



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CEDAR GROVE

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MAY 2022

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Grace and Peace!

Happy Easter! He Has Risen! He Has Risen Indeed! Yes, we can still proclaim this Good News even though it is no longer Easter Sunday. I believe in keeping Resurrection Sunday at the forefront of our hearts, minds, mouths, and souls all year long! What God does for us on Easter Sunday changes how we see ourselves and our world. We no longer fear death because God conquered death for us!

This year's Easter Sunday service was spectacular! Sandy truly outdoes herself every year. Our choir amazes me, and while some folks may call me biased, I believe their performance on Easter Sunday was Broadway caliber. I am thankful for our musicians, choir, Sandy and Harry and Pete Regan, and Steve Lyons. I want to especially shout out Pete Regan, who spent many hours in the sanctuary making sure the microphones were in the right spots. We are fortunate that Pete brings his spiritual gifts to our church.

I want to share some other good news. For the last three years, I have been working on completing my Doctor of Ministry degree at Drew Theological Seminary. Going for my

DMIN has been one of my life-long dreams. On Monday, April 11th, I successfully defended my dissertation, "Biblical Covenants, Polity and the United Church of Christ." This work was a real labor of love. I spent hours researching, writing, formatting, and editing my dissertation. I am proud of the work I produced, and I will leave a copy in our library if anyone would like to read it. I want to thank all of you, from the bottom of my heart, for your support along the way. You all are a great congregation! I will have my degree conferred on Friday, May 13th at 10:00 am at Drew Theological Seminary, and it is with your help and support that I will graduate with my degree.

As always, I count my blessings to be here with you all. Now that my dissertation is complete, I have some extra time on my hands to start some brand new projects! Be on the lookout to see what I have in store for us!

Happy Easter!

In Peace,
Rev. Dr. Sarah Welch-
Pomerantz
Pastor

HELLO FROM LISA

I have been reflecting on this time of transition in my life from a student to a graduate. Like many other endings in life, there is a sense of sadness for me. It started as a pang in my heart when something as insignificant as not having to register for fall classes gave me a sense of sadness and relief all jumbled together. Grief isn't only about losing a loved one, its about losing those things familiar to us. A broken relationship, a lost job, there is even a bit of grief in the ending of a long loved TV show. A vibrant physical life is grieved when we're no longer able to do the things we did in our youth. For me it was the end to pursuing my intense passion for softball. After my heart attack in 2019, my body was just not up to par to be running bases, and quite honestly, I was scared. As the last few years have moved onward, I learned to accept my limitations, but each year when

spring has sprung, that longing still rises to the surface. We can sit in this grief of endings, but it is much more fruitful to look at a hope of new beginnings. I think it's important to give ourselves permission to begin to live more fully again and to embrace the changes in our lives, to find focus on new passions. As I begin my journey toward ordination, my time with you is not over, it is just a new beginning in a new role. I am thankful for the gift I was given to serve you the last 9 months and I am excited to see what the Holy Spirit holds for each of us!

Peace,
Lisa

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hi friends,

Happy Easter! I hope this season of Eastertide is already bringing some new joy, hope, and love to your life.

We are so excited to have been able to hold some favorite familiar fun events in the past months! The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was back this year and was a hit with the families of Cedar Grove. Along with the hunt, we also provided snacks and even photos with the Easter bunny. Thank you to all who volunteered and supported the Christian Education committee

for this event.

Stay tuned for more information about upcoming summer events as we prepare and plan! 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



THRIFT SHOP

Thursdays

10am—3pm





CHOIR CORNER

As I sit down to write, my mind is revisiting our Easter Service and recalling the hours of rehearsal, both before and after church, as well as the hours of practice our choir members spent learning the music at home. The musicians in our congregation might have realized that our Easter anthems were very challenging, both rhythmically and melodically. But the hard work and long hours paid off with singers that both met and exceeded the difficulties. The results led us to realize that the hard work paid off!

We are all very grateful for the unwavering support from Reverend Sarah as well as the support from the congregation. Our instrumentalists - fortunately back with us this year - were an amazing compliment to our singing, and faced their own challenges with music that was only rehearsed with the choir the day before Easter! We are so fortunate to have them, and, by the way, they already have our

Christmas dates in their calendars, so we will have them back in December!

I would especially like to thank the many contributors to our Music Fund. The special Christmas and Easter services, as well as new anthems during the year, would not be possible without your support. We are grateful for your contributions as well as your enthusiasm for our performances.

