



Cornerstone Connection

January 2020



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

Director of Music:

Doreen Laskiewicz, 732-740-9086

Administrative Assistant:

Elizabeth Hughes, 732-580-3137

Treasurer:

Tina Kas, 732-928-1778

Nursery Care:

Ashley Moyer & Jackie Leach

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A Message from Reverend Pruner

In Revelation 3 the Lord gives the message to the church and to us as individuals.

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens: “I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.”

What does this “Open-door living” mean to you and me in our day-to-day living and what does it mean for us as the Cornerstone Church? I believe that it begins with us deciding to trust Christ as Lord. Are you trusting him today? Open-door living involves deciding to obey the Lord even before you know what opportunities the open door will present. That decision is one we need to commit to daily. In my own life, I have found it so easy to be distracted by the drudgery of life to see the door that God has before me. A door opened specifically for me. I need only to walk through to discover the ways my life can impact the building of God’s kingdom here and now and to receive blessings I could never imagine. Have you made the decision to obey the Lord and to be on the ready for the open door the Lord has standing open for you?

As we look forward as a church, God has an open door before us that is impossible to ignore. One of the families of the church have been financially blessed and are able to give enough funds for us to begin work on our Fellowship Hall/Christian Education building! This “open-door” is so important as we welcome new families to Cornerstone. Last year we welcomed 15 new members and eight new children and youth! This means we had a 15% increase in our membership in just one year. To me that is a clear sign from God that you and I are here “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).
(continued)

Cornerstone Community



Kristen DiGirolamo, 1/6
Amity Mamola, 1/7
Tim Woolverton, 1/10
John Bestenheider, 1/10
Megan LaFontaine, 1/11
Dylan Nelson, 1/18
Sean Slusak, 1/18
Glenn Tunis, 1/19
Marlene Kiefer, 1/21
Laura Stone, 1/23
Ben Leach, 1/26
Sam Hekl, 1/28
Leah Hekl, 1/28
Shavonne Osiakwan, 1/30
Anna Mudalel, 1/31
John Hekl, 1/31

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We have been presented with an opportunity to partner with God in some amazing kingdom building. This building will give us more opportunities for fellowship as well as new ways to serve our community.

In the coming months we will be consulting with you the congregation about what has been planned so far and what we might need to modify after listening to you. This open door we walk through together as one family of faith. I recognize you will have questions, most importantly “what will be required of me?” The decision to accept this invitation to partner with God is ultimately one you and your family will have to make with guidance and help from the Lord. I do believe that when a door is so clearly open before us, we cannot ignore God’s call. In John Ortberg’s series “When Compassion Meets Action” he writes, “This “open-door” living means deciding to step forward in faith. Every walk begins with a single step—what will be your first step? Will you walk through that open-door expecting God to surprise you along the way?” The leadership and I believe that it is time to “step forward in faith.” Let us prayerfully and faithfully take that first step, accepting God’s invitation, ready to be surprised as we enter the open door to Kingdom building and blessings!

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.



Please pray for:

- The Leach Family after the passing of Roger's mother Diane
- Rodney Puig and family after his father passed away
- The JOY of John Bestenheider turning 104 on January 10th!



Continued prayers for:

- Ray Schleckser with back pain
- Donnette Hubert recovering from a fall
- 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
- Our troops around the world and their families

ELDERS ON OUR SESSION

BOARD OF DEACONS

2020 Vikki Leach
Allyson Moyer
Denise Mudalel
Ray Schleckser

Lisa Capurso
Kathe Morrison

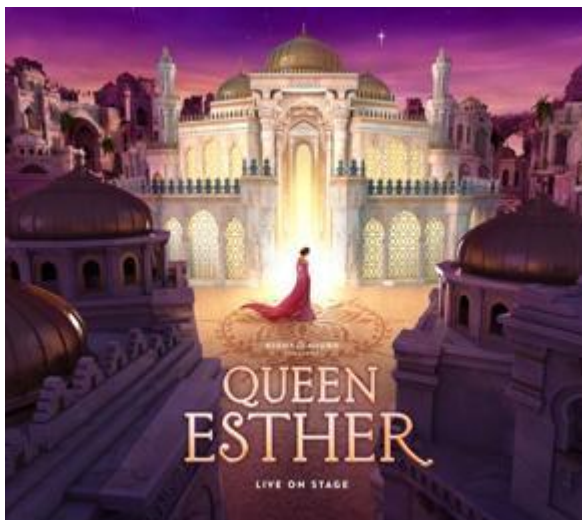
2021 Mike Pushko
Megan LaFontaine
Laura Stone

