



Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

Cornerstone Connection

July/August 2017

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

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

In life, there are songs that stay with you. We can remember the words years after they were a hit. One of those songs for me is the song by Whitney Houston, "Greatest Love of All." The lyrics declare that "children are the future." Those words have always bothered me. Many knowing my commitment to children's ministry have told me how great it is that I have invested in the future of the church, "for children are the future" after all. The people mean well, yet for me, to say that children are the future, is to say they are nothing in the present. Long ago that is exactly what the disciples thought when children were brought to Jesus to be blessed. Mark 10:13-15 says "And parents were bringing children to him, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.' And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them." Jesus made it clear then and to us now. He says, "do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Children and youth are part of the family of faith, their presence brings to the church something that no one else can bring. Children and youth often lead the way. How often I have heard parents tell how their youth/child lead them into the church. Or how often has a child's reply during the children's message bring you greater insight than the sermon. I believe we underestimate the importance of every individual in the church and that includes all from the very youngest to the oldest.

On July 7-10th, a representative group of our youth traveled to Roanoke, VA to serve as our missionaries with Group Workcamp. During the weekend, I witnessed again just how vital our youth are to the ministry and mission here at Cornerstone. The weekend started by leaving at 6:00am, arriving at the middle school to settle into the classroom assigned, get some dinner, worship together, get work assignments and then off to sleep on the floor. *(continued)*

Worship at McAuliffe Middle School

35 S. Hope Chapel Road, Jackson

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

Cornerstone Community

JULY



Nkechi Okparaekwe, 7/2

Ashley Moyer, 7/5

Bruce Thompson, 7/8

Gail Carlson, 7/8

Madeleine Welch, 7/11

Frank Capurso, 7/12

Dyana LaCross, 7/13

Kathe Morrison, 7/14

John Varrelmann, 7/17

Veronica Smith, 7/25

Sue Bross, 7/26

Timothy Leach, 7/27

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.

(continued from previous page) The mornings began at 6:30am, off to breakfast, morning worship and then pack into vans at 8:00am to the worksite until 4:00pm. The youth worked hard on their assignments. Some helped rip apart dangerous decking others were involved installing a new deck. Then others scraped, painted and stained decks and installed handicap equipment. A wheelchair ramp was put in and walls that were badly stained were cleaned and prepared for painting. Jobs done by youth were never ever tried at home, but they were experts when they arrived home. Service is just one part of the mission trip. The other part is to witness God's love by taking time with the people the youth were helping. To invite them to join in lunch and devotionals. The work was done for residents who were struggling. For example, one woman had just had serious back surgery and was barely able to walk, another woman had suffered a stroke at 45 and recently her husband died. People who had things covered until "life happened" and now they needed help. So many of the residents asked our youth, "Why would you come to help me? Are you being paid to do this work? No, then why are you helping me?" How wonderful to hear youth say, "We are here because that is what our Church does, we help people, that is what God wants us to do." Wow, how can anyone say youth are the future of the church and its mission!

The final part of the mission is to come together with other Christian youth, to have time together in worship, fellowship and recreation. Our own Kayla Moyer said it best, "The youth we met were different than the kids in school. They weren't mean to each other. They were...like us...and we made new friends and we shared our numbers and are still in touch with each other." Our youth learned what takes many a life time to discover that there is precious gift to be found in Christian friendship.

There were so many highlights for me personally. The excitement on the face of each of our youth as they returned from a long day's work. Not a grumble, complaint, (maybe only to race for a shower after the long day in the heat) nor a note of discouragement. The outstanding way our leaders, Vikki Leach, Ally Moyer, Elizabeth Hughes, and Jim Pruner, guided and supported our youth. And I will always treasure the beautiful prayer that Ashley gave at the close of our last devotional time, no preacher could have prayed anymore beautifully and faithfully. Our youth, Jackie Leach, Ashley Moyer, Ben Leach, Dyana LaCross, Kayla Moyer and Jonathan Hughes, were committed 150 percent during the entire trip. The great news is these awesome young people are just some of our wonderful youth of our Cornerstone Church Family. (continued)

