

The Newsletter

MARCH 2019

Presbyterian Church in Leonia
181 Fort Lee Road PO Box 448
Leonias, NJ 07605
201 944-1358
Website: www.Leoniapres.org
Email: secretaryleonia@gmail.com
Church office hours: Monday 8-10 a.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 1-5:30 pm Friday 8-12 a.m.



As we move into the season of Lent, I would like to center our journey with Jesus around the themes of **cultivating** and of **letting go**. As much as I think I could benefit from fasting from sugar (and why, oh why, do Girl Scout Cookies arrive just in time for Lent?!), I recognize that for me there is not much of a direct connection between my choice to give up cookies and Jesus living out a sacred vision to the point of it costing his life. I do respect that for some, fasting is a beautiful tradition that really does get them into a sharper spiritual focus. But as I look at the scripture passages we are given through the season of Lent, I like to look to Jesus' actions and consider what they are showing me, and the church, that we can also cultivate, as well as his ability to let go of things that were keeping him from God's vision.

I see Jesus spent time alone, in prayer, and yes—in fasting (so maybe I will lay off the sugar). I see Jesus let go of some things too: he let go of his concern for the finger-pointing of Herod, of the Pharisees, and of Pilate. He told parables about grace, such as The Prodigal Son, that remind me of the power of letting go of envy. He let go of his fear of death, maybe not completely, but enough that he could move forward with his daring ministry even when his life was threatened. Right there, I have found some things I can work on during Lent. It's also good to know that the spiritual journey during Lent does not have to be a lonely one. We have lots of opportunities to practice our faith together, not only in worship but in book groups, a movie afternoon, and a lunch discussion on The Global Church. And I might add that it is likely that sometime in March, our kitchen will be ready, so that we can share and eat food from it while we are also fed spiritually. I look forward to being on the journey with you.

With blessing and care,
Leah
-The 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 3- Rev. Sarah Segal McCaslin, guest preacher. Rev. McCaslin preached with us once last year and was very well received. She works as a Psychotherapist at the Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute, and also works on ministry with St. Lydia's dinner church in Brooklyn, leading the Waffle Church with families (imagine kids worshipping God over breakfast and all the holy messiness that entails). Rev. McCaslin has also served as an Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich Village. She has 2 kids and is married to jazz musician Donny McCaslin.



Wednesday, March 6- 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service with Communion at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 62 West Palisade Ave. in Englewood. We'll join our neighbor churches, Teaneck and Bethany, as we receive ashes and communion as we start the season of Lent.

Sunday, March 10- Communion Sunday

Sunday, March 17- Facing Our Foxes and Pharisees

Sunday, March 24- Faith from a Fruitless Fig

Sunday, March 31- Promiscuous Hospitality

PRACTICING OUR FAITH DURING LENT

On March 10, we will have an Intergenerational Lenten Craft to help us practice our faith during Lent. All ages are welcome, and there will be light snacks. Please plan to stay after church from 11:45-12:30. Lenten Devotionals, called *Awakening to God's Beauty: A Lenten Invitation to Pray with Art*, are available on the Ark. They are free to the first 15 takers!

March 31: The Global Church Have you noticed the many different cultures represented in our church and wondered about the stories of faith that come from these countries? After church on Sunday, March 31, The Rev. Unzu Lee will lead a panel of our own church members talking about what Christianity looks like in the countries of their birth. We will share a lunch in advance; please sign up for lunch on the ark so we know how much food to bring.

USHERS

March 3: Fara Razavy, Anne Stebbins, Susan Dindial
 March 10: Hyung Shim, Karen Peters, Vicky Li
 March 17: Linda McGarry, Wanangwa Nyirongo, Jeff Im
 March 24: Ingrid Brennen, Jihyun (Julia) Kim, Jack Peters

COUNTERS

March 3: Pete Shanno, David Voreacos
 March 10: Anne Stebbins, Pete Shanno
 March 17: Diane Borer, David Voreacos
 March 24: Jonathan Phillips, Fumio Ito

