



Cornerstone Connection

July 2020



Building Community on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ

www.cornerstonechurchofjackson.org

WORSHIP

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

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A Message from Reverend Pruner

As I write this newsletter I find myself longing to be together with you in our sanctuary. A place that when I walked inside for the first time I was overwhelmed with the feeling of being “Home”. I must say that the feeling has strengthened as you and I have gathered for worship. The Cornerstone Church Family has long known what Paul was teaching to the church in Corinth, “the church is the body of Christ in action” As much as we know this to be true, we also know that the building where we worship needs to be maintained. For us this summer, during the limitations of Covid-19, we are repairing the steeple. For some you are jumping up and down and others are perhaps questioning the decision. Yet, no one can argue that the Steeple is crying out to be repaired and painted.

When I was a little girl I remember my grandmother teaching me a wonderful nursery rhyme.

Here is the church
Here is the steeple
Open the doors
And see all the people!

Here is the church. The church on Harmony Road has been like a lighthouse guiding ships to the safe harbor. Since we moved into the Church in the fall of 2018 the building has attracted many visitors. They came because they had seen the building fall into disrepair and then brought back to life. They wanted to see the inside and meet those who had worked so hard.

Here is the Steeple. Do you know about 80% of churches have steeples, and a good portion of those with steeples have bells. The steeple was created as a way of pointing heavenward reminding us of the power and majesty of God.

(continued)

Cornerstone Community



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

*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.

(continued from previous page)

For us, when the repairs and painting are completed the steeple will once again sparkle bright shouting forth the great love of God.

Open the doors and see all the people. Having the church building and the steeple means very little if you open the doors and there are no people. The church is a living, breathing, growing, body infused with the spirit of the living Lord. It is the living body of Christ. Individual members of the church, then, are partners with Christ carrying on God's work. We build on a foundation that others have laid.

There is a wonderful and true story told about the town of Rupert, Vermont where there is a two-hundred-year-old church. A man named Howard Mudgett has written a history of this church. In it he records that, in 1831, the citizens of Rupert first added a steeple and bell to their church. But something unusual happened. "When the steeple was added," Mudgett writes, "one agile Lyman Woodard stood on his head in the belfry with his feet toward heaven."

Not much else is known about Lyman Woodard. He is remembered only for the minor stunt that he pulled over a hundred and sixty years ago. He took a small risk, and did something that must have been somewhat embarrassing to the members of his church. After all, New Englanders are not supposed to act like that. Lyman was so excited about the improvement to his church that he had to find some way to express it. He was celebrating a victory of God.

When I read this story I found myself imagining Fred Van Looy (Property Chair) standing on his head in our belfry, with his feet pointing to heaven celebrating God's victory!

Jesus' last words to his disciples were "Go make disciples . . ." In other words, "finish what I have begun." And that is his command to us today. Finish what Christ started. Finish what Paul and the apostles added. Finish what millions of saints through the ages, including many who are dear to us, added. Let us do so with the energy, enthusiasm and excitement that Lyman Woodard showed that day when he celebrated one of God's many victories. For it is our privilege and joy to be the Church!



The lift is in place for steeple work to begin in July!

Please pray for:

- JOY of a new grandchild for Denise Mudalel, a daughter named Chloe born to her son Nicholas
- Ashley Moyer in a one-month pain management program at Children's Hospital in New Brunswick
- Ray Schleckser having a CAT scan in July with the possibility of more surgery for his back
- Nancy Foster recovering from a mini stroke and having further tests done
- All suffering from coronavirus and those who are mourning loved ones
- All workers in the healthcare and service industries who are risking their own health to provide us services
- All who are mentally ill, homeless, in nursing homes, suffering from isolation and loneliness
- Our country during a time of great unrest and division



Continued prayers for:

- 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



Thank you to one of our faithful gardeners, Laura Stone, for her efforts at the church!



Congratulations to Denise Mudalel on the birth of her granddaughter, Chloe Tedeschi, born June 13, 2020 to Denise's son Nicholas and his wife!
 Congratulations also to proud great-grandmother Anna Mudalel! What a joy!



Coffee Chats Starting July 16th

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 biblical character that Reverend Pruner preached on the previous Sunday. This will be a way to be together even though we are apart!

There will be a morning session (10:30 AM) and an evening session (7 PM) each Thursday starting on July 16th! The links to join the Zoom meeting are below. If you need help connecting on Zoom, please contact Elizabeth for assistance!



Join Zoom Meeting at 10:30 AM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84346657884?pwd=bG1WWStNUTBXVjA1cVU3SjQ4WTILQT09>

Join Zoom Meeting at 7 PM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89637857918?pwd=cXZjM3RHRIM2aG45RTdleUVscHZkZz09>

Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates!

We're so proud of all the 2020 Graduates from Cornerstone! We had 7 high school graduations, one college graduation, and two moving up from elementary and middle school. Congratulations to all, and may God bless you always!



