



GLEN RIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

Newsletter

January 2019



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

FIRST WEDNESDAY

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Supper | 6:30 P.M. |
| Taizé Prayer Service | 7:35 P.M. |

JANUARY 6

EPIPHANY-THE THREE KINGS

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Worship Communion | 10:00 A.M. |
|---------------------|------------|

Rev. Damien J. Lake, Preacher
Andrew Song Leader

Music by the Chancel Choir

JANUARY 13

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

| | |
|---------|------------|
| Worship | 10:00 A.M. |
|---------|------------|

Rev. Damien J. Lake, Preacher
Dorothy Waldt, Lay Leader

Music by the Chancel Choir

JANUARY 20

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

| | |
|---------|------------|
| Worship | 10:00 A.M. |
|---------|------------|

Rev. Damien J. Lake, Preacher
Linda Woodbury, Lay Leader

Music by the Chancel Choir and Carillon Bells

JANUARY 27

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

| | |
|---------|------------|
| Worship | 10:00 A.M. |
|---------|------------|

Rev. Damien J. Lake, Preacher
Bill McConnell, Lay Leader

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

From the Interim Minister

Rev. Damien J. Lake



A new year is upon us, it gives us a chance to reflect back on our journey over the last twelve months. Last year in January, together as a congregation we were reflecting back on our first four months together. We were thinking about the changes that had occurred since my arrival. You invited me into your church, your homes, and together when began to ponder what God's vision was for the next year as a faith community. Today as we look back a year later we can continue to reflect upon some of the things that have occurred. We may think about those who have died, those who have moved away, and the new members who have joined our church. We may be thinking about the new programs that have been created here at the church or the new additions to our church staff. There have been many changes.

God invites us to reflect back at times so that we can see how God has been involved in our lives, bringing us joy and challenging us to grow as creatures of the great I Am. Our lives as a whole are filled with opportunities for us to grow, both personally and spiritually, to explore new places and to think about life as we have come to know it. God pushes us to try new things, to experience new ways of Being the Church, and through it all we know that God is doing this because God loves us and desires for us to continue to grow.

My uncle once told me that our education doesn't stop once we have graduated from college, we continue to study and learn so that we evolve into the beings that God desires for us to become.

Life can be overwhelming, and some years we would just soon mark it up as the worst year ever and simply say good bye and try to never remember it. A different way to approach a rough year is to ask the question, what did I learn from this past year and how can it help me to live this year with why eyes more wide open? No matter how awful things were this past year ultimately they can help us to grow to be better people. Taking time to reflect back, to learn from our experiences is how we grow as people, as Christians, and faith-filled people.

So I hope you will take the time to reflect back and see the places over the last year that have taught you something new about yourself.

Prayer...Gracious Creator, help me to reflect and grow from my past experiences so that I may draw closer to you...Amen.

Peace and Blessings, Rev. Damien J. Lake
Interim Minister

From the Minister of Music

Thomas Mustachio



Thank You

TO OUR
CHOIRS
and
SOLOISTS
for their

outstanding work in December,
and all year long –

Chancel, Carol and Cherub
Choirs; Carillon Bells, Chapel Bells
and Tower Ringers – each helped
make our worship encounters
more meaningful, and brought us
closer to God.

Our section leader/soloists
provide invaluable leadership and
mentoring within each section
and provide us with fine solo
work as needed throughout the
year. Thanks to Karen Momary,
Genya Muzyczka, Diane
Schaming, Bruce Turner and Tom
Jeszeck.

We are blessed to have some
talented instrumentalists in our
congregation who regularly
share their musical gifts with us:
Kim Augis, *percussion*; Andrew
Dik, *trumpet*; Patti Gsell, *flute*;
Victor Magnusson, *oboe/english
horn*; Jill Simmons, *piano/organ*;
Craig Wood, *flute*.

Any other singers or instru-
mentalists out there that we
should know about?

Sounds of the 60's

Pasta

and



Pops

Popular Food! • **FUN!** • **Popular Music!**
Gluten-free available

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019

6:30 p.m. (ends at 8:30 p.m.)

TICKETS

General Admission\$15
Seniors\$10
Children (under age 12)\$10

Available from the Church Office
CALL 973/743-5596

Trattoria Robinson Hall

**Glen Ridge
Congregational Church**

195 Ridgewood Avenue
Glen Ridge, New Jersey

Special Musical Events 2019

Sat 1/26...6:30pm: Pasta & Pops: *Sounds of the 60's*

Tue 3/5...5:30pm: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Sun 3/10...3pm: GR Community Concert:

Brett Deubner, *violinist*

Sun 4/7...3pm: Spring Concert: Music of Light & Peace –
Requiem for the Living (Dan Forrest)

Sun 5/12...Mother's Day musical

From the Church School Coordinator

Mrs. H-K



Happy New Year everyone!

