

A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

FEB 14

ASH WENDESDAY

Drive Through Ashes
12:00 - 1:00 pm | In front of Church on the Green

Worship Service 6:00 pm | The Chapel

SUNDAYS

LENTEN ADULT EDUCATION BIBLE STUDY

Doughnuts and Theology 8:45 am | The Chapel and Online

HOLY WEEK

MAR 24

PALM SUNDAY

Children's Parade, followed by Worship 10:00 am | Sanctuary and Online All children welcome! Please meet on the Howard House porch at 9:45 am. A special Easter Egg hunt will follow worship for children ten years and under.

MAR 28

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Worship and Communion 7:00 pm | Sanctuary and Online

MAR 29

GOOD FRIDAY

Worship Service 12:00 pm | The Chapel

MAR 31

EASTER SUNDAY

Worship Service 8:00 am | The Chapel

Worship Service 10:00 am | Sanctuary and Online

JOURNEYING TO JERUSALEM: EXPLORING LENT THROUGH CONVERSATIONS

Reverend Daniel Vigilante, Pastor

DEAR PCM FAMILY,

The season of Lent begins - which means it's time for that perennial question, "What are you giving up this year?"

The practice of giving up something for Lent goes way back to the early church, when - in anticipation of their baptism (which only happened on Easter Sunday) - new converts to the faith entered into a forty day period of prayer and fasting. They'd have a big party on Mardi Gras (which literally means, Fat Tuesday), then begin their baptismal preparation on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

These days we baptize people at other times of the year besides just Easter Sunday, but the practice of giving up something during Lent has remained; even if we don't spend these forty days praying and fasting in quite the same way those early Christians did.

One idea that's caught on more recently is that, rather than *giving up* something, we might *take on* something instead. Some people take on the practice of doing a daily devotional; or take on doing a daily walk or exercise.

Here at PCM, our theme for this Lenten season is *Conversations: Journeying with Jesus to Jerusalem*. In our worship, and through our Lenten Devotional (which is available online and in book-form), we're looking at conversations people had when they encountered Jesus, and conversations that we've had that have deepened our faith.

It strikes me that a spiritual practice we might take on this Lent is to commit ourselves to having conversations that can draw us closer to God and to others. For example, we might have a conversation with someone from whom we have become estranged. We might have a conversation with someone from whom we are seeking forgiveness. We might have a conversation with our children about why our faith matters to us. We might have a conversation with a neighbor who is on the opposite side of the political fence - and try to understand one another better as the next election cycle heats up.

I can think of a-hundred-and-one different conversations I could have with people... some of which I've avoided or simply put off for another day. But maybe this season of Lent is just the right time to take them on. Are there conversations like that which you've been meaning to have - but keep putting off, too?

Whatever you choose to do this Lent - whether you give up something or take on something - I hope and pray that this season draws you closer to the God who created you and who loves you.

In Christ's love, **Daniel**

CONVERSATIONS

Reverend Audrey Webber, Associate Pastor

FRIENDS,

This Lent, we share stories about conversations.

It is our hope that these Scripture passages and personal reflections will be a guide for you as we journey together as a church through this season. Within the pages of our Lenten devotional (the first three days can be found on the following pages), you will find conversations that have been particularly meaningful.

During different times in our lives, we experience all kinds of conversations that change us in some way. This year, we are thinking about how we find meaning in conversations and how they deepen our relationships with God and each other. During this season, we are diving into those very conversations in the Bible. In this devotional and during our Lenten Adult Ed series, you will see how the Scripture passages intersect with stories from our lives. With a diverse range of theological and political beliefs and outlooks, we hope these reflections inspire your own reflections on these sacred texts.

Blessings to you during this season of Lent, **Audrey**

A LENTEN JOURNEY

DOUGHNUTS AND THEOLOGY: TALKING TOGETHER AS WE JOURNEY WITH JESUS

Come talk with us! As we journey together this Lenten season, we will explore the intersection of faith, community, and personal journeys through conversation and reflection. During Doughnuts and Theology (every Sunday at 8:45 am, in the Chapel and online), we'll discuss the texts we will be delving into during our Lenten sermon series on journeying with Jesus.

We will consider the conversations that have changed our lives and have taken us in wildly different directions on our faith journeys. Join us in our discussions on faith, life, and everything in between. Through interactive activities and conversation, we will explore what it means to find faith and Jesus amidst the wildness every day brings.

Some of the topics we'll cover:

- Holy Subtext The Rich and the Kingdom of God
- Mysterious Sayings The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

Whether you can come to one or all, we can't wait to journey together this Lenten Season!

