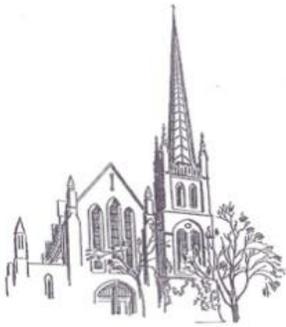


CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

Spring 2019



Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
716 Watchung Avenue,
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

Spring 2018
crescentonline.org
908-756-2468

Pastoral Letter



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

What an exciting time it is to be at CAPC. This year marks our 175th year of ministry--that is a huge accomplishment especially in these days. 175 years ago the white wedding dress came into fashion, the moon was photographed for the first time, Andrew Jackson was president of the United States, the Amistad slave rebellion occurred and the acronym o.k. first came into use (meaning all correct). It was a time (like all times) that was full of change and the birth of new ideas and new ways of thinking. Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church came into being as a result of emerging theology and blossomed in her ministry and mission in ways that touched the world.

We still do. CAPC is a community of faith that might be small in number, but big on heart. If you have any doubts, just read through the pages of our newsletter and witness what is just a glimpse of all we have going on here. Our Lenten season is full of opportunities for growth and our Soup Kitchen Ministry is right on the precipice of reaching for new heights as we reopen.



It is wonderful to watch people gather here on Sunday mornings and at other times and catch up on the news of each other's lives, spend time having fun in our fellowship events, work shoulder to shoulder in work that makes this world truly a better place. Maybe it comes from realizing we are part of a greater story than just our own. Maybe it is because we want our lives to have greater and deeper meaning. Maybe it is because we have a heart for those in need and know the power of organizing care that reaches far beyond what we could ever accomplish on our own. Maybe it is because we have truly fallen in love with God so much we experience an overflow of gratitude that prompts us to worship and work.

Whatever it might be (and it is probably a little different for each person), we hope you will feel that energy of Spirit as well. 175 years? My goodness, we are just getting started!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Lynn

Around the CAPC Campus

Christian Education & Nurture

CAPC CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY

by

Stephanie DeGeneste, Director of Children's Ministries

Black History Month is always a special time at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church as we commemorate in a variety of ways, during worship service and in our Sunday School classes, the panoply of accomplishments that African-Americans have made in all walks of life. February is a time to enjoy worship music selections that originated among the enslaved African people. Negro spirituals, as they are more commonly known, comprise one of the largest and most significant forms of American folksong. These songs proliferated in the last few decades leading up to the end of legalized slavery in the 1860's. Spirituals served as a way to express faith, hopes and dreams, and codified protests. The Chancel Choir's stirring renditions of these selections resonate to the core of many people's souls because in the music is a wellspring of unending and unusual spiritual strength and encouragement. Also, during our worship service *Voices of Faith* moment, congregants can be introduced to less familiar ground breaking African-Americans like, the Reverend Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon. The Rev. Dr. Cannon was the first African-American woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1974, and in 1983 she became the first African-American to earn the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Union Theological Seminary (NYC).



*Reverend Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon
Biography prepared and presented in worship
by Darcella Sessomes on February 3, 2019*



*Reverend Francis James Grimké
Biography prepared and presented in worship
by Darcella Sessomes on February 10, 2019*

Around the CAC Campus

Christian Education & Nurture



*Reverend John Gloucester
Biography prepared and presented in worship
by Darcella Sessomes on February 17, 2019*



*Reverend Dr. Bernice A King
Biography prepared and presented in worship
by Darcella Sessomes on February 24, 2019*

In our Sunday School classes, the youngest to the oldest students are given a chance to research and make presentations about people, places, and things pertaining to Black History. We encourage them to be creative, capitalizing on talents they may be honing like dancing, singing, reciting poetry, etc. It's quite a joy to see who or what the students choose to present to the group and how they express themselves in the process. Typically during Black History month we'll also show some sort of film and have a guided discussion period afterwards. A great deal of learning by young and older Crescentonians alike goes on during Black History Month.

Perhaps you're not as familiar as you'd like to be about the origins of Black History Month. Here is a sample of the information presented to our Sunday School students on February 3rd, this year's kick off Sunday:

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of black people in United States History. The event emerged from the initial celebration of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted Harvard educated historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson and a group called Association for the Study of Negro Life and History sponsored a national Negro History Week in 1926, choosing the second week in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs, and host performances and lectures.

Around the CAPC Campus

Christian Education & Nurture

By the late 1960's, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Negro History Week evolved into Black History Month on many of the college campuses that are now designated as HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Another Black History Snippet

Spotlight on *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Lift Every Voice and Sing is a song that is now commonly referred to as the Black National anthem. It was written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson in 1899 to commemorate President Abraham Lincoln's birthday. *Lift Every Voice and Sing* was performed for the first time by 500 school children in Jacksonville, FL on February 12, 1900. The poem was later set to music by Johnson's brother, John Rosamond Johnson, and soon adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as its official song. *Lift Every Voice and Sing* is one of the most cherished songs of the African-American Civil Rights Movement.

*Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of liberty
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.*

At CAPC we're so thrilled to not only grow in grace, and the knowledge and truth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but we love gaining valuable knowledge about people, places, and things pertaining to Black History. You're cordially invited to learn interesting and inspiring information along with us on **February 24th from 9:30-10:15** during our Sunday School department-wide Black History presentations. Join us in the Assembly Room, and by all means, stay for our worship service that begins at 10:30. You'll be glad you did.



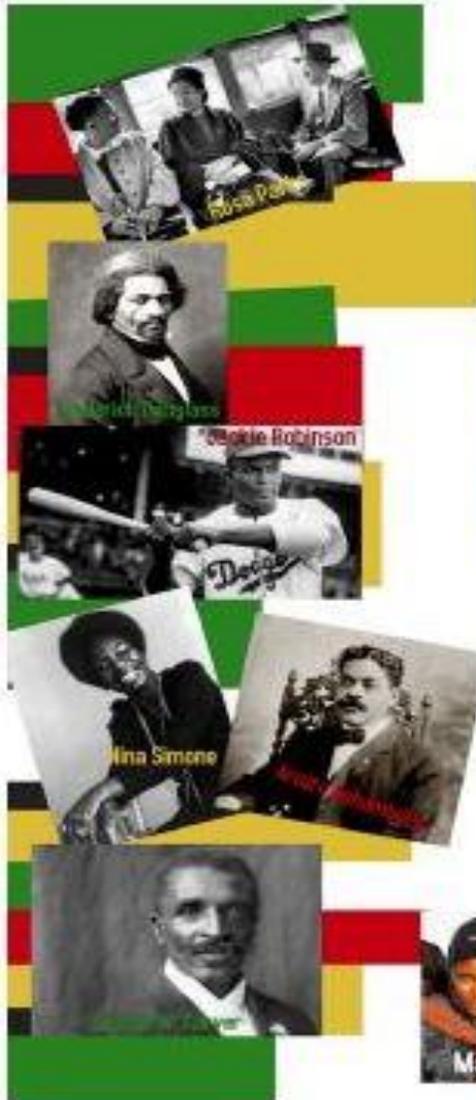
CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

Spring 2019

Around the CACC Campus

Christian Education & Nurture



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

@ Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

► February 24 • Sunday School
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 am. Assembly Room

The Christian Education & Nurture Committee
Invites You to Hear Presentations from Our
Students at our 2nd Annual Celebration of
Black History and Culture Program.



