



Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

Cornerstone Connection

March 2018

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:

Ashley Moyer & Jackie Leach

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A Message from Pastor Tory

As a young person growing up I often heard debates referencing the quote, "charity begins at home." Do you know who is credited for this quote? No, it is not the Bible. The author of this quote is Sir Thomas Browne, an English physician, writer and theologian:

"But how shall we expect charity towards others, when we are uncharitable to ourselves? 'Charity begins at home,' is the voice of the world." – Sir Thomas Browne, 1642

Cornerstone is a place where charity goes out from the hearts of our congregation in many amazing directions. One of the ways our charity goes forth is through our ongoing relationship with The Jackson Food Pantry. The pantry distributes food from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and privately donated food to low income and unemployed households to relieve food insecurity and emergency distress situations. Beyond our food collections, our youth group members along with members from the congregation volunteer at the Soup Kitchen at All Saints Episcopal Church in Lakewood once a month. There they serve local families a hot meal and a warm welcome. This mission opportunity is open to everyone, perhaps you feel a strong call to help our local neighbors, here is your chance.

There are also many ways we serve our neighbors in other countries. Our Samaritan Purse Christmas boxes are one way we spread the joy of Christmas to little ones. Each year the response to our small gesture of love is overflowing joy. The children discover that not only God loves them but we love them too and pray for them. We also connect with our neighbors in Malawi through our involvement in Villages in Partnership (VIP). VIP over the past nine years has been working in the villages of Malawi, where they have developed a powerful system to address 6 critical needs. There has been a great deal of progress. Hundreds more children are now attending school, areas that have experienced perpetual hunger now have enough food, women and young girls are no longer walking hours each day to access clean water for partnering together they now have wells, and people

Worship at McAuliffe Middle School

35 S. Hope Chapel Road, Jackson

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

Cornerstone Community



John Rosato, 3/5

Ben Miner, 3/10

Matt Hekl, 3/15

Emily Welch, 3/17

Anthony Maimone, 3/19

Chuck Calhoun, 3/21

Ashley DiGirolamo, 3/23

Doris Pfeiffen, 3/26

Heather DiGirolamo, 3/26

Sue Woolverton, 3/29



Bubba & Sharron Smith, 3/6

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)

are starting small businesses and taking advantage of previously unattainable economic opportunities. VIP connects with 26 villages and there is still more work left to do! Cornerstone will join with many other congregations for the 2018 Water Walk in Allentown, NJ (see page 11). We walk so our brothers and sisters may have the most basic and yet vital gift, the gift of clean water to drink. Yes, 100 percent of the monies raised from the Water Walk will go to clean water projects and other sustainable development initiatives. There is no excuse not to jump in, either by walking or financially supporting our Cornerstone Water Walk Team!

Now back to the idea that "charity begins at home." I believe that our charity must spread far and wide as Christians, yet there is such truth in our quote from Sir Thomas Browne. The end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018 helped to clarify this for me. As Jim ended up being admitted to the hospital on December 23rd, with open heart surgery on December 29th, I witnessed "charity begins at home" or "charity begins right where you are at any given time." Here we were in the hospital during a holiday week, yet all the staff, nurses, and doctors gave us their "best." Everyone kinder and more caring than the next. This experience reminded me that as Christians we have a high and holy calling to live our lives as mission from God right where we are.....for sure "charity begins at home" yet with Christ in your heart. Your light might shine 8,000 miles away in Malawi someday!

ELDERS ON OUR SESSION

BOARD OF DEACONS

2018 Mike Pushko

Gail Carlson

Laura Stone

David LaCross

Marye Barbagallo

Elizabeth Hughes

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

Please pray for:

- Ray Schleckser with back pain that may require surgery

Continued prayers for:

- Arne Ildsgaard recovering from a bad virus and damage to his kidneys from dehydration
- Donnette Hubert recovering from surgery
- Dave Carlson receiving physical therapy in Florida as he recovers from a bad fall
- Jim Pruner recovering from quintuple bypass surgery.
- 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
- Cornerstone as we move forward to complete renovations—hoping to begin worshipping there by the summer!