As I reflect on my past four months of church school, what comes to mind is JOY! Thank you for giving me this awesome opportunity to share my faith with your beautiful children. I feel joy when I see them actively participating during church school lessons, asking important questions, sharing their thoughts and reading their Bibles. I feel joy when the children are involved in service projects that make a difference in this world. I feel joy as we welcome new babies during baptism, welcome new members, celebrate milestones, and share "Good News!" May God continue to guide us as we build a strong faith foundation for our families.

With much love, Mrs. H-K

Ministry of Children & Youth

Kids R & R

January 13, 2019 is the next meeting. Fun and physical activities like Balloon Badminton, hula hoops, hopscotch and rubber chickens set the tone before we jump into a service project. Join us for a jolly good time in Robinson Hall after we leave Worship.

Family Faith

Sunday, January 6th 4:30 to 6:00.

Epiphany Event: Traditions Old & New



It is the 5 year recognition of Family Faith at GRCC! Past members, current members, and future members - Join in the singing, stories, activities, and feasting. Traditional food will be provided: mac-n-cheese, chicken nuggets, drinks. Please bring fruits, veggies, and desserts to share. All are welcome!

Questions contact Jan Spoerl (201) 207-0380 or janspoerl@aol.com.

Church School thrives with 50-60+ students and teachers present each Sunday. Children and youth grow in knowledge and faith under the leadership of Mrs. H-K and her team.

Everyone learns! The Preschool class now has a music component; they are singing words of faith. Each week all students experience Worship and giving! Thanks to all who help with Church School and faith formation.

Faith Formation involves activities and community engagement. Some recent activities include: "Good Deed" jars and The Kindness Rocks. The Experience Advent drew a large crowd of 120+ people visiting the stable (with live animals), enacting the Nativity (in costume), and delving into crafts galore! Parents' Night Out provided kids under 10 a great fellowship time in Robinson Hall while parents were...out.

January brings new opportunities to "Be The Church" and "Fight for the Powerless. Share ways we can work together to make the world a more peaceful place.



Star Tree

Thank you to all who participated in the Help-A-Family Star Tree Program. As you can see the response was overwhelming. Thanks to your generosity we were able to make Christmas very special for 10 families.

Merry Christmas!

MOM (Ministry of Outreach and Mission)



Baby Gifts on Christmas Eve

Thank you to all that donated items on Christmas Eve for

donation to the MEND (Meeting Essential Needs with Dignity) food pantries. Did you know a newborn/infant goes through approximately 10 diapers a day!



Yoga Anyone...

Yoga will start the New Year on Monday night January 7th from 7:00-8:30pm. Anyone

interested in joining us can call Jan Dickinson at 972-748-1509 for more information.



January 2, 2019

Food is provided.
All are welcome!

6:30pmSupper (Robinson Hall)
7:30pmTaizé Prayer Service



On Sunday, the WA Association of our congregation graciously presented the church with a \$10,000 check to help us Close the Gap.

Wow! We are so blessed to find the Holy Spirit moving us in different ways during this time of year to help those in need.



In preparation for the February 10th Annual Meeting. Officers and Ministries are reminded that Annual Reports are due to the Church Office in digital form no later than Thursday, January 10th. Thank you.

The Women's Association Luncheon



All the women of our church comprise the women's association. Last Wednesday we were honored at a wonderful and warm Christmas Luncheon by our tireless President and her talented gourmet team in the kitchen. Thank you Ann Bronneck for caring so much about us all.



When: Sunday January 6th and 20th @ 7pm
Where: The Town Pub in Bloomfield

We gather 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, and questioners. We encourage you to come and be ready to engage with others or sit back, listen and ponder the things being shared.



You should have received a letter last month outlining GRCC's financial position and how we need your help. Please consider making an end of year gift to the church if you have not already done so.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to those who have already done so. We continue to pray that we can Close The Gap.

January Food Needs

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



In January please fill the cart with instant oatmeal, pancake mixes, and other hot breakfast items.