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

Created by our PCM Family

FEBRUARY 14

GENESIS 12:1-3 | REV. DANIEL VIGILANTE | GOD'S CONVERSATION WITH ABRAM CALLING HIM TO LEAVE HIS COUNTRY.

In this conversation between God and Abram, a covenant was established. God would "make a great nation" and bless all families of the earth through Abram and his wife Sarai. While I have never had that kind of conversation with God, I am a descendant of this covenant and have often felt blessed in order that I might be a blessing.

In fact, you might think that the word "bless" would be the one that stands out most, as it is used five times in these three short verses. But the part of this conversation that resonates with me is the word "Go."

Each Sunday at the close of our time together, I say, "Our worship ends, but our service begins..." In other words, "Go! Go forth from this place to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." The whole idea that we go to church feels a bit incomplete. Because, in reality, we go from church to love our community in the name of Jesus.

Just as Abram and Sarai were commissioned to go from the comforts they knew and into the place God called them, we are commissioned to go from the comfort of our church home to the places where God has called us.

Which begs the question...where is God calling you to go during this season of Lent?

FEBRUARY 15

GENESIS 32:22-32 | CRAIG BARTH | JACOB'S CONVERSATION AND WRESTLING WITH GOD AT PENIEL.

When have you, with a hard decision looming or in a spat with a spouse, taken a step away and demanded, "Let me sleep on it"?

In a deep sleep, our brains reorganize, erase the trivial, and place to near consciousness whatever our minds deem significant. We may pre-empt this process by placing a thought, feeling, idea, or even face "first in line" to this mental reorganization. More amazing is that upon awakening, the "first in line" from this reorganization emerges transformed, often in surprising ways! Meditation or prayer, prior to slumber, can jumpstart this. Have you ever awakened unusually content, peaceful, or with an "aha"? God spoke to you while you slept.

Now Jacob – At the place he later named Peniel ("Struggle with God"), Jacob sent his full cadre ahead of him (v. 23). He knew brother Esau wanted him dead. So bad was their relationship that Esau rejected Jacob's appearsement gifts. All alone, Jacob fell into tormented sleep. While he slept, he conversed and fought with this entity. Stubborn Jacob received a truth that night that hurt. Yet, Jacob knew that the truth came from God.

Whatever the truth was, it resulted in a relationship healing. In chapter 33, "they ran to each other, embraced, and wept."

God heals our relationships, even while we sleep.

"Let me sleep on it."

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

Created by our PCM Family

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EXODUS 3 | SAM FAIRCHILD | GOD'S CONVERSATION WITH MOSES AT THE BURNING BUSH.

Helping organizations with their vision statements, I watch as people look inward to discover important things about themselves. But in 2017, I became an inward-looking person for the first time.

Pastor Michael Howard, interim pastor at my old church, and I led the recreation of the church's vision statement. We talked often about who we were as a church and where we wanted to go. Our backgrounds were very different. He had very liberal views, and I had rather conservative perspectives. Yet we found much common ground about the church and even more about ourselves. We were seekers, thinking progressively about how to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

We produced a pithy, resonant vision statement for our church. More importantly, our months of conversation led each of us to a deeper understanding of our own purpose and the nature of our relationship with God, which defies time and space.

Linda and I recently visited Pastor Michael. The strength of our embrace in greeting reaffirmed the strength of our work together and how it altered my trajectory. While it expressed our church's vision to "strive to be a progressive, inclusive community of seekers serving others while challenging ourselves to understand and practice the teachings of Jesus," what it did for me was so much more profound.

FEBRUARY 17

EXODUS 19:3-6 | REFLECTION | GOD'S CONVERSATION WITH MOSES ABOUT THE COVENANT ON MOUNT SINAL.

Reflective Question: If you were to have a conversation with God about a covenant today, what promises commitments would you bring to the table? Write down at least three of those promises.										

CONTINUE THIS DAILY JOURNEY TOGETHER AT PCMORRISTOWN.ORG/LENT OR PICK UP YOUR LENTEN DEVOTIONAL SERIES BOOK AT WORSHIP ON SUNDAY!

A HEART-TO-HEART WITH JESUS

Alexandra Mead, Director, Christian Education

The Sunday school and midweek children have been learning the stories that Jesus told his followers as he traveled from town to town, teaching of God's love. Jesus loved to use parables to explain things to his listeners. The kids love to act out and role play the stories. We talk about how the lessons that Jesus taught can be applied to our lives right now.

Teaching children about scripture through conversations with Jesus can be a meaningful and engaging way to help them understand how God wants us to live and how to love one another.

When you read a children's bible to your child, encourage them to imagine themselves in the story. Help them to develop a personal connection with Jesus through prayer. Remind them every day that they are a child of God and that God loves them no matter what.

