



# COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CEDAR GROVE

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Easter Flower Order Form
- Missions Giving for March
- Hello from Lisa

**MARCH 2022**



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

During these 40 days, let me put away all my pride. Let me change my heart and give up all that is not good within me. Let me love God with all that I am and all that I have." -- Genesis Grain

I love this quote. I love this quote because of what the speaker tells us about Lent. Lent is a special time where we become intentional with our spiritual practices and prepare ourselves for Easter. Lent is not something we go around or jump over; Lent is something we all go through together. We go into that wilderness, and we come out transformed. We grow closer to God; in fact, we surrender ourselves to God's love. We cannot fully appreciate what happens on Easter morning without Lent. We sing songs like "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" because we have taken the time during Lent to understand what Jesus did for us on that cross.

Lent asks us to slow down, stop, and be selfish with our time. We need Lent to help us hit the reset button and redirect our energies towards our spirits. Developing spiritual practices takes time and effort. Lent is a time to try them all-try prayer, read the Scriptures, meditate, do community service, try everything, and find what you are called to do. Because you are called to Lent, you do not get the option to say, "no, thank you!"

When I was a child, Lent felt like a chore because my mom would insist we give up something. I would give up something like candy or soda, and I would complain the entire time! I did not understand the point, and I would not get it until I was an adult. If we are called to give up something, we do so intending to examine our dependence on that thing, and we replace it with dependence on God. If you are called to give up something like coffee or tea, replace the time you spend brewing a cup and spend that time with God. Lean into your dependence on God and see where that leads you!

Lent is here. Embrace the change. Be transformed.

In Peace,

Rev. Sarah Welch-Pomerantz

*Pastor*



## HELLO FROM LISA

Each year around March, I start getting that impatient itch to get my garden going again. The catalogs have been thumbed through, the seeds have been ordered and the sun seems to be warm on the face more and more each day. March is that liminal or “in-between” space, where it is not quite winter anymore, but not yet spring. Gardening to me is a spiritual practice. There is a mystical feeling in getting your hands into the warm soil, the smell of the earth, the sounds of nature around you, the act of fostering life with God as you nurture the seedlings into plants and on toward harvest.

Last year I decided to try something new which had mixed results. I learned what they call “Winter Gardening”. The concept is basically to plant certain types of plants in a sealed container and leave it outside. Nature will create a micro climate within the sealed container and when the seeds are ready they will sprout

and grow, much earlier than otherwise. I planted most of my annual flowers this way. You take a milk jug or other container, cut it  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up. Fill it with wet potting soil. Plant your seeds (not too deep!) then seal it with duct tape. Leave it out in the sunshine. When the seedlings are big enough and the average temps much warmer, transplant them!

As part of my call to food ministry, 2 years ago, I created a project that combines my passion for gardening and my call to feed families in need. Each growing season, I give my area garden centers a flyer called “Plant a Row for the Hungry”. The idea is to plant extra crops each season so that you will have extra to deliver to the food pantry in your area. This practice of gleaning is found in Leviticus 19:9, “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest.” Imagine if we all had a little crop of veggies in our yards to share. Neighbors feeding neighbors. Happy Spring and Happy sowing!



## THRIFT SHOP

**Thursdays**

*10am—3pm*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hi friends,

If you can believe it, we are already nearing Lent, the sorrowful, introspective season in the Church calendar which leads us into the joyful morning of Resurrection.

With this season, we have some familiar fun events coming up! The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will be back in full force this year on March 1, 2022. Join us for some good food, fun games, and, of course, the Alleluia Parade. We will also have “to go” bags for anyone who feels unsafe eating around others due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. For the children, we will have a coloring table set up and games for playing independently throughout the

event, as well as favorite structured games, including the Mummy Wrap and the Pancake Toss.

We are also planning to bring back our annual Easter Egg Hunt in 2022, so stay tuned for more information! If you would like to be involved in the planning of this event, please see me after church.

As always, we’re so thankful for all of the support the Christian Education team has experienced and we are looking forward to bringing you more fun-filled events, both well-loved, long-held traditions and new ideas.

