

# *Crescent Connections*

A newsletter of Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church  
716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060  
908.756.2468 [crescentonline.org](http://crescentonline.org)



Winter 2021

Dear Crescentonians

The Lenten season calls us to a time of quiet reflection, a time of discernment and, with the forthcoming tide of Easter, joy! It remains one of my favorite church seasons. It is a season that reminds us that God's ways are not our ways. Lent is a season to wean us from the ways of the world so that we might grow closer to the ways of our Lord. It is a season to be reminded that our Lord suffered and if we are struggling or suffering, that our hope remains in the One that overcame all. We continue to deal with the realities of a pandemic and although we long for days that were, we remain faithful that in the days that will be that God's grace will be sufficient and His joy will be our joy.

In this season of Lent, we find ourselves on a journey. We will wrestle with difficult issues that affect our church—racism, the pandemic, our own spiritual and even physical health. We will continue to be the church that Christ calls us to be—faithful, dedicated, serving and loving. We will continue to feed the hungry, reach out to one another in love, worship our Lord with the best we have to give and strengthen our ties of community. The work we do here is the work for the eternities and so our goals shift accordingly. We listen more intently to hear our Shepherd's voice, calling to us to come out of the wilderness of despair and into the joy that He has prepared for us.

It is one thing to hear and another to actually listen and have the courage to step out in faith. So many of you do that every day. You are the heroes of our congregation. You are the ones that continue to serve as faithful disciples regardless of what you face. We have been incredibly blessed with God's Providence that our church not only is able to worship in person (maintain health and safety protocols), but we also have been blessed with grants that will see us through the storm. In some ways I see it as proof that no matter the storm, Christ remains the bedrock upon which we stand and His Church will remain.

We hope your season of Lent and your joy of Easter will be filled with the Holy Spirit as you draw closer to Christ. We have left the Light on for you, stop in and worship with us, serve Christ along with us and be blessed this season as Christ calls you home.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Lynn Santulli, Pastor



**Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church** presents  
**Lent 2021: Journey to the Cross**

Lent is a special time to pause and reflect on where we find ourselves on our walk with Christ. It is a time to engage our hearts, minds and souls to open us to hear God's voice of love calling to us to follow, to go in new directions, to hear His Word in new ways, to be reminded of His sacrificed and renewed in His service. Here at CAPC we are offering a wide variety of opportunities for you to make the most out of this time. Together we journey, never alone as our Savior guides our very steps.

**Prayer**

**Devotionals** – Personal devotions are an integral part of the Lenten journey. We have three recommended selections available for your use this year: **The Road Back to God** (focused on guiding you to a deeper and richer relationship with God), **Places of the Passion** (follows the Gospel of Matthew with an eye toward the places of the Passion) and **Come to the Light** (daily prayers the help us turn from the darkness and toward the Light in our lives). Other titles will be available in limited quantities as well.

**Prayer Wall** – a prayer wall will be installed in the narthex for this holy season. You are invited to place your prayers for this season (and any other prayers) on this wall. Materials are provided for your use or you are welcome to write your prayers at home and place them on the prayer wall. Prayers will be incorporated in weekly worship.

**Lighted Labyrinth** – the Lighted Labyrinth will be back and set up for Holy Week. This no-touch walk guides you through the themes of Lent, the gift of Christ's Passion and the power that transforms our lives. Socially distant. Check on times and, if preferred, sign up for your own personal time to come and walk.

**Recommended Reads**

**Lent of Liberation – Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery**, Cheri L. Mills takes you on a 40-day journey to help heal the wounds of systemic racism. Books can be ordered online [www.wjkbooks.com](http://www.wjkbooks.com) or via amazon.com.

**\*The Cross and the Lynching Tree** by James H. Cone, Wednesday evenings, February 3, 10, 24, March 3, 10. Winner of the 2018 Grawemeyer Aware in Religion, this book is considered a landmark in the conversation about race and religion in America.

**\*The Color of Compromise** by Jemar Tisby, ‘The truth about the American Church’s complicity in racism.’ Questions from this book will be raised during our Thursday ‘News from the Pews’ Zoom call.

### **Worship**

**Ash Wednesday** – February 17, 7:30 pm. You are invited to join us as we gather to mark the beginning of our journey into this sacred season.

**Sunday Worship during Lent** – 10:30 am – Sanctuary – each Sunday we come before God with prayer, passion and presence seeking to bring before God the best we have to offer.

**Virtual Meditations** – online – each week Pastor Lynn will reflect the theme “**How Can I See the Light When It’s So Dark?**” inspired by Linda Douty’s book of the same title. This mediation will be available on YouTube and through Facebook. Links can be found on our website as well.

