



Over the past two months, we have explored the importance of individual confession and forgiveness (February) and the effects of radical forgiveness (March). Now comes the important question: Why forgive?

In many ways, we are surrounded in this world by amplexness. We have choices, and all of our choices are personal. We go to certain stores because we believe that they offer the best deals, or the best hiring practices, or they haven't upset us in the past like other places. We also choose our friends, not by the millennia-aged practice of meeting people face-to-face, but now by communication via technology; in a world with over 8 billion people, we can find new friends readily, especially when our old friends have disappointed us. Everything in our life becomes ephemeral, a wisp of a passing moment, and we quickly move onto the new, letting go of the old. Sure, people could do this in the past, but it wasn't as easy. To have a fresh start after burning the bridges with friends, you would have had to travel vast distances with all your belongings, alone in barren and sometimes troubling lands; it was easier and better for the whole community if these infractions would be dealt with through resolution instead of avoidance.

Jesus makes this clear when he observes the disciples (once again) fighting with each other in Luke 22:24-27; he gently ties resolving this problem with servanthood: if we want to become great,

Weekly Schedule At a Glance

Sundays

Worship 8:00 & 9:30 am
Sunday School 9:30 am
Coftea/Fellowship 10:30 am

Tuesdays

Emanuel Ringers I 6:45 pm

Wednesdays

Bible Study 1:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal 4:30 pm

Thursdays

Emanuel Ringers II 5:45 pm
Adult Ringers 7:30 pm

Check local listings for any cancellations. Contact church office with any questions.

we must serve others. This is to resolve the argument. Community requires that some serve higher positions of power and some be comfortable with lower seats. Jesus calls his disciples to serve in those lower seats as if they were the greatest positions in the world to hold onto.

This starts to peel back the answer to the question of why forgive? We don't have to but there's something there in the community that we were created for. In the Garden of Eden, Adam was lonely and no animals could replace an equal. Out of his rib bone, as the story goes, God created Eve as a companion. Imagine the first arguments as these two tried to navigate life together. There was absolutely no running to another community to escape the act of forgiveness!

God created us at this time and place for integration in community. Some of your greatest strengths cannot be replicated easily; you are a unique snowflake. Nor does running from the problems you encounter ever work; the problems just come back again in different manifestations. We can run our whole life, but is that really what God wants from us?

Get a group of people together, and eventually there will be disagreements and inevitable brokenness. The example of the being a Christ follower only to repent and become one of the most vocal supporters and initiators in the faith. This is just one of the saints we lift up on Sundays this Easter season;

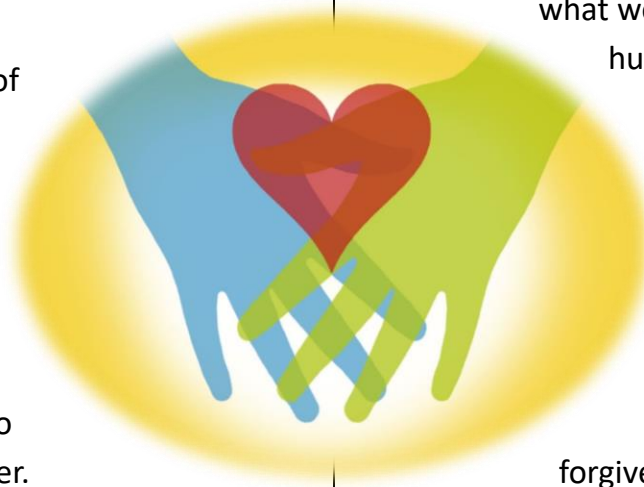
disciples is very apt here. There were many disagreements, and I wonder if Peter's question to Jesus about how many times he should forgive someone who has sinned against him was really about a specific incident that had just recently occurred (Matthew 18:21). We know Jesus' response by the absurd number he gives (due to differences in translation, it sometimes comes out to be 77 or 490 or 4900 times). Living in dialogue and disagreement is what we are made for because

human life isn't perfect (see the February newsletter).

None of us are complete yet and we can all be humble enough to learn from others. Thanks be to God.

With the connection that forgiveness is about living in intentional community and given that this world is broken in so many ways by pseudo-community (forming unrealistic and sometimes false friendships that are easily broken), forgiveness is a specific Christian practice (although others can and sometimes do forgive better than Christians). We are created to be together, to be fully present with the gifts God has given us, to share with those we live with, and ultimately, to forgive the faults of all others by serving them as greater because we too have our failings. The prime example in the Bible can be found in Saul/Paul of Tarsus, who has people executed for may you also be part of the radical Christian exercise of forgiveness!