Tyler Capurso

Graduated from Jackson Memorial High School
Attending Georgian Court University



Devin LaCross

Graduated from Jackson Memorial High School
Attending University of Akron in Ohio



Jackie Leach

Graduated from Jackson Memorial High School
Attending Ocean Community College



Ashley Moyer

Graduated from Jackson Memorial High School
Attending Virginia Tech



Tyler Pushko

Graduated from Calvary Academy (Salutatorian of his class!)
Attending Georgian Court University

Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates!



Daniel Sarti

Graduated from Jackson
Memorial High School
Attending Ocean County
Community College



Aubrey Stoner

Graduated from Jackson
Memorial High School
Attending Monmouth
University



Chloe Salony

Graduated from Rochester
Institute of Technology
Attending the DAVE School in
Orlando



Sean Kas

Promoted from 8th Grade at
Goetz Middle School
Attending Jackson Memorial High
School



Timothy Leach

"Moved Up" from 5th Grade at
Switlik Elementary
Attending Goetz Middle School



Giving: Good News/Bad News

Are you the kind of person that likes the good news first or are you more like me and want the bad news first. Well spoiler alert I am starting with the bad news.

The Finance Committee, Session and I want to let you know how Cornerstone is doing financially during this time of pandemic. Below is a year to date comparison of our offerings through May.

As you can see the bad news is our offerings are down by \$5,016 which is from unfulfilled pledges. We recognize that some of you may have been unable to keep up because of financial challenges of your own. However, if you are able to bring your pledge current we would appreciate it.

Now the good news. We are so grateful for the “plate” offerings which are up by \$369. Plate offerings are offerings that are not pledged and usually come as cash in the offerings.

The other good news is we received a small business loan that we hope will be forgiven. We have also been able to continue to pay the salaries of our staff.

We wanted you, our church family, to know where we are financially, trusting that with the information you will respond generously as you have in the past.

2019 Offerings	Budgeted	Difference
Pledges 29,147	29,625	-478
Plate 6654	6,250	+404
Total 35,801	35,875	- 74

2020 Offerings		
Pledges 24,240	29,625	-5385
Plate 6619	6,250	+ 369
Total 30,859	35,875	-5,016

While we are not meeting for regular 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](#)

Helping Friends in Need

We are continuing to collect for the Jackson Food Pantry. During Lent we were collecting diapers of sizes 4,5 & 6, fruit and condiments. Now the Food Pantry would welcome any donations including diapers but especially need canned meats and fruits. If you have donations you can drop them off to the church Wednesday between 1:30-3:00 or text Tory 732 691 5825 or Elizabeth 732 580 3137 that you are dropping off donations by the side door. Then we will make sure the donations get to the Food Pantry. Let's remember those who are struggling in so many ways and show them God's love!



Follow us on Facebook!



www.facebook.com/cpcjacksonnj

Buy Shop Rite Cards and Support Cornerstone!

Gift cards are available for you to purchase, 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 13,880 for the church!

Vernice has gift cards and you can call her if you'd like to pick some up!
Call Vernice at 732-833-7493!



"OPERATION APPRECIATION"

Let's Say
THANK YOU

Reverend Pruner has asked us to write "Thank You" notes to our friends in Jackson who have been there for us. Our health care professionals have been given much

appreciation however, the people who work at the gas stations, the eateries, convenience stores and grocery stores have also gone to work every day, doing extra shifts to serve us. It's important to let them know how much we appreciate their commitment to our community. If you are willing to participate in "Operation Appreciation" simply write a note similar to the one below and drop it off at church on Wednesday between 1:30- 3:00 or mail it to the church. We will then hand deliver them to our Jackson friends. Let's spread the light of our Lord through "Operation Appreciation"!!!

Dear Friend,

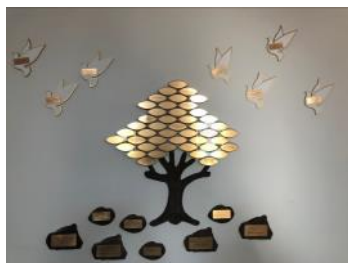
I am writing you to let you know just how much we appreciate you "being there for us". Every day available to serve our needs. How can we thank you enough! Please know that our church is praying for you and your family. We hope and pray too, that life gets back to "normal" soon.

Your Neighbor and Friend,
Jane
Cornerstone Presbyterian Church
569 Harmony Road
Jackson



BUS TRIP TO SEE QUEEN ESTHER at Sight and Sound POSTPONED until August 25!

We are planning a Cornerstone trip to see Queen Esther at the Sight and Sound Theater on August 25th! 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. *Payment will be refunded if the trip is cancelled.*



"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.

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, \$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. The total amount due is over \$4,000, last year approximately half was paid out of the operating budget, taking away from the ministry of Cornerstone.