**Palm Sunday** – Sunday, March 28 – 10:30 am – join us as we celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and our hearts.

**Maundy Thursday** – April 1 - Sanctuary, 7:30 pm - service including stripping of the chancel. A powerful service that begins the deepest reflections of the sacrifice our Savior offered for our salvation. Communion is served.

**Good Friday - Tenebrae Service** – April 2 - 7:30 pm Sanctuary - A powerful, moving service that brings us face to face with the texts of the story of the Passion. Readings, music, silence, candlelight and darkness all witness to the power of this night.

**\*Zoom offerings are open to everyone but you need to register to obtain secure portal. Please email Pastor Lynn at [lsantulli67@gmail.com](mailto:lsantulli67@gmail.com) to be included.**



# How Can I See the Light When It's So Dark?



## Online meditations and reflections offered by Pastor Lynn

Darkness seems to surround us: pandemic, unemployment, winter, racism. We suspect that life will never be quite the same again, at least for a long time. We begin to feel weary in our hearts and souls and wonder when the light will shine.

This series of reflections names and recognizes all of those issues, and more, and invites us into new ways of 'seeing the Light' that will restore our hope. Lent is a perfect time to reflect on those aspects of our lives that seem to be in ashes.

No homework. No challenges. Just prayer and insights for the journey. A time to restore our soul's joy.

Keep an eye out for the videos. They will be available on our website, Facebook and email distribution.

## Reflections from a Weary Soul



Recently I was on the phone with my sister and we were discussing the reality of living in a pandemic world. It seems that the phrases we are hearing recently are already feeling like they are overused. If we sat down and started to list all that we are carrying in our lives (personal, communal, national, world) I believe we would each begin to realize just why we are feeling the way we are—tired. As one person quipped, “I am tired of even being tired!” I couldn’t agree more.

When asking folks what has been getting them through these days (whether I ask the question overtly or not), I have been met with various responses. Some of them I have tried, others I have not. They have stretched from reading up (and slightly practicing) hygge to Buddhist practices (not something I tried), and it seems a lot in between. Lighting candles, curling up with a good book isn’t something I needed someone to tell me about. Although I have to admit I rarely have that opportunity, even in the midst of a pandemic. Caring for children and adults requires great energy even in good times. Learning to care even more for folks in the midst of a pandemic, well, it seems to leave precious little time to do anything that even smacks of ‘hygge.’ The long sip of tea turns into throwing back the last, now cold, swallows as I run off to do something else that needs to be done. I feel like I no longer have a to-do list but rather an unending list of calls upon my time, energy and mental acuity (which now feels like it is running with a minimized buffer capacity).

If that hygge-based candle was a metaphor for my energy level right now, I’m afraid it would be far smaller flicker than I am ready to admit (but guess I just have). So, perhaps like you, I am left pondering where I might find joy in my life right now, how I might tap into a greater energy source or at least grab some moments of peace that would actually *feel* peaceful. One person had recommend I pick a word that I could focus on, something positive and empty my mind for a time...practice ‘just being present in the moment.’ Sounds good if you’re Buddhist, but I am not. I don’t believe that as Christians we are called to practice not thinking or not coping with what is before us.

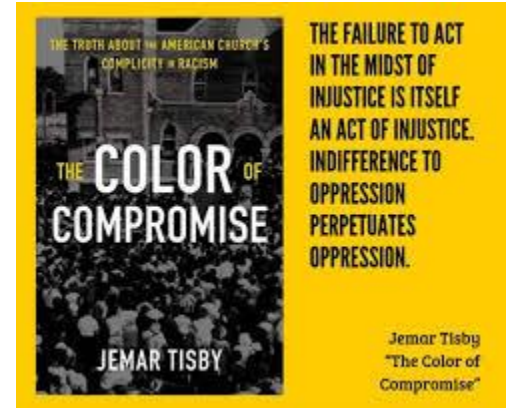
Today a woman stopped in for prayer. She had much on her heart, just as we all do. She wanted to come into God’s presence and lift up her prayers and thought I could help her to do so. She thought I might have a better relationship with God than she did. I doubt it. As we stood in the Sanctuary and prayed together, I was reminded that we journey through these days...exhausted, concerned, busy, worried...never alone. Perhaps it is time for us to gather with a friend to lift up each other’s prayers. Find a prayer partner (I am willing to be one for you as well!). Call upon the Lord and He will hear your voice. Let the floodgates of your heart pour before Him and His wisdom will become your own. There probably won’t be an instantaneous, thunderbolt answer (let me know if you get one of those!) but like the manna that fell from heaven for the Israelites, His providence will be sufficient for your day. Rest, assured that your Shepherd knows your cry.