Peace,  
Bailey Welch-Pomerantz,  
*Director of Christian Education*





# Hello Spring

## *March* MISSIONS GIVING

### MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION

March Budget will go to Make a Wish Foundation as possible. The founding principle of our vision to grant the wish of every eligible child. Wishes impact everyone involved—wish kids, volunteers, donors, sponsors, medical professionals and communities. For wish kids, just the act of making their wish come true can give them the courage to comply with their medical treatments. Parents might finally feel like they can be optimistic.



## *March* THANK OFFERING

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The March Thank Offering will go to One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Please use your offering envelope or marking a pew envelope “OGHS” to support this amazing organization



## CHOIR CORNER

It seems as though it was just Christmas, and already the Choir is looking forward to Easter! In addition to before church rehearsals for our Sunday anthems, we are busy rehearsing our Easter program each week for an hour after church. I know that I really appreciate the talent and dedication of each choir member...it's wonderful to work with them!

In addition, we are all set to begin

adding a third hymn into our weekly service! Beginning on Ash Wednesday, our third hymn will be our closing hymn, and will give us a chance to sing more of your favorites! I always considered our congregation to be a true "singing congregation", so I hope you're looking forward to this addition as much as I am!

Have a wonderful month,  
Sandy Searing  
*Director of Music*

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*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven"*

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## PRAYER LIST

### **Gloria Booth and Family**

#### **Dolores Cardinale**

friend of Joe Shook, health issues

#### **Jacob and Jaxson**

grandsons of Maria DaCunha

#### **John DelVecchio**

brother-in-law of Donna DelVecchio, health issues

#### **Helen and Rein Emrich**

Church Members, health issues

#### **The Jackson and Larson Families**

on the passing of Monica Jackson

#### **The Kelly Family**

on the passing of TJ Kelly

#### **Kim Ostrowski**

health issues

#### **Heather Ostrowski**

#### **The Gallion Family**

on the passing of Janice Grube

#### **The Larson Family**

on the passing of Jack Larson

#### **Cliff Kreismer**

on the death of his wife Helen and other health issues

#### **The Jenkins Family**

on the passing of Margaret

### **Ed O'Brien**

Church Member, in need of prayers

#### **Ruth Ravina**

Holocaust survivor, health issues

#### **The Shedd Family**

on the death of Phyllis Shedd

#### **Deborah A. Yingst**

in hospice

#### **Joe Shook**

Shook Funeral Home, medical issues

#### **Norman Vaughan**

friend of Gallions, dealing with effects of a stroke

#### **The Walsh Family**

on the death of

Dorothy (Dottie) Nostrant

#### **Mimi**

Sister of Willie and Mary Wing

#### **Tina Wright and Family**

on the death of husband Gregory Wright

#### **Nicholas Ferrigno**

brother of Patrice Larson

#### **The Caputo Family**

on the passing of Gene Caputo



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Tracy Candido 03/01  
Kathryn Peterson 03/04  
Minh Tran 03/06  
Carolyn Mitchell 03/07  
Bailey Welch-Pomerantz  
03/08  
Abigail Lombardi 03/11  
Keri Bien 03/13  
Joseph McAleese III (6) 03/13  
Eric Walton 03/13  
James Aragon 03/19  
Gina Basso 03/25  
Marie Theresa Conti 03/28  
Betty Bethune 03/29

## WORSHIP NOTES FOR MARCH

### March 6

#### *First Sunday in Lent*

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13  
Luke 4:1-13

### March 20

#### *Third Sunday in Lent*

Scripture:

Isaiah 55:1-9  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

### March 13

#### *Second Sunday in Lent*

Scripture:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1

### March 27

#### *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

Scripture:

Josh 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## Easter Triduum

*Coming up in April*

### Maundy Thursday

April 14, 2022  
6:30pm – 7:30pm

### Good Friday

April 15, 2022  
7:30pm Service

### Holy Saturday

April 16, 2022  
Stations of the Cross  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