This is a good thing for *all* of us to remember!



PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PARADE | MARCH 24 | 9:45 AM

All children are invited to participate in a parade from the Howard House into the Sanctuary with palms right before worship. All children are welcome to gather at 9:45 am on the front porch of Howard House.

There will be a special **Easter Egg Hunt** following worship at 11:00 am for children aged 10 years and younger. Bags provided.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL | JUNE 24 - 28 | NOW ENROLLING!

Dive Below the Surface to Build a Strong Faith

This year, your kids will dive into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about! For one week in the summer children and youth ages 3-12 are invited to attend a fun and exciting day program (9:15 - 12:15 am) at the Parish House. Cost is \$100 for the week.

Register: pcmorristown.org/vbs

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Jeanne Mueller, Director, Presbyterian Church Nursery School

One of the essential things we work on here at our Nursery School is communication.

At the Presbyterian Church Nursery School (PCNS), we know that we are working with children that are still learning to talk, but the conversations we have with them are so important. If you heard some of the sweet or silly things these children say, you might chuckle... but don't underestimate how important young preschooler's words can be!

We may start the year trying to decipher what some of these little ones are saying, but we often find ourselves thoroughly impressed with their words at the end of the school year journey. During our year, we may notice a child expressing empathy for a classmate, telling us a story from home about a trip or experience they had, or answering questions with ease in front of a group. Our staff is always eager to hear from our students as it helps build our strong community in each classroom.

Conversations with families are also an important part of the preschool experience. Parents are sometimes hesitant to share any struggles they are having with their children's development or behavior. We aim to create a safe space and sense of community here, so parents often are relieved to discover that some of the frustrations raising young preschoolers are all part of the process and often shared by other parents. It is always reassuring to have conversations with parents at our conference time when we assess children's progress in school. Our staff is glad to help parents and children navigate these first years of education successfully.

The staff here at PCNS also have many conversations along our school year journey. We look for support in trying to figure out the best way to handle a child or parent that might be struggling. Hearing a different technique from a staff member is helpful and inspires fellow teachers to try something new. We express support for each other throughout the school year – an invaluable part of our staff relationships. We celebrate the wins for every child and staff member – we are so proud of the community we create through our conversations.

Jeanne Mueller and PCNS Staff







ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:

PROVIDING PRESBYTERIANS A WAY TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD.

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.





Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

To make your contribution online, visit pcmorristown.org/oghs

To make your contribution via check, please bring your check with OGHS in the memo to church and put it on the offering plate, or mail/drop off your check to:

PCM Parish House 65 South Street Morristown, NJ 07940

One Great Hour of Sharing contributions will be accepted between February 14 and March 31.



LOOKING TO MAKE AN IMPACT? THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!

We are blessed with a community filled with compassion and generosity. There are numerous ways for us to make a tangible difference in the lives of those around us. As members of PCM, let us embody the teachings of love and service that lie at the core of our church family. By joining together in these volunteer efforts, we not only uplift those in our community but also strengthen the bonds that unite us as a congregation. Let's make a meaningful impact in Morristown, together.



TABLE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY | MONTHLY

The Table of Hope Food Pantry, which serves hundreds of families weekly, is reliant on volunteer support. Join other PCM members to help provide food to people in need by volunteering at the outdoor Table of Hope Food Pantry located at the Bethel Church in Morristown. Duties include sorting and bagging food, filling food bins, and loading cars with food bags on the second Thursday of the month.

Sign Up: pcmorristown.org/toh



JAN'S CLOSET FREE COMMUNITY CLOTHING BANK | MONTHLY

Lend a hand at the Parish House on Saturday mornings or Tuesday afternoons, once a month! Jan's Closet not only provides essential clothing to those in need but also allows us to forge meaningful connections within our community. By volunteering, you'll have the opportunity to assist individuals and families in selecting clothing items that suit their needs, ensuring they leave with dignity and confidence. Additionally, you'll play a crucial role in maintaining a welcoming and organized environment and ensuring that items are readily accessible.

Sign Up: pcmorristown.org/janscloset



WRITE EASTER CARDS FOR SPRING HILLS RESIDENTS | EASTER

Please join us in sending Easter and Passover greeting cards to our friends and residents at the Spring Hills Assisted Living in Morristown. This is a super easy way to volunteer from the comfort of your own home and spread some holiday love. Just let us know how many cards you would like to write and we will provide you with the names by March 13!

Sign Up: pcmorristown.org/cards

"WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE..."

