

**ADDICTED**

**MUSLIM**

**UNHOUSED**

**ATHEIST**

**BLACK**

**GAY**

**WHITE**

**JEWISH**

**POOR**

**CHRISTIAN**

**IMMIGRANT**

**RICH**

**REPUBLICAN**

**DEMOCRAT**

**love  
your  
neighbor.**

**TOWER TIDINGS**

FALL 2024





# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Reverend Daniel Vigilante, Pastor

## DEAR PCM FAMILY,

Back in March, I had the privilege of attending an event sponsored by the Presbyterian Foundation. A couple times each year, the Foundation brings together thirty pastors for three days of learning and collaborating across a variety of topics that the cohorts choose in advance - topics that are relevant to the work of ministry. When I met with my cohort, one of the topics that got the most traction and had the liveliest discussion was about leading churches through the upcoming election cycle.

Well... here we are... the election cycle is now in full swing. And so, what should we, as a church, say about it? If we say nothing, we are surely out of step with the world beyond our walls. People are talking about politics in their everyday life; and if they're not discussing it openly with friends and family, they're certainly giving it a lot of personal thought. Shouldn't the church have something to say about things that are on the hearts and minds of parishioners?

But, if we do address matters of politics and the issues that people are already thinking about - we also run the risk of saying things that some might disagree with or that others may view as too controversial for church. The Rev. William J. Barber once said, "Preachers don't get to stay out of politics. We are either chaplains of empire or prophets of God." I think about that statement a lot.

In our group discernment, my little cohort of pastors at the Presbyterian Foundation event had mixed wisdom, reflecting the various options above. All of us agreed with Rev. Barber's assertion that we preachers don't get to stay out of politics. But how do we do so prophetically, faithfully, and pastorally?

What I keep coming back to is the wisdom of Jesus, who commanded us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. That's easier said than done, of course. It also just so happens that many of us (fortunately) don't have powerful enemies in the same way he did. But most of us do have neighbors... and Jesus also commanded us to love them.

And so, this autumn - this election cycle - we're going to be talking a lot about loving our neighbors. How do we love the neighbor who goes door-knocking for the candidates we don't like? How do we love the neighbor who advocates for policies we disagree with? How do we love the neighbor whose opinions we find downright offensive? How do we love our neighbors and not turn them into our enemies?

Maybe, "love your neighbor" is a political statement after all.

In Christ's love,  
**Daniel**



# WELCOME TO A NEW PROGRAM YEAR AT PCM!

Check below to see what is new and what is back this year!

Register at [pcmorrystown.org/programs](https://pcmorrystown.org/programs)

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

### Sunday School

Sun | 8:45 - 9:45 am | Howard House  
Ages 2 - Grade 4

### Bibles and Breakfast

Sun | 8:45 - 9:45 am | Howard House  
Grades 5 - 8

### Midweek

Wed | 4:15 - 6:00 pm | Parish House  
Grades K - 5

### Youth Group

Sun | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Parish House

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

### All Church Dinner

Wed (Monthly)  
6:00 - 7:00 pm | Parish House

### PCM Group Hike

Sat (Monthly)  
9:00 - 10:30 am | Locations Vary

### Volunteer: Jan's Closet PCM's Free Community Clothing Bank | (Monthly)

Tue | 3:00 - 4:30 pm | Parish House  
Sat | 10:00 - 11:30 am | Parish House

### Volunteer: Table of Hope Food Pantry Thursday (Monthly)

12:15 - 2:15 pm | Bethel Church

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Doughnuts & Theology Adult Education

