



Pompton Reformed Church
59 Hamburg Turnpike
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
(973) 835-0541
www.pomptonreformed.org
February 2020



February is the month we celebrate and honor the loved ones in our lives. Moms, Dads, boyfriends, girlfriends, spouse and children among others. Hearts, flowers, candy, dinner out, are some of the many ways we let our special people know they matter to us.

But the good news is that

God Is Love 1 John 4:7-12

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

How do we show God our love for Him?

The Daily Study Bible Series – the Letter to the Romans – Revised Edition

William Barclay Colossians 3: 1 - 4

This will obviously give him (The Christian) a new set of values. Things which the world thought important, he will no longer worry about. Ambitions which dominated the world, will be powerless to touch him. He will go on using the things of the world, but he will use them in a new way. He will, for instance, set giving above getting, serving above ruling, forgiving above avenging. *The Christian's standard of values will be God's not men's.*

(tip of the hat to Jack Tice!)

Hearts A Fire

By Elaine Peacock



February has arrived and even though it is cold our hearts are a fire with thoughts of Valentine's Day and what special treats will we surprise our loved ones with this year. This year February birthday babies that were born on February 29th can actually celebrate their *real* birthday. Of course, one of my friends tells me she is really much younger due to the fact she only gets to celebrate her birthday every four years. OK, chocolates, flowers, and a card with hearts and a beautiful sentiment inside are fine, but what if we did something unexpected for the special people we love; such as help them with some paper work, take them shopping, or maybe help with some chores. Helping someone will last much longer than the flowers or the chocolates, but your loved ones will long remember that you took the time to do something special just for them. Happy Valentine's Day Everyone!!

Birthdays



Connor Conklin (19)

Meredith Davis

In memory of Albert Peacock on his birthday from Elaine.

*in loving
memory*

Memorials

From	In Memory of	Designation
Jack Tice	Gregory Cockefair	Undesignated
Jim & Dorothy Doland	Gregory Cockefair	Undesignated
Bruce Davis	Gregory Cockefair	Undesignated
Carolyn Stevens	Gregory Cockefair	Undesignated
Kevin & Lorna Carroll	Gregory Cockefair	Undesignated



THANK YOU, PRC FAMILY

The Education/Discipleship (ED) team extends a heartfelt thank you to all families and individuals for your wonderful and generous response to the "reverse advent" ministry in which so many had the opportunity to focus on giving rather than receiving during our recent Advent season. Thanks to your amazing support and generous hearts, we have been able to fully stock the food pantry and reserves to overflowing, which will surely be a blessing to dozens of families in need in our communities. Your overwhelming response is so very much appreciated!!

Fellowship Activities

Keep these dates open for Fellowship activities throughout 2020:

Chili Social: February 9

Appetizer Social: March 29

Red, White, and Blue Berries Social: June 14

Ice Cream Social: July 12

Pie Ala Mode: August 23

Church-Wide Picnic: September 13

Autumnfest 2020: October 17

Cookie Social: December 20

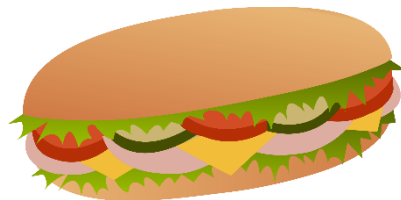


Upcoming dates to remember:

February 2- Pick up hoagies

February 22- Applebees fundraiser- tickets on sale now!

March 28- Community Breakfast



Education News/Family Activity

The following was previously published by RCA and was written by Marcia Floding, a member of Third Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan

Family Activity for Lent: Making Pretzels

Pretzels have an important meaning during Lent. Pretzels were made in the fifth century as a Lenten food in Austria, Germany, and Poland. People began to make them on Ash Wednesday, the very first day of Lent. The word "pretzel" is a German word meaning "little arms." The dough was shaped in such a way to look like two arms, crossed in prayer.

Pretzels were made to take the place of bread, since milk, eggs, and fats were not used during Lent. On certain days during Lent it was the custom to give pretzels to the townspeople who were poor.

As a family, make some pretzels. Two variations for making pretzels are included at the bottom of this sheet. Enjoy the pretzels and let them remind you that Lent is a time of prayer. Before you eat the pretzels, say a prayer together.

Dear God, we ask you to bless these pretzels which we are about to eat. Each time we eat them may we be reminded that this is the season of Lent, a time of prayer. Help us to remember to pray for those who need our prayers each day. Keep your loving arms around us, O God, to protect us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Adapted from "Pretzel Prayer, " A Time of Hope: Family Celebrations and Activities for Lent and Easter, Morehouse-Barlow Co., Inc. 1979 (out of print).