**Crescent Avenue  
Presbyterian Church  
Highlights of  
Black History Month**

**Video/Book Study  
Thursdays at Noon –  
beginning February 4**

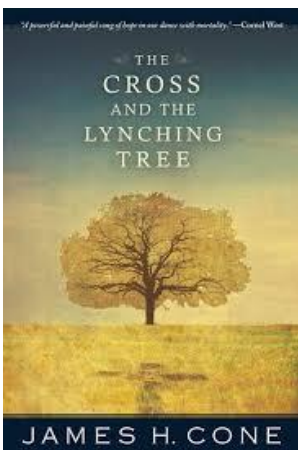
Watch the video online, read the chapter or just zoom in to drop in on the conversation. **The Color of Compromise** discusses the racism inherent in American churches.



**The Cross and the Lynching Tree  
by Dr. James H. Cone**

**Wednesday Evenings beginning February 3, Zoom at 7 pm**

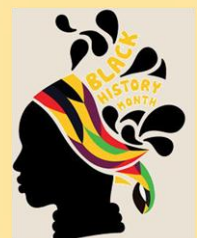
While the lynching tree symbolized white power and black death, the cross symbolizes divine power and black life God overcoming the power of sin and death. For African Americans, the image of Jesus, hung on a tree to die, powerfully grounded their faith that God was with them, even in the suffering of the lynching era.



Dr. James Hal Cone was an American theologian, best known for his advocacy of black theology and black liberation theology.

Sign up by emailing Pastor Lynn at [lsantulli67@gmail.com](mailto:lsantulli67@gmail.com) or texting her at 908.803.7230.

Please include your name, contact information and program(s) you would like to register for – books can be ordered online or through your local bookstore



# **CAPC DOES MORE THAN CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



**Black History Month** is always a special time at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church as we commemorate in a variety of ways the amazing contributions of the black community in the history of the world, our nation and our church. This year we have seen in our nation a rising up against the injustice that is still endured, a wave of frustration and anger that equality has not yet been achieved and justice not fully experienced by all peoples in our country. Black Lives Matter protests gave evidence to those feelings and speak to the hurt that is felt even to this day.

This year we at CAPC wanted to do more than celebrate the contributions by the black community, we wanted to intentionally listen to the stories not only of our own congregation but also of the larger community as well. We wanted to model a courageous Christianity, a phrased coined by one of the authors we are reading this season. We did not want to be complicit Christians. We certainly did not want to remain silent Christians.

To guide us in our conversations we selected two books. The first is “The Cross and the Lynching Tree” by theologian James H. Cone. The readings have proven already to be challenging, engaging, illuminating and a great way to enter the conversation. We have already begun to peel back the layers of misunderstanding over the years to reveal something deeper.

The other selection is “The Color of Compromise: by Jemar Tisby whose online videos have been the Thursday’s Zoom at Noon spark for conversation. These are not easy conversations by any stretch, but they are essential conversations to be had across the lines so that better and deeper conversations can be engaged by all parties. Listening to one another through the love of Christ and the justice so essential to Kingdom living will, it is my hope, lead to our congregation’s growth in an essential area of our lives.

But Black History Month isn’t to be limited to 28 days. After our readings we are working on a survey that will help us discern the level of inclusivity in our congregational life. We will expose the areas in which we need to work and celebrate the areas people feel good about. The survey results will form a plan of action and by Pentecost we will have rolled out new initiatives.

What power there is in community. We do not succeed in this work by our own wills, but rather by the grace and power of our Lord. His grace abounds and His love revealed and together we are called to building in an essential area of the Church. For those of you who are able to participate in these conversations, thank you. We hope that you will be blessed for your faith. We know our labor together will bring blessing upon this church.



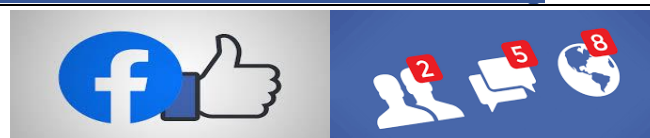
## Facebook Posts – Did You Know?

In honor of Black History Month, CAPC posted every day to celebrate the contributions, remember the history, listen to the poems, be uplifted by the music and listen to talks that honor the black community. Black History *is* American History and we celebrate the wonderful contributions of so many people. In case you'd like to check out the posts, we have listed them for you below.

