

THE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA 181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. Box 448 LEONIA, NJ 07605T
WEBSITE WWW.PRESBYLEONIA.ORG

What's up with the Holy Spirit?

Many of you have told me that you have been told about God your whole lives, and while sometimes faith is difficult, you try to believe and trust in God. When I have heard some in the church talk about Jesus, I hear differing opinions about what you believe about him—for instance, some believe in his miracles, and others remain uncertain—but all agree that he was a historical figure who offered teachings worth following. The Holy Spirit—the third person of the Christian Trinity—tends to send more of you into confusion. No, we are not a Pentecostal Church, with signs of the Holy Spirit such as healings or speaking in tongues on regular display in worship. But the Holy Spirit is an equally important part of the Trinity. Since June 9 is Pentecost Sunday, and will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, I'd like to share some of what the Presbyterian Church (USA) Brief Statement of Faith says about the Holy Spirit, and how I see some of that alive in our church today.

The Holy Spirit “gives and renews life.” In Hebrew and in Greek, the word for breath is the same word for spirit. So if we want to connect with the Holy Spirit on a basic level, all we have to do is slow down and be attentive to our breath.

The Holy Spirit “sets us free.” We pray the Prayer of Confession each week so that the Holy Spirit can set us free from sin. Not only that, but the Spirit's guidance leads us to seek the freedom of those who are oppressed.

The Holy Spirit “binds us together with all believers.” We pass the peace each Sunday to be reminded of our connection to one another, which extends far beyond our sanctuary, caring for the Church beyond the boundaries of wealth or nation. When we share worship with Teaneck and Bethany Presbyterian, or remember loved ones with candles at All Saints Day, we are bound to all believers of every time and place.

The Holy Spirit “inspires.” What we do in worship is a dress rehearsal for how we live our lives. Through the week, the Holy Spirit nudges us with the words and prayers and songs we shared in worship last Sunday, urging us to shape our lives by these.

The Holy Spirit “claims us in the waters of baptism.” We will baptize Mila Sahai on June 9, and be reminded of how those waters not only speak to this tiny child, but also are a continuing blessing to those who were baptized months, years, or ages ago.

The Holy Spirit “calls us.” A sense of calling is not only for Pastors. The Holy Spirit calls each of us, wherever and whoever we are, to take part in what God is trying to do for the world. It may be through our work, or it may be through our participation in family or community life, or through acts of justice and service. The Spirit calls us to the ministries of the church, whether cleaning up after coffee hour, singing in the choir, or serving as Elder or Deacon. On June 23, we will honor recent graduates—2 from college, 2 from grad school, and one from a vocational program. We will bless them and honor the Holy Spirit's call in their lives as they look towards what they will do next.

The Holy Spirit “gives us courage.” Whether it takes courage to stand up to a bully, to pray publicly for someone in the hospital, or to resist racism's reach, the Holy Spirit is there for us.

The Holy Spirit “empowers us.” We never have to feel alone on the sometimes challenging path of discipleship. The Holy Spirit gives us power, and week to week, we lift one another up in friendship and prayer. We are more powerful together than any of us can be on our own.

Happy Pentecost!

With blessing and care,
Leah
The Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler, Pastor



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 2- Ascension Sunday

June 9- Pentecost Sunday, Baptism of Mila Sahai (daughter of Marlon and Christina Sahai)

June 16- Sunday School Appreciation Day

June 23- Blessing of our Recent Graduates

June 30- Pride Sunday- 50-year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots



Greeter, Second Readers, Ushers , Counters and Nursery for the month of June

GREETER

Month of June: MB Koo

SECOND READERS

June 2: Rena Shim June 9: Jack Peters

June 16: Susan Shanno June 23: MB Koo

USHERS

June 2: Lisa VanDeWeert, Keyla Garcia, Cory Lehnbeuter

June 9: Fara Razafy, Anne Stebbins, Susan Dindial

June 16: Hyung Shim, Karen Peters, Vicky Li

June 23: Linda McGarry, Wanangua Nyirongo, Jeff Im

COUNTERS

June 2: Diane Borer, David Voreacos June 9: David Voreacos, Pete Shanno

June 16: Anne Stebbins, Diane Borer June 23: Hyung Shim, Fumio Ito

NURSERY

June 2: Linda McGarry June 9: Nicole Lehnbeuter

June 16: Judy Nyirongo June 23: Vicky Li

Schedule for Summer

Starting June 23, 2019 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.



