

The Newsletter

MARCH 2018

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

Reducing Gun Violence

As we journey through Lent, we are called to investigate the demons in our lives. There is a demon that this country has allowed to live among us in comfort. It is a demon that has taken the lives of innocent people; it is a demon that allows for child sacrifice; and it is also a demon that helps those in despair take their own lives. The demon is that of gun violence.

The Mission and Stewardship Committee decided at its February 21 meeting to put a spotlight on gun violence, and following the words of the Prophet Isaiah, to use our faith to "beat swords into plowshares" (Isaiah 2:4). Before the committee came to this decision, at the Leadership Retreat earlier in the month, both Elders and Deacons identified gun violence as a concern they would like our church to address—and this was before we saw yet another shooting in Parkland, Florida. Children and teachers deserve to learn together in schools that are safe from violence, and protecting them is one way we live up to our baptismal vows as Christians.

Each Sunday in March, there will be a bulletin insert with 2-3 facts about gun violence, followed by 2-3 action items you can take—sometimes from your own desk. For those who want to offer a physical witness, you can support the Leonia High School walkout on March 14 at 10 am; this effort needs to be student-led, but adults from the church can show support by standing in solidarity and making signs with messages such as "We Are Listening to our Youth!"

Also, on March 24 there will be busses going to New York City, Newark, and Washington DC for the March for Our Lives to prevent future mass shootings and other forms of gun violence by enacting smart gun legislation; I will be on one of those buses but am deciding which one. To me, it is fitting that these marches happen the day before Palm Sunday, when we celebrate Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem as a contrast to the Roman Emperor's procession marked with the tools of violence. To join in one of these marches with me, please email me at pastorleoniam@gmail.com.

In hopes for Easter,

Leah
Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler, Pastor



Worship services are Sundays at 10:30 am unless otherwise noted. Sunday School for all is at 9:30 am.

March 4: One Great Hour of Sharing begins with Cory Lehnbeuter speaking about the Self-Development of People ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

March 11: Worship with Communion and One Great Hour of Sharing with guest Julie Taylor from the National Farm Worker Ministry

March 18: Worship with One Great Hour of Sharing Minute for Mission on Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

March 20: 8:00 pm Lenten Service of Ritual and Prayer for Survivors of Relationship Violence

Observe Holy Week with The Presbyterian Church in Leonia

March 25 Palm Sunday with Processional One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is received. : We will have a processional around the church right before 10:30 am worship with palms to reenact Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

March 29: Maundy Thursday, 7:30 pm- This service with Tenebrae will read the story of the Last Supper, Jesus' betrayal, conviction, persecution and death. It is a serious but moving service. There will be candlelight moving us to darkness and communion. You may bring "30 pieces of silver" to remember Jesus' betrayal, and let them clink! at the entry points to the sanctuary.

March 30: Good Friday, 12 noon-3:00 pm. This traveling service begins at Mount Zion Baptist Church and goes to 6 churches in Leonia, stopping for music and prayer or mediation at each house of worship. Plan to walk the distance; however, carpooling can also be arranged for those who have trouble walking.

April 1: Easter Sunday!

Sunrise Service at 6:45 am, "New" Overpeck Park Fishing Dock- casual service in witness to God's creation awakening to Resurrection; communion will be served

10:30 am Easter Sunday Service- Christ Is Risen! Raise the trumpet and bring all you can to glorify God and the Risen Christ! We will have celebrative music and release all the Alleluias we have been storing up over Lent. Invite a friend, bring the family—the joy is too much to keep to oneself