February 1	Black History Month Celebration starts today at CAPC! Check out the link below to learn about some of our activities. We have a line up of wonderful musical offerings during worship, amazing guest soloists and a quartet, book studies and back stories on featured spirituals...so much to delve into! Hope you join us! <a href="https://resources.razorplanet.com/.../1493409_BlackHistoryMon...">https://resources.razorplanet.com/.../1493409_BlackHistoryMon...</a>
February 2	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month. Here's a PBS video on the history of the negro spiritual. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zeshN_ummU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zeshN_ummU</a>
February 3	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month – We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder – emotional song of the Civil War Era <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EW6z-fffJeg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EW6z-fffJeg</a>
February 4	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month Hidden Meanings... <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4ykd-oiMEE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4ykd-oiMEE</a>
February 5	CAPC Celebrates Black History Blessed Assurance! <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P91F4aGdTGo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P91F4aGdTGo</a>
February 6	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month We will be singing this on Sunday, come and lift your voice with us! <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NZ6aftOorE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NZ6aftOorE</a>
February 7	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month – I Could Sing About Heaven <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hWs5nDEfEM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hWs5nDEfEM</a>
February 8	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month Black History is American History <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VINtKSpbXw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VINtKSpbXw</a>
February 9	CAPC Celebrates Black History – Maya Angelou's 'Hey Black Child' <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlQbhj1ZiIk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlQbhj1ZiIk</a>
February 10	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month Maya Angelou - Love Liberates <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbeckV2xR14">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbeckV2xR14</a>

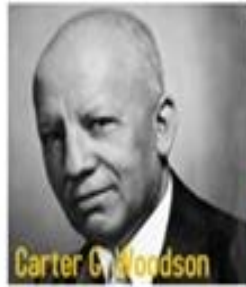


February 11	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month The Color of Compromise - Session 2 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmq2YVSjFu0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmq2YVSjFu0</a>
February 12	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEfhA4Y-dzk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEfhA4Y-dzk</a>
February 13	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month – Denzel Washington’s Life Advice <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FB9i7P9Zs4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FB9i7P9Zs4</a>
February 14	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAmrMuHqgyM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAmrMuHqgyM</a>
February 15	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month – Ex Slaves Talk About Slavery <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZfcc21c6Uo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZfcc21c6Uo</a>
February 16	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month – O Happy Day <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olQrCfkbvGw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olQrCfkbvGw</a>
February 17	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month – Nobody Knows De Trouble I See <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O977I4bkv-U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O977I4bkv-U</a>
February 18	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month The Color of Compromise - Episode 3 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWk2tRnRfKQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWk2tRnRfKQ</a>
February 19	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month – Oprah Winfrey <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DlrqeWrczs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DlrqeWrczs</a>
February 20	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month – Shiloh Presbyterian Church (Deidra McIntyre) <a href="https://maap.columbia.edu/place/37.html...">https://maap.columbia.edu/place/37.html...</a>
February 21	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month (Deidre McIntyre) <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_W.C._Pennington?fbclid=IwAR2_hFmTpeg-2fXbMY8Nud2gIKdc9LAdg9IYrX-ecrb_agd96ERJKOQA6rM">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_W.C._Pennington?fbclid=IwAR2_hFmTpeg-2fXbMY8Nud2gIKdc9LAdg9IYrX-ecrb_agd96ERJKOQA6rM</a>
February 22	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month – History of Black Music <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P96THK4DAGM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P96THK4DAGM</a>
February 23	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month (Deidra McIntyre) <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Condoleezza_Rice">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Condoleezza_Rice</a>
February 24	CAPC Celebrates Black History – Kwame Nkruman – Speech that will unite Africa (Deidre McIntyre) <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrYf97_IUrE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrYf97_IUrE</a>
February 25	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month Color of Compromise - Episode 4 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WREtHmfuX14">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WREtHmfuX14</a>
February 26	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month – Hold On <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWEB64ewzzc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWEB64ewzzc</a>
February 27	CAPC Celebrates Black History - AKA <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GczPrw2qz8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GczPrw2qz8</a>
February 28	CAPC Celebrates Black History Month Rev. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Last Sunday Service <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFmP3YA3i9g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFmP3YA3i9g</a>





Rosa Parks



Carter G. Woodson

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



# MONTH

(It's virtual.)



Frederick Douglass



Gabon



Jackie Robinson

Zoom Link: <https://f.ls/sq58t>

Crescent Avenue  
Presbyterian Church

▶ February 28 • Special Event

12:30 pm Zoom Conference Call

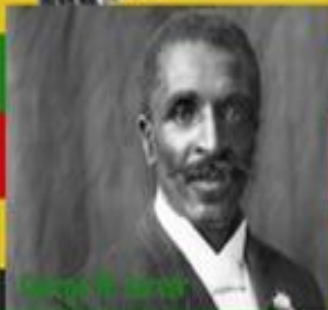
The Education & Discipleship Committee  
Invites You to Hear Presentations at our  
3rd Annual Celebration of Black History  
and Culture Program.



