



Cornerstone Connection

December 2019



Building Community on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ

www.cornerstonechurchofjackson.org

WORSHIP

SATURDAYS at 5 PM
SUNDAY at 10 AM

(Sunday School for Children
during Sunday worship)

Pastor:

Tory Pruner, 732-691-5825

Director of Music:

Doreen Laskiewicz, 732-740-9086

Administrative Assistant:

Elizabeth Hughes, 732-580-3137

Treasurer:

Tina Kas, 732-928-1778

Nursery Care:

Ashley Moyer & Jackie Leach

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A Message from Reverend Pruner

One of the annual Christmas television specials that was always a favorite of mine was the Charlie Brown Christmas. You may remember that Charlie Brown is the director of the Christmas play and hunts for the perfect tree, and Linus expounds on the true meaning of Christmas.

What I didn't know until very recently was when the special was first shown, CBS was concerned that the use of actual Bible quotes in the special would turn off viewers. Imagine the Bible encroaching into a Christmas special! It seems absurd, but true.



Even back in 1965 there was a force to take "Christ" out of "Christmas". But Peanuts creator Charles Schulz was insistent that the actual quotes from the Bible would be used. So, Linus recites from the gospel of Luke, telling the same story we read from during Advent as we prepare hearts for Christmas. Something I have noticed in the show is the security blanket that Linus is so attached to, he lets go of when he tells the story of Jesus' birth.

And why shouldn't he? We find here is our security and our peace. As we approach the manger, we discover our hope and experience Good News of Great Joy!!! God has come into our world in the babe of Bethlehem. Why shouldn't we lift our voices with songs of joy? Something very special happened in our world two thousand years ago. A babe was born to a humble couple, a baby who makes it possible for us to know and to love God. It doesn't get any better than that. No gift has ever compared to the greatest gift of all. May your family experience the wonder and joy of Christmas through the witnesses from the Gospel of Luke.

Cornerstone Community



Brandon Capurso, 12/1
Denise Mudalel, 12/3
Ryan Calhoun, 12/10
Tyler Capurso, 12/14
John Lukacs, 12/23
Michael DiGirolamo, 12/27
Sharron Smith, 12/27
Nicholas Tedeschi, 12/28
Lori Miller, 12/29
Sami Miner, 12/31



Sueli & Dominique Robert, 12/26

MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of Cornerstone are a part of God's Grand Adventure to: ground our lives on the solid rock of Jesus Christ, build up each other in love through prayer, words and deeds, and to create God's community in Jackson and beyond.

Youth Group Christmas Party December 15th at 6:30 PM



Please pray for:

- Vikki Leach’s mother-in-law with cancer in hospice care
- Pastor Tory and family as they move to a new home
- Reverend Jim Pruner and family after the passing of his brother David



Continued prayers for:

- Ray Schleckser with back pain
- Donnette Hubert recovering from a fall
- Bev Kaiser in FountainView Care Center: 527 River Ave, Lakewood, NJ 08701, 732-534-8253
- John Lukacs in Assisted Living Facility in Freehold: Mattison Crossing, 93 Manalapan Avenue, Freehold, NJ 07728
- Our troops around the world and their families

	ELDERS ON OUR SESSION	BOARD OF DEACONS
2019	Barbara Dougherty Jim Foster Tina Kas Sharron Smith (Clerk)	Nancy Foster Ann Sarti
2020	Vikki Leach Allyson Moyer Denise Mudalel Ray Schleckser	Lisa Capurso Kathe Morrison
2021	Mike Pushko Gail Carlson (2019) Laura Stone David LaCross (2019)	Elizabeth Hughes

We Need Your Pledge!

This is the season of Stewardship, when we prayerfully consider pledging our time, treasure, and talents for 2020. If you would like to make a financial commitment to Cornerstone for next year to assist us in planning our 2020 budget, pledge cards are available in church and can be turned into the offering plate during worship any Sunday. Pledge cards will continue to be available on our [website](#) and in worship.

So far, we have received 12 pledges—please submit your pledge ASAP to assist in our planning for next year.





On November 24th, we were blessed to welcome 13 new members to Cornerstone!

WELCOME to:

Amanda & Sean Brady

Cesar & Heidi Carrero

Diane & Steven DeLuca

Doreen, Steven, Thomas and Steven Laskiewicz

Linda Van Melis

Bob & Mary Ann White

THANK YOU to Kathe Morrison for making this beautiful turkey for the sanctuary at Thanksgiving! Each leaf had the name of a member of our Cornerstone family—reminding us of all we have to be thankful for!





Cornerstone Christmas ornaments are available to purchase for \$5 in the church foyer!

Support us when you shop this holiday season

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). You shop. Amazon donates.



