

TOWER CHIMES



APRIL

2020



Welcome to the
monthly newsletter
of

Community Presbyterian Church

2101 William Place
Merrick, NY, 11566
516 – 378 – 7761

E-Mail

cpcmerrick
@optonline.net

Website

www.cpcmerrick.org

Rev. Moira Ahearne,

Pastor

**moiraahearne@
aol.com**

Thomas Rose

Pres. and Treasurer

Trose1@optonline.net

Gary Stuber

Clerk of Session

Stubonline@aol.com

Nancy Stuber

Financial Secretary

Callie921@aol.com



Community Presbyterian
Church of Merrick



CPCMerrick

A Word From the Desk of Pastor Moira

"What do you want me to do for you?"

Luke 18:40; Mark 10:51; Matt. 20:32

Dear CPC Family,

"What do you want me to do for you?" It is noteworthy that this is the last question that Jesus asks someone in need before his triumphal entry into Jerusalem -- which we observe on Palm Sunday – Sunday April 5. In Luke, it is a blind beggar who is the last person Jesus heals. In Mark the blind beggar's name is Bartimaeus. In Matthew it is two blind men whom Jesus aids.

In each case they cry out, *"Jesus, or Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!"* The crowd tries to silence the cries with rebukes, but fails. They continue to shout out until Jesus stops and asks, *"What do you want me to do for you?"*

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus knows the suffering that lies ahead for him. Yet he stops. Jesus can tell that they are blind. He asks, *"What do you want me to do for you?"* Jesus doesn't presume to know what it is that they want. Maybe they want money. Something to eat. To have a blessing. There are many things they may want. Jesus wants them to be able to name what they want. *"Lord, I want to see, we want our sight"* is their response, which Jesus grants. It is the final healing miracle in the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark & Luke) before Jesus enters Jerusalem and the saga of Holy Week unfolds.

In midst of the coronavirus pandemic we find our anxiety increasing, the uncertainty of our future weighing heavy on us. How will we fare through this trial? How many will get ill before it's over? Who will lose their employment? How will our churches make out, being so dependent on contributions and rentals?

How long will we linger in this abyss? Weeks? Months? For the first time in most of our lives we may anticipate observing Holy Week and Easter possibly separated from each other – away from our beloved sanctuary.

As we struggle with this "new normal" of self-quarantine, working from home, struggling to not isolate as we get by, we should be heartened by Jesus' words to us: *"What do you want me to do for you?"* How would we answer him? What is it that we want?

So, like those blind beggars, we need to be able to shout out to Jesus, *"Lord, I want to see!"* *I want to see people safe and sound.*

I want to see people who care for the vulnerable and isolated at this time.

I want to see love and kindness win.

I want to see fear and anxiety disappear.

I want to see hope triumph in the darkness that surrounds us.

We will get through this. How we do so will be our choice. We will have taped worship. We will be closely in touch via phone and internet. We are setting up the ability to donate remotely as well as by snail mail. What else? These times require all our creativity and thoughtfulness.

Let us pray for the eyes to see as Jesus does, the good and the grace in the world. May we act as he does, willing to serve and love those in need.



Pastor Moira

A shared message from Pastor and our Session

**"Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus."**

Philippians 4:6-7

Dear Church Family,

Okay, deep breath.

Seriously, take a deep breath. Read the Philippians passage above out loud. Say a prayer. We are going to be okay. God has a firm grip on us. We are going to rise to this challenge.

Our God is with us, indeed.

We understand the concern and uncertainty you may be experiencing surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and are committed to being responsive as the situation evolves.

As always, the health, safety and well-being of our congregation, family, friends and community is of paramount concern. We continue to monitor this quickly evolving situation and are here to help as needed. We will get through this together.

Session has thoughtfully and prayerfully made the difficult decision, for the health and safety of all, to suspend worship services temporarily as well as ALL meetings that take place in the confines of the church building. You will be kept informed as events unfold.

Please be reassured we are NOT canceling:

- phone calls to check in on friends
- picking up groceries for a neighbor
- hope
- love

We WILL get through this together. In the meantime, you can find additional information about COVID-19 by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

It is a fluid situation we are in. Therefore, we will keep in close communication with you as together we pray for God's grace in our troubled world.

We must remain hopeful, in loving care of each other and our neighbor, as Jesus says.