-Pastor Kevin O'Hara





Music Notes



MUSIC Director

"We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song" -- Pope John Paul II

The Easter season is upon us! The choir will be singing *"Sing Hosanna"* on Palm Sunday as well as *O Sacred Head* during our service. The bells will be ringing a processional and at the final hymn. As the week goes on, more somber music will fill the church on Maundy Thursday in the afternoon and come Easter morning, the choir will again bless us with a rousing anthem *Acclamation for Easter* along with all our favorite Easter hymns! Be sure not to miss it.

The Noontime at Emanuel series wrapped up their 2025-2026 season on March 18th with a concert of Haydn & Schubert presented by Sharon Chang, pianist. It was a wonderful one as the music filled the sanctuary. I'm grateful to all of my performers this past year and also to the audience! I hope to continue this series in the fall with more great music! Stay tuned throughout the spring/summer for more information about it.

Musically in Him,
Debbie Jones-Norberto
Director of Music



Emanuel Ringers

HUDSON VALLEY HANDBELL FESTIVAL

The Adult Ringers will be participating. Come and hear a great concert.




HVHFC
 50th
 ANNUAL
HANDBELL CONCERT

Kathleen Ebling Shaw
Guest Director

Cari Cregan
Local Director

April 25, 2026 @ 4:00 pm
 Sommer Center at Iona University
 Bronxville Campus
 171 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

GIFT CARD ORDERS FUNDRAISER AND HOPE'S DOOR

Our next gift card order will be taken on April 12. Purchase cards to use and support the ringers at the same time. Have your orders into Eiko by 6 PM. If you would like to purchase gift cards to donate to Hope's Door organization that seeks to end domestic violence and empower victims to achieve safety, independence and healing. Order here for Hope's Door [Click Here for 2026 Hope's Door Gift Card Order Form](#)

EMANUEL RINGERS II

The Emanuel Ringers II, mother/daughter team provided music for worship for the first time!



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 31, 4 PM. The Emanuel Ringers will hold their end of year Celebration with all the choirs participating. Come and enjoy an afternoon of music.

IRISH SODA BREAD

Thank you to those who baked, preordered and bought Irish Soda Bread. Your support help to raise \$230 for their trip to Scotland.

EMANUEL RINGERS I AND ALUMNI AT RIVERSIDE!

Emanuel Ringers I and alumni ...



and some of many familiar faces who came to the concert.

RIVERSIDE HANDBELL FESTIVAL!

The Emanuel Ringers I and Alumni participated in the Annual Festival. Thank you to those who watched online and came in person. Half the choir were busy participating in the Pleasantville school play, so they some were unable to participate in both. Congratulations to all of them whether they rang at the festival, participated in the school play or both! We are also grateful to alumna, Nick and Mio, who were able to participate in the festival to ring in some open spots we had.

You can still watch the concert online in case you missed it.
[Click here to watch 2026 Riverside Handbell Festival](#)

-Eko Cornelius
Handbell Director

THANK YOU PAUL!

All the best to Paul Esposito who moved to California. Thank you for ringing with us as an alumni!





ANNUAL

HANDBELL CONCERT

**Kathleen
Ebling Shaw**
Guest Director

Cari Cregan
Local Director

April 25, 2026 @ 4:00 pm

Sommer Center at Iona University
Bronxville Campus

171 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

Social Ministry

A giving opportunity from Social Ministry:



Hope's Door is a local agency in Westchester County that seeks to prevent, respond to, and partner to end domestic violence. It also seeks to empower victims to achieve safety, independence, and healing from the trauma of abuse. It provides 24/7/365 crisis support, an information hotline, and emergency shelter to ensure individuals are safe from the threats of violence. **Hope's**

Door also provides counseling and legal services for victims in addition to domestic violence education in schools and community centers throughout the County. One way we can support **Hope's Door's** work is by donating gift cards for distribution to their clients.

Hope's Door Wish List requests physical gift cards for:

- *Supermarkets: ShopRite, Acme, StopNShop
- Drugstores: CVS, Walgreens
- Stores: Target, Walmart, Kohl's
- *Gas cards (brands are not specified)
- Other: Visa

*Cards for supermarkets and gas are needed most.

Social Ministry will be accepting gift cards for **Hope's Door** through **April 26th**. You can help support **Hope's Door** clients as well as our **Emanuel Ringers** if you purchase your cards through the **Ringers'** fundraising program by **Sunday, April 12th**.

[Click Here for 2026 Hope's Door Gift Card Order Form](#) that will also support Emanuel Ringers. Payment information is included in the form.

Please give your gift cards to Karen Nurmi or put them in the Social Ministry mailbox in the office.

Thank you for your generosity in responding to God's call to love and care the vulnerable among us!