Vikki Leach was honored with a special award in recognition for her continued support of Officer Down. Congratulations Vikki!



Congratulations to 8th grader **Ryan Kas** for being named Student of the Month!



Jonathan Hughes received an award for Good Character at Goetz Middle School. Great job!



JOY! Our former intern, **Mary Nickel**, and her husband Justin are expecting their first child in August!

A Note from Reverend Jim Pruner

Dear Folks of Cornerstone Church,

I can't tell you how much I appreciated the cards, meals and gifts you sent my way during my recent illness. They meant a great deal to me and they were a blessing in many ways. Your prayers were such a great support. Tory and I are so thankful to serve two exceptionally caring congregations! I'm feeling much better now and I hope to see you all sometime soon.

Faithfully,

Rev. Jim Pruner

Follow us on
Facebook!



[https://
www.facebook.com/
cpcjacksonnj](https://www.facebook.com/cpcjacksonnj)



Check out Memorial High
School and Goetz Middle
School plays this month!

JACKSON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
Production of
Disney's

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Music by
ALAN MENKEN
Lyrics by
HOWARD ASHMAN
& TIM RICE
Book by
LINDA WOLVERTON
Originally Produced by
Disney Theatrical Productions

Friday, March 2 at 6:30pm
Saturday, March 3 at 6:30pm
Saturday, March 10 at 2pm
Sunday, March 11 at 2pm

Character Brunch: Saturday, March 10th at 11:30 am
(Tickets must be purchased in advance)

Tickets: \$12 Presale, \$15 day of Performance
Available Feb 6-March 1 at JMHS Fine Arts Center on
Tue, Wed, Fri 2:15-4pm and/or Sat and Sun 10am-2pm
After March 1, tickets will only be available 2 hours before
performance at the full ticket price.
Email ticket requests to jacksonmemorialmusical@gmail.com

Jackson Memorial HS Play

Seussical Jr.

The Musical

March 22 7PM
March 23 7PM
March 21 12PM

Hope You Enjoy!

Tickets
Students \$5
Parents \$7

Tickets Purchased At Door

Based on the works of
Dr. Seuss
Book by:
Lynn Ahrens
and Stephen Flaherty
Music by:
Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by
Lynn Ahrens
Co-Conceived by:
Lynn Ahrens,
Stephen Flaherty
and Eric Idle
Music Supervised,
Adapted and
Produced by
Bryan Louieville

Goetz MS Play (at Memorial HS)

Work Day at Harmony 3/24



There will be a work day at the Harmony Road church on Saturday, March 24th, from 9 AM to 1 PM. Fred VanLooy and David LaCross will

prepare a list of jobs planned for completion for that day, along with a list of tools needed. Please save the date and plan to help if you can!



Our new sign is up at Harmony!

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 \$12,925 for the Building Fund.



Daylight Savings begins on Sunday, March 11th!

Turns your clocks ahead one hour!



EASTER FLOWERS



We will be offering Easter flowers to purchase as a fundraiser for our church, and to help decorate our worship space for Easter! Flowers must be prepaid and will be delivered to church on Easter—forms are available in church or on our [website](#) and payments/orders are due by March 18th!



Our church will collect for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), a special offering of PC(USA), on Palm Sunday and Easter. Fish banks were distributed (and are still available) for

the kids to collect loose change over the next few weeks as part of the OGHS offering. A gift to OGHS enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed (see the "Minute for Mission" on page 11). **Please return fish banks to church on Palm Sunday or Easter.** Thank you!

Per Capita Offering 2018

What is Per Capita? How is our Per Capita offering used?



The Per Capita offering began long ago to assure that representatives from every region of the United States would be able to gather for General Assembly. Today, General Assembly gathers every other year to address important issues concerning the larger church. The Per Capita Offering has expanded to include the support of vital programs that help to assure strong pastoral leadership. As well as the coordination of volunteer mission work that assists our brothers and sisters in need near and far who find

themselves in crisis.

