



November 2019



Pompton Reformed Church
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Hello from the Burden Family!

I want to start off by saying thank you so much for the Pastor Appreciation gift! It was such a wonderful surprise and Jill and I are really looking forward to going to Stefano's for dinner. We have felt so welcomed and loved by you over the last 6 months...time has really flown by!

In October, we made it up to Canada to celebrate Thanksgiving (yes, Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving in October!!) with Jill's family. It was a beautiful drive all the way up to Barry's Bay, Ontario...the leaves had all turned up there. When it comes to travel, our kids are veterans and they were awesome for the ride. This past month we also went up to Amherst, MA to visit the Emily Dickinson and Eric Carle Museums. Arie has been reading about Emily Dickinson and we thought it would be a great way to cap off the lessons. I highly recommend it, especially for an overnight trip...the food in Amherst and Northampton was great! Finally, Jill's parents came down and stayed with us this past weekend and they absolutely loved the manse, Pompton Lakes, and visiting our church. Thank you so much for welcoming them and making them feel at home. We love being able to comfortably host family members when they come, so thank you again for putting so much work into the manse!!

Things around church are going great! Pompton Reformed is a busy place and we are having a blast. From Autumnfest to collecting socks for Oasis to Boxes of Love, it is so great to see our people engaged in the community and doing ministry. Thank you for participating!

In November, we are going to be jumping into the New Testament and wrapping up our series on the overview of the Bible! We will be looking at the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15, the last verses in the Book of Acts, and then Revelation 21 and 22. It has been hard for me to pick and choose because there SO MUCH we could do. But we have plenty of time for that!

Grace + Peace,
Pastor John

Thankful



A Season of Gratitude and Thanksgiving

"Thank you." "Thanks a lot." "Merci beaucoup." "Thank you very much." "So grateful." "Much appreciated." Just a few words we use to express gratitude. Other ways we show gratitude might include smiles, hugs, phone calls, notes of appreciation. My point is "thank you" seems so inadequate in response to the deluge of caring and compassionate assistance I recently was privileged to receive. Truly I was overwhelmed. I would need all these and more means of expression to begin to say how grateful and blessed I feel. You, my church family and friends, answered the call, then went above and beyond. Following my recent surgery and during my time of temporary disability, you agreed to be my drivers and drove me to appointments, on errands and to church; delivered meals; brought in my mail; went grocery shopping for and with me; sent gift cards; went on pharmacy runs; sent MANY get-well/thinking of you cards; called to "check in"; visited; offered, then delivered needed equipment to my home. (For those of you who came in person, I apologize for the arduous climb up to my "virtual treehouse".) Several of you also agreed to be on "standby status" for driving. All this and the prayer support from EVERYONE has meant so much. It has meant everything. Again I say "thank you, thank you". You were the Hands and Feet of Christ for me in my need. Truly humbling. Indeed, we ALL have seasons of being able-bodied and not so able-bodied; capable of giving assistance, then a time of needing it from others. If we are honest, we recognize these cycles of life. We give; we receive. In this season of Thanksgiving this year, I am especially grateful and thankful. I hope that as I continue to recover I can be of assistance to others in their need as occasions arise. "Now thank we all our God" for all His blessings "and all His love".

Gratefully,
Caroline Winter



Round Table of Thanks

Karen Huysers for doing such a great job with the newsletter.
(and thank you for the opportunity!)

Birthdays



Joanie Warner
Allison Lockwood
Megan Lockwood

In memory of Kathryn Peacock's birthday

In memory of Albert and Kathryn Peacock on what would have been Kathryn's 100th birthday
given by Elaine Peacock



Memorials

<u>Given By</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Pat Gordon	Her Mother, Florence	Capital Campaign
David Hegner	Kay Bergin	Undesignated
Brian & Sondra Gessner	Kay Bergin	Undesignated
Shirley Montanari	Kay Bergin	Music
Kevin & Lorna Carroll	Jeanette Poulsen	Undesignated
Walt Struble	Jeanette Poulsen	Undesignated
Carol Stevenson	Jeanette Poulsen	Undesignated
Eleanor Haling	Jean Ewing & Nancy Carnes	Undesignated

Grateful

Grateful for the scars, grateful for the tears,
Grateful for the mercy that brought me through the years.
You were always with me Lord, this at last I see.
In spite of every circumstance, You were watching over me.

So, Lord all I can do is thank You, to be grateful for Your coming rest.
For as this life continues I know that I've been blessed.
And Lord, please forgive my countenance, my frustrations, my judgmental tone.
For all the gifts I have received, from You and You alone.

Most of all Lord, I am grateful for the healing, that none like me deserve.
And the thankfulness I feel is the reason that I serve.
As the days grow ever shorter, and that final sunset nears,
Yes Lord, I am Grateful for Your grace that conquered all my fears.

J.W. Casey

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1 Thessalonians 5:18 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁸In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Gratitude

The quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

MISSIONS UPDATE

Thanks from the mission team for your incredible support of our most recent requests.



PRC's SOCKTOBER collection of socks for delivery to Oasis: A Haven for Women & Children. Socks are still coming to church but 218 pairs were donated as of Sunday October 27. By the time you read this article these will have been delivered. The Sock box will remain out for at least one week of November. After that any socks or other Oasis donations can be placed in the labeled blue container in room 104. They are always in need of supplies for babies so that may be a drive we do in the new year. Good condition used clothes for women and children are also accepted all year for their weekly clothing distributions.

