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FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

What a wonderful start to the program year it has been! I am so grateful to all of you for being present, for volunteering for all our programs, and for caring so deeply about being the church together in this new season. I know the rest of the program year is going to be life-giving for all of us, thanks to all your participation and care.

We have already had a wonderful start with multiple new and old programs, including our Outreach and Service opportunities, Sunday School, Youth Group, Doughnuts & Theology, and much more.

Doughnuts and Theology

As many of you have already experienced, we have a fantastic series led by our staff for our new adult education hour where we have been asking the question: *Why do we worship?*

Every week through activities and conversation, we are identifying why each element of worship is important. The next few weeks include the following themes:

October 9: Why Do We Worship? Series: Creeds & Affirmation of Faith

Led by Patrick Allred

October 16: No Doughnuts and Theology (3rd Grade Bible Sunday)

October 23: Why Do We Worship? Series: Prayer

Led by Rev. Audrey Webber

October 30: Intergenerational Sunday School/Adult Ed

Led by Alexandra Mead



Real Prayer

We hope you will join us for a few moments of contemplative prayer and writing prompts. You can come to one or all of them! Each gathering is a stand alone session to reflect on the past week. Everyone is welcome

Wednesdays at 2:00 pm
in the Parish House.

All-Church Dinner

It has been such a joy to gather together for a meal during the week! Join us every

Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the Parish House. Please register on our website so we know how much food we need.

Interested in volunteering? We need hosts to help set the tables and check everyone in. Email Dianne or Audrey to let us know:

DianneGrenz48@gmail.com
AWebber@pcmorristown.org

We hope you will join us!

*Blessings,
Audrey*

*Rev. Audrey Webber (she/her)
Covenant Supply Associate Pastor*



"DREAMING AND SCHEMING" STAFF MINI-RETREAT

A Note from Senior Pastor, Daniel Vigilante



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*We are blessed
to have an
incredible team!*

I want to begin by telling you about the amazing mini-retreat your staff had this past Monday.

We gathered at the Presbyterian Church in Morris Plains, which graciously allowed us to use their space, to brainstorm future possibilities for PCM and to make plans for how to bring those possibilities to reality.

We playfully nicknamed our time together, “dreaming and scheming.”



Let me share a few observations from our retreat:

- 1.** We are blessed to have an incredible team! They are creative and faithful, attentive to the movement of the Spirit working among us, and dedicated to the Church and its mission. I can't praise them enough for their hard work on behalf of the congregation.
- 2.** It is clear to me that God has done great things through PCM... and God will continue to do great things, as we seek to follow Jesus in our church and in our world. I think we are all looking forward to seeing where God is leading us.
- 3.** There is a feeling of excitement and optimism about the future! We created a list of near-term priorities and longer-term visions. I am filled with anticipation as we plan new opportunities to engage in outreach, grow in faith, and build up the PCM community. If you're not already involved, I hope you'll consider joining us sometime.

*Yours, in Christ,
Daniel*

*Rev. Daniel Vigilante (he/him)
Senior Pastor*



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*God has done
great things
through PCM.*



PCM AT-A-GLANCE



IN MEMORY OF TERRY FLATEN

In recognition of Terry, who recently passed away, and his dedication and service as a Stephen Minister, the Stephen Ministry recently dedicated a bookshelf for the Library **in his honor**.

Pictured are Norm Dykstra, who built the bookshelf, Ginger Flaten, Terry's wife, and Jim Wood, Stephen Leader.



TENEBRAE CHOIR COMES TO COG!

World-renown UK classical choir, Tenebrae, is planning a special performance at The Church on the Green on **November 8**.

Tickets are on sale now!



MORRISTOWN TRUNK-OR-TREAT CANDY COLLECTION

We are participating once again in Morristown's **Halloween Trunk-or-Treat!** Please donate your favorite treats in the collection bins in the back of church or at the Parish House for volunteers to hand out on Halloween!



DEACON IN-REACH DAY: OCT 29

Join us for our next Deacon In-Reach Day: **Saturday, October 29 8:30 am - 12:00 pm.** We will meet at the Parish House parking lot for some refreshments and assignments, and then visit member homes until noon.

Please contact Jason Lawlor for more information: jl094@optonline.net.



BILLY KEYSERLING TO SPEAK ON UNITY AND DIVERSITY

Billy Keyserling, recognized for his collaborative efforts to educate and mobilize community action for the common good, will address the topic *Unity and Diversity: Unpacking America's Historical Baggage* on **October 22 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm** at the Church on the Green.