Our Per Capita Offering of just \$37.00 per member provides the Office of the General Assembly with the resources to strengthen the connections of The Presbyterian Church USA. Together we can serve side by side building lasting relationships and empowering all Presbyterians to share God's love through mission and ministry. Some of the many ways includes:

- administration of ordination exams for candidates for ministry
- administering the church leadership connection referral system helping churches seeking a new pastor.
- planning for General Assembly and other related gatherings allowing us to connect with one another and our Lord.
- partnering with ecumenical bodies worldwide to promote Christian unity and to extend the church's work for peace and justice far beyond what we can do ourselves including the World Council of Churches.
- working with volunteers worldwide to be the support in the storm, when the hurricane strikes or the earthquake rocks a region, Presbyterian Disaster Relief is there.

I recently learned more about the great Sequoia trees of California, known as Redwoods, I am told they are spectacular and I hope one day to stand beside their beauty. These trees grow as much as 300 feet above the ground! What is very interesting though is these towering trees have unusually shallow root systems that spider out just under the surface of the ground.

They grow this way to drink in as much of the surface moisture they can. As we learn these facts it seems that they would be vulnerable to the wind. Storms with heavy winds would almost always bring these giants crashing to the ground but this rarely happens because they grow in clusters and their intertwining roots provide support for one another against the storms.



When we are together, either as a family or the church, we provide this same support. Pain and suffering come to all of us. But, just like those giant Sequoia trees, we can be supported in those difficult times by the touch of one another's lives. The knowledge that we have someone; that we are not alone; there is someone willing to touch us, hold us, keeps us from being destroyed. Our participation in the Per Capita Offering is one small way we, like those giant Sequoias, may support one another and share God's love.



Lent is the forty day season when we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter. This year, the first Sunday of Lent was on February 18th, and Easter is on April 1st. Join us throughout this period as Rev. Tory Pruner uses Timothy Keller's book "Jesus the King" as the basis for her preaching series. "Jesus the King" is an insightful and revelatory look at the life of Christ. Keller explores the Gospel of Mark; demonstrating how the story of Jesus is cosmic, historical, and personal; and encourages us to re-examine our relationship with God. Join Keller as he explores the Gospel of Mark; demonstrates how the story of Jesus is cosmic, historical, and personal; and encourages you to re-examine your relationship with God.

"SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY"—FEBRUARY 4th



In our Cornerstone tradition, we gathered on "Souper Bowl Sunday" for a meal of soup and bread. Youth collected a large box of food and \$110 for the Jackson food pantry (used to purchase laundry detergent, cookies, and soap).



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.



View scheduled activities March—May 2018 on our [website!](#)

Every Saturday from 9am to 11am the High School Youth are asked to help stock the shelves and sort donations at the Jackson Food Pantry. Youth must be 14 and older as per the township rule. If you are interested in helping please talk to Allyson. It's a great way to earn community hours! :)



11th Sunday 12:15-2pm Soup Kitchen - All Saints Episcopal Church, Lakewood
Cornerstone is committed to help the local families by serving a hot meal. Two youth and one adult are needed to help wrap silverware, prepare the meal and then serve/clean-up. Time commitment is less than two hours and we promise you will leave feeling very fulfilled and blessed!

15th Thursday 6:45pm Beyond Youth Night at Keswick - Whiting, NJ
Join many young teens from the area for a night of music and worship. Ice Breaker/Game, Worship Time/Student Testimony, Devotional lead by one of our local Youth Pastors, -FREE TIME in our Activity Center- Indoor pool (*one-piece bathing suits only*), Indoor hot tub, Basketball, Racquetball, Volleyball, Gaga, Ping-Pong, and they always have some organized games like free ball, Nine square or a tournament happening! They also offer a snack shop which serves Ice Cream, Milk Shakes and French Fries so bring a few dollars if you'd like to purchase.



20th Tuesday TBA Movie Night at Theatre - I Can Only Imagine (Opens March 16th in Theatre)
The inspiring and unknown true story behind MercyMe's beloved, chart topping song that brings ultimate hope to so many is a gripping reminder of the power of true forgiveness.

We are always open to ideas and suggestions so please feel free to email or call Allyson to add an event to the calendar.

Don't let needing a ride stop you from attending any event. Carpooling available. Friends are always welcome!