Other Christian Education & Nurture Dates to Note:

- April 7th-Pre-School-2nd Grade Easter Theme Special Session, during Coffee Fellowship
- April 14th-Sunday School presentation-*Jesus' Holy Week Journey*, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Palm Sunday.
- April 21st-After Easter Sunday worship service fun and games, during Coffee Fellowship
- May 4th-Family Movie Night-*Won't You Be My Neighbor*, time TBD
- May 12th-Mother's Day Plant Sale, during Coffee Fellowship
- June 9th-CEN Awards Luncheon, after worship service

CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

Spring 2019

Around the CAPC Campus

Christian Education & Nurture



UPCOMING CEN EVENTS

- **February 24th**-Sunday School Black History presentations, 9:30-10:15 a.m.
- **April 7th**-Pre-School-2nd Grade Easter Theme Special Session, during Coffee Hour
- **April 14th**-Sunday School presentation-*JESUS' HOLY WEEK JOURNEY*, 9:30-10:15 a.m.
- **April 21st**-After Easter worship service fun and games, during Coffee Hour
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- **June 9th**-CEN Awards Luncheon, after worship service



*Photos from the
Sunday School presentation
- JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM -
as a teaser
or the April 14th
presentation!*



Lent 2019: A Season of Reflection, Renewal and Preparation

Here at CAPC we are committed to following Christ and growing in our faith and understanding, expanding our service and cultivating a deeper sense of gratitude and generosity—and invite you to join us. The season of Lent is a season rich in opportunities to explore, reflect and nurture our faith and expand our sense of call. Following are some dates you won't want to miss.

Ash Wednesday, March 6 @ 7:00 pm – Sanctuary – Worship Service which includes the imposition of ashes, a reminder of our humanity and our place in creation. Our journey's beginning is marked as together we enter the Holy Season.

Breaking of Bread – Each Wednesday evening in Lent (March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10) a simple meal of soup and bread is served from 6-7 pm—it is a gathering of souls who are dedicated to fellowship, study and nurture.

Short Stories by Jesus: Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi – Wednesday evenings (March 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10) at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. A devotional study which utilizes materials from Amy-Jill Levine's study, as well as our own reflections, this is an exploration of the parables in a fresh approach that will reveal hidden truths in these powerful narratives. Prayers and music appropriate to each parable will also be offered.

What Makes You Happy? It's Not What You Expect – join us on Sunday mornings (March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7, 10) at 9 am for a study on happiness. DVD study by Andy Stanley will be shown and discussed by our group.

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

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 14 – 10:30 am – join the procession of the palms as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and our hearts.

Maundy Thursday – April 18 - 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 19 - 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.

Lighted Labyrinth – April 18 and April 19 – 6 pm – 9 pm – Enter the sacred reflections of our Savior's sacrifice as your journey through a self-guided meditation. With stops along the way to guide you, this is a quiet, reflective walk of prayer that is deeply moving and connects with the themes of worship.

Devotionals Provided: (free and available at church); **Hope-full Living for the Season of Lent; The Shadow of the Cross**

Around the CAPC Campus

Membership & Evangelism

The Membership and Evangelism Committee continues to spread the good Crescent news via newsletters, Facebook and our website. Please remember to visit our Facebook page to comment and review, and also to like, comment on, and share posts. This increases our reach and visibility. A big THANK YOU to all you faithful participants!

Visitors are welcomed with new visitor gift bags containing CAPC information and a small gift. As members of CAPC, we are all responsible for welcoming and introducing ourselves to visitors. Visitors are truly touched by the warmth of our congregation. It truly makes a difference and shows that we notice and care about those who make a commitment of faith to come out and worship with us. And, please be sure to see that visitors get a welcome bag. (Let an usher or committee member know.)



Photography Days for the 2019 Church Directory.

Thank you to all who came out in December to smile and be photographed for the new CAPC directory. Photography went smoothly and everyone seemed pleased with the photos. Our next challenge before we publish is to ensure all information we currently have for members and friends is accurate. As you know, the directory was available for updating during Coffee and Fellowship. The next step is to contact members directly to check information. We appreciate your patience while we do this, and would love volunteers to make a few calls and send emails. Please contact BJ Snyder if you can help.

It was wonderful to see our Fall 2018 New Member class commit to become Crescent members. Four new blessings! Pastor Lynn and the committee are planning a Spring New Member Class. Look for details to follow.

CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

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Around the CAPC Campus

Membership & Evangelism

We have played enough games (three fun Game Nights last year) so it is time for something new! Crescent will take over Linden Lanes on Friday, February 22, at 7:00 pm! (Well, several lanes, anyway!) Whether you are a pro bowler or a gutter-ball pro, it's all about getting together and having fun and, of course, food. \$20 per person includes bowling, shoes, pizza and drinks. We have instituted a family maximum cost of \$50 to welcome families to attend. Please sign up on the bulletin board. We hope you all will join us!

As Membership and Evangelism expands its vision and projects, we need more people to share their ideas and talents. Our next meeting is Sunday February 24th after worship. Won't you consider coming to find out more about us?

BJ Snyder and Janna Peterson

Strikes?

Spares?

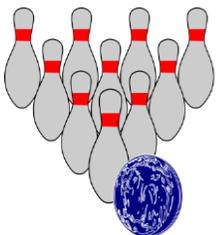
Gutterballs?



It's ALL fun!! A night of CAPC bowling adventures is planned for Friday February 22, 7:00 PM at Linden Lanes, in...you guessed it! Linden!!

We have reserved CAPC lanes. \$20/person includes shoes, pizza and drinks. Maximum cost per family is \$50, so bring the kids! (Gutter guards available for the younger bowlers.)

RSVP is a must, so please use the signup sheet on the bulletin board or see BJ Snyder or Janna Peterson.