Nina Simone



Arthur Schomburg



George F. Johnson



Mali

Cameroon

Ghana

Mali



## Nominating Committee

There might be a pandemic, but God's work for Kingdom building continues! We were excited to welcome to Session our incoming class of elders and those for our Nominating Committee (a very essential committee whose work ensures the people who are called by Christ are installed).

Following are the incoming officers:

*(Left to right: Patricia Fleming, Roz Ealum, Nicholas Stevens, BJ Snyder). Not pictured, Kathy Mann.*



### **Class of 2023 (Three-year Term)**

- 1.Nicholas Stevens
- 2.Kathy Mann
- 3.Patricia Fleming
- 4.BJ Snyder
- 5.Roz Ealum

**Treasurer - Joan Pivnichny**

### **Nominating Committee for 2021**

Laura Mann (Session)  
Janice Haer (Session)  
Drude Crane (At-large)  
Dominique Stevens (At-large)  
David Brown (At-large)

The slate was passed at the congregational meeting in December and Installation was celebrated on January 17th with a joyous celebration complete with bagpipes!



### **The Priesthood of All Believers...unite!**

All of us are called through our baptism to serve in the building up of the Kingdom of God. Disciples take time to sit and learn, but we also get up and do! Following is a list of committees and chairs and a brief synopsis of what each committee is charged with doing. Connecting your passion with the needs of the church, seek out the chair to talk about how you can get involved. You don't need to be a member to be part of a committee, just someone with a heart to follow Christ.

### **Worship Music & Arts- Janice Haer**

Worship is at the heart of all we do. Sing in the choir. Help out with offering special services (which can be very fun) or pitch in where you are able. An amazing area of our church life to serve!

### **Buildings and Grounds - Henry Ward & Nicholas Stevens**

Care of this amazing facility is endless. Participation in a cleanup day, help with cleaning and/or repairs (determined by chair), Coordination of repair projects or other special assignments.

### **Congregational Life - Laura Mann**

Care of congregation includes organization and offering of coffee fellowship, visiting shut ins including sharing Communion, transportation, sending of cards, distributing flowers, possible assistance with coordination of repasts.

### **Education & Discipleship - Pat Baker**

Selecting Sunday School programs, assisting with speakers, movie nights, programming during Lent, Advent, or the summer, promotes learning and growing, and is a great way to contribute to the life of the church.

### **Membership & Evangelism - BJ Snyder**

Share the good news with folks in a variety of ways. Updating the website, working on the church newsletter, helping with new member classes or greeting on a Sunday morning. This is a wonderful way to meet people and share your love for Christ and His church here at CAPC.

### **Mission - Andre McIntyre**

Help with mission collections or be a part of many ways we reach out to those in need.

### **Valarie's Soup Kitchen – Patricia Fleming**

This is the premiere mission of CAPC with participation by outside volunteers, CAPC members and friends. An outreach to our community in need.

### **Finance & Stewardship - Kathy Mann**

Got a head for numbers? Willing to help out with writing grants and managing the process? Working to ensure the sustainability of the church is a vital component of this committee led by trained accountants!

### **Administration – Emily Upton**

Oversight of office administration. Assistance needed with coverage for the church office when administrator is absent, additional clerical help for special projects, etc.



## Membership and Evangelism

Congregational Life continues to send out cards, and Membership and Evangelism also got out their pens and sent Christmas cards to members and friends, featuring our own beautiful CAPC campus photos. We know it has been difficult for people during this pandemic and we wanted to thank everyone who has reached out to members and friends of this amazing congregation to remind them that they are not alone. This is a highly unusual and challenging time. Who would have ever guessed we would learn new terms such as ‘COVID fatigue’ and watched as numbers of those infected continued to loom before us? We are all weary and yet we continue to reach out as best we can to everyone.

Our committees teamed up to deliver a Christmas “thinking of you gift” to homebound members as well as a Valentine remembrance. Just two more ways we have reached out during this time. We continue to look for new ways to reach out and welcome input (and better yet, help) with ways we can do even more.

Another way we reach out to people is through social media. Facebook continues to be a great outreach as we share news about what is happening here on campus and in the lives of our congregation. Positive, uplifting posts remind us that we are not alone during these times and although our membership is not currently increasing, our outreach to the community remains strong. The success of this effort of course depends on people’s willingness to like/share/comment on these posts. It is amazing just how far some of our posts have gone.

Our banners have been well received (and viewed!). We have let the community know we are alive and well and welcoming as we have updated our banners with timely messages. It has been fun to see the new banners and thank our heroes publicly from our corner of God’s Kingdom. We have invited guests into our midst as we gather for worship, people who have longed for the opportunity to gather for worship in person (socially distanced, of course!).