Please RSVP to Allyson Moyer email allymoyer@gmail.com home (732)961-3192 cell (732)245-6581



Youth volunteered at the Soup Kitchen at All Saints on Feb. 11th, and also delivered 64 blessing bags! Thanks to ALL for the donations!



Youth visited Ronald McDonald House and made a meal for the residents on Feb 22nd.





Our 2018 Confirmation classes are underway!

Confirmation classes are typically offered from January – May each year. This class is a time for youth to confirm the love that God has expressed for each of us in Jesus Christ. It is important that both the youth and the family are involved in this journey. Classes are taught by Reverend Tory Pruner and adult mentors.

Updated Class Schedule:

January 21 Student and Parent Informational Meeting

January 28 Created for a Purpose by God the Creator

February 4 Who is this One Named Jesus Christ

February 11 Holy Spirit – Gift given by Jesus

February 18 Off for the holiday weekend

February 25 No Confirmation Class

March 4 Sin and Forgiveness

March 10-11 Confirmation Retreat at Thomson Memorial in New Hope, PA

March 18 Developing a Rule of Life

March 25 No Confirmation Class

April 1 No Confirmation Class

April 8 Church Visit

April 15 Being Presbyterian – Being a Member of Cornerstone

April 22 Statement of Faith Review

April 29 No Confirmation Class – submit final Statement of Faith to Elizabeth

May 6 Session Examination

DATE TBD Confirmation in Harmony Road Church!!

SAVE THE DATE!

VIP WATER WALK—Saturday, May 19th



Water Walk - "Walk A Mile In Their Shoes"

The Village Water Walk event is designed to raise awareness of the need for access to safe water and the struggle to survive that our friends in Malawi, Africa face every day, and to raise funds for Villages in Partnership's efforts to provide life-changing, sustainable development projects that help alleviate those burdens.

Cornerstone is once again forming a team to walk in this event. This year the walk will be held on a Saturday at Allentown Presbyterian Church starting at 4:00 PM. Our team will take shifts walking throughout the evening, with the event ending at 10 PM with a time of devotion. We are hoping to form a team of 10 people to walk and each raise \$200. Sponsor sheets will be available soon. Whether you can walk, or sponsor a walker, thank you for your support of this mission project!



Last year, "Team Harmony" raised \$3345, far exceeding our goal of \$2000! Please help us make this year our most successful yet!

One Great Hour of Sharing is a Special Offering of PC(USA). We will collect this offering on Palm Sunday (3/25) and Easter Sunday (4/1).

MINUTE FOR MISSION



Gifts at Work

YOUR GIVING REPAIRS THE BREACHES THAT SEPARATE PEOPLE FROM LIVES OF WHOLENESS.

When the forces of chaos and calamity rip the fabric of human life, your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts are there to sew it back together.

Your generosity fulfills a vision rooted in the biblical witness and beautifully stated in Isaiah 58:12. The prophet writes: “You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”

Around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing ministries bridge the divides that tear apart the lives of individuals and communities.

In Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory that was devastated by Hurricane Maria last year, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance promised help to the island’s Presbyterian leaders even before the storm made landfall. Days after Maria hit, the first wave of PDA grants arrived and immediately pressing community needs were being met. Desperately needed items such as food, water, diapers and medical supplies were in the hands of hurricane survivors swiftly. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing made it possible for PDA to act promptly in Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida and other places when disasters struck in rapid succession last year. In addition, PDA will continue working in these communities long after other groups leave.

In Akron, Ohio, Diretha’s recovery from drug addiction was threatened by more than a decade of unemployment. She says her decision to join the Front Porch Café community helped her get a job and remain drug-free. The Front Porch consists of individuals who struggle with drug addiction or who seek to re-enter society after spending time in prison. At the Front Porch, they can eat a good meal, learn and grow among others who have experienced similar struggles, and receive guidance on employment opportunities. A Self-Development of People grant, made possible by One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, helped renovate and equip the building that houses the café.

“If I hadn’t gotten involved with the Front Porch, there is a chance I would have started using again and been in prison or even died,” Diretha says. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing gifts contribute to positive change that lasts.

