

# TOWER TIDINGS

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MORRISTOWN



photo by Bruce Frazier

End of Mid-Week with Alexandra Mead, Patrick Allred and Ignacio Angulo-Pizarro

## SUMMER IS COMING!

### CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 6/26

The Session of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown calls a Congregational Meeting for June 26th, immediately following the worship service, for the purpose of electing a Senior Pastor and approving the terms of call, and to dismiss the Pastor Nominating Committee with thanks.

# A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

THE REVEREND LESLIE DOBBS-ALLSOPP

**Grace and peace to you!**

I'm delighted to report that the Pastor Nominating Committee has identified a candidate for Senior Pastor. The session has called a congregational meeting for June 26th, immediately after worship, for the purpose of electing the pastor, approving the terms of call, and dismissing the Pastor Nominating Committee with thanks.

**Please make plans to be present for the candidate's sermon at 10am on June 26th, followed by the congregational meeting.**

All active members of the congregation have a vote. It's going to be a wonderful morning! The Pastor Nominating Committee will be sending information about the candidate the week of June 19th. Looking ahead, the candidate plans to move into the manse and begin service with PCM in early September, and will preach for the first time on September 11th. Please keep the candidate and spouse in prayer as they navigate the tender time of leaving a beloved place, and all of the attendant details of moving.



We thank the PNC for their dedicated service. They have poured countless hours into this search, and have served with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. When you next see them, please offer your thanks: Bob Spurr, Susan Hubbard, Vern Verhoef, Dave Krimmel, Betty Darcy, Molly Rauter, and Robin Ballard.

Please keep me in prayer as I begin to search for my next ministry opportunity. I like a bit of breathing room between pastorates, but not too much!

**In Christ,  
Interim Pastor Leslie**

[ldobbs-allsopp@pcmorristown.org](mailto:ldobbs-allsopp@pcmorristown.org)

---

## Morris County is Ranked “Healthiest” in New Jersey

Morris County has been ranked again as the No. 1 healthiest county in New Jersey in an annual, national study released this week by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The “2022 County Health Rankings,” a national study of counties in all 50 states, annually places Morris County at the top of its list.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

MATTHEW WEBB

As pandemic edges closer toward endemic in our world, we continue to flesh out what day-to-day life looks like. For some, merely walking around without a mask is a major event, while others find themselves annoyed by the limitations that stand between them and their freedom to masklessly go and do as they wish. As I have conversations with our parishioners each week, many of them say “we’ll never get back to where we were before.” For a while I found this frustrating because I saw it as a sign of defeat. Even when I began forming this article, I found myself giving in to the idea that “we’ll never get back to where we were before.” Then something clicked: I don’t want to go back to the way that we were before.

While our church has seen almost 300 years of life in this community, encompassing many great moments as a community of faith, the best could very well be yet to come. I don’t want to go back to the way that we were before because I want to see us move above and beyond the adversities that we have faced in the past two years with COVID and in the past half-decade of steady decline in engagement. We are a congregation eagerly awaiting the calling of two new ministers, blessed as caretakers of two nineteenth-century buildings, all while being under our goal for financial giving. We are not seeing the same numbers of people coming to worship on Sunday mornings. We don’t have the same numbers of youth and children attending our wonderful programs. Considering these challenges, it would be very easy for us to throw our hands up in the air and say, “We give up.”

Or we could say what it is that we want as a congregation, strategically plan a way forward, as any good Presbyterian would, and be blessed by what happens when we are a congregation whose vision extends beyond the walls of our buildings.

I have an app on my phone called “I Am.” It sends me short, sentence-long empowering messages throughout the day. Recently I got one that said, “To get something that I’ve never had, I must do something that I’ve never done.” This statement could be seen as a corollary to our theological axiom, “Reformed and always reforming.” If we truly are Reformed, sacramental people of the Word, we must learn to be nimble and ready to pivot. We must move beyond the idea that people will begin to magically fill our pews of their own accord or even if we ask them multiple times. “The church is still here, please come back to us.” That is clearly what we would love to see happen, but we must be a relational people, meeting people where they are, sowing seeds of God’s boundless love.

Are we called to be the Church only when we have an installed Senior Minister? Are we called to be the Church only when our giving meets the level of our expenditures? I really don’t think that we are called to be the Church when we feel most comfortable or when it suits us emotionally.