Sun | 8:45 - 9:45 am | The Chapel & Online

### Women's Bible Study

Thu | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | Parish House

### Chancel Choir

Sun | 9:00 - 9:40 am | Sanctuary  
Wed | 7:30 - 9:00 pm | Sanctuary

### Chancel Ringers

Wed | 6:30 - 7:15 pm | Sanctuary

### Faith on Film

Sun (Monthly)  
4:00 - 7:30 pm | Parish House

### Young Adult Meet Ups

Monthly | Times Vary

### Young at Heart Senior Ministry

Wed (Monthly)  
2:00 - 3:00 pm | Online

### Visual Arts Ministry

Monthly | Times and Locations Vary

### Presbyterian Women

Monthly | Times and Locations Vary

### Caregiver Support Group

Wed (Weekly)  
11:00 am - 12:00 pm | Online

### Grief Support Group

Thu (Monthly) | 3:00 - 4:00 pm | Online

### Christian Yoga

Tue | 5:00 - 6:00 pm | Parish House  
Thu | 9:45 - 10:45 am | Parish House

### Tai Chi Fun

Tue | 10:00 - 11:00 am | Parish House



# MEET JACOB MONTGOMERY

## PCM'S NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

From the Director of Music Ministries Search Committee

After a brief but very intense search, the Director of Music Ministries Search Committee is pleased to introduce Jacob Montgomery, who will be joining us on September 3, 2024.

Jacob brings a variety of talents and leadership experience to this position. For the past five years Jacob has served as Director of Worship Ministries and Artistic Director at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY, while completing his studies for his DMA from the Eastman School of Music. He has also completed the requirements for the Advanced Certificate in Music Theory Pedagogy. Additionally, Jacob is committed to pastoral care ministries, promoting a sense of community, inclusivity, and respect for our members and neighbors.

The committee is especially excited by Jacob's true sense of faith. He was raised in a large Lutheran church, where his mother served as the Interim Music Director, so music has been very important to him from a young age. He started his college career as a chemistry major, but when he was offered the Organ Scholar role at Duke Chapel, he took an entirely different path.

Jacob believes that you never know how music can reach people. His work with adult choirs includes nurturing them and their appreciation for diverse literature through special "Music Sundays," where the worship service is led entirely through music. He also loves working with children and youth, giving them performance experience and opportunities for leadership and developing community. He currently supervises the direction of two handbell ensembles and co-leads the youth choir, in addition to directing and accompanying the adult choir. During his time at Bethany, he established the new youth choir, which has quadrupled its numbers in the last three years.

During his visit in July, Jacob loved learning about the history of our church and our commitment to a rich music program. He is excited to begin this new phase of his music career here at PCM. The DMM Search Committee feels we have found the perfect person to continue and improve our music program here at PCM. Jacob will move to Morristown with his dog, Sophie, at the end of August to begin work with us on September 3. We look forward to introducing you to him in worship on Fall Kickoff Sunday, September 8, so be sure to come and welcome him personally!

Blessings,

**The Director of Music Ministries Search Committee**

Linda Schober (Chair), Craig Barth, Ken Clark, Sharon Clemons, Stephanie Crean, Carolyn Crosthwaite, Sam Fairchild, Pam Trovato, Daniel Vigilante, and Michele Yampolsky





# DOUGHNUTS & THEOLOGY

From the (newly formed!) Adult Ministries Committee



Join us this fall as we kick off our Adult Education program, Doughnuts and Theology, with a series called Christianity in America, led by our very own John Harmon! Stay tuned later this autumn for our next series on Conflict Resolution, an upcoming speaker panel, and a meet and greet with our new Director of Music Ministries.

## CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA | SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 6 | CHAPEL AND ONLINE

A historical review of Christianity in America from its formation arising from the English Reformation of the 17th century to the fragmentation of the religious choice of today. The objective of our time together is to examine what we believe today in the context of our national past.

### SEPTEMBER 15

The English Reformation formed the architecture of Protestantism as it migrated from Western Europe to the English colonies. The Mainline Protestant Denominations that we know today were the product of this time and place.

### SEPTEMBER 22

The American colonies were essentially English, German, and Dutch in nationality and Protestant in religion. We will review how the colonial experience and the American Revolution shaped the formation of Protestant faith into its own unique American character.