Pastor Moira is always available for you at (917) 327-2119 with any concerns or prayer requests. Pastoral care within our community of faith is our top priority. Do not hesitate, take the initiative to reach out to one another.

Even though Sunday services are temporarily suspended, we will be recording an abbreviated weekly worship service this and every Sunday morning until this situation passes, and posting it on YouTube and Facebook by early afternoon. You will receive a link via email to easily connect and view the service on your computer, laptop or mobile phone device.

Each week we will also be emailing everyone the actual Sunday service for which you may follow along with as they are uploaded to our website.

We have created a link for accepting online donations via Pay Pal (PayPal.Me/CPCofMerrick). Clicking on this link will take you to PayPal, where if you already have an account, you can make donations directly to CPC. If you don't currently have a PayPal account, you can easily open one. Basically, you provide a credit card for your new account that will be charged with each donation. By doing so, your credit card information is invisible to others to further secure your personal information. This might be the best approach for ongoing, future regular donations or tithes. We are by no means asking you to do this, it is just an option. You may also 'snail-mail' your donation to either the church or to our Financial Secretary, Nancy Stuber (26 Briarcliff Drive Merrick, NY 11566). Please contact either Nancy or Gary Stuber at 516-868-0608 should you have any questions.

We have also now just placed DONATION buttons on both our Facebook page (CPCMerrick) and our Website (cpcmerrick.org). Clicking on these buttons will allow you to either set up a PayPal account (as previously described above), or donate via credit card. Taking the credit card approach is best suited for non-recurring donations.

We shall stand fast in the face of COVID-19, reaching out and maintaining our ties of friendship and faith. We can and always will hold hands spiritually, and in our hearts as we are united in the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen!

***Be strong and courageous; do not be
frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God
is with you wherever you go."***
***Joshua
1:9***



the family and friends of long-time member Irma Rios who passed away on October 30, 2019.

Irma's niece, Corrine, just recently informed us that Irma had been in a nursing-home-type facility for about a year due to Alzheimer's and passed away peacefully in her sleep. Irma was still a faithful member of CPC right up until her passing, and even remembered us in her will. (Thank you, Irma!)

As many of you may remember, Irma and husband Carl were staples here at CPC since their joining in 1986 and until their moving to Bend Oregon in 2010/2011. (Carl had passed in 2011.)

Cards of sympathy may be sent to their niece, Corrine Lombardi at 18997 Abiqua Road NE, Scotts Mills, OR 97375-9647.

Irma, may you rest in peace and rejoice in being with Carl again!



From Last Month

We are asking for prayers for Al's son, Alfred Lewis Jr. and his family. Alfred Jr is employed by NYC Transit and began feeling ill last week. He visited the hospital emergency and was diagnosed with pneumonia. He was not tested for Coronavirus. His wife, Sabrena Lew, who is employed by United Airlines, was tested last week and received results today that she does have Coronavirus. Sabrena currently does not have any symptoms from Coronavirus, she was diagnosed with Lupus several years ago. They have two teenage children, Alfred III and Aliyah. Their home in Valley Stream is now under quarantine. The friends and family of Peter Reinke who passed suddenly last month.

Praise Report: The Lord answered prayers for Brian Kelly as he found a car to go to college and work. Thank you, Lord Jesus!!

Prayers of Joy for Blondine;

Prayers for Mohamed as he battles heart disease;

PLEASE NOTE that prayer requests from this point on are incomplete, and we hope to be able to print them all in the May Tower Chimes.

Prayers for the family and friends of Charlie Rivera who passed from cancer;

Prayers for the Cornacchio family as one member was diagnosed with COVID-19 and another suffered a stroke;

Mireya O'Korn who is working with Covid patients at Columbia Presbyterian, and for the family of Tyrone Williams and Santa. His home health aide now has a fever after coming to their home to give him great care;

Donna Epp who is recovering from a fall which resulted in a brain bleed;

Amy, Blondine, and Simone's two sisters, please keep them all well;

The family of Paige H;

Simone's friend, Dexter who is now out of the hospital after testing positive, and healing at home;

Healing for Dorothy and Marvin, who are not feeling well.

Cast the light of health and well-being on those who've been exposed to Covid-19, waiting to be tested. Those who have contracted the disease, bless them, protect them and bring them speedily to full recovery.

For spirit of forbearance and kindness to blanket all anxious and fearful people.

For the 10 million newly unemployed, may resources be made available to them.

