

HERE'S HOPE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY EDITION 2018

NOTICE

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Hope Presbyterian Church, 617 Hope Chapel Rd, Lakewood, NJ will be held following the 11:00 am worship service on

Sunday, January 21, 2018 in the sanctuary for the following purpose:

- 1) Receive reports from committees from 2017
- 2) To act on any other items of business brought before the meeting.

By order of the Session
Pam Flockhart Pro Tem Clerk of Session
Rev. Paul Rack, Pastor

Valentine's Day Luncheon

February 18th after Church Service

Soup, Sandwich, Drink and a Dessert will be offered.

A \$5.00 donation per person would be greatly appreciated.

All are WELCOME!

Contact Cathie Strauss or Carol Urm with any questions.

Congratulations

*Chris Earle, Chella Rajakumar and
Tammi Beyer.*

All three are now new Session Members.

Thank You

*Hillary Bryce, Virginia Kaiser and
Janine Gorsak*

For the hard work all three of you have done over the past 3 years



Dear Janine and Hope Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your very generous donations to Ella G Clarke School. Our families were delighted to have gifts to open this Christmas. Happy New Year!

Love, Tara Napolitano (School Counselor)



OFFICE MAIL

Dear Hope Presbyterian Church,

I wish to extend my personal thanks to you all on behalf of the East Orange VA NJ HCS patients and staff for your donations though out the year. 100% of your monetary and food donations will be used to supplement the excellent care and services provided to our Veteran patients and their families at the Lakewood Vet Center. We are very grateful for your generosity and support of our Nations' Veterans.

Sincerely, Tyrone Steed (Voluntary Service Program Manager)

Dear Friends,

I write simply to say thank you, for making Presbyterian Disaster Assistance a priority out of many opportunities to give and serve. Your gift is deeply needed and greatly appreciate, and I am privileged to speak this word of gratitude on behalf of those for whom your generosity brings renewed hope and joy in the wake of disaster and its aftermath. Your gift of \$1320 for Disaster relief—Atlantic Regional Hurricanes is perfect, a blessing from God above in a moment it is most needed here below.

In Christ's peace, The Rev. Dr. Laurie A Kraus

The full letter can be found of the office window.

Pastor Paul's Page

How Often Do We Want to Remember Jesus?

The Lord Jesus, on the night before he was crucified, gave his disciples one, particular, specific way to remember him. He took some of the bread left over from the Passover meal. He blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took one of the cups of wine also left over from the meal. He blessed it and shared it with them as well, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me."

Jesus did a lot of things. We who follow him try to remember them all. We try to remember and keep all his teachings. We want to remember Jesus all the time. But there is only one thing that he did which he himself identified as *the* way to remember him. And that is the sharing of bread and cup which we call by many names including the Eucharist, the Divine Liturgy, Holy Communion, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

In this Sacrament, we find summed up the various ways in which Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

We are reminded of the bread and wine brought to Abraham by the priest-king Melchizedek, who prefigures Christ (Genesis 14:18; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5, 6, 7).

We are reminded most obviously of Passover, and the lamb whose blood saved the people from death (Exodus 12).

We are reminded of how God fed the people in the wilderness with the "bread" of manna (Exodus 16:4).

We are also reminded of how Jesus fulfills the Day of Atonement ritual in which sacrificial blood is used to purify the Temple and reestablish the relationship of the people with God, and a goat bears the people's sin away (Leviticus 16).

We are reminded of the way the Suffering Servant also bears the sin of others (Isaiah 53).

We are reminded of the bread that was offered to God daily in the tabernacle and temple (Exodus 25:30; Leviticus 8:26, etc.).

We are reminded of how Jesus feeds the people, multiplying the loaves on the hillside (Mark 6:30-44//; John 6).

We are reminded of all the meals Jesus celebrates with people, especially the way he is known after his resurrection by his disciples who see him blessing and breaking bread (Luke 24:13-35).

In other words, the whole story of God's saving activity with people is reflected and expressed in this Sacrament.

Therefore, the early church, wanting to remember him frequently and regularly, celebrated this simple meal at least every Lord's Day when gathering for worship. (Some Christians developed the discipline of celebrating the Sacrament as often as *daily*.)

In the corruption of the Medieval Roman church, the people got out of the habit of participating in the Sacrament regularly. A Christian only had to take communion once-a-year as a bare minimum; and the people were excluded from receiving the cup. It became a mysterious thing priests did and people watched.