### SEPTEMBER 29

Following the American Revolution and through the Civil War, Christianity in America continued to be publicly and expressly Protestant. But we begin to see significant diversity in Protestant beliefs and a growing representation of the Catholic faith.

### OCTOBER 6

The influence of scientific thinking and expanding secular orientation began to polarize Christian beliefs in the 20th century, creating a broad spectrum of thought and practice from agnosticism to religious fundamentalism. Mainline denominations are a small fraction of what they were during the Revolutionary War period.



# ADULTING IS HARD. LET'S DO IT TOGETHER!

Calling all millennials and recent college grads!

We're excited to announce a new community created for millennials and recent college grads who are looking to connect, share experiences, and support each other as we navigate the twists and turns of adulthood.

Whether you're figuring out your career path, building relationships, or just trying to make sense of it all, this group is here to provide a space for meaningful conversations, new friendships, and collective growth.

Let's figure out life together, one step at a time!



## MEET AND GREET | SEPTEMBER 14 | 10:00 AM | ETHAN AND THE BEAN

This is a perfect opportunity to connect with fellow millennials and recent grads who are also figuring out life one step at a time! Come share your stories, make new friends, and enjoy a relaxed cup of coffee. Whether you're new to town or just looking to expand your circle, we'd love to meet you! See you there!



## GAME NIGHT! | OCTOBER 4 | 7:00 PM | LOCATION TBD

Get ready for a night of fun and friendly competition! Join us for an evening of games, laughter, and good vibes as we unwind and connect. Come solo or bring a friend—either way, you'll leave with great memories. Snacks and drinks will be provided, so just bring your game face!



## GROUP HIKE | OCTOBER 12 | 9:00 AM | FRELINGHUYSEN ARBORETUM

Dust off your hiking boots, grab your water bottle, and come meet some more of the PCM family! All hikes are easy to execute and need no experience – just a love of the outdoors. Please register at [pcmorrystown.org/hike](http://pcmorrystown.org/hike) so that we can provide you any updated information or status of the hike in case of inclement weather.



# YOUR GUIDE TO (F)ALL-CHURCH EVENTS

From the Community and Membership Committee



## ALL-CHURCH DINNERS | WEDNESDAYS (MONTHLY) | 6:00 PM

- September 18: It's Fall, Ya'll! Cookout - Hamburgers and Hot Dogs
- October 9: A Spooktacular Evening - Italian Night (Lasagna and Ziti)
- November 13: Charlie Brown Thanksgiving - Chicken, Mac and Cheese
- December 11: Christmas Around the World - A Fun International Menu

Wonderful foods will be served, and there will be a fun project for the kiddos. Please join us! Register at [pcmorristown.org/dinner](https://pcmorristown.org/dinner)



## PCM GROUP HIKES

### SEPTEMBER 21 | 9:00 AM | NATIRAR PARK TRAIL

This trail passes along the scenic North Branch of the Raritan River corridor in Peapack-Gladstone, through beautiful wooded areas and across fields and meadows. It is great for bird watching and is an easy trail.

### OCTOBER 12 | 9:00 AM | FRELINGHUYSEN ARBORETUM

Enveloping an imposing Colonial Revival structure, the arboretum is home to large expanses of meadows, woodlands and some rare collections of shrubs and trees. Come explore with us!

Register here: [pcmorristown.org/hike](https://pcmorristown.org/hike)



## MORRISTOWN FALL FESTIVAL | SEPTEMBER 29 | 12:00 - 5:00 PM

The Morristown Fall Festival is just around the corner! PCM will again be hosting a booth at the Morristown Fall Festival in front of our church on the Green, where we will have games, bless the animals who come by, and offer tours of the graveyard and church. We're looking for volunteers who are willing to give an hour or two of time to help host the booth and meet our neighbors. It's a lot of fun and easy to do. If you have any interest in helping with the tours or hosting at the tent, please sign up at [pcmorristown.org/festival](https://pcmorristown.org/festival)



# YOUR GUIDE TO (F)ALL-CHURCH EVENTS

From the Community and Membership Committee



## POTLUCK PRESBYTERIANS: GOOD FRIENDS & FINE DINING!

As summer ends, it's time to sign up for the fall 2024 session of Potluck Presbyterians, which has been active for over thirty years!