Thank you, again, to everyone who reaches out with the love of Christ to members and friends and helps to share the good word about all the things that are going on here at CAPC.

## Worship, Music and the Arts



Sundays at CAPC have been busy and we thank God for our ability to gather and worship in these times. Because of Covid protocols, the congregation now enters the church by way of the narthex doors. Not only are two greeters there in the narthex to welcome everyone, but many Sundays there are special displays reflecting the theme of the service.



During the fall we had many special services beginning with World Communion Sunday at the beginning of October and concluding with Reformation Sunday and a “visit” from Martin Luther. (Glen Crane).



In November we adorned the sanctuary with remembrance mums and celebrated All Saints Day in worship and music.



November was also a time to honor our amazing Valarie's Soup Kitchen workers! Thank you!



During Advent, the lighting of the Advent candles was a special addition.



Sunday School students participated in various parts of the service on the third Advent Sunday.



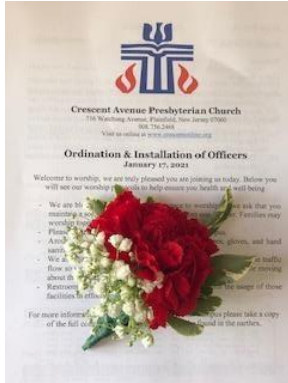
The last Sunday of Advent was a service of Lessons and Carols in our beautifully decorated sanctuary.



Session agreed that because of Covid health concerns, Christmas Eve services would be virtual only and posted on our church website. Nine singers were stationed throughout the sanctuary and provide beautiful music of carols and anthems with various members of our congregation reading scripture.



January always celebrates the renewal of our baptism vows and the ordination of the new class of elders.



This year we had a First Responders Sunday as our congregation has five dedicated people in police, fire, and the rescue squad. We noted and rejoiced that Brianna Baker would be graduating from the Police Academy on January 27<sup>th</sup> to become one of Plainfield's newest police officers. Congratulations Brianna! A collection was taken and nearly \$500 donated to the PBA in her honor.



Throughout February we are celebrating Black History month with special music each Sunday and two guest preachers - Darcella Sessomes, and Rev. Ron Thompson at the end of the month. Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 17 at 7:30 pm.

There are many opportunities to participate in Lenten activities at CAPC. In lieu of Lent midweek services in the chapel, there will be a meditation and a musical selection posted on our website. (Please see the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter for a full listing of events.) All Holy Week services will be held in the sanctuary and conclude with Easter and joyous music from a brass group.

God is doing a **NEW** thing!



Children's Messages Online at [www.crescentonline.org](http://www.crescentonline.org)

**February Message: Jesus Loves You and We Do Too!**

**Video messages are geared to youth in Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**Parents will be able to:**

- Click on the Children's Message at a convenient time for the family.
- View the message multiple times if desired.
- Receive tips for how to continue to engage their children around the message theme.
- Encourage parents who do not attend our church to access this newly available resource.



## Sunday School...Keeps Zooming Right Along

Stephanie DeGeneste, Director of Children's Ministries

I believe I speak for all our Sunday School teachers when I say, we really miss seeing the children on campus. Nevertheless, our weekly Zoom SS class affords us an opportunity to work with students remotely, and what we have noticed is attendance is actually more consistent and with higher numbers than pre-Covid days. One of our regular attendees logs in from NYC.

This year we're using the PCUSA recommended curriculum designed by Westminster John Knox Press, Growing in God's love. It is a highly interactive curriculum that helps leaders to connect the biblical stories with our world and the spiritual lives of children and adults. Our department also enhances our study of the biblical stories by customizing activities to relate specifically to our own students' spiritual needs and concerns. We actively seek to engage our multi-grade group on a weekly basis. Our contact with students and their parents is not just weekly, but we reach out to them mid-week as well with a review of the previous week's lesson and a challenge assignment.

One of the centerpieces of the lessons is use of the GIGL story Bible which contains beautiful illustrations. After every story there are a series of questions that fall into three categories: **See**, **Hear**, and **Act**. Our teachers are big on these higher-level critical thinking questions and we always add some of our own questions into the mix. You would be surprised at the spiritual insights that our children provide in response to our questions. For example, after exploring the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price, the question was asked, "So what did you learn from today's lesson?" Derion Amah, a fourth grader, said, "I learned if you have God you have everything you need." Wow! All I could think was and a little child shall lead them.



While interactions with our youth are primarily accomplished remotely, we did have the occasion during Advent to have some of our students appear during a worship service. On the second Sunday of Advent Wendy Nkellefack was the Youth Lector, Nina and Xavier McIntyre lit the Advent Candle, and Derion and Divya Amah recited from memory Janice Haer's poem, Advent Hope. Many members of the congregation complimented the students on their participation in the service. The experience was such a positive one for our students that we are looking forward to their inclusion in this year's Palm Sunday Service.

