

TOWER CHIMES



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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
Troset1@optonline.net

Gary Stuber
Clerk of Session
Stubonline@aol.com

Nancy Stuber
Financial Secretary
Callie921@aol.com



Community Presbyterian
Church of Merrick

A Word From the Desk of Pastor Moira

"Jesus replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight." (Acts 1:7-9)

Dear CPC Family,

Near the end of May, the 30th to be exact, the Christian world will celebrate the feast of the Ascension.

The Feast of the what?!

Simply put, Ascension Day, which occurs forty days after Easter, celebrates when Jesus was taken in bodily form into heaven. It is one of the earliest celebrated traditions, in some cases followed by seven days of devotions. Some of the festivities observed include the blessing of the "first fruits," especially grapes and beans. Other churches rig a statue of Jesus from the altar and hoist



it up through a trap door above. Other churches have outdoor processions and banners.

For most of us, Ascension Day barely registers a blip. While we may not start a procession or lift a statue of Jesus through a trap door, it is good for us to reflect on Ascension Day. Ascension Day marks the end of Jesus' earthly life and the beginning of something greater: the gospel made known and lived throughout the earth.

Sometimes something good ends so something new and greater can eventually begin. Many young people will be finishing high school or college so they can embark on a new phase of their life. Sometimes we leave a good job to start something better or truer to our values. Sometimes we leave one place in order to go someplace where God is calling us. When something ends something else always begins. We may not know what the "something" is. It may not be obvious. Before Jesus left, the disciples were still waiting for Israel to be rescued from the Romans. Jesus, however, showed them another way. They would be filled with the Holy Spirit and become witnesses to the ends of the earth. All our endings and beginnings call us to witness to Jesus, who taught us how to love one another. In all our endings and beginnings, we are given new opportunities to act like Jesus: who stood up against hypocrisy, falsehood and greed and instead showed us how to love, pray and care for others.

So on Ascension, let us reflect on our exalted Lord. However, let us also lift up and exalt the good, the truth, and justice, at every opportunity given to us. In all the daily endings and beginnings, let us seek to be faithful witnesses to the One we call the Way the Truth and the Life (John 14:6). Let our prayers and good deeds ascend to heaven, to bring the gospel paradise here on earth.

Faithfully Yours,

Pastor Moira

Clerk's Corner

And What a Joyous Easter it was (and is)!

I hope you had a blessed Easter. Our Easter service was well attended – and why not – the sanctuary was beautifully decorated, with beautiful music and Bells to boot! Thanks to all!

Let's not forget that Easter is not "over" following His resurrection on Easter morning. Easter should remain a part of our lives every day, not just on that one Sunday. But you – our faithful congregation – have hung in there, and I believe the fruits of that loyalty will be seen shortly. So thank you to the congregation for hanging in there.

This May we celebrate our 90th anniversary! It's just a reminder that we're still here, and that we plan to be around well into the future.

Blessings to all,
Gary



CPC IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

Please check us out at:
community_presbyterian_church

What is this trendy thing called Instagram that all the cool kids seem to be into? It's been around for a few years, quietly picking up traction mostly thanks to everybody's new obsession with mobile photography. Instagram is a social networking app made for sharing photos and videos from a smartphone.

Similar to Facebook or Twitter, everyone who creates an Instagram account has a profile and a news feed.

When you post a photo or video on Instagram, it will be displayed on your profile. Other users who follow you will see your posts in their own feed. Likewise, you'll see posts from other users whom you choose to follow.

Pretty straight forward, right? It's like a simplified version of Facebook, with an emphasis on mobile use and visual sharing. Just like other social networks, you can interact with other users on Instagram by following them, being followed by them, commenting, liking, tagging and private messaging. You can even save the photos you see on Instagram.

<https://www.lifewire.com/what-is-instagram-3486316>

REMINDER: CPC's Administrative Office Hours

Mondays: 8:30am – 12:30pm

Tuesdays: 8:30am - 12:30pm

Wednesdays: 8:30am-2:30pm;
(3pm-5pm at Freeport Presby.)

