



Pompton Reformed Church
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November 2018



Dear Sisters and Brothers of PRC,

It seems hard to believe that we will soon be entering the Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany season already, but the calendar does not lie. This will, as always, be a very busy stretch in the life of our faith family here at Pompton Reformed.

We bid a fond and grateful farewell to Pastor Mel at the end of September and pray that our Lord will abundantly bless him and Irene in the next chapter of their life and faith journey. We are also grateful to Pastors Nathan Busker and Debbie Pierce from the Ponds Reformed Church as well as their consistory for allowing the temporary arrangement in which either Nathan or Debbie will be our preacher each week. The only way this could work was to change our worship time to 11:00 for the duration of the pastoral search process. Thanks to all for your flexibility in accommodating these changes. Please know that our Elders are always available for any concerns, questions, or for needed prayers.

Here are some things to keep in mind and dates & events to note for the coming months:

Upcoming Preachers:

11/4 – Rev. Pierce
11/11 – Rev. Busker
11/18 – Rev. Busker
11/25 – Rev. Pierce



Sunday, November 11th – We will again have a Veteran's Day Recognition within the worship service including a special 100th anniversary commemoration of 11/11/18, Armistice Day – later to become Veteran's Day.

Sunday, November 18th (Thanksgiving Sunday) – What better way to express our thanks for God's abundant blessings than by pledging our financial support of His ministries in 2019. We respectfully ask that all pledge packets be returned by this date if at all possible.

Note: There will be an interfaith Thanksgiving service held in our community. We are awaiting a final date, time and location and will get the word out to the PRC family as soon as these are known.

Sunday, December 2nd (1st Sunday of Advent) 11:00 AM Worship AND Vespers Service at 4:00 PM. This Vespers Service, planned and directed by our gifted Music Director Patti Kitchell, is always a beautiful way to usher in the Season of Advent and to set our focus where it should be, the coming Emmanuel.

Sunday, December 9th (2nd Sunday of Advent) 2019 offering envelopes will be distributed on this and subsequent Sundays. Congregational Meeting and luncheon immediately following worship. A great deal to be celebrated and discussed, including some frank discussion of our financial realities and a pastoral search update.

Sunday, December 16th (3rd Sunday of Advent) Children's & Family Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 23rd (4th Sunday of Advent)

Monday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Worship Service (time TBD)

Sunday, December 30th

Sunday, January 6th, 2019 (Epiphany Sunday)

We would like to again thank you for your patience during a much longer than expected pastoral search process. Our search team continues to do an amazing job. The length of this search is **not in any way** a reflection of their tremendous hard work, devotion and determination for seeking THE pastor God is calling to us at this critical time. There have been setbacks and disappointments along the way. Please thank and encourage these faithful servants when you get a chance. In addition to search team chair Jack Tice and Classis supervisor Nathan Busker, the search team members are Drew Altorfer; Doreen Apgar; Cristina Earle; Keith Hanisch; Kim Hollar; Vince Iraggi; Sue Kuebler; Terry Terhune; Elena Van Schaack; Joanie Warner and Kristin Widdowson. There will be a detailed update on the very latest in this process at our congregational meeting on December 9th.

Please continue to pray for our church, the search process, and that God's will be done in all things!!

Yours In Christ,

Mark



So Much to Be Thankful for
By Elaine Peacock



Well, it is that time of year again- time to stop and think of what we are thankful for. I'm sure every year you have your favorites and each year we add a few more to our favorites list. One special reason to be thankful for this year is the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. All the Dough Boys are gone now but November 11, 1918 is still important to all Americans. Of course the top of the list for November is Thanksgiving. Before the rush of the holiday season we have a chance to sit down with family and friends to enjoy a meal and share some time together. I wish each and every one of you a thankful list that gets longer and longer. Each and every day may you find something or someone to be thankful for. Happy Thanksgiving!!



ROUNDTABLE OF THANKS

THANK YOU TO THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE AND ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED WITH AUTUMNFEST. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION.

THANK YOU TO KAREN HUYERS FOR THE GREAT JOB SHE DOES EVERY MONTH IN PUTTING THE NEWSLETTER TOGETHER WITH INSPIRATION AND INFORMATION. WE ARE SO APPRECIATIVE.

THANK YOU TO MARCIA CONINGSWOOD FOR FAITHFULLY VOLUNTEERING EVERY WEEK TO CLEAN THE KITCHEN AND FOR BEING THE PRC LIBRARIAN. THANK YOU MARCIA FOR ALL YOU DO.

THANKS TO ALL! WE APPRECIATE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU!!



Thank you to all veterans and current members of our Armed Forces!

Dear Mark, Elders, and Consistory,

Thank you for the beautiful tributes you have given me as you released me from service at Pompton Reformed Church. The opportunity to give a farewell message, the farewell fellowship time, the gift of a cross made from the roof beams, the gift to Monica's Restaurant, and the affirming wording in the card with the gift were all blessings to me and to Irene.

I have grown in faith, learning more how to face life in relationship with Christ, as I have watched your examples and partnered with you. You have blessed my life. Thank you.

I shall continue to pray for you, knowing of your commitment to live out the grace and love of Jesus Christ. It is not just a motto. You live it.

I shall continue to pray for you for another reason too, realizing the complexity and challenges of being church leaders in this era. And I shall be organizing in the next couple of months what I have learned that will be helpful to you as leaders in 2019 and for a future pastor.

Yours in Christ,

Mel Van Hatten



Dear PRC family,
Thank you very much for the encouraging cards and prayers. My knee is still ailing but my spirit is soaring knowing so many people care for me and are praying for my health. Thank you all!

Karen Huysers

Vespers Service



VESPERS... A Special Way to begin the Advent Season.....

