



GLEN RIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

Newsletter

March 2019

MARCH 3

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Worship | Communion

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, Preacher
Janet Spoerl, Lay Leader
Music by the Chancel Choir, Guest Instrumentalists

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

ASH WEDNESDAY

Worship/Communion/Imposition of Ashes

8:00 P.M.

Music by the Chancel Choir

MARCH 10

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, Preacher
Bob Hodgson, Lay Leader
Music by the Chancel Choir

MARCH 17

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, Preacher
Gary Martin, Lay Leader

Music by the Chancel Choir and Carillon Bells

MARCH 24

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, Preacher
Kimberlee Augis, Lay Leader

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

MARCH 31

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, Preacher
Karen Augis, Lay Leader
Music by the Chancel Choir, Tower Ringers

From the Interim Minister **Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks**



Rusty's Ramblings

Here I am, on the third day on the job, sitting in the senior minister's office, a place I never imagined myself sitting. My wife, Martha, as some of you remember, was an associate pastor here eons ago, and she and I lived in the parsonage when Rev. Randy Liesey was pastor. She and I moved out prior to Rev. Dr. David Stinson coming on board. I've known and been a fan of Rev. Damien Lake, whom I have met at many clergy gatherings and NJ Association functions. This office always appeared in my imagination as the command center, 'bridge' of the naval vessel, control room of the space center. OK. So here I am... Wow.

My job is to be a 'bridge' person, a short-term guide to assist GRCC to cross over the rough waters of this transition to the introduction of your new settled minister. Like a new bus driver, the route is pretty much the same. Those on the bus are pretty much the same. On the way, I will try to make the experience more delightful and more meaningful – and to see how I can improve our ridership, our visibility as we bounce along through the community. I am going to work hard with you to guarantee that the bus runs on time and stays in good shape – and to welcome every single one of you who steps on with a smile. Thankfully, we have wonderful and skillful staff to make sure all this happens: Tom, Maira, Alma, Patrick; and excellent leaders of the many excellent ministries this church offers.

Being in this 'in-between' place is not easy. It can produce anxiety and restlessness. What's coming down the pike? Who's the new settled pastor going to be and how's he/she going to change things? Are we sticking together as a faith community in the face of changes inside and out?

Truthfully, we don't have all the answers and we may make mistakes along the way. Medicine for these issues is found at the center of our faith: humility and forgiveness. We, myself included, need to be humble enough to be kind to each other and admit we're a bit uncertain, as we do our best. Also, we need to forgive ourselves and each other when things don't pan out the way we hope.

"Forgive Often" is our theme for the month from the UCC banner. It is a great theme as we begin the season of Lent and as we go through this time of change. To forgive

means that we can realize mistakes without having to clobber another person or ourselves forever. We can be honest, see what the problem is, work it out, and then let it go. Wipe the slate clean.

I love that this was included in the final liturgy of farewell given to Damien on Feb. 24th when both the congregation and Damien admitted mistakes and offered and received forgiveness. I hope you will allow me to make my mistakes and I will allow you the same; and we can forgive and support each other.

Here's a quote from Marilyn Robinson about forgiveness from her book Gilead:
“Grace is the great gift. So to be forgiven is only half the gift. The other half is that we also can forgive, restore, and liberate, and therefore we can feel the will of God enacted through us, which is the great restoration of ourselves to ourselves.” (p. 161)

I look forward to meeting and talking with each of you in the coming months. Give me a call. I'd enjoy coming to visit or having coffee/tea. I'll do my best in worship and strive, to the best of my ability, to strengthen this fine church.

Rev. Rusty

From the Minister of Music
Thomas Mustachio



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



TUESDAY
March 5
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Continuous
Seating

MENU INCLUDES:

- *Homemade Pancakes*
- *Gluten-free Pancakes*
- *Meat & Veggie Sausage*
- *Fresh Fruit*
- *Coffee, Tea, Milk*

❖ TICKETS ❖

Available at the door

Adults..... \$10
Children (12 & under) \$5

Glen Ridge Community Concerts

BRETT DEUBNER viola

THOMAS STEIGERWALD piano



SUNDAY, MARCH 10 • 3:00 P.M.