It's easy to get a bit discouraged that Covid-related adjustments continue to impact what we can and cannot do with our youth, but God is very gracious, and He supplies all our needs according to His riches in glory. Zoom is a digital platform that we deem a gift from God because it allows us to teach our students and stay connected with them. We're just going to continue to keep zooming right along because even with the adjustments that must be made, God continues to abundantly bless our 2020-2021 Sunday School program.



More than the VSK Soup Kitchen, our committee stands ready yearlong to serve the Plainfield community and beyond. During the holidays, our volunteers were able to donate hats and socks to those in need during these hard times and we thank everyone who contributed! Special thanks to Bill MacWhinney who brought in a box of hats, to others who contributed so that we were able to help those in need stay warm. You might say we have help keep a number of warm this year inside and out!

Starfish donations have continued and are much appreciated. Thanks to Leslie Fagan and BJ Snyder who pick up and deliver those items for us. Our outreach and support to other local organizations continue to increase as our church campus becomes a clearing house for food distribution through a number of channels. We have tried to keep track of it all, but it is really a challenge.

In addition to these items we also wanted to recognize Jersey Cares who sent us a number of coats to share (thank you to Andre McIntyre for coordinating this work!). We still have coats available for men, women and children in the Assembly Room for distribution for anyone in need.

In short, CAPC's presence in the community and the partnerships she is developing with the local organizations has made tremendous strides. We will continue to help recognize and highlight some of those organizations going forward. We remain a best-kept secret that we don't want to keep secret any longer! But of course, we are always looking to follow where the voice of our Shepherd calls us.

Have an idea of how we can serve the community? Feel free to email Andre McIntyre at [andremac68@aol.com](mailto:andremac68@aol.com). We are a community of faith that cares, that serves, that is growing in so many ways.



**Love. Grow. Serve.**



## FLOWER DONATIONS

Chancel flowers are a lovely and special Sunday morning addition to our beautiful sanctuary. Please consider choosing a week to donate flowers to commemorate a special event, to honor someone, in memory of loved ones or to the Glory of God. Flowers ordered through the church are \$70 and include two seasonal arrangements and delivery. You may also purchase and bring your own arrangements. (Costco is a popular source!) You may take the flowers home with you or leave them for delivery to our homebound members or someone who needs cheer. We would all love to see flowers every week!

Please use the flower chart on the hallway bulletin board; or use an order form (also found on the bulletin board); or contact BJ Snyder at [dillyanwen@aol.com](mailto:dillyanwen@aol.com) or 908-229-6808.



Sanctuary sound system was upgraded, funded by a grant from the Elizabeth Presbytery and a gift from the Cranes – thank you!

Lighting at front of building and in the tower restored (thank you, Henry Ward!)

Coats were collected and are available to those in need of something warm  
(thank you, Andre McIntyre!)

Huge thank you to Henry Ward, Jonathon Stevens, Ron Maltby and Warren Green for keeping our walkways and driveways cleared! Doug Germinder organized our plowing-thank you!

# Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060

phone: 908-756-2468 fax: 908-756-3158

[www.crescentonline.org](http://www.crescentonline.org)



## 2021 Leadership

### ELDERS

#### Class of 2021

Pat Baker  
Glen Crane  
vacant  
Andre McIntyre  
Jacque Archer-Kennedy

#### Class of 2022

Henry Ward  
Thylene Torres  
Janice Haer  
Emily Upton  
Laura Mann

#### Class of 2023

Patricia Fleming  
Kathy Mann  
BJ Snyder  
Roz Ealum  
Nicholas Stevens

**Clerk of Session:** Joan Pivnichny  
**Administration:** Emily Upton  
**Buildings & Grounds:** Henry Ward/  
Nicholas Stevens

**Community Partnerships**  
**Congregational Care**  
**Education & Discipleship**  
Roz Ealum  
Laura Mann  
Pat Baker

**Finance & Stewardship:** Kathy Mann  
**Membership &**  
**Evangelism:** BJ Snyder

**Mission & Outreach:** Andre McIntyre/  
Patricia Fleming

**Nominating:** Laura Mann  
**Personnel & Admin:** Pat Baker  
**Worship, Music & Arts:** Janice Haer

#### Ministry Teams

Janice Haer, Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Stephanie DeGeneste,  
Chrystal McArthur, Deidra McIntyre, Sally Nkellefack.  
Gary Mann, Joan Pivnichny  
Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Andre McIntyre, Edwin Opoku,  
Laura Villanueva, Georgiana Manu, Sherrie Granger, Noelle  
Perrine, Thylene Torres, Deidra McIntyre  
Sam Diony, Noelle Perrine, Thylene Torres

