



GLEN RIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

Newsletter

November 2018

WORSHIP WITH US

NOVEMBER 4

ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Requiem by Gabriel Fauré
presented by the Glen Ridge Choral Society, Chancel Choir,
and instrumentalists

NOVEMBER 11

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Damien J. Lake, *Preacher*
Bob Hodgson, *Lay Leader*

Music by the Chancel Choir,
Carillon Bells

NOVEMBER 18

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY - NEW MEMBERS

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Damien J. Lake, *Preacher*
Sherry Brabham, *Lay Leader*

Music by the Chancel Choir,
Carol & Cherub Choirs and Chapel Bells

NOVEMBER 25

THE REIGN OF CHRIST

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. James DeBoer, *Guest Preacher*
Kim Augis, *Lay Leader*

Music by the Chancel Choir

From the Interim Minister

The Rev. Damien J. Lake



Pastor's Ponderings

Recently I decided to trade in my car for a used Jeep Wrangler Unlimited. Now I know that you may not be a “car” person like I am so some of this won’t make much sense to you. I purchased it because I wanted another Jeep, I have owned 7 Jeeps in my driving career. This particular Jeep came with a 3’ lift kit, oversized wheels and tires, aftermarket bumpers on the front and rear, as well as a winch to pull me out of trouble on the trails. I love modified vehicles and fixing them up myself as I have confessed to you many times through sermons and one on one conversations. After making the purchase, my daughter Arabella says, “Hey Dad, did you notice the crack in the windshield?” Now I have to admit that in all my fuss about the underside and the add-ons, I totally missed this obvious problem. How does this relate to our faith you might be asking yourself, assuming you’re still reading after the first two lines of the first paragraph? Sometimes in our faith we overlook the important things, like the broken windshield and focus on the bigger picture and dreams. However, I think it is important to realize that we need to take care

of all the parts of our faith. The broken windshield might represent a tragic experience from our past that we haven’t bothered to deal with or, as an example. I know that I have to get the windshield repaired, I have to bite the bullet and fix it so that it doesn’t get worse. I also know that I have to stay healthy in faith journey, I have to go to my Spiritual Counseling sessions once a month and talk about things in my life. There is one thing I know about cracked windshields and troubles in our past, if we don’t work on them they will spread and get worse. A problem in your past relationships or situation that you experienced has to be talked about and worked on. Once we fix those things and heal them it helps us to move on as a more holistic person. No one is perfect, we all have things we need to work on, but the good news is that is why we come to church. We come to a place to work on being better, more loving, healthier, more faith focused people. Come to church often, work on those problems, and pray to God and ask for strength

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Damien

From the Minister of Music

Thomas Mustachio



Music

by Anne Porter

When I was a child
I once sat sobbing on the floor
Beside my mother's piano
As she played and sang
For there was in her singing
A shy yet solemn glory
My smallness could not hold
And when I was asked
Why I was crying
I had no words for it
I only shook my head
And went on crying
Why is it that music
At its most beautiful
Opens a wound in us
An ache a desolation
Deep as a homesickness
For some far-off
And half-forgotten country
I've never understood
Why this is so
But there's an ancient legend
From the other side of the world
That gives away the secret
Of this mysterious sorrow
For centuries on centuries
We have been wandering
But we were made for Paradise
As deer for the forest
And when music comes to us
With its heavenly beauty
It brings us desolation

For when we hear it
We half remember
That lost native country
We dimly remember the fields
Their fragrant windswept clover
The birdsongs in the orchards
The wild white violets in the moss
By the transparent streams
And shining at the heart of it
Is the longed-for beauty
Of the One who waits for us
Who will always wait for us
In those radiant meadows
Yet also came to live with us
And wanders where we wander.

*"Music" by Anne Porter from *Living Things: Collected Poems*. © Steerforth Press, 2006.*

Special Musical Events 2018-19

Sun 10/28...Heimat String Quartet concert
Sun 11/4: 10am...Fauré *Requiem* in worship
Sun 12/9...Brunch & Nursing Home Caroling
Sun 12/16: 3pm...*Welcome Christmas!*
Sun 12/23...Bell Sunday
Mon 12/24...Christmas Eve Services
Sun 12/30...Church Breakfast; Service of
Carols, Poetry & Readings
Sat 1/26...Pasta & Pops: *Sounds of the 60's*
Tue 3/5...Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Sun 3/10...GR Community Concert:
Brett Deubner, *violist*
Sun 4/7...Spring Concert: Music of Light & Peace –
Requiem for the Living (Dan Forest)
Sun 5/12...Mother's Day musical