BREAD PRETZELS

1 ¼ cups water (85 degrees)	1 egg yolk
1 tablespoon dry yeast	1 to 2 teaspoons water or milk
½ teaspoon sugar	coarse salt
4 ½ cups flour	



Let yeast and sugar dissolve in water for one hour. Add flour to yeast mixture and beat until smooth. Knead mixture for seven to eight minutes. Place in a greased, covered bowl and let the dough rise until double in size. Divide the dough in half; then divide each half into smaller pieces of equal size. Roll each piece in your hands to make pencil shapes, twelve (12) to fifteen (15) inches long. Shape each length of dough into pretzels. Place on a greased baking sheet. Brush with egg yolk and water or milk mixture. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 325 degrees until lightly browned on top.

FROZEN BREAD DOUGH PRETZELS

Thaw one loaf of frozen bread dough. Let the dough rise according to directions on the package. Divide the dough in half and place on a floured board. Cut each half into eight (8) equal pieces. Roll small pieces into strips about eighteen (18) inches long. Shape into pretzels. Place on a greased baking sheet. Brush the tops of the pretzels with beaten egg yolk mixed with one (1) tablespoon of water. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 350 degrees for twenty (20) to thirty (30) minutes or until lightly browned to top.

Mission News



January 13, 2020

Dear Pompton Reformed Church Missions Committee,

Greetings and blessings from Boston. It was a great joy to be able to be at PRC for worship the Sunday before Christmas and to meet Pastor John. I am excited for all that God has for PRC and for the Pompton Lakes community during this new season.

In two short months, from March 7-14, I will be traveling back to Puerto Rico with a group of Boston University students for their annual Mission Trip. It is a blessing to continue to co-lead this trip with BU Chi Alpha Campus Ministries and work with Convoy of Hope while we are on the ground in Puerto Rico. The generous support of Pompton Reformed for each of my trips has made an immeasurable impact on the lives of people in Puerto Rico, Haiti, and the college students who travel with us. I am writing to ask if Pompton Reformed would consider support of this year's trip.

This past week has seen a number of strong earthquakes cause significant damage in Puerto Rico, including damage to the church we partnered with last year. Convoy of Hope has already deployed disaster response resources and additional staff to the island and is continuing to assess needs on the ground. Convoy of Hope has been present in Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria hit in September 2017. Across the island, the recovery process has been hard and slow-moving. In the many small towns and villages outside of the major cities, people continue to struggle to rebuild their homes and regain a sense of 'normalcy' after the storm. Many communities saw their homes, businesses, schools, and churches completely destroyed by the winds of the category 5 storm. Even now, two years later, these communities are waiting for the help they need, still living in makeshift houses pieced together out of whatever materials they can find. The threat of earthquakes has increased the amount of fear and anxiety people are feeling across the island.

During our trip, Convoy of Hope will connect us with a local church that is reaching and providing help to some of the hardest hit areas on the island. While we are finalizing the details of our work project, we know that we will partner with leaders and workers on the ground to help them in the rebuilding process. We expect this to potentially include some construction work, painting, debris removal, and other much needed tasks, especially in light of the earthquake damage.

In addition to the work project, we will spend time getting to know every man, woman, and child that we meet, seeking to love them and care for them in any way that we are able. A friend of mine in Puerto Rico describes life after Maria as many people, even today, living with no sense of hope. We will seek to bring hope to the people we meet through conversations, prayer, sharing

the gospel, connecting them to the local church, and sharing many hugs and smiles in addition to lending a helping hand. We trust that God will use this ministry time to transform lives and bring tangible hope in the community we will serve in.

My support raising goal for our trip is \$3,500. This amount will help me cover my personal amount (\$1780) along with helping the team raise the \$2,500 needed for our project costs.

During our time in Puerto Rico, Convoy of Hope will use this project money to purchase our construction materials, any supplies needed for activities with the children, and to pay a number of Puerto Rican workers to work alongside us during the week.

A financial gift toward the trip may be given through Boston University Chi Alpha Campus Ministries. A check can be made out to "BU Chi Alpha" and sent directly to the Chi Alpha address: 71 Church Street #2 Winchester, MA 01890.

The support that Pompton Reformed has provided me, from my days in High School through my trips to Haiti and now Puerto Rico continues to not only encourage me but is bringing the love of Christ to people in grave need. Thank you for the faithful support and for the faithful prayers of my entire PRC family. Please continue to remember both Puerto Rico and Haiti in your prayers- the situation on the ground in Haiti continues to be dire, my heart breaks for the people and my friends there. Yet I know we serve a God who will bring a bright future to both Haiti and Puerto Rico in the days, months, and years ahead.

Blessings, Robert Barrett



Sent: Monday, December 30, 2019 7:18 PM

Subject: Much to be thankful for in Puerto Rico in 2019

Dear friends,

As 2019 comes to a close, I wanted to send a year-end recap from my last trip to Puerto Rico. It amazes me how Puerto Rico was not even on my radar at the beginning of this year yet now has a firm place in my heart. In fact, as 2019 began, I was preparing for what I thought would be another week spent in Haiti. Fast-forward 3 trips to Puerto Rico later, and I am amazed at what was accomplished in the little community of Villa Esperanza during those trips and throughout the year.

