

THE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA
181 FORT LEE ROAD, P.O. BOX 448
LEONIA, NJ 07605
TEL. 201 944-1358
WEBSITE: WWW.PRESBYLEONIA.ORG
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY 8-10 A.M.
TUESDAY & THURSDAY 1-5:30 P.M.
FRIDAY 8-12 NOON

Advent Unwrapped

When we think of God, or experience God, hopefully it is a spiritual experience. It is often a mental experience—we have all kinds of thoughts and questions about God, and have been given lots of information about God too. But do we ever experience God with our bodies?

Advent is all about the Incarnation—the idea that God breaks into earthly existence, takes on flesh and blood, and dwells among us. One thing we never really think about—at least, not in the Presbyterian tradition—is that our bodies can actually be sites where God’s salvation takes place!

Whether from the hope that comes with a newborn’s cry, or the last sighs in the moment of death, God has shown a presence, in bodily existence. And I think that means that God can be present in our bodies, too.

So consider this: for Advent, try to pay attention to how your body can invite God’s salvation to dwell with you. Just as Mary said “let it be with me according to your plan,” we can also share our bodies with God. To get into the practice, here’s a prayer to try that uses both words and body. It’s from the United Church of Canada. Start by standing, and then make the following motions with words:

Holy One *reach up and out*

May the gift of Jesus *cradle arms*

Be born in me *fold arms crossed over chest*

So that all might know *one arm at a time, circle out from body*

God’s hope, *arms open wide*

God’s peace, *(clasp hands over heart*

God’s joy, *put hands in prayer position and wiggle fingers*

And God’s love *form a heart shape with fingers*

AMEN. *head down, hands at prayer with palms together*

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





WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Worship Schedule- Services are Sundays at 10:30 unless otherwise noted

- December 1** Advent One—Hope; Sacrament of Communion
- December 8** Advent Two- Peace
- December 15** Advent Three- Joy
- December 22** Advent Four- Love
Children’s Christmas Pageant
- December 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 8:00 PM
- December 25** Christmas Day Service with Communion and Jazz Carols
@10:30 am (Pajamas welcome)
- December 29** New Year’s Themed Service

SECOND READERS

December 1: Jack Peters December 8: Cory Woodhead
December 15: Venge Nyirongo December 29: Vicky Li

USHERS

December 1: Karen Peters, Gretchen Harders, Julia Kim
December 8: Fara Razafy, Susan Dindial, Anne Stebbins
December 15: Tara Coleman, Karen Peters
December 22: Jack Peters, Ingrid Brennan
December 25: Jack Peters, Karen Peters
December 29: Maryellen Neu, Judy Nyirongo, Cory Lehnbeuter

COUNTERS

December 1: Diane Borer, David Voreacos December 8: David Voreacos, Pete Shanno
December 15: Anne Stebbins, Diane Borer December 22: Hyung Shim, Fumio Ito
December 29: Anne Stebbins, Diane Borer

NURSERY

December 1: Kristen Richter December 8: Nicole Lehnbeuter
December 15: Judy Nyirongo December 22: Linda McGarry December 29: Vicky Li

COMMUNION SERVERS

December 1: Vicky Li, Lisa VanDeWeert, David Voreacos, Diane Lee, Fumio Ito.

WE GIVE TO OTHERS

At Christmas, we celebrate a great gift to us, and one of our responses is giving gifts to others. We have several distinct opportunities for such giving through our congregation:

- ◆ The annual **Alternative Christmas Gift List** is available in this newsletter and on the Ark. With it, you can support one or more particular ministries.
- ◆ Gift Tags describing the gift requests from the women and children sheltered in the **Oelhaf House** will be available. You may purchase one of the indicated gifts and offer it — wrapped for Christmas—during worship on the 15th.
- ◆ **Wrapped Children’s Toy.** This will be sent to “Never Alone Again”, which is a service that provides counseling, parenting classes, refuge, and other resources to victims of domestic violence. Please add tag stating what the gift is and please bring on December 15, also.
- ◆ You may also make a donation using the **Christmas Joy Offering** envelope in your box of weekly envelopes. These gifts will be split between the Presbyterian Joy Offering supporting retired PC(USA) clergy and scholarships for underserved students, and Safe Space, a rape crisis center.

As you have been blessed, share with others.