Carolyn Crosthwaithe, Worship and Music Committee Chair

You may think of this refrain, originally written by Pete Seeger in 1955, when you enter the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 17, the first Sunday in Lent. That is because the flowers will be gone from our worship space. The Worship & Music committee has decided to observe this period of sacrifice by giving up flowers for Lent for the six Sundays before Easter.

"WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS COME FROM..."



You could create this variation on the above refrain when you enter the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31 and see the blaze of color and smell the fragrance of the beautiful spring flowers and Easter lilies that will once again adorn our chancel. What a truly joyful experience this will be after our drab, colorless time of Lent.

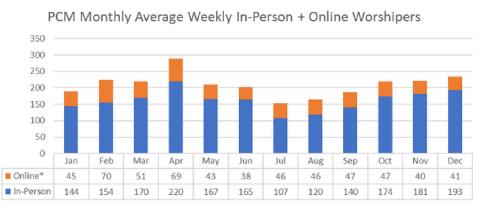
So...where do these flowers come from? They come from you, through your donations to the church flower fund, managed by the W&M committee. If you wish to contribute to the Easter flowers, you can visit **pcmorristown.org/easter-remembrances**, use the pink flower envelope in the pew pocket, or get in touch with the office at **office@pcmorristown.org**. Watch for future information about where the flowers each Sunday morning come from (hint: your donations).

For now, prepare for the somber period of Lent by thinking of the sacrifice our Lord Jesus made for us and the small way we are honoring that sacrifice this year here at PCM.

AN UPDATE ON WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Attendance of in-person and online worshipers at the 10:00 am weekly service averaged 209 and the 8:00 am average was 14. In person Calendar Year 2023 Attendance was up 23.8% compared to Calendar Year 2022.

Services of note: Easter Sunday attendance totaled 508, Thanksgiving Festival Sunday was 285, Christmas Eve 2023 4:00pm attendance was estimated at 366, Christmas Eve 8:00 pm attendance was 529. Online worshipers account for about 25% of our average monthly attendance



CONVERSATIONS AND COMMUNITY: LET'S SPEND TIME TOGETHER THIS LENTEN SEASON

From the Community and Membership Community



MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON | MARCH 1 | 12:00 PM

All are welcome to our monthly fellowship luncheons. Stop by the Parish House on March 1 for our Monthly Fellowship Luncheon to meet some new friends and eat some great food. We hope to see you there as we journey through the Lenten season together. Register at pcmorristown.org/luncheon.



CREATE A RESURRECTION GARDEN | MARCH 10 | 11:30 AM

As part of your family's Lenten activities, please come join us at the Parish House on Sunday, March 10 right after the 10:00 am service to enjoy a wonderful brunch served by Presbyterian Women followed by the creation of a Resurrection Garden (one per family). Everyone is welcome to attend, especially children. Just as when we make Advent wreaths, this activity will remind us of the wonderful love God has shown us in the gift of Jesus Christ and his resurrection. The cost of this is \$10 per person/family to cover the costs of the garden supplies. Register at pcmorristown.org/garden.



EXPERIENCE A SEDER MEAL | MARCH 13 | 6:00 PM

This Lenten season, our church family will have a special opportunity to experience a Seder meal together. At our All-Church Dinner on **Wednesday, March 13 at 6:00 pm** we will gather to remember God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, as well as his redemptive love for us in his gift of Jesus Christ. Wonderful foods will be served, and traditional readings and prayers will be read. Please join us! Register at **pcmorristown.org/dinner**.

DUST OFF YOUR HIKING BOOTS!

THE PCM HIKING GROUP IS COMING OUT OF HIBERNATION!

Sherry Guthrie, Community and Membership Committee Chair

Dust off your hiking boots and grab your water bottle to join our hiking group as we start up our monthly hikes in 2024! The spring hikes will be held on Saturday, April 6, Saturday, May 4, and Saturday, June 15, all starting at 9:00 am. All hikes are easy to execute and need no experience – just a love of the outdoors. This is a great activity for families!



JOCKEY HOLLOW HIKE | APRIL 6 | 9:00 AM

Our April 6 hike will take place at Jockey Hollow, meeting at the Western Avenue entrance and hiking from the huts to the Wick Farm and back. Primrose Brook should be happily gurgling and the spring flowers popping up from their winter rest.



WILLOWWOOD ARBORETUM | MAY 4 | 9:00 AM

On May 4 our hike will be at Willowwood Arboretum. This park is famous for its incredible lilac collection, which should be in bloom at this time. The two brothers who first purchased the property in 1908 bought it with the intention of planting gardens and orchards and it eventually became a renowned arboretum. The trails are easy and run through all types of habitats – woods, meadows, and gardens.