Our recent spring session ushered in old members and welcomed several new ones, and we look forward to expanding our attendees!

Potluck provides adult members with the opportunity for fellowship, tasty food, and good conversation. We gather in each other's homes once a month over the course of three months to rekindle old friendships and make new ones for the spring session which runs from March through May and fall-winter session as that includes the months of October, November, and January.

Potluck "regulars" are our backbone, each committing to host one dinner (or brunch or lunch) in the session. Hosts set the date and time for the gathering, prepare the main course, and invite those on the pre-determined roster to bring the other components of the meal. Hosts and guests are rotated each month, ensuring participants meet with different people each month. When the host invites you, if you are not available for the month chosen, you simply opt out and the host will call on our substitute members. With six to eight people at each event, it is easy for everyone. Simply prepare (or purchase) a favorite dish according to your assignment on the roster and show up at the appointed time and place. That's it! Life is good – and easy for Potluckers!

Register at [pcmorristown.org/potluck](http://pcmorristown.org/potluck) no later than **September 10!**



## TRUNK-OR-TREAT | OCTOBER 31 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

We are hosting "Trunk or Treat" for the witches and goblins in Morristown and need your help in providing the candy. Please drop off a bag of candy (individually wrapped, please) at the Parish House in the marked bin **before October 28**. We will also be having games on the front lawn. If anyone is interested in dressing up and having fun on Halloween afternoon, please consider joining us!



# LOVE IS A VERB.

Alexandra Mead, Director, Children, Youth, and Family Ministries



Love is a verb. When you actively love your neighbor, you care for them, watch out for them, and show them mercy. Fred Rogers once said, "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each of us has something valuable to bring to the world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors, in our own way, each of us is a giver and a receiver."

As we begin another school year, we will be focusing on practicing our faith everyday as disciples of Christ. We have so many fun programs planned for this fall. We begin our program year with **Sunday School on September 15** and **Midweek on Wednesday, September 18**. We have some amazing new Sunday school teachers to bring our bible lessons to life!

New this year, we are offering a class for our 5th - 8th graders called **Bibles and Breakfast** in a newly renovated space in the Howard House. This class (**Sundays at 8:45 - 9:45 am**) will be structured as a fun discussion group with games and activities to enhance the kids' biblical knowledge and appreciation of the impact we can make in our community as we follow Christ.

I also hope that you will join us for a new **VBS-style Midweek on Wednesday afternoons from 4:15 - 6:00 pm** at the Parish House for ages 5 through 5th grade. We will have bible stories to act out, music to dance to, crafts to enhance our lesson, and recreation time in our massive gym!

Register at [pcmorrictown.org/kids](https://pcmorrictown.org/kids) for all our fabulous programs.

It is going to be a fun year!

## PARENTS' NIGHT OUT | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

PCM parents: Enjoy a well-deserved night out while the kiddos dance and play together!

Ages 4 - 10 will enjoy a fun dance party, while ages 4 and under will hear stories and create a craft!

Snacks and drinks will be provided. \$10 per child. Please register at [pcmorrictown.org/events](https://pcmorrictown.org/events)







# EMPATHY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Abby Semple and Kevin Johnson, Youth Ministry Coordinators

Recently, we attended a Youth Ministry Design Workshop, hosted by the Presbytery of the Highlands. We spent time with other local pastors and youth leaders discussing some of the issues youth all over the country are facing today, and how a church community can be a part of a solution. Over and over, we heard that kids today are burnt out, lack belonging, and many feel safest in their rooms or on their phones.

As adults, many of us have fond childhood memories of going outside, riding bikes, and playing pick-up games with other kids in our neighborhoods. This is a stark contrast to today, where many kids' ideal hang-out is quietly sitting together in the same room on their own phones.