Don't miss the fun!

Around the CAPC Campus

CAPC – A Community that Cares



Caring for one another is just something we do as disciples of Christ. It is what our Savior did and we learn from Him. From the very beginnings of the church deacons were formed not to provide all of the care (as if it was their responsibility to take on this work by themselves) but to coordinate the care within the congregation. Each week donations of food and other goods were brought in and the deacons helped disseminate it to those in need. Although

we don't do that in the same way in modern times, we are called to be organized in our care and outreach and help those we can in need. Deacons today facilitate and coordinate care to members of the congregation and beyond and assist members of the congregation who seek to help those in need.

In that spirit we are embarking on a new system of care within our church, one that we hope will help improve and streamline communication, expand our network of care, and provide opportunities for those who wish to serve to do so in a meaningful and appropriate way.

The church's first line of care is you! As brothers and sisters in Christ we share each other's burdens and try and keep an eye out for each other. No one person can ever accomplish this alone, it takes all of us.

HOW ARE WE MADE AWARE OF CARE NEEDS?

1. There are a number of ways we can help out. Is someone missing from worship? Have you heard of a need? Do you notice someone visibly upset or acting withdrawn or unusually quiet? If so, start with the person themselves; ask them if they are okay. If you are not comfortable with that, then let a deacon or the Pastor know so they can reach out.
2. If in conversation you learn of a situation, ask them if it is okay with them if you share their story with the pastor or deacon so they can organize care, provide prayer or visit. Inviting others into the situation can help the individual and it doesn't mean you stop caring. Keep them in your prayers, drop them a line, and give a friendly call. Follow their lead on what they would find most helpful.
3. If you are aware of something and haven't heard of anything and have already alerted the pastor or deacon, don't expect the worst (or worse yet start a rumor that someone isn't being cared for!). Perhaps the pastor or deacons are aware of the situation and are maintaining the discretion requested by the individual. Sometimes when we don't know a full story we start to fill in the blanks. Please resist doing this.
4. If a need has been determined and you have not been invited to offer care, please don't take this personally! This could be for any number of reasons.
5. If you remain genuinely concerned, please reach out to the pastor. She will share with you what she can and if she isn't aware of a situation, would welcome the heads up.

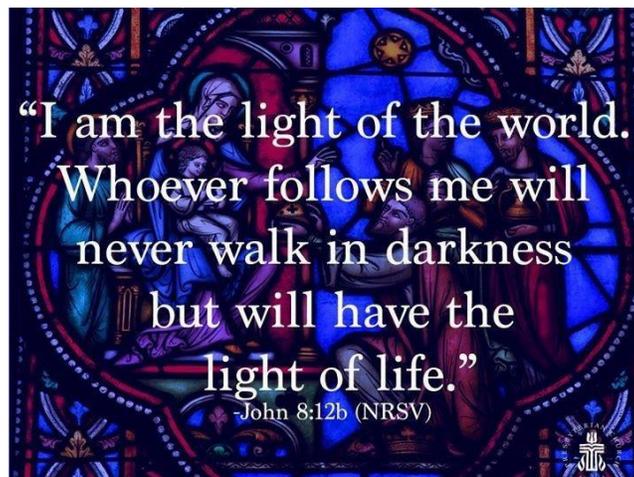
Around the CAPC Campus

CAPC – A Community that Cares

HOW IS CARE PROVIDED?

When someone is in need or going through a difficult time it can be our first impulse to jump in and look to help with meals, phone calls, visits, cards, etc. But in truth, the plan of care of each individual should be determined by their needs and what they feel would be most helpful (after all, aren't they already dealing with a lot?). The first point of call should be the pastor or a close friend of the individual. Sharing their experience is a sacred trust and one to be treated with respect. During the conversation some questions to be explored include:

1. how can we best reach out and support you during this time?
2. do we have your permission to share with the congregation and others to hold you in our prayers?
3. if meals would be helpful, do you have any dietary restrictions we should be aware of?
4. would visits be helpful? are there other ways we may reach out to you (cards, phone calls, etc).
5. please know that we seek to follow your lead on outreach so please let us know if things change so we can adjust accordingly.



HOW CAN I BE A PART OF THE CARE TEAM?

This is a whole new area of ministry at CAPC. Look for information about upcoming Coffee & Conversations times that will explain this to the congregation. We will also be releasing information in the church bulletin, providing information on the hall table, providing newsletter announcements and even developing a brochure. We want to enlist your help wherever it is appropriate.

1. Sign-up sheets will be made available for anyone wishing to be a part of the care team (and there are a couple of options!). Look for an area of ministry you would like to support and give us your contact information. Then, when a plan of care is developed, we will reach out to you as appropriate to let you know how you can make a difference!

It's that easy. Care teams will be focused on several areas:

1. Bringing a meal,
2. Transportation,
3. Cards and Visitation,

Look below for more information about each area:

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Around the CAPC Campus

CAPC – A Community that Cares

MEAL MINISTRY

What says love like food? Caring for our most basic needs is a way that Christians show love. We are implementing a new meal program which makes it easy to help. We have a new 'app' that will help us make this an easy process. Look for information in our upcoming flyers or speak with Kathy West-Aaron or Jacque Archer-Kennedy to find out more.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

Getting to doctor's appointments can be tricky if you are out of commission. Helping someone get to and from the doctors can be a great way to share your care. Of course, if there are extreme medical accommodations or any risk, we would not ask our volunteers to help but direct those in need to other resources that would be more appropriate. Transportation might also include picking up a few groceries or food items for someone or running a quick errand.

FRIENDLY VISITORS

You don't have to be a deacon or a pastor to visit someone in need! Friendly Visitors are members or friends of the congregation who have signed up to be a gentle presence and joyful visit to someone in need. Whether you visit alone or do so as a team, a visit is a great way to show you care. Friendly visitors are assigned to those who have given permission to be included in the program and would welcome a visit. Visits are not to be overly long and a brief report of the visit is made to deacons and the pastor just to ensure we have a good sense of who is being cared for and gives us an opportunity to assess if deeper needs are identified.

Please know that serving on a care team is solely at your discretion and according to your schedule. We are not looking to pressure people into caring but offering opportunities to care. Please care responsibly!

We look forward to rolling out this program and invite you to speak with the Deacons or Pastor to learn more. We are very excited and hope you are as well!

And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works. – Hebrews 10:24

Around the CAPC Campus

Finance

As Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church celebrates the 175th anniversary I am excited to be part of this historic church in Plainfield, NJ. I think about the history of this place and all of the people who have come before us and I marvel at how we are still here right in the middle of it all and still providing a beautiful space where everyone can come to feel that wonderful sense of peace that I get when I come into worship each Sunday. I think about the important part of the community that Crescent has always been a part of. I think about the generosity of past members and all of the financial decisions that have been made over the course of 175 years that have enabled us to still be here.