Being a Christian or a Matthew 25 church has never been a fade-into-the background, find-the-place-of-greatest-comfort proposition. Being a Christian involves wading into and existing in a place of discomfort. It means asking the hard questions about racial, gender, and financial equity; about being able to co-exist with people who are more conservative than we are; about sharing the pew, the pulpit, and the restroom with someone who is transgender. Being the Church is about literally welcoming all people, a truly radical proposition.

I'm not sure whether we were a place of radical welcome before March 15, 2020, but we can be unbelievably welcoming for the rest of 2022, and every day after that.

Jesus says in John 15, "This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you." That means loving when it feels good to love, when it doesn't feel good to love, and when we think we can't possibly find a way to love."

So, let's not try to "go back to where we were before." Let's go somewhere greater; somewhere more accepting; somewhere more giving; somewhere more loving; somewhere where we try things that we've never done before.

**Let's go be the Church.**



## The Ringers on the Green Tour 2022

San Francisco & Santa Rosa, CA

**Presbyterian Church of the Roses - Saturday, June 25 @ 5pm**

2500 Patio Ct, Santa Rosa, CA - [churchoftheroses.org](http://churchoftheroses.org)

**Calvary Presbyterian Church - Sunday, June 26 @ 10am**

2515 Fillmore St, San Francisco, CA - [calvarypresbyterian.org](http://calvarypresbyterian.org)

**Arbol Residences Senior Living - Tuesday, June 28 @ 10:30am**

Santa Rosa, CA - open to residents only





# Vacation Bible School

## WEEK OF JUNE 27, 2022



Join us in the **Outback** this year at Vacation Bible School where we will discover  
**God's Love in the Land Down Under**

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ALEXANDRA MEAD | DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Another fabulous year at Midweek and Sunday school wrapped up with ice cream and donut parties. We have wonderful, faithful and curious children in our church family.

We're all looking forward to Vacation Bible School at the end of June where we will visit the Australian Outback to learn about God's Love in the Land Down Under!



# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL

JEANNE MUELLER | DIRECTOR



Pajama Day at PCNS



As we reach the end of another school year, The Presbyterian Church Nursery School (PCNS) is grateful for another successful year helping children to grow and learn. At this time, we always want to express our thanks to the Presbyterian Church of Morristown's staff and church members for supporting the school and complying with COVID safety rules to allow the school to stay safe. All PCNS staff once again went above and beyond to provide a wonderful educational experience for our students.

All PCNS children enjoyed many wonderful experiences throughout the year and were able to enjoy some after school activities like art, yoga, nutrition, and sports classes.

**We ended the year with an outdoor party on June 10th  
with ice cream from The South Street Creamery**

**Families and classes gathered to say goodbye to our Pre-K students  
and cheer on the start of summer!**

Pre-K students are ready to march off to kindergarten ready to face new challenges.

We look forward to seeing some PCNS students at the annual Vacation Bible School summer camp in late June and welcoming back many families to our school in the fall.

Be safe and enjoy the summer.



# YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

PATRICK ALLRED | DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

It is a great summer for our youth ministry! We are thrilled to return to RISE July 10th – 16th to work with our friends in Friendship, NY. We have 9 students led by Jason Lawlor, Kimberley Davies, and Ken Clark ready to make two homes warmer, safer, and dryer. Please pray for us as we share the love of Christ with our neighbors that week. Presbyterian Youth Triennium, a staple youth event of the PCUSA, was cancelled this year due to travel and housing complications stemming from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Youth Formation Committee with Highlands Presbytery quickly pivoted and is hosting a Social Justice Retreat for students across New Jersey that replaces Triennium.

Students will have the opportunity to discuss and hear about critical issues related to social justice and how those issues should coincide with our faith. This is in addition to the great amenities that we know and love at Camp Johnsonburg.

Lastly, the Youth Formation Committee with Highlands Presbytery is hosting a youth leaders retreat on August 28th at Camp Johnsonburg. This retreat will give current youth leaders a chance to reconnect with other youth leaders in the area, discuss what they have planned for their upcoming program year, and have a wonderful place to retreat to for an afternoon.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESBYTERY

Two Administrative Commissions have completed their work:

Dissolution of the Martinsville Presbyterian Church (its members now attending the Bound Brook Church)

Pompton Valley Church sold its property to another Christian denomination. With some of the proceeds from the sale, **Highlands Presbytery is contributing \$100,000 to Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center for its capital campaign** and another \$100K is being used for technology resources and support, to enable congregations to develop and enhance their online worship presence.