CÉSAR FRANCK: *Sonata in A*
SERGEI RACHMANINOFF: *Sonata*
Reception following the concert

ADMISSION

Adults \$20 • Seniors \$15 • Students \$10

Glen Ridge Congregational Church UCC
Blue Room

From the Church School Coordinator

Mrs. H-K



Hi everyone!

We experienced magical moments during church school class that I wanted to share with all of you. My husband (Mr. Joe) and I asked our kindergarten-2nd graders why our congregation prays silently and confesses to God during worship. We discussed what forgiveness means and then decided to practice praying together. I asked the class if anyone wanted to share something that they regretted saying or doing during the past week. I was surprised when every single child raised their hand!

Before calling on someone, I drew a sad face on a paper plate and gave one clothespin to each child. I shared my regret for the week and then clipped my clothespin on the paper plate and passed it to the right. Everyone had a turn to do the same. The children were sorry for not speaking nicely to their parents or siblings, not sharing when they should have, not playing nicely with others and for not being kind. I observed each child REALLY paying attention as they listened to each other. Their expressions changed and I could see the relief on their faces knowing that ALL OF US had something to confess and be sorry for. Even Mr. Joe

had something to share! I thanked and praised them for being so honest.

When I flipped the paper plate over and revealed a smile face on the other side, everyone smiled back! What great news it is that when we open our hearts, God listens and forgives and because of this, we can always try to do better. I asked every child to take a turn to remove a clothespin from the plate and in unison we prayed, “Thank you God for loving us and thank you God for forgiving us.”

We are ALWAYS part of God’s family, no matter what we do, God loves us and forgives us. This is not a free pass to do whatever we want but should instead be a great motivation to do what’s right in every situation. When we do make bad choices we are still part of God’s family.

When we realize our mistakes and ask for forgiveness, God is always ready to love us and welcome us home.

With love,
Mrs. H-K



Ministry of Children & Youth

Janet Spoerl, Chairperson

March 2019 is filled with Lent, a time for renewing faith while celebrating and growing in commitment to Jesus Christ. C & Y joins with the church universal in the opportunity to worship, study, reflect, and grow in faith formation.

- **C & Y** ministry team for 2019 is: Jill Baker~Ansley, Jennifer Bhujle, Elaine Carroll, Margo DiStefano, Anne Martin, Jerry Melichar, Nikki Ramirez, Abby Song with the supporting team of Mrs. H-K, Carol Harpster, Stephanie Song, and Andy Song. Please . . . volunteer to help this active ministry in the church. *We need you; our kids need you!*
- Plans are already underway for a “Garden of Growth” during Lent. April through June includes Easter, Pentecost, Confirmation, and year-end recognitions. If you have ideas or talents to share, please email janspoerl@aol.com or let any ministry member know.
- **Church School** is an every Sunday event! Send your kids. Offer to help. In March the curriculum is “Tending the Garden” where seeds of faith are planted and nurtured. Constant care is

needed. Even if you can only assist once, please give a call!

- **Outreach Activities** support faith formation. Join with other GRCC folks in:
- **“End Hunger 3.6,”** on Saturday, March 9. This service project is in collaboration with MOM and all are welcome! Contact: annebarron@yahoo.com.
- **Family Faith** ~ Saturday, March 2, 4:30 – 6:00, in Robinson Hall ~ **Dr. Seuss and the 3 Great Love’s** ~It is Dr. Seuss’s birthday ~ Sneetches, Horton, & Dr. Seuss speak about love of children, neighbors, and nature. Everyone matters, no matter how small. Join in the fun! All are welcome! Contact: Janspoerl@aol.com
- **Kids R & R** ~ Grades 3 – 5 ~ meet on Sunday, March 17 during church school with Mrs. Cholet for a service project and fun. Contact: atcholet@gmail.com
- **Confirmation** ~ meets with Mr. Wood on Sunday morning during church school as they prepare to become new members of GRCC.
- **Acolytes** ~ church school children in the middle grades volunteer for this service project at the beginning of worship. Contact Mrs. H-K to serve: mrshk@glenridgecong.org

Thanks to all who support the faith formation studies and projects of C & Y. Many hands join together in the work of this community!