**THE CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION and LOAVES & FISHES
NEED YOUR HELP**

The Center for Food Action(CFA) needs your help this year, with Christmas items as follows:

Frozen turkeys, canned white potatoes & yams, boxed mashed potatoes cranberry sauce, pasta and pasta sauce, rice, pancake mix, syrup, 100% juice, canned fruit, cake mix and icing, coffee and tea, supermarket gift cards to purchase turkeys.

CFA always needs the following: canned meats and tuna, canned soups, canned vegetables, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter & jelly, cereal, dry milk and Parmalat, beans, rice, complete meals in a box, baby formula & diapers, Ensure, and supermarket gift cards, which allow people to purchase eggs, cheese, and fresh products throughout the year. The food we collect in the baskets also goes to Loaves and Fishes, a “soup kitchen” run by members of our church and other churches in our cluster. Loaves & Fishes needs canned vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, canned potatoes, canned fruit. When shopping, remember to pick up extras and bring them with you on Sunday. **Thank you.**



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA NOVEMBER 26, 2019

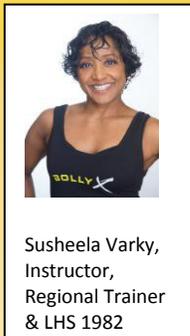


Rabbi Barry Schwartz
preached.



Foreign Exchange played.

BOLLY X



Susheela Varky,
Instructor,
Regional Trainer
& LHS 1982

BollyX is a Bollywood-inspired, dance fitness program. Burn calories to exhilarating choreography set to music from around the world. All levels welcome!

CLASS on **Thursday, Dec. 19th, 2019, 6-7pm**
Leonia Presbyterian Church, 181 Fort Lee Rd,
Leonia, NJ 07605, www.leoniapres.org

WORRY **LESS**
LOVE **MORE**
DANCE **OFTEN**

BOLLY X



Advent Calendar Crafting with Karen Peters



Judy Nyirongo gave a reading from her newly published children's book!

Stewardship Update

Pledge Dedication Sunday was November 3. To date, we have received \$110,632 in pledges, from 32 households. We have five new pledges this year, which we are especially happy to receive! Also, six households have increased their pledges. We are still hoping to hear from several households which pledged last year, with hopes that they will be able to sustain or increase their giving. Please contact Pat Major if you are considering making a pledge for the 2020 church year. Your gifts bless the church every week and even every day. What a wonderful tapestry of giving!

-Eulalia Cabrera and Cory Lehnbeuter, from the Mission and Stewardship Committee

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK December 15! After worship, we will come together to share a feast for the holidays. This is sponsored by our Membership and Outreach Committee. Please bring a dish to share, and then those who wish will go Christmas Caroling to bring joy to the neighborhood. See Betsy Voreacos for details.

Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Did Someone Say the Church Has a New TV?

Have you noticed the new TV on the wall in the Fireplace Room? Actually, I don't know how you could have missed it, if you have been at church lately.

We have to thank Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler and Chris Gajilan for this gift to the church. The story that Rev. Leah shared with Session is that their home TV broke. They could not get it to work and so, they got a new television. But somehow, in this world of wonders (and complicated appliances) the old TV suddenly came alive and began working perfectly.

Not knowing what to do with the new television still in the box, they discussed it and decided that it should be given to the church!

I'm sure I speak for all members of the congregation, including the church school children and the ESL students, in saying thank you to Rev. Leah and Chris for this practical and fun gift to the church.

Philip Wilson – Property Chair

Help with the Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday December 8th, please stick around after worship and help decorate the Sanctuary and Fireplace Room with greenery and candles to ready the space for Christmas. We need people of all ages to help with cleaning, hanging and decorating.



Hanging
OF THE *Greens*



We had several guest "Kings" trying to lure our congregation to join their kingdoms on Christ the King Sunday!

Christian Education

The Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 22. Please join us for the Christmas Pageant as the children perform .



Time and Talents Sheet

Every parishioner has a special gift to share with the congregation and we would like to capture your commitment. Please consider your commitment time and talents and fill out the Time & Talents Sheet attached. Completed sheets can be left in the collection plate or sent to the church office.



Our Progressive Dinner was so much fun!



We welcome our newly baptized little brother in Christ, Raj Tiger Chand!