**JOHNSONBURG  
SOCIAL JUSTICE  
SUMMIT**

An immersive, experiential 3 days at Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center for teens (and groups of teens!) who care passionately about making a difference.

- Featuring keynotes and small group sessions by leading voices in and around the church today
- Opportunity to meet youth from various neighborhoods across the region and beyond
- Program, meals, and comfortable lodging for one price
- Plenty of time to swim, climb, zip, relax, play, and hang out
- Adult Chaperones welcome!

**\$395pp | Sun, July 24th - Wed 27th**  
[www.campjburg.org/summit](http://www.campjburg.org/summit)  
 908.852.2349  
 822 Route 519 Blairstown NJ 07825



# OUTREACH

Thanks to you, the Presbyterian Church in Morristown has **collected nearly \$10,000** for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund of the Presbyterian Church USA to go directly to refugees of the current Ukrainian war. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) - Ukraine has trusted partners with a presence in eastern Europe who can work with people in local church congregations and with agencies in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Romania.

## TAKE A BITE OUT OF HUNGER!



We asked you to scour your shelves: **YOU DID!**  
 We asked you to raid your pantry: **YOU DID!**  
 We asked you to run to the store: **YOU DID!**  
 Lastly, we asked you to be generous with  
 financial contributions: **YOU WERE!**

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

We are so blessed to have you, the congregation, respond so enthusiastically to our requests and needs for help within and beyond our church community. By this date, Outreach has collected over \$2,045.00 for the Interfaith Food Pantry Network Food Drive (more than has ever been donated before) as well as 509 pounds of food, also an excellent number. The Pantry was so grateful as are we.



Morris Area Together is exploring changes we can enact that will move our communities from where and what they are now to what they can be for ALL of us. There are many more voices with whom we want to engage.

**So....Members and friends of The Presbyterian Church in Morristown—We wish to know you and hear about you and your family's interests, concerns and pressures. How do you see yourself living in and relating to our community and the world?**

Because summer is upon us, MAT will host a gathering in September, 2022, for us to come together for an evening of fellowship, sharing and listening.

**YOUR VOICE IS CRITICAL TO OUR WORK!!!**

Thanks to our PCM community, **we collected a remarkable \$6,243.00 for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS).** Our hearts are bursting with gratitude and love because of your generosity in sharing your many blessings. This is such a time of crisis and so much need for help in the world and you all heeded our call. Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing!

## PCM + EASTLEIGH PARTNERSHIP

*In Christ there is no East or West, In Him no South or North,  
But one great fellowship of love, Throughout the whole wide earth.*

On Pentecost Sunday, June 5, our service of worship celebrated the renewal of our relationship with the Eastleigh Presbyterian Church of East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. Because Pentecost marks the beginning of the Christian Church's mission to the world, the celebration of our sister church relationship with Eastleigh was especially significant. If you were unable to attend or watch the service, you can view it on PCM's website. Eastleigh will also be celebrating our partnership in one of their upcoming worship services.

At a recent Zoom meeting the question was asked: "What one thing would you like for us to know about your church?"

"The members are loyal. At least 50% live far from the church, but they faithfully come to worship. Eastleigh is close to the center of Nairobi so things are constantly changing and we must meet those needs."

It will be exciting for our two congregations to learn from each other how to foster this dynamic spirit in our churches and communities. This renewed partnership is a long-term relationship. It will take time, patience, commitment and vulnerability. It means two-way giving and two-way receiving. The PCM team invites each of you to become involved in the development of this wonderful opportunity to become engaged and connected with our sisters and brothers in Kenya.

*Your ideas, involvement and creativity are welcome. The rewards of sharing our faith and cultures will be amazing!*

**BWANA ASIFIWE – PRAISE THE LORD!**



### PRIDE MONTH

Recently added to the traditional gay pride flag are: black and brown stripes to represent marginalized LGBTQ+ communities of color, along with the colors pink, light blue and white, which represent Transgender Pride

# **DIVERSITY DAY**

## MORRISTOWN JULY 10

The 5th annual Diversity Day will take place on Sunday, July 10th on the beautiful and historic Morristown Green. **It is a LIVE and FREE event beginning at 11:00 a.m.** with an Interfaith Service of Worship. After worship, join us for an afternoon of fun from noon to 4:00pm with live music performances, entertainment, prizes, and a sampling of local and international food prepared by our DCMC partners and local restaurants.



