

Cornerstone Connection

February 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

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 Reverend Pruner

As February begins, so do advertisements about how best we can show our love to those we love. Candy, flowers, and the best place to go for that special dinner. Love, a word so easy to say but difficult to live out. According to C.S. Lewis, great theologian, in his study of the various Greek words for love came to distinguish between what he called "need love" and "gift love." Need love should be self-evident. I love you because you meet my needs. It might be that my self-esteem is boosted when I am with you or it might be simply my need to be loved. Lewis contends that many times when we humans say to another, "I love you," what we are really meaning is, "I need you, I want you."

Now in contrast there is gift love. "Gift love moves out to bless and to increase rather than to acquire or to diminish. As Christians we want so to live out our lives with a spirit of "gift love" but often fall into "need love." Aware of this tendency, Jesus says in the gospel of John 15:12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Few of us are called to make so great a sacrifice but those that are become great witnesses of the power of love.

I recently read of a young wife and mother, Haley Allen, who sent out a desperate plea for someone to save her husband's life. "We're the Allen family," Haley wrote in a blog she posted Oct. 15. "We're made up of a hard-working dad, a stay-at-home mom, one precious baby boy and our second son on the way. We serve a selfless Savior who's the glue that holds us all together. Yet, we're searching hard for a certain missing piece in this little puzzle called life . . . We're searching for a kidney for my husband."

As a teenager, Noah had been diagnosed with "membranous nephropathy"--a type of kidney disease that normally sets in much later in life. About a year after his diagnosis he was in clinical remission. He went on with his life, met Haley, got married, passed the bar exam and took a job in Charlotte, North Carolina. *(continued)*

Cornerstone Community



Donna Rosato, 2/6
Devin LaCross, 2/10
Melissa Floyd, 2/11
Beverly Kaiser, 2/16
John Pushko, 2/16
Michael Pushko, 2/16
Anna Hekl, 2/18
Sean DiGirolamo, 2/18
Tory Pruner, 2/23
Debbie LaCross, 2/27
Rob Morrison 2/27
Landon Fratto 2/29



Frank & Lisa Capurso, 2/29

*Don't see your special day listed?
Please let Elizabeth Hughes know!*

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.

Then in 2015, Noah's symptoms returned. Medicine wasn't working, remission was over. Haley couldn't just sit around and watch her husband deteriorate. They asked for prayer from friends, family and their church family -- and then Haley had a new idea.

"This is where God has called me. And I need your help. I need prayer warriors. I need advocates. And I need a living donor. We don't know who that living donor is just yet -- maybe a family member, maybe a friend, maybe a Good Samaritan. But he or she is out there, and we are going to find him or her." Their modern-day Good Samaritan was 25-year-old Wyatt Bardi. He and his wife Amy read Haley's blog post. Amy barely knew Haley--from college and being bridesmaids in a mutual friend's wedding. "When I first read Haley's blog, I didn't think we'd be more than spectators and folks to pray over their story, and certainly didn't think that we'd get to be used by God as He answered their prayer for a donor; my husband Wyatt didn't know the couple at all. To him, that didn't matter. He saw donating a kidney as a way to live out his Christian faith--to be a loving neighbor--just as Jesus commanded."

"The process for determining if I would be a suitable donor candidate was pretty long and involved and I knew I could get rejected at any time for any number of reasons. The fact that I made it through that evaluation process at all felt like a major affirmation from God," Wyatt said.

On March 14, 2017 Noah got Wyatt's kidney. Amy shared on Facebook that watching her husband go through the pain of recovery, pain he could have avoided--after all he wasn't the sick one--she was reminded of Jesus. The couples now share a deep bond, rooted in the sacrificial love that Jesus exemplified, and they now live out.

This amazing story of faith and love reminds each of us of how our own "gift love" is used to bring God glory. Yet, too often we do nothing because we can't give something great in love. True, we may not have the calling to give a kidney, but in even what seems to be small ways we can give ourselves to others, showing God's love. At Cornerstone many give the "gift of love" through teaching church school, singing in the choir, serving as a deacon or elder. You can live out "gift love" by volunteering to greet worshippers on Sunday, or by sending a card to someone who is recovering at home or praying for someone on the prayer list each day. Although it is seemingly small, it is vital to living out Jesus' call to "love one another." I pray together we might live out "gift love" today and always!

Please pray for:

- Ray Schleckser recovering from knee surgery
- Jim and Nancy Foster expecting a new grandchild in early April (or maybe on Jim's birthday, March 30th!)



Continued prayers for:

- 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



We wish Marye all our best as she has moved to a new home! We miss her!!!