Thursdays: 8:30am – 12:30pm

Fridays: 8:30am-10:30am
(11am – 3pm at Freeport Presby.)

Last Month's Prayer Requests:



(From April 7): For Joseph M., a friend struggling with bi-polar disorder (severe depression). Anne R.;
"Four our friend who is mourning the loss of his mother";

Please pray for "Phyllis Stokes for healing and an end of her arthritic pain;

Also for her husband, Mr. Bucky,

"My cousin Alice who has cancer,

And an unspoken request." Rich K.;

(From April 14): We pray for all those in need of hope, comfort, and peace.

(From April 21): For this time of year when spring renews life and Easter promises life everlasting;

Prayers for the Mar Thoma church who lost their retired priest in a car crash. Pray for his wife;

A prayer for Cindy Gregorio, and Annette Werner who are both awaiting results of testing;

Prayers of comfort and healing for Mr. & Mrs. Walker;

Prayers for reuniting a broken marriage;

Prayers for a good result of a medical test for Annette;

Prayer of comfort for Grace, whose daughter recently passed;

Prayer of THANK YOU JESUS FOR YOUR LOVE!;

Gregg Finnie

(From April 28): For the Persecuted Church, especially those who were killed or hurt in Sri-Lanka at their Easter celebrations;

Alex Bard who was recently diagnosed with leukemia;

Clarity to focus on a new career in Real Estate;

Prayers for my neighbor, John, for healing his vision after eye surgery (Scott D.);

The worldwide attack on faith;

Diane Matthew for her health and well-being (Pat & Vinny L.)

MANY THANKS TO GO AROUND!

The Easter season always comes with many thanks for all the help provided during this season.

+Let's start with thanking **Nancy Stuber** for her enlightening and motivating minutes for mission for the **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** which was collected on Palm Sunday, and thanks to everyone who participated in the offering.

+ Thanks to **Fran Kelly** and her worship commission for a memorable **PALM SUNDAY**. The palms were poignant, and our **Sunday school youth** were adept in helping to pass them out. Our vocal trio, **Karen Bard, Jo Gencorelli and Lily Kelman-Nelson**, accompanied by **Cathy** on the organ, were superb in singing 'Life Thine Eyes' from Felix Mendelssohn's, Elijah. More thanks to our **youth choir** for accompanying our 'adult' choir with 'Wave the Palms Hosanna!' by Ruth Elain Schram. The blending of the voices from the two choirs made our anthem that much more special!; More thanks to **Mary Jane Gould**, our Christian Education Commissioner, for sponsoring our **children's Easter egg hunt** after worship service. The kids were hopping and the enthusiasm just as high! What a sight to see!

+ That brings us to **MAUNDY THURSDAY** – many thanks to **Gary Stuber** who single-handedly set up the stage and to **Fran Kelly, Mona Grimm, Diane Wood and Judy Wilkin** who set the tables for this most memorable service. It's quite a service to set up with the props on the stage and the tables and readings and lights to set up 'just so right.' Our **readers** did a wonderful job as usual. Thank you to **Mary Leschinski, Mona Grimm, Rich Kelly, Joe Schuessler, Jo Gencorelli, Amanda Kelly-Pitt and Nancy Stuber**. More thanks to **Pastor Moira** for leading us in that emotional and moving story. And thank you to **Cathy Donohue** who, despite the loss of our baby grand piano in our fellowship hall, was able to skillfully accompany our hymns on her electric keyboard! Thank you to our Christ candle remover, **Charlie Leschinski**; and finally, thank you to **everyone** who attended, especially to those from First Presbyterian in Freeport who were our guests.

+ Thank you **Mary Leschinski and your band of helpers** in decorating our Sanctuary and grounds for Easter! The flowers were beautiful as were the Church and grounds! Many thanks for your dedication and flower decorating talents!

