



Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

Cornerstone Connection

December 2016

Building Community on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ

www.cornerstonechurchofjackson.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP at 10 AM

(Sunday School for Children
during worship)

Pastor:

Tory Pruner, 732-691-5825

Director of Music:

Susan Rovira, 609-371-1473

Youth & Children's Ministry Intern:

Abby Cloos, 732-551-8783

Administrative Assistant:

Elizabeth Hughes, 732-833-6857

Treasurer:

Tina Kas, 732-928-1778

Nursery Care:

Sueli Paes de Barros

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A Message from Pastor Tory

As we all prepare for Christmas, we find ourselves both overwhelmed and excited. Overwhelmed by all we hope to accomplish for the people we love. The food that needs to be prepared for the Christmas gatherings, the toys that need to be put together (that never have the correct amount of screws), the presents that need to be shipped to loved ones far away and the Christmas cookies that need to be baked. Excited, for the joy we anticipate to see as our gifts are received, for the time with loved ones we see too infrequently, to join on Christmas Eve to celebrate with our church family the birth of our Lord, and perhaps most excited to open that "one" present we are anticipating.

I remember as a child I would get so excited for Christmas, I felt as though December dragged on forever. On Christmas Eve, it was so very hard to fall asleep, I couldn't wait for the morning to come. When the morning came, I had even more waiting as my Dad would check to see if the coast was clear. Then we all lined up at the top of the stairs, oldest to youngest, I was next to youngest, again the long wait as we walked down the stairs. When I entered the living room, I was overwhelmed with joy as I saw all the presents. As I reflect on those moments, I can only begin to imagine what that first Christmas was like for those shepherds. The shepherds, like all of God's people, had long expected the arrival of the Messiah. Now, in the very darkness of the night, the angels break through shattering the darkness with the great news of the Messiah's birth. News almost too good to believe, yet the shepherd's hearts were ready to hear the angel's proclamation and "they went with haste" to go and see the greatest gift of all, the gift of the Christ child. The shepherds were the first to kneel and worship the newborn king. *(continued)*

Worship at McAuliffe Middle School

35 S. Hope Chapel Road, Jackson

Mailing address: P.O. Box 140, Jackson, NJ 08527

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.

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As the shepherds went back to the fields their hearts were filled with joy, and they praised God for all they had seen and heard and shared it with everyone they saw. Christians have been sharing the angel's message of good news of great joy throughout the years.

Cornerstone is no exception, we look forward with great anticipation for the celebration of Christmas. We have been waiting with even greater expectation that this Christmas we would be worshipping in the Harmony Road Church. However, all the approvals were not quite in time before the winter cold set in, so we must wait for the spring before our first worship service at Harmony Road. Although it is never fun to wait, we need only to ask Moses and the Israelites who spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness waiting for the promised land. We at Cornerstone are on the verge of together moving into the promised church home. So, as we wait, we wait with each other and that is in and of itself a gift. A gift because our Cornerstone church family shows love in all situations and is ready to welcome new members to our family. One year ago, I began as Pastor, and I have loved every moment with you. The waiting for Harmony Road has been a challenge for me, as it has for many of you. However, my mother always said, "anything worth having is worth waiting for." Just think, at Cornerstone we will have two great celebrations, Christmas and our first day worshipping at Harmony Road. So as the January blues set in for others, we will begin our countdown to our homecoming.

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday, and on Christmas Eve at 4:30 pm for our family friendly worship with candle lighting. We will also gather on Christmas Day and then New Year's Day at 11:00 am.

I pray that your family will be able to welcome the Christ child into your heart and that his light may shine forth through you every day.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Reverend Tory Pruner

Please pray for:

- The DaConceicao family after Manny's passing on 12/2. Manny was a long-time member of Cornerstone and he will be missed by all.