This truly begs the question - what exactly are they doing on their phones all day? At least for our youth, we find they're texting their parents and friends, streaming shows and sports games, and - most surprisingly - many are playing online chess. Another way they're allocating their screen time is consuming short-form video content on TikTok and Instagram and meeting their digital neighbors.

In the early days of human civilization, our conception of humanity was confined to our villages - we weren't privy to the issues happening across the globe like we are today. Later in the 1990's, British Anthropologist Robin Dunbar asserted that as human beings, we can only comfortably sustain 150 relationships. In today's digital landscape, our youth could take in personal information about 150 new people from all over the planet **in an afternoon**. They offer support and feedback in the comments and occasionally feel a deep level of empathy for their digital neighbors. They see problems in the world they'd like to solve. They are only human - and we wonder why they're so burnt out.

As a Church, we can offer fellowship as an alternative to scrolling - putting down their phones and picking up a service project, as many of our youth did this summer on RISE. And from our youth, we can all learn to be more empathetic and kind to our digital and IRL (in real life) neighbors.





# A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Jeanne Mueller, Director, Presbyterian Church Nursery School



When thinking about the term “neighbor” and its relationship to the Presbyterian Church Nursery School (PCNS), I realize that being a good neighbor begins here with children’s first step in their world of education. Here at PCNS, our young students enter our building often not knowing anyone. Each September, they begin the journey of making friends and meeting new teachers. Children learn how to notice those around them, acknowledge their feelings, and advocate for themselves. Each classroom becomes a haven for cooperative and collaborative play, helping to develop lifelong social and emotional skills. This little world of PCNS becomes a home away from home for them.

At our special school, we teach children to care about those around them in school and those around us in our town. We participate in many of the Presbyterian Church’s missions from coat drives to breakfast bags and food collections. It is inspiring to see so many Nursery School families help young children realize that it is important to give to our neighbors and help others. Children show great pride in decorating a breakfast bag or dropping off food for a food drive.

Our school often creates a community of friendship among our families. It is heart warming to see our families become friends during the preschool journey. They leave here for kindergarten but often remain close and maintain the friendships fostered here at PCNS for many years. We are noting a renewed desire to join the church youth programs this year! Needless to say Mrs. Mead is excited – it is surely due to her fostering a good relationship with families here at the Nursery School. We can also count on our PCNS alum to come back and volunteer for us in many capacities – helping teachers, assisting at VBS and PCNS summer camp, organizing our classrooms and school supplies each year.

Our “neighborhood” is always growing and we are proud of our community.

-Jeanne Mueller and staff





# THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!



## PCM WELCOME TEAM TRAINING | SEPTEMBER 7 | 9:00 - 10:00 AM

New members have remarked how welcome they felt when first attending PCM. That is our intention! We love meeting new people!

The Welcome Team is looking for people to serve and it is one of the easiest (and most important!) jobs – just say hello Sunday mornings! We will have training for current and new volunteers before our return to COG on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at 9:00 am. If you are interested, please sign up at [pcmorristown.org/welcome-team](https://pcmorristown.org/welcome-team)



## WINTER COAT DRIVE | SEPTEMBER 15 - 29

As the chilly days of winter approach, let's come together to ensure our neighbors stay warm! **From September 15 to 29**, we are hosting a Winter Coat Drive to benefit Table of Hope. We invite you to donate new or gently-used winter coats for adults and children. Your contributions will help provide warmth to those in need and support Table of Hope's vital work in our community.

Bring your coats to the Parish House, Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. There will also be bins at the COG. One inside the narthex and the other by the back entrance.

No coat to spare? You can still make a difference with a financial donation to support Table of Hope's meal programs and food distribution. Let's make this winter a bit warmer for everyone!