Gail Carlson
Diane DeLuca

2022 Jim Foster
Deborah LaCross
Fred VanLooy
Linda Van Melis

MaryAnn White
Kellie Pushko





BUS TRIP TO SEE QUEEN ESTHER April 22

We are planning a Cornerstone trip to see Queen Esther at the Sight and Sound Theater on April 22nd! The cost is \$129 and includes round trip bus transportation from Jackson, lunch at the Shady Maple buffet, theater seats, and all gratuities. You can register [online](#) or speak to Elizabeth Hughes or Allyson Moyer. Please register ASAP as it will fill up quickly!

BUS TRIP TO NEWARK

On December 11th, a group went on a bus trip to see the Newark Cathedral Concert and Ballantine House for the Holidays at the Newark Museum—a fabulous time!



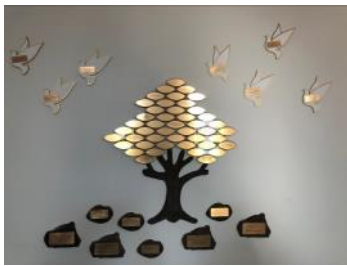


"Souper Bowl" Celebration

February 2, 2020

Save the date for a time of fellowship and sandwiches after worship on Super Bowl Sunday, when our youth will also collect donations for the Jackson Food Pantry for the "Souper Bowl of Caring." Food and drinks will be provided! In addition to monetary donations, we invite you to bring canned items to donate to the Jackson Food Pantry that day.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a way for our young people to lead the way in tackling hunger and homelessness within our community. 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 2nd.



"Come Grow With Us" Donor Tree Campaign

We have a beautiful new 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.

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 13,680 for the church!



Cornerstone offers an opportunity for the congregation to donate flower arrangements for the communion table, with a

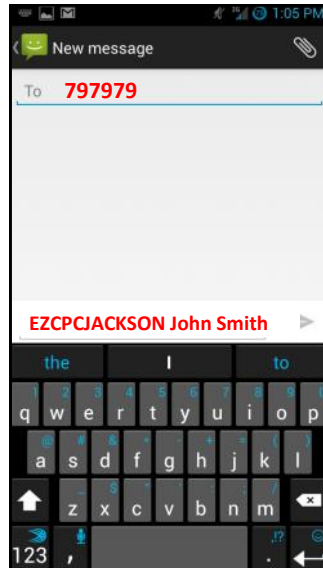
memorial or honorarium dedication in the bulletin. The cost is \$30 and proceeds will be used for a Cornerstone Flower Fund to allow us to purchase other special arrangements as needed throughout the year. Please see Elizabeth Hughes to sign up for any Sunday in 2019 or sign up through the link on the homepage of our website cornerstonechurchofjackson.org.



There will be an information meeting on Sunday, January 12th immediately after worship for all youth in grades 6 and above who are considering being confirmed this year. Interested youth and their parents should attend.

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!



www.facebook.com/cpcjacksonnj

Per Capita Offering for 2020

Our Per Capita Offering is now being collected for 2020. Per capita is an amount of money per member (this year, \$42.00) 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 \$42.00 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!

WORSHIP



The Master's Clowns led us in worship on December 8th. The group's mission is to spread the Good News of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of a clown. Our thanks to Macaroni Anne Cheeze and the rest of the Master's Clowns for a special service!





Christmas Eve Worship



**Ben Leach as the
Prophet Isaiah**



**"O Holy Night"
Soloist Vikki Leach (4PM)**



"Silent Night" by candlelight with handbell accompaniment



**We were blessed to have Jill,
Marcus, and Dray Villecco as
the Holy Family in the 4 PM
nativity scene**

MISSIONS

across the street & around the world

THANK YOU to all for your generosity in supporting our gift collections this past holiday season! As a congregation, we were able to provide gifts to a local Jackson family with 4 children through the Angel Tree, toys for children of local military members through Project Little Soldier, AND 72 gift bags for low income children ages 0-5 who attend the Roselle Preschool Center at the First Presbyterian Church in Roselle, NJ. WOW! Thank you!



