



The Chimes

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

November 2025



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

Fight the Good Fight of Faith

Throughout my life, I have heard people use the parts of scripture that acknowledge the spiritual war going on in the world. 1 Timothy 6:12 says, "Fight the good fight". Ephesians 6:10-18 says we are to "put on the armor of God". I heard one pastor say, "Christ is under attack, so we Christians need to Stick Up Our Dukes."

Jesus, the Prince of Peace who coined the phrase "Turn the other cheek" wants us to fight back against the evil of this generation?

Oh, don't go and talk about my
 father (talk about my father)
 God is my friend (Jesus is my
 friend)
 He made this world for us to live in
 (He made this world)
 And gave us everything (Lord gave
 us everything)
 And all He asks of us (peace)
 Is we give each other love, oh
 yeah. - Marvin Gaye

Yes and no. There is a spiritual battle in the world today, but it isn't the one that gets the most airtime on tv, radio, and social media. We Christians are repeatedly called by God to love our enemies and do good to those that are mean to us. That is the culture war we Christians are "fighting"— love vs. hate.

The armor of God named in scripture is meant to be used to help bring peace and unity to the congregation and the world.

The phrase, "Whenever you point a finger there are 3 pointing back at you" fits nicely with the Christian message. Jesus repeatedly focused on the sin of judging others and being hypocritical. "Those without sin may cast the first stone." I am sad that so many people think hating others is in any way
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The Chimes

Submit items to

Lynne Poag via email

Chimescoordinator@protestantcommunitychurch.org

**DECEMBER
 CHIMES' ARTICLES
 SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
 November 12, 2025**

**Rev. Keith Reed
 Senior 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



The Good Shepherd and His flock.

The Sunday school children are studying Psalm 23. To reinforce their learning, they became sheep that had to keep their flock together. Kent Hardwick played the part of The Good Shepherd. After the game, they made fun sheep cookies and marshmallow sheep. Our children are blessed to have dedicated Sunday school teachers!

(Pastor's message con't)

acceptable in the Christian faith. And yet our news feeds discover what we think and send us horrible memes and video clips that call us to be angry and eventually hate the groups that oppose our way of thinking.

Thankfully we don't have to trust the internet. We have Jesus. What did Jesus do to his enemies, his accusers, his killers? He forgave them because they didn't understand what they were doing. He died on a cross to prove that fighting hate with hate is wrong. Fighting violence with violence is wrong. When a transgendered person is murdered, God weeps. When Charlie Kirk was murdered, God wept. According to the New Testament all human life, in fact, all of creation is sacred because God created it. When we truly open our hearts to the love of Jesus, we are always learning new ways to open our arms wide to welcome the people other folk struggle to love.

Peace,
 Rev. Keith Reed

How to View the PCC Weekly Worship Service

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

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ_RANYCCIVcbP4EioYHAhg/

All past services are available on Youtube.



Aloha for the last time!

For all of you who came to the Casino Night Luau on September 27, I hope you all had a great time and won! Thank you so very much for your support.

For all of you who donated a basket, a table, and an auction item, thank you.

For all of you who helped with setting up and cleaning up, thank you.

I want to thank Lisa and Jim Bennett and Manny Estacio for all of their hard work.

Lastly, without Linda Estacio I could not have done this. She was the rock behind all of this.

I had a great time without winning a thing!

My hula skirt and lei have been put away.

Until next time, thank you again.

By the way, we raised \$10,346.17!

As Rev. Keith would say, "Wahoo!"

Linda Hoffman
VP of Development



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>





Multifaith Service for Peace

November 16, 2025

We invite you to attend the 46th Annual Multifaith Service and Conference for Peace of the Coalition for Peace Action ("Coalition") on Sunday, November 16, 2025, 11:00am, in the Princeton University Chapel. For the twelfth year, the Protestant Community Church is one of the sponsors of this free, uplifting service that brings together people of many faiths who seek peace. This year's preacher is Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson, former General Secretary of the Reformed Church of America, and Director of Church and Society at the World Council of Churches. He is also a Contributing Editor to *Sojourners* Magazine. Please access the following link for further information.

<https://peacecoalition.org/events/1566-save-the-date-46th-annual-multifaith-service-for-peace.html>

The Conference follows from 1:30–4:30pm and registration is required. Conference tickets for in-person attendance are available through the registration link.

<https://peacecoalition.org/events/1457-46th-annual-conference-for-peace.html>

The Coalition is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization devoted to promoting world peace through the abolition of nuclear weapons, a peace economy, and a halt to weapons trafficking. The Coalition is not a political organization and does not endorse any party or candidate, but it does take up issues that are the subject of political discussion.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with us!