+ **EASTER SUNDAY** - Let's begin by thanking **Pastor Moira** for leading the 6am worship service down at Jones Beach! It was cool, but the true meaning of this

thankful day warmed everyone up! And thanks to everyone from CPC who attended this sunrise service. Everyone made it back in time to attend our traditional Easter service at 9AM. Thank you to our handbell choir, comprised of **Karen Bard, Brian Donohue, Cathy Donohue, Jo Gencorelli, Kristen Jacobsen, Rich Kelly, Amanda Kelly-Pitt, Lily Kelman-Nelson, Charlie Leschinski, Mary Leschinski, Gary Stuber, Nancy Stuber, and Lily Williams**, who did a fantastic job in ringing in the celebration of Christ's Rising!; and thank you to our **choir** who sang with grace and beauty in welcoming Jesus in his rebirth!; and, of course, it wouldn't be Easter without thanking **Pastor Moira**, who not only led us through those dark 40 days of Lent, but continued to lead us into the joyous and righteous celebration of His birth!

May the Spirit of His Rebirth live on in you today and always!



Our **CHURCH GROUNDS**

MAINTENANCE DAYS

were, unfortunately, a bust! The weather on both Saturdays was not conducive and very little was accomplished. We are, however, scheduling another one. Maybe the third time will be the charm! Please check our website and Sunday bulletins for the next date.

MAY HAPPENINGS

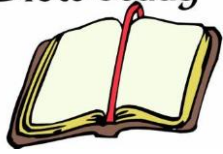
MAY Birthdays:

Elizabeth Hwang	11
A. Scott Dodge	14
Judy Wilkin	16
Samantha Grgas	17
Richard Gallo	18
Tony Grgas	20
Ann Seeley	21
Mary Leschinski	27



(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!)

Bible Study



BIBLE STUDY classes will be starting again – on Wed., May 1, at 12noon at CPC.

The classes will be held each Wednesday at 12noon in Grafing Hall for the next 6 weeks.

Please let Pastor Moira know EACH WEEK if you will be attending. This way, in case the class has to be canceled, she can notify you.

You may contact her at:

1.917.327.2119 or at
moiraahearne@aol.com

Let's learn about the Word together!

May 5 – Cinco de Mayo!



First Presbyterian Church of Freeport is inviting one and all to a Cinco de Mayo lunch celebration of tacos and music after worship service on the 5th.

As a history recap, Cinco de Mayo is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War.

Oddly enough, this day is a relatively minor holiday in Mexico, but in the United States, Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations.

Please join with First Presbyterian as they celebrate this memorable day.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Attention, Ladies! Our next Women's Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, **May 11 at 10am** in Grafing Hall. Please join us for light refreshments, prayer, praise, and a good time! Be sure to bring a friend! If you have ANY questions, please call Fran Kelly at 221-3561.



Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

The birth of Christ lifted motherhood to the highest possible plane and idealized it for all time. The last thing Jesus did on the Cross was to bestow His mother on John "the beloved" as his special inheritance. What woman is today, what she is in particular in her motherhood, she owes wholly to the position in which the

Scriptures have placed her. Sometimes the stepmother is spoken of as the real mother (Genesis 37:10). Sometimes the grandmother or other female relative is thus spoken of (Genesis 3:20; 1 Kings 15:10).

Tropically the nation is spoken of as a mother and the people are her children (Isaiah 50:1; Jeremiah 50:12; Hosea 2:4; 4:5). Large cities also are "mothers" (2 Samuel 20:19; compare Ga 4:26; 2 Esdras 10:7), and Job even depicts the earth as such (Job 1:21).

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/mother/>

On May 12 we will be honoring all mothers and mother-like figures in our lives. 'Mother' is not only a maternal bond, but a term of endearment and of a special connection. Let's celebrate ALL mothers today!

"Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children." -William Makepeace Thackeray

"Earth rejoices our words, breathing and peaceful steps. Let every breath, every word and every step make the mother earth proud of us." — Amit Ray

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

Memorial Day, May 27: Memorial Day is not just a day for air shows and picnics. It's a day to remember the people who died while serving in our country's armed forces. Please find time on Memorial Day to remember those who gave their lives for us.