For safety for Linwood Pitt at work

For Mary Leschinski who is not feeling well

For Jo Gencorelli's family here and abroad on the passing of her sister, Marian, and her nephew Charlie.

For Mikaila who was born four months early and is hospitalized, and for her parents who can hardly visit her due to hospital lockdown.

For Sy Cambria recovering from Covid-19, and for Amanda Houle-Cambria & baby Isabel in quarantine

For the family and friends of Tom Pendergast, who passed last week from pneumonia and Covid-19;

For the Ritter family on the death of Ed.

The Farray Family on the death of John.

The Johnson family on the death of Richard to Covid-19,

The Jakowski family on the death of Chris,

The Martinez family on the death of Alex to Covid-19.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MOIRA REGARDING HOLY WEEK

Dear CPC Family:

Grace and Peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

It is an understatement to say we are journeying through challenging and uncharted times. We live in an area seriously affected by COVID-19, and it is taking all our resources to care for each other in a time of social isolating and remain safe. It is particularly painful for us as we enter Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, our most precious holy days, and we cannot celebrate them together. However, we will do our best, because thanks to technology we can bring the worship service into your home. Thanks be to God!

We will be recording Palm Sunday services which should be uploaded by late Saturday afternoon, April 4.

We will record Maundy Thursday (April 9) on Wednesday, April 8, and that service will available late that afternoon.

You will also be sent a link to Good Friday Services to be recorded at First Presbyterian Church of Freeport on April 10.

In addition, following the guidance of our denomination, we have decided to celebrate the Lord's Supper in a virtual manner, given the unusual and painful times we are living through. You can participate in two several ways, whichever is most comfortable to you:

1. You may use elements of juice or bread from your home. Please treat these elements with the care you would the elements in church.

2. You may choose to receive a "communion by desire" which means you don't consume the elements, but commune with our Lord during the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The grace of the sacrament is still available to you.

So please participate in communion in whatever way feels best to you.

Here is a LINK TO DENOMINATIONAL REFLECTIONS ON DIGITAL COMMUNION:

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2020/3/25/virtual-communion-church-leaders-say-it-can-be-don/>

Palm / Passion Sunday – April 5



Passion / Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, a time in the church year when we remember how Christ gave his life in love for the world. As this service opens, the crowd waves palm branches, wanting to crown Jesus as king, shouting "Hosanna, Hosanna". But as the story of the passion unfolds, their shouts of praise turn to demands for his crucifixion; he receives a crown of thorns as he is handed over to be mocked and killed.

On this day palms are received, and we participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Please use the OGHS envelope enclosed in this Tower Chimes to mail your offering to the church, attention Nancy Stuber, with "OGHS" in the memo line. Please make your check out to the church.

OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), *Restorers of Streets to Live In* works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters. PDA receives 32% of funds raised.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), *Share Your Bread With the Hungry* takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. PHP received 36% of funds raised.

Self-Development of People (SDOP), *Lose the Bonds of Injustice* invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills. SDOP receives 32% of funds raised.

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in answering God's call. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Thank you.

The PALMS for Palm Sunday have been blessed at the recording of our Palm Sunday service, and they have been put outside on the table in front of the church for you to come by get palms on a first-come, first serve basis. They were handled in the most sanitary way possible, but we suggest you be prepared as well.

The next article takes you to a site showing you how to make your palm into a cross. You may cut a palm out of paper if you do not have a 'real' palm as the instructions work for both.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to call the office or contact me at 917.327.2119.

Don't hesitate to send in your prayer requests.

Faithfully yours, Pastor Moira

PALMS FROM PAPER, AND DIRECTIONS TO MAKE A CROSS

Basically, the same directions for a cross from paper. You'll need a strip of paper about .5inch x 12", about the size of a palm, maybe a little longer

<https://www.illustratedministry.com/2020/palm-frond-coloring-page/?fbclid=IwAR2BQ-VESBRTvod7f2PJ3ooqokVNylAgEpe91Xd5LwPZ-yB4D9wVeQL299Y>

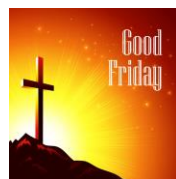


MAUNDY THURSDAY will be observed via a recorded service with Pastor Moira and friends on YouTube and our Website. It will be a traditional Tenebrae service

recorded prior to April 9.

Our Tenebrae service recreates the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events leading up to Easter, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day.