Cid Richards



Happy Birthday to our dear Jean Gilday who celebrated being 99 years young on October 28. Her Family and the Youth Group led by Stephanie Rahinsky surprised her with a birthday cake and special fellowship hour on Sunday, October 26. Jean has been a member of our church for 66 years! Her family moved into their home on June 6, 1959, and came to church on June 7. She's been here ever since!

**PCC MISSION COUNCIL GIVING TREE****NOVEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 7, 2025**

This Christmas season, Mission Council wishes you and your family the blessings of happiness, good health, and peace. We will be collecting **new, unwrapped gifts and gift cards (mark \$\$ amount on each gift card)** for children at the Camden Rescue Mission, Legacy Treatment Services, and Urban Promise. The PCC Youth Group and advisers will purchase gifts for the Christian Caring Center young people with PCC Mission Council budgeted funds. Drop-off boxes will be in the church office and Todd 1.

Please select Christmas Tree balls in Todd 1 for our Legacy Treatment Services Adopt-a-Family. The tree will be attended for all selections and donations in Todd 1. Please fill in the signup sheet with your contact information and the gift you are donating.

Saturdays from 4:00 – 5:00pm: November 15, 22, and 29. December 6

Sundays from 9:30 – 11:30am: November 16, 23, and 30. December 7

Due December 7, 2025

Camden Rescue Mission - New unwrapped toys, games, gifts, kits, sports items, and gift cards are requested for boys and girls ages 1-13. Gift cards are requested for older children ages 14-18.

Legacy Treatment Services - Gift requests for a family with three children are on the **white paper balls attached to the Giving Tree**. Please attach the white ball to the **unwrapped gift**.

Urban Promise - New unwrapped toys, games, gifts, kits, sports items, and gift cards are requested for boys and girls ages 1-13. Gift cards are requested for older children ages 14-18.

If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Mission Council Chair Diane Smith, Lynda Miller, or Cid Richards.

SUGGESTIONS:

- **Gift Cards:** Amazon, CVS, Dick's Sporting Goods, Target, Walmart
- **Toys, Games, Gifts, Kits, Sports Items:** Legos, Dolls and Action Heroes including Figures of Color, Trucks and Cars, Board Games, Cards, Puzzles, Science Kits, Art Kits and Art Supplies, Makeup Kits, Jewelry and Jewelry Kits, Sports Team T-shirts and Hats, Soccer Balls, Basketballs, Footballs, Books, and Coloring Books with Crayons or Markers
- **Donations** – Please write a check to PCC with 2025 Mission Council Giving Tree on the memo line. We will be happy to shop for you!

Fellowship Breakfast

Fellowship Breakfast will meet on Saturday, November 15, at 8:30am and the program will begin at 9:00. The speaker will be Bai Kamara who will be speaking about his childhood and career in Sierra Leone, Africa, his journey to America, and how he found a "home" at PCC.

Everyone is welcome!

Ken Roberts

Single Again

On November 20 we will share dinner & fellowship at Illiano Cucina, located in the Village at Taunton Forge in Medford. Reservations are required. Call Suzanne at 609-654-7593 to reserve your place.

Our December date is open for discussion since our regular meeting date falls on Christmas!

Suzanne Murray

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



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)

Beth McGinnis

Youth News



CHRISTMAS STOCKING DRIVE

Our Youth Group's Christmas Stocking Drive will be accepting donations until December 1st. Donations can include: Christmas stockings, socks, fuzzy socks or slippers, pens and markers, adult coloring books, word search books, Christmas candy, small snacks, bar soap, hand sanitizer, tooth brushes, toothpaste, chapsticks, tissue packets, etc.

In addition, if you would like the youth to shop for you, money can be donated to the youth group to purchase necessary items. Stephanie Rahinsky, our youth leader, and our youth will be available at fellowship hour to receive your donations and monetary gifts.

In this season of giving, thank you so much for your generosity.

Stephanie Rahinsky
Senior High Youth Leader

In Memoriam



Doris Davis
10/12/25



CALLING ALL 6TH, 7TH, & 8TH GRADERS!

Come and join the fun happening on Sunday mornings at 9:00am on the stage in Memorial Hall. All students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade and all friends are welcome. Grow in fellowship with peers as you grow in Christ and faith. The earlier weeks will be formative to the group so come with all of your creative ideas, including ideas for a group name as we go forward into the year!

For you have questions, contact Jacquie Long by email at clinong@comcast.net or text to (609) 605-1091. Please indicate the name of the student in your message. We hope to see you all there!

Jacquie Long
Middle School Youth Leader



Daylight saving time will end for the year at 2:00am on Sunday, November 2. Set your clocks back Saturday night before bed!