### Easter Sunday

April 17, 2022  
10am Service



# March 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

Shrove  
Tuesday 6 pm

NA Meeting in  
Sanctuary  
7:30 pm

2

Ash  
Wednesday 7pm

Meatloves in  
Kitchen

3

Thrift Shop  
10am—3pm

AA Women's  
Meeting 7:30pm

4

5

6

SERVICE 10am

7

Diabetes  
Group 7pm

8

NA Meeting  
7:30 pm

9

**Trustees Meet-  
ing 7pm**

Bible Study  
6:30pm

10

Thrift Shop  
10am—3pm

AA Women's  
Meeting 7:30pm

11

12

13

Daylight  
Savings Time  
Begins

SERVICE 10am

14

15

NA Meeting  
7:30 pm

16

**Building and  
Grounds 6:30**

Bible Study  
6:30pm

17



Thrift Shop  
10am—3pm

AA Women's  
Meeting 7:30pm

18

Sarah Hart Out  
of Office

19

20

First Day of  
Spring

SERVICE 10am



21

**Executive  
Board Meeting  
7:30pm**

22

Sarah Hart  
Back in Office

NA Meeting  
7:30 pm

23

Bible Study  
6:30pm

24

Thrift Shop  
10am—3pm

AA Women's  
Meeting 7:30pm

25

26

27

SERVICE 10am

28

29

30

31





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# EASTER FLOWERS 2022

The Diaconate would like to invite you to share in the beauty of our chancel area on **Easter Sunday, April 17**. You may purchase a lily or azalea through the Diaconate from Bartlett's Greenhouse by filling out and returning the order form. Please fill out the order form *completely*, making sure to designate your plant. If you are donating a plant to a shut-in **please** limit your selection to a ***lily plant***.

Flower orders/forms must be in by ***Sunday, April 3rd***

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation. Our chancel area will be beautiful with the many spring flowers in bloom. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jan Harder (973-865-1799 or oarknocker@aol.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

## EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

**NAME OF DONOR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE #** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Lily, \$16.00*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Azalea plant, \$16.00*

**(Azalea Color Selection:** \_\_\_\_\_ *White*, \_\_\_\_\_ *Pink*, \_\_\_\_\_ *Purple*, \_\_\_\_\_ *Red*)

DESIGNATE PLANT:

\_\_\_\_\_ I/WE WILL PICK UP OUR PLANT FOLLOWING THE EASTER SERVICE.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Please give our plant to a shut-in.*

**THE EASTER BULLETIN INSCRIPTION SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:**

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CEDAR GROVE

UNITED IN SPIRIT AND INSPIRED BY GOD'S GRACE, WE WELCOME ALL, LOVE ALL, AND SEEK JUSTICE FOR ALL. COMMUNITY CHURCH IS A ENERGETIC, PASSIONATE, CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THAT SPANS THE GENERATIONS, WITH PEOPLE OF ALL AGES COMMITTING THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION. AS A WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION, WE FOLLOW THIS SIMPLE PRINCIPLE:

DO JUSTICE.

LOVE KINDNESS.

WALK HUMBLY.

Community Church has been part of the Cedar Grove community for over 70 years. We consider ourselves blessed to serve such a wonderful town. We welcome all of God's people to be part of our family.

## WORSHIP WITH US

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

*In the Sanctuary and online*

### OUR MISSION

We the members of the Community Church of Cedar Grove profess Jesus Christ as our Lord and invite all to join us in the fellowship of believers.

We seek with God's help to:

Covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God;

Depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us;

Walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us through a loving, friendly and supportive church family that nurtures, trusts, and cares for one another in times of celebration and need;

Be faithful and active in our responsibility as church members by contributing according to our individual strengths;

Attend services regularly giving support to the staff and members of our church family;

Respect our children and youth and to encourage them to participate in the life of our church through worship service, church school, and youth activities while nurturing their spiritual development;

Witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in our congregation, our community, and all the world, while worshipping God, striving for truth, justice, and peace for all;

Look forward with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life as we strive to fulfill this mission.

Community Church of Cedar Grove

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Director of Music.....Sandra Searing

Director of Christian Education.....Bailey Welch-Pomerantz

Director of Community Preschool.....Diane Dziublenski

Office Manager..... Sarah Hart

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