2019 Christmas Gift List

Amount of Gift

1. **Center for Food Action** provides a food pantry for emergency assistance, nutrition and budget counseling for individuals and families. CFA also provides advocacy services for hunger-related issues and assists clients in providing funding for housing and utilities. \$ _____

2. **Family Promise** Unlike many housing programs, this shelter accepts both children and adults, and male and female guests—which enable families to stay together during a crisis. Case managers help families achieve financial independence. Our church helps host the shelter in Leonia 3 weeks/year. \$ _____

3. **Community of Friends in Action** is a group of volunteers from the community, churches and synagogues that works with immigrant day laborers in the area. Currently they run a Monday program at noon at a church in Palisades Park that provides lunch and speakers on various topics such as worker rights and community relations. They also provide evening English classes, a workers’ link program and assistance in collecting unpaid wages. \$ _____

4. **Loaves and Fishes** is sponsored by the Englewood, Leonia and Teaneck Cluster Churches and is located at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Englewood. They serve a weekly hot meal and send clients home with a light bag meal of a sandwich, fruit and snack. \$ _____

5. **Camp Johnsonburg** is the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center located in western NJ, an hour’s ride from Leonia. Our church has enjoyed Camp Johnsonburg for the past 30 years or more and many of our young people have been campers and/or counselors. \$ _____

6. **First Friends of NJ and NY** upholds the inherent dignity and humanity of detained immigrants & asylum seekers through volunteer visitation, resettlement assistance & advocacy. In the current climate of hostility around guests to this county, we have the opportunity to offer instead support and hospitality \$ _____

7. **Friends of Jean Webster** Formerly called Sister Jean’s Kitchen, a Presbyterian mission that serves 150-350 hungry people daily in Atlantic City. \$ _____

8. **2020 Mission Trip: Mexican Border** A delegation from our church will spend five days on the Mexican border giving aid to migrants seeking legal asylum. Our team will cook and serve meals, offer childcare, and give assistance at the bus terminal for those who make it through and are trying to connect with relatives. \$ _____

YOUR TOTAL GIFT: \$ _____

Name _____

December 13th (Fri) 8:00 PM

2nd Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION!

Sponsored by Presbyterian Church in Leonia

Merry Christmas! Featuring Christmas Songs!

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: December 13th, 2019 (Friday)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Next Session: January 10th, 2020 (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)

Ray Jacob (Drums/Percussion)

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



**PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
IN LEONIA**

Time and Talent Form 2020

NAME _____
PHONE AND EMAIL _____

MY COMMITMENT FOR 2020

As a good steward of all of God's gifts, I commit or recommit myself to serve in the following area(s) of the church's life and mission (please indicate areas in which you wish to continue to serve, or would like to begin serving):

Worship

- ___ Chancel Choir
- ___ Special Music
- ___ Usher
- ___ Read Scripture

Church School and Child Care

- ___ Children's Sunday School Teacher
- ___ Adult Sunday School Leadership
- ___ Sunday Morning Nursery Volunteer
- ___ Elementary childcare during Sunday service
- ___ Child care for special events
- ___ Camp Johnsonburg events

Mission Outreach

- ___ Teach English Conversation Classes
- ___ Help at Family Promise Shelter
- ___ Loaves & Fishes-Prepare meals every other Monday
- ___ Oelhaf House Interfaith Committee
- ___ Habitat for Humanity summer building project
- ___ Immigration Justice through CoFIA, First Friends, or other immigrant right group
- ___ Drive members to hospital or doctor appointments
- ___ Transportation to church
- ___ Mission Trip to Brownsville, TX at Mexico/US Border
- ___ Other _____

Miscellaneous

- ___ Digital Media (specify if you wish)
- ___ Operate Sound Equipment in Sanctuary
- ___ Retreat Planning
- ___ Painting
- ___ Minor Building Repairs
- ___ Yard Work
- ___ Other _____

Committee Membership

Committee members are not only welcome, but needed to do the vital work of the church. Please indicate which of these committees you would be willing to serve on. Experience is NOT required, merely an interest and a willing spirit.

___ **Asian Ministry**– Develops outreach to our Asian neighbors and plans programs to foster appreciation and understanding between people of different cultures.

___ **Budget & Finance** - Recommends the annual church budget and, along with the Treasurer monitors income and disbursements throughout the year. Also responsible for long-range financial planning.

___ **Christian Education** - Oversees the Sunday Church School and nursery; recruits and trains Church School teachers; recommends curriculum; helps provide for adult education.

___ **Fellowship** - Plans social events, fellowship hours, and maintains the Sunday beverage cart.

___ **Mission & Stewardship** - Plans and conducts programs for the financial stewardship (including special offerings) of the congregation, and interprets and promotes our mission locally and worldwide.