**I have decided to
stick with love.
Hate is too great a
burden to bear.**



I believe that it is our responsibility to maintain that important legacy and in order for us to continue, we all need to get energized to make sure that happens. We may have fewer numbers than they did in the “good old days” but nobody is more committed than the friends of the church and the members that we currently have. The Elders and Deacons that have served and continue to serve are dedicated to protecting our members and our beautiful church building so that it is here for generations to come. We are passionate about our mission projects and I am always delighted at how generous our members can be.

Many people in the community were skeptical that we would make it, but here we are! We make budgets, seek out funding and continue to roll along. We will always need your time, talents and treasures but I know that we all feel that Crescent is important, not only to us, but to the greater Plainfield community.

I urge you to get involved in this important year in the life of this church. As we approach Lent and Easter, take the time to come in and rediscover what makes Crescent Avenue such a special place.

CAPC - A History

Our Presbyterian History

by Rev. Charles Brackbill

(Continued from the last issue)

The Middle Years

The Civil War had a profound effect on the national church, and once again there was realignment. Since there were both New and old School adherents in the North, as well as the South, the war forced yet another division. The New School split in 1857, and the Old in 1861. After the war the two southern wings merged in 1864 and the two northern wings in 1865, resulting in the northern and southern Presbyterian Churches that were finally reunited in 1983.

In the middle of the 1880's another intense revival was sweeping through all denominations. Before the end of the century evangelism, without the excesses of revivalism was flourishing. The greatest revivalist preacher of the time was Charles Finney. Presbyterians ordained him, even though he was uneducated by their standards. They didn't much care for the extremes of his movement, but thousands of people all over the land were becoming Christians, and looking for ways to put their new faith into practice. In 1830-1840 the "industrial revolution" had arrived and made many working people economically helpless. Wages were low, hours long, and jobs dangerous. Many new immigrants were arriving and could not be assimilated.

The church began to develop a social conscience. Many quasi-church agencies sprang up to do all sorts of humanitarian work, so many that they were referred to as "the Benevolent Empire." These organizations in large part owed their impulses to the New School theology and thinking even if they were not church sponsored. Their outreach went on to embrace the abolition of slavery and helping freedmen, prison reform, more humane care of the insane, the temperance movement and many others. Our Church started a special annual offering for former slaves, and other social causes.

Near the end of 1867, the Rev. John Bliss was installed as the third pastor of this fledgling congregation. The church had already outgrown its building on Front Street. Three years after his installation the building was in bad need of repair. The question was whether to repair or build a new structure and if so where. By now there was a friendly relationship with First Church. Indeed, Mr. Bliss described it as a time of "mutual consultation and happy spirit" between the two churches the churches held joint communion services, and the women later formed a joint Missionary Society.

CAPC - A History

A meeting of both churches was called to decide what would be best for Presbyterians in Plainfield. An agreement was reached that the First church would stay in its location and the Second Church, as we were originally known, would build a new church further away.

This congregation was faced with a tremendous challenge. It would be a difficult job to raise funds for a new building in the post-civil war economy. The first Mayor of Plainfield, the Honorable Job Male, was also a church member and gave the land upon which the church was constructed. The property was on the other side of the tracks, on the edge of town, with nothing but open fields beyond Seventh Street. Along with this property he gave the triangle in front of the church, then a field of weeds. In 1927 the church gave the city permission to erect and maintain a flag staff as a memorial to honor Plainfield's war dead. It has become the closest thing to a town square Plainfield has.

All sorts of fund raising efforts "bazaars, concerts, exhibitions and tableaux" were held to raise the \$100,000 needed to build the new church. Mr. Bliss described it as "involving much painstaking, back-aching effort on the part of the willing, patient and faithful women of the church." Finally, the corner stone of the new church was laid August 17, 1871 and the first service was held on September 26, 1872. the old building, which had served for twenty-six years, was sold for \$13,000, moved and divided up for commercial property.

Major fund raising efforts continued, until April 11, 1880, when the entire balance of the mortgage was finally fully subscribed, \$32,000 of it in that one day, and within a week \$6,000 more. The Ladies Association gave \$2,700, and in a burst of ecumenism, \$100 was given by the Women's Bible Class of the First Baptist church. By 1883 the church wanted a new name to go with their new building, so on November 23rd they named it after their new location: Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church. These were people of faith and vision, for at the time they built the new church they had only 256 members, but they built it to accommodate more than a thousand! The new building was imposing, and it served well for 60 years. During this time the church was visited by Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes, wife of the President of the United States. Three weeks later the President himself visited the church and later spoke to the Sunday School.

Dr. Bliss was described as a vigorous executive and forceful preacher, with an irrepressible sense of humor. He was active in the temperance movement and support of foreign missions. He retired in September 1883 and during his 16 years of ministry 753 people joined the church (358 by profession of faith). There were 526 on the role, with 415 children in the Sunday School. At his retirement he paid tribute to the members as people of "cultivated taste, wide intelligence, a broad and generous public spirit, who had an interest in everything beautiful and good."

CAPC - A History

The Era of Dramatic Growth

Dr. William Richards came to Crescent Avenue Church on July 8, 1884, forty years after its founding. He was a Congregationalist from Maine. Close ties still existed between the two denominations which as we have seen, was partly responsible for the development of the New School thinking in the 1830's. Even though the branches of the church which divided over those issues were now reunited, some of the sentiments lingered. In fact, when Mr. Richards was examined by the Presbytery of Elizabeth, and was asked a test question: "Where do the heathen go when they die?" His immediate response was "I don't know!" (A friend later said, he should have added "Do you?") He apparently got away with the answer, and was duly installed as the fourth minister of this church.

During the eighteen years of his ministry, the church grew dramatically, and became the largest in the state. At the 50th Anniversary in 1894, ten years into his ministry, there were 1,569 members, including 802 in the chapels; 433 children were in the Sunday School. By the time he left to become pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York, 555 people had united with the church.

On November 23, 1888, a fire destroyed the chapel and class room. Dr. Richards rushed into a closet to rescue the communion service, but the door locked behind him and he was dangerously trapped. Fortunately someone else on the same mission discovered him. The fire forced the closing of the church. However, the Seventh Day Baptist Church offered the use of its sanctuary, while the prayer meetings were held at Grace Episcopal Church. The new and enlarged chapel and other rooms were dedicated on February 26, 1890. On one Sunday over \$25,000 was pledged to help pay for the project.