*God of power and mercy,
you destroy war and put down earthly pride.
Banish violence from our midst and wipe away
our tears,
that we may all deserve to be called your sons
and daughters.
Keep in your mercy those men and women
who have died in the cause of freedom and
bring them safely
into your kingdom of justice and peace.
We ask this though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The CPC office will be closed on May 27 in honor of those men and women.

May 30 – Ascension of the Lord

Forty days after the Resurrection of the Lord, we remember and celebrate the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ into heaven. (See Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23 and Luke 24:44-53).



On this day, the church gives thanks for Christ's sovereign rule over all the earth, as well as his priestly intercession for us at the throne of mercy (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Please remember this special day!

WHAT'S COMING UP??

**Our Board of Deacons is having their
GARAGE sale with a BAKE AND
VEGGIE/HERB SALE on Saturday,
June 1 from 10am-3pm!**

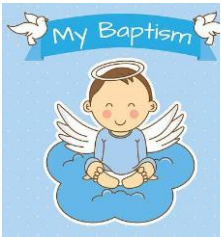
MAY 19 is PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY!



Every year Presbyterians celebrate Heritage Sunday, a day to reflect upon and learn more about the long and rich history of the Presbyterian church in America.

It always falls on the Sunday closest to May 21, the opening date of the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in 1789.

Please join us on this special day!



Please join us on Sunday, **May 26 for the baptism of Henry Thys Knol**, son of Amanda (Bowker) and Berend Knol, grandson of Amy Ullrich and great grandson of Harriet Luce!

The baptism will take place during our worship service, and there will be a congratulatory coffee hour in Henry's honor afterwards.

Let's join together to celebrate the newest member to God's family and church!

PENTECOST is just around the corner, and there will be two Minutes for Mission, one on May 26 and the other on June 2. We will be participating in the Pentecost Offering on June 9.

More information will be in the June Tower Chimes.



And you know what that means!!!!.... We need YOU and YOUR STUFF! Please start looking now! We're planning to run it as we have in the past, and it will **definitely be indoors**. If the day turns out to be gorgeous, we'll put some merchandise outside, but the majority will be inside.

Volunteers will, of course, be needed **before, during and after** the sale, and we're asking **now** that you start going through your garages, cars, sheds, lockers, attics, closets, and basements for donate-able merchandise!

We'll accept almost all merchandise prior to the SALE (you can start dropping off at CPC now), with the **really big and bulky items** the morning of between 8am and 9:30am. Any big items that do not sell must be taken back by you.

We would like to emphasize the word **CLEAN** this year. Please, please, please clean your items before you bring them. (The condition of some items from years past had not allowed us to put those items out for sale.)

Also as in past years, we won't be able to accept any 'personal care items' or items that are broken or have missing parts, or CLOTHES! **NO CLOTHES PLEASE!**

What we CAN accept is: **(but not limited to):** shoes, jewelry, small furniture, housewares, glassware, tools, rugs, throws, luggage, pocketbooks, computer and car stuff, books and magazines, baby items, knick-knacks, pictures and frames, pet items, (washed!) linens, games, toys, etc.

Quality items are always accepted, whether they be new or antique. These items will be put on a 'special quality table'.

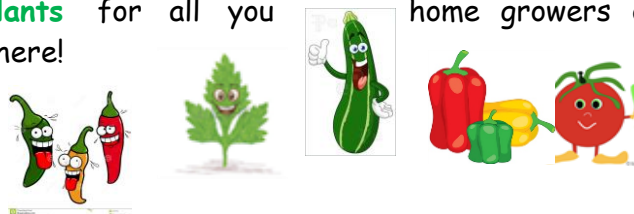
Tax forms are also available, if requested, for all donations.

You may drop off your **smaller items** at church (on the stage) during Barbara's office hours, and/or on Sundays before or after church. Please get in touch with one of our deacons if those times are not convenient to you.