In Uganda, Najjuma, a 56-year-old widow, depends on eight acres of farmland to feed three children and eight grandchildren left orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. However, her in-laws ordered her to leave the land her late husband had inherited. Thanks to training programs held by Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment (ARUWE), a partner of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Najjuma knew the law was on her side. She successfully appealed for help through local land-governance structures. Your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts helped Najjuma continue to farm the land and improve farming techniques in order to feed her children and grandchildren.

In places far and near, your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts repair breaches that pierce the wholeness that God wants for everyone. Please give generously.

Let us pray:

Holy God, we pray for those who are separated from the fullness of life that you desire for all people.

Strengthened by your love and mercy, may we bridge the gaps of injustice that keep people from experiencing lives of wholeness and fulfillment.

Amen.



Make a
Joyful noise
Unto the Lord
Psalm 100:1

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

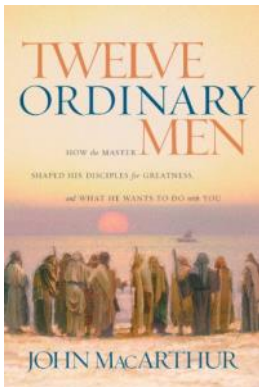
Rehearsals are low key and fun! We are always looking for new members and hope that you will prayerfully consider joining this awesome group of singers. Singing is another way that we can pray. Think about trying something new – your voice in a choir. If you are interested in joining us consider stopping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



Adult Bible Study

Women's Bible Study Meets Tuesdays 10:30 AM—Noon at the home of Elizabeth Hughes

A new study will begin on March 20th—see details below!

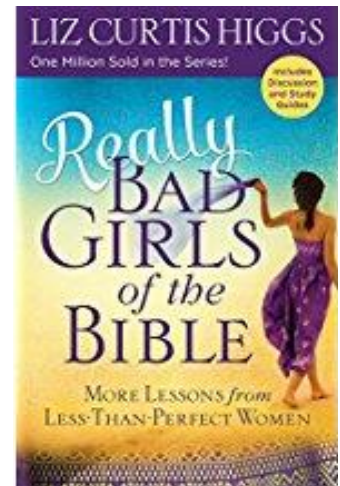


The women's group is completing a 10-week study of the book "Twelve Ordinary Men" by John MacArthur on March 13th, with a discussion of Chapter 10 (Judas—the Traitor).

A new study will begin on March 20th: an 8-week book study of "Really Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs. It's never too late to join - please speak to Elizabeth Hughes for more information. All are welcome!

Tentative Schedule:

- March 20: Chapter 1, "Dead Man Talking Medium of En Dor"
- March 27: Chapter 2, "Lethal Weapon Jael"
- April 3: NO MEETING, SPRING BREAK
- April 10: Chapter 3, "Peculiar Grace the Adulteress"
- April 17: Chapter 4, "Blood Will Tell Athaliah"
- April 24: Chapter 5, "Bathing Beauty Bathsheba"
- May 1: Chapter 6, "Just Desserts Herodias"
- May 8: Chapter 7, "Veiled Threat Tamar the Widow"
- May 15: Chapter 8, "Tears of a Clown, The Bleeding Woman"



Sunday School for Kids During Worship!

The **K-5th Grade** class is using the Whirl curriculum which highlights key Bible stories from both the New and Old Testaments.

The **6th-8th 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 **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, Kellie Pushko, Allyson Moyer, Elizabeth Hughes, Ashley Moyer, Jackie Leach, and rotating volunteers

Nursery Care Always Available!

Fish banks have been distributed this month for the children to collect change for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Please return the fish banks on March 25th (Palm Sunday) or April 1st (Easter).



The Sunday School made special valentines to send to members!



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



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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.*

March 2018 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Confirmation Meeting	5	6 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	7	8	9	10 Confirmation Retreat →
11 Deacon's Meeting Confirmation Retreat Daylight Savings Starts!	12	13 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	14	15 YOUTH Night at Keswick 6:45 PM	16	17
18 Confirmation Meeting	19	20 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM YOUTH Movie Night	21 Session Meeting 7 PM	22	23	24 WORK DAY at Harmony 9-1 PM
25  Communion Served Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt	26	27 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	28	29	30	31