



Mark your Calendar

January 2018

- 1-7 Communion/Epiphany of the Lord
- 1-14 Deacon Meeting – 11:30 a.m.
- 1-21 Ordination & Installation of Officers /Friends & Family Sunday
- 1-24 Session Meeting - 7 p.m.

February 2018

- 2-4 Communion/Souper Bowl of Caring
- 2-11 Annual Congregation Meeting/Deacon Meeting – 11:30 a.m.
- 2-18 Snow date for Annual Congregation Meeting/Friends & Family Sunday
- 2-19 Presidents' Day
- 2-28 Session Meeting – 7 p.m.

Message from the Pastor

Why don't people go to church anymore? I can't tell you how many times (56,819 times) I have had the conversation where someone talks about the fact that young people aren't as committed as they once were. People aren't coming to church like they did in decades past, and those left behind have started to notice. Many congregations are feeling older, thinner, and tired out. The future feels bleak. The studies tell us that the church is declining.

And so churches try any number of things to attract people back to church. Youth group programs, revamped and modern music, renovated worship spaces, hip and cool pastors with tattoos and any number of other gimmicks.

But nothing seems to work. At least I haven't heard of any churches successfully bringing back all the members who drifted away. And yet we keep at it, week after week, year after year worrying about people who were once here. Our grand plans for revitalization is to try and appeal to people who have already chosen to leave. Sure, it works once in a while, but this is probably not a strategy for success.

Yet, while we worry about those who were once here, we rarely take the time to understand what we are asking people to come back and commit to.

Church isn't an expected social commitment any longer.

Yet, almost always when we speak of getting people to start coming back to church, we say it just like that – 'back to church.' And the issue goes deeper to than that. So often when I ask church members what reason keeps them coming to church, there is almost always one thing at the top of the list: Church feels like family, church is

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UPDATES

Session Update

Regular January Session Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular February Session Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Deacon Update

Regular January Meeting

Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

Regular February Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

Usher Schedule

January 7	Communion Servers will be the Ushers
January 14	Joyce & Charlie Cummins Rose Bohr, Carol Keiper
January 21	Jeff & Lori Indyk, Andy & Niki Carr
January 28	Suzanne Swanson, Lynn Ehrhardt, Scott & Sheri Aydelotte
February 4	Communion Servers will be the Ushers
February 11	Joyce & Charlie Cummins Lori Frankenfield, Becky Brandt
February 18	Ruth Skirbst, Vicki Stevens Natalie Dutt, John Ehasz
February 25	Betty Holod, Ray Lalley, Courtney Morrow, Russell Scott

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JANUARY 7 – Communion/Epiphany Sunday

Assisting Elder John Ehasz
 Greeters Courtney Morrow
 Assisting Deacon Suzanne Swanson
 Servers Jeri Lynn Flynn, Carol Keiper, Ray Lalley,
 Jeff Indyk

JANUARY 14- Fellowship

Assisting Elder Scott Aydelotte
 Assisting Deacon Sue Gentle
 Greeters Carr Family

JANUARY 21 Fellowship/Ordination of Elders/Deacons/Friends & Family Sunday

Assisting Elder Ruth Skirbst
 Assisting Deacon Gail Bragin
 Greeters Rothrock Family

JANUARY 28 Fellowship

Assisting Elder Kate Harris
 Assisting Deacon Emily Swanson
 Greeters Haschak Family

FEBRUARY 4 Communion/ Souper Bowl of Caring

Assisting Elder Barb Esposito
 Assisting Deacon Rich Fehr
 Greeters Rich & Betty Salter
 Servers Charlie Cummins, Becky Brandt, Jan Kuhn,
 Lori Frankenfield

FEBRUARY 11 Annual Congregation Meeting

Assisting Elder Dave Swanson
 Assisting Deacon Jan Kuhn
 Greeters Indyk Family

FEBRUARY 14 Ash Wednesday

Assisting Elder Natalie Dutt

FEBRUARY 18 Snow Date for Annual Meeting/Friends & Family Sunday

Assisting Elder Becky Brandt
 Assisting Deacon Ray Lalley
 Greeters Carol & Thomas Keiper

FEBRUARY 25 Fellowship

Assisting Elder Nancy Farley
 Assisting Deacon Karen Rose
 Greeters Sandi Skibenes

CANCELLATION OF WORSHIP

IN TIMES OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, please tune in to the following radio station for notices about cancellation of worship or check our church website: WFMZ Channel 69 News

HOME VISITATION

If you would like Rev. Bohr or a member of the Board of Deacons to visit you at home, please contact the church office to set up a date. The Deacons are interested in visiting, providing meals, etc. However, they can not “read minds” so please let the church know of any needs.

CHOIR NEWS/RING THOSE BELLS!

If anyone is interested in joining the Children’s Choir or the Adult Choir please see Sandy Vliet. We are always glad to have new faces and voices. Choir rehearsal is from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Children’s Choir meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY

Remember the FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY is the first Sunday of every month. As you come to worship, please place your nonperishable food items in the baskets located in the downstairs hallway. Poverty and hunger, like God, do not take a vacation.