- Mail a Check: Send to Presbyterian Church in Morristown, 65 South Street, Morristown, NJ 07960. Write "TOH Coat Drive" on the memo line.
- Online: Visit [pcmorristown.org/coatdrive](https://pcmorristown.org/coatdrive) and select Give Online.



## JAN'S CLOSET: PCM'S FREE COMMUNITY CLOTHING BANK MONTHLY | TUES: 3:00 - 4:30 PM | SAT: 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Jan's Closet is open to the public twice a month at the Parish House with an assortment of new and gently used clothes for adults and children. We are thrilled to be able to provide this important outreach support to our community! If you would like to volunteer, visit [pcmorristown.org/janscloset](https://pcmorristown.org/janscloset)



# THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!



## TABLE OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY | MONTHLY | 12:15 - 2:15 PM

The Table of Hope Food Pantry provides groceries to hundreds of food insecure families in our community every week. The food pantry relies on volunteers, and members of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown help at the outdoor Food Pantry **every second Thursday** of the month from September through May.

Clients receive a variety of healthy foods including dairy, bread, grains, canned vegetables and soups, fresh produce, and meat. Our PCM volunteers sort and bag food, load groceries into cars, direct traffic, and help with cleanup. Participation is from noon to 2:15pm. The pantry operates from the Bethel AME Church in Morristown and runs rain or shine.

To help make a difference in our community, sign up to volunteer with us for the Table of Hope Food Pantry by visiting [pcmorristown.org/toh](http://pcmorristown.org/toh)



## DEACONS IN-REACH DAY | OCTOBER 19 | 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

The Deacons will soon be coordinating the annual In-Reach Day for October! This is an opportunity for members to serve other church members in need of help with light chores at their homes – things such as fall clean up, window washing, or general yard work.

Volunteers meet at 8:30 am for a light breakfast at the Church on the Green and are assigned to homes. All projects are completed by noon. If you are in need of help or would like to volunteer to help, visit [pcmorristown.org/inreachday](http://pcmorristown.org/inreachday)



## THANK YOU PCM FAMILY! WE PACKED 150 BACKPACKS IN AUGUST!

On Sunday, August 11, we joined together to pack 150 backpacks with school supplies for Morris County students! Our partner, Table of Hope, distributed the backpacks to students in our area just in time for a strong start to their school year. Thanks to our community for your generous donations of the backpacks and new school supplies. Thank you for your loving hands and hearts as we assembled the supplies.





# WE ARE CHRIST'S HANDS AND FEET

Marnie Kaller, Outreach Committee

On October 29, 2012, Superstorm Sandy devastated the East Coast and took a tremendous toll on New Jersey. Though we experienced the winds and lost power in the Morristown area, we knew that the Jersey shore was hit by the storm in far more disastrous ways.

In February of 2013, a PCM task force went down to observe the destruction all along the shore. At the end of the day, we decided that the need in the Union Beach area was huge and we could work with a church, Gateway Church of Christ, which had been on the scene since the day after the storm hit. We immediately started sending volunteers down to Union Beach to work wherever needed. We also raised funds to send for supplies. In PCM's Charter for Sandy Relief, we stated that, "This effort is expected to provide long-term support of the Sandy recovery effort."

And so our work continued for almost four more years. Many from the PCM family (adults and children alike!) participated in the efforts to bring relief and hope to so many people. Read on about how our help impacted one woman from a letter we received recently:

## A LETTER FROM BONNIE

My name is Bonnie Browne and I live in Ocean Beach (Layallette). It's been more than ten years since Hurricane Sandy impacted my life.

A group from your church came to help during recovery from the storm. I have the note and card they brought framed in a place where I see it everyday and I say a prayer of gratitude.

At that time, I was 61, living alone, overwhelmed with the enormity of the impact from the storm is an understatement. Barely mentally and emotionally able to deal, I did not have the physical capability often needed.

The help clearing weeds and throwing out and repairs were the least of what the group provided. Someone cared and I was not alone. Helped me remember, we are never alone, God sent me your angels.