AP&P Ministry

This is Carl Rohling from the Ministry of Administration, Property & Personnel. As I learn from Sharon the ropes on maintaining this building and meeting the people who keep it running, I'd like to invite you to join the Ministry to help shape plans on using our facilities to both support existing and new initiatives that will bring in more revenue for the church.

Please reach out this Sunday after the service to learn more or join our first meeting of the year.

Carl Rohling, Chair AP&P

Rotary End Hunger 3.6 Event Drew University, Simon Forum Saturday, March 9 from 12-2pm



End Hunger is a meal packing event to serve those needing assistance in the New Jersey area. They are looking for youth and adult volunteers to package a goal of 250,000 meals. Youth volunteers should be in 5th grade and up but if younger siblings can follow directions and are not younger than first grade they can attend with a sibling and guardian/parent.

It is a fun time as well as immensely rewarding and eye opening for our kids. It

is also a lot of work, so come with energy!

Please contact Anne Martin at annebarron@yahoo.com to sign up to volunteer. Only 65 spots left.

CRISIS IN HAITI

An intense humanitarian crisis is currently afflicting all of Haiti, including Pwoje Espwa - a school, orphanage, and provider of many essential services to hundreds of impoverished children in Les Cayes, Haiti, with which our church has close ties.

The crisis stems from a movement being called "Operation Lock Down Haiti", which involves mass rioting, and unrest designed to force Haiti's President Moise to resign. The result is the closing of schools and businesses, an evacuation of all non-essential relief and government personnel, skyrocketing prices, and the significant scarcity of food, medicine and other key essentials.

Pwoje Espwa is doing its best to provide their children with the essentials, and as of this writing, their children are safe. But they desperately need our prayers and assistance to survive this latest crisis. The Ministry of Outreach and Mission has donated \$2000 to Pwoje Espwa, but this is not enough. Please help if you can, and keep them in your prayers.

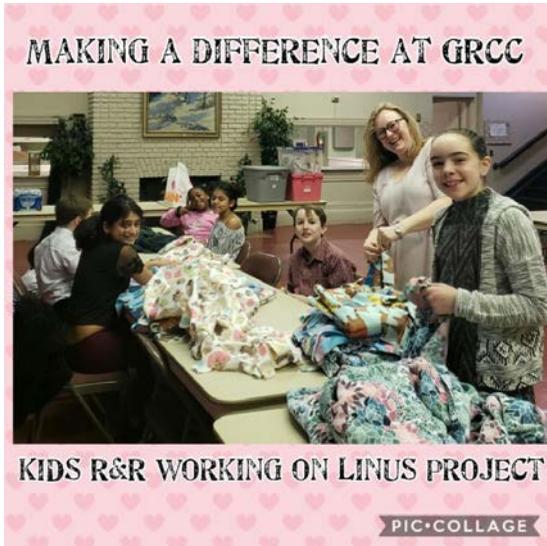
To find out more about the crisis, and how you can donate, please click on the following link:

<http://www.freethekids.org/latest-crisis-update-unrest-continues-into-second-week/>



No First Wednesday in March.
Join us on **Wednesday, April 3**

6:30pmSupper (Robinson Hall)
7:35pmTaizé Prayer Service



Did you hear the good news? Last Sunday Kids R&R created 17 blankets for Project Linus with Mrs. Cholet last Sunday! These special blankets will provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.

Thanks to all our 3rd-5th graders who participated in this wonderful service project! AWESOME JOB!

**Raise your voices, tap your toes,
clap your hands!**

You're invited to join a musical Lenten study "Plenty Good Room". Adult Ministries is coordinating our Lenten reading with our Music program and celebrating the oldest spiritual music in our country. We will embrace the spirituals during worship each week and continue with soup and second hour discussions. You can pick up a copy of "Plenty Good Room" in the church office or on the Clark Street table. Please join us as we read, sing, and study together.

First Sunday will be March 10, then March 17, 24, and 31.

Winter Treasure Enrichment Classes



For children in Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade continues at Glen Ridge Congregational Church, as an extension of Summer Treasure Camp. Our “Winter Wonderland!” session will spark your child’s imagination with after-school classes and full of stories, music, and art. Materials provided. Six Friday classes for \$180. Classes continue on March 1, 8, and 15 from 3:30-4:45. 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!



