



Cornerstone Connection

December 2020



Building Community on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ

www.cornerstonechurchofjackson.org

WORSHIP

SATURDAYS at 5 PM

SUNDAY at 10 AM

VIRTUAL on FACEBOOK

SUNDAYS at 10 AM

Pastor:

Tory Pruner, 732-691-5825

Director of Music:

Doreen Laskiewicz, 732-740-9086

Assistant Director of Music:

Will Vanderburg

Administrative Assistant:

Elizabeth Hughes, 732-580-3137

Treasurer:

Tina Kas, 732-928-1778

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cornerstone Community	2-5
Announcements	6
Worship	7-8
Stewardship	9-10
Mission	11-12
Adult Fellowship	13
Children's Ministry	14
Get Connected	15
Calendars	16

A Message from Reverend Pruner Transforming Power of the Lord

In the Church Sanctuary is the window of the cross with the crown of thorns. This window reminds us how Christ's love transforms the crown of thorns into a crown of glory. What the evil of that day tried to stop with hatred, our Lord conquered with love. Just as that crown of thorns was transformed into a crown of glory we are transformed by the love of our Lord. We are given gifts we can never repay. Gifts of Faith, Hope, and Love. Such an experience calls us to live a life of generosity. Yet, there are moments when we can feel as though we are the ones "put upon" with nothing to give.

Jim Foster had such a moment after the strong storm this summer. He shared his story with some of us and gave permission to share with you.

"We lost power for 2.5 days. All the food in the refrigerator and freezer was lost. I worked as much as I could, much of the time, from my car in the driveway from a phone.

So why share my experience this week? Because I wanted to say I moved from being angry about the tree to being grateful things were not worse, and it took great effort to make the transition. That tree was a sapling for nearly ten years and then took off in the last five years to be a beautiful, full tree. But the tree was more than a tree; for a moment it symbolized everything we as a country, as a congregation and as individuals are going through this year. I muttered around most of Tuesday wondering when all this "stuff" is going to stop. But I realized, many people had a worse week than we did. It is easy to be selfish and angry and petulant about our experiences, and I was.

So, I concluded, as long as we keep our faith in the Lord, keep a positive attitude, as long as we help each other, lean on each other and keep focused, we will get through whatever is next. Tuesday's tropical storm tested that faith and that thinking for just a moment. But the Lord provided his touch to help me be thankful for blessings, as he always does," wrote Jim Foster.

Indeed, the Lord does touch each of us in so many ways. Guiding us to use our gifts to help others. One such individual was the anonymous giver who throughout much of the pandemic has given \$100.00 cash in our mailbox. Who is this person? A friend of the church and most importantly a friend of Jesus. Someone who feels called to give freely, knowing that all we have is from God and God calls us to share in Christian love with others.

In the coming weeks I ask that you and your family prayerfully consider your pledge/commitment to the ministry and mission of God at Cornerstone. We hope you will join us for a special service on Saturday, December 19th at 5 PM as we dedicate our pledges and celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ!

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

*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.

ELDERS ON OUR SESSION

2020	Vikki Leach Allyson Moyer Denise Mudalel Ray Schleckser
2021	Mike Pushko Megan LaFontaine Laura Stone
2022	Jim Foster Deborah LaCross Fred VanLooy Linda Van Melis

BOARD OF DEACONS

Lisa Capurso Kathe Morrison
Gail Carlson Diane DeLuca
MaryAnn White Kellie Pushko



KICKOFF DAY celebration on Sunday, October 4th!



Cornerstone Community



Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study on Zoom!
See page 13 for more information about the study group. All women are welcome to join anytime!



Thank you to Meg Milligan and her brother Bill for planting some ground cover. We appreciate our Cornerstone gardeners!



Our thanks to Gail and Dave Carlson for donating mums to make our property look beautiful for fall!

Please pray for:

- Allyson Moyer's sister and niece with coronavirus; all who are suffering and mourning loved ones
- Donnette Hubert's daughter Marian who is suffering from Bell's palsy
- Gail and David Carlson's daughter-in-law Susan having final surgery after a double mastectomy
- Rodney Puig with sciatica
- All who are mentally ill, homeless, in nursing homes, suffering from isolation and loneliness

Continued prayers for:

- Ray Schleckser with continued back problems, possibly another surgery
- 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



Cornerstone Community



Thanks to everyone who donated food and gift cards for the Thanksgiving Good Drive benefiting the Jackson Food Pantry! We donated a large box of food, and \$125 in Shop Rite gift cards!