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church – A HISTORY

will continue as a regular feature in the newsletter,
as we lead into our 175th Anniversary celebration.

CAPC - Art & Architecture

Highlights of Crescent Ave Presbyterian Church's Art & Architecture The Corridor

There are five symbols used in the orientation of the wooden lintels of the doors in the church house. They are:



The Maltese Cross, which is placed in two different positions, as shown in the pictures. The eight points are reminders of the Beatitudes. This cross was the emblem of the Knights of St. John on the Island of Malta.

The Cross Moline, with ends resembling bearings under a millstone, suggests equality and justice.



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CAPC - Art & Architecture



The Fleur-de-Lis represents the Holy Trinity, also purity, chastity, the Virgin Mary.

The Five Pointed Star was early adopted as a symbol of Christ's sovereignty.



The four Bleeding Hearts are reminders of Christ's sacrifice for all of us.



Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church – A HISTORY
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CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

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Around the CADC Campus

Mission and Outreach

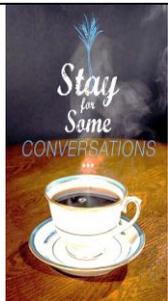
The Mission Committee wanted to do something to help keep our food pantry friends warm this winter so decided that socks and gloves would be appreciated and useful. The word went out and we received overwhelming support from the Congregation and the community. Due to the generosity of Stacey Welch and the Miroccos the Committee did not have to use the Souper Bowl money to purchase socks. Special thanks and appreciation to Kathy Mann and her expertise in shopping the NYC Wholesale District where she found and purchased some of the nicest winter gloves ever, donating most of the cost.

The donated socks and gloves were sorted and bagged by members of the Mission Committee and other enthusiastic volunteers after church on Sunday, February 10th, to be distributed with the bag lunches on Valentine's Day. In celebration of Valentine's Day, small bags of candy were added to the bags to be distributed on that day. We will undoubtedly have socks and gloves to distribute on future days to guests who did not receive the Valentine's Day distribution with the candy. As usual, the generosity of the Congregation in donating items and their time to prepare this giveaway for our food pantry guests made this a wonderful winter project appreciated by the recipients. Thanks to all!



Cameroonian Crisis

A special Coffee and Conversation is scheduled for Sunday, February 24th, in the Guild Room, immediately after worship. The topic is the Crisis in the Cameroon. We will have a guest speaker, Nji Ban, Regional Coordinator of Ambazonia Mid-Atlantic Region, to give us a presentation. We will also have an opportunity to hear from our own Cameroonian Congregation members about their views on the situation in the Cameroon. We hope everyone will come and learn more about the crisis. If you have any questions regarding the program, please see Sam Diony, a member of the Mission Committee.



Please mark your calendars for a Coffee & Conversation program scheduled for Sunday, February 24 immediately after worship in the Guild Room.

The topic is the Cameroonian Crisis and we have a guest speaker, Nji Ban who is Regional Coordinator of Ambazonia Mid Atlantic Region to present. We will also have the opportunities to hear from members of our own congregation. We hope you will join us. If you have questions regarding this program, please see Sam Diony of our Mission Committee.



Music Notes

and more...

Dear Worshipping Family,

Do you ever think about what that scary E-word (Evangelism) means? -or how (if at all) it might intersect your life? I sometimes do.

Writer Anne Lamott, from her book *Small Victories*: “. . . music is about as physical as it gets: your essential rhythm is your heartbeat; your essential sound, your breath. We’re walking temples of noise, and when you add tender hearts to this mix, it somehow lets us meet in places we couldn’t get to any other way

Sometimes music is about getting our bodies moving with joy and shared smiles. Sometimes it is about evoking distant memories and experiences. Perhaps it can occasionally even help us connect places deep within our own hearts and souls with the same place of divinity within others.

What if evangelism was as simple as sharing the opportunity for such musical response with a friend, a neighbor, a colleague, a family member? What if he/she might not be inclined to visit a worship service; but . . . taking in the music of six incredible young prodigies! Are you kidding me?! Let’s go!! What if you don’t have anyone to bring this time? Some of us will, and your smile and warm word of welcome just might give a much-needed lift to a newcomer. And, just maybe, they’ll want more of that feeling in their life . . .

What if this were evangelism? I’ll see you in church!

With love,
Deborah

Deborah Simpkin King, Interim Director of Music Ministries
Crescent@DeborahSKing.com



Crescent Concerts

Showcase for Exceptional Young Artists

Sunday

February 24, 2019

at 3:00 pm

*These talented local musicians,
chosen by competitive audition,
will amaze you!*

General Admission \$25

Seniors \$20

Students \$10

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
Watchung Avenue at East Seventh Street,
Plainfield, NJ 07060

CrescentConcerts.org

908-756-2468



Sarah Ouyang



Maxwell Chen



Jasmine Meyer



James Yang



Joann Shi



Marie Koben



Made possible by funds from the Union County
Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner
of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts

GIVING

MUSIC IS A LONG AND VALUED TRADITION HERE AT CRESCENT

You can be part of the music program here at CAPC (even if you don't sing)!

- Current need: a simple B&W copier-printer with ADF and two-sided capability to replace our ancient model that has finally printed its last descant. (Having such small machine saves unnecessary stress on our state-of-the-art machine in the main office.)
- Ongoing ways to contribute:
 - \$60 will purchase copies of an anthem for the choir (can even memorialize or honor a loved one).
 - \$200 will allow for a special music event in the worship service - a guest artist to play or sing for us!

Want to make a difference? Talk with Deborah King, Interim Director of Music, or email her at

Crescent@DeborahSKing.com. Your support helps us make a difference.

Great news! Six donors have provided music stands for our singers in the choir room!

Thank you, Rich and Linda Mirocco, Caroline L. Sargent, Judy Von Loewe, Kathy and Gary Mann!

Have you thought about singing?

The benefits are nothing short of health and wellbeing (research backed!), and a singing family with which to pray and grow.

Talk with Deborah, or with one of our current singers to inquire.

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, 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. 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).

SHOPPING @ AMAZON SMILE.

Our Finance Committee has added Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church as a charitable organization on Amazon Smile. That means that 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon Smile or Amazon Smile Prime will come back to the church!

Then remember to use Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) for all your Amazon purchases going forward and you will be making a contribution to Crescent! It's that easy!

BINGO!

