



GLEN RIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

Newsletter

April 2019

Worship in April

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

FIRST WEDNESDAY

Supper

6:30 P.M.

Taizé Prayer Service

7:35 P.M.

APRIL 7

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship | Communion

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, Preacher

Andy Song, Lay Leader

Music by the Chancel Choir

APRIL 14

SIXTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, Preacher

Sherry Brabham, Lay Leader

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

APRIL 18

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Worship & Communion; Service of Tenebrae

8:00 P.M.

APRIL 21

EASTER SUNDAY

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, Preacher

Craig Wood, Lay Leader

Music by the Chancel Choir, Carillon Bells and instrumentalists

APRIL 28

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, Preacher

Rita Ellertson, Lay Leader

Music by the Chancel Choir

From the Interim Minister

Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks

Rusty's Ramblings

Congratulations! Hopefully, your church will soon be on the verge of meeting the candidate selected by the Search Committee to be your 'settled minister' here at Glen Ridge CC. Your long exodus of uncertainty and wandering will end, and you will have a 'called' minister to lead this fine church into the next chapter in its history. Whew! You certainly need and deserve a stable and creative re-boot, and some smooth sailing on your journey toward renewal and growth.

In the short time I have been 'keeping the seat warm' as interim, I have been impressed by this church's strengths and resilience. The warmth of your welcoming, the vitality and beauty of your worship, your lovely building and surroundings, are inspiring. The leadership of this church is extraordinary; you have a deep list of devoted, smart and dedicated leaders and volunteers who keep this place hopping. The Council and committee members work hard and take their jobs to heart. Your staff, Tom, Maira, Alma, and Patrick – are skilled, tireless, creative and faithful to their calling. I have been blessed to be able to work with them this past month. The bones of this church are strong!

Now is no time to sit on our laurels. Now it's time to prepare ways to welcome in your new spiritual guide. It's time to sweep out cobwebs, throw open windows, and lay out a red carpet. This doesn't just mean fixing up the parsonage and emptying the desk in the minister's office. It also means being flexible, to for change. It is to allow for the new pastor to fashion the worship service to suit his/her vision and spiritual message. It means listening to new ideas about welcoming in newcomers, having fun, communicating and getting our message out to the wider community. It means allowing for a shift in your understanding of your faith lives – as you come to appreciate the spiritual wealth and gifts of your new pastor. It means building trust, listening, being curious, and fostering a 'heart connection.' This takes time – and patience and caring. I'm confident that this church will create space needed for your new minister – and to be open to learn from, and to work with this new teacher and friend. Be forewarned – changes lie ahead! But we are called to transformation in faith and growth in spirit, right? This too lies ahead! I'm happy to be working with you in the coming months as we 'prepare the way'.

Wishing you God's grace and peace,
Rev. Rusty

From the Minister of Music Thomas Mustachio



PALM SUNDAY 4/14

Carillon Bells, Tower Ringers and Chapel Bells will lead the great Procession with Palms into the Sanctuary at 10am. Special musical offerings by our Chancel Choir, Children's Choirs and Chapel Bells.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 4/18

Our Chancel Choir will sing many meditative selections as the lights slowly dim and we hear the Passion reading unfold at 8pm.

EASTER SUNDAY 4/21

Chancel Choir, Carillon Bells, and instrumentalists will fill the sanctuary with music at 10am as we welcome back the "Alleluia!" Anyone who would like to join in singing the *Hallelujah* Chorus from "Messiah" is welcome to join the choir in the loft toward the end of the service.

Glen Ridge Community Concerts

MUSIC OF Light & Peace

FEATURING
Requiem for the Living
by Dan Forrest

GLEN RIDGE
CHORAL SOCIETY
Chamber Orchestra

Thomas Mustachio
Music Director

Sunday, April 7, 2019
3:00 P.M.

TICKETS
Adults \$20
Seniors \$15
Students \$10
Available at the door

GLEN RIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
195 Ridgewood Avenue • Glen Ridge, New Jersey • (973) 743-5596

Reception following the concert!

From the Church School Coordinator

Mrs. H-K



I asked the entire Church School on Sunday to join me in supporting “More Than We Can Imagine” which is this year’s slogan for One Great Hour of Sharing. One way to show our love during Lent is to share what we have with others. The children will be searching for loose change to deposit in our Coin Jar! We have discussed that all those nickels left between couch cushions, pennies in car cup holders, and quarters at the bottom of bags add up! My intention is for the kids to observe how much the coin collection grows and grows during Lent. We will learn that our donation of coins will help others in ways “More Than We Can Imagine.”

One Great Hour of Sharing asks us to imagine a world...

- where “no child goes unfed, unhoused, or unloved;
- where no one feels abuse or violence;
- where clean water is not a dream but a reality for all;
- where small farmers do their work with dignity and are paid fair wage for their labors;
- where agricultural practices enrich and renew the land rather than deplete it;

- where survivors of natural disasters have the resources they need, now and for years to come;
- where vulnerable immigrants are welcomed in Christ’s name.

Can YOU imagine? I look forward to counting the coins and sharing the total amount with the children on Sunday, April 27th! Thank you in advance for your offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world. We are ALL growing in God’s love as each day passes. We give thanks to God!

Much Love, Mrs. H-K

Ministry of Children & Youth

By Janet Spoerl, Chairpersons

April 2019 is filled with Lent and learning more about Earth & Environment. It is what Christians do to grow from caterpillars to cocoons to butterflies and from seeds to plants to blossoms. C & Y joins with the church universal in the opportunity to worship, study, reflect, and grow in faith formation.