___ **Membership & Outreach** - Evaluates our church's communication, both within the congregation and to the wider community. Proposes, plans and executes various efforts to welcome and incorporate new members.

___ **Personnel** - Oversees the work of church employees, conducts annual performance reviews, and makes compensation recommendations to the session.

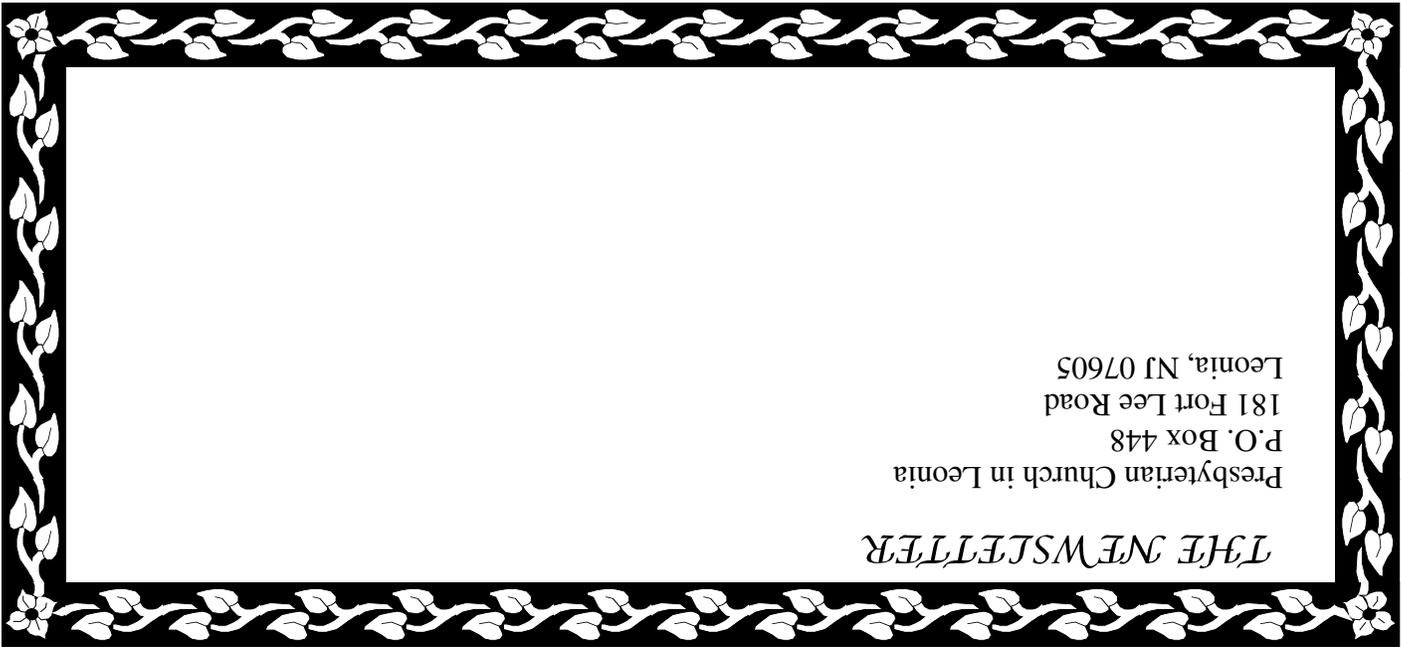
___ **Property** - Oversees the regular maintenance of the church building and grounds; proposes and implements improvement projects.

___ **Retreat** - Plans and implements one-day or overnight retreats of the congregation.

___ **Worship** - Conceives and plans special services of worship, providing for services in the Pastor's absence and for routine tasks, such as communion preparation, reading of Scripture, ushering, and preparation of the sanctuary for worship and special services.

Adult Ed Advisory Group (not official committee)- Determines the congregation's needs for bible study, discussion groups, mission education, and spiritual discernment. Advises Pastor on class formats, speakers, and/or curriculum for these opportunities.

**Please either put in the collection plate or send to the church office.
Thank you.**



Happy December Birthdays

Dec. 10 Kristen Richter
Dec. 12 Hyung Kune Shim
Dec. 24 Aiden Woojin Han
Dec. 27 Brian Jonson
Max Voreacos
Dec. 29 David Voreacos

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