Continued prayers for:

- Katie Delaney having continued health issues with her stomach
- Bev Kaiser in FountainView Care Center: 527 River Ave, Lakewood, NJ 08701, 732-534-8216
- John Lukacs in Brookside Assisted Living Facility in Freehold: Brookside Assisted Living, 93 Manalapan Avenue, Freehold, NJ 07728
- Cornerstone as we continue our renovations at the church on Harmony Road
- Our troops around the world and their families

ELDERS ON OUR SESSION	BOARD OF DEACONS
2016 Tina Kas Patti Miller Sharron Smith (Clerk) Bob Wegner	Betty Thompson Barbara Dougherty
2017 Vikki Leach Todd Moyer Kellie Pushko Ray Schleckser	Lisa Capurso Lois Fox
2018 Bruce Thompson Gail Carlson Laura Stone David LaCross	Nancy Foster Ann Sarti
2019 Barbara Dougherty Jim Foster Tina Kas Sharron Smith (Clerk)	Allyson Moyer Elizabeth Hughes

Our thanks to Elders Patti Miller and Bob Wegner who are rotating off of Session, and to departing Deacons Betty Thompson, Wendy Barone, and Barbara Dougherty. We welcome Jim Foster and Barbara Dougherty as new Elders, and Lois Fox, Ann Sarti and Nancy Foster as new Deacons! We thank you ALL for your service!



Congratulations to **Annabel Hughes** on being inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) at Jackson Memorial High School! (Also in this picture is Cornerstone member **Maggie Varrelmann**, already a member of the NHS.)

Thanks to all who baked or purchased goodies to support our bake sale on November 20th! We raised a total of \$195. Special thanks to Nancy Foster and Barbara Dougherty for organizing this fundraiser!



Thank you to everyone who supported Operation Christmas Child this year! We filled a total of 83 boxes for gifts shipped to children in need! **This year, our boxes were delivered to children in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Colombia!**



Christmas Joy Offering



A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10) to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Alongside the message of promise and fulfillment in Luke's Gospel, we also hear the clear call to God's people to respond in faith as Christ calls us: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48).

The Christmas Joy Offering will be accepted throughout the month of December with a special collection on Christmas Eve. Envelopes are available if needed, or mark your check "Joy offering." Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



Helping Others in Need

We will once again be participating in the Adopt a Family program through the Jackson Food Pantry! Please visit our angel tree if you would like to participate and help make the Christmas holiday brighter for Jackson families in need. **Wrapped gifts should be returned to church on December 18th!** Thank you!



Use Amazon Smile to shop on Amazon and a donation will be made to our church! To date, we have received \$229 for purchases over the last 2 years. Just visit smile.amazon.com and select Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Jackson as your charity (or use this customized link to automatically choose the correct charity: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/80-0268905>) and then shop at amazon as you normally would. A 0.05% portion of your purchase will be donated to Cornerstone! Please share with your friends and family and talk to Elizabeth Hughes if you have any

We Need Your Pledge!

This is the season of Stewardship, when we prayerfully consider pledging our time, treasure, and talents for 2017. If you would like to make a financial commitment to Cornerstone for next year to assist us in planning our 2017 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.



Holiday Fundraiser

Cicconi Farms

Friday, November 25th through Saturday, December 24th

Christmas Trees, Wreaths, Decorations & More!

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church invites you to "Deck the Halls" at our Holiday Fundraiser being held at Cicconi Farms, 1005 Farmingdale Rd. Jackson

Help support our Church!

Come out and choose from a great selection of Freshly Cut Christmas Trees, Plain or Exquisitely Decorated Wreaths, Aromatic Roping, Festive Door Swags, Mantle Pieces and more. Shop for all of your Holiday decorating needs.

10% of your purchase will benefit Cornerstone Presbyterian Church



Nov. 25th—Dec. 24th

Hours: 9 AM. to 7 PM. Daily.

Match your décor!

Custom designs made to order!

Free Hot Cocoa, Tea & Snacks!

Don't forget to bring your camera!