USHERS

March 11: Judy Nyirongo, Karen Peters, Jack Peters

March 18: Gretchen Harders, Lisa VanDeWeert,
Jennifer Watson

March 25: Roberta Toolen, Fara Razavy, Wanangua Nyirongo

April 1: Hyung Shim, Jeff Im, Kristen Richter

COUNTERS

March 11: Hyung Shim, Jonathan Phillips

March 18: Anne Stebbins, Pete Shanno

March 25: Diane Borer, David Voreacos

April 1: Olivia Taylor, Fumio Ito

SECOND READERS

March 11: Cynthia Callahan

March 18: Vicky Li

March 25: Venge Nyirongo

April 1: Pete Shanno

FLOWERS

March 4: Llesli Gonzalez Chand

March 11: Susan Shanno

NURSERY

March 11: Laura Gonzalez

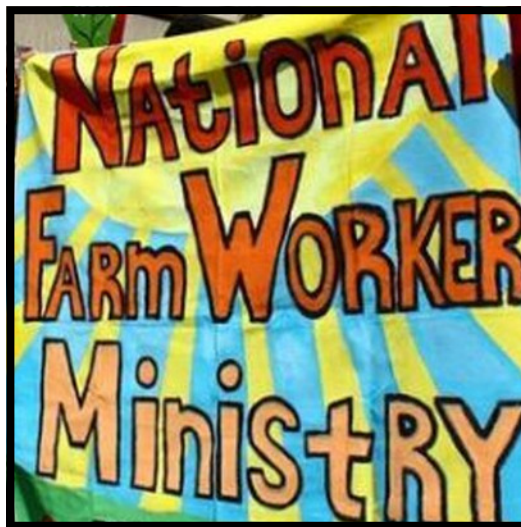
March 18: Kristen Richter

March 25: Keyla Garcia



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Kenneth Dindial
- 10 Lily Grace VanDeWeert
- 12 Maesyn Neu
- 14 Daphnie Carriel
- 16 Bonnie Callahan
Lisa VanDeWeert
- 27 Darla Addabbo
Susan Dindial
Jackson Neu



Special Adult Education Opportunity/Second Hour

On Sunday, March 11, we are fortunate to have as a guest Julie Taylor, who is the Executive Director of the National Farm Worker Ministry. This program receives funding from the Presbyterian Hunger Program, which is supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Julie Taylor, who is also a friend of our own Joyce Hamlin, will talk about justice issues surrounding farm workers, and also about immigration—as you can imagine, the two concerns often overlap! This will meet in the Fire-place Room at noon in lieu of our ESL Bible Study.

Staying in Touch with Former Friends

Over this past Christmas holiday I had the pleasure of being in touch with two former members of our congregation, Kyle & Chihiro Boon and Chantal Umuhosa. Here is their contact information and a little bit about how they are doing.

Kyle & Chihiro Boon

Block 186B, Bedock North Street 4

#13-20

Singapore 462186

email: KyleBoon@Gmail.com

Chihiro has had a second baby, Emma, and has now returned to work after a five-month maternity leave. They have just gotten the keys for their new apartment. You may remember they were talking about waiting for their new apartment to be built. They anticipate that they can move in during April. Grandpa Hon (Kyle's father with whom I correspond) describes his grandson, Noah, as "just as cheeky but lovable. He will be in kindergarten next year." Kyle & Chihiro, the children and grandparents are all doing well and send warm greetings.

Chantal Umuhosa

1100 32nd Ave., S.W.

Apt. 202

Mynot, ND 58701

email: chantum@Gmail.com 207-409-3368

Chantal is very happy in subzero North Dakota. She loves her job. After she left Leonia she lived with some other Rwandans in Boston and wrote a lot of letters responding to want ads. She was hired by an assisted living facility in Minot. Don't worry, I had never heard of it either. She shares an apartment with another woman from Rwanda, but the roommate grew up in America and Chantal says, "She doesn't talk like me. She sounds just like you. So my English has improved a lot." The day we spoke it was -20°F and Chantal described it as terrible. She says her job is lovely and she is very happy doing it. She misses all of us in New Jersey.

For people in the congregation who barely remember or think they remember Chantal, she lived in Leonia with an aunt and uncle working for the Rwandan government. She had been involved in the Rwandan genocide and had frightening stories. She's a beautiful woman, but her English was poor and she therefore was isolated and we did not get to know her very well.

Submitted by Philip Wilson

Lenten Service of Ritual and Prayer for Survivors of Relationship Violence

Tuesday, March 20 @ 8:00 pm

We have heard so much #MeToo this year; many have realized that the problem of sexual violence, harassment, and other forms of violence are too common. We need a path towards wholeness, where in a safe space we can bring our stories, find healing, and seek restoration so that our communities no longer accept violence as a norm. This service is open to all; we recognize that violence can happen to all genders. This is our second year offering the service, and we welcome participation from the community.