Many seniors in our community reside in skilled nursing facilities (nursing homes.) One of their favorite recreational pastimes is playing BINGO! Our local facilities are always in need of Bingo prizes. CAPC will begin collecting small Bingo prizes to be donated. Toiletries (especially lotions), costume jewelry (new or old), small pictures, stuffed animals, etc. are suggestions, but ANYTHING that would bring a smile to our beloved senior residents (men and women) is appropriate. A "Bingo Box" will be housed in the church office. Items may be dropped off at any time. Thank you!

STARFISH FOOD COLLECTION

Matthew 25:35 "For I Was Hungry And You Gave Me Food."

Starfish, our local food pantry, is in need of food items year round. Donations of non-perishable foods are greatly appreciated by our Plainfield community. Peanut butter, canned meats, pasta and sauce, rice, cereals and canned vegetables and fruits are useful items, but ANY non-perishable food donations are gladly accepted. Diapers are always needed as well. Items may be placed in the Starfish food collection bin in the church office Sundays or during the week

SERVICE

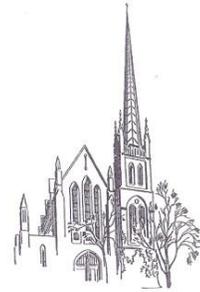
BAG LUNCHES

We are currently providing bag lunches five days a week.

We need volunteers to pack a few boxes of lunches to distribute. Please consider helping out by stopping into the Assembly Room after worship or stopping in during the week.

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060
phone: 908-756-2468 fax: 908-756-3158
www.crescentonline.org



2019 Leadership

Class of 2019
Pat Fleming
Laura Mann
Nicholas Stevens
Henry Ward

Clerk of Session: Joan Van Pelt-Pivnichny
Buildings & Grounds: Nick Stevens
Finance & Stewardship: Kathy Mann
Membership & Evangelism: BJ Snyder
Mission & Outreach: Pat Fleming, Leslie Fagan
Nominating:
Christian Education & Nurture: Pat Baker
Personnel & Administration: Joan Pivnichny, Pat Baker
Worship, Music & Arts: Glen Crane

Class of 2019
Samuel Diony
Justine Fofie
Sally Nkellefack
Katherine West-Aaron (co-Moderator)

Flowers: Norma Fagan
Communion: Katherine West-Aaron

Rev. Lynn Santulli
Dr. Deborah S. King
Ronald Maltby
Stephanie DeGeneste
Darcella Sessomes
Ruth Mikalonis
Dominique Stevens

Gary Mann
Joan Pivnichny
BJ Snyder

Pastor
Interim Director of Music Ministries
Sexton
Children's Ministry Director
PTS Seminarian
Church Administrator
CAPC Facilities Manager

VOLUNTEER STAFF
Bookkeeper
Treasurer
Newsletter Editor

ELDERS

Class of 2020
Leslie Fagan
Kathy Mann
BJ Snyder
Joan Van Pelt-Pivnichny

Janet Ramsey, Ella Sawyer, Henry Ward.
Julie Downing, Laura Mann, Gary Mann, Joan Pivnichny, Nick Stevens.
Julie Downing, Janice Haer, Gerry Harvey, Andre McIntyre, Deidra McIntyre, Edwin Opoku, Janna Peterson, Laura Villanueva,
Sam Diony, Noelle Perrine, BJ Snyder, Thylene Torres
Drude Crane, Laura Mann, Dominique Stevens
Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Stephanie DeGeneste, Chrystal McArthur, Deidra McIntyre, Sally Nkellefack.
Glen Crane, Nick Stevens
Drude Crane, Jeff Downing, Henry Manu, Jacque Archer-Kennedy

DEACONS

Class of 2020
Jacqueline Archer-Kennedy (co-Moderator)
Noelle Perrine
Thylene Torres

Class of 2021
Pat Baker
Glen Crane
Janna Peterson
Andre McIntyre

Class of 2021
Drude Crane
Norma Fagan
Edwin Opoku

STAFF

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admin@crescentonline.org
CAPCfacilities@crescentonline.org

gj.mann@verizon.net
jdvanpelt@gmail.com
dillyanwen@aol.com



January 13, 2019, ordination and installation of newly elected officers of the church took place during worship.

CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

Spring 2019

Around the CAPC Campus



Early last year, CAPC was asked to host the meeting of the Presbytery of Elizabeth in December. When he came for a site visit, the Stated Clerk of Presbytery (although their offices are only a mile away) admitted that he had never been inside Crescent before.

The December meeting of Presbytery is generally not a “meal” meeting, but since we received a large grant from Presbytery for the kitchen renovation, Pastor Lynn and the Session wanted to be able to present a “Soup & Bread” dinner (similar to what is served to our Soup Kitchen guests) as a thank you, and an opportunity to discuss this ministry.

When the reviews came in, the most negative comment: someone stated that they would have preferred a full worship service at Crescent rather than a vespers service).

**THANKS to all who volunteered to help!!!
You really nailed it!**

Building & Grounds

Kitchen Update

- Kitchen 100% complete

B&G projects

- Work completed on fixing sidewalks on Watchung Ave and 1st place. New cement aprons for 1st Place parking lot entrance and exit completed. Holes in office parking lot were patched.
- Installed new racks for walk-in freezer
- Pantry cleaned and reorganized. Thank you, Janet Ramsey, Dominique Stevens and Sam Frank.
- Janna Peterson and Janet Ramsey removed “stuff” and cleaned the upstairs room over pantry.
- Installed new outside door for crawl space.
- Installed Internet access in Assembly Room, 1st floor Conference rooms, Guild Room, Sanctuary and 2nd floor choir area.
- Replaced leaking radiator pipes in Chapel
- Spot lights repaired in front of church

CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

Spring 2019

Around the CAPC Campus

Building & Grounds

Anticipated projects for 2019

- Brick pointing for outside wall of Kitchen and Bridal bathroom side.
- Start stone replacement on 7th Avenue side of church,
- Spring and Summer cleanup of basement.
- Replace 4 roofs over church house and Sanctuary
- Remove bushes around employee parking lot and walk way to 1st Place parking lot
- Improve church inside and outside lighting

Building Usage:

- This year the building hosted over 500 events

Special thanks to the Cleanup Volunteers and everyone who works behind the scenes to make sure that our church building looks great and provides a welcome shine to everyone who enters. Renovations, improvements and repairs reflect the pride we have in this amazing facility and our continued work ensures it remains a viable, vibrant part of our community. Thank you to everyone who works so hard to make it happen!

