to spread the word. Please invite your friends and neighbors to come **We especially need help on the day of the sale.** Please sign up in the entry room. Remember, all the money we make at this garage sale will go to the Children of Uganda. With your help and support, we can again have a successful garage sale. We thank you for all you do. to help with this event.

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2017

USHERS

May 7: Anne Stebbins, Ammal Varky, Judith Nyirongo
May 14: Jack Peters, Karen Peters, Hyung Shim
May 21: Jeff Im, Kristen Richter, Jihyun Kim (Julia)
May 28: Lisa VanDeWeert, Roberta Toolen, Keyla Garcia

OFFERING COUNTERS

May 7: Olivia Taylor, David Voreacos
May 14: Jonathan Phillips, Pete Shanno
May 21: Hyung Shim, Fumio Ito
May 28: Ginny Brown, Jonathan Phillips

NURSERY CARE

May 7: Judith Nyirongo
May 14: Yukiko Aoki
May 21: Linda McCarry
May 28: Vicky Li

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR SUMMER CAMP?

Parents, are you planning **SUMMER CAMP** for your kids? Check at the programs at Johnsonburg Camp and give your children a great experience at our Church Camp, a carefully crafted program with lots of fun and new friends, and a place to grow in their faith. There are half-week camps for grades 1-3 and one or two week camps for older children and teens. Camps range from sports to explorers, crafty and cookout camps, soccer or science, mystery or music/art/drama camps, biking or tubing, ropes and rocks, canoeing, archery or water world camp and so much more! Contact Rev. Fowler if you are interested in a scholarship.

There are also one, two or three day FAMILY options in July and August sleeping in tents, cabins or in the lodge. Check out these great opportunities for a family vacation.



SUNDAY COFFEE CART HELPERS

Can you please help with this weekly coffee cart on Sundays in May and June. Volunteers are needed to supply, staff, and service our weekly refreshments. Please see Karen Peters at church or email her at jkmk142@aol.com

Family Promise

We are serving our brothers and sisters at the family shelter on June 19, 20, 21. Cooking teams and overnight helpers are needed for each of the 3 dates. Please contact Linda McGarry for more information.

May 6: Church wide Cleanup Day! Help our building and grounds by doing some Spring Cleaning! Please bring gardening gloves, and if you have it a rake! We will meet at 9 am and help our church look glorious for the Spring!



Thank You

- The total for **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** collected in April was \$1,912.81. The money will support the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Fund, and the fund for the Self-development of People.
- The **Maundy Thursday** donation from the children was \$30.80 which will go to the Center for Food Action.
- The **Easter** offering totaled \$1,074.50 which will be split between Loaves and Fishes and the Center for Food Action.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Kazuko Abe
May 2	Pamela Wright
May 4	Phyllis Ann Puzzo
May 8	Leo Voreacos
May 15	Jack Peters
May 16	Joe VanDeWeert
May 19	Tony Puzzo
	Rena Marie Shim
May 22	Sonia Solano
May 25	Diane Borer

SESSION MESSAGE

Session has received reports from various committees regarding many upcoming events, including a Parents Night Out on Saturday May 13, which will offer a variety of activities including pizza and a movie for the children and a Strawberry Festival on June 11 after worship.

Rev. Leah reported and Session has received an email that Presbytery has adopted a child protection policy. We will plan a training program on how to be a safe church. More information on this will be shared as plans are finalized.

On April 20, the Property Committee held the latest in a series of meetings regarding our upcoming kitchen/bathroom renovation. The remodeling and redesign of the bathrooms will be extensive. This work is planned for the summer and is eagerly anticipated! Church members will also see many changes to the playground area, which will reflect the latest safety requirements by the State for the daycare center, Take My Hand.

We look forward to Rev. Fowler's installation on May 7 at 3:00 p.m. (service followed by a reception). We will be welcoming a number of special guests to help lead the service and hope that all will attend to celebrate this very important day in the life of our church family.

Submitted by
Cynthia Callahan
Clerk of the Session

Parents' Night Out!