**Monday, July 4th**, at Central Park of Morris County - This event begins at 8:30am and includes a 5K Race, a 2-mile Freedom Walk, and a Kids Fun Run.

You can expect a welcoming and scenic route with tunes from a DJ, refreshments, raffles, prizes, and souvenir t-shirts.

Proceeds from the event will support the programs of MSM which ministers to the hungry, homeless and those struggling with addiction in Northern New Jersey.

## COMMUNITY AND MEMBERSHIP WINE TASTING EVENT







## SAFETY MINISTRY



**The Safety Ministry Team sends our best wishes  
to you and your family!**

Now that we are meeting 'in person' more regularly, we wanted to bring your attention to several security and safety enhancements that have been implemented at PCM.

- Video surveillance cameras have been installed on both campuses. External cameras cover the parking lots and entrances. Internal cameras cover the Parish House hallways, the Howard House entrance foyer, and Mutch Hall.
- Electronic door locks on entrances controlled by the Open Path System are now supplemented with open door alert capability. This technology automatically notifies our Director of Administration, when doors are left open.
- Motion detection technology (including lighting) is installed in the Parish House playground.

These provide the capability to monitor activity remotely and follow on any security issues that might occur.

We ask your help in assuring that doors are closed behind you when entering a building. There have been situations in the past where doors have been propped open allowing unauthorized visitors to enter.

In addition, cardiac defibrillators (AEDs) are now in 4 locations: the COG Narthex, Mutch Hall, the Parish House first floor (outside the kitchen) and second floor (in South Street Hall).

Our team currently includes Christy Allison, Chris Crean, Bob Davies, Kevin Hubbard, Dick Kaller, Paul Koski, Nancy Shearer, Jenny Tooley, and Sue Wood.

**\*\*If you need help with your Open Path App, please contact Kay. If you have a new phone, you will need to download the App again as the service is paired to the app, not to your phone number.\*\***

State Parks open for free  
this summer!



**For submissions to Tower Tidings, please send information to [office@pcmorristown.org](mailto:office@pcmorristown.org).**



65 South Street  
Morristown, NJ 07960

*Please contact the office to update your contact information.*



## CONTACT US

**The Reverend Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp** | Interim Minister | [ldobbs-allsopp@pcmorristown.org](mailto:ldobbs-allsopp@pcmorristown.org)  
**Dr. Matthew Webb** | Director of Music | [mwebb@pcmorristown.org](mailto:mwebb@pcmorristown.org)  
**Alexandra Mead** | Director of Christian Education | [amead@pcmorristown.org](mailto:amead@pcmorristown.org)  
**Patrick Allred** | Director of Youth & Young Adults | [pallred@pcmorristown.org](mailto:pallred@pcmorristown.org)  
**Ignacio Angulo-Pizarro** | Director of Children's Music | [iangulo-pizarro@pcmorristown.org](mailto:iangulo-pizarro@pcmorristown.org)  
**Paul Koski** | Director of Administration | [pkoski@pcmorristown.org](mailto:pkoski@pcmorristown.org)  
**Kay Smith** | Administrative Assistant | [office@pcmorristown.org](mailto:office@pcmorristown.org)  
**Henry Ahlers** | Finance Administrator | [hahlers@pcmorristown.org](mailto:hahlers@pcmorristown.org)  
**Laura Geary** | Financial Secretary | [lgeary@pcmorristown.org](mailto:lgeary@pcmorristown.org)  
**Kristo Pango** | Sexton | [kpango@pcmorristown.org](mailto:kpango@pcmorristown.org)  
**Sigris Lorena Girón Sorto** | Weeknight Custodian - **Cory VillNeuve** | Weekend Custodian  
**Jeanne Mueller** | Director of Presbyterian Church Nursery School | [jmueller@pcmorristown.org](mailto:jmueller@pcmorristown.org)

## VISIT US

**We worship weekly in person at 10am in our Sanctuary**  
Services are **live streamed weekly** and are available at: [www.pcmorristown.org](http://www.pcmorristown.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**