

# THE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

## Beware the Scam! Speak the Truth!

Over the holiday break, I kept getting urgent text messages from "CVS" saying that my daughter's prescription is ready in the pharmacy and to click on the link given in the text to confirm pickup. Except, my daughter had not been to the doctor and had been given no prescription. And, the text spelled her name off by one letter. Smells like a scam! In the past year or so I have had church members who have told me they have received text messages from "me" asking for gift cards or asking to click on a link. Except these were not from me! They were scams! I even got a call at the church and the caller ID gave the name of a church member, but it was a robocall offering financial services. This member is great at finance, but not quite so good at technology, so I was quite certain she would not be using robotic means to communicate with me. And, as tax season approaches, I always worry about people tricked by IRS scams (hint: the IRS will never call you- they will always communicate by mail!).

It is very hard in this day and age to know what is authentic. Apparently in Jesus' time, authenticity was a struggle as well. Jesus told his listeners, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles?"

As Christians, my hope is that we will be known as ripe, authentic disciples because the fruits we show testify to the truths Jesus left us. "So, what are those fruits?" you may ask. I say that whatever models a pathway to better love our neighbor and better love God is a good fruit for Christians to show. Actually, those aren't my words—they are straight from the bible, and affirmed by Jesus himself.

As we flesh out this new year, let our message be authentic and our fruits be apparent. We love and serve Jesus Christ. We will show this by extending the pathways of love to God, and to our neighbor. That's no scam!

Authentically yours,  
Leah  
Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler, Pastor



**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**



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY**

January 12: Baptism of Christ and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

- *Congregational Meeting after worship for the purpose of electing officers to the church to serve terms as Elders, Deacons, and Members of the Nominating Committee*

January 19: Installation of New Church Officers and Ordination of New Elders and Deacons

January 26: This Is Seriously Good News! Sharing the Message of Our Faith

February 2: Lunar New Year Celebration

**ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Presbyterian Church of Leonia will be held Sunday, February 9, 2020. Please mark your calendars



**ANNUAL REPORT**

Annual Reports Are Due January 22! Committee Chairs, please submit your report on key actions by your committee in 2019, for our Annual Meeting which will be February 9. Please be prompt in your submissions. If you need further information or have any questions, please contact Pat Major or Rev. Leah.

## **January 2020**

### **GREETER**

January 12: Venge Nyirongo

January 19, 26 Susan Dindial

### **SECOND READERS**

January 19: Diane Borer

January 26: Pete Shanno

February 2 Laura Gonzalez

February 9: Reeve Harden

### **USHERS**

January 19: Fara Razafy, Anne Stebbins, Susan Dindial

January 26: Linda McGarry, Jeff Im, Suzanne Broffman

February 2 Chris Gajilan, Karen Peters, Vicky Li

February 9: Jack Peters, Trish Thams, Wanangwa Nyirongo

### **COUNTERS**

January 19: Anne Stebbins, Pete Shanno

January 26: Diane Borer, David Voreacos

February 2 Hyung Shim, Gretchen Harders

February 9: Anne Stebbins, Hyung Shim

### **NURSERY**

January 19: Linda McGarry

January 26: Nicole Lehnbeuter

February 2: Judy Nyirongo

February 9: Kristen Richter

## **PLEDGE UPDATE**

We have \$117,592 pledged so far and hope to get a total of \$130,000 for our 2020 budget. There are still several households that have not yet pledged. Please consider your stewardship, which helps to fund our many ministries of worship, education, music, outreach, and mission, and also helps to keep our building as a warm and safe space where many groups can gather. Pledge forms are on the Ark.

## **Officers' Retreat January 18**

Our Elders and Deacons of the Church will meet for an Officers' Retreat on Saturday, January 18. We will establish priorities for leadership in 2020, clarify needs and expectations for ministry in the church, and take some time to nurture the spiritual welfare of our church leaders.

If you have anything you would like to have discussed at this retreat, please email Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler ([pastorleonia@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleonia@gmail.com)) or Clerk Cynthia Callahan ([cynthiagranville@verizon.net](mailto:cynthiagranville@verizon.net)) .

## **CHURCH FLOWERS**



If you would like to sign up for flowers for a specific Sunday, please do so by signing up on the Flower Calendar Chart which is on the wall behind the Ark Room. You will be contacted before your chosen date about what you would like printed in the weekly bulletin. If you live out of town and would like to donate flowers for a loved one, anniversary, birthday or an other special occasion, please speak to Linda McGarry or call the church office (201-944-1358). The cost is \$40 and we ask that you pay the Presbyterian Church in Leonia when you sign up. You may take your flowers home after the service, or if you choose, the deacons will distribute the flowers to members and friends of the congregation who are sick or unable to come to the worship service.