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

The Dedication Service for Cornerstone Presbyterian Church on Harmony Road took place on Saturday, November 3rd at 10 AM. It was a time of giving thanks to God and to all who helped us on the long journey to our new home!



The ribbon cutting!



Our three Cornerstone pastors—
Reverend Tory Pruner, Rob Rob Morrison, Rev Courtney Cromie



It was a pleasure to welcome Pastor Hank Lay who presented us with a certificate for our participation in the 2018 CROP Hunger Walk. Team Cornerstone raised over \$2000!



On the afternoon of November 3rd, we had an OPEN HOUSE where we were thrilled to welcome Cornerstone friends—new and old! There was an information table, face painting and games for the kids, food & drinks, a bake sale, and tours of the church.

Our “Celebration Worship” service was on November 4th. It was an amazing weekend!



Kristen DiGirolamo and family



Patrice & Bob Burkhardt



Sharron Smith with Steve Kubin



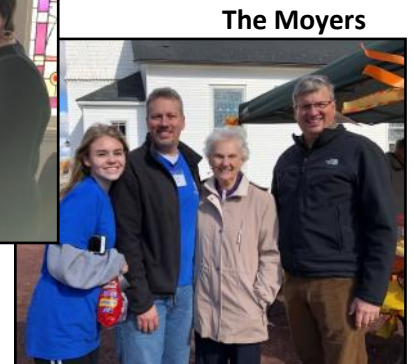
Belinda Mayer and Bob Drake



Rev. Helen Granozio



Faron & Bethany Trick



The Moyers

Our deepest thanks to Fred VanLooy and Bruce Thompson for all their hard in getting us into our new home at Harmony Road!



The women's bible study had lunch on a rainy November day in Long Branch

"SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY"—FEBRUARY 3rd!

Souper Bowl of Caring



Souper Bowl of Caring is a way for our young people to lead the way in tackling hunger and homelessness within our community. Yes, it happens on the same day as Super Bowl but this Souper Bowl will have a more lasting impact. The statistics are disturbing. Yet what brings us hope is that since Souper Bowl of Caring started, youth have raised over 110 million and 100 percent has gone directly to those in need. Let's make this Souper Bowl of Caring outstanding by bringing in canned goods and financial donations on February 3rd. Donations to benefit the Jackson Food Pantry.



There will be a new member class after worship on February 10th. Please talk to Reverend Pruner if you have any questions about membership.



In a new year and a new era for Cornerstone in our new home, it's time to update our photo directory! If you have any recent changes to your contact information or are new and would like to be included, please see Elizabeth Hughes. We'd also like to take updated or new photos! New directories will be available in February.

Lunch at Bubbakoos

We will have lunch after worship on Feb 3rd at Bubbakoos (355 N. County Line Rd). They will donate 20% of purchases made between 11-1:30 that day to us, and funds will be used to purchase food for the food pantry. We hope you can join us for a time of food and fellowship on February 3rd and support the Souper Bowl of Caring!



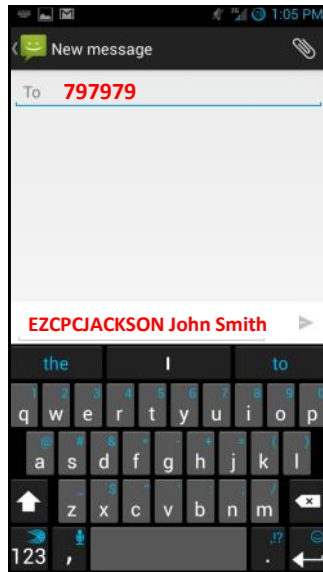
Buy Shop Rite Cards and Support Cornerstone!

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 13,300 for the church!



Text Alert System

Cornerstone has a text alert system to notify our congregation of important announcements (such as church closings due to weather) via text. Important information will also continue to be emailed, posted on our website, or shared with phone calls for those without computer access. But if you would like to receive alerts via text, then text **EZCPCJACKSON <your name>** to the phone number 797979. If you are successful, you will get back a message saying "Welcome to the Cornerstone text list." Talk to Elizabeth Hughes if you have any questions.



Follow us on Facebook!



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

Per Capita Offering for 2019

Our Per Capita Offering is now being collected for 2019. Per capita is an amount of money per member (this year, \$40.00) that our congregation pays to our larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The amount not given by the members must be covered by our general budget, taking away from other work and ministry of Cornerstone.

The Per Capita Offering is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. When we give our offering, it allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world. Per Capita also funds the preparation, administration, and grading of standard ordination examinations for seminary students. Helping to prepare future ministers to faithfully answer their call from God. As Presbyterians, we believe that we need each other as we work together to and discern the mind of Christ for the PC (USA).

