

# THE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA**  
**181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. Box 448**  
**LEONIA, NJ 07605**

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind..."*

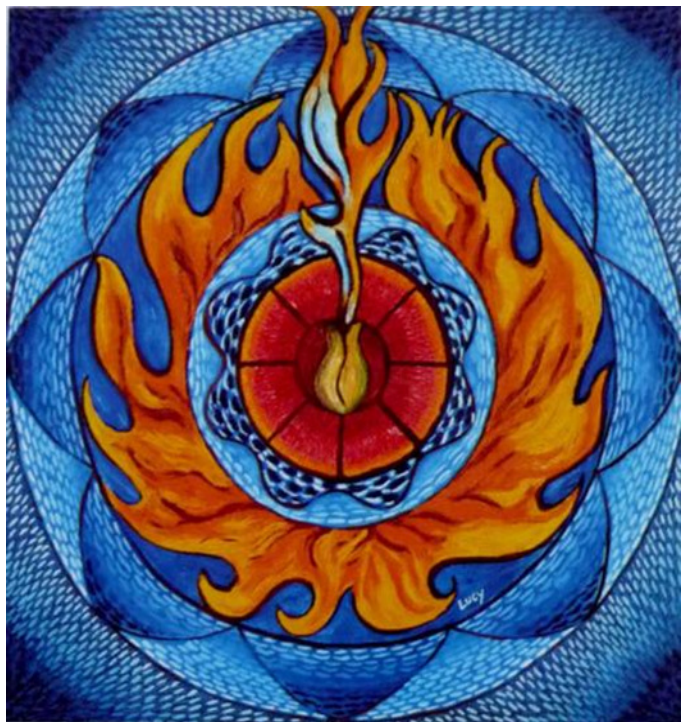
During May, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, which is the day we remember the Holy Spirit descending on the early followers of Jesus. The Holy Spirit came in like a rush of wind and accompanied them, as the Acts story describes, with tongues of fire, so that of the international crowd surrounding them, "each one heard them speaking in the native language of each."

One sign of the Holy Spirit is that, as we see in the diversity of languages it brought to the early church, its gift is meant for all people. The Holy Spirit crosses the boundaries of country and language, class and gender, wealth, and ability, as we open ourselves to the gifts the Spirit brings. The Holy Spirit is busy at work getting us ready for Pentecost leading up to Pentecost Sunday, May 20. Our lectionary readings from scripture give hints of the Holy Spirit's arrival.

And on May 6, we celebrate Confirmation Sunday and will lay hands on our youth making their confirmation, as a sign of the transferring of the Holy Spirit on them. That same day, we will have 9 adults joining the church! That is so amazing for a church of our size. It wouldn't happen if this were not a place that is open to the winds of the Holy Spirit as they shape us, and offering a welcome that crosses borders. The people joining us speak of the warmth they feel from the congregation, as well as a sense of discipleship where they believe their faith can grow. Our new members are a gift, and the body of Christ is made richer by their presence.

With Spirit joy,

Leah  
The Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler, Pastor



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday, May 6

10:30 a.m. Worship

Confirmation Sunday and New Members joining Church  
Blessing of Dogwood Tree planted in honor of Phyllis Sharpe

### Sunday, May 13

10:30 a.m. Worship

Remembering our Mothers

### Sunday, May 20

11:00 a.m. We join First Presbyterian Church in Teaneck for Pentecost Sunday  
No Sunday School or Worship at Presbyterian Church in Leonia

### Sunday, May 27

10:30 a.m. Worship

Guest Preacher: Dr. Suzanne Junod leads Worship

Suzanne Junod is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church(USA) and is a seminarian at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. After years of active leadership in her home congregation, Rockville United Church in Maryland, Suzanne felt the growing tug of the Holy Spirit's call. She made space alongside her work as Historian with the US Food and Drug Administration to explore this call. She and her husband have two kids, one in college and one in high school. She likes to participate in the bloodsport or discussing DC politics. Suzanne is from Decatur, Georgia and has known your pastor Leah's whole life—because they are cousins!!