Well, as it turns out, the house, structurally unsound was demolished and I was blessed to receive the grant to assist with finances and get a brand spanking new house. There were glitches, I moved nine times in the four years it took for me finally move HOME November 2016.

Now, much belatedly I thank you. I imagine it is a new generation of your congregation that goes out now to serve those in need. Please know how much it is appreciated and that I never gave up trying.

I hope whoever drew the card is still in the church and might recognize it to know how special and what it has meant to me.

Sending love and much gratitude,  
Bonnie Browne





# HELPING CHILDREN IN NEED

Janet Foster, Outreach Committee

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The Outreach Committee of PCM is responsible for directing church funds toward groups that respond to the teachings of Jesus, which are, in short, to love and care for one another. One of the Committee's focal points is to support organizations that help children in need.

It was Jesus himself who said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (*Matthew 19:14*).

Some of the programs PCM supports benefit children and adults, like those that address Food Insecurity. But there are other programs directed just to children, and they serve different populations in different ways.

PCM's Outreach Committee, and all PCM members, should be proud of our long-standing connection to these organizations. Our support is making a difference to our community, and to our commitment as a church to live out the words to "love one another."



## THE MORRIS/SUSSEX CASA PROGRAM

The Morris/Sussex CASA Program (which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates) relies on community volunteers who stand up in court and speak out for abused and neglected children. The Morris/Sussex CASA is the only court-authorized advocacy program for children and youth in foster care in these counties.

Our local CASA is part of a national program serving 950 communities. Volunteers are selected and trained in a rigorous process, and they are a key part of the one-on-one mentoring and counseling these children need.

The organization also requires funding to support the children and teens. With the help of PCM donations – and those from many other people and local organizations – CASA can provide essential items not covered by DCPD to the youth and families we serve. These items, often needed on an emergent basis, include prepaid cell phones, school devices (laptops/iPads), clothes for job interviews, proms, and special events, college prep materials and fees (SAT review manuals/courses/application fees), school items (books, calculators, backpacks), sports equipment, and art, dance, music, and sports lessons for youth to explore and enhance their talents. Most importantly, CASA pays for educational tutoring, summer camp and other experiences to help children and youth in foster care to overcome their trauma and enjoy childhood.



# HELPING CHILDREN IN NEED



## CHILDREN ON THE GREEN

Children on the Green is the nursery school located in the Morristown Methodist Church, right around the corner from PCM's Sanctuary. Children on the Green is a licensed, non-profit childcare center committed to quality, developmentally appropriate care and early education for children of families living or working in the Morristown area. The leaders of the school seek to reflect the diversity of the community and are committed to partnerships that support all children and families.

Children on the Green (COG) opened in 1994, with the philosophy that every child deserves access to a quality early education program regardless of their means. Contributions from PCM and others offer scholarships for children with demonstrated need, providing them with access to quality education and developmental opportunities unavailable to them in other centers. COG is the only childcare center in New Jersey that provides full scholarships to children referred to them by local homeless and battered women's shelters.

## CORNERSTONE FAMILY PROGRAMS

Over two centuries ago, women from the Presbyterian Church in Morristown joined with others in town to establish Cornerstone Family Programs, a charity to help local women and children with necessities such as food, clothing, and fuel. Though it has had several different names since 1813, the organization has always strived to transform their programs to anticipate and address the evolving needs of individuals and families in Morristown and vicinity. In 2013, Cornerstone merged with the Morristown Neighborhood House to offer a broad array of programs including childcare, healthcare, cultural and recreational activities, and an advocacy for social justice on behalf of the community.



Today, Cornerstone operates day-care, after-school care, and enrichment classes for preschoolers through elementary school age children. The Outreach Committee is most impressed with the array of services offered to teens, including help with tutoring and college admissions, and supervised recreational and cultural activities that help young people find the best in themselves.

The name Cornerstone Family Program is more appropriate than ever, as the center also provides guidance to parents as they, and their children, grow and change. Cornerstone also works with senior citizens, adult caregivers, and veterans who may need assistance.



