

*NOV. / DEC. 2023*

# *CURRENTS*



## ***COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GLEN ROCK***

354 Rock Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452

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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  
Stephanie Beaudoin, Grace Notes Director  
Jessica Fry, Financial Administrator /  
Program Coordinator  
Diane Herrlett, Secretary/Property Manager  
Linda Johnson, Custodian



Dear Friends,

What a week it has been! We went from the summer sunscreen weather of two weeks ago to the winter morning frost and chill of the past week. If there was any indicator or doubt that colder days loom in the near future, this week was a rude wake-up call. And it's a good reminder that life is all about change.

If we don't change, then we are not growing. The difficulty we have as mortal human beings, is that we don't necessarily like change. We enjoy instead the cushy comfort of the routine, of the familiar.

There are times though, when willingly, and sometimes unwillingly, we need to make a change. Do we have a knock-down, drag-out fight with the change at all cost? Or do we accept it with a determined smile on the face? A lot depends on whether the change is external or internal.

We can't control the things outside of us. We certainly try our best to do so. But inevitably change will occur regardless of what measures we take. We have no control over the weather, if it's going to be a sunny pleasant day or a freezing wind-swept afternoon.

The change we can control, is the one that we make internally. We can choose how we respond to what is happening around us. We can choose how, when, where or why we change. I believe the choices we do make are a result of our outlook on life itself.

Do we see change as a faith-filled opportunity to grow no matter what the outcome will or will not be? My prayer is that we all may have the strength to recognize that any change can be a good change when we invite God to be our guiding light. Hello change! Hello growth!

Many Blessings,  
Pastor Terry



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## Daylight Savings

A reminder to everyone that this weekend is Daylight Savings Time. Enjoy an extra hour of sleep. Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night. You will feel a little more rested when you head off to church. Don't worry though. We will have the church doors opened an hour early for anyone who forgets. ☺

## Service of Remembrance

On Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> we will pause in our 10:00 am service to remember those in our church family who have gone on to eternal rest in the past year. As each of the names is read, a candle will be lit and we will hold that child of God in silent prayer. It is a moving moment in the service. We invite any family members to join us and to share the memories they have of that loved one at our coffee hour after the worship service.

## Adopt-a-Bill

Adopt – a – Bill is just that, an opportunity for you to adopt and pay for a one-time expense item that the church incurs, or to adopt a recurring expense for one month. We often ask ourselves at times in the year if there is any other way that we can help out the church beyond our pledged commitment. And we want to put a face on that assistance. Such expenses will be included in the Currents. There will be a wide range of cost items, giving everyone the opportunity to participate. It's just another option for you in helping out our church at those times during the year when you might have the resources to do so.

Live Web Studios Website Update	\$650.00	Music Musician Fee	\$150.00
PSE&G Partial Payment	\$121.56	Fireboss Fire Extinguisher	\$184.00
FORCE termite Pest Control	\$85.00	Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection	\$420.00
Kamerling Constuction Roofing	\$400.00	Perry's Florist Flowers	\$90.98

## Stewardship Month

November is Stewardship Month here at the Community Church. We would like to encourage you to consider pledging for 2024. It's not too late to show your support for CCGR by making a monetary commitment. A pledge is not a binding contract, but a goal you seek to fulfill in your effort to give back to the church. It can be amended if your financial circumstances change. The important thing is not how much you give. What matters most is that we give something.

The church will be using the pledged giving figures when setting our budget for the current year. In short, your pledge plays a vital role in the continued missions, ministries, and maintenance of this church. Just as Paul went about seeking support for the church in Jerusalem, we are seeking your support for the Community Church in Glen Rock. Won't you please say yes to the ongoing efforts to provide a vibrant oasis, where like-minded Christians may gather in fellowship and in worship.

Many Blessings,  
Pastor Terry O'Brien

## Pledging Made Simple

Once again, pledge envelopes for 2024 will **not** be pre-numbered. Each member / family will be assigned a number – such number will be communicated when they receive their 2024 envelopes. When an envelope is used, the user should indicate their assigned number on the front of the envelope. This is being done in order to reduce expenses and eliminate the excessive amounts of envelopes the church purchases only to be discarded at year's end.

Members who do not need envelopes (perhaps they pay CCGR directly through their bank's online bill pay feature or perhaps they pay on an annual basis, etc.) are requested to let the church office know that envelopes are not needed.

Much like paying any of your other bills, you can set up Community Church of Glen Rock as a vendor (just like paying PSE&G or a credit card bill) on your banking online bill payment platform. The payment is then mailed directly to the church by the bank / bill payment vendor.

If you're over 70 1/2 years old and have to satisfy a required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA each year, please consider giving to CCGR and enjoying the extra tax benefit. By authorizing a distribution from one's IRA, paid directly to CCGR, members have found this satisfies the requirements of a "qualified charitable distribution," earning tax-free treatment. This provision applies to traditional IRAs only, not 401(k)s. If you'd like to give to CCGR from your IRA, please have your distribution made payable to Community Church of Glen Rock and sent to CCGR 354 Rock Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452, Attn: Finance Administrator.

## **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

The Religious Community of Glen Rock (RCGR) will be holding their annual interfaith Thanksgiving worship service on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm. The service, which rotates each year from one house of worship to the next, will be held this year at All Saints Episcopal Church (40 Central Ave). Religious leaders from the various denominations here in Glen Rock, as well as some of their members, will be participating in the service which marks its 54<sup>th</sup> year.

This year the service has more meaning than ever. The wars and loss of innocent lives in Ukraine, Israel, and in Gaza are an indelible reminder of just how fragile this world is in which we live. Images of death and violence are seared into our visions of humanity.

