

SUMMER 2023

CURRENTS



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GLEN ROCK

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The Rev. Terrence O'Brien, Senior Minister
The Rev. Vern L. Dethmers, Minister Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Claire Chadwick	Rev. Terrence O'Brien
Robert Croland	John van Keuren

CONSISTORY

DEACONS

Stephanie Beaudoin
Laura Bird
Leslie Botz
Jessica Fry
Keith Stewart

ELDERS

Gary Montroy
Gail Sternitzke
John van Keuren
Elizabeth Vella

CHURCH STAFF

Janet Montroy, Music Director
Jessica Fry, Financial Administrator
Diane Herrlett, Secretary/Property Manager
Linda Johnson, Custodian



Notes from PASTOR TERRY

Dear Friends,

This Sunday, June 25th is going to be an exciting day in the lives of two storied churches of the Reformed Church in America. The Community Church of Glen Rock will be hosting a joint worship service in the sanctuary at 10 am with Upper Ridgewood Community Church. The two churches chancel choirs have been rehearsing and will be singing the anthem together under the direction of Mike Roth, URCC's Music Director. Janet Montroy will be conducting the Handbell Ringers and sharing the organ pieces with Hyein Jang. And interim minister Rev. Tom Larkin will be participating in the liturgy. We will be holding an expanded Coffee Hour after the service in the Drop-in-Center.

Upper Ridgewood, like ourselves and most other mainline churches, has been struggling with a post Covid decline in membership. They have been weighing their options moving forward, ever since they received word months ago of the intended retirement of their pastor Rev. Nolan Palsma.

One of the options that they are considering is merging with another church. The church has met, looked at, and even held joint services with neighboring houses of worship. Ideally, their faith community is looking for a church in proximity; one that has ample worship, education, program, and parking space. More important than anything else, though, Upper Ridgewood is seeking a church partnership that is welcoming and accepting. They want to feel at home in their new environment and not like visitors.

These criterias jump off the page to me. They are an incredibly accurate description of the Community Church of Glen Rock – a family that cares. Given our financial situation, the Admin Team and Consistory agreed that we should have a committee reach out to Upper Ridgewood. That meeting as well as a subsequent gathering of the two full Consistories were very productive and positive.

So, here we are; two churches taking action to overcome the challenges that they both face. Will a merger come out of this? It is far too premature to tell. Only God knows the answer to that question. We are called by God as Christians, to be in community with each other and to do so, without intent on gaining something in return. We would be wise to take the advice of Paul in his letter to the Galatians when he says, “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Let us joyfully open our doors and come together for the time being. Prayerfully, we can support each other on the journey that lay ahead! I hope you will find the time to take part in this celebration. It's what the Community Church of Glen Rock has always done.

Many Blessings, Pastor Terry

Building with a Vision Plan

There will be a meeting with the Communities of Practice teams on June 27th. At this meeting we will discuss exciting events and programs to be introduced in the fall with the beginning of the new church.

Stay Connected

We are now a few months in since we resumed live streaming Sunday services. Our live stream link can be found on our website by clicking “Watch Page”; or services can also be viewed on our YouTube channel. We’d love to hear your feedback! If you have any questions or suggestions, we encourage you to reach out to Jess Fry, Program Coordinator, via email to Program@communitychurchgr.com or call the church office during operating hours which are now 9 am-12 pm Tuesday through Friday.

Please follow us on Face Book (The Community Church of Glen Rock) and Twitter (@CCGRGrowth). Check back regularly where you will find inspirational quotes and psalms as well as information on what is happening at CCGR. Instagram coming soon, stay tuned!

Treasurer's Note

It's that time of year again.....summertime! This is our annual plea for everyone to remain current in their pledges so that the church can meet its obligations throughout the summer months. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Janet Montroy Music Notes

I am writing this on June 22, one day past the Summer Solstice. This is my favorite time of year, a season filled with long, warm days, the beautiful abundance of nature and a little relaxation from the usual routines of school or work. Summer feels like a wonderful gift, one that we can all share in. Since my mind often runs in musical channels, I am reminded of a favorite hymn, “All Things Bright and Beautiful”. The words were written in 1848 by Cecil Frances Alexander, an Anglo-Irish poet and hymnwriter. She wrote over 400 hymns in her lifetime, many of which are still sung today. Her best-known hymn is probably “All Things Bright and Beautiful”. It appeared in her collection “Hymns for Little Children” and was part of a section that sought to make the words of the Apostle’s Creed intelligible to children. The hymn is an interpretation of the opening words of the Creed, “I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth”. It names and acknowledges the beauties of the earth – flowers, birds, mountains and rivers, the colors of the sunset, even the cold wind in the winter – and reminds us that “The Lord God made them all”. I particularly like the last verse of the hymn:

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

I love the marvelous simplicity of the words “who has made all things well”! They give me an image of God as a craftsman of extreme competence. Every part of God’s creation is designed to work perfectly and to harmonize with other parts. That would have been enough...and yet there is more. Creation is also beautiful, and the hymn reminds us to take note of that beauty and praise God for it. This Sunday our Chancel Choir will join with the choir of the Upper Ridgewood Community Church to present a setting of “All Things Bright and Beautiful” by the English composer John Rutter. I hope that this flowing and melodic anthem will inspire you to thoughts of thanks and praise for the beauties of our world.

Donna Nihen’s “News & Notes”

As a Publicity Chair along with Bob, in addition to staying on top of church publicity locally and regionally via coordinating newspaper ads, press releases, social media & neighborhood window flyers, etc., I found it a calling just prior to the outbreak of the pandemic to share with our congregants on a weekly basis by communicating current church news to our congregation with a brief on-line weekly update. Communication, I felt, was of vital importance to those in our church family – especially when matters became so critical with COVID, leaving us all closed off from one another.

The small narrative update has since grown into a weekly ‘News & Notes’, with intentional focus on keeping all our congregants informed of all key aspects of church activity, starting with what Pastor Terry’s weekly message is, the scripture reference, and how to access it on-line if one chooses to watch virtually.

I found it of utmost importance to highlight any public 'prayers' requested for members of our congregation. Also listed is another group of special ongoing prayer needs requested by our congregants for friends and loved ones. It is hoped that in order to keep it updated, those who requested these prayers will keep me informed when it's time to remove individual names. I find it of key importance for us to keep in prayer certain national/international crisis as well, and so I often highlight these.

Also included are announcements of upcoming special church programs, fundraisers, including recaps highlighting events held. A reminder of any ministry events (i.e., Women's Ministry; Book Group and other 'like' gatherings) are included, as well.

In addition to sharing the church news and prayer needs, I have found we all like to celebrate with one and other life's significant moments, and so, congregants' birthdays, births of children and grandchildren, and other milestone celebrations have become a constant in the 'News & Notes'. And yes, sometimes, of equal importance, is the sharing of losses in our lives.

Of special importance is news from the Glen Rock Religious Association, which is included when appropriate. Events such as the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service, as well as the Independence Day Religious Communities Food Drive – are both examples of what the GRRRA organizes. I've often included town news that I feel might be of interest to all. Particularly informative is the weekly Borough News, which contains pertinent facts and announcements for all residents.

The feedback I've received re: this weekly 'News & Notes' is that many look forward to it, especially as a means of communication – particularly those who haven't been able to physically be at church. The distribution is quite extensive, as many who have moved away from the area have requested that they continue to receive a copy. Communication is such an important key to making ALL feel 'a part of' our church family.



Religious
Communities
of Glen Rock

4TH OF JULY FOOD DRIVE!

Religious Communities of Glen Rock will collect **non-perishable** food items and cash donations at Glen Rock's Independence Day Parade on Tuesday, July 4th.

Your donations will help the Social Services Association of Ridgewood and Vicinity and the Center for Food Action feed the hungry.

So bring cans and/or cash with you to the parade and help our hungry neighbors!

Thanks to the people of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
for leading this year's efforts!
Special thanks to Kilroy's Wonder Market.



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Graduation

Congratulations to James Stewart who is graduating from Glen Rock High School. He will be attending Penn State University in the fall. We all wish him the best of luck!



Happy Summer Birthdays

June: June 1 Joseph Kaselow, June 3 Bob Croland , June 5 Harry Horeisch
July: July 5 Gail Sternitzke, July 7 Jean Franklin, July 13 Nancy Croland,
July 14 Jo Ann Jennings, July 19 Sharon Bieszard, July 20 Peter
Bieszard, July 27 Donna Nihen, July 28 Noah Van Vliet
August: August 1 Phyllis Mayer, August 12 Eric Fogarty,
August 17 Michael Bieszard, August 28 Bethany Kazimir