Hooray for our Graduates!

Let's give a shout out for our church members who have had graduations or completed vocational programs this spring and summer! We will offer them a blessing in worship on Sunday, June 23. May the Spirit lead them to find where their deep passion and the world's deep need meet—and also be paid to do so!

- Reeve Olivia Harden- Ramapo College, Psychology and Neuroscience
- Cory Woodhead- Ramapo College, Psychology
- Sibonike Mwenifumbo- Vocational Training: Phlebotomy; and Recipient of Role Model Award by Zoe's Place
- Eric Y. Hwang- MBA, Columbia University
- Nick Topousis- Masters, London School of Economics (to graduate July)





CHURCH PICNIC –JUNE 23!

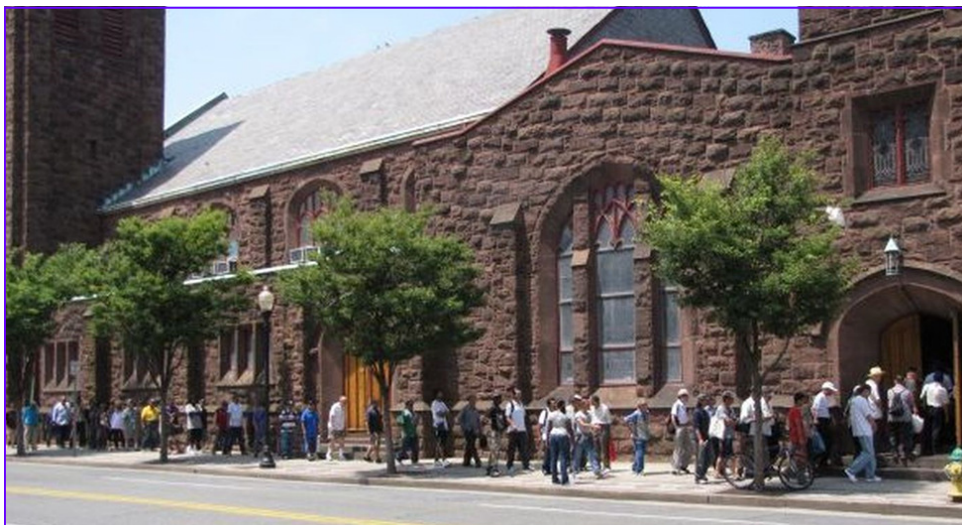
Our annual church picnic will be held after worship on June 23, rain or shine. The Christian Education Committee will supply the hot dogs and hamburgers. Attendees are invited to bring salads, desserts, beverages, and condiments. There will be a sign up sheet in the Fireplace Room. So start getting out your favorite summer picnic foods and join us in our backyard.

FAMILY PROMISE

We are serving our brothers and sisters at the family shelter on July 7,11,15. Cooking teams and overnight helpers are needed for each of the three dates. Please contact Linda McGarry for more information.

Atlantic City Mission Trip, August 18-23.

We will be serving meals to 150-300 hungry people daily at Sister Jean's Kitchen, and helping with building projects as needed. This is an intergenerational trip-- children over 5 are welcome under the supervision of their parents. Teens are welcome on their own with parental permission and release. And unattached adults are welcome too! Please see Keyla Garcia or Leah Fowler for details. Cost is \$50 per person plus shared food expenses, to be determined. Registration forms are on the Ark.