You may watch the service at any time after it is uploaded to the internet.



We will all join together for a recorded **GOOD FRIDAY** service on **April 10** from First Presbyterian Church in Freeport.

As you know, Good Friday is the day we remember Jesus' crucifixion.

What you may not know is that the hours of noon to 3 p.m. are particularly significant as these commemorate the time Jesus hung on the cross. It is an especially important time to pray for the church and the world for whom Christ gave his life.

Please watch the Good Friday service on YouTube and our Website.

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12 – Let us join with



millions of other Christians around the world to proclaim that greatest affirmation of our Christian faith: **"He is Risen, He Lives"** and celebrate

Christ's Resurrection.

Pastor Moira and helpers have been busy at work preparing to bring to you our recorded Easter Sunday service. Our Sanctuary will once again be gloriously decorated with flowers and filled with special Easter music.

PLEASE NOTE AN EARLY OFFICE CLOSING: The office will be closing at 10am on Thursday, April 23. Pastor Moira and Barbara will be attending a webinar mandated by Presbytery.

Enclosed in this Tower Chimes you will find a **ribbon**.



It has been treated in the most sanitary way possible. This ribbon is a sign of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope for our recovery from the COVID -19 pandemic. Please tie your ribbon outdoors on a tree branch, on April 11, or on Easter, April 12. You can use your own ribbons if you wish. There will be ribbons tied to the railings of our Church before Easter -- to witness the resurrection power of Jesus Christ in this time of pandemic.

Please pass this message on to friends and family. Let's blanket Merrick and our neighborhoods with hope!!

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS AND DEDICATIONS may be called in to



Mary at: 516.661.5017 or 516.781.4320. Lilies are \$14 each while hydrangeas and azaleas are \$12. Even though we will NOT be

having an in-church Easter service this year, Mary would still like to give you the opportunity to order Easter flowers! **She is even willing to drop them off at your house (locally) after Easter Sunday!** And that's not all..... she is also opening up the making of **EASTER DEDICATIONS** to **EVERYONE** whether you decide to purchase flowers or not. Please text or call your flowers and/or dedication in to Mary at 516.661-5017 or email her at modymo17@hotmail.com by April 9.

EASTER IS STILL COMING!

Below is a picture of the church all dressed up for Easter, which Scott was nice enough to snap and send! It shows oodles and oodles of bows and ribbons tied to our railings as a sign of HOPE! (Thank you Fran and your band of helpers for all the hard work!)

Mary and son Charlie also popped by the church to decorate our tree with Easter eggs again even though our children's Easter egg hunt had to be canceled, and Mona will be coming by any day now to decorate the grounds while Mary readies the inside for the taping of our Easter service.

Even though we are 'physically' shut down, spiritually and faithfully we are still soaring and ready to welcome our Lord with open arms!

Please don't let this pandemic get the better of you! Look farther, reach higher and walk faster to YOUR inner peace at this most special time of year!

Peace be with you!



Food for thought on COMMUNION: DO THE BREAD AND WINE BECOME THE VERY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST?

No, for as the water in baptism is not changed into the blood of Christ, nor becomes the washing away of sins by itself, but is only a divine sign and confirmation of it, so also in the Lord's Supper the sacred bread does not become the body of Christ itself, although, in accordance with the nature and usage of sacraments, it is called the body of Christ.

~The Heidelberg Catechism



**ANY AND ALL FEEDBACK
ON OUR RECORDING OF
THE SUNDAY SERVICES
ALONG WITH OUR
METHODS OF KEEPING
IN TOUCH WITH
EVERYONE IS SINCERELY
WELCOMED!**

If you also have any suggestions, please share them with us!

As mentioned earlier, we're new to this 21st century thing and are learning as we go! PLEASE be patient with us (and each other) as we paddle up river together. Most of us are in the same boat, and prayer will keep us afloat! Let's continue to pray for ourselves and each other.

And please be on the lookout via email about more information concerning what's going on at Church! We'll keep you abreast of things as they develop.

LET'S STAY SAFE!

Dear Member and Friends of CPC, it sounds like we may soon be required to wear face masks whenever we leave the house - but where to get one? Here's an article with ways to make homemade face masks from household materials. The homemade mask is definitely not as effective as a real N98 mask - but is "better than nothing" and most importantly allows you to make an occasional grocery run. It appears that

an unused HEPA-flow vacuum cleaner bag is the best idea.