Drude Crane, Dominique Stevens, David Brown, Janice Haer  
Janice Haer, Emily Upton, Nick Stevens  
Glen & Drude Crane, Jeff Downing, BJ Snyder, Jacque Archer-  
Kennedy, Kathy West- Aaron, Jeff Downing, Emily Upton,  
Norma Fagan, Gerry Harvey, Wendy Reid, Stephanie  
DeGeneste

### STAFF

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Cameron Kuzepski  
Ronald Maltby  
Stephanie DeGeneste  
Darcella Sessomes  
Sherry MacWhinney  
Dominique Stevens

Pastor  
Director of Music Ministries  
Sexton Emeritus  
Children's Ministry Director  
PTS Seminarian  
Office Administrator  
Director of Facilities

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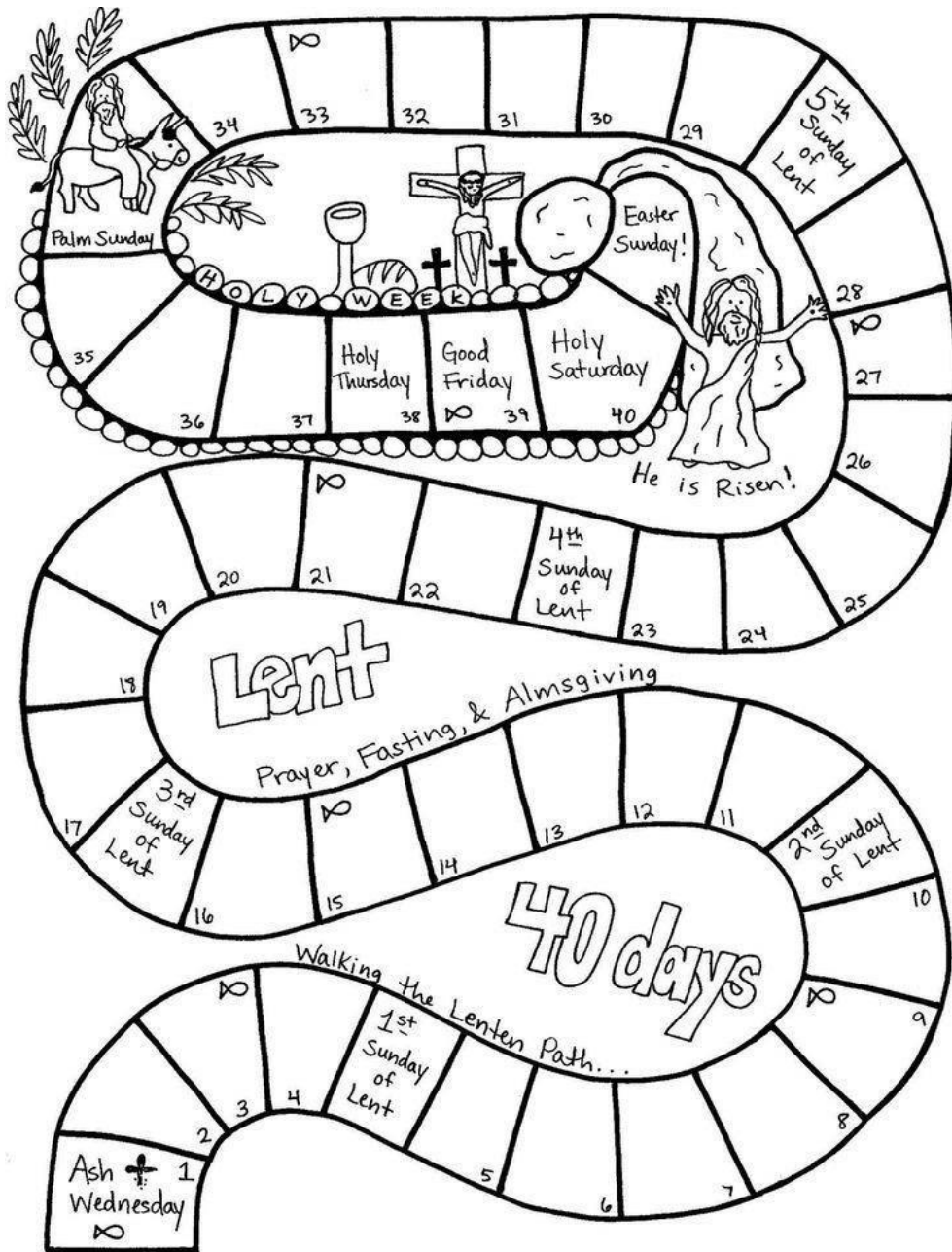
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## ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love





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