Nick Stevens

CAPC Christmas Luncheon



*A delicious time
was had by all!*

Fun for All

Miracles of Jesus

During His earthly ministry, Jesus performed many miracles. Most people were thankful for healing and help, but some people didn't like the attention Jesus was receiving. (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| LEPROSY | CRIPPLED |
| SERVANT | BORN BLIND |
| MOTHER IN LAW | WALK ON WATER |
| PARALYZED | CALM STORM |
| BLEEDING | COIN |
| BLIND MEN | FISH |
| SHRIVELED HAND | FIG TREE |
| DEMON | LAZARUS |
| BARTIMAEUS | JAIRUS |
| DEAF MUTE | NAIN |
| POSSESSED | |

Find the listed words hidden in the puzzle. Words can be forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonal.

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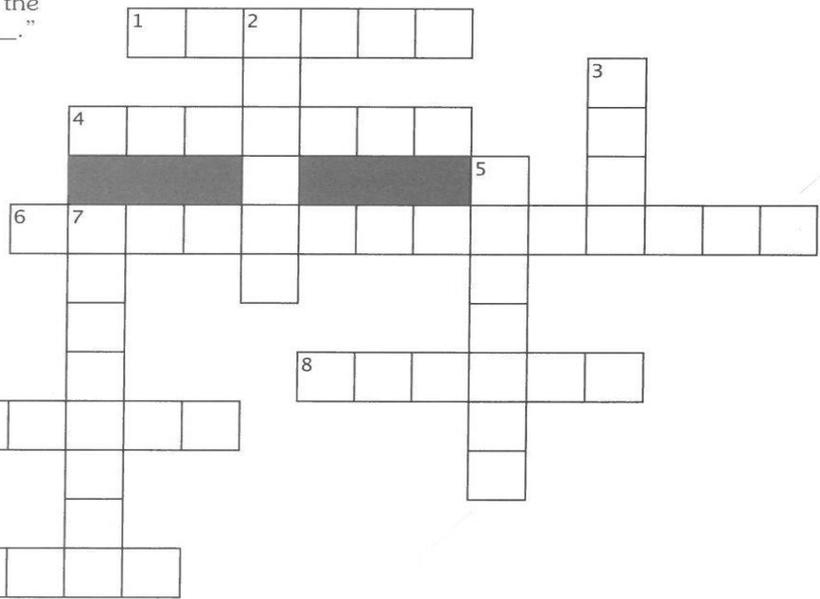
V Z B A R T I M A E U S C O I
N T D K C V N T Q P J N R J S
D N N O A V O K L O V P I X I
I N I A E U M C A S N A P A L
M N A M V U E E Z S E R P W B
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T B S D D O E X R S D L E L E
H F O O E E T S U S N Y D K E
E F I R R A L S S E I Z V O D
R S I S N P F E M D L E T N I
I U U G H B E M V L B D Y W N
N N K R T Y L L U I A U K A G
L J I B I R E I J T R C N T N
A U H A D A E J N W E H S E I
W O M P N W J E B D Z X S R K
    