GLEN RIDGE VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

Once again the Women's Club of Glen Ridge is partnering with the Community FoodBank of New Jersey to run the Glen Ridge Virtual Food Drive. More information at: <http://www.womensclubglenridge.com/virtual-food-drive-cfbnj>

★
THE CHRISTMAS FUND
 for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Thank you for your donations. The money collected will be divided between The Christmas Fund, which provides direct financial assistance to retired UCC clergy and lay church employees; The Community Food Bank and The Interfaith Hospitality Network. MOM will match the dollar amounts raised to help make a larger impact.



January

| | |
|---------|--------------------|
| 2..... | Jeremy Mitchell |
| 2..... | Paul Harrison |
| 3..... | Kim DiStefano |
| 5..... | Tyra Brown |
| 6..... | Alden Schade |
| 9..... | Joan Weinman |
| 10..... | Sofia Carroll |
| 10..... | Gurly Niewood |
| 12..... | Lisa Dickinson |
| 14..... | Meredith Batastini |
| 15..... | Megan Downey |
| 16..... | Genya Muzyczka |
| 16..... | Janet Spoerl |
| 17..... | Lynne Oliver |
| 19..... | Blake Harrison |
| 22..... | Tim Delorm |
| 23..... | Victoria Mitchell |
| 25..... | Andrew Downey |
| 26..... | Joan Donnelly |
| 27..... | Rebecca Mitchell |
| 31..... | Lizann Coleman |
| 31..... | Carol Harpster |
| 31..... | Jim Watson |

Thank you to everyone who remembered their loved ones with the Christmas poinsettias. Also thanks to those who coordinated, created the display and delivered the plants to some of our special church members.



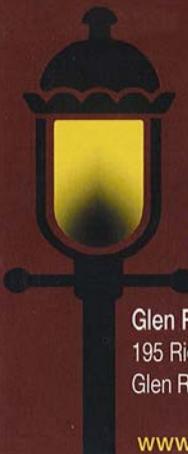
Offering Envelopes:

Offering envelopes for 2019 are available in the Narthex. If you don't see a set and would like one, please let us know.

73rd Annual

Glen Ridge Antiques Show

February 1 & 2, 2019



NJ's
Longest Running
Antiques
Show!

Friday 10 am to 9 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Glen Ridge Congregational Church
195 Ridgewood Avenue
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

www.dturiantiqueshows.com

Don't Forget to Come to The Antique Show!



FIGHT FOR THE POWERLESS

The theme for **January** is *Fight for the Powerless*. We need your help to make sure we are answering God's call to *Fight for the Powerless* in our communities. If you have suggestions, please place them in the suggestion box in the narthex, or attach them to the Clark Street Bulletin Board or email them to revdamienlake@gmail.com.

If you are receiving this electronically for a recap of our **Be The Church** plan [click here](#).

Refer to the bookmarks in the pews for the monthly schedule.

NEW! Winter Treasure Enrichment Classes



For children in Pre-K,

Kindergarten and 1st grade will be offered at Glen Ridge Congregational Church, as an extension of Summer Treasure Camp. Our “Winter Wonderland!” session will spark your child’s imagination with afterschool classes full of stories, music, and art. Materials provided. Six Friday classes for \$180. Classes will be held on the following Fridays: February 8, 15, 22, and March 1, 8, and 15. Teachers are Mrs. H-K and Miss Kinloch. For more info, please visit www.mhktesoro.com. Please email Mrs. H-K at mrshk@aol.com with any questions. Thanks so much, and we are so excited to see you there!

Glen Ridge Congregational Financial Report

Summary of Operating Fund Income and Expenses for 2018

- As of the end of November, we are behind budget with a deficit that exceeds the annual budgeted deficit.
- Our projections are forecasting a deficit for the year of around \$70,000 assuming pledge payments are caught up for the year. Thanks to all who are able to help with year-end contributions, which will help further reduce the deficit.

Income and Expenses of November 30, 2018

| | Year to Date | Annual Budget |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2018 Pledges Collected | \$312,891 | \$370,000 |
| Other Giving | \$19,319 | \$18,600 |
| Other Income | \$52,809 | \$57,000 |
| Net Investment Income | \$3,726 | \$10,000 |
| Total Receipts | \$388,744 | \$455,600 |
| Expenses | \$464,909 | \$528,945 |
| Net Excess (Deficit) | (\$76,165) | (\$73,345) |





*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

AT HOME

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

IN EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

Irene Stevens Heun (Job Haines),
Jean Lancaster (Sunrise, Marlboro)

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, Christina Hepp,
LeWanda Pleasant, Margot Priest, Sally
Calhoun, Dennis Sinclair, Cathy Rohling,
Dorothy Lefkovits, Billy Martin.