(Thank you, Jim Vliet, for this information.)

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8179823/Online-DIY-tutorials-method-using-pillowcase-T-shirt-create-protection.html>

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY will proceed as scheduled on Wednesdays at noon via ZOOM. ZOOM is a type of video communications for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars using mobile, desktop and room



systems.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A PART OF OUR 12 NOON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDIES, PLEASE SEND PASTOR MOIRA YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO SHE CAN 'PROGRAM' IT INTO HER ZOOM COMMUNICATIONS. You will then be contacted through your computer or mobile phone to join the Bible Study class.



**All women's fellowship
breakfasts have been
postponed until further
notice!!! Fran will be in
touch with you when things get back to
normal!**



The Peacemaking Essay Contest is being rescheduled from the original date of March 29 to a future date yet to be determined. The essays are currently being reviewed. Stay connected to CPC Merrick for updates.



SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER
MINISTRY will continue as scheduled each Sunday evening at 6pm:

(605) 472-5570 passcode 500245#. This is a free phone call, so dial in and pray with others at this time of great challenge.

Any articles for the Tower Chimes are due into the office by the 15th of the prior month, so all articles for the May edition are due into the office by **April 15**. Thank you!

2020 CPC DIRECTORY UPDATES

Here are several updates to the 2020 directory:

- 1) Several members have been removed from our rolls for various reasons. Please remove the asterisks from the following names: **Ferrara, Grgas, Hwang, Pulaski, and Rios**.
- 2) In the printing of the 2020 directory, somehow **Frank Kost's** email was deleted. Please add his email address to his listing: FKOST0813@gmail.com;
- 3) Please continue to use **Jo Gencorelli's** home address, email, and cell phone number if you need to contact her.
- 4) **David Houghton** has a different email address: please replace his old one on page 7 with this new one: MarsbaseUSA@gmail.com
- 5) **And Fran Kelly** now has her own email. It's Frankellyxx57@gmail.com. Please add it to her listing on page 7.

April Birthdays:

Rev. Moira Ahearne	4
E. David Houghton	6
Ann Peterson	9
Lily Kelman-Nelson	13
Hannah Ojeda	18
Charles Leschinski	21
David Brackett	23
Margaret Smith	25
Marissa Bello	30



(If your name did not appear here, it's because we don't know it's your birthday! Please call Diane Wood at 623-9495 so we can add your name to our list!)

FROM THE FREEPORT EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

Greetings Members & friends of Long Island Council of Churches,

During this time of uncertainty with many of our Neighbors

facing times of unprecedented closings and layoffs the Long Island Council of Churches (LICC) needs your support in keeping our shelves stocked so we may keep our doors open to continue in ***Serving Our Neighbors in Need***.

While many of our religious institutions are practicing social distancing with closings, the LICC Emergency Food Pantry **WILL CONTINUE** to stay open. However, we have seen a sharp decline in direct delivery food donations from Churches and Congregations. At this time of social awareness, in an effort to support social distancing and promote healthy living, we are asking for your support to continue in ***Serving Our Neighbors in Need*** with donations by alternative means, please see below:

LICC website, LICCDonate.org.

OR

Amazon.com and have items shipped directly to

OR

Mail a check to:

Long Island Council of Churches

Attn: Emergency Food Drive

230 Hanse Avenue, Freeport, New York 11520-1009

Emergency Items Needed:

Dry Cereal (Cold); **Hot Cereal** (Grits; oatmeal);

Vegetables (Canned corn; carrots; spinach, collard and green beans, etc.); **Jelly** (plastic bottles preferred);

Soup (any kind); **Pasta** (any kind); **Pasta Sauce**; **Rice** (1- or 2-pound bags); **Shelf stable milk**;

Canned meats (Chicken; spam; Vienna sausage); **Toiletries** (Toothpaste; Toothbrushes; soap;

deodorant; feminine products; razors; shampoo; conditioner);

Baby diapers (All sizes).

If you have any questions, please contact the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry at 516-868-4989.

Thank you from the hungry Long Islanders we serve, staff, and Long Island Council of Churches' Administrative Board for your support in helping us in ***Serving Our Neighbors in Need***.

Anthony Achong

Director of Administration and Operations

And on the bright side, Spring has sprung!

Thank you, Scott for taking and sending such beautiful pictures from Hick's Nursery in Westbury!!!