## Save the Date!

# Lunar New Year Celebration Sunday, February 2

**Worship** at 10:30 am with an offering of Traditional Korean Dance by Woorigarak  
Korean Cultural Art Center.

**Lunar New Year Potluck** 12 pm

*Please plan to bring a dish to share; if you do not bring a dish, please pay \$5 per person, or \$15 max per family.*

Neighbors, Friends and Family Welcome! Feel free to dress for the occasion wearing red, or your favorite outfits that may represent your culture.





**Our Christmas Pageant was a special and joyful presentation of Jesus' arrival!**





They may not be dressed like it, but our Sunday School teachers are angels too! (Reeve Olivia Harden and Suzanne Broffman, pictured)



PJ wore his PJ's to Christmas Day Service—and his sister Lily wore hers too!



David Voreacos, Eulalia Cabrera, and Michael Hinton were transformed into impressive Magi by our Sunday School Children for Epiphany Sunday!



Advent was a season of getting ready—and that meant getting our bodies ready too, thanks to Susheela Varky who taught BollyX!

**January 10th (Fri) 8:00 PM**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday JAZZ JAM SESSION!**

**Sponsored by Presbyterian Church in Leonia**

**A Happy New Year!**

**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: January 10th, 2020 (Friday)**

**8:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

**Next Session: February 14, 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](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)**

# ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

February 3<sup>rd</sup> - May 21<sup>st</sup> (2020 Spring Semester)

< Sponsored by Presbyterian Church in Leonia >

Everyone is welcome, From Beginner to Intermediate/Advanced.

- Practice speaking English • Find out about American culture • Make new friends!

## 英会話クラスのご案内

初心者から中級者、上級者まで、何方でもご参加ください。

- 英会話を話しながら、アメリカの文化に触れ、お友達を作る事も出来ます。

## 영어 회화 프로그램

이 프로그램은 초급, 중급, 고급반 과정으로 나뉘져 있습니다

- 실용적인 영어회화, 어휘, 속어 및 미국문화를 배우며 새로운 친구도 만나 보세요.

## Clases de conversacion en ingles

Todos son bienvenidos, desde principiantes hasta intermedio/avanzado.

- Practicar hablando inglés, conocer la cultura americana, hacer nuevos amigos.

## Registration Days, 登録日, 등록날짜, Fechas de registraci3n

WHEN: January 23<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday) & January 28<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)

10:00 am – 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

WHERE: The Presbyterian Church in Leonia  
181 Fort Lee Rd. Leonia, NJ 07605  
(Between Broad Ave. & Grand Ave.)

MATERIALS/ADMINISTRATION FEE: 費用、수업료, COSTO.

Classes meeting once a week: \$25.00/semester, 1学期に付き, 한 학기, 1 Semestre.

Visit our website for more detail.

[www.learnenglishinleonia.org](http://www.learnenglishinleonia.org)

Please contact the following for any questions or assistance.

In English; Mark Roger: [englishinleonia@gmail.com](mailto:englishinleonia@gmail.com) 201-641-0067

ご質問等ありましたら、下記に連絡ください。

日本語では; Mike Ito: [mike.ito@verizon.net](mailto:mike.ito@verizon.net) 201-679-6616

등록에 관한 문의는 아래 연락처로 하시기 바랍니다.

한국어; 심형균: [hkshim@gmail.com](mailto:hkshim@gmail.com) 917-952-2559

Para asistencia o preguntas contactar a:

En español: Susan Shanno: [susannpete@aol.com](mailto:susannpete@aol.com) 201-944-4603

Church Office; [secretaryleonia@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryleonia@gmail.com) 201-944-1358



## Happy January Birthdays

January 3 Beverly Boyle  
January 6 Maurice Lovell  
January 14 Molly Callahan  
January 15 Fumio Ito  
January 15 Jeff Maldonado  
January 16 Sia Im  
January 17 Eric Hwang  
January 17 Hiroshi Muto  
January 21 JunHee Han  
January 25 Rayna Marie Addabbo  
January 25 Darlayne Ann Addabbo  
January 25 Linda McGarry  
January 26 Maryellen Neu  
January 31 Leah Puzzo  
January 31 Leah Fowler