Cornerstone Community

AUGUST



Constantine Osiakwan, 8/2
 Kellie Pushko, 8/2
 Nicholas Hughes, 8/4
 Barbara Dougherty, 8/6
 Ed Breuninger, 8/6
 Ricardo Robert, 8/6
 Jim Bainbridge, 8/7
 Stephen Slusak, 8/9
 Lisa Capurso, 8/10
 Andrew Tomczak, 8/10
 Marcus Floyd, 8/11
 Okoro Okparaeke, 8/11
 Sydney Morrow, 8/12
 Ann Sarti, 8/13
 Patti Miller, 8/16
 Jason Smith, 8/19
 Russ Jones, 8/24



Keith & Tina Kas, 8/3
 Gail & David Carlson, 8/8

(continued from previous page) I pray, you will follow their lead and join in one of our mission opportunities. This summer you can jump in by supporting Operation Christmas Child. Each year we partner with Samaritan's Purse to send a shoebox filled with gifts for children in need around the world. We are asking for you to bring your loose change as an offering toward the shipping costs of sending these boxes of hope and love. Keep watch for more opportunities to serve the Lord with gladness, just as our youth did this summer!

ELDERS ON OUR SESSION

BOARD OF DEACONS

2017 Vikki Leach
 Todd Moyer
 Kellie Pushko
 Ray Schleckser

Lisa Capurso
 Lois Fox

2018 Bruce Thompson
 Gail Carlson
 Laura Stone
 David LaCross

Allyson Moyer
 Elizabeth Hughes

2019 Barbara Dougherty
 Jim Foster
 Tina Kas
 Sharron Smith (Clerk)

Nancy Foster
 Ann Sarti

Please pray for:

- Our church as we have approval to move forward with remaining outside work at Harmony Road—hoping to begin worshipping there in October!



Continued prayers for:

- Ray Schleckser having completed radiation treatments for prostate cancer, but having continuing problems with his back
- Bev Kaiser in FountainView Care Center: 527 River Ave, Lakewood, NJ 08701, 732-534-8253
- John Lukacs in Brookside Assisted Living Facility in Freehold: Brookside Assisted Living, 93 Manalapan Avenue, Freehold, NJ 07728
- Our troops around the world and their families



Congratulations to **Sean Kas**, who won third prize in the Switlik Elementary School poetry contest and had his poem featured in the yearbook!

Devin LaCross traveled to Ohio in July to compete in the National Precision Pistol Championships. His junior team won three national championships! Congratulations to Devin!



New contact information for our former pastor, the **Reverend Courtney B. Cromie**:

New Home
 The Rev. Courtney B. Cromie's
 New Home Address as of 6/27/17:
 20 Fourth Street
 Frenchtown, NJ 08825



New Ministry
 New Ministry as of 7/1/17
 Frenchtown Presbyterian
 22 Fourth Street
 Frenchtown, NJ 08825
frenchtownpres.org



We wish her all our best as she started her new position as the Pastor of the Frenchtown Presbyterian Church in July!

After being here for six years
 And spending time with all my peers,
 It's time to go to middle school,
 Even though Switlik will always be cool.

We went on field trips
 And saw lots of great sights.
 We also had fun at all
 those McDonald's nights.

The best special of all
 Will always be gym,
 Even though no one could
 Ever reach that rim.

In math we learned
 Multiplying and dividing,
 And even though it was hard,
 We always kept trying

In reading, we read
 Lots of great books,
 And then wrote responses,
 An hour it could've took.

In writing, we wrote
 lots of great stories,
 We shared them with everyone,
 And nobody's was boring.

In social studies, we learned
 All about the past
 And in science, one of the things
 Was the universe that's vast.

I will always remember
 The things Switlik had,
 And now that I'm leaving,
 I will be very sad.

By: Sean Kas
 Third Place
 Poetry Contest Winner



Harmony Road Update from Bruce Thompson



On Wednesday, 7/19, we met with the Zoning Board and received final approval for what needs to be done. Now we have to get the proper permits from the Zoning and Building Departments to finish the project. A listing of remaining tasks are as follows (1-8) as well as some projects that are completed.

- 1) Finish the handicap ramp.
- 2) Pave the handicap parking area.
- 3) Put gravel in the parking lot on the north side of the church.
- 4) Install a guard rail between the porch and the road.
- 5) We were able to get a waiver on installing a curb and sidewalk until we build a meeting hall on the far north of the property. This will be done once we are able to sell the property we own on Route 571.
- 6) By receiving the waiver, we saved enough that after we get a "Certificate of Occupancy", we will be able to address the issue of fixing the front porch to make it more attractive.
- 7) Remove and replace the handicap ramp at the front of the church with steps.
- 8) Finish framing the front door and finish painting where necessary.
- 9) On July 22nd, Dave LaCross and I went to the Salem Methodist church and were able to obtain a pulpit and baptismal font that fits in perfectly as well as some attractive offertory plates.
- 10) Cushions for the pews have been donated and are in the church.
- 11) Gail Carson has donated a very cute set of animal furniture (includes a table and 4 chairs) for the kids.
- 12) Several weeks ago, we received a communion table from the Englishtown Presbyterian Church.
- 13) The floors have been refinished and carpeting has been installed.
- 14) The stained glass window behind the altar has been repaired and replaced. It is spectacular!