Cornerstone can benefit from YOUR online Amazon purchases! From the website [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you simply select Cornerstone as your nonprofit of choice, and then shop as usual on Amazon! See Elizabeth Hughes with any questions.



THANK YOU to all who donated to our food drive to support the Jackson Food Pantry!



Buy Shop Rite Cards and Support Cornerstone!

Gift cards are available for you to purchase each Sunday before worship, and 5% of the purchase price goes directly to the church. For many years, Vernice DaConceicao has faithfully sold these gift cards each Sunday. For all who get their groceries at Shop Rite, it's an easy way to help! Thanks to all, we have raised 13,680 for the church!



Follow us on Facebook!



<https://www.facebook.com/cpcjacksonnj>



Cornerstone offers an opportunity for the congregation to donate flower arrangements for the communion table, with a

memorial or honorarium dedication in the bulletin. The cost is \$30 and proceeds will be used for a Cornerstone Flower Fund to allow us to purchase other special arrangements as needed throughout the year. Please see Elizabeth Hughes to sign up for any Sunday in 2019 or sign up through the link on the homepage of our website [cornerstonechurchofjackson.org](https://www.cornerstonechurchofjackson.org).

“Come Grow With Us” Donor Tree Campaign



We have a beautiful new tree hanging on the wall of the church sanctuary that will allow our members and friends an opportunity to support the church and make a lasting impression in our new church home. By making a donation, you can choose a leaf, dove, or rock with the engraving of your choice to recognize your family name, or in honor or memory of a loved one.

The order form is available at church or to download from our [website!](#)

We hope you will consider contributing to the "Come Grow With Us" Donor Tree Campaign and be recognized with a permanent reminder of your part in Cornerstone history! Orders will be placed on an ongoing basis as they are received.



The Session presented Pastor Tory with our first engraved plate for the wall, to show our thanks and appreciation to her and her family!





The season of Advent begins on December 1st. Reverend Pruner will be preaching the sermon series “The Treasures of Christmas.” Join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

The Master’s Clowns

December 8, 2019 10:00 AM

Join us on Sunday, December 8th, for a special service led by the Master’s Clowns and our own Meg Milligan (aka Macaroni Anne Cheeze). The Master’s Clowns are an inter-denominational, non-profit group that dedicates itself to spreading the Good News of the Gospel. We’ve had them at Cornerstone in the past, and it’s a fun, unique and uplifting worship experience!





CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

December 24th

4:00 PM (Family Service)

& 7:30 PM



CORNERSTONE Presbyterian Church • 569 Harmony Road, Jackson

MISSIONS

across the street & around the world



CORNERSTONE Presbyterian Church

CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE

To benefit the children of Roselle Preschool Center at the First Presbyterian Church in Roselle, NJ.

Donations needed to create gift bags for approximately 70 low income children between the ages of 0-5.

We received enough donations to make up gift bags for 72 low income children, ages 0-5, who attend the Roselle Preschool Center at the First Presbyterian Church in Roselle, NJ.

Donations will be delivered to the children this month.

THANK YOU for your generosity and support of this local mission project for Christmas!



Helping Others in Need

In the Spirit of Giving this Christmas season, Cornerstone has adopted a Jackson family with 4 children for Christmas. They have given us their wish list that includes a few gifts per person. Please visit our angel tree at the front of the sanctuary and consider purchasing a gift from their wish list.

ALL ANGELS WERE TAKEN within 2 days! THANK YOU!!

Wrapped gifts are due back in Church by Sunday, December 8th. If you have any questions, please contact Allyson Moyer.

PROJECT LITTLE SOLDIER

Each year the Jackson Rotary Club collects holiday gifts for the dependent children of local deployed military women & men in our area, and our Youth Group is going to collect gifts to support this project. We will receive "stars" which provide a child's name, age & requested gift. Interested parties take the "star", purchase the gift & return it unwrapped. Our youth will collect the gifts at church and bring them to the Rotary Club for wrapping and delivery. **THANK YOU—all gifts were taken! Please return the unwrapped gift by Sunday, December 8th!**



PROJECT LITTLE SOLDIER
Remembering the Children of our Deployed Troops for the Holidays
American Recreational Military Services is collecting new holiday toys for the "Little Soldiers" left behind while their parents serve abroad

Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Meets Tuesdays 10:30 AM—Noon at Harmony House

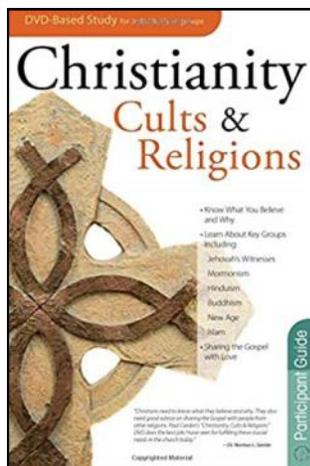
All women are welcome to attend our Tuesday morning Bible Study! Talk to Elizabeth Hughes for more information 732-580-3137, ejhughes@optonline.net.