We encourage all members to pay your share of \$40.00 per member, even if it is made in small increments throughout the year. By contributing your portion of per capita, you will free up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community. We hope you will make this contribution at your earliest convenience. Together is how we have the greatest impact!



The Women's Bible Study is planning two bus trips this spring and all are invited to join us! Registration forms are available at church or download from:

<http://www.gsgetaways.com>

Please write "Cornerstone" on your form and send directly to Garden State Getaways.

Philadelphia Flower Show and Garden Tea Tuesday, March 5, 2019



Enjoy soothing music, lovely surroundings, and a delicious GARDEN TEA at the Philadelphia Flower show. Your tea experience will include sandwiches, fruit, pastries and unlimited teas. After your Garden Tea, experience the flower show ...Stunning landscapes, gardens and breathtaking floral displays will interpret **flowers' power** to inspire, decorate, style and enrich our lives. You will also view one of the world's most prestigious floral design competitions, which hasn't been held in the United States since 1985. The FTD World Cup 2019, an international competition will be showcasing award-winning floral designers representing more than 20 countries. You will be treated to fabulous design, live entertainment, gardening how-to workshops, and lectures by experts. Take time to Sip & Savor at the free WINE TASTING GARDEN. You may also visit the **READING TERMINAL MARKET** located right next door with Mouth-watering aromas, locally grown and exotic produce, Amish specialties, fresh meats, seafood, and poultry, handmade confections and baked goods straight from the oven. Package includes motor coach transportation, Garden Tea, flower show admission, driver's gratuity and trip leader.

Bus departs JMHS Jackson 8:45 am Target, Brick 9:30 AM approximate 6:30 PM return \$105



"JESUS" Sight & Sound Theater and lunch at Shady Maple

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Experience the greatest rescue story of all time! Jesus is the action-packed musical stage

adventure that takes you on a miraculous journey alongside the most famous person to ever walk the earth, and the everyday people whose lives he changed forever. Come see the world class cast, spectacular special effects and live animals on stage and in the aisles. Join us on a journey of theater and a good ole fashion Dutch Buffet lunch at Shady Maple.

Package includes motor coach, theater seats, lunch, driver's gratuity and trip leader.

Bus departs Jackson 8:15 am Target Brick 9 AM approximate 7:45 PM return \$124

Please note cancellation policy *Affordable travel insurance available

WORSHIP



Ringling the Harmony Bell to begin our first worship service in the church on Sunday, October 21st!



On December 2nd, we celebrated the confirmation of 7 youth.



We celebrated our first baptism in Harmony on January 27th, with the baptism of Landon Fratto, Reverend Pruner's grandson!



The nativity scene on Christmas Eve



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.



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! :)



3rd Sunday 10am Souper Bowl of Caring at Cornerstone & Lunch at Bubbakoos

Youth are asked to bring a big pot and collect donations of canned goods and monetary donations from the congregation. Donations will be given to the Jackson Food Pantry. After Church we will all go have lunch together at Bubbakoos.

***TBA 3pm Cook at Ronald McDonald House, Long Branch**

One of our favorites! Let's cook for those families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Meet at the Moyer's for 3pm (or Allyson will pick-up as many as possible). We will go cook Penne ala Vodka, Garlic Bread, Salad and dessert and then grab a bite to eat on the way home.

*Need to firm up RMH Calendar and availability

24th Sunday 6:30pm-8pm Monthly Meeting at Harmony House

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 allmoyer@gmail.com home (732)961-3192 cell (732)245-6581



Youth Christmas Party



Annabel Hughes talks about recent service work in the Dominican Republic



Game night!

MISSIONS

across the street & around the world



**Guest Speaker
on 2/24**

villages in partnership

For the past 8 years, Cornerstone has supported Allentown Presbyterian Church and Villages in Partnership (VIP), an organization whose mission is to build partnerships between villages in the developed world and villages in Malawi to bring about life-changing development for all. On February 24th, representatives from VIP will speak during 10 AM worship, and host an information session afterwards about the friendship trips to Malawi this summer. Mark your calendars!



Update on Operation Christmas Child:

Thanks to everyone who helped us fill 67 shoeboxes this year! Our boxes were sent to children in Colombia and the Dominican Republic!

February 3, 2019



Reminder! Our youth are collecting non-perishable food donations for the Jackson Food Pantry through February 3, 2019!



Angel Tree/Adopt-a-Family

Thank you to everyone who purchased gifts for our 2 adopted Jackson families (11 people) for Christmas, and thank you to Megan LaFontaine for coordinating!