Care Packages for College Kids

In October, we collected items from the congregation and made up care packages for our 9 college students! Packages were mailed or delivered to students studying virtually from home. Thanks to Doreen Laskiewicz for organizing the collection and mailing the packages! And thank you to all who made donations to help our youth know that we care about them!





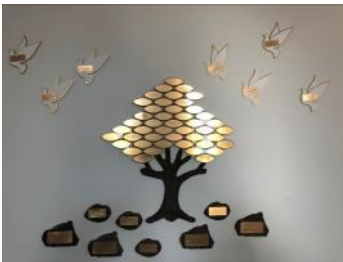
**Cornerstone
Christmas ornaments
are available to
purchase for \$5 in the
church foyer!**

Follow us on Facebook!



www.facebook.com/cpcjacksonnj

"Come Grow With Us" Donor Tree Campaign



We have a beautiful 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.

Support us when you shop this holiday season

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at smile.amazon.com. You shop. Amazon donates.



amazonsmile

Cornerstone can 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.

If you are not attending in-person worship, there are still several options available for giving to the church.

- Offerings can be mailed to Cornerstone at 569 Harmony Road, Jackson, NJ 08527
- Set up [online giving](#) for recurring donations through bank transfer or credit card
- Download the [Give+](#) mobile app to make a one-time or recurring donation from your mobile device
- Make a donation via [PayPal](#)



We are very excited to have opened our doors to in-person worship with our usual worship times of Saturday at 5 PM and Sunday at 10 AM.

As we return to in-person worship, we are limiting the number of people who attend so that we can maintain proper social distancing requirements. RESERVATIONS and MASKS are required.

Visit our [Eventbrite](#) page to make reservations. Please contact Elizabeth if you have any questions (732-580-3137, ejhughes@optonline.net).

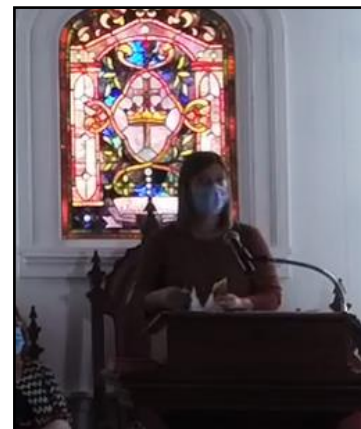
Services will continue to be livestreamed on our [Facebook page](#) at 10 AM. They can be watched anytime!



Throughout the season of stewardship this fall, we had speakers talk about church projects and missions, and what Cornerstone means to them.



Fred Van Looy



Elizabeth Hughes



Megan LaFontaine



Joy from the Jackson Food Pantry



The season of Advent began on November 28th. Reverend Pruner is preaching the sermon series “Gifts of Christmas.” Join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ!



We are planning a special shortened outdoor service on Saturday, December 19th at 5 PM (weather permitting) with Christmas carols, scripture, prayers and candlelight. All are invited, and we hope to encourage those who aren’t comfortable with indoor worship to join us! We will also dedicate our pledges for 2021 during this service.

We will have two Christmas Eve services this year. The first will be a virtual service at 4:00 PM on our Facebook page, featuring a video presentation of our children and youth. We will also have a traditional candlelight service in-person at 7:30 PM. Space is limited due to COVID, so please make a [reservation](#) to attend the 7:30 PM service.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

December 24th

4 PM (Virtual on Facebook)

7:30 PM (In Person)



CORNERSTONE Presbyterian Church • 569 Harmony Road, Jackson

Season of Stewardship

Bell Rings Loud with Praise to God!

When the Harmony Bell rings out with praise, it fills our hearts with joy. I can barely believe that it was two years ago that we moved into our church home on Harmony Road. The journey required great sacrifices and countless labors of love as renovations and permits went on and on. However, God blessed us with more than a building, He has given us the privilege to share in ministry and mission with a permanent home to expand our witness to Christ's love. In the fall we ask each of our Cornerstone families to pray, think on and discuss what their 2021 pledge/commitment will be to God's ministry and mission. Biblical stewardship calls us to understand that our lives are on loan from God, regardless if we acknowledge this or not, and God calls us to steward everything about our lives for his glory and the good of others.