Announcing: Christian Educator Position at Presbyterian Church in Leonia

The Session approved at its February meeting a quarter-time position for Christian Educator, and the Christian Education Committee has now approved the job description. We are so pleased to see growth in our church, and much of that growth comes with young and very young Christians! We want to support their nurture, and the teachers to show them God's love. Our part time Christian educator will support the Sunday School, coordinate the nursery, and work to weave the youth who participated in Confirmation into an ongoing youth ministry that welcomes the community as well. The Christian Educator must conform to our child protection policy, and share in a progressive theology fitting with the Presbyterian Church (USA). If you know of possible candidates, please tell Christian Education co-chairs Suzanne Broffman and Jonathan Phillips. The job description will be on our church website as well as advertised through our denominational circles.



RAYMOND & EMMA BINGHAM SCHOLARSHIP & STENKEN SCHOLARSHIP

The **Bingham & Stenken Scholarships** are awarded by the Session to a person or persons 25 years of age or younger, who have been active in the worship and work of the Presbyterian Church in Leonia and who have been accepted for an Associate or Bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university. Applications for this year's Bingham Scholarship are due at the church **no later than Sunday, April 8**. Anyone who wishes to apply may obtain an application from the church office (201-944-1358).

Interfaith Seder for Justice

Pastor Leah has been making some wonderful connections in and beyond the Leonia community around issues of justice. Many of them are Jewish. Lately, we have been seeking spiritual food to nourish our common efforts around reducing gun violence, care for the earth, gender justice, and more. We looked to our traditions and realized that the Passover story happens in the book of Exodus, shared by Christians and Jews, and is a story of liberation from oppression. Together we have collaborated to plan a Passover Seder for Justice, which will be open to people of all or no faith, and will be hosted at Congregation Adas Emuno at 6 pm on Thursday, April 5—which is the last day of Passover. Cost will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Please RSVP as there are limited seats and we want to ensure a balance of different faiths. Children and youth are welcome. Join us as we consider what it means to “Resist Pharaoh” today.



Celebrating the Lunar New Year February 25, 2018



March 9th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION! Sponsored

by Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Celebrate Palm Sunday!

Audience or Player, everyone is welcome!

***To Player: Bring instruments and play with a 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: March 9th, 2018 (Friday)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Next Session: April 13th, 2018 (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)

Yoshie Tanigawara (Bass)

Daniel Ovadia (Drums/Percussion)

Mike Ito (Guitar)

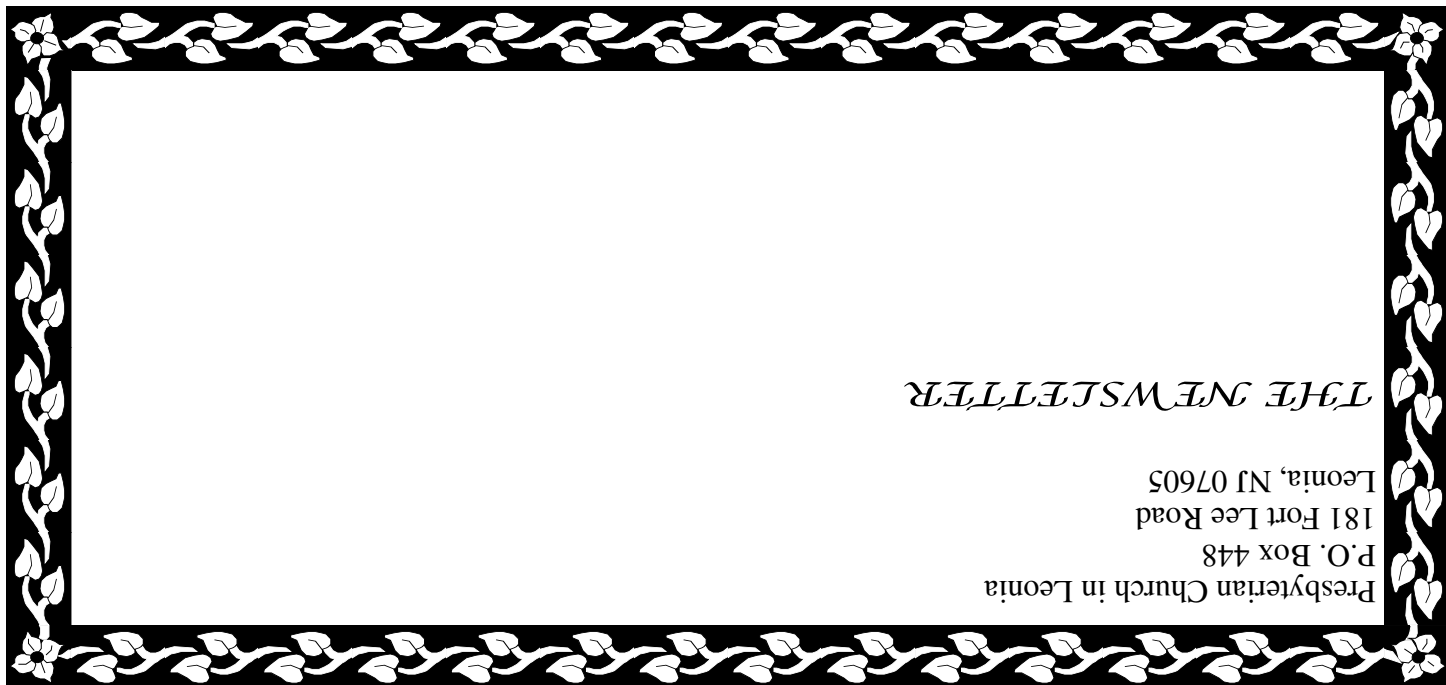
Please contact the following for any question.