The trickle-down effect is rearing its head in the violence and divisive rhetoric seen and heard right here in the US and around the world. Now is the time for us to stand in solidarity with those who seek peace and desire to put an end to these conflicts.

Amid all this gloom and doom there is much to be thankful for. We are truly blessed to have a meal, a coat, and a roof over our head, when so many in this world have none. Let us come together and give thanks to the Lord our God.

All residents and their guests are invited to share in this communal celebration of Thanksgiving. Residents are invited to bring a food donation which will be given to the Center for Food Action.

I look forward to seeing you on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Pastor Terry

## **THEIR BACK!**

## **PIANOMEN III**

After overwhelming response from the PIANOMEN I and PIANOMEN II concerts, we are bringing PIANOMEN III back to Fellowship Hall on

**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

Four extraordinary musicians bring the music of Billy Joel and Elton John to life and share the stories behind the music. Favorites from last year's concert will be performed along with some new gems.

Don't miss this fabulous evening of entertainment while at the same time supporting CCGR. Be sure to invite your friends! That's how we can truly make this fall fundraiser a phenomenal success.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite or at the Church office for \$35 and \$50.



## Advent Schedule

November 26 <sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Sunday Christ the King	10:00 am Worship
December 3 <sup>rd</sup> – First Sunday of Advent Wreath and Plant Pick up	10:00 am Worship
December 10 <sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Advent Music Sunday & all church Christmas Potluck Luncheon	10:00 am Worship
December 17 <sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Advent Cookie Exchange	10:00 am Worship
December 19 <sup>th</sup> – Women’s Ministry Christmas Luncheon	time tbd
December 24 <sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve – Candlelight	7:00 pm Worship
December 25 <sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day – No Service Merry Christmas!	
December 31 <sup>st</sup> – New Year’s Eve Bagel Sunday	10:00 am Worship

## Property

### Hamilton Garden

Those of you who use the Hamilton Ave entrance to the church parking lot must be well aware of the new garden that was recently planted. There is a beautiful story behind it. The seed was initially planted in a conversation Doris Van Ostenbridge had with Edward Chen. She wanted to do something to honor the memory and life of her late husband Bob who had enjoyed his work tremendously with the Property Committee.

What Doris chose to do, was to purchase the plants for a garden on the Hamilton Ave side of Fellowship Hall. A design for the garden was laid out by Cheryl Wardrop. John van Keuren, Doris, and Cheryl went to the nursery to pick out the shrubbery. Mean-while, Phil Gulmy and his crew had cleared the bed, applied for permits, and then awaited approval from the borough.

With the clearance of paper work and the delivery of the plants in hand, all systems were a go. The actual planting proceeded smoothly under the care of Phil and the Gulmy gang. In a little over a day, what recently was an eye soar, is now a beautiful site to see.

This project would not have been possible if it were not for the generosity of Edward Chen, John van Keuren, Cheryl Wardrop, Phil Gulmy, and especially Doris Van Ostenbridge who has given us all something by which to remember the wonderful life of Bob Van Ostenbridge.



### Roof Work

Recently the Property Committee was made aware that the flat roof over the parlor and kitchen needs to be replaced. The job will entail the complete removal of the existing roof. The committee looked at four potential roofing contractors. And after a careful vetting process of them, Property has recommended that the church go with Arid Solutions.

The cost for this project is going to be \$69,900. The Admin Committee recommended that Consistory approve and move forward with the project. Consistory has voted unanimously to do so, noting the necessity. As such, the roof work will likely begin shortly, prior to the winter weather season. Once the roof is completed, repair of the ceiling in the Parlor will follow.



## Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry is planning to hold a collection of toiletry and paper product essentials for the River Homeless Mission of Hackensack's 2nd Reformed Church. Pastor Don McCracken who has preached here at Community Church periodically, serves as head pastor. Further details will be shared over the next week or two about this worthy outreach project that will be held the latter part of November and throughout Advent.

## *Women's Ministry*

### **'Ghostly Get-Together'**

*The Women's Ministry held a 'Ghostly Get-Together'*

*On Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.*

*Thank you to Leslie Botz, who shared her daughter's (Corinne Botz) book, "Haunted Houses", along with recordings of interviews she had conducted of several people across the U.S. who*

*have encountered 'ghostly' experiences in their homes.*

*Additionally, a huge 'thank you' to Robin Emery for opening up her home for this 'ghoulish' happening!!*



## Confirmation

All Interested Parents and Students,

I would like to pass along information about our upcoming Confirmation class. I'm so excited to have our CCGR youth taking part in this spiritual journey. There are five participating at this time.

Ava Beaudoin  
Charlotte Gomez  
Alison Montgomery  
Ava Montgomery  
Rhys Tsiang

I am inviting any other 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who are interested in joining this class to contact me at the church office. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. We typically will meet from 4:00pm - 5:00pm on Sunday afternoons through the month of June. We will work around Easter Sunday, the holidays, and school spring break.

At our first class I will give the youth study material. There is a minimal amount of reading and a greater emphasis placed on participation and the exchanging of beliefs. I realize how much work the students already have with school. Additionally, each student will have an adult mentor. That individual will serve as a guide over the course of the class.

Confirmation will take place during Sunday morning worship in late June. Lastly, we are planning on having some kind of retreat or service project towards the end of the course. The students and parents will have input on that before any decisions are made. Please feel free to share this information with any and all potential confirmands.

Many Blessings,  
Pastor Terry O'Brien



## Worship



**Please contact Diane Herrlett in the church office to let her know that you'd like to help out on an upcoming Sunday.**

**201-444-4625**

**(No experience necessary!)**



**A BIG 'THANK YOU' to the high school youth who baked and wrapped delicious cookies for our after-church social hour on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>!**