NURSERY

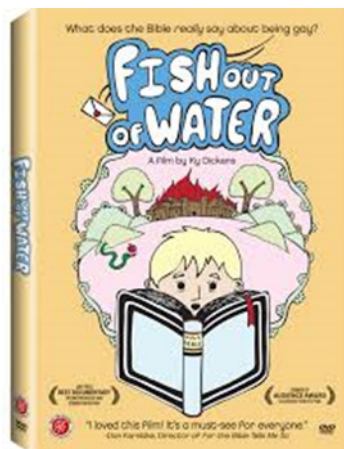
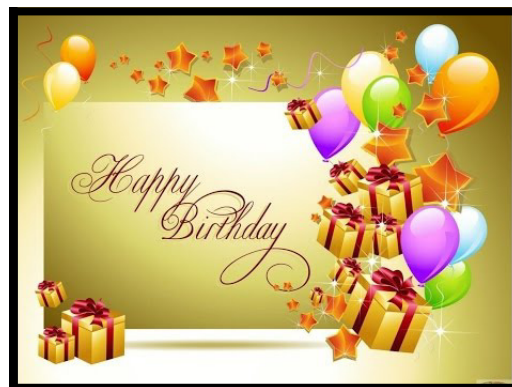
March 3: Linda McGarry
 March 10: Judy Nyirongo
 March 17: Vicky Li
 March 24: Yukiko Aoki

FLOWERS

March 3: Keyla Garcia
 March 10: Susan & Pete Shanno
 March 17: Maryellen Neu

March Birthdays

March 4	Kenneth Dindial
March 10	Lily VanDeWeert
March 12	Maesyn Neu
March 14	Daphnie Carriel
March 16	Lisa VanDeWeert
	Bonnie Callahan
March 27	Darla Addabbo
	Susan Dindial
	Jackson Neu
March 29	Jonathan Lee
March 30	Virginia Brown
	Mexon Nyirongo
	Marisol Hwang

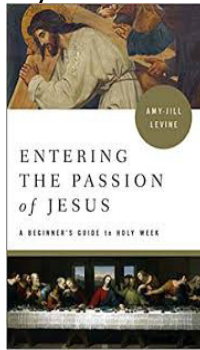


MOVIE TIME! On March 17, we will hold a showing of "Fish Out of Water" at Tara Coleman and Trish Thams' home. This is a movie that addresses scriptures that speak of homosexuality. It offers theological foundations for why we are an inclusive church. This will include an early pot-luck dinner and we are planning to provide supervised activity for any kids that come along. See Diane Lee or Trish Thams to sign up.

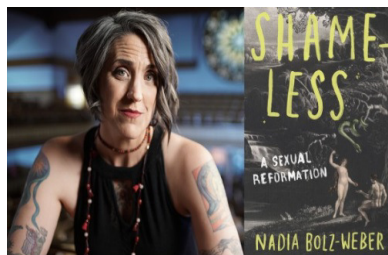
LENTEN BOOK STUDY GROUPS During Lent, we will be offering book study groups. We hope to have at least one evening group, one Sunday lunch group, and we are open to other groups that want to meet, such as in a coffee shop, bar, or somewhere else. The groups may choose which book they want to study, and whether they want to meet weekly during Lent or do a one-time gathering. The three study options are below:

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week

by Amy-Jill Levine. This book is written by a New Testament scholar at Vanderbilt Divinity School, but it is written for lay readers. This study can be done in 6 weeks as readers explore the risks Jesus took: he risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade, and risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. Readers may consider together how in their own life their faith calls them to risky decisions and moments. This group will meet Wednesday mornings at 10:45 am or you may follow along on your own.



Shameless: A Sexual Reformation by Nadia Bolz-Weber So much of the church's teachings around sex have centered on shame. Because of this, many have a hard time integrating sexually healthy relationships with their faith. Bolz-Weber has a Lutheran theology, a sailor's mouth, and a comedian's way of making theology fun. This will be a one-time discussion group—would someone like to host an evening or Sunday afternoon discussion? Let Diane Lee or Pastor Leah know!



How to Pray When Prayer Seems Impossible This is more of a spiritual practice group than a book study group. The readings are one page each week and should be easy for new English speakers. Our meetings will include the practice of prayer, and sharing what we would like prayer for. One possibility for this group is to meet after church with lunch during Lent. The author is April Yamasaki, a Japanese-American Mennonite writer. This group will meet with lunch after worship, beginning March 17.





Celebrating the Lunar New Year



Practicing Chopstick skills at Lunar New Year Celebration

Presbyterian Church in Leonia Kitchen & Bathrooms Reservations Update for March 2019

I want to begin with thanking Pete Shanno! Pete has been the man on the scene almost daily. He has assisted with regular communications making sure all of us get messages and understand what needs to be done next, clarifying issues and communicating loose ends. Pete has opened up for the workmen when Rick Pumo is unavailable. Pete has made important daily decisions on site which keeps the job moving ahead and is quick to point out every imperfection which needs to be fixed. Great job Pete! Many thanks!