As we look forward to 2021 there are many ways we can continue to grow as faithful stewards. I am always humbled by the widow that Jesus saw bring her offering forward as recorded in Mark chapter 12. *"A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'"*

May Faith, Hope and Love Ring Forth from Cornerstone for the year 2021!



Every time I gaze at our beautiful sanctuary window I am overwhelmed with the power of the love of our Lord. Love that changes a crown made of ugly thorns into a crown of shining glory. I praised God that the same happens to you and I as we live out our faith. We are transformed and in the process of transforming in the Lord, our hearts cannot but respond with generosity.

The People Shout with Grateful Praise and Open their Hearts with Generosity

In the coming weeks I ask that you and your family prayerfully consider your pledge/commitment to the ministry and mission of God at Cornerstone. Each pledge/commitment ensures the ongoing worship, ministry, and mission of the church.

On Saturday December 19th, our 5pm service will be modified. We will gather outside for an abbreviated worship service with Christmas Carols, scriptures, prayers, and a special candle lighting service while we dedicate our 2021 pledges. Please join us even if only from your car. Let us together celebrate the wonderful gift of the birth of the Christ child!

There is a pledge card on the next page of this newsletter. You can also pick one up at church or find it on our [website](#), along with the full stewardship brochure.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT



I (we) pledge to support our church's mission and ministry with a percentage of my family's income.

\$ _____ weekly for 52 weeks for 2021 Total \$ _____

\$ _____ monthly for 12 months for 2021 Total \$ _____

I plan to make my commitment by cash/check ____ or ACH* (automatic draft) ____

* If choosing the ACH method, please fill out an Electronic Giving form if you have not done so already. Download the form from our website or see Elizabeth Hughes at church.

☐ I do not wish to commit at this time but would like to receive giving 2021 envelopes.

Where are you serving now? Where might your heart be tugging you to "serve the Lord with gladness!" When we shout with grateful praise and open our hearts with generosity, God is there with us and our work is blessed, and we discover a joy that lifts us up and leads us closer to our Lord!

I commit/ pledge to volunteer in the following ways in 2021: _____

Please Print Clearly

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Signature _____



Return top portion to Cornerstone Presbyterian Church!

(Return at church or mail to: 569 Harmony Road, Jackson, NJ 08527)

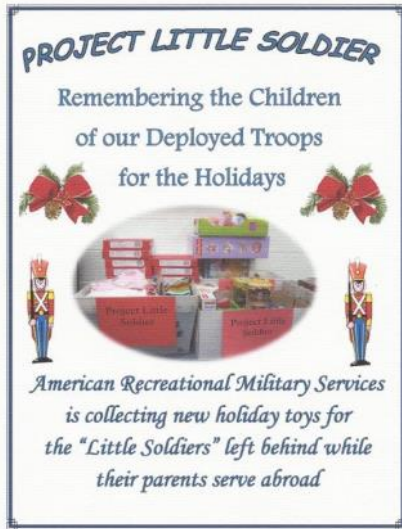
But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. (Ephesians 4:7)

ANNUAL INCOME	APPROXIMATE WEEKLY COMMITMENT PROPORTIONATE TO INCOME						
	15%	10%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%
100,000	288.00	192.00	135.00	115.00	96.00	77.00	58.00
75,000	216.00	144.00	100.00	87.00	72.00	58.00	43.00
60,000	173.00	115.00	80.00	69.00	58.00	46.00	35.00
50,000	144.00	96.00	67.00	58.00	48.00	38.00	29.00
45,000	130.00	87.00	61.00	52.00	43.00	35.00	26.00
40,000	115.00	77.00	54.00	46.00	38.00	31.00	23.00
35,000	101.00	67.00	47.00	40.00	34.00	27.00	20.00
30,000	87.00	58.00	40.00	35.00	29.00	23.00	17.00
25,000	72.00	48.00	34.00	29.00	24.00	19.00	14.00
20,000	58.00	38.00	27.00	23.00	19.00	15.00	12.00
15,000	43.00	29.00	20.00	17.00	14.00	12.00	9.00

MISSIONS

across the street & around the world

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. This year, we collected gift cards for 12 children. Thanks to all who participated!