Urban Promise representatives are coming to church on November 3. Their website says, “Our mission is to equip Camden's children and young adults with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, spiritual growth, and Christian leadership.” Urban Promise develops relationships by running afterschool and summer programs, Camden Forward School, Urban Promise Academy, a Street Leader Program and much more. PRC is hoping to develop stronger personal ties to their ministry. Missions is interested in developing a list and contacts for community outreach so that we can provide information for people looking for ways to serve as the hands and feet of Christ. Please begin thinking about activities you do that others might also want to participate in. Details will follow in the church announcements soon.



More Mission News!

A message from Robert Barrett

Greetings friends,

I hope this message finds you well as the calendar flips to November in a couple of days. I cannot believe how fast the Fall has gone by! Fall is a busy season in my ministry at Boston Higher Education Resource Center as my group of High School Seniors are feverishly preparing to send off their College Applications and dreaming of what campus they might find themselves on next year. It is an exciting time yet also so stressful!

I will be taking a pause from my students to head off to Puerto Rico next week (Nov 1-9) to lead my 2nd team as a team leader for Convoy of Hope. There has been incredible progress made on the ground in since the last time I was on the island in early August. Villa Esperanza, the village we have been working in, was left completely in ruins with only 4 houses left standing after Hurricane Maria. Next week, my team will be putting the finishing touches on the last of the 30 houses that Convoy of Hope teams have rebuilt this year. I love how each team that has served in Puerto Rico has poured so much hard work and love into this community. It is a blessing to be able to be a part of it and thank you to each of you for helping to make this possible. You are a big part of what has happened in Villa Esperanza! Thank you.

The pictures below show progress that has been made on the same home in Villa Esperanza. My team from Boston University was a part of laying the rebar for the foundation back in March. When I returned in August, the structure had been built and my team was able to run electrical and paint.



Each of the 30 houses in this community has been built the same way, by team after team coming and continuing the work while also sharing in relationship with the people who live in Villa. Robert, the man who will live in this beautiful home, has had hundreds of people come to work on building his house, pray with him and extend the love of Christ to him. I'm looking forward to seeing Robert's house completely finished!

As much of a blessing it has been to be able to take 3 trips and serve with teams in Puerto Rico this year, conditions in Haiti continue to worsen with each passing week. The violence, which had calmed somewhat over the summer, has erupted once again in recent weeks. It is heartbreaking to hear. Please continue to pray for Haiti and for the Haitians who are suffering. There continues to be a lack of basic resources such as food, water, and fuel. Convoy continues to feed over 100,000 children in Haiti each school day and provide whatever support we can to our friends on the ground.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement! I'm eagerly anticipating what God is going to do in Puerto Rico next week as my team works toward wrapping up Convoy of Hope's time in Villa Esperanza. Please partner with me in prayer for this trip- pray for the team (a church group from New Jersey), the men, women, and children in Villa Esperanza that we will meet, serve, and work alongside during the week, and for me as I co-lead my 2nd team in this still new Convoy of Hope volunteer role I have stepped into. It is going to be a great week!

Blessings!

Robert

1 Chronicles 16:34

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Editor's Note;

This edition, timed with the month of Thanksgiving, is all about gratitude and giving thanks- to those we live with, work with, worship with but more so to the Lord who provides all our blessings. I must thank God for the life of Cindi Petrides, who passed unexpectedly on October 28. Cindi was so involved in the life of the church- education of our children, bell choir, and so many other behind the scenes activities. She wasn't feeling well recently but it was a shock to learn of her passing. We will celebrate her life on November 17 here at the church she loved. She leaves her sister, Valerie, and her beloved dogs as well as many friends and cousins.



Fellowship Dates to remember

November 10 Chili Social
December 22 Cookie Social

Autumnfest Update

Thank you to all who helped make Autumnfest a success! A final tally will be available next month, but many people were touched by the love of God shared by all who were involved.

Sight and Sound Theater Trip

The Fellowship Committee is very happy to announce a return to the popular and magnificent Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. Our trip will take place Saturday, October 3, 2020. We will see another spectacular production—and one of the most riveting Bible stories of the Old Testament—“Queen Esther”, which has been 3 years in the making. Following the show we will travel a short distance to a wonderful Amish Country restaurant, serving an all-you-can-eat dinner, family style. You will have time to visit the extensive gift shop before returning home to PRC. It may seem far off but the Sight and Sound biblical productions are extremely popular and book up very quickly. That is why we reserve for our large group of 50 this early. As soon as we are able to pay the balance, we can select our

actual seating section in the theater. The total cost is \$145.00 per person (adult-see Rick for the cost for children 12 and under), and includes all expenses, even gratuities. We expect to book this trip quickly so if you are interested, be sure and sign up on the sheet just outside the kitchen as soon as possible.

Payment by cash or check by November 30.

This is our 10th trip to the Sight and Sound Theater and each has been a wonderful memory-filled experience! See Rick Pierce for questions and for payment. You can reach Rick at (973) 800-3499 (cell) or (973) 513-9353 (home)

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Tuesday, November 26 at 7PM
at Christ Episcopal Church, Ramapo Ave, Pompton Lakes



Now Thank We All Our God

Martin Rinkart, ca.1636

tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1856

alt.

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And guard us through all ills in this world, till the next!

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven—
The one eternal God, Whom earth and Heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.



Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours,
no hands, no feet on earth but yours,
yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world,
yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands, no feet on earth but yours,
yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

"Christ Has No Body" by Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

