

THE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017

FROM THE PASTOR

A few weeks ago, at the peak of Spring, there was a persistent robin red-breast outside my front porch window. This bird kept seeing itself in the reflection and thinking "Oh what a pretty bird!" and dive-bombing its reflection in the window. Over, and over, and over again! We tried hanging one of my daughter's art pieces in the window to show the window is solid—didn't matter. Thunk! Thunk! Thunk! we would continue to hear as we chewed our morning breakfast.

I know sometimes I can be like that bird. I can get so caught in my own mind that I trip over myself. I think the same thoughts. I worry the same worries. I fall into the same patterns of behavior that have tripped me up over the years. I choose people in my life that reinforce that sameness. Maybe when I stare into my mobile phone, I look like that bird!

But what the church can offer is a holy wind that carries us away from these self-reflecting windows. In the church, the Spirit brings us into a relationship beyond ourselves: with God, with our neighbor, even with people with whom we do not always agree.

As we open our eyes and see the vastness of what God offers to us, we can spread our wings and do courageous things in the name of the God who carries us.

After my installation last month, I feel lifted by this congregation and the Holy Spirit who joins us when we come together. Week after week, we are moved to think beyond our own reflections and consider something divine. This month starts with the Pentecost story—the coming of the Holy Spirit onto the church. May this holy wind continue to through us, in us, and beyond us!

-Leah

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler, Pastor



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA
181 FORT LEE ROAD,
P.O. Box 448
LEONIA, NJ 07605
TEL. 201 944-1358



HEADLINERS

Pentecost Sunday-June 4: The Rev. Dr. Gloria Tate will preach and Teaneck Presbyterian will join us on this day.

Sunday School Recognition Day-June 18. Hear from the children and thank our dedicated teachers.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 4-Pentecost Sunday

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

Wear Red! We welcome Teaneck Presbyterian Church to worship and The Rev. Dr. Gloria Tate to preach. Jeremiah Mwenifumbo will be baptized and we will celebrate communion.



June 11

Strawberry Festival

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

Allen Terrell will preach while Pastor Leah is on vacation. Fun facts: did you know Allen graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary and has served in pastoral roles, in addition to his work as an artistic director? Following worship is our Strawberry Festival-enjoy these sweet fruits at the peak of their season!

June 18

Sunday School Recognition Day and Church Picnic

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

We will hear from the children in our Sunday School classes, present the 3rd graders with their Bibles, and thank our wonderfully dedicated and creative Sunday School teachers. Stay after for our best picnic of the year!

June 25

Pride Sunday

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

We affirm God's radically inclusive welcome as we know through Jesus Christ.



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

June 11th immediately after the worship service, the Membership and Outreach Committee would like to invite you to come to our annual Strawberry Festival. We promise you yummy pound cake, strawberries and whipped cream – now who could possibly turn that down?! We hope to see you there!

Pastor Leah on Vacation June 5-12

Leah Fowler will be on vacation with her family June 5-12. We are glad to welcome Allen Terrell, one of our newer church members, as our preacher for June 11! Pastor Leah's friend The Rev. Hyo-Jung Kim, who is pastor at the Morsemere Community Church in Ridgefield, will be on call for pastoral care if needed; contact the church office for her info or to reach Pastor Leah in an emergency.

USHERS, COUNTERS, NURSERY FOR JUNE

USHERS

June 4: Fara Razafy, Linda McGarry
June 11: Susan Dindial, MaryEllen Neu, Virginia Cora
June 18: Anne Stebbins, Ammal Varky, Judith Nyirongo
June 25: Jack Peters, Karen Peters, Keyla Garcia

OFFERING COUNTERS

June 4: Olivia Taylor, David Voreacos
June 11: Hyung Shim, Fumio Ito
June 18: Ginny Brown, Olivia Taylor
June 25: Pete Shanno, David Voreacos

NURSERY CARE

June 4: Joe or Lisa VanDeWeert
June 11: Sarah Han
June 18: Keyla Garcia
June 25: Kristen Richter



CHURCH PICNIC –JUNE 18!