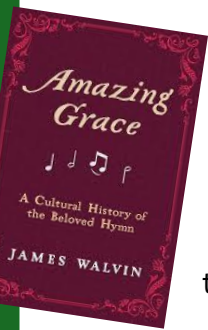
Deacon Karen Nurmi,
Social Ministry Chair

Christian

Faith & Life

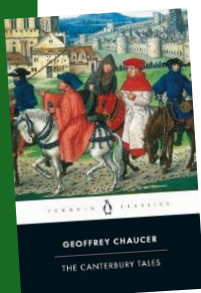
Book Club

James Walvin makes the audacious claim one hymn above all others has had the power to traverse the religious/secular and genre divides that most music today falls into. In his book *Amazing Grace: a Cultural History of the Beloved Hymn* he explores how this song has taken fire since the 1800's, emboldening those most vulnerable while united those most afflicted. As you read the book, think over the following questions:



- 1) What is your experience with the hymn "Amazing Grace"?
- 2) What do you wish to know more about the hymn's author, John Newton?
- 3) What moments in recent history stand out as a testament to the hymn's legacy in overcoming division.

For May, we will be entering into a time of poetry as we delve into the renowned *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer. A group of travelers come together to share short (or in some cases, long) stories to entertain while they journey. While the book was unfinished, it is a remarkable work nonetheless. Looking ahead: As we enter into the summer months, we'll be celebrating



the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States through a trinity of books. For June, we'll explore *Lutherans in America: a New History* by Mark Granquist; July, we'll read together *Chosen Land: How Christianity Made America and Americans Remade Christianity* by Matthew Avery Sutton; the August book is still being worked out (there are a few contenders but I'm hoping for a historical fiction book around faith and church life during the Revolutionary War).

Kid's Book

What does it take to believe? In the Sundays following Easter day (it would be April 5th this year), we hear stories of Jesus' followers who come to see the faith that God has put in them through their experiences with the risen Jesus Christ. There's the disciple Thomas who wants to actually see Jesus' body. There's Peter who needs to see the empty tomb where Jesus last was left. And there's Mary Magdalene, who stumbles upon Jesus not sure who she was talking to. In the book *Mary and the Gardener* by Paul Kerensa and illustrated by Leanne Daphne, we relive the story of Mary's conversation with Jesus. Mary will then be the first one to share Jesus' resurrection with all the other disciples! What do you find interesting about this story?

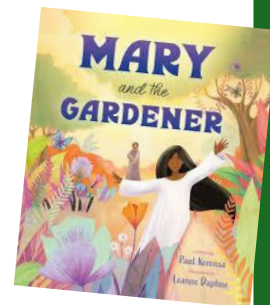


Table Talk

What does it mean to pray to God? Prayer is like a conversation, but it's a lot easier to speak than to listen! The disciples wanted to know how Jesus prayed to God so they asked Jesus to teach them a simple prayer. This is how the Lord's Prayer comes to us. In this month's focus, we'll look at the next two petitions of the Lord's Prayer, all written through the lens of the *Small Catechism* by Rev. Martin Luther.

The Second Petition

Your kingdom come.

What is this? OR What does this mean?

In fact, God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.

How does this come about?

Whenever our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that through the Holy Spirit's grace we believe God's holy word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.

The Third Petition

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

What is this? OR What does this mean?

In fact, God's good and gracious will comes about without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come about in and among us.

How does this come about?

Whenever God breaks and hinders every evil scheme and will—as are present in the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh that would not allow us to hallow God's name and would prevent the coming of his kingdom, and instead whenever God strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his word and in faith until the end of our lives. This is God's gracious and good will.



Easter Blessings

Leadership

Council Members

Darlene Esposito, *President, Christian Ed. Liaison, Environmental Stewardship Liaison*

Helayne McDonnell, *Vice President*

Sandi Whynott, *Secretary, Personnel Liaison*

Daniel Berin, *Environmental Stewardship Liaison*

Suzanne Cantatore, *Outreach Liaison*

Linda Collins, *Seminarian Scholarship*

Gregg Gonzalez, *Fellowship Liaison*

Roger Kent, *Financial Liaison, Property Liaison*

Sonja Meberg, *Social Ministry Liaison*

Lee Pollock, *PHNS Liaison*

Ernie Riefenhauser, *Stewardship Liaison, Worship, Music, and Arts Liaison*

Gigi Riefenhauser

Committee Heads and Other Roles

Denise Rempe, *Treasurer, Finance, Stewardship*

Rick Brooks, *Financial Secretary*

Darlene Esposito and Helayne McDonnell, *Christian Faith and Life*

Kevin McGettrick, *Fellowship*

Suzanne Cantatore and Sonja Meberg, *Outreach*

Lee Pollock, *Pleasant Hill Nursery Board (PHNS)*

Helayne McDonnell and Sandi Whynott, *Personnel*

Doug Esposito, *Seminarian Scholarship*

Dcn. Karen Nurmi and Irene Kogelmann (emeritus), *