Many congregation members have seen the construction zone and recognize how beautifully it's coming along. We are somewhat behind schedule, but I must admit that part of that has come from the Renovations Committee as we research items previously unknown to us, e.g. commercial range and commercial dishwasher. Our kitchen falls under the category of Place of Assembly in the codebook and although we would have preferred a less commercial kitchen, health and safety codes dictate. We also are committed to health and safety and willingly applied these codes to our renovations. The research involved, however, has been time-consuming.

Susan Shanno and I have the pleasure of reporting that we have received additional income for the Renovations Campaign. The Campaign now stands at \$72,090. It has grown \$5290 since my last report. We thank all our donors!

Many thanks to the Kitchen & bathrooms Renovation Committee: Jack Peters, Karen Peters, Peter Shanno, Susan Shanno, Linda McGarry, Olivia Taylor, Lisa VanDeWeert, MB Koo and Philip Wilson. Thanks also to Pastor Leah Fowler who has assisted in all research, every discussion and decision.



ESL Family Class

March 8th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION! Sponsored

by Presbyterian Church in Leonia

March 8th: International Women'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: March 8th, 2019 (Friday)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Next Session: April 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)

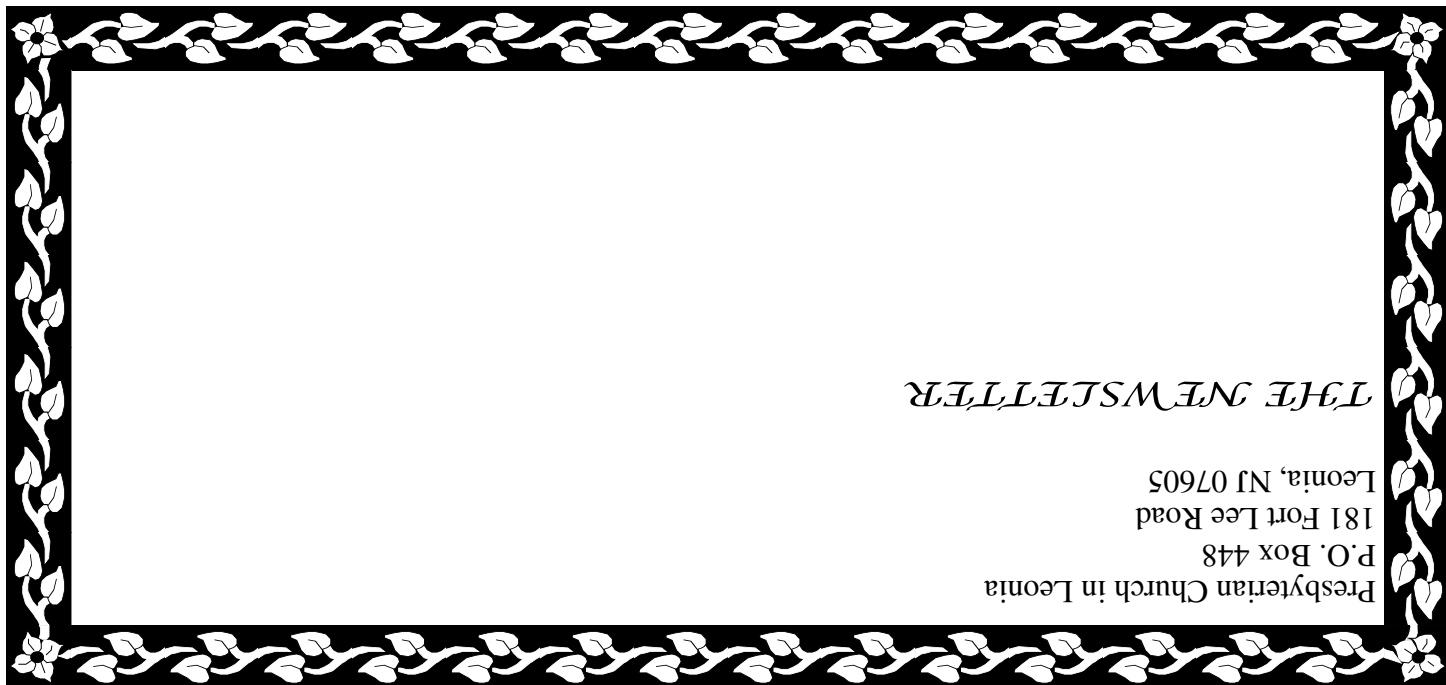
Daniel Ovadia (Drums/Percussion)

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



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 the forms located on the Ark or call the church office at (201-944-1358) no later than Monday, April 8. 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.