



The Chimes

The News of the Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, NJ

June 2025



Worship Services at 8 & 10 AM
Sunday School during the 10 AM Service
Fellowship Hour at 11 AM

Cathedral Conversations

I am delighted to be among you as your transitional minister: an assignment that has already blossomed into a garden of abundance. Indeed, it is blooming just like the botanical garden outside my office, filled with a variety of plants springing to life. Yet PCC is more importantly a human garden, resplendent in the variety of people who worship in our wooded setting. Already I have met "all sorts and conditions" of people, as well as participated in every liturgical service imaginable: from the Institution to a new church position, to the Burial Office for a human being, to the drama of Holy Week including a powerful sequence of services (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Tenebrae, Good Friday and Easter). As I said in a recent sermon, "This is a wonderful place to engage in Christ's ministry: a setting which offers abundant opportunities to serve a healthy Christian community of faith."

Quoting myself even further, I also mentioned that every church exists with a purpose and a mission. The goal is to Become a Beloved Community; a place to "Welcome the Stranger"—but it takes time—time to build trust, time to assure one another of cooperation, and time to review progress honestly as things move along. At the core, we are intentionally a religious community-of-faith seeking to be grounded with the spiritual values of love, justice, mercy, peace, and kindness. What then can you expect to hear from me in the days ahead? That's a fair question.

While sermons may seem to be one-way communication, my hope is to spark a dialogue among all of us. Tell me what you really think. Do some fact-checking on me if it's needed. Don't hesitate to question my sources, and let me know when I'm off base ... and don't be surprised if I return the compliment.

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The Chimes

Submit items to

Lynne Poag via email

Chimescoordinator@protestantcommunitychurch.org

JULY/AUGUST

**CHIMES' ARTICLES
 SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
 June 18, 2025**

Rev. Dr. E.F. Michael Morgan
 Interim Pastor

Rev. Steve Winkler, Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Virginia E. Leopold, Pastor Emerita
The Late Dr. Richard T. Say, Pastor Emeritus

609-654-4220 (office)

609-654-0515 (Sunday School)

www.protestantcommunitychurch.org



Sunday School News
Andria Gross
Sunday School Superintendent



Currently, I'm working on the plans for Summer Sunday School which will be held in the Children's Garden when the weather permits. The children will be learning about the "Healing Herbs of the Bible" that they may also plant and grow in the Children's Garden. We will make snacks and beverages to enjoy using the different herbs. I taught the "Healing Herbs of the Bible" in the past, but our current Sunday school children haven't experienced these lessons so this summer they will. Perhaps you will get the opportunity during Fellowship Hour to enjoy some of their snacks and drinks! A favorite cold beverage that I've made for the children is iced Lemon Verbena tea with Lavender—they love it! Summer Sunday School runs June 15 to July 13.



I'm really excited for this year's Vacation Bible School which will take place July 21, 22, and 23. VBS this summer will be a "Christmas in July" Road Trip! Each evening we will "get on the VBS bus" for a ride that will take us

to a different Bible story. VBS will be a reminder to the children and to all that the spirit of Christmas, spreading joy, peace and love, can be experienced year round. VBS will include not just the Bible stories, but music, crafts and games. Every night will be a fun reminder that Christ is the Light of the World and that we carry the Light of God in our hearts. We will let our light shine as we gather together singing Christmas songs, making creative crafts, and enjoying festive snacks in the middle of July. Snow Cones will surely be something they will make and enjoy. Yes, the weather forecast for VBS will be really hot, as usual, so we won't be wearing our ugly Christmas sweaters!

Many volunteers are needed for this special VBS. I will need Bus Drivers, Crossing Guards, Shepherds and Magi, and many other Bible characters. And, besides lots of help needed to setup a different Bible story each night, we will need helpers for crafts and games, music and snacks!

A sign-up board will be in the Fellowship Room so please consider being a part of this Greatest Vacation Road Trip Vacation Bible School. VBS registration forms will be available in the church office, my office, and in the Fellowship Room.

Have a great summer! And, as always, thank you for supporting the Christian Education program for our children and youth.

How to View the PCC Weekly Worship Service

Each 10:00am Sunday service will be streaming live on Facebook, as well as on YouTube. All past services are available on Youtube and on Facebook. Youtube link and QR code are below for access.

<https://www.youtube.com/@protestantcommunitychurcho5206>



(Cathedral Conversations con't)

We learn from one another, in so many unexpected and astonishing ways.