PLEASE PRESENT FLYER TO CASHIER

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

Directions to Cicconi Farms: From McAuliffe, make right on 547/S. Hope Chapel Road. Make slight left on South Cooks Bridge Road, then turn right onto Bennetts Mills Road. Turn left onto N. New Prospect Road, then turn left on Farmingdale Road—Cicconi Farms will be immediately on your left. Or call for directions 732-363-1420.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
December 24, 2016
4:30 PM
McAuliffe Middle School



CHRISTMAS DAY (12/25) and NEW YEARS DAY (1/1/17)
Sunday worship services:
11 AM
McAuliffe Middle School




Rev Rob doing the Time for Children on Thanksgiving Sunday



Reverend Pruner with her daughter Kayla, with Nick and Landon lighting the advent candle on the first Sunday in Advent!

Cornerstone Youth Group is for kids in Middle School and High School! Our thanks to Allyson Moyer for volunteering to coordinate Youth activities—please contact her with any questions.



Cornerstone Youth & Family

Christmas Party

Sunday, December 11
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Surf Taco®
Coastal Cuisine

*Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift for our Steal Secret Santa
We will order off the main menu then meet in the upstairs
private lounge for the party.*

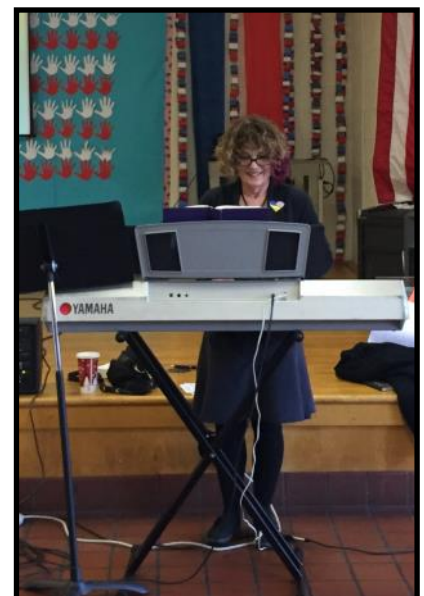
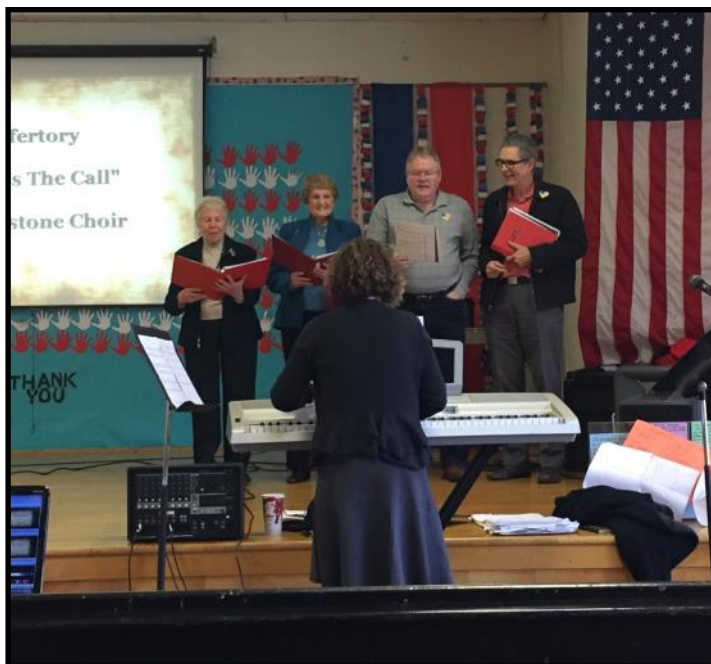
Please R.S.V.P. by December 8 to
Allyson Moyer at allymoyer@gmail.com or
call/text 732-245-6581





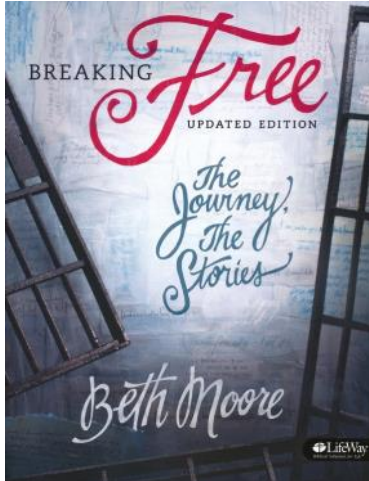
The Cornerstone Choir rehearses before worship on Sundays at 9:00 AM.

