



THE SPIRE

October 2018

Dear Friends in Christ:

Here's a brief overview of what we've done and what's next with the PC(USA) "Revitalization Initiative".

Bible Study:

Last spring we studied the "Seven Biblical Marks of Congregational Vitality" over a seven-week period on Sunday mornings during worship. Over this time we watched our chapel banner transform from the bare silhouette of a tree in winter to a tree with buds, leaves, blossoms, butterflies and birds.

Telling Our Story:

During September, we opened the doors of the past to glimpse and learn about church life during different chapters of our history since our beginnings as the "Presbyterian Society of Bloomfield" in 1796.

Assessment:

After worship on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 7, we will distribute copies of the "Vital Congregations Survey." Completing the questionnaire should take about 15-20 minutes. The surveys will be submitted to the PC(USA) and we will receive a summary report showing us how we view ourselves in terms of the Seven Marks of Vitality.

Neighborhood Analysis:

We'll fan out after worship to walk sections of the neighborhood in small groups using all five of our senses to learn observe our community. ***Tentative date*** is Sunday, Oct. 27. Watch for more details!

Remember this: a church's vitality is NOT measured by budgets, facilities, or membership statistics but rather by how we live out biblical marks of discipleship. Thank you for your participation and prayerful support of this endeavor.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Ruth L. Boling

Ruth L. Boling, Pastor

OCTOBER WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

Oct. 7 World Communion Sunday
The Lord's Supper
Joshua 24:1, 14-22
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Meditation: "God's Story, Our
Story: Communion over Time"
Congregational Survey

Oct. 14 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Preacher

Oct. 21 Scholarship Sunday
Proverbs 3, selections
Mark 10:35-45
Sermon: "Are We Missing
Something"

Oct. 28 Reformation Sunday
Jeremiah 31:31-34
John 8:31-36
Sermon: "Freedom and Choice"

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 4.

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.

OCTOBER WORSHIP NOTES

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

October 28 is Reformation Sunday. In 1517 Martin Luther, a Roman Catholic priest, nailed Ninety-Five Theses to a church door. His goal was to reform the doctrine and practices of the Roman Church. Challenging the authority of the Pope, Luther wanted the Church to acknowledge the Bible (not tradition) as the only source of spiritual authority and rely on faith in Jesus Christ (not good works) as the only way to obtain God's pardon from sin. The newly invented printing press provided the technology to spread these ideas throughout Europe. The Protestant Reformation became a period of religious, political, intellectual and cultural upheaval that changed the world.

The Book of Confessions, Part I of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), contains four confessions from the Reformation period. . .

1. **Scots Confession (1560)** - written by six ministers at the request of the Scottish Parliament when Scotland was declared a Protestant nation following the death of the Roman Catholic queen - main points are the true preaching of God's Word, God's grace, administration of the sacraments in line with the teaching of scripture, ecclesiastical discipline
2. **Heidelberg Catechism (1562)** - written by a professor of theology and a preacher at the request of a German provincial ruler to end the tensions between Lutherans and other Reformed Christians - a question and answer format explains the doctrine of sin and redemption, the trinity, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the sacraments, and the Ten Commandments

3. **The Second Helvetic Confession (1562)** - a personal statement of faith written by a Swiss pastor during the time of the plague - main points are the centrality of scripture, recognition that we are all sinners, acknowledgment that all people are subject to adversity, an understanding of the relationship between church and state
4. **Westminster Confession of Faith, Larger and Shorter Catechisms (1643)** - written by 151 church leaders, mostly Presbyterian, appointed by the English Parliament to revise the Church of England's confessional standards - designed as guidelines for church order, ethical direction, worship, the instruction of adult converts and children, the study and preaching of scripture - adopted by the Scottish General Assembly in 1647 to replace the Scots Confession and Heidelberg Catechism - brought to the New World by the Puritans - adopted by the newly organized Presbyterian Synod in the American Colonies in 1729 as the standard for faith and governance

“. . . a consistent theme in Reformed confessions of all periods and places is the responsibility of individual Christians and the Christian Church to seek to order all of human life according to the sovereign will of the God who is known in Jesus Christ through Scripture. . . God gives us commands and requirements in order to guide and help us. . .” (The Book of Confessions, page xvii) Food for thought as we gather every Sunday for worship, remembering the reformers and following Christ our Lord.

See you in church. Blessings, Ethelyn L. Fulton, Worship Team chairperson



USHERS NEEDED

The role of an usher is to greet those who come to worship, give out the bulletins, and collect the morning offering. We need your help to provide this ministry of welcome.

Please see a member of the Worship Team -
Ethelyn Fulton, Marsha James, Mathew Kohnen -
to volunteer your service as an usher.