SCHEDULE:

- December 3: Service Project—pack Christmas bags for Roselle Preschool
- December 11 (Wednesday): Bus Trip to Newark Cathedral Concert, Ballentine House for the Holidays and Dinner
- December 18: Christmas Party (details TBD)

A NEW STUDY STARTING IN 2020!

The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, January 7th at 10:30 AM at Harmony House to begin a 6-week study of ***Christianity, Cults, and Religions***. All women are welcome to attend! Talk to Elizabeth about getting a study guide.



The *Christianity, Cults & Religions* DVD-based study helps Christians know what they believe and why. By comparing Christianity with groups such as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, people have a better grasp about what the Bible says about who Jesus is and the message of the Gospel. This six session study simply explains the history, background, and beliefs of the most common world religions and cultic groups: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses and other groups.



Can you spare some change?

The Cornerstone Sunday School kids will be collecting loose change each Sunday to help local families going through hard times. When the jar is full, we will provide a meal for a local family to brighten their day and let them know they are in our prayers. Collection jars are in Harmony House and the church foyer.

UPDATE: As of the end of November, the total change collected was \$103! This money will be used to provide meal assistance to a local mom who is battling cancer. **THANK YOU** to all who donated!

Sunday School for Kids During Sunday Worship!

Sunday School for elementary and younger is currently taking place in the church foyer during worship. Our regular program will resume once repairs are completed in Harmony House!

Our **PreK-K** Class is using the Whirl curriculum which highlights key Bible stories from both the New and Old Testaments.

The **1st-5th Grade** Class is also using the Whirl Curriculum.

The **6th—12th Grade** Class is using the a video series called Switch—Identity, loaded with fast-paced worship, activities, and video teachings to address real issues that students face each day.

The **youngest children** will also hear Bibles stories and have fun with our toys, as they are tenderly cared for by our nursery team!

Teachers:

Kathe Morrison, Allyson Moyer, Megan LaFontaine, Ashley Moyer, Jackie Leach, and rotating volunteers

Nursery Care Always Available!



Come check out the music at the Saturday 5 PM worship service! Most Saturdays feature the talents of Will Vanderburg on piano and Rev Jim Pruner on the drums. Come early for the pre-worship concert—and yes, they take requests!

CHOIR UPDATES

Thank you to our Director of Music, Doreen Laskiewicz, and the Cornerstone **RINGERS AND SINGERS** for providing a joyful noise during worship!

Rehearsals for our bell choir and singing choir are on Tuesday evenings—come check it out!

Bell Choir: 6-7 PM

Singing Choir: 7-8 PM

Talk to Doreen for more information. No experience necessary, all are welcome!



The Cornerstone Ringers on Nov. 17th

Cornerstone Yellow Pages



Do you have a skill or talent that could be a resource for other church members? Please contact Elizabeth Hughes if you would like to be listed.

Vikki Leach

609-802-1143

Vleach@verizon.net

Vikkileach.myrandf.com



life-changing SKINCARE

Let me help you love your skin and lashes! We have products for all skin types and issues (acne, sensitive skin, anti-aging, scars).

Meg Milligan

732-928-8117

www.clowningbymac.com

Clowning by Macaroni Anne Cheeze
Celebrating an event? Let Macaroni Anne Cheeze entertain with face/arm painting and balloon animals.

Reflection & Inspiration: Specialty note cards for that special person or occasion. Go Green! Send a lovely note card that can be framed and enjoyed by all! Total gift cost \$4.00.

List your business here!

Do you have a skill or talent that could benefit our members?

*Talk to Elizabeth Hughes to put your ad **HERE.***

December 2019 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 WORSHIP 10 AM	2 WORSHIP 10 AM	3 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Bell Choir 6-7 PM Singing Choir 7-8 PM	4 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Bell Choir 6-7 PM Singing Choir 7-8 PM	5	6	7 WORSHIP 5 PM
8 WORSHIP 10 AM Deacon's Meeting 11:15 AM	9 WORSHIP 10 AM	10 Bell Choir 6-7 PM Singing Choir 7-8 PM	11 Women's Bible Study Bus Trip to Newark 12:30 PM	12	13	14 WORSHIP 5 PM
15 WORSHIP 10 AM	16 WORSHIP 10 AM	17 Bell Choir 6-7 PM Singing Choir 7-8 PM	18 Session Meeting 7 PM	19	20	21 WORSHIP 5 PM
22 WORSHIP 10 AM	23 WORSHIP 10 AM	24 Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00 and 7:30 PM	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27	28 WORSHIP 5 PM  Communion Served
29 WORSHIP 10 AM  Communion Served	30 WORSHIP 10 AM	31				