The Per Capita Offering is one way we work together with Presbyterians from 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. One great example of how Per Capita supports the local church ministry is through the funding of the preparation, administration, and grading of standard ordination examinations for seminary students. This is one way we help 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 funds in our operating 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!



Filming at the church!

Virtual Worship will take place on Sundays at 10 AM via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/cpcjacksonnj/>

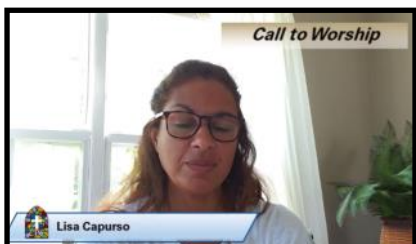
Thank you to all who have participated in our weekly services!

While we are practicing social distancing by being physically apart, we will stand together as a church throughout this challenging time! Please reach out if you are in need of special assistance, and send prayer requests to Pastor Tory via text or phone call 732 691 5825), or email to:

pastor@cornerstonechurchofjackson.org.



We are so blessed by the musical talents of Jim Pruner, Vikki Leach and Will Vanderburg (above) and Doreen Laskiewicz (right).



It's such a joy to see these smiling faces in the weekly children's messages!



New Sermon Series Starting July 12th

Our Summer Sermon Series is called "Overcoming." Reverend Pruner will reveal the ways God entered into the lives of the people in the Bible and helped to overcome their struggles of life. A different Bible character will be discussed each week. See page 4 for information on Thursday Zoom sessions with Cornerstone friends for informal discussion of each week's character!



This year, Cornerstone participated for the 9th year in the Villages in Partnership (VIP) Water Walk. The event was almost cancelled due to the situation with COVID-19, but after a great deal of prayer and discussion, the event was held virtually with teams fundraising and participating in a walking challenge in the weeks leading up to the event, culminating in a Livestream on May 16th. It turned out that COVID-19 couldn't hold back God's generosity! VIP had people from 39 states join in giving and participating, and a total of \$212,000 has been raised, with

teams walking a total of 2401 miles in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the villages who virtually walk everywhere!

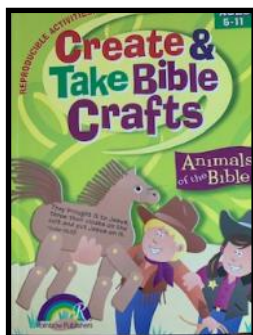
The Water Walk raises funds for clean water, health, and sanitation for our friends in 26 remote villages of Malawi, Africa. 100% of all funds raised through the Water Walk go directly to the villages for life-changing, sustainable development projects, impacting over 21,000 lives.

THANK YOU to all who joined or supported TEAM HARMONY! We had 18 members on the team, raised \$5167, and walked almost 300 miles in the walking challenge (taking second place!). In addition, Annabel Hughes formed her own team this year (Team 2020 Vision) and raised an additional \$967 for VIP. As always, the generosity and commitment of our congregation is truly heartwarming. THANK YOU!



Update on CHILDREN'S Sunday School

We are connecting with our elementary-aged children for **Sunday School** lessons to continue during this time. The **older kids (grades 3-5)** will meet on Zoom on Wednesday afternoons. For the **younger children (PreK-2nd grade)** there will be a video posted on Facebook to tell the story for the week, and the craft materials for that lesson will be delivered to the child's home. If you would like for your child to participate, please contact Kathe Morrison or Megan LaFontaine.



Summer lessons will feature animals of the Bible!

Check out the cute crafts the kids have been doing!





Saturday, July 11th, 2:00– 4:00 PM

Swimming & Games

At the LaFontaine's home (154 Ross Lane)

RSVP to Megan, 732-754-2270, megfitzpatrick7@gmail.com

Monday, August 3 4:00—6:00 PM

Swimming & Ice Cream Social

At the Moyer's home (7 Kindling Way)

RSVP to Allyson, 732-245-6581, allymoyer@gmail.com

Wednesday, August 19 4:00-6:00 PM

Swimming & a Craft

At the Pruner's home (755 Reed Road)

RSVP to Pastor Tory, 732-691-5825, vapprunner@gmail.com

All are invited to join the fun! Please RSVP to the host for each event so that we can be sure to have enough supplies.

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.*

July 2020 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5 Virtual Worship on Facebook 10 AM	6	7	8	9	10	11 Family Fun Day at the LaFontaine's 2-4 PM
12 Virtual Worship on Facebook 10 AM	13	14	15	16 Coffee Chats on ZOOM 10:30 AM 7:00 PM	17	18
19 Virtual Worship on Facebook 10 AM	20	21	22 Session Meeting	23 Coffee Chats on ZOOM 10:30 AM 7:00 PM	24	25
26 Virtual Worship on Facebook 10 AM	27	28	29	30 Coffee Chats on ZOOM 10:30 AM 7:00 PM	31	