## FOR MAY 2018

### USHERS

May 6: Jennifer Watson, Gretchen Harders, Fara Razavy

May 13: Wanangua Nyirongo, Hyung Shim, Jeff Im

May 27: Anne Stebbins, Nicole or Cory Lehnbeuter, Llesli Gonzalez-Chand

### COUNTERS

May 6: Jonathan Phillips, Pete Shanno

May 13: Hyung Shim, Fumio Ito

May 27: Pete Shanno, David Voreacos

### SECOND READERS

May 13: Nancy Salvati

May 27: Jennifer Watson

### FLOWERS

May 6: Diane Kremen

May 13: Pete Shanno

May 27: Donna Hunt

### NURSERY

May 6: Lisa or Joe VanDeWeert

May 13: Sarah Han

May 27: Chris Gajilan



## **Christian Education**

Confirmation Sunday is on May 6! As a sign of the Holy Spirit lay hands on Wanangwa Nyirongo and Leo Shim, who will be joining the church. Lillian Watson has decided not to be confirmed at this point, but will be participating in the worship service and knows she's always welcome in the church. We encourage the confirmation decision to be an authentic decision that we trust the teenagers to make, knowing if they don't make it now, they may still feel and respond to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit later in their lives. The confirmation students and their teachers, Nick Topousis and Jihyun Kim, have planned the service themselves. Wanangwa and Nick will each be offering a sermon. Lilly has made the art for the bulletin. Leo will share his music. The Confirmation mentors will help as liturgists. Thanks to Nick and Jihyun for teaching, and to those who served as Confirmation Mentors this year: Joanne Terrell (for Wanangwa), Jonathan Phillips (for Leo), Suzanne Broffman (for Lilly), Judy Nyirongo (for Noelle Terrell), Linda McGarry (for Eden Terrell).

We are wrapping up our Sunday School classes for 2018 and planning for Sunday School Appreciation Day on June 17. By the end of May, we hope to have collected background checks for all teachers, confirmation mentors, and nursery workers in supervisory role of children and teenagers, as part of our new Child Protection Policy. Please note that we have also invited the Session to do these background checks so that we have a strong pool of potential volunteers with our kids—but it is not required to do this check to be on Session. We are also looking for teachers for the fall of 2018, for our three Sunday School classes and for working with our teenagers. Volunteers need to have been an active part of our church for at least 6 months, pass the background check, and agree to our Child Protection Policy. Also, they must have a desire to share God's love with our children as we teach them the faith. Please see Suzanne Broffman or Jonathan Phillips, our Christian Ed co-chairs, if you are interested.

## **Earth Day Cleanup** **Overpeck Park-April 22, 2018**





# RETREAT

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

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 8 – Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** 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 again 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](mailto:betsyvoreacos@aol.com) to let us know you're interested and get your \$50 deposit in ASAP !

**Sign up and pay by June 18<sup>th</sup> for a \$5 per person discount!**

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



## **Thank You**

- The total for **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** collected in April was \$2,431.26. The money will support the work of Presbyterian USA Mission.
- The **Easter** offering totaled \$1,012 which will be split between Loaves and Fishes and the Center for Food Action.
- Coins collected from the children was \$67.26.

### EASTER SUNRISE AT OVERPECK PARK



**LEONIA INTERFAITH JUSTICE SEDER**

Led by Rabbi Barry Schwartz and Pastor Leah Fowler

April 5, 2018

Congregation Adas Emuno, Leonia





### **Introducing our New Members!**

We are thrilled to add to our fellowship of disciples a number of new members on May 6. We will celebrate Confirmation Sunday on that day, and as a sign of the Holy Spirit lay hands on **Wanangwa Nyirongo** and **Leo Shim**, who will be joining the church. Wanangwa is a sophomore at Leonia High School. He has been at this church since his family moved here from Malawi several years ago. He is a record breaker in Track and has a deep faith that has been shaped by experiences such as his participation in the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Leo also attends Leonia High School and can often be seen playing basketball with his friends in Wood Park, which is basically his backyard. He is a serious musician and has played in our church as well as at Jazz Jam. He also sings in his school chorale, and has studied both Korean and Japanese. He grew up in our church and we're so glad to have him and Wanangwa make their confirmation with us!

We also have a group of 9 adults who will be joining the church in May 6! The Holy Spirit has been active! Please take some time to welcome and get to know these wonderful additions to our church:

**Ingrid Brennan** is known by many since she's been worshipping with us for 4 years! Ingrid lives in Leonia and started coming to our church during major transitions in her life. She spent some years just being present, and now feels ready to become a more active part of life with us. She is immensely thankful for the friendships she's found at our church. Ingrid is an artist and an amazing cook; look forward to her baking communion bread for us sometime in the future!

**Tara Coleman and Patricia (Trish) Thams** live in Teaneck; Tara works in NYC teaching writing at a community college. Her wife Trish is Australian and teaches k-2nd grade at a public school in the Bronx. Tara comes from the Catholic church and Trish comes from a variety of Protestant churches and has a degree in biblical studies. Together they are mothers to Ollie, who is 2 ½ and will be baptized in our church next month.

**Marlene Hall** is no stranger to our church. She has attended worship here with family for years. She was married in our church to her husband Tom Sharpe, who died this year. Marlene sees spirituality as taking an important role in her life as she looks to her life ahead and would like the church to be a community where she can shape her own identity moving forward. Marlene works as an attorney and is originally from Jamaica, but has called Teaneck home since she was a kid.