Sandwich & Salad Mission Trip Celebration

On Sunday, July 23rd, after worship we had a wonderful celebration of our Youth mission trip. We enjoyed a time of fellowship and delicious food as we watched a slideshow and listened to stories from the trip. See pages 9-10 for more about the trip!





Follow us on Facebook!

We are in process of figuring out how we can better use our Facebook page to promote our church within the community. We are increasing the frequency of our posts and introducing some new ideas. **YOU CAN HELP!** Please like our page, and when you see a post from Cornerstone, please like, share, or comment! All of these things increase the number of people who will see our posts, and gradually we will improve in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and Cornerstone throughout the community that we live in. You can find our Facebook page here:

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

Click "Like" on the page and you will start seeing our posts in your newsfeed. Please talk to Elizabeth Hughes if you have any questions!

Another way you can help: on Sunday mornings at church, open Facebook on your phone and click "check in" in the upper right. Where it says "where are you" start typing Cornerstone and click on "Cornerstone Presbyterian Church of Jackson" when it comes up.

THANK YOU!

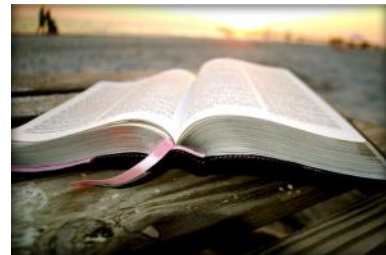


Cornerstone can now benefit from YOUR online Amazon purchases! From the website smile.amazon.com, you simply select Cornerstone as your nonprofit of choice, and then shop as usual on Amazon! See Elizabeth Hughes with any questions.

The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study is taking a break for the summer and will resume in September!



BEACH BIBLE STUDY IN OCEAN GROVE—TUESDAYS IN JULY



It's time once again for Reverend David Cotton's Beach Bible Study, on the beach in Ocean Grove, just south of the Beach Office at Embury Avenue, from 7-8 PM, on July 11, 18, and 25th. Bring your beach chair and a bible!



Pastor Tory in her “coat of many colors” as she began the sermon series on Joseph called “Getting through the Challenges of Life,” based on the Max Lucado book “You’ll Get Through This.”



It was a JOY to see our former intern, Mark Plunkett, as he visited from Houston!

Getting Ready for Operation Christmas Child!



We have started a **Summer Shoebox Shipping Collection for Samaritan's Purse!** Each fall our church participates in Operation Christmas Child, where we pack shoeboxes with gifts for children in need throughout the world. It costs \$9 to ship each box and our typical goal is to fill 100 boxes. To get a head start on collecting for this \$900 expense, **we will be collecting loose change throughout the summer months.** There is a shoebox on a back table on Sundays where we are collecting donations, or you can place your donation in the offering plate. Thank you for your support of this mission project!

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.



Thank you to the Moyer family for hosting the Youth Pool Party!



Youth Mission Trip to Roanoke, VA

July 7-10, 2017

On July 7th at 6 AM, our Cornerstone group of 11 volunteers (6 youth and 5 adults) departed from Jackson for our first Group Mission Trip experience. Upon arriving in Roanoke, we moved into our rooms at the Stonewall Jackson Middle School, got assigned to our crews, and received our work assignments. For the next 2 and a half days, we worked on projects that included building handicapped ramps, tearing down decks, interior and exterior painting and staining. We worked hard, but we all agreed in the end that it was a fantastic experience—already looking forward to next year!



Departure at 6 AM



Arriving in Roanoke at 3 PM!



The entire camp—around 120 people from 8 different states!