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

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

Church website: www.leoniapres.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
		MARCH		10:00 am ESL Class(2)		
				1:00 pm ESL Class		10:00 am Base-ment Cleanup
				7:00 pm Bottles & Badges		
				7:00 pm CoFIA Meeting		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 am Sunday School	9:30 am ESL Family	10:00 am ESL Class(2)	9:00 am ESL Class	10:00 am ESL Class(2)		
10:30 am Worship	10:00 am ESL Class(2)	6:00 pm Deacons Meeting	10:45 am Bible Study	1:00 pm ESL Class	8:00 pm Jazz Jam	10:00am-6:00 Facility Rental
11:45 ESL Bible	7:00 pm ESL Class		7:30 pm Alnon	4:30 pm Daisy Troop		
3:00 pm Japanese Language Service			7:30 pm Membership & Outreach Meeting	7:00 pm Bottles & Badges		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
COMMUNION	9:30 am ESL Family	10:00 am ESL Class(2)	9:00 am ESL Class	10:00 am ESL Class(2)	Confirmation Camp Week-end	Confirmation Camp Weekend
9:30 am Sunday School	10:00 am ESL Class(2)	7:30 pm Session Meeting	10:45 am Bible Study	1:00 pm ESL Class		
10:30 am Worship	7:00 pm ESL Class		7:30 pm Alnon	3:00 pm Japanese Children Workshop		
11:45 ESL Bible				7:30 Endowment Meeting		
				7:00 pm Bottles & Badges		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 am Sunday School	9:30 am ESL Family	10:00 am ESL Class(2)	9:00 am ESL Class	10:00 am ESL Class(2)		
10:30 am Worship	10:00 am ESL Class(2)	8:00 pm Service for Survivors of Domestic Violence	10:45 am Bible Study	1:00 pm ESL Class		
11:45 ESL Bible	7:00 pm ESL Class		7:30 pm Alnon	4:30 pm Daisy Troop		
3:00 p.m. Japanese Language Service				7:00 pm Bottles & Badges		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	9:30 am ESL Family	10:00 am ESL Class(2)		10:00 am ESL Class(2)		
PALM SUNDAY	10:00 am ESL Class(2)		9:00 am ESL Class	1:00 pm ESL Class	Good Friday	
9:30 am Sunday	7:00 pm ESL Class		10:45 am Bible Study	7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	12noon Good Friday	



THE NEWSLETTER



EASTER FLOWERS

Help us decorate the church sanctuary for Easter by ordering flowers. The cost is \$20 for lilies and \$12 for bulb plants, which could be hyacinths, tulips or daffodils . Please fill out forms available on the Ark or call the church office (201-944-1358) no later than Friday, March 31. Checks should be made out to the Presbyterian Church in Leonia and designated for "Easter Flowers." Please let us know to whom you would like them dedicated and if you wish to pick up your plants or distribute to homebound friends.