REMEMBER THESE FOLKS IN PRAYER

James Barr, Joan Barry, Christine Basai, Al Beder, Kate Beers, Michael Beers, Shirley Beers, Beth Bell, Chris Bohr, Grayson Bohr, Chloe, Dick Collins, Mary Collins, Sheila Costanza, George Costello, Kim Crane, Rachel Crane, Jimmy Crouse, Charlie Cummins, Joyce Cummins, Glenn David, DaSilva Family, Flo Dondarski, Jean Dutt, Marilyn Elmendorf, Donna Fleming, Clay Flyte, Brian Forik, Kelly Fox, Josephine A. Frankenfield, Paula Freese, Gail Gangaware, Frank Gentle, Melissa Gentle, Dick Gibbons, Anne Ginley-Yerkes, Judy Grace, Linda Hoffman, Jessica Hutton, Cecelia King, Ernie Kirchgassner, Rex LaBarre, Ray Lalley, Sam Marino, Veronica Matus, McCreesh Family, Bill McEwen, Tom Moschberger, Olivia Ruggiero, Jace Nikoden, Irma Cook Petersen, Tom Pointer, Rich Salter, Jr., Jacob Sandlin, Russell Scott, Amy Shandor, Henry Skirbst, Sharon K. Smith, Earl Steele, Sr., baby Trent, Carson Wentz, Diane Wilkinson, Danny Wismer, Debbie Wittschiebe

A CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Session of The Presbyterian Church in Harmony, New Jersey, has issued a Call for the **2017 ANNUAL CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION MEETING** to be held following Morning Worship on **Sunday, February 11, 2018** (snow date, February 18). **ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH** are asked to be **PRESENT** to do the business of the church. At the meeting, written reports of the organizations, committee and programs areas of the Church will be presented, and plans and budgets for 2018 will be reviewed.

BY ORDER OF THE SESSION

Rev. Scott Bohr, Moderator
Karen Rose, Clerk of Session

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for you to pick up in Fellowship Hall. If you could deliver envelopes to relatives, friends, or neighbors, it would save the church postage. Thank you!

DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER to all persons submitting reports for the Annual Meeting: PLEASE, PLEASE have your reports in to the Church Office by January 7, 2018. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Cathie Fischer, Office Administrator

“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY

Last year, the **“SOUPER” BOWL** raised over a million dollars to support anti-hunger programs around the country. This made a big difference to hungry people in our community. Our church will again be taking part in this effort on **“Souper” Bowl Sunday, February 4, 2018**. Be sure to bring a can of soup, with a \$1 bill wrapped around it, to worship with you that day. Baskets will be located in the church.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

If you would like to give flowers in memory of or in honor of someone, or just for a special day, a sign-up chart is on the door to Fellowship Hall. Flowers cost \$30 for two vases.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary please contact the church office at 908-859-0355 or send e-mail to tomcat507@verizon.net. Please note that the birthday and anniversary lists will be no longer appear in the Tower but will be available on our website tpcnh.org.

In an attempt to save postage costs, the newsletter will be on the church website. If you would be interested in not receiving a copy in the mail – please notify the church office. Thank you.

FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Our offerings do not meet all the church expenses. Working and praying together, along with our donations of time, money and talents, and income earned from our investments, we continue to meet our obligations. These obligations include both Local Mission (which is the expenses necessary to operate our house of worship, pastor, staff, and activities) and the World Mission (which is funds to be used outside our community: state, national and overseas).

If you have not already pledged for 2018, it is still not too late. Thank you for your support.

Dick Johnson, chair

MESSAGE REGARDING *THE TOWER*

The Tower, which is now to be published five times per year, is a miraculous publication. Recent editions have included children born to the wrong people, and occasionally, *The Tower* even has raised people from the dead. Perhaps a healing or two has occurred by simply touching *The Tower*.

Errors do occur — sometimes glaring errors. The point is that your church staff is fallible, and we often overlook the obvious because we are so close to it. We could use your forgiveness and help.

Therefore, all seriousness aside, we invite you to volunteer to assist with the next edition as proofreaders, folders, and collators. And if The Spirit moves you accordingly, please call the church office at 908-859-0355.

Peace, and may God continue to richly bless our endeavors.

Pastor Message (*continued from page 1*)

a community. And that's great, that's part of who we should be and who we truly are. But, we need to be more than just a family and community.

As churches try to understand why all the attempts to attract people back to church haven't yield better results, I think it is because the core foundation that brings most church communities together is fundamentally at odds with what people who are looking for churches are seeking today.

If I had to guess, that if people are looking for church these days, they are doing it in the same way that someone would look for a soccer team. A soccer player looks for a team because they love soccer. A church seeker is looking for a church community because they love Jesus and want to follow him. They are not looking for a church because they love church.

Despite the social commitment at the core of our churches, I think that many churches and church members do want to follow Jesus too. And it isn't that a church has to choose between being a community or following Jesus. One doesn't exclude the other.

But we DO have to choose what is at our core. We need to choose the foundation that gathers our community.

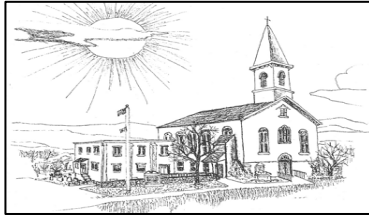
Just some thoughts...

Peace,

Scott

Rev. Scott Bohr

With thanks to Rev. Erik Parker



THE CHURCH STAFF would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who made possible our Christmas gift. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. We extend to each of you, our church family, our prayerful wish for a year full of blessings in 2017!

Rev. Scott Bohr

Cathie Fischer

Sandy Vliet

Sandi Skibenes

Carol Keiper

HARMONY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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