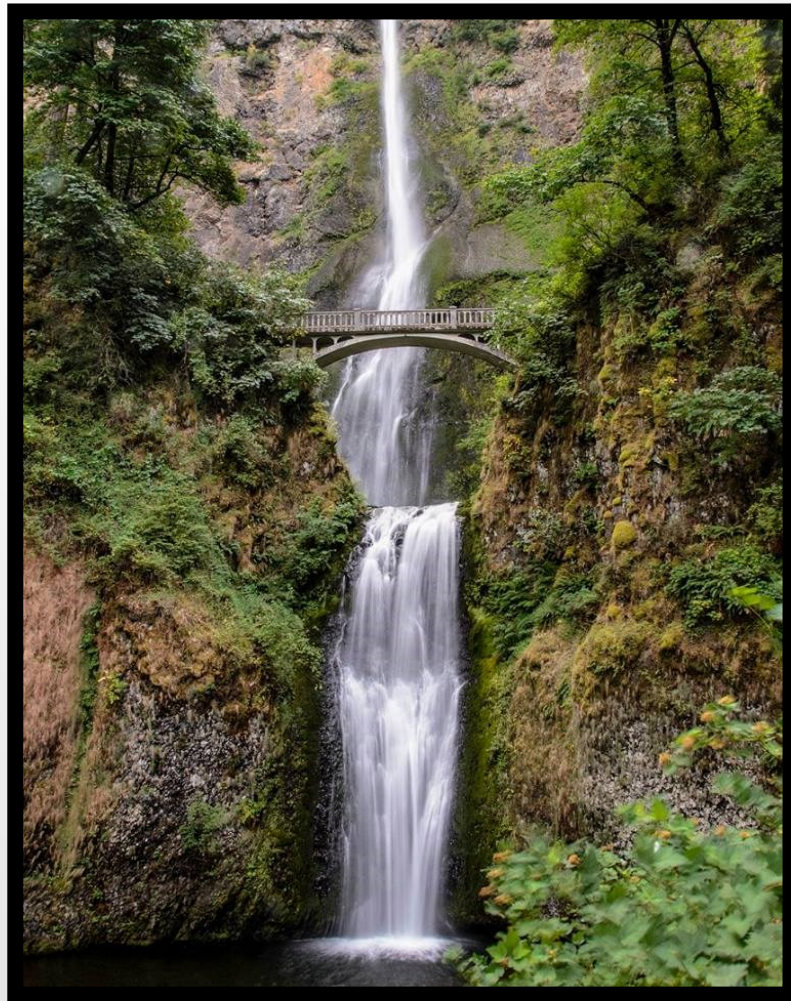
Are you parents out there feeling tired, overworked and overextended with parental duties? The Membership and Outreach Committee has the perfect solution for you - Parents' Night Out! On Saturday, May 13th from 4 - 7 pm we have hired someone who will take care of your children at the church, along with several volunteers from our congregation. We will provide pizza, games, a movie, etc. which will give you enough time to enjoy a meal out, perhaps. (Reminder gentlemen, it's the day before Mothers Day!) Please let either Linda McGarry or Susan Shanno know that you plan on participating

Christian Education Dates

- ⇒ Sunday May 7: Planting of Children's Garden during Sunday School (weather permitting)
- ⇒ Wednesday May 24 7:30 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting

Member Shout-Outs

- ◆ Congratulations to Susan and Pete Shanno, who were honored by the Lions Club for their outstanding service to the community. You are treasures to our church and to those around us!
- ◆ Congratulations also to Ginny Brown, who had a beautiful exhibit at Leonia Library. Her photos are a real testimony to the beauty of God's creation. The one shown here is Multnomah Falls, Columbia River Gorge, Oregon. Thanks for bringing us there!





Holy Moly!

It's time to talk about the church retreat already!!?

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 9 – Sunday, September 10th** and get ready for some Holy Hospitality! We'll explore what Holy Hospitality means within our church, our community and ourselves. While there's always plenty of time for family fun, we're tweaking the format a bit this year to offer additional spiritual reflection and study for those not interested in boating, fishing or shooting arrows.

We promise a good time will be had by all, no matter how old or young, holy or unholy you are. So, please join us! Come for the day or come for the night! Just come ready to have some fun!

Please e-mail betsyvoreacos@aol.com to let us know you're interested and get your \$50 deposit in ASAP !

Sign up and pay by June 18th for a \$5 per person discount!

**Annual Fall Retreat
Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center
Johnsonburg, NJ**

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 for pictures and more information about the organization. Last year we raised \$2,000 for this worthy cause. Please join us.

Date: May 20th (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!

- 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 secretaryleoniam@gmail.com 201-944-1358 or

Mike Ito at mike.ito@verizon.net 201-679-6616.

You must register in advance to be a seller.

There is no fee to attend.

Mike Ito
Presbyterian Church in Leonia
Asian Ministry Program

May 12th (Friday) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION!

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Happy Mother's Day!

Audience or Player, everyone is welcome!

*** To Player: Bring instruments and play with pros.**

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: May 12th, 2017 (Friday)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Next Session: June 9th, 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 questions.

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

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

The Presbyterian Church in Leonia, 181 Fort Lee Road, Leonia, NJ 07605

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Address Correction Requested

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P.O. Box 448
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