All are welcome to attend this free event, co-sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church in New Vernon.



JAN'S CLOSET: FALL AND WINTER

We are now accepting new and gently used **fall and winter** clothing for adults and children.

We look forward to receiving your donations so that we can continue serving our neighbors in need through our clothing ministry.



THANK YOU FOR AN INCREDIBLE FALL KICKOFF AT PCM!

What a joyous Sunday! Thank you to everyone who was able to be there in-person or in-spirit!

We celebrated Rev. Daniel's first service, enjoyed a parade to the Parish House (even in the rain!), played in the bounce house (probably enjoyed more by the grown ups!), ate delicious food and delighted in all the wonderful fun and fellowship of being together.

We hope you will join us for the many fall programs that are currently happening. We can't wait to see you again!

A very special thank you to Bruce Frazier for all the beautiful photos!



MARKET STREET MISSION'S 33RD ANNUAL COAT DRIVE



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*Please donate a coat,
hat, scarf or gloves for
adults and children*

Please bring your clean, gently-used winter coats, winter jackets and new or barely-used hats, scarves, and gloves to the collection box at the Parish House or Church on the Green between October 2 and October 23.



Children's items and Adult large and extra-large sizes are particularly welcome.

Beginning on Sunday, 10/2, you may donate items any of the following ways:

- Drop off items in the marked bin in the Parish House Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.
- Drop off items in the marked bins inside the narthex in front of the "What's Up" table or in Mutch Hall near the back door of COG on Sundays.

Donations will be accepted through Sunday, October 23rd.

Donations will be picked up at the Parish House at the end of the Coat Drive by the Market Street Mission for distribution.

Thank you for contributing to the Market Street Mission Coat Drive! Coats will be distributed to those who need one on Saturday, November 5 on the Morristown Green from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM OUTREACH & TABLE OF HOPE



Pictured are Michele Oswald and Julia Flun from Table of Hope

We can never say “Thank You” enough!

From all of us on the Outreach Committee, thank you, thank you, thank you to PCM members and our youth groups for such generous donations to the Table of Hope Donation Drive. Your commitment to this annual donation drive yielded the following and we are deeply grateful: 190 contractor size trash bags, 530 pairs of vinyl gloves, 500 to go containers, 2,440 plastic forks, 3,150 sandwich bags, 15 foil pans, six commercial size aluminum foil rolls, and 11 bottles of dishwashing soap. In addition, we are thankful for the donations of \$655 in support of Table of Hope. These donations help keep the Table of Hope soup kitchen running and bring the community together to help fight hunger.

Michele Oswald, Program Director, from Table of Hope says,
“We are so grateful for the support and donations from PCM! These items will help us serve our nightly dinner guests!”

A WONDERFUL START FOR PCNS

A Note from Jeanne Mueller,
Director of Presbyterian Church Nursery School



The 2022/23 school year at PCNS got off to a wonderful and cool start. We begin by expressing our sincere thanks to the congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown ("PCM") for their generous support with the \$50,000 from the 2021 Stewardship campaign. These funds allowed us to add much needed air conditioning to Classrooms 1 and 2 in the back of the Parish House.



Traditionally, August, September, May and June are extremely uncomfortable months in these rooms. The AC has allowed teachers to work comfortably during the summer to arrange beautiful classrooms, and our students are able to enjoy a nice cool classroom while they adjust to a new school year. We hope to be able to provide a summer camp next year here at PCNS. The addition of the air conditioning has made that possible.

The Stewardship funds raised also allowed the school to update the soft surfacing for our playground – a large annual expense, some new furnishings, and educational toys in Rooms 1, 2 and 3. The PCNS staff is so grateful for these improvements and additions to the environment here in our school. More of the funds will be held for scholarships for future students in need. A very heartfelt THANK YOU to the generous congregants of PCM!



Our school community is mourning the sudden loss of our dear Advisory Chair, Vicky Willson. She was the leader of our committee, a champion for all teachers and a cheerleader for PCNS families and students. Vicky’s kindness, enthusiasm, friendship and support will be sorely missed. We paid tribute to this irreplaceable spirit on October 1st at her memorial service.

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Thank you to the generous congregants of PCM!

The Nursery School requests during school hours (9:00 am - 1:30 pm) that all Parish House visitors please avoid the school areas. Signs are posted that help remind us all that “children are at work” and we need to stay separate and safe. We are grateful to the church community for its cooperation.

JACOB, GRAHAM AND THAYER TO RECEIVE THEIR BIBLES!

