



# The Chimes

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

## July/August 2025



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

### Cathedral Conversations: *Fr. Mike*

I am both delighted and challenged to be among you as your transitional minister: an assignment that continues to amaze me because of its fascinating complexity. The challenge is first-of-all, to gather as many people as possible: extending invitations to both the people of God, as well as all those who may be searching for a deeper "faith." Then secondly, bring everyone together into a meaningful relationship with Jesus, the one we call the Christ. We celebrate that unique kind of religious gathering here at the Cathedral-of-the-Woods in a variety of ways – through worship, prayer, education, fellowship, administration, retreat, reflection, and yes, on occasion – party, party, party! Indeed, there's room for plenty of joy in the midst of our spiritual sincerity.

I have inquired at different times, in admittedly unconventional ways (usually at Coffee Hour) – what makes PCC tick? How do we explain and appreciate our unique heritage (which is unlike any other 'community' church in America). Perhaps even more importantly, how do we honor our sincere attempts at loving-our-neighbor, doing-unto-others, feeding-the-hungry (Casseroles Ministry), and welcoming-the-stranger? How in effect do we connect with unknown individuals, for example, people we have never met, who nevertheless follow our live-streaming broadcasts regularly? How do we put it all together?

Several long-time PCC members have proposed that we develop a redefinition of church-community. Our focus would highlight our inter-denominational approach and emphasize our ability to adapt to evolving networks and

(Con't on page 3)

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### The Chimes

Submit items to

**Lynne Poag via email**

[Chimescoordinator@protestantcommunitychurch.org](mailto:Chimescoordinator@protestantcommunitychurch.org)

### SEPTEMBER CHIMES' ARTICLES

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:  
AUGUST 13, 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](http://www.protestantcommunitychurch.org)



**Sunday School News**  
**Andria Gross**  
**Sunday School Superintendent**



Regular Sunday school ended June 8th and Summer Sunday School began June 15th. Very special gratitude and thanks from the children and me to Sonja Hardwick and Carole Nielson who are the Sunday school teachers during the school year. They both are dedicated to the children and the children's Christian education. They bring their talents and loving hearts every Sunday during regular Sunday school to teach the children what God wants them to know. It's a joy and blessing to teach with Sonja and Carole! During Summer Sunday school, the children will learn about the "Healing Herbs of the Bible." God has given us all that we need and that includes natural herbs which help our bodies stay healthy and heal. The children will learn about the herbs and will plant them to grow at home. For Fathers Day, they made Compound Butter (and recipes) for their dads to use this summer as they grill steaks, hamburgers, and corn on the cob! The different compound butters contained herbs such as Rosemary (benefits digestion and stress reduction), Parsley (boosts immunity, improves heart and kidney health, promotes bone health) and Thyme (good for healthy skin, digestion and memory). During the summer Sunday school, the children (and those who attend fellowship hour) will enjoy tasting some foods and drinks made from various herbs found in the herb garden!

Special thanks to the Shawnee High School youth who came to PCC as a part of Shawnee's Community Service program. With the supervision of Jay Thomas, the Shawnee youth raked, pulled weeds, and prepared the Children's Garden for Summer Sunday school. I appreciate it so much and so do the children! Thanks so much, Jay! Thank you, Brent Schopf, for arranging this! Brent always makes sure the garden is taken care of each year!



**"Christmas in July"** Vacation Bible school will be July 21st, 22nd and 23rd! This theme is a new and different approach to VBS that hopefully will attract lots of families and children to experience the Spirit of Christmas in the middle of a hot summer! It's hard to imagine seeing Christmas trees lit in July and snowmen! But they will be present during VBS with the purpose of teaching the children "WHY" we see them and to remind them that the Spirit of Christmas is not meant for once a year but all year long and every day! For the three nights of VBS, we will take a little road trip together and visit scenery that will remind them of the "reason for the season!" We'll look for

the Angels who were messengers for God, and we'll do some sky gazing, looking for the special stars that direct us to finding the child who came to bring Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy. On the last night, we will stop at the place where the Christ Child was born to Mary, Joseph and the whole world! Along our road trip, we'll sing some familiar Christmas songs and enjoy the delights of yummy Christmas cookies and Reindeer snacks!

(con't on page 6)



## 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)*

advanced methods of communication, including emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, while honoring our historical background. That openness marked by a courageous readiness to face the future will expand our membership while deepening our faith. (*Full Disclosure: I have used A-I for portions of this article.*)

In the future the questions become: Can the church of tomorrow learn from its own clearly defined traditions (like ours)? Can tomorrow's church restore the BEST from the past, preserve it, and then vigorously adapt to the new issues confronting us daily? It's no longer a rhetorical question; it's now a down-to-earth matter of figuring out - how, when, and whether? Is God still "alive-and-well" in the Church? Or is "God still "working His purposes out" in the world? Is it even a question of "Either/Or?" The dialogue can get edgy, confusing, even irritable at times, yet it remains a conversation that is desperately needed... so let's talk some more! And on that hopefully agreeable note I urge you to contact me so we might continue more emphasize our ability to adapt to evolving networks and advanced methods of communication, including emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, while honoring our historical background. That openness marked by a courageous readiness to face the future will expand our membership while deepening our faith. (*Full Disclosure: I have used A-I for portions of this article.*)

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**PCC aka End-of-the-Month Book Club**

The July book selection is *The Map Colorist* by Rebecca D'Harlingue, meeting on July 29, and the August selection is *The Wife, the Maid and the Mistress* by Ariel Lawhon (author of *The Frozen River*), meeting on August 26.

All meetings are at 4pm on the last Tuesday of the month in the PCC library and all are welcome, regardless of whether you have read the book. Come join us!