The Protestant Reformers reinstated the Sacrament at the center of church life. John Calvin in particular advocated celebrating it at least every Lord's Day, as in the early church. In response to this Reformation critique, the Roman Catholic church then reformed its own practice to encourage more frequent communion. Unfortunately, in some branches of Protestantism the baggage from the corrupt Medieval church was too weighty, and they failed to institute weekly celebration of the Sacrament. By the turn of the 20th century, some Christian churches had degenerated to the point where they were remembering Jesus according to the way he wanted and instructed his followers to remember him only two or four times a year.

Pastor Paul's Page Continued

What? What was their problem? Were they somehow getting *enough* of Jesus? Were they worried they might get *too much* of Jesus? Did they just have better memories than most humans, and only needed to remember Jesus occasionally? Did they only dole out Jesus in infrequent bits to artificially make the Sacrament seem more important and meaningful? Hello? When did Jesus say, "Remember me, but not too often"? When did receiving the body and blood of the Lord become something people imagined could lose meaning for them if they did it too much? The meaning comes from Jesus Christ, by his word and command. If individual Christians, with their brief attention spans, were bored by this, that was certainly not the fault of the Sacrament instituted by the Lord; it was that of his wayward people.

By far the *worst* reason for infrequently celebrating the Sacrament is religious bigotry. It's "too Catholic," I have been told. Which is ironic, since the Reformers wanted communion *more often* than the practice in the Roman church. Anyway, does this mean we're not supposed to follow Jesus' explicit instructions just because some other Christians *do*? Seriously?

In the second half of the 20th century some of these churches, including the Presbyterians, finally began to change, not without resistance. My dad's generation of pastors was responsible for getting us to where it is now the norm to celebrate the Sacrament monthly (even though there is no New Testament warrant for doing much of anything according to a monthly calendar.)

But monthly communion was always a stop-gap, provisional, temporary, transitional measure intended to lead eventually to the weekly celebration practiced in the early church and advocated by the Reformers. Well, okay, it's been 50 years already. Maybe it's time for phase two?

In this the burden of proof is squarely upon those who want to keep communion restricted to monthly. If there are any coherent biblical and theological reasons for this, I haven't heard them.

Look: Jesus gives us a specific way to remember him. The question is really not how often we want to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It is: How often do we want to remember Jesus?

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MISSION work to be done throughout the year!

MISSION WORK IN OUR MAILBOXES



It's so easy to help! Please remember to save the cancelled stamps from cards and letters that you receive in the mail. Place the stamps in the "mail box" in the narthex and we will do the rest. We will be sending a package of cancelled stamps to our Wounded Veterans several times a year. This is an on going project.

MISSION WORK IN THE FOOD STORE



The staff at the Lakewood Vet Center are deeply grateful for our year round giving to their pantry shelves and gift cards for the Veterans and clients who frequent their counseling and support groups. In addition to canned pasta and meats and tuna, crackers (to compliment the generous donations of peanut butter and jelly) would be greatly appreciated along with canned soups, juice packs and snack packs.

Veterans don't want a handout they want a hand up!

MISSION WORK IN THE CLOSET

Cleaning out the closets? Don't forget that we now have a Used Clothing Drop Off Shed in the parking lot. You can donate all types of clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed toys. **NONE** of your donations will be cut up or shredded. All of your donations will be handed out to people in need. The church will also be paid by the pound for all items donated. Please do not place rags, fabric scraps, toys or household goods in the box.



MISSION WORK FROM THE HEART

DISTASTER RELIEF We will continue our efforts in the New Year to contribute to the Hurricane Kits. The Mission Committee will also be learning more from PDA Presbyterian Disaster Assistance about details for Mission Trips in the summer of 2018 and beyond.

With all of the disasters that are occurring around the country we are collecting supplies to help the victims get back on their feet. There are three different kits that are needed. A Clean Up Bucket, Hygiene Kit or a School Kit. Donations can be for everything that is needed in one kit or just a few items for a kit. The Mission team will collect the items and assemble them through Hope Church efforts and deliver them to a distribution location in Trenton.

See the next page for all the items that are needed.



*The purpose of life is not to be happy.
It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate,
to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

GIFT OF HEART KITS

Disaster relief

CLEAN UP BUCKET

(Value \$75.00)

- 1 five gallon bucket
- 5 scouring pads
- 7 sponges, assorted sizes
- 1 scrub brush
- 1 pkg. cleaning towels (18 reusable, like Easy Wipes)
- 1 50oz. or two 25oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- 1 liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol), 12oz
- 1 bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn), 24-28oz.
- 1 1 pkg. clothespins, 48-50
- 1 clothesline, two 50ft or one 100ft.
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pairs latex gloves (like Playtex)
- 1 pair work gloves
- 1 roll of 24 to 28 count heavy duty trash bags (30-45 gallon, remove from carton)
- 1 bottle insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion; not aerosol) 6-9 oz

Please purchase all liquids in plastic bottles. Send on new, unopened materials. Put all items in the plastic bucket, packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape.