A Note from Alexandra Mead, Director of Christian Education



(From left) Jacob Hummer, Graham Clark and Thayer Szoke will receive their bibles during worship on Sunday, October 16.

The Bel Melodia and Bel Canto choirs will be singing that morning as well. Please join us for this very special day!

SUNDAY FUNDAY A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!



A Note from Patrick Allred, Youth & Young Adult Director



Sunday Funday has been a tremendous success for our youth ministry! If you have not heard, we have moved all our programming to Sundays to create a cohesive experience for students and families. I am thankful for a group of students, parents, and volunteers that are willing to be flexible and try new things to ensure that our ministry stays fresh, meaningful, and well-timed.

Our youth ministry has been hard at work this past month decorating and filling goodie bags for the Market Street Mission coat drive. These goodie bags are filled with candy, playdoh, bubbles, and a few toys to play with as they wait for their coat. Our youth ministry loves serving the community in Morristown!

Pictured are a few of our middle schoolers grabbing a snack and working on the goodie bags.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: SEPTEMBER 2022

Respectfully submitted, Wendy M. Doidge, Clerk of Session

CHANGES IN CHURCH REGISTER

Deaths:

- Robert Barnes, DOD August 17, 2022.
- Vivian (Vicky) Willson, DOD September 10, 2022.
- Jan Dougherty, DOD September 14, 2022.

Marriages:

- None

Dropped from Roll:

- Ulrike Youry - moved
- Daria Lisco- at her request

Transfers:

- Albert and Nancy Perkins, to The Foundry United Methodist, Church, Houston, Texas.

Pastor's Term of Service:

- Entered Rev. Audrey Weber start of service - July 25, 2022
- Entered Rev. Leslie-Dobbs-Allsopp end of service - August 28, 2022
- Entered Rev. Daniel Vigilante start of service - September 1, 2022

PRESBYTERIAN HAPPENINGS & INFORMATION

The General Assembly met in person for the first time in four years. It was a hybrid meeting with the theme, "From Lament to Hope." Over three weeks the GA commissioners met online for the plenary sessions and committees met in newly renovated space at the PC(USA)'s national offices in Louisville. Masks and Covid-19 vaccinations were required. The business this year reflects policy concerns - from racism to gun violence to global warming as well as internal issues such as declining membership and a growing number of small but faithful congregations.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS: CONTINUED

PRESBYTERIAN HAPPENINGS & INFORMATION:

Climate Change: The Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) recommended divestment from fossil fuel companies. (Overture: Hudson River Presbytery).

Racism: There is a committee devoted specifically to issues of race and gender justice, including a report from the Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation which calls for more work to be done to “explore and expose where White supremacy is embedded institutionally and foundationally” in the PC(USA) and encourages congregations to investigate their own histories involving people of color. An overture from the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy calls for the PC(USA) to apologize to African Americans “for the sin of slavery and its legacy.” There is also a report the committee will consider from the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force.

Israel/Palestine: An overture from Grace Presbytery seeks to declare the Israel’s policies, laws, and practice regarding the Palestinian people amount to apartheid. GA Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson’s comment described Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territories as “21” century slavery.”

Financial Sustainability: The Special Committee on Per-Capita-based Funding and National Church Financial Church Sustainability is considering what structure and funding systems are needed for a denomination that’s half the size it was 20 years ago.

Gun Violence: An assembly committee on Addressing Violence in the USA will consider overtures calling for the PC(USA) to support tighter gun control, including universal background checks before firearms can be purchased and a ban on the sale and ownership of assault weapons. The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy wants the assembly to approve the “Decade to End Gun Violence,” a 10-year campaign from 2022 to 2032 “to be conducted at all levels of the church.”

Denominational matters: Issues to be considered: a proposed amendment to the PC(USA) constitution to require that the minimum terms of call for all ministers would include 12 weeks of paid family medical leave, several recommendations to write new confessions for the PC(USA) and measures seeking to provide more flexibility for new worshipping communities and immigrant congregations in allowing their leaders to become ruling elders with voice and vote at presbytery.

Leadership: Newly elected co-moderators: Shavon Starling-Louis (Charlotte Presbytery) & Ruth Santana-Grace (Presbytery of Philadelphia) - both are ministers.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED

VISIT

We worship weekly in-person at 10:00 am in our Sanctuary
Our weekly service is live streamed and is available at: pcmorrictown.org

The **Parish House** is located at 65 South Street | The **Sanctuary & Chapel** are located at 57 E Park Place

Please feel free to contact our offices at the Parish House at **973-538-1776**

CONTACT

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Please contact the office to update your contact information.