- **C & Y** ministry team supports Church School each Sunday in learning more about Jesus Christ and his teachings and ministry to us today. Have you seen the cocoon? Have you seen the plants? Are you protecting the environment by using “Less plastic for Lent” and finding ways to “Reuse More!” Check out church school.
- **Church School** is an every Sunday event! Send your kids. Offer to help. Sunday, April 7 is “Way to the Cross”. Students will experience the journey of Jesus. April 14 is the “Palm Sunday Processional” where church school joins the congregation in waving palm branches and entering Holy Week. April 21 is Easter, the most glorious day of joy!
- **Outreach Activities** support faith formation. Church School joins in the One Great Hour of Sharing ~ save your coins! Bring food for those in need. Thanks to the 14 who assisted in the End Hunger 3.6 initiative. Over 700 food packets (packed by us) were part of the 250,000 packets made for those who are food insecure in NJ.

The job is never finished! Thanks for continuing to feed the hungry.

- **Family Faith** ~ Saturday, April 27, 4:30 – 6:00, in Robinson Hall ~
Earth ~ God’s Creation ~ Our Responsibility
Join in learning and fun! All are welcome! Please see the link for actions to take to help Save & Protect the earth by using “Less Plastic and Reuse More!” Watch for this new initiative to unfold!
- **Kids R & R** ~ Grades 3 – 5 Thanks for the St. Patrick’s goodies at Fellowship Hour and . . . April brings more baking and outreach for Lent / Easter. Contact: atcholet@gmail.com
- **Confirmation** ~ Craig Wood meets each Sunday morning with the confirmands. Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks is busily engaged in guiding Confirmands through the final steps of preparation for Confirmation as he works with the students and is drawing in the parents and sponsors to assist these young people taking the step to church membership on June 9.
- **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!



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14

9:45AM

We gather in Robinson Hall for
the great procession.

10AM

Worship Service

*Chancel Choir, children's choirs,
handbells, percussion*

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 18

7PM

Come walk the Labyrinth in
Robinson Hall

8PM

Communion and

Service of Tenebrae in the Sanctuary
Chancel Choir

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19

1 – 3PM

Walk the Labyrinth in Robinson Hall

EASTER, APRIL 21

10AM

Festival Worship Service
*Chancel Choir, handbells,
instrumentalists*



CYBER-BULLYING SPEAKER

April 28th - 11:30am - 12:30pm

Robinson Hall

Sergeant Manning of the Glen Ridge Police Department will be coming to our church to speak on cyber bullying - an increasing prevalent issue in our society today. This seminar, geared towards parents of children in upper elementary through high school, will help parents identify the signs of cyber bullying - whether your child is being bullied, or whether your child is, in fact, the perpetrator of the bullying.

All parents are welcome. Please feel free to invite friends, neighbors, or anyone you feel would benefit from learning more about this topic. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please contact Phyllis Connolly at pajamasconnolly@verizon.net.



April 3, 2019
 Food is provided.
 All are welcome!

6:30pm..... Supper (Robinson Hall)
 7:35pm..... Taizé Prayer Service

April Food Needs

We support the MEND pantry at the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green.
 In April please fill the cart peanut butter and jelly.



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>



PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

The theme for April is “*Protect the Environment.*” Let’s seek ways to protect and care for the environment, in our own personal lives, and by seeking pathways toward a sustainable future.

Why would a church include the environment in its vision statement? Well...because as people of faith we are committed to caring for our neighbor as ourselves. The ‘biosphere’ is our neighbor; it’s pain and sustainability is our own. We are interconnected with all of creation and are a part of it – not separate, but interwoven. Consider how the effects of global climate change are hitting us now, not decades in the future. St. Augustine taught that there are three ways to know God: scripture, revelation and nature. Nature is the ‘first bible.’ Too often we leave the natural world out of our worship or our faith statements. We are nature – and God loves us all as ‘children of God.’ Be the church.

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.

April

1	Sasha Provost
3	Craig Wood
3	Susie Colonna
3	Lucy Colonna
5	Bruce Hyland
5	Lena Shove
5	Ty Haydock
7	Merle Herbstreith
7	Nancy Bigelow
9	Susan Krien
9	Sam Collins
10	Ann Bronneck
11	Lori Testa
11	Anna Buntrock
15	Graham Johns
15	Betsie Delorm
16	Carl Gantuah
16	Jessica Buchmann
16	Spencer Wiley
17	Jill Simmons
19	Audrey Wood
22	Dale Litvany
22	Zach Konetzni
22	Avery Ramirez
26	Bob Hayes
27	Irene Stevens Heun
27	Tom Coleman
29	Andrew Waugh
29	Harlan Schade
29	Andrea Schnack
30	Paul Brewster
30	Edward Brandell
30	Bob Dunn
30	Will Bartlett

SAVE THE DATE
Vacation Bible School

June 25-28
9am-12pm



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

AT HOME

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

Easter Flowers

service on April 21, 2019



We invite you to donate Easter flowers for the sanctuary in memory or in honor of loved ones. Any amount is welcome.

Please send this completed form and your check, payable to the GRCC Flower Fund, to Norma Batastini, Flower Committee, 195 Ridgewood Avenue, Glen Ridge, NJ 07028, or drop it in her mailbox in the Church Office. If you have any questions, call Norma at 973-746-2936 or e-mail her at G_Batastini@msn.com.

Deadline for the memorials is Friday, April 12th. The listing of donations will be published as an insert to the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____ Phone _____

Flowers in memory/honor of: _____

Optional:

Many donors submit the same names at Easter and Christmas. For your convenience and to save paper, you may now submit your donation for both events at this time. You will receive an email or phone call in December as a reminder that it is complete.

Check YES, if this is for both events.

Donation amount: _____