Rehearsals are low key and fun! We are always looking for new members and hope that you will prayerfully consider joining this awesome group of singers. Singing is another way that we can pray. Think about trying something new – your voice in a choir. If you are interested in joining us consider stopping by or contact Susan (srplus3@comcast.net).



Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study All Women Welcome!

Meets Tuesdays 10:30 AM—Noon at the home of Elizabeth Hughes



The group is doing a 10-week Beth Moore study called “Breaking Free.” This in-depth Bible study leads you through Isaiah 61:1-4 to discover the transforming power of Christian freedom by drawing parallels between the captive Israelites and the spiritual strongholds in our lives. Please talk to Elizabeth Hughes for more information. All women are welcome!

Description: This in-depth women's Bible study draws parallels between the captive Israelites of the Old Testament and New Testament believers in Jesus as the Promised Messiah. Beth looks at the Book of Isaiah through the lives of the kings who ruled during the prophet's ministry. These kings exemplify many of the obstacles to freedom with which we must deal. Using Scripture to help identify spiritual strongholds in your life, no matter how big or small, Beth explains that anything that hinders us from the benefits of knowing God is bondage.

Upcoming Meetings:

December 6: NO MEETING

December 13: Session 11, The Display of His Splendor

A NEW STUDY WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY—STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!

"John the Juggler"

Sunday School Christmas Play—December 18, 2016

The legend of John the Juggler is an old one. There are many versions of this story. This one comes from a book by Tomie de Paola called *The Clown of God*. This story reminds us that the best gifts are the ones that come from the heart.



Sunday School for Kids During Worship!

The **K-3rd Grade** class is using the Witness curriculum as they learn about creation and all the early Heroes of our faith.

The **4th-6th Grade** class is using the Nooma series. Nooma is a great DVD series that helps children to begin to discuss and understand that each of us have a unique purpose in God's eyes.

The **7th-12th Grade** class is using the Youth Alpha DVD curriculum. Alpha is an in-depth series that guides our youth through practical life illustrations leading them to discuss freely how we can live in the world and follow God's word in the Bible.