Blessings and Thanks.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING: BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

On October 7, 2018, World Communion Sunday, we will receive our annual Peacemaking Offering. Your gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the Church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. This year, Session has again designated the Greater Bloomfield Interfaith Partnership as the recipient of our 25% of the Peacemaking Offering. The Greater Bloomfield Interfaith Partnership is working with Church World Service to settle refugee families in Essex County, NJ. The balance will go to support the work of Presbyterian Ministries as it advocates for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Please consider making a generous donation to promote peace in these troubled times.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION

Our Sunday morning adult education series on the Heidelberg Catechism continues in October. We meet at 9:45AM in the parlor. Everyone is welcome to attend, whether you want to attend consistently or occasionally. There is a place here for YOU! If you have any questions or want your own copy of the catechism, please contact Glenn Maciag.

BOOK GROUP

Our next once a month book group meeting will be on Monday, October 8 in the education building. We meet at 7:30PM. We will continue to work through “The Cross: God’s Way of Salvation” by Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Our focus at our October meeting will be on chapter 2 “The Acid Test.” If you have questions or want a copy of our book, please contact Glenn Maciag.

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE NOTES

Do you have days when the hectic pace of life catches up with you? Do you have days when nothing seems to go right as you deal with traffic jams and detours, have an argument with your spouse/friend/co-worker, need to deal with a difficult boss, or know all of the monthly bills are due after you just paid for an unexpected major home repair? At times like these, you probably feel tired and stressed. You feel like your tank is on empty and you have no energy to move forward. You want to hide from the world and all of the stressors.

What can you do to restore the balance in mind-body-spirit? Consider these options. Call or even better visit someone you have not seen in a while - maybe someone you noticed has not been at worship for a few weeks. Do a small act of kindness for someone who would least expect it. Return that favor that you have been meaning to do, but just never got around to. The act of giving not only helps the recipient, it equally helps the giver. There is joy in both giving and receiving.



In Acts 20:35, Paul tells us to remember the words of our Lord Jesus, “how he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” In 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Paul tells the church of Thessalonica to “encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.” So at those times when you most need a lift, always remember that giving can lighten your load, restore your mind-body-spirit and share God’s love. What you do for others will be returned to you.

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast cancer is the most common kind of cancer in women. About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer. The good news is that most women can survive breast cancer if it is found and treated early. A mammogram - the screening test for breast cancer - can help with early detection. October is set aside each year to raise awareness about breast cancer and the importance of a yearly mammogram. We can all make a difference! Spread the word about mammograms and encourage those you know to see their health care provider and schedule a mammogram.

NUTS, BOLTS & SCREWS - OH MY

What have you noticed lately? Here is your Buildings and Grounds quiz for this month

- 1) Which internal door that was not closing properly now closes properly?
- 2) Which leaning object is now straight?
- 3) Which windows now open that were painted shut?
- 4) Which trip hazard was fixed?
- 5) Which illuminated exit signs were fixed?
- 6) What is missing in the back room of the Parish House that is being repaired?
- 7) In which room was a window stuck in the open position and took three people close it?
- 8) Which part of the Parish House kitchen just received an extra thorough cleaning?
- 9) Which objects in the worship space were recently fixed by Manny Rodriguez?

Answers:

- 1) The far kitchen door leading into the worship space.
- 2) The light post
- 3) Three windows in the worship space.
- 4) The divot in the Parish House kitchen floor. Thank you Le Vuong and Bill Watson.
- 5) Multiple ones
- 6) The window seat cushions
- 7) Room 200
- 8) The utility drawer that someone spilled liquid into and never cleaned.
- 9) The Bible racks on the back of the pews

The Buildings and Grounds Committee continues to do one job at a time to advance our building to serve the Lord.

The Montclair Learning Center Summer Camp did an awesome job of taking care of our building and we look forward to a long term relationship.

We continue to inch our way forward with our Green Solar Panel Mission Project. Please understand that there is a lot of behind the scenes and technical work that has to be done. If you want to know further details feel free to speak with Scott or Carlos.

We continue to monitor the lights in the worship area and will be trying to make it better with one or two ideas.

Reminders

If you unlock it.... LOCK It

If you turn it on...turn it off.

If you move it... put it back.

Leave it cleaner than you found it.

Pick up your bulletins and put the Bibles and hymnals back after worship.

If it is broken or something is wrong.....say something.

We still have lots of jobs that need to get done so if you have some skill or a little time, please check in with Scott to see what can be done.

THRIFT SHOP

It took quite a bit of last minute organizing but we were able to reopen in September after being closed for the summer. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers - Nora Bakels, Charlotte Cade, Beverly Monahan, Elba Rodriguez, Beverly Roberts and Laurel Zigarelli. Our new fall and winter clothing line is out. We have ladies shoes, boots and handbags, men's suits, jackets and ties, children's clothing and lots of stuffed animals. We have a lovely selection of jewelry. We have books, CDs, puzzles, and electronics. Come in and see our Halloween decorations and costumes for sale. We are now accepting fall/winter clothing items but we are not accepting household items. **WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS. SHIFTS AVAILABLE ARE WEDNESDAY OR FRIDAY FROM 10:00AM – 2:30PM, AND SATURDAY FROM 10:00AM TO 1:00PM.**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES AREN'T JUST FOR KIDS!