```

Across

- Jesus told a blind man to, "Go, wash in the pool of _____." (John 9:1-12)
- This man had been dead for four days when Christ raised him from the grave. (John 11:1-43)
- After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples and said, "_____."
- (Luke 24:36-53)
- Jesus raised this ruler of the synagogue's daughter from the dead. (Mark 5:21-43)
- Jesus healed this disciple's mother-in-law. (Matthew 8:14-17)
- Jesus turned water into this. (John 2:1-11)

Down

- Jesus fed 5,000 people with two fishes and five _____.
- (Luke 9:10-17)
- Jesus told Peter he would find the tax money in the mouth of a _____.
- (Matthew 17:24-27)
- This withered when Jesus cursed it. (Matthew 21:18-22)
- Jesus healed a woman that was crippled by a spirit for how many years? (Luke 13:10-17)



CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

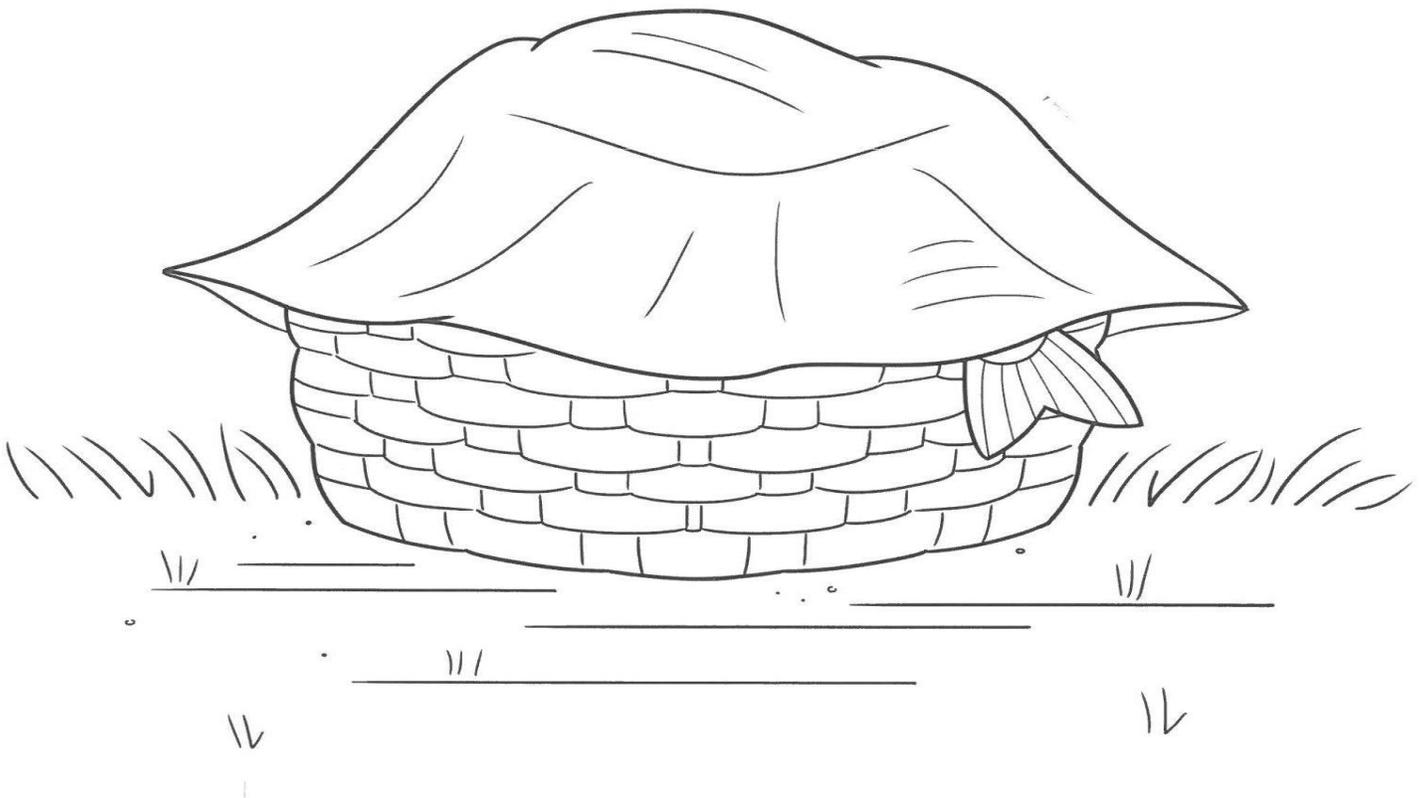
Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

Spring 2019

Fun for All

A boy gave his lunch to Jesus, and Jesus used it
to feed 5,000 people.
(John 6:1-15)

What was in the boy's lunch basket? Write the first letter
of each picture on the lines to find out.



CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

Spring 2019

Birthday Celebrations



MARCH



03/04	Allen	Artz III
03/07	Sandra	Robinson
03/10	Anna	Dunchus
03/13	Marcelo	Gonzalez
03/22	Bob	Foltz-Morrison
03/23	Nina	Buck
03/25	Andrew	Foltz-Morrison
03/27	Ronald	Maltby



APRIL



04/02	Betsy	Herman
04/04	Harry	Osborne Jr.
04/07	Brianna	Baker
04/16	Cristine	Fahrenholz
04/17	Dawson	Milligan
04/30	Judy	Hannah
04/30	Janet	Ramsey
04/30	Gaby	Trepper



MAY



05/01	Gary	Dunchus
05/01	Gavin	Milligan
05/02	Nicholas	Kennedy
05/06	Samuel	Diony
05/10	Doug	Pivnichny
05/12	Patricia	Fleming
05/13	Sonia	Cook
05/13	Charlotte	Fofie
05/14	Katharine	Mann
05/16	Elizabeth	Rauscher
05/18	Janna	Peterson
05/19	Maya	Dunchus
05/19	Joan	Van Pelt-Pivnichny
05/20	Victoria	Lu
05/21	Jeffrey	Downing
05/28	Sydney	Buck
05/31	David	Herman

March to April



On January 13, 2019, the congregation celebrated George Santulli's (01/13) and Pastor Lynn's (01/17) birthdays during the coffee fellowship time.

NOTE:

If your birthday falls in this time period, and is not on the list; that is because it is not listed in the directory database.

Please make sure that you update your information with someone on the Membership & Evangelism Committee.

CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

Spring 2019

Calendar Events

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019	06:30 PM - 08:00 PM	WMA Meeting	Conf. Rm 101
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019	09:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Youth Education	*Various Rooms
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019	12:00 PM - 02:30 PM	Session Meeting	Conf. Rm 101
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019		PRESIDENT'S DAY	
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019	07:00 PM - 09:30 PM	Bowling Event	Linden Lanes
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019	09:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Youth Education	Assembly Room
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019	03:00 PM - 05:30 PM	CC-Young Artists	Assembly Room
SATURDAY, MARCH 02, 2019	09:00 AM - 03:30 PM	Presbytery of Elizabeth	TBD
SUNDAY, MARCH 03, 2019	09:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Youth Education	*Various Rooms
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 06, 2019		ASH WEDNESDAY	
	06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Soup & Bread Dinner	Guild Room
	07:00 PM - 08:00 PM	Worship Service	Chapel
	07:00 PM - 09:30 PM	PSO Concert	Sanctuary
SATURDAY, MARCH 09, 2019		1ST LENT	
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019		DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS	
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019			
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019	03:00 PM - 05:30 PM	AKA – Black History Program with dinner	Sanctuary Assembly Room
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Staff Meeting	Conf. Rm 101
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019	06:30 PM - 08:00 PM	WMA Meeting	Conf. Rm 101
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019		2ND LENT	
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019	12:00 PM - 02:30 PM	Session Meeting	Conf. Rm 101
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019	03:00 PM - 05:30 PM	CC-Organ Recital	Sanctuary
SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019		3RD LENT	
SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019		4TH LENT	
SUNDAY, APRIL 07, 2019		5TH LENT	
SUNDAY, APRIL 07, 2019	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Easter Theme Edu. Session	Assembly Room
MONDAY, APRIL 08, 2019	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Staff Meeting	Conf. Rm 101
TUESDAY, APRIL 09, 2019	06:30 PM - 08:00 PM	WMA Meeting	Conf. Rm 101
SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019		Palm Sunday	
SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019	09:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Jesus Holy Week Journey	Assembly Room
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019		MAUNDY THURSDAY	
	07:30 PM - 08:30 PM	Worship Service	Sanctuary
FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019		GOOD FRIDAY	
	07:30 PM - 08:30 PM	Tenebrae Service	Sanctuary
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019		EASTER SUNDAY	
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Youth Fun & Games	Assembly Room
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019	03:00 PM - 05:30 PM	CC-Choral Society	Sanctuary
SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Plant Sale	Assembly Room
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Staff Meeting	Conf. Rm 101
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019	06:30 PM - 08:00 PM	WMA Meeting	Conf. Rm 101
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019	12:00 PM - 02:30 PM	Session Meeting	Conf. Rm 101
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019	03:00 PM - 04:30 PM	Memorial Service	Sanctuary
FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019	06:00 PM - 09:30 PM	Crescent Concerts Gala	Assembly Room

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church welcomes you to worship
—saint or sinner, rich or poor, regardless of age, weight,
ethnicity, language, gender, orientation--
in other words,
everyone is welcome to come
and worship God and grow in faithful discipleship.

Sunday Mornings

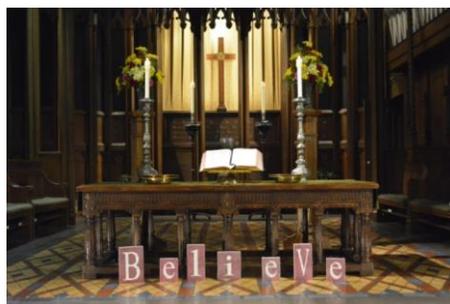
Education - 9 am

Sunday School - 9:30 am

Worship Time - 10:30 am

Coffee & Fellowship immediately after worship

Our worship style is high church yet not stuffy.
We have a rich and long history in our community
and we represent peoples from all walks of life,
countries of origin, and financial and social statuses.
Although we are blessed to worship in a soaring edifice,
our feet are planted firmly on the ground of the Gospel
and our faith is alive and growing.



716 Watchung Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-756-2468
crescentonline.org
Reverend Lynn Santulli
pastor@crescentonline.org