**M.B. (MinBum) Koo and Diane Lee** got married to each other less than a year ago. They live in Fort Lee. M.B. is from Korea and has been here for 7 years. He works as an architect. Diane has lived in the US since 4th grade but went to university in Korea. She works in Westchester for a company that uses technology to make "smart" homes. Diane comes from a Korean Presbyterian background and M.B. has done both Methodist and Episcopal churches. They were looking for a theologically progressive church and liked the liveliness they found in ours.

**Melissa and Jeff Maldonado** have lived in Edgewater for 10 years. Melissa has a background in publishing and now works as a birth doula. Jeff works for a PR firm in Manhattan and also travels internationally for clients. Melissa has a Roman Catholic upbringing and Jeff comes from an evangelical/pentecostal background, both from Florida. Jeff started taking religion classes in college and his intellectual approach to Christianity led him away from the evangelical church. They like our church's progressive theology and welcome of children. They plan to have their 2-year old son, Gavin, baptized in our church soon!

**Rachel Stephenson** lives nearby in Palisades Park, and works as a librarian in the PalPark library. Rachel is a preacher's kid; her mom and stepdad are both Presbyterian pastors in Pennsylvania. Rachel is an ordained Deacon in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Her superpowers include power walking, manga drawing, vanishing quickly after church (PK survival skill) and teaching teenagers social media manners.



### **GARAGE SALE FOR CHILDREN OF UGANDA**

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 the week of May 13th. 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. 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.

Please refer to flyer included with this newsletter for further information.

### **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.



**May 11th (Fri) 8:00 PM**

**2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION!**

**Sponsored by Presbyterian Church in Leonia**

**Happy Mother'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:** May 11th, 2018 (Friday)  
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
Next Session: June 8th, 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)  
Barbara Sabella (Vocal)  
Yoshie Tanigawara (Bass)  
Daniel Ovadia (Drums/Percussion)  
Mike Ito (Guitar)

**Please contact the following for any question.**  
Church: [secretaryleonia@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryleonia@gmail.com) or 201-944-1358  
Coordinator, Mike Ito: [mike.ito@verizon.net](mailto:mike.ito@verizon.net) or 201-679-6616

**Church website: [www.leoniapres.org](http://www.leoniapres.org)**

# **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](http://www.childrenofuganda.org) for pictures and more information about the organization. Last year we raised \$1,800 for this worthy cause. Please join us.

**Date: May 19th (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 [secretaryleonia@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryleonia@gmail.com) 201-944-1358 or**

**Mike Ito at [mike.ito@verizon.net](mailto:mike.ito@verizon.net) 201-679-6616.**

**You must register in advance. There is no fee to attend.**

**Presbyterian Church in Leonia**

**181 Fort Lee Rd., Leonia, NJ 07605**

**Asian Ministry Program**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA: May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			10:45 a.m Bible Study	10:00 am ESL Class(2)		
			7:30 p.m. Al-Alhon	1:00 pm ESL Class		
				3:00 p.m. Japanese Children's Workshop		
				7:30 p.m. COFIA Meeting 7:30 p.m. Worship Committee 7:00 p.m. Bottles & Badges		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 a.m. Sunday School	9:30 am ESL Family	10:00 am ESL Class(2)	10:45 a.m Bible Study	10:00 am ESL Class(2)	8:00 p.m Jazz Jam	
10:30 a.m. Worship CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	10:30 am ESL Class	7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	7:30 p.m. Al-Alhon	1:00 pm ESL Class 4:30 p.m. Daisy Troop Meet- ing		
11:45 a.m. ESL Bible	7:00 pm ESL Class			7:00 p.m. Community Chest		
3:00 p.m. Japanese Language Service				7:00 p.m. Bottles & Badges		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 a.m. Sunday School	9:30 am ESL Family	10:00 am ESL Class(2)	10:45 a.m Bible Study	10:00 am ESL Class(2)		
10:30 a.m. Worship	10:30 am ESL Class	6:00 p.m. Deacons Committee	7:30 p.m. Al-Alhon	1:00 pm ESL Class		GARAGE SALE
11:45 a.m. ESL Bible	7:00 pm ESL Class			7:00 p.m. Bottles & Badges		
MOTHER'S DAY						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
11:00 a.m. Penetcost Sunday –First Presbyterian Church in Teaneck	9:30 am ESL Family	10:00 am ESL Class(2)	10:45 a.m Bible Study	10:00 am ESL Class(2) 4:30 pm Daisy Troop Meeting		
	10:30 am ESL Class		7:30 p.m. Al-Alhon	1:00 pm ESL Class		
3:00 p.m. Japanese Language Service	7:00 pm ESL Class			7:00 p.m. Bottles & Badges		
27	28	29	30	31		
			10:45 a.m Bible Study			
9:30 a.m. Sunday School	Memorial Day		7:30 p.m. Al-Alhon	7:00 p.m. Bottles & Badges		
10:30 a.m. Worship						

*THE NEWSLETTER*

Address Correction Requested

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

THE NEWSLETTER



**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