



Lunar New Year Celebration and Potluck Pastor Leah's Last Sunday

This Sunday, February 2, at the Presbyterian Church in Leonia, is our Lunar New Year Celebration! We will enjoy the music of Duo Yumeno: "New York based koto / shamisen player and singer Yoko Reikano Kimura and cellist Hikaru Tamaki create a singular fusion sound, inspired by tradition but with a contemporary sensibility." Scriptures will be 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 and Luke 4:21-30, and Chris Gajilan—who was born in the Year of the Serpent—will give a short reflection, "The Serpent Speaks." The Lunar New Year choir is also presenting a Japanese hymn in worship- they will practice at 10:10 with Renee.

Worship is at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday School for children and youth will be at 9:30 a.m.

At the close of worship, we will flow into a congregational meeting for the purpose of formally dissolving my relationship with the church as your Pastor. This ritual is an important part of closing our time together with love and care.

And then, we will all feast- the Lunar New Year Potluck is my favorite church meal (outside of the sacrament of Communion). Many households will bring a taste of their comfort food, whatever kitchen or culture it comes from. If you cannot bring food, please plan to pay \$5 per person or \$15 per family- feel free to chip in more if you can.



Coming Up at PCL

PASTORAL TRANSITION The Interim Pastor search committee is at work looking for your next, pastoral leadership for the transition. There are wonderful guest preachers coming to lead worship with you beginning Feb. 9.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY meets at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays and is moving to a Zoom format to keep a consistent audio quality for all participants. Join for the study of Matthew at this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86166063706?pwd=y7nbfwjZp1TaYUBC2aU9uXBh69aExa.1>

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES return the week of February 3. Please register by January 31- info and registration form at learnenglishinleonia.org.

LUNAR NEW YEAR (WEAR RED) Invite neighbors and friends to the PCL Lunar New Year celebration on Sunday, February 2. We will have special musical guests playing Japanese Koto (traditional Japanese harp) and cello music. Chris Gajilan will give a reflection, "The Serpent Speaks." Following worship there will be a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share or pay \$5 per person (\$15 max per family) donation if you cannot bring food. Email vinamnyak@gmail.com to register if you have not yet done so.

Join the Lunar New Year Choir! The song will be a Japanese hymn our church has sung before (1 verse in Japanese, the rest in English). We are looking for the choir and singers who aren't in the choir. There will be a rehearsal next Sunday, Feb. 2 at 10:10 a.m. Here is a YouTube of the song- <https://youtu.be/L6YY-sHBWyY>

JAZZ JAM is coming up on Friday, Feb. 14, 8-10 pm. Whether with a friend or going solo, make it a Valentine's date!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP FEB. 2 This will be a short meeting, before our Lunar New Year feast, to officially dissolve the pastoral relationship Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler has with the Presbyterian Church in Leonia.

FAMILY PROMISE PCL is providing a meal for 160 people at Family Promise in Hackensack on March 2. Volunteers are needed to do everything from pick up groceries, to cook a batch of the main dish (Mexican chicken), bake brownies, or wrap utensil sets. Consider how you might help and see Vicky Li for a link to the signup.



In Our Prayers...

PASTORAL CARE In this transitional time for our church, the Deacons are prepared to respond to pastoral care needs. After Sunday, for pastoral care you may email Deacons@leoniapres.org or in an emergency, call Deacon Vicky Li at 201-790-5474 or Deacon Linda McGarry at 201-575-1465.

Today we pray for:

- The tragic loss of life of all who perished in the aircraft crash over the Potomac River last night. Lord, have mercy! Carry the spirits of those lost into your tender care, and pour your love and presence on all who grieve.
- The Interim Pastor Search Committee
- Those whose lives are impacted by the flurry of executive actions- those who may lose their jobs, those whose jobs may be cut, those who are at risk of being deported and their families, those whose access to gender affirming care is threatened, and who will be excluded from work or passport access due to their gender.
- We pray for Hindu pilgrims in India at Maha Kumbh Mela, where a stampede killed over 30 where people were heading to bathe in the holy waters where the Ganges and Yamuna Rivers meet.
- We pray that the Spirit anoint all those who feel overwhelmed in these times, and help them discern what is theirs to do, and where they can let go and breathe.

I want to extend my thanks and love to this entire congregation for making the past 9 years such a formative period in my call to ministry. You have helped to make this ministry joyful, faithful, impactful, and welcoming.

Thanks as well for throwing my family and me such a generous Farewell Party last weekend. We were very touched by all who came, the speeches, and the pictures of so many fond memories. It is a memory we will always cherish. Thank you for the generous gift of a Ticketmaster gift card- our family will enjoy some fun culture and we will remember you while we do. To be honest, you are pretty unforgettable and you have marked me forever in my ministry. Please keep in mind that for the health of the congregation as it moves on with its next Pastor, I will keep a clear boundary of not offering pastoral services or pastoral care, and not meddling in church affairs; so even though I still live in Leonia, it will be clear that I won't be your Pastor anymore. My pastorleonia@gmail.com email will not work after this Sunday. Know that I love you all, and I will be praying for you from across the river. I have faith that the Spirit will do amazing things through you and because of you.

With blessing and love,
Leah Fowler