My team in November was the final team to complete construction work in Villa Esperanza, putting the finishing touches on the last of 32 homes that were rebuilt by Convoy of Hope teams over 18 months in Puerto Rico. This beautiful house picture below with bright green trim, belongs to a woman named Miriam who was able to move into her new home on our last day in Villa Esperanza. Her smile was so big as she hugged the team good-bye and moved in the last of her boxes and prepared to spend the night in her new home for the first time. Miriam lost everything in the storm and walked through profound struggle in her family over the 2 years since Maria hit. This new home represents not just a safe, beautiful place to live but also the love and prayers of many teams that built relationships and cared for Miriam while constructing her house. It was a blessing to be a small part of what God did in Miriam's life through the teams that came and worked on her home.

As I reflect on my 3 weeks in Puerto Rico this year, there was much work that was accomplished, many residents of Villa Esperanza that were deeply loved and cared for and many team members that I had the opportunity to lead and pour into during their trips. Yet what sticks with me most are the people I am now able to call friends, men and women who are doing amazing things every day to serve God in Puerto Rico and selflessly care for those in need around them. Teams come and go, I get back on a plane at the end of the trip, but people like Pastor Elvis and the members of his church are going into Villa Esperanza every day to continue working on more houses and do whatever they can to share the love of Christ in tangible ways with the people living there. The opportunity to serve alongside these incredible leaders, encourage them, and pray for them has incredible impact that lasts beyond a one-week trip. Your support for me is also support for Pastor Elvis and the other leaders on the ground in Puerto Rico. Thank you for your love and care for these dear friends, please continue to pray for them and their continued ministry in Villa Esperanza. I have no doubt that God is going to continue to accomplish miraculous things through this local church and my friend Pastor Elvis.

This year has brought much to be thankful for including the realization of a dream in my opportunity to become a volunteer Field Teams leader for Convoy of Hope and lead multiple trips throughout the year. It is also a year that has broken my heart as I watch from afar as conditions in Haiti continue to deteriorate as the violence continues and food and resources become even more scarce. While Haiti remains closed to trips as we move into 2020, Convoy of Hope continues to feed over 100,000 children each school day and do whatever we can to support local Haitians on the ground. Please continue to keep Haiti in your prayers. Thank you for your support, encouragement, prayers, and giving toward my trips this year. It is all deeply appreciated and making a difference in Puerto Rico and in Haiti.

Looking ahead to 2020, I will once again be co-leading a group of Boston University students headed to Puerto Rico to serve during their Spring Break in March. Early in the New Year, I will be sharing more information about this trip and how you can support our trip. I am fundraising to support this trip and the \$2,500 that we need to raise to cover the costs of our work project in addition to our personal expenses. I will be sending out full details about this trip over the next couple of weeks, but if you want to give toward this trip before the end of 2019, you may do so online, through Boston University Chi Alpha. I'm excited for what God is going to do through this trip.

Once again, thank you for all of your support and prayers this year. Blessings to you as we move into a new decade!

With deep gratitude,

Robert

From Jared Cave

EVERY STUDENT NEEDS JESUS!!!



"I can go to JUBILEE!!!" Was the text I received from a Hindu student I have come to know over my years at CCAC. Just before Christmas a former CCAC student helped her ask her mother if she could attend. **At Jubilee she will hear the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ and have an opportunity to respond to it.** God is moving in her life and we are blessed to be used by God to pursue students like this.

Students like this are all over college campuses. These students would not otherwise hear the Gospel Message if not for ministries like the CCO.

Launching New Ministry in 2020

This year the CCO will see up to 40 new staff join this mission. Sending these staff to campuses so that more students like the one above can hear the Good News about Jesus Christ is our highest priority.

Will you prayerfully consider joining us in this mission by making a donation before 2020 begins?

Twenty-five million stitches is an art project I recently heard about. People all over the world are stitching panels to be part of a traveling art installation making the world aware of the plight of refugees. My sister's town is doing this, a group gathers at the local library and stitch together. This can be done as a group or an individual project. Knowing we have people who sew, I thought someone might be interested in this project. More information can be found at 25millionstitches.com.





We ordained our new Elders and Deacons on a recent January Sunday. Incoming Consistory members are Kristin Widdowson, Wes Witherington, Michael Warner, Lynn Scarmazzo and Sue Uhlendorf. Pictures courtesy of Gerry Mamalis.



Have you remembered your church in your will?

March Newsletter submissions
Are due on or before Feb. 23!
Please email submissions to
Khuyzers@msn.com
Or place in the mailbox in the
Workroom.