Alice D'Arcy

**ATTENTION!**

PCC will be having a Casino Night on Saturday, September 27th. Cost and hours will be announced at a later time.

If anyone would like to help, please reach out to me, Linda Hoffman, by phone at 856-816-5494 or email [lindysue121@gmail.com](mailto:lindysue121@gmail.com).

Linda Hoffman  
VP of Development



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

**MISSION COUNCIL SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATIONS****July 13- August 10, 2025**

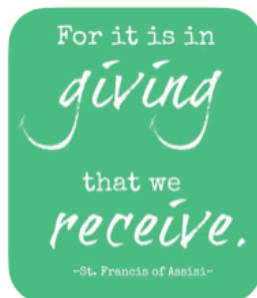
Mission Council is collecting **new** school supplies and requesting cash/check donations to help students be prepared for the first day of school and the months ahead. Donation boxes will be located in the narthex and church office from July 13 – August 10 for the Camden Rescue Mission and Urban Promise. 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. We will be happy to shop for you!

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, loose-leaf binders, folders, and 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**—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!



*(Sunday School News con't)*

Each night at 5:30pm parents, sisters and brothers, uncles, aunts, and grandparents are invited to join us for a light meal before the children are dismissed for the VBS road trip! You don't need a child attending VBS to enjoy the "Christmas Spirit meal gathering!" All are always welcome! The VBS road trip ends at 8:30pm.

Lots of help is needed for VBS! We need people to set-up the scenes each night and helpers at the different stops (Arts and Crafts, Games, and Music). And, we need some Shepherds, Magi, Angels, and of course, Mary and Joseph on the final night of VBS!) Please contact Andria Gross or leave your name at the church office! Thank you for supporting the Children's Christian Education.

*Andria Gross*

### ***Please Donate Your Personal Care Items***

The Mission Council is requesting that you donate the personal care items that you may collect during your summer travels. These items consist of sample shampoos, conditioner, combs, mouthwash, miniature soap (new), body lotion, etc. They may be dropped off at the church office.



Join Kathleen every Tuesday afternoon at 4pm at Protestant Community Church Memorial Hall. She will teach a multi-level Zumba-style class that will be easy to follow, invigorate you, improve your endurance, and be fun at the same time!

There is no charge for the class, but a donation to the church would be most appreciated! Several church members attend so you will know people.

*Kathleen Harkin*



Casserole making is busier than ever. Remember—hunger does not take a summer break. You can help by picking up a casserole to make at home EVERY Saturday at 4pm, or join us in the Todd Building EVERY Tuesday at 10am where we assemble and package cooked food we receive from the Y camps.

*Suzanne Murray*



Our supply of prayer shawls needs to be replenished. If you knit or crochet, please consider making a few. For more information, please contact the office by phone (609)654-4220 or email: [kayla@protestantcommunitychurch.org](mailto:kayla@protestantcommunitychurch.org).

**Fellowship**  
*Breakfast*

*Fellowship Breakfasts will resume in September.*

## YOUTH GROUP

Congratulations to the following youth who graduated 8th grade at Neeta School: Sasha Bonchuk, Caroline Coskery, Amelia Jedwabny, Sofia Knauss, Elizabeth (Ellie) Regan. Stephanie Rahinsky, Kayla MacKinnon, and I proudly watched them graduate with their peers.



Friday night, June 20, we concluded the Youth Group school year with a night of bowling at the Medford Bowling Alley! The youth and leaders from Crossroads Community Church came to join in the fun with us. Having the connection with the Crossroads youth group has been a blessing for our youth. They enjoy having these shared experiences with them which included the retreat they attended together. Hopefully, we will be able to provide other opportunities for them to get to know one another better and to strengthen their faith and relationship with God.

The next step for the youth will be to begin the "Confirm not Conform" confirmation program in the fall with Stephanie and Kayla as the leaders of the youth group. A meeting with the parents to provide them with information about the confirmation program is planned for the summer.

So many very special thanks to Stephanie Rahinsky for her dedication to the youth. Stephanie has been an amazing and wonderful leader and role model for the youth. They have grown so fond of her. I'm excited for Kayla to join Stephanie on the journey with her and the youth. Our youth are so blessed to have Stephanie and Kayla as their leaders and supporters. The youth and I are looking forward to another school year with them.

*Andria Gross*

### **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>



**Single Again** will continue to meet through the summer on Thursday, July 24 and August 28. We meet in the Leopold Study at 6pm. Come join with others who once again find themselves without a partner. Bring ideas of the kind of things you would like to do, and know that friends are welcome. When we meet, we will see what others would suggest for the next month before it is announced in the church bulletin.

*Suzanne Murray*

### July Birthdays

03	Robin Brownell	09	Audra Jedwabny	28	Bill Armstrong
04	Finn Houssman	13	Jennifer Reinfeldt		Finn Eklund
05	Jean Schopfel	15	Deborah Harris	30	Pamela Jones
07	Hugh Felta	15	Griffin Kimble		Jacob Smith
	Paul Vahlstrom	16	Fred Hearn	31	Emily Greatrex
08	Gavin Vitelli	22	Mary Clark		Brian Pistone
09	Emily Espinosa	26	Tess Beachley		



### August Birthdays

02	Lauren Knauss	22	Owen Hoffman		Gary Williams
06	Eleanor Molan		Stephanie Rahinsky	29	Mati Reinfeldt
08	Jim Bennett	23	Inge Boehme	31	Linda Flanagan
12	Sofia Knauss	24	Kieran Koch		
	Jeff Smith		Mike McCormick		
14	Joy Moll	25	Susan Rosenkranz		
16	Caroline Stein	27	Walt Fletcher		
20	Christopher O'Neill	28	Doris M. Davis		



**The Protestant Community Church**  
**100 Stokes Road**  
**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.**