If you want any of your unsold **items back**, you'll have to pick them up after the sale. Any unclaimed items will be at the disposable discretion of the deacons.

AND that's not all!

We'll also be selling some **vegetable and herb plants** for all you home growers out there!



Ready! Set! Plant!!!

AND let's not forget about our bakers!! Our **Bake table** has done exceptionally well in the past, and we run out of baked goods every year. It's one of our most popular sales tables!!! Please, bake as much as you can. Cakes, cookies, tarts, pies, whatever!!! Anything is **ALWAYS** appreciated and needed!

If anyone has any questions about anything, please ask one of our deacons! **THANK YOU ALL IN ADVANCE!**

Jessie, Mona, Rich, Mary, Diane and Bobbie



**TEN PROVEN WAYS
TO KILL YOUR
CHURCH.**
By Rev. Dr. John H.
Krahn

- 1) Attend church only when you absolutely feel like it.
- 2) When you do attend, find fault with something.
- 3) Do not give generously to the Lord's work.
- 4) Only make your weekly offerings on the Sundays you actually attend.
- 5) Volunteer for nothing.
- 6) Do not pray daily for God to bless your church and its ministry.
- 7) Do not read your Bible regularly and never attend a church Bible study.
- 8) If you do not like something that the pastor or church leaders are doing, do not tell them, but tell everyone else of your displeasure.
- 9) Never invite an unchurched person to your church.
- 10) Never ask the Lord, "What do you want me to do as a member of my church."

Dr. Krahn is the author of the bestselling book, *From Surviving to Thriving - A Practical Guide to Revitalize Your Church*.

MAY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
THIS MONTH..... Bible Study / Cinco de Mayo lunch / Mother's Day / Presbyterian Heritage / Baptism / Memorial Day / Ascension of the Lord			1 <i>12noon Bible Study at CPC</i>	2 Official National Day of Prayer NA 7-9:30p	3 AA 6:45-9:30p	4
5 <i>9am Worship Service; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; COMMUNION (Scott Dodge, Jessie Gregorio, George Weeks and Mary Williams); Usher Team #2 (Brian Kelly, Fran Kelly, Al Lewis and Bobbie Zimmerman-Lewis); CHILDREN WILL WORSHIP WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN THE SANCTUARY (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL); Refreshments; NASC 1-6pm; Cinco de Mayo lunch celebration at First Presbyterian, Freeport – 12noon</i>	6	7 AA 7:30-9:30p	8 <i>12noon Bible Study at CPC</i>	9 NA 7-9:30p	10 AA 6:45-9:30p	11 <i>10am Women's Fellowship Breakfast at CPC</i>
12 MOTHER'S DAY <i>9am Worship Service; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #3 (David Brackett, Jamie Brackett, Mona Grimm and Joe Nelson); SUNDAY SCHOOL; Coffee Hour</i>	13	14 AA 7:30-9:30p	15 <i>June Tower Chimes articles due</i> <i>12noon Bible Study at CPC</i> <i>7pm Session meeting</i>	16 NA 7-9:30p	17 AA 6:45-9:30p	18 4pm-10pm NA party in Grafiing Hall
19 PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE <i>9am Worship Service; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #4 (Jessie Gregorio, Tom Rose, Joe Schuessler & Diane Wood); SUNDAY SCHOOL; Refreshments</i>	20	21 AA 7:30-9:30p	22 <i>12noon Bible Study at CPC</i>	23 NA 7-9:30pm	24 AA 6:45-9:30p	25
26 <i>9am Worship Service; Rev. Moira in the pulpit; Usher Team #5 (Joe Arcuri, Alex Bard, Pat Lofaro and Vinny Lofaro); SUNDAY SCHOOL; Baptism of Henry Knol during worship service; Minute for Mission; Congratulatory coffee hour in Henry's honor after the worship service</i>	27 MEMORIAL DAY (office closed)	28 AA 7:30-9:30p	29 <i>12noon Bible Study at CPC</i>	30 Ascension of the Lord NA 7-9:30p	31 AA 6:45-9:30p	