*Some local fast-food restaurants are willing to give pickle buckets (or other 5 gallon buckets will re-sealable lids) or offer them for a small fee. These can be washed out and used for the cleanup buckets.

HYGIENE KIT

(Value \$15.00)

- 1 hand towel (approximately 16"x28", no fingertip or bath towel)
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 wide tooth comb (remove from package)
- 1 nail clipper (UPDATE: nail clippers with metal files or emery boards attached are now accepted; remove from package)
- 1 bar of soap (bath size in wrapped)
- 1 toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 10 Band-Aids or other adhesive bandage strips

Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste which has an extended expiration date will be added to international Hygiene Kit shipment. Seal all items in the one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

SCHOOL KIT

(Value \$15.00)

- 1 pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
 - 3 70 count spiral notebooks or tape-bound pads of 8"x10 1/2" ruled paper or pads with 200-210 sheets of ruled paper. Do not include filler paper.
 - 1 30 centimeter ruler (12")
 - 1 hand held pencil sharpener
 - 6 new pencils with erasers
 - 1 large eraser
 - 1 box or 24 crayons
 - 1 cloth bag, 12"x14" to 14"x17" finished size cotton cloth bag with cloth handles; see pattern below. (Please do not use reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)
- Pack all items in the cloth bags.

SCHOOL KIT

(Continued)

School Bag Pattern

Material needed:

1/2 yd "Kid Friendly" Fabric

Make the Bag:

Cut two pieces of fabric 13"x17"
Place the two pieces together, right sides together, and sew a 1/2" seam down one side, across the bottom, and up the other side, leaving the top open.
Turn the bag so the seam is in the inside.
Turn under 1/2" on the top edges and press.
Turn under 2" at the top edge to form a hem and stitch.

Make the Handles:

Cut two pieces of fabric 4"x 22"
Fold in half one of the 4"x 22" pieces with right sides together. Stitch with a 1/2" seam allowance and turn inside out, **or** turn under and press 1/2" on long side of fabric. Fold wrong sides together. Top stitch close to edge. Press. Repeat for the second handle. Press. Turn under raw edges and stitch to the top of the bag.

Finished bag will be approximately 12"x14". Place items in bag

Canvas tote bags can also be used. Inexpensive canvas bags are available at area craft and discount stores. Tote bags can also be purchased online at www.myshopangel.com

Contact Information

FOR:	PHONE	CONTACT
Hope Church	364-8318	Susan in the Office
Pastor at home	908-625-1844	Pastor Paul Rack
Pastor's e-mail		PaulRack@optonline.net
Clerk of Session		
President of corporate matters	814-1837	Hillary Bryce
Treasurer	942-0780	Tammi Beyer
Music Director	275-1937	Irina Bessedá
Sexton		
Senior / Junior Youth Group	(908)229-5989	Peggy Wuestneck
Here's Hope	364-8318	Susan in the Office
Veterans Food Donations	367-6627	Ken Williams
Flowers	364-2182	Carol Urm
Quilting Group	928-0121	Laura Johnson
Redevelopment		



Be sure to check us out on Facebook at Hope Presbyterian Church

If you would prefer to receive Here's Hope by e-mail just let Susan in the office know by sending her an e-mail at:
617HopeChurchOffice@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

Monday Wednesday Thursday:
 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Closed Tuesday and Friday

The office phone number is
 732-364-8318

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January Birthdays!
 Beth Magee Fred Flockhart
 Lois Sievewright Nico Ferriolo
 Rachel Gill Samantha Strauss
 Thomas Kaiser Marilyn Strauss
 Barbara Hicks Ayla May Earle
February Birthdays!
 Sarah Strauss Christopher Hicks
 Jarret DiGiantomasso Jillian Travisano
 Kathi Johnson Niel Huy
 Stephen Marks Michael Revier Jr.
 Mikki Hayes
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 If anyone's birthday was omitted at any point throughout the year please let the office know and it will be added to the list
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Session Members 2018

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|----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| Tony Travisano | 732-966-1898 | Chris Earle | 732-279-4224 |
| Sharon Green | 732-276-6527 | Sally Krutulís | 732-703-3013 |
| Tammi Beyer | 732-942-0780 | Patty Williams | 732-367-6627 |
| Bill Hook | 732-431-3217 | Chella Rajakumar | 732-534-5996 |
| Cathie Strauss | 732-363-5985 | | |

Clerk of Session Pam Flockhart Pro tem