From the Church School Coordinator-Mrs. H-K



A note from Mrs. H-K

This past summer I found a simple story titled “The Invisible String” that I thought would really be meaningful to our church school students since the new school year was beginning. Children sometimes find it difficult to separate from their families after the long break. The mother in the story explains, “People who love each other are always connected by a very special String made of love and even though you can’t see it with your eyes you can feel it deep in your heart and know that you are always connected to the ones you love.” I read this book to a church school class of all ages on a Sunday in August. We talked about how we are always connected to our loved ones and to God and that the “tug” in our hearts when we miss someone reminds us that we are loved. The ‘tug’ we feel in our hearts during worship or church school is so reassuring for both children and grownups alike because it reminds us that we are loved by God and that we are never alone in this world. God is ALWAYS with us. After our discussion, the children created little clay pots with lids and then put strings inside that were attached to small cut out hearts so they could always remember the story. It amazed me how much these little pots meant to each one of them. A few days later one of our awesome Moms at GRCC said that her 2nd grader ran up to her at the park and said “Mom, remember you are never alone.” As soon as she shared that

with me, I felt the “tug” and smiled. God’s love never fails.



Church School

C & Y is grateful to Mrs. H-K and her team of volunteers who lead the children and youth every week in worship, bible study, and activities. They are ***“BE-ing the Church”*** each week. It is exciting to see everyone from our youngest to our oldest become the ROCKS of faith with the newest project: Kindness Rocks! All members of the church are invited to join church school in spreading kindness every day.

Kids R & R

Kids R & R completed **THE BIG BAKE** on October 21st Participants



baked cookies for local heroes. The goal was to grow in awareness of those in our communities who are sometimes overlooked, and, to share gratitude for their presence in our lives. The kitchen was a beehive of activity as these KIDS (and some parents) baked away, happily and with enthusiasm. Thanks kids! Thanks Aislinn Cholet! YOU are the church in action.

Kids R & R + Church School Volunteers



Thanksgiving ~ baking ~ pies ~ Let us handle dessert this year. Church School volunteers will be

baking up a storm in time for Thanksgiving. There will be three varieties of pies freshly baked and available to pick up after services on Sunday, November 18! Kids R & R will have them boxed and ready for YOU!!

- Pumpkin: \$15
- Dutch Apple: \$20
- Nutless Pecan: \$15

It's another "Be the Church" event. This time we are raising funds for church school projects and activities! Interested? There is a sign-up order form on the Clark Street Action table. Or, put your order in with Aislinn at 917-202-3779 or atcholet@gmail.com.

Grades 6, 7, & 8 (YSG)

Youth in these grades will work with MOM to pack "Boxes of Love" during early November. The boxes will help provide ingredients for a Thanksgiving dinner for families in the Paterson community. Not only will the youth contribute food for the project, but . . . they will be the "strong arms" that pack, carry, and deliver the food. It is one more way to "Be the Church" and share Earthly and Spiritual resources with those in need. Please use the directions and list found in the eNews to contribute to this project.



Family Faith

This intergenerational group for families with younger children (and some grandparents) will not hold a meeting in November. The scheduled date is during the school break. Everyone is still able to "**Be the Church**" by finding ways to implement the **3GLs: Love of Children, Love of Neighbors, and Love of God's Creation**. Find ways every day to share love. Little things like not using straws and reusing items to sharing love through food and monetary donations make a difference! Be creative. If possible, please let Mrs. Spoerl know the many things you do! janspoerl@aol.com

The next Family Faith meeting is: Sunday, December 2 at the Advent Experience.

Bible Study



Gnostic Gospel – The Gospel of Truth.

Join Rev. Lake every Wednesday at 10:00am for a riveting discussing about this gospel.

“Experience Advent” is Coming!
Sunday afternoon, December 2, 2018!



Advent and Christmas are approaching! Save the above date and plan to join with our GRCC family as we remember and celebrate the way Jesus came into the world. Watch or participate in an enactment of the story!

Adult Luncheon begins at 11:30am.

Children’s events planned to begin at 3pm:

- Pet and view live animals at the stable!
- Sing with Mr. M.
- Munch on traditional foods!
- Create Christmas Crafts, Ornaments!

Learn more! Celebrate!