**Friday, March 29th 9:00am-
Saturday, March 30th 10:00am-**



Bible Study with Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks Beginning Wednesday, March 6th at 10:00 in the Library. Discussion of Bible Readings for the upcoming Sunday

March Food Needs



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

In March please fill the cart with cereal and oatmeal.



GLEN RIDGE VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

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>



Women’s Association

Spring Brunch

10:00am in the Blue Room on March 9th. Our own Olivia Kinloch will be presenting information about UNHCR.



March

3.....	Linda Potter
6.....	Bonnie Lowe
6.....	Grace Travia
7.....	Grace O'Grady
8.....	Bart Brown
8.....	Sam Dobbs
8.....	Lilly Provost
9.....	David Lefkovits
11.....	David Ellertson
11.....	Michael Brown
12.....	Ciaran Smyth
13.....	Emiko Honma
16.....	Sophie Harrison
16.....	Ione Bartlett
18.....	Susan Hughes
19.....	Chaz Burnett
22.....	Mary Duus
23.....	Beverly Curtis
23.....	Anise Kilgen
23.....	Victor Magnusson
25.....	Sari Brown
26.....	Linda Woodbury
27.....	David Mitchell
30.....	David Dik
31.....	Bob Dunn
31.....	Will Bartlett

If any of the above information is incorrect,
 please contact the church office:
alma.amendola@glenridgecong.org



FORGIVE OFTEN

The theme for March is [Forgive Often](#).

A recap of our **Be The Church** plan:

- April: Protect the Environment
- May: Embrace Diversity
- June: Enjoy Life



Picky Eating – How It Happens and What do About It

Book Signing with Melanie Potock, MA
 Thursday, March 7 @ 7pm GRCC –
 Robinson Hall

Admission: \$40 including signed book
 and talk. Please rsvp to
lori@montclairspeechtherapy.com or call
 862-621-9390.

Who Loves You Luncheon



Love is all you need



PIC•COLLAGE



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

AT HOME

Sylvia Caldwell, Phyllis Domenic, Fred Worth.

IN EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

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

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF OUR CHURCH

Erika Lomaga, Peter Bartlett, Jeff Domenic, Jean Sparks, Marie O'Grady, Cheryl Vivona, Becky Bodnar, JC Egbert, Stephen Strickland, Len Calvin, Andrea Row, George Boltnew, Jill Reintjes, Dan Glitzer, Merrill Roberts, Barbara Acosta, Thomas Bright, Sr., Jean and Barry Frere, Elizabeth Knox, Carolyn Pescatore, Bill Phillips, Christina Hepp, LeWanda Pleasant, Margot Priest, Sally Calhoun, Dennis Sinclair, Cathy Rohling, Dorothy Lefkovits, Billy Martin



**NONPROFIT
REFERRAL
PROGRAM**

HELP OUR ORGANIZATION
EARN MONEY FROM

H&R BLOCK

For every new client who files their taxes with H&R Block or Block Advisors, \$20 will be donated to GRCC. The total donation amount is unlimited!

Our Nonprofit Referral ID is **40010001100911**. There are flyers on the Clark Street Action Table with this information that you can bring with you to H&R Block. More Information in link below:

**"From *Voluptua* to *Barcelona Blues* and Thereafter:
An Interfaith Journey".
March 23rd -2:00-5:30pm.**

A cultural event, the second Meet the Author program, will be held for our own yoga teacher, Jason Martin's second novel, *Barcelona Blues*, at the Church. The program includes a reception, an interview with Jason about the book, his writing and his life, an interfaith round-table discussion, a recital of songs related to Dr. Martin's two novels, and a book signing.

The Meet the Author Series is created by Starseed Alliance for Multicultural Education©, a Starseed Community Education program in conjunction with GRCC's Adult Programs.



Thank you to the Women's Association for hosting a wonderful reception after Rev. Lake's last service at GRCC. It provided a time for the congregation to bid farewell to Damien, to wish him well in his new church and thank him for all he has done.