I am mindful that the Interim Search Committee "called" me to this ministry at PCC, rather than simply "hired" me for a job. Because of that distinction and difference, I believe God wants me to be here since I need you, just as much perhaps, as you need me. I trust we can help one another in our respective journeys-of-faith, thereby striving to fulfill PCC's Mission Statement to be caring, faithful disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, study, prayer, and Christian service. Indeed, when working together, all things are possible ... **with God's help!**

On that note, I urge you to contact me so we might continue more **Cathedral Conversations.**

Fr. Mike



HELP CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN NEED THIS SUMMER

Many of us fondly remember summer vacations that were filled with adventures like camps, the Shore, art classes, and field trips. Not all children are as blessed as we have been. In the PCC spirit of giving, please use the link below and read about the new Legacy Treatment Services fundraiser for their foster care and residential homes' children and youth. Then use the link to donate as much as you can. "No donation is too small or too big!" The campaign is open until June 30, 2025. Thank you from Mission Council!

<https://donorbox.org/send-legacy-kids-to-summer-camp-2>

Mission Council

FEE-FREE DONATION OPTION NOW AVAILABLE

There is now a fee-free online donation option available. Please use the following link or QR code if you would like to donate electronically:
<https://www.zeffy.com/donation-form/protestant-community-church>



Fellowship Breakfast, June 21, 8:30am in the Todd Building
See the bulletin for information about the speaker.

PCC aka End-of-the-Month Book Club

On June 24 the group will discuss *Moral Fractures* by Medford's own Rusty Williams. The July selection is *The Map Colorist* by Rebecca D'Harlingue and the August selection is *The Wife, the Maid and the Mistress* by Ariel Lawhon (author of *The Frozen River*). All meetings are at 4pm on the last Tuesday of the month in the PCC library. Come join us!

Alice D'Arcy

Medford's Own Good Samaritan!

On a recent trip to ShopRite, a man stopped me at the pasta aisle to ask what I could possibly be doing with all of the pasta in my cart. I explained that our church, PCC, makes meals for the homeless and that this pasta was on sale so I was stocking up. He asked where the food went, where the church was, how often we did this, etc. I told him we work all year and that last year we made 2,851 casseroles that each fed eight and over 13,000 sandwiches. We wished each other a Happy Easter and continued on our way. He later found me in the cheese section and handed me three crisp \$20 bills and said he wanted to support such a project. That samaritan's generosity paid for the casserole supplies that week. Such a blessing!

Suzanne Murray



**Sunday
June 15**



Joseph's House is a Camden shelter that provides, meals, health care, and other support services for adults who are homeless. Our guests may need mental health and substance abuse services, and/or services for the disabled. These supports help stabilize those who are homeless and help them get off the street. Guests arrive at Joseph's House at 8pm. The shelter is open 365 days a year. They are served a hot meal and are able to shower, wash their clothes and have a safe and warm place to sleep. Donations are used to help guests in their journey towards health. Please place your donations in the labeled box in the PCC office. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Here is a list of needed items:

Breakfast/health bars
Individual snack bags
Ground coffee
10 lb bags of sugar
Tea bags
Large containers of Cremora
Laundry pods' detergent (Not liquid or powdered detergent)
Deodorant
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Shampoo and body wash
Towels and washcloths (can be gently used and clean)
Blankets (can be used and clean)
Backpacks
Socks underwear (must be new)

Thank you for your donations,

Beth McGinnis



AHEAD

MISSION COUNCIL SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATIONS**July 14 - August 11, 2024**

Mission Council once again will be collecting **new** school supplies and requesting cash/check donations to help students be prepared for the first day of school and the months ahead. Donation boxes will be located in the narthex and church office from July 14 – August 11 for the Camden Rescue and Urban Promise. If you would like to help with a financial donation, please mail/drop off a check made out to PCC with "Mission Council school supplies" on the memo line.

As in previous years, we will donate to the Christian Caring Center so they can purchase back packs and school supplies for their school-age children.

Let's help many children succeed by giving them back packs and school supplies.

- **Standard book bags/back packs**
- **"Character" book bags/back packs – like Disney and Marvel**
- **School supplies – colored pencils, crayons, markers, pens, English and Spanish dictionaries and thesauruses, glue sticks, erasers, pencil sharpeners, rulers, composition books**
- **Cash or checks – "No check is too small or too large."**

Mission Council is grateful for your help with our annual project.

We are a blessed church family.



Nursery Schedule—Nursery care will be provided on the following dates: June 1—full service. June 15—when Sunday school is dismissed. June 22—full service. For the months of July and August, nursery care will be provided as available. Please email Adrienne Foran (azap188@hotmail.com) if nursery services are needed or if you can help provide services. Thank you!

Father's Day Gift Forms—Father's Day Special Gift forms are now available! Copies will be placed in Memorial Hall, in the Sanctuary, and in the church office. Special gift forms and donations need to be received no later than Tuesday, June 10.



THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

Have you ever wondered what happens to the flowers on the church altar when our Sunday services are over? They are taken to the church office when on Monday morning one of our church members takes the altar flowers apart and makes them into 3 or 4 smaller arrangements. Arlene Hummel (who frequently attends the 8:00 service) recently took over the job of coordinating the group of volunteers. Prior to Arlene, Lorie Truitt coordinated the flower arranging activity from 2018-2025. Due to medical concerns, Lori decided to "pass the baton" to Arlene in early 2025. Prior to Arlene and Lorie, Jean Gilday coordinated flower arranging efforts from 1990-2018—many thanks to Jean for her faithful service.

Here is the team of women who make the flower arrangements—Sandy Chase, Emmy deCastro, Arlene Hummel, Alice Montgomery, Lynne Poag, Judy Remalia. Each week Dave Stuart and a team of his helpers deliver these flowers to members of our church family. His helpers include Linda Chamberlain, Gary Cop, Steve Gibbon, and Cid Richards who step in to fill in for Dave when he is on vacation or is visiting with his family. Prior to Dave and his team, Herman Kruckner made deliveries to members of our church family. Since October 2015, over 1,150 flower arrangements have been given to members of our church through the efforts of all the people mentioned above. Thank you to each of you for all that you have done and for all that you do.

Dave Stuart
VP Christian Services



The July-August edition of the Chimes will honor 2025 graduates. If you would like your family member included, email Lynne Poag at

chimescoordinator@protestantcommunitychurch.org by **June 18**. Include name and school of graduate, future plans, and relationship (child/grandchild) to you. Let's recognize their accomplishments!



Our supply of prayer shawls needs to be replenished. If you knit or crochet, please consider making a few. Those who are

grieving or sick always appreciate the warm feeling that comes from wrapping themselves in a blessed prayer shawl from the PCC family. For more information, please contact the office by phone (609)654-4220) or email: kayla@protestantcommunitychurch.org.

**SINGLE
AGAIN**

Single Again will hold its June meeting at The Evergreen Dairy Bar on Thursday, June 26, at 6pm. Join us for ice cream!

Suzanne Murray

YOUTH GROUP

It's been a great school year for the youth in the Sunday morning Youth Group classes with Stephanie Rahinsky being the lead teacher! They all come consistently Sunday mornings at 8:45-9:45 and then attend the Sunday 10:00 worship service together. It's been a joy to watch them growing a very special bond with one another. At their retreat in April, I was blessed to see how much they care about one another and support one another in their individual busy and sometimes complicated lives. The shared experience of the retreat deepened their bond, which I knew would happen for them. I witnessed their excitement participating in the daily contemporary worship services and creating new like-minded friendships with others who attended the retreat. Listening to them since they returned from the retreat, I hear how their faith and relationship with God has grown. They were asked the first night what they were expecting to get from the retreat, and each one of them told Stephanie and me that they got more than what they ever expected. They want to attend the retreat again, if possible! Thank you very much for your support of the youth that allowed them this experience.

Hopefully, we will be able to end the youth group classes with an afternoon of bowling with Stephanie, their champion bowler, and maybe she will give us some bowling lessons! The Sunday morning Youth Group classes will end on June 15.

I'm sure you will see the youth this summer, especially when they help me during Summer Sunday School when they are able, and Vacation Bible school. Beginning in the fall, they will begin their Confirmation classes. You will see them more often as acolytes at the Sunday morning worship services.

Thank you, Stephanie Rahinsky, for all that you have done for the youth this year. You're amazing and so appreciated and loved! I'm looking forward to another year with you and the youth. Kayla MacKinnon is giving thought to being a youth co-leader with Stephanie beginning in the fall which we're excited about, too!

Have a great summer everyone!

Andria Gross



In January, February, and March the Casserole Committee was very busy. Here are the number of casseroles, sandwiches, and donated Wawa items received. January— 156 Casseroles, 211 Sandwiches, 218 Wawa items; February—133, 240, 210; March—165, 207, 105. The total number for the 1st quarter was 454 Casseroles, 658 Sandwiches, and 533 Wawa items. Continue the good work!

Suzanne Murray



June Birthdays



02	Mark Ritter	14	Danny Vitelli	28	Ray Bleiweiss
05	Dan Clark	16	Andria Gross		Addison Kimble
07	Steve Gibbon	18	Dennis O'Neill		Ashley Kimble
08	Bonnie Hammer	19	Lillian Fink	30	Charles Haussman
10	Rick Baker		Kyle Powell		
	Greg Reinhardt	21	Reese McAreavy		
11	Jean Ricketts	23	Madigan Smith		
12	Sue Fetla		Camille Stein		
13	Nancy Cauffman	26	Ginny Fletcher		
	Zachary Winkler		Scott Smith		



The Protestant Community Church
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Medford Lakes, NJ 08055

Return Services Requested

The Protestant Community Church is an inclusive ecumenical faith community purposefully seeking to be caring, faithful disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, study, prayer and Christian service.