Last year many of you participated in the Bible Bookworm Challenge and together we read over 2,000 selections from the Old and New Testaments. That was amazing!

This year, the Education Team invites you to put God's Word in your heart by signing up for the Bible Memory Verse Challenge. Commit to learn one Bible verse by heart each week. Recite your verse to a church friend on Sundays, and then add a heart next to your name on the the Bible display. Our goal is to add 350 hearts, representing 350 memory verses, by December 2! Will you help us reach our goal?



Make your own selection from Option A (basic), Option B (intermediate), or Option C (a little more challenging). Pick up a master list on Sunday, or contact the Church Office for a copy (print or email). Verses will also be posted on the church Facebook Page in the middle of each week, so be sure to "like" our page and keep an eye out for reminders.

*"...I will put my law within them. I will write it on their hearts,
and I will be their God and they shall be my people."
Jeremiah 31:33b*



THE CHURCH IN PRAYER

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

To: Our Church Family
From: Charlotte Cade, Ethelyn Fulton, Eve Space
About: Our Church Family Prayer Journey
Purpose: To develop the discipline of prayer
To build relationships centered and focused on prayer
To pray in one accord with all members of the church family
Who: Individuals or Prayer Triplets
What: Read and discuss scripture texts, pray
Where: Any place that is comfortable for you
When: Any time that is workable and comfortable for you
September Theme: Trust God and Bless God's Name
Scripture Texts: Psalm 22 Psalm 26 Psalm 34 Psalm 104

Special Prayer Requests from the Presbytery of Newark:

October 7 - St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Newark
October 14 - Bethany Presbyterian Church, Bloomfield
October 21 - First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
October 28 - United Presbyterian Church of Cedar Grove

*"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* I Thessalonians 5:16-18

PRAYERS

Please pray for our homebound church members and those for whom special prayers have been requested: Beverly Monahan, Rev. Paul Boger, Rev. Rick Sommers, Lois Erickson, Michael Lewis Jr., Laura Boger, Helen LeDoux, Indira Bissoondath, Candy Antoine



2... Ashley S. Ackom
5... Janelle Epitime
10.. Craig Marshall
24.. Paula Broadwick

5... Heather and Chris Doherty
14.. Ron and Judy Skorupski

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON ENGLISH TEA

WHERE: Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green
147 Broad Street, Parish House, Bloomfield
Sponsored by Women's Fellowship

WHEN: Saturday, October 20, 2018

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00pm (Last seating @ 3:20pm)

COST: \$12.00

WHY: Proceeds support Presbyterian Disaster Relief

For more information or to reserve tickets, call
Charlotte 973-893-1457 or Mala 201-640-2162



OCTOBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:30 Evangelism and Outreach Team (Parlor)	2 7:30 Women's Fellowship Coordinating Team (Parlor)	3 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:00 Lenape Trails (Parlor) 7:30 Finance & Stewardship (History Room)	4 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	5 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	6 Thrift Shop
7 World Communion Sunday 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 11:45 Youth Choir rehearsal	8 Columbus Day Church Office is closed Mini-camp (All Day) 7:30 Book Club (History Room)	9	10 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:30 Prayer Triplets (History Room)	11 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	12 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:30 Prayer Triplets (History Room)	13 Thrift Shop
14 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service 11:45 Youth Choir rehearsal Deacon's Meeting after worship (Parlor) Session Reports Due	15 5:00 Feed the World	16	17 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:30 Session	18 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	19 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	20 Thrift Shop 2:00 English Tea (Parish House)
21 Scholarship Sunday 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service 11:45 Youth Choir rehearsal SPIRE Articles Due	22 6:00 Cub Scouts	23 Noon –Naomi Circle (Parish House)	24 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	25 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	26 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	27 Thrift Shop Food Pantry Private Party in the Parish House
28 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service 11:45 Youth Choir rehearsal	29 7:30 Prayer Triplets (History Room)	30	31 Halloween Food Pantry Thrift Shop 10:00 SPIRE Team 	AA and NA meet in the Parish House unless otherwise noted AA meets: Sunday at 2:00 pm and Tuesday at 8:00 pm NA meets: Thursday at 7:30 pm Spanish Church : Wednesday at 7:30pm Cub Scouts meet in the Parish House		

Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green
147 Broad Street
Bloomfield NJ 07003



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green

147 Broad Street, Bloomfield NJ 07003

The Reverend Ruth L. Boling, Pastor

Phone: 973-743-1796

Thrift Shop: 973-743-8425

Fax: 973-743-0262

www.bpcog.org

Worship : Sunday 10:45am

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am – 1pm

Thrift Shop: Wednesday and Friday, 10:00am - 2:30pm, Saturday 10am - 1pm

Food Pantry: Wednesday and Friday, 9:30 -11am, 4th Saturday 10:00-noon

Feeding Body and Spirit