Thanks to your generosity, Cornerstone donated many bags of warm clothing, tents, and coats to the homeless in Howell and Lakewood through the ministry of Pastor Steve Brigham and Destiny's Bridge.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

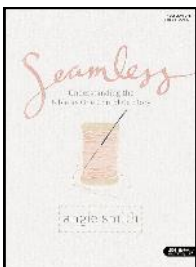
New Bible Study Starting on Feb. 2nd at 3:45 PM at Harmony House

There will be a new bible study starting on Saturday, February 2nd at 4 PM at Harmony House. This 4-week study on the book of Ruth will be led by our Pastor Emeritus, Reverend "Rev Rob" Morrison. Coffee and treats will be provided. Invite your friends – all are welcome!

Description: What makes the book of Ruth relevant to our present healthcare crisis? This book deals with what it means to love, to grieve, and be dedicated even to our in-laws. A foreign woman and a bitter widow show what friendship is all about. Your questions and comments are welcome.



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



The women's group is doing the 7-week study "Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story," by Angie Smith. All women are welcome, and it's never too late to join! Talk to Elizabeth to order a member guide or if you would like more information.

Description: In 7 sessions, Seamless covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Whether you've grown up hearing Bible stories or you're exploring Scripture for the first time, the full story of the Bible can be overwhelming.

Experience the Bible as a whole as you gain clarity and confidence in your understanding of Scripture. Discover a biblical context that reshapes and brings to life stories from the Old and New Testaments. Each week is accompanied by maps, general Bible facts, and word studies.

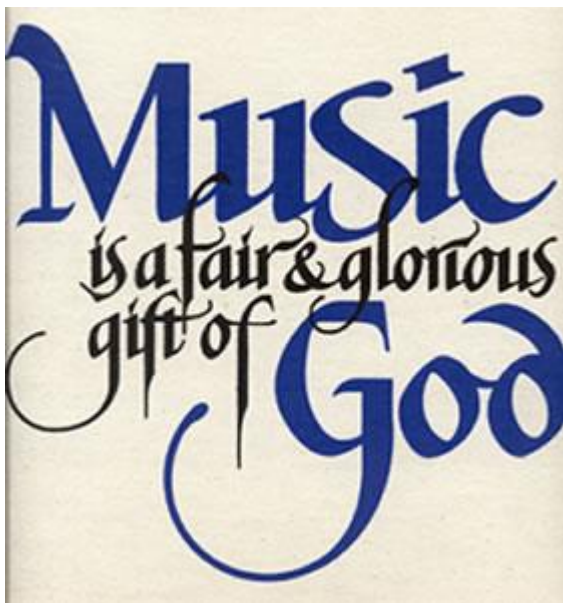
Tentative Schedule:

- February 5: Video Session 3
- February 12: Video Session 4
- February 19: Video Session 5
- February 26: Video Session 6
- March 5: Bus trip to Philadelphia Flower Show*
- March 12: Video Session 7

(Looking ahead to April 5—Bus trip to see Jesus at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster!) * See page 9 for more info on bus trips.



Happy Birthday Laura Stone!



Stay tuned for updates on new music ministries beginning at Cornerstone!



On December 30th, we said farewell to our Director of Music, Susan Rovira! We thank Susan for her faithful dedication to Cornerstone over the past several years and we wish her well in her future calling.

Stay tuned for updates on the Cornerstone Choir and future of our music ministry program at Cornerstone!



What a joy on Christmas Eve—Kayla Moyer and Carli Hummel sang a duet with Jonathan Hughes on the baritone, and Vikki Leach sang “O Holy Night”



New Hand Bells!

Cornerstone has recently received a gift of a large set of handbells, and we are excited to be planning the start of a new handbell choir! In the meantime, our youth are ringing in each Sunday worship service with our new bells, and it is a JOY to hear!



Sunday School for Kids During Worship!

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 DVD series The Story: Getting to the Heart of God's Story, which teaches our youth how the story of Scripture intersects with the story of their lives.

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, Allyson Moyer, Kayla Fratto, Megan LaFontaine, Ashley Moyer, Jackie Leach.

Nursery Care Always Available!

The Twelve Days of Christmas—Sunday School Presentation December 16, 2018



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.*

February 2019 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Bible Study 3:45 PM WORSHIP 5 PM
3 WORSHIP 10 AM BUBBAKOOS 11-1:30 	4	5 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	6	7	8	9 Bible Study 3:45 PM WORSHIP 5 PM
10 WORSHIP 10 AM NEWMMEMBER CLASS 11:15 AM Deacon Meeting	11	12 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	13 Session Meeting 7:00 PM	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15	16 Bible Study 3:45 PM WORSHIP 5 PM
17 WORSHIP 10 AM	18	19 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	20	21	22	23 Bible Study 3:45 PM WORSHIP 5 PM
24 WORSHIP 10 AM VIP Info Session Communion Served YOUTH 6:30 PM	25	26 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	27	28		