We rejoice in our new members:

Yolanda Acosta, Reeve Olivia Harden, and Cory Woodhead!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1	Bob Bauer Philip Wilson
June 2	Grace Ceragno
June 5	Leslie Boyle
June 8	Sarah (Jung Uk) Han Wanangwa Nyirongo
June 11	Karen Peters
June 14	Donna Hunt
June 19	Suzanne Broffman
June 21	Matthew Richter
June 26	MB Koo



Presbyterian Church in Leonia
Kitchen & Bathrooms Update for June 2019

It's done! It looks great! Thanks go to everyone!
We have the certificate from the Municipal Code Officials!
Here are some of the details.

I'm sure everyone remembers the congregational meeting held on Sunday, September 30, at which the fundraising committee announced that commitments of \$54,855 had made to the campaign to date. The congregation also unanimously endorsed using \$285,000 from the Generosity Fund for the needed renovations.

Since that early beginning the fundraising has grown to \$72,090. Additionally, an original donor changed the designation of a memorial gift allowing it to be used for kitchen appliances and other renovation related needs. That gift of \$8217 more than covered the cost of the dishwasher, gas range, refrigerator and microwave.

Finally, the full cost of the entire renovation comes to: \$283,058. So as announced last month, the project came in under budget by \$1942. It's really quite miraculous! Remember this was a renovation in which part of the roof had sunk and it was known that we would find extensive water damage. Between the construction contingency and choices made by the Renovation Committee there was just enough money to do the job!

Many thanks to the Kitchen & Bathrooms Renovation Committee: Jack Peters, Karen Peters, Peter Shanno, Susan Shanno, Linda McGarry, Olivia Taylor, Lisa VanDeWeert, MB Koo, Rev. Leah Fowler and Philip Wilson.

June 9: Ribbon Cutting and Blessing for our New Church Kitchen and Bathrooms!



Please stick around after worship on June 9, which is Pentecost Sunday, for our Ribbon Cutting and Blessing of our new church kitchen and bathrooms. The Property Committee will provide food and drinks to enjoy, and we will thank our donors and planners who helped to make it possible.



Our Life Together

4-5th Graders Rena Shim, Madison Richter, and Lily VanDeWeert completed the Communion Workshop in May. They served communion on May 12 with the bread they had baked, and they were the first official group to use our new kitchen! Thanks Karen Peters for helping to coordinate the baking!



Parents' Night Out—Thanks Betsy Voreacos, Karen Peters and Suzanne Broffman for this Mothers' Day gift to our families



What a Blessing!

We are so thankful for the time, care and commitment given weekly by our Sunday School teachers. Please thank them for teaching our children about God's love. They are Judy Nyirongo, Vicky Li, Keyla Garcia, Suzanne Broffman, Lis VanDeWeert, Kristen Richter, Tara Coleman and Trish Thams for doing the music.

June 14th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION!

Sponsored by 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 14th, 2019 (Friday)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Next Session: July 12th, 2019 (Fri), same time.

Program will continue once a month,

Every second Friday night.

WHERE: 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)

Barbara Sabella (Vocal)

Kirk Woodward (Vocal/Melodia/Piano)

Yoshie Tanigawara (Bass)

Derek Chen (Drums/Percussion)

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



CHURCH RETREAT REGISTRATION

Saturday, September 7 - Sunday, September 8, 2019

Overnight Cost:

Adults: \$125

Kids (ages 4-11): \$80

Saturday Only:

Adults: \$75.00

Kids (4-11) \$50.00

Saturday Only (includes breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Name of Adult(s): _____ Overnight _____

Name of Adult(s): _____ Saturday Only _____

Name of Kid(s): _____ Age _____ Overnight _____ Saturday _____

_____ Age _____ Overnight _____ Saturday _____

_____ Age _____ Overnight _____ Saturday _____

_____ Yes, I can donate a little extra to help those who may need financial assistance.

Amount of Donation: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

IMPORTANT:

We want you to come! So, if cost is an issue, please speak to Betsy Voreacos or Leah Fowler and we'll work something out.

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Address Correction Requested

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Leonia, NJ 07605

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