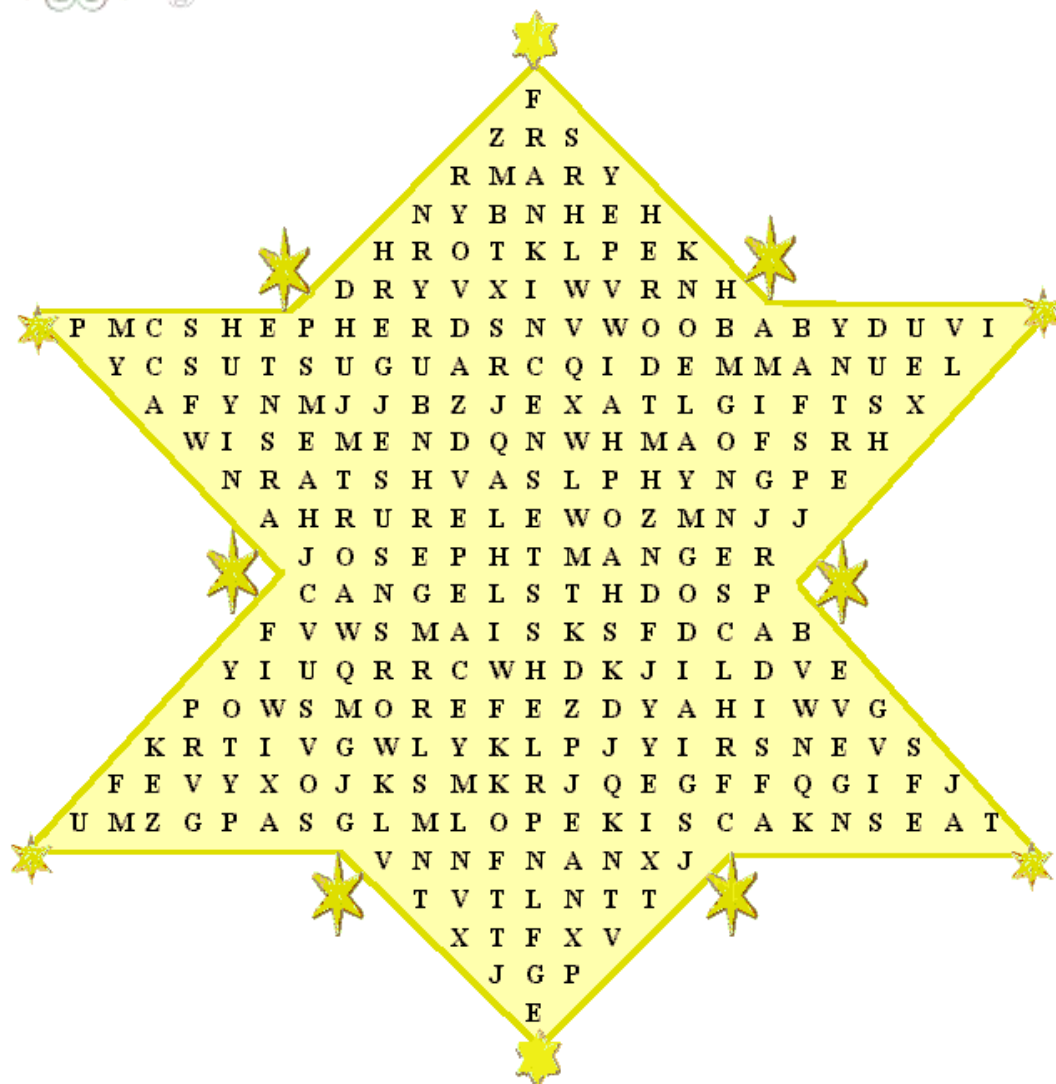
The **youngest children** will also hear Bible stories and have fun with our toys, as they are tenderly cared for by our nursery team!

Teachers:

Kathe Morrison, Kellie Pushko, Abby Cloos, Elizabeth Hughes, Dominique Robert, Ashley Moyer, Jackie Leach, and rotating volunteers



His Birth



Angels
Augustus
Baby
Bethlehem
Elisabeth
Emmanuel
Frankincense
Gifts

Gold
Herod
Inn
Jesus
Joseph
Manger
Mary
Myrrh

Nativity
Noel
Peace
Promise
Savior
Shepherds
Star
Swaddling

Taxes
Virgin
Wisemen



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.

Donna Rosato

732-276-6805

Notary Public

John Rosato

732-806-7647

Things Done for You, LLC
Home Repairs and Property Maintenance
Licensed and Insured

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.

Qywnn Gross

qgross@hopecathedral.com

Framed customized prayers, 16x20", please contact Qywnn for more information!

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.*

Rebecca Schiemer

732-286-4852

*I make homemade jewelry, homemade soaps, candles, and gift baskets for all occasions. I can also offer my services in cake decorating, cookie bouquets, fruit basket arrangements, chocolate covered strawberries, pretzels, and other homemade candies and chocolates. Please contact Rebecca at **Memories Made Floral & Gifts** or e-mail at sweetlady_16508@yahoo.com or by simply calling 732-286-4852.*

December 2016 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 YOUTH Christmas Party 12-2 PM	12	13 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	14	15	16	17
18 Children's Play during worship	19	20	21 Session & Deacon Meeting 7:00 PM	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship at McAuliffe 4:30 PM
25  Christmas Worship 11 AM McAuliffe	26	27	28	29	30	31