It’s a terrific way to begin the season. Plans continue to evolve and grow. Bring family and friends! Invite others to ***Experience Advent*** with you!



November 7, 2018

Food is provided.

All are welcome!

6:30pmSupper (Robinson Hall)

7:35pmTaizé Prayer Service



November Food Needs:

We support the MEND pantry at the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green.



In November please fill the shopping cart in the narthex with peanut butter, jelly and crackers.

Thank you for your continuing generosity.



When: Sunday November 11th @ 7pm
 Where: The Town Pub in Bloomfield

Gathering at a local restaurant for some good food and drinks, while discussing what is happening in the world and how that ties into religion. It is an open table, which means all people are welcome, believers, doubters, questioners. We encourage you to come and be ready to engage with others or sit back, listen and ponder the things being shared.

november Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|-------|----------------------|
| 1 | ..... | Mackenzie Carey |
| 2 | ..... | Lynne Palmer |
| 4 | ..... | Doris Hollander |
| 6 | ..... | Scott MacConnell |
| 7 | ..... | Madeline Baione |
| 9 | ..... | Pam Figlar |
| 9 | ..... | Jim Ashenfelter |
| 13 | ..... | Linda Dickinson |
| 16 | ..... | Alexandria Lefkovitz |
| 18 | ..... | Bonnie Kingston |
| 20 | ..... | Tom Agnew |
| 20 | ..... | Andrew Provost Jr. |
| 20 | ..... | Kimberley Baione |
| 23 | ..... | Edward Currie |
| 23 | ..... | Clarice Johns |
| 24 | ..... | Mira Eve Kohli |
| 26 | ..... | Christopher Brown |
| 27 | ..... | Tom Meeker |



Our theme for November is **Care for the Poor**. How can we put this into action and **Be The Church** in the community where we live and serve? If you have suggestions, please place them in the suggestion box in the narthex, post them on the Clark Street Bulletin Board or email them to revdamienlake@gmail.com

Collection of Personal Care Items for MEND (MOM)

Unicef Collection (Church School)

Ongoing food cart collection in Narthex

We need your ideas for December. The theme will be **Love God**. Please share your suggestions with us.

Refer to the bookmarks in the pews for the monthly schedule



**Sunday,
November 18th**

We are always excited to announce New Member Sunday, a day when we welcome many new faces and some familiar faces into the life of our church. Come and join us for this special day and make sure to welcome all the new members.

Open Church

5:30-7:30pm in the church sanctuary.



At 7 PM we will pray a litany for those people affected by the addiction epidemic, espe-

cially the 2445 New Jersey people who have died of opioid overdose deaths (up to October 14).

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS



Amelia Glick was baptized by Rev. Damien Lake. Also pictured are her parents Courtney and Jason Glick and Godparents.

MINISTRY OF OUTREACH & MISSION



The Ministry of Outreach & Mission encourages you to CARE FOR THE POOR this month by donating

personal care items to MEND's food pantry clients. Items such as: Toothpaste, Feminine Care Products, Toothbrushes, Lotion, Soap, Tissues, Deodorant, Diapers and Wipes

MOM (Cont'd)...

New and unused donations of these items would be very welcome to our MEND families. Please place any donations in the Blue Room (there will be signage and a box / bin) by November 30th.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

AT HOME

Sylvia Caldwell, Phyllis Domenic, Fred Worth, Sue Watson.

IN EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

Irene Stevens Heun (Job Haines), Doris Hollander (The Villages, Duxbury, MA), and Jean Lancaster (Sunrise, Marlboro), Theodora Wilcox (Van Dyk, Montclair)

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF OUR CHURCH

Mindy Lytle, Karen Marshall, Erika Lomaga, Peter Bartlett, Meghann Marturano, Jeff Domenic, Jean Sparks, Marie O'Grady, Cheryl Vivona, Becky Bodnar, Courtney Connolly, Grace Uliano, JC Egbert, Stephen Strickland, Len Calvin, Andrea Row, George Boltnew, Anna Withington, Jill Reintjes, Dan Glitzer, Merrill Roberts, Joan Lytle, Barbara Acosta, Thomas Bright, Sr., Jean and Barry Frere, Jim Marturano, Elizabeth Knox, Carolyn Pescatore, Bill Phillips, Brad Turner, Christina Hepp, LeWanda Pleasant, Margot Priest, Sally Calhoun, Pamela Jeffery, Dennis Sinclair, Cathy Rohling, Dorothy Lefkovits, Billy Martin.