Youth Mission Trip to Roanoke, VA July 7-10, 2017



care cards





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

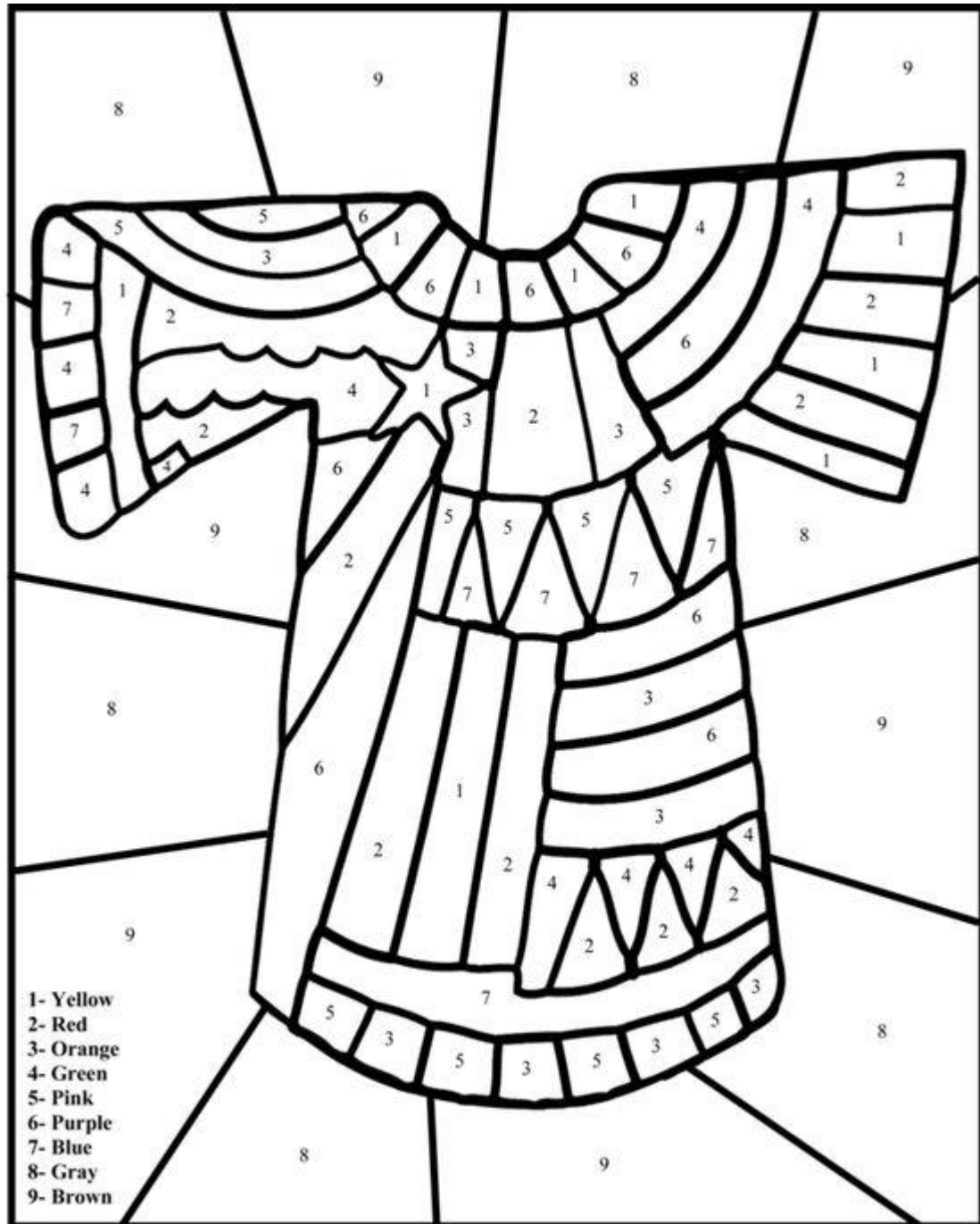
Rehearsals are low key and fun! We are always looking for new members and hope that you will prayerfully consider joining this awesome group of singers. Singing is another way that we can pray. Think about trying something new – your voice in a choir. If you are interested in joining us consider stopping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






Pastor Tory has been preaching on Joseph, famous for the coat of many colors given to him by his father Jacob.

Color in the colorful coat below!




© Crafting The Word Of God

July 2017 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 YOUTH MISSION TRIP July 7-10
9	10 YOUTH MISSION TRIP July 7-10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Sandwich & Salad Mission Trip Celebration after worship	24	25	26 Session Meeting 7:00 PM	27	28	29
30  Communion Served	31					

August 2017 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Session Meeting 7:00 PM	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 	28	29	30	31		