Our annual church "All Church" Bar-B-Que will be held after worship on June 18, rain or shine. The Christian Education Committee will supply the hot dogs and hamburgers. Attendees are invited to bring salads, desserts, beverages, and condiments. There will be a sign up sheet in the Fireplace Room. So start getting out your summer picnic favorite foods and join us in our backyard.

NOTES FROM SESSION

Rev. Leah discussed ideas for creating a safe space for the children and youth of our church, which she will be working on with the Christian Ed committee. We represent the Church and God in dealing with our young people, and take this responsibility very seriously. We want to develop mentoring relationships which draw our youth into the community

We continue to move forward with the business of preparing for the renovations which our church building will undergo this summer, including asbestos removal and upgrading of our restroom and kitchen areas. Elder P Shanno is looking into scheduling in an effort to avoid disrupting our Sunday worship, keeping in mind that the building cannot be used while asbestos work is being done.

We're thinking of ideas to get everyone in the swing of using the sign-in pads now placed in the pews. Everyone, whether visitor or regular member, should sign the pad each Sunday and pass to their neighbors in the pew. We can stay in touch with you, and you can see the name of that person next to you whom you SHOULD know but can't remember!

Happy
Father's
Day

WHAT A BLESSING!

We are so thankful for the time, care and commitment given weekly by our Sunday School teachers! We will recognize them in the June 18 worship service. When you see them, please thank them for teaching our kids about God's love. They are: Sarah Han, Judy Nyirongo, Keyla Garcia, Vicky Li, Suzanne Broffman, Joe VanDeWeert, Lisa VanDeWeert, and Jonathan Phillips.



We are also very thankful to JunHee Han for his service playing music for the Sunday School children to start our time together each week. You are messengers of God's love and we are glad to have you as models of faith.

Welcome New Members! We are so glad to have new members Llesli Gonzalez-Chand and Roger Chand, with twin daughters Reena and Riya, and also Oduri Ko. Llesli and Roger and their daughters were members of the West Side Presbyterian Church in Englewood before it closed. They were looking for a church that has a strong ministry with children, so the twins quickly became an integral part of our church Sunday School. Oduri lives in Leonia. She has been singing for months in our choir and also participates in the ESL Bible Study. She is from Korea originally, and her two adult kids live there still. We are so glad you have joined our church family!



FAMILY PROMISE

We are serving our brothers and sisters at the family shelter on June 20, 21, and 30. Cooking teams and overnight helpers are needed for each of the 3 dates. Volunteers of cooking teams will make dinners for that Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday nights. Each team plans and prepares a dinner for 15 people. Cooking is done in your own home and can be reheated at the shelter. Once again the Leonia Methodist Church has offered its building for the shelter site. Please contact Linda McGarry for more information. Sign up flyer is on the Ark.

INTERFAITH IFTAR We are invited by the Peace Islands Institute to an Interfaith Iftar, on Thursday, June 15, at 7:30 pm. We will have the chance to hear a lecture about the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan, here the traditional call to prayer, and then begin with the meal at sundown, about 8:30 pm. Please RSVP with Pastor Leah by June 12. You can carpool from the church, leaving at 7:15, or meet there, 777 Terrace Ave #109, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ.



Schedule for summer:

Starting July 2, 2017 for the remainder of the summer months, our worship service will be moving into the Fireplace Room to enjoy the comfort of the cool air conditioning.

June 9th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION!

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Happy Father's Day!

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: June 9th, 2017 (Friday)
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Next Session: July 14th, 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



**Don't try to worm
your way out of it!
We want YOU at the Church Retreat this year!**

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 see Betsy or e-mail betsyvoreacos@aol.com for more info.

Pay by June 25th for a \$5 per person discount!

Annual Fall Retreat

Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center

Johnsonburg, NJ

September 9-10, 2017

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Address Correction Requested

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

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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1	Bob Bauer
	Philip Wilson
June 2	Grace Ceragno
June 5	Leslie Boyle
June 8	Sarah (Jung Uk) Han
June 11	Karen Peters
June 14	Donna Hunt