As we head into summer, we will be singing as a group until Fathers Day. During the summer months, I hope to keep the music going with both occasional solos and small ensembles for our services.

Thank you again for your support, and an especially big thank-you to the members of the Choir! You're the best!

Best wishes,
Sandy



May MISSIONS GIVING

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

May Budget Amount will go the United Church of Christ's Strengthen the Church. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults Strengthen the Church



May THANK OFFERING

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

The Thank Offering for the month of May will go to Ronald McDonald House.

Helping a sick child fight their illness takes a big enough emotional toll on a family. Adding a financial strain can make it all almost too much to bear. RMHC can help address those problems, whether they involve housing that's near a hospitalized child, the expense of staying together in another city, or even getting basic medical and dental care in a vulnerable community.

Please use your offering envelope or marking a pew envelope "McDonald"



PARISH REGISTRAR

Deaths

January 26, 2022 -Eugene Caputo
February 26, 2022 -Jack Larson

Weddings

May 1, 2022 -Jonathan Lyons and Kacie Malaney
July 9, 2022 -Melissa Bien and CJ Walley-Burik

Address Update

Keri Bien
15910 Blue Skies Dr.
North Fort Myers, FL 33917



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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

Carole Furlong

sister of Lynne Davies, Cancer

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

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





MAY
BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries

- Stephen & Pamela Lyons (38) 05/05
- Harry & Sandy Searing (44) 05/21
- Craig & Patrice Larson (40) 05/22
- Thomas & Sue Kelly (28) 05/29

Birthdays

- Al Weber 05/02
- Claire Meyler 05/07
- Laura Daggett 05/09
- Sue Kelly 05/12
- John N. Bethune 05/13
- Jason Aragon 05/15
- Craig Larson 05/17
- Alissa Lyons 05/26

WORSHIP NOTES FOR MAY

May 1

Third Sunday in Easter

Scripture:

- Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
- Psalm 30
- Revelations 5:11-14
- John 21:1-19

May 8

Forth Sunday in Easter

Scripture:

- Acts 9:36-43
- Psalm 23
- Revelations 7:9-17
- John 10:22-30

May 15

Fifth Sunday in Easter

Scripture:

- Acts 11:1-18
- Psalm 148
- Revelations 21:1-6
- John 13:31-35

May 22

Sixth Sunday in Easter

Scripture:

- Acts 16:9-15
- Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5
- John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

May 29

Seventh Sunday in Easter

Scripture:

- Acts 16:16-34
- Psalm 97
- Revelations 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
- John 17:20-26



May 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 SERVICE 10AM	2	3 <i>NA Meeting</i> 7:30pm	4 Trustees Meeting 7pm	5 Thrift Shop 10-3 <i>AA Women's</i> Meeting 7:30pm	6	7
8  SERVICE 10AM MOTHERS DAY	9	10 <i>NA Meeting</i> 7:30pm	11	12 Thrift Shop 10-3 <i>AA Women's</i> Meeting 7:30pm	13  <i>Rev. Dr. Sarah</i> <i>and Lisa</i> Graduation day!	14
15 SERVICE 10AM	16 Executive Board Meeting	17 <i>NA Meeting</i> 7:30pm	18	19 Thrift Shop 10-3 <i>AA Women's</i> Meeting 7:30pm	20	21
22 SERVICE 10AM	23 Building and Grounds Meeting 7pm	24 <i>NA Meeting</i> 7:30pm	25	26 Thrift Shop 10-3 <i>AA Women's</i> Meeting 7:30pm	27	28
29 SERVICE 10AM	30 OFFICE CLOSED Memorial Day	31 <i>NA Meeting</i> 7:30pm				

SCHOLARSHIPS!



Henry Stoeckert Scholarship for College Sophomores

Calling all students who will be college juniors in the fall of 2022 and are members of Community Church of Cedar Grove! The Henry Stoeckert Scholarship Committee invites you to submit an application for the school year 2022—2023. Those members who we believe are eligible should have received an application in the mail. If you did not receive one, please contact the Church Office and one will be sent to you. The deadline for applying is Sunday, May 22nd.

The Henry Stoeckert Scholarship Committee sincerely hopes that every eligible college sophomore will submit an application!

**Deadline for Application
is May 22nd**



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- The Clark Team -

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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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Cedar Grove, NJ
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Fax: 973-239-3095
E-mail:

officemanager@communitychurchcg.org



Minister.....Rev. Dr. Sarah Welch-Pomerantz

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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