THE CROSS ESTATE | JUNE 15 | 9:00 AM

On June 15 we will hike to the Cross Estate, starting at the Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary. The trails are easy to hike and the gardens are beautiful. There is a wisteria covered pergola, beautiful gardens, trails, a gorgeous home, and even a water tower.

IT'S TIME FOR PCM'S ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF AND SILENT AUCTION!

Youth & Young Adult Committee

Join us on Friday, March 8 at 6:00 pm in the Parish House for the annual PCM Chili Cook-Off and Silent Auction, a fun event not just about savoring delicious chili recipes but also making a meaningful impact in the lives of others.

All funds raised will directly support our upcoming youth mission trip, where high schoolers from our PCM Family will dedicate their time and skills to build and repair homes for those in need.

Tickets are available now and all are welcome to attend! Don't miss out on an evening of community, generosity, and the best chili in town. We look forward to seeing you there! Register at pcmorristown.org/chili



CHILI COOK-OFF

Indulge your taste buds in a friendly competition featuring a variety of mouthwatering chili recipes. From traditional to unique twists, our talented chefs will showcase their culinary skills. Your taste-testing vote will help us crown four Chili Cookoff Champions: Best Overall, Spiciest, Best Named, and Most Unique! Enter yours by visiting pcmorristown.org/chili.



SILENT AUCTION

Browse through an array of exciting items up for bid at our Silent Auction. From local treasures to unique experiences, there's something for everyone. All proceeds from the auction contribute directly to funding our youth mission trip, ensuring a brighter future for families in need.



REPAIRING HOMES, BUILDING HOPE

By attending this event, you are actively supporting our youth's mission to make a positive impact on the lives of others. Join us in repairing homes and fostering hope for those less fortunate. Your contribution goes beyond a bowl of chili; it's a step towards making a lasting difference in our world.

On February 4, 2024, The Presbyterian Church in Morristown recognized faithful members who have journeyed with, served, and helped shape our church community in countless ways for 50 years or more. 65 members were honored as part of the worship service and celebrated with a reception in the Narthex organized by the Community and Membership committee, led by Sherry Guthrie, herself among the honorees. Jan and Bruce Frazier mined church directories for the photos displayed for the reception and reproduced here along with the year each became a member.

Gladys Akillian 1972



Diane Anderson 1967



Peter Barber 1971



Bruce Courter 1957



Marion Crowell 1958



Connie Curnow 1963



Katherine Schroeder Davidson 1970



Lee Davidson 1967



Kenneth Demarest 1965



Anne Nicholas Dodd



Jane Donegan 1968



Marceline Duffill (Mikey) 1967



continued...

Rich and Tom Eckhard 1971 & 72



John and Cathie Eyre 1968



Stacy Rogers Golding 1972



Nancy Gray 1956



Sharon King Guthrie 1970



Douglas Henshaw 1963



Shirley Isel 1942



MichaelAnn Knotts (Mikey) 1969



David Krimmell 1968



Elizabeth L'Hommedie



Cynthia McConnell 1972



Jillian McDougall 1969



David Mutchler 1953



Shirley Mutchler 1967



Robert and Vivian Nelson 1962

1972



continued...

Susan Collins Palmer 1961



Virginia Pierson (Ginny) 1965



Araksy Polo (Roxy) 1962



Jo Potter 1971



David Rogers 1971



Robert Rooke, Jr. 1970



Robert and Natalie Rooke 1970



Thomas Rooke 1970



Roberta Russell 1965



Joyce Kargaard Russo 1947



Pamela Brumell Sayer 1967



Barbara Apgar Scala 1972



Edward Scott 1969



Martha Sievers 1948



Robert Stanley Smith 1947



Barbara Storey 1969



continued...

Beverly Tignor 1972



Rebecca Vallado 1963



Adrian VanderDoes (Van) 1957



Joyce Vanderhoof 1960



Barbara Visscher 1953



Nancy Voll 1958



Ruth Westerfield 1960



Gloria Whitehead 1949



Beth Whittemore 1967



Scott Wilson 1966



James and Susan Woodruff 1963



Jean Wotowicz 1967



Jill Hayward Wujciak 1959



Rix and Nancy Yard 1968



Susan Meyer Yawger 1970



Susan Young







Please contact the office to update your contact information.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

We worship weekly in-person at 8:00 am (Chapel) or 10:00 am (Sanctuary)

Our weekly 10:00 am service is livestreamed and available at: pcmorristown.org/livestream

The **Parish House** is located at 65 South Street
The **Sanctuary, Chapel, and Howard House** are located at 57 E. Park Place

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

FIND US ONLINE @PCMORRISTOWN