72 gift bags for the Roselle Preschool, packaged by the Women's Bible Study!

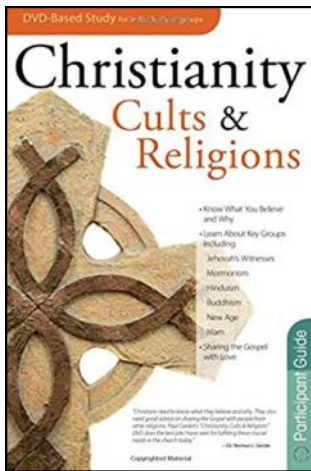


Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM

A New Study Starts January 14th!

The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, January 14th at 10:30 AM at the home of Elizabeth Hughes to begin a 6-week study of ***Christianity, Cults, and Religions***. All women are welcome to attend! Talk to Elizabeth about getting a study guide.



The *Christianity, Cults & Religions* DVD-based study helps Christians know what they believe and why. By comparing Christianity with groups such as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, people have a better grasp about what the Bible says about who Jesus is and the message of the Gospel. This six session study simply explains the history, background, and beliefs of the most common world religions and cultic groups: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses and other groups.



Ladies Luncheon at the Westlake Grill on December 19th

We had a great time! Keep your eye out for our next luncheon in March!

Sunday School for Kids During Sunday Worship!

Sunday School for elementary and younger is currently taking place in the church foyer during worship. Our regular program will resume once repairs are completed in Harmony House!

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 a video series called Switch—Identity, loaded with fast-paced worship, activities, and video teachings to address real issues that students face each day.

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, Allyson Moyer, Megan LaFontaine, Ashley Moyer, Jackie Leach, and rotating volunteers

Nursery Care Always Available!



Can you spare some change?

The Cornerstone Sunday School kids will be collecting loose change each Sunday to help local families going through hard times. When the jar is full, we will provide a meal for a local family to brighten their day and let them know they are in our prayers. Collection jars are in Harmony House and the church foyer.

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 morning 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.

January 26th—Youth Bowling, families invited! Come to lunch at Bubbakoo's and then bowling at Howell Lanes. RSVP to Ally Moyer!



"Souper Bowl " coming on February 2nd! Youth will collect coins and canned goods on this date. See page 5 for more info.

Questions and suggestions on things to do are always welcome!

Contact Allyson Moyer email allymoyer@gmail.com

home (732)961-3192 cell (732)245-6581

**Youth Christmas Party
at the Moyer's
December 15th**



Make a
Joyful noise
Unto The
Lord!



CHOIR UPDATES

Thank you to our Director of Music, Doreen Laskiewicz, and the Cornerstone **RINGERS AND SINGERS** for providing a joyful noise during worship!

Rehearsals for our bell choir and singing choir are on Tuesday evenings—come check it out!

Bell Choir: 6-7 PM

Singing Choir: 7-8 PM

Talk to Doreen for more information. No experience necessary, all are welcome!

The Cornerstone Ringers are looking for new members! It's a lot of fun, and if you can count, you can ring!



Not even the
biggest bell!



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.*

January 2020 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4 WORSHIP 5 PM
5 WORSHIP 10 AM  Joint Session & Deacon's Meeting	6	7 Bell Choir 6-7 PM Singing Choir 7-8 PM	8	9	10	11 WORSHIP 5 PM
12 WORSHIP 10 AM Confirmation Info Meeting after worship	13	14 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Bell Choir 6-7 PM Singing Choir 7-8 PM	15	16	17	18 WORSHIP 5 PM
19 WORSHIP 10 AM	20	21 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Bell Choir 6-7 PM Singing Choir 7-8 PM	22	23	24	25 WORSHIP 5 PM  Communion Served Youth Bowling
26 WORSHIP 10 AM  Communion Served	27	28 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Bell Choir 6-7 PM Singing Choir 7-8 PM	29	30	31	