# FROM THE PCM SAFETY MINISTRY TEAM

Craig Barth, Elizabeth Bruen, Bob Davies, Tom Guthrie, Kevin Hubbard, Dick Kaller, Paul Koski, Phil Scaduto, and Jenny Tooley

The Safety Ministry Team hopes you had a wonderful summer!

With the start of a new church program year, we would like to remind you of one of the security measures in place to better assure the safety of our church community.

The Avigilon Alta Open system electronically controls access to the Parish House, Howard House, and Mutch Hall and the Sacristy at the Church on the Green. We have been using it at PCM since 2019.



Originally named OpenPath, Alta Open is an application that resides on your cell phone. It functions as an 'electronic door key', allowing you to unlock a door wirelessly by (1) opening the app on your phone to list the doors to which you have access, and (2) pressing the button next to the name of the door you wish to enter. (Bluetooth must be enabled on your phone when using the app.)

The extent of your access (i.e., specific entrances and timeframes) is set by the systems administrator (a PCM staff member) who can modify it going forward as needed. Those who need temporary access to our facilities (e.g., a contracted soloist attending choir practices, a vendor doing off-hours work, etc.) can be provided the Alta Open app with access limited to the timeframe required.

All members who regularly participate in scheduled activities at the Parish House or Church on the Green (outside of regular worship) should utilize the Alta Open application for building access.

The Avigilon Alta Open app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store (if you have an iPhone) or Google Play (if you have an Android phone). Once downloaded, you can request building access by sending an email to [office@pcmorrystown.org](mailto:office@pcmorrystown.org). Please include your specific requirements (e.g., activities, location, days, and times) for consideration.

Using the Alta Open app is an important 'best practice' in maintaining secure church facilities. Complementing this are best practices to not leave doors propped open or unlocked (unless they are attended), and to not provide building access to someone you do not know.

Please feel free to contact a member of our team if you have any questions.

Thank you and please stay safe!





# HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED YOUR 2024 PER CAPITA?

From the Finance Committee

The Presbytery of the Highlands' mission is "to support and resource congregations and presbytery partners in the fulfillment of the Great Commission." Please help by annually donating your Per Capita to PCM. Each year, we ask you to participate in paying for each member of your household that is a member of PCM. Per Capita is a tangible expression of shared mission and ministry across the PC(USA).



## HOW CAN I PAY MY PER CAPITA?

The Per Capita rate in **2024** is **\$42.50 per church member**, and it is our practice to encourage every active member to donate their own Per Capita expense. You can pay your Per Capita online at [pcmorristown.org/percapita](https://pcmorristown.org/percapita). You can also pay your Per Capita by mailing a check to The Presbyterian Church in Morristown at 65 South Street, Morristown, NJ 07960. Please remember to write "Per Capita" in the memo line.



## WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

Per Capita financially supports the higher church councils: our presbytery (Presbytery of the Highlands), our synod (Northeast), and the PC(USA). These levels of connectivity are one of the things that make Presbyterianism unique. In a sense, per capita provides the glue that holds the Presbyterian Church together.



## WHAT DOES MY PER CAPITA SUPPORT?

The breakdown is as follows: the General Assembly portion is \$9.85, the Synod portion is \$4.25, and the Presbytery portion is \$28.50. Camp Johnsonburg – Each year, over thirty youth from our church attend events at Camp Johnsonburg. All the Presbyteries of New Jersey own the J-burg Camp and Conference Center and Per Capita helps operate it. Disaster Relief – When there is a disaster, the Presbyterian Church is one of the first groups to arrive with assistance. The structure that delivers the support comes from Per Capita paid by all Presbyterians.



SAVE THE DATE

# HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT AT THE PARISH HOUSE

FRIDAY,  
OCTOBER 25







65 South Street  
Morristown, NJ 07960

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

## LET'S STAY CONNECTED

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**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](https://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



**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MORRISTOWN**