This year's Vespers Service is on Sunday December 2nd @ 4 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Vespers is a beautiful, peaceful, reflective service preparing us for the Christmas season. It is on the First Sunday of Advent at 4 p.m. We gather to enjoy carols and readings of the season, as well as special anthems by our choirs. The Sanctuary is aglow with Christmas decor and candlelight. It is an enchanting way to begin this season of anticipation and joy.

All are invited to come and bring friends. A time of light holiday refreshments follows the Vesper Service.

Please put this on your Calendar. You will truly experience the anticipation and peace of the season to come.



Birrthdays



Joanie Warner
Allison Lockwood
Megan Lockwood

In memory of Kathryn Peacock on her birthday, from Elaine.

Memorials

<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Eleanor Haling	Nancy Carnes & Jean Ewing	Undesignated Memorial.
Linda Hufschmid	Mom, Audrey M. Hufschmid	Undesignated



Condolences to Chuck and Helen Gioia on the passing of Chuck's sister, Louise.



Your presence is needed.....



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 9TH

Please plan on attending our annual congregational meeting which will be held on Sunday, December 9th immediately following our worship service. This has been, and continues to be, a time of challenging transition for our church family and there are many important things to discuss. Our plan is to continue with last year's format in which various teams will be celebrating accomplishments as well as sharing dreams and visions for 2019 and beyond. We have accomplished a great deal together in the many months since Pastor Tom retired, and although we still prayerfully await God's call to our next Senior Pastor, there remains much to be done, which is why **your presence at this meeting is essential**. The booklet that in recent years has been available at the meeting will again be available beginning in late November, which will allow everyone plenty of time to digest the contents. If there are specific questions, we request that they be submitted prior to the meeting so that we can provide thoughtful responses. Please submit these to the author of whatever area you are questioning. Our hope is that in this way we will be able to reduce the need to open the floor to questions at the meeting. Please be sure to mark your calendar and plan to join us because **your voice needs to be heard!!** There will be a light lunch available for us to enjoy together during this all important meeting

Thanks!!

Bible Study Starting!

"Follow" beginning Sunday, November 4 at 9:30 AM prior to Worship at 11AM. Eight sessions led by Elena Van Schaak. Contact Elena at evs12@optimum.net for more information.



Faith Reflections: Thanksgiving

By Laura Johnson

“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)

The holiday of Thanksgiving falls always on Thursday. If it were really about being thankful, the day would be on a Friday or Monday so we'd all get that three-day weekend. But that's not what the Pilgrims of Plymouth were thinking about when they sat down all those centuries ago to share a meal of thanks.

They were celebrating God's blessings of a great harvest in a most uncertain time in a brand-new land. (They weren't worried about having enough turkey leftover to make a sandwich the next day for lunch).

As a national holiday, Thanksgiving is secularized. Yet, in almost every American family tradition, there is a point during the day when talk turns to what people are most thankful for. The cutest responses always come from the pint-sized people who often cite new toys or pets, but for the most part, we humans are thankful for the ones we love. We are thankful because we know that our time with them is precious—and limited.

Holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas, are hardest for those who have lost a loved one. They remember the happiness of the season and feel the hard reality that an important piece of that happiness is now gone. While in his letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul urged Christ's followers to be joyful at all times, that's just not always possible.

When terrible things happen in our lives—death of a loved one, a crippling accident, an inability to have children, a break-up—it is only right and just to cry and mourn and scream at God. We ask God, “How could you let this happen?” when we feel like our heart has been cut out. The only way to ride it out is to experience it completely. This ability to feel is what makes us human.

But Paul was not telling his flock to hide their true feelings, so they could always be happy. Instead, he was trying to encourage and reassure the early Christians that Jesus was indeed going to come again. In that knowledge, he urged the Thessalonians to be thankful and to give praise. This is a promise Christians can find assurance in today.

Yes, Paul was correct that we should be thankful in all circumstances—thankful to God for God's goodness and grace, even if we don't feel up to the task. Eventually, it will get better. When you have an open dialogue with Jesus about everything you're feeling—the doubts, the turmoil, the grief—the weight will be lifted from your shoulders and you'll have even more to be grateful for than before. The ultimate goal is to be able to be

joyful, prayerful and thankful to the Lord at all times. With God's help, this can be achieved.

This year, when you sit down at your Thanksgiving table give thanks for the people surrounding you in love but also give thanks for the creator of love itself. For it is truly right to give God thanks and praise.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise. Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you. All the earth worships you; they sing you praises to you, sing praises to your name." (Psalms 66, 1-4)

Discussion questions:

1. What is one thing that you are thankful for today?
2. Describe a time you were so overcome with joy and thanks to God you couldn't do anything but give God praise.
3. Describe a time you were so overcome with grief and despair you cried out to God in anger. Read Psalm 63:1-5.
4. What are some ways of worshiping God in your daily life without being in constant meditation?

Short prayer: Jesus, I cry out to you in thanksgiving and also to ask for your forgiveness. I am in awe of your beautiful creation and my family and friends whom I share it with. I give you thanks for the blessings you have heaped upon me in my life. Amen.

From "Café," A publication of the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) 11/1/12

**GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD
FOR HE IS GOOD**
His LOVE endures FOREVER!!!

A Thanksgiving Prayer
By Debbie McDaniel

Dear God,

Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you that you are Able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for your purposes. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy!

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.





NOVEMBER 24

Join us for a tour exploring this important community pillar and learn about many of Pompton Lake's Founding Families.

We will walk the church grounds, explore the catacombs, learn about the architectural design and discover exciting local history.

**RSVP to Laura Jennings by XX/XX
jennings.lauraf@gmail.com**