Helping Others in Need

This year, the Jackson Food Pantry is collecting Shop Rite gift cards in lieu of gifts to give out to the local families that they serve. Our angel tree has gifts of \$25 or \$50 cards for you to select, and you can also help Cornerstone by purchasing your gift cards from us!

Angels can be taken OR email allymoyer@gmail.com to choose your angel. Gift cards are due **December 13th**. Thank you for your support!



Virtual Crop Hunger Walk—Sunday October 11th



The CROP Walk was virtual this year, but Team Cornerstone met to walk at Johnson Park on October 11th, and we raised a total of \$1400 to help hunger relief efforts locally and around the world.

Thanks to all who supported our team!

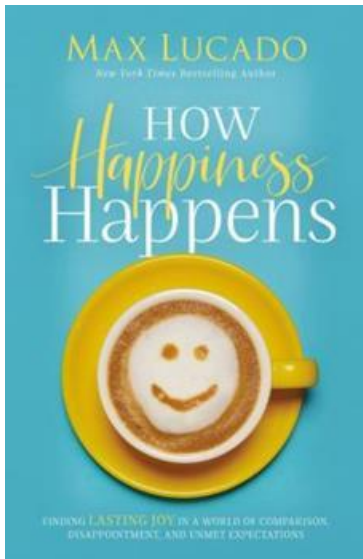


Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

All Women Welcome!

Meets Tuesdays 10:00—11:30 AM on Zoom

The Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM via Zoom (for now). The current study is "How Happiness Happens: Finding Lasting Joy in a World of Comparison, Disappointment, and Unmet Expectations," by Max Lucado. It's never too late to join us—all women are welcome to attend! Talk to Elizabeth Hughes for more information 732-580-3137, ejhughes@optonline.net.



Description: These are tough times. Amid global isolation, economic downturn, and social unrest, could you use a dose of happy right about now? Learn the secret to lasting joy that will endure through any season of life. In How Happiness Happens, Max Lucado shares the unexpected path to a lasting happiness, one that produces reliable joy amidst any life circumstance. Based on the teachings of Jesus and backed by modern research, this book presents a surprising but practical way of living that will change you from the inside out.

Coffee Chats on Thursday Evenings

Let's Stay Connected!

Join together on Zoom with other Cornerstone friends to catch up with one another and have an informal discussion on the sermon topic that Reverend Pruner preached on the previous Sunday. Meetings will be at 7 PM every Thursday evening.

The link to join the Zoom meeting is below. Just click on the link to join the meeting – you can connect on your mobile phone or tablet by downloading the Zoom app, or from your computer. If you need help connecting on Zoom, please contact Elizabeth for assistance (732-580-3137).



Join Zoom Meeting on Thursdays at 7 PM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89637857918?pwd=cXZjM3RHRIM2aG45RTdleUVschZkZz09>

Update on CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Sunday School Lessons and Crafts for the Christmas Season!

Sunday school classes for Pre-K through 5th grade are being held during Sunday worship with masks and social distancing in effect. Megan LaFontaine and Kathe Morrison have put together the lessons for the month, and materials are being delivered to be used at home. If you attend in person, please bring your lesson bag with you!

If you have questions or would like your child to receive materials, please contact Kathe Morrison or Megan LaFontaine.

December Lessons & Videos:

Dec 6- The Road to Bethlehem

Whirl Bible pages 162

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjqfQfOhD34>

Dec 13- Shepherds and Angels

Whirl Bible pages 164

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2rE28Sef7Q>

Dec 20- A Baby is Born

Whirl Winter lesson 4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duzZ-p6rYNI&list=RDduzZ-p6rYNI&start_radio=1

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-VAke_WpwM&list=RDduzZ-p6rYNI&index=23

Dec 27- Follow the Star Gifts for baby Jesus

Whirl Bible page 170

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cfno8QNZ1Lc>



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

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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 2020 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM	2	3	4	5 WORSHIP 5 PM
6 WORSHIP 10 AM	7	8 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM	9	10	11	12 WORSHIP 5 PM
13 WORSHIP 10 AM	14	15 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM	16 Session Meeting 7 PM	17	18	19 Outdoor Candlelight Worship Service 5 PM
20 WORSHIP 10 AM	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 4 PM (Virtual) & 7:30 PM (In Person)	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 WORSHIP 5 PM  Communion Served
27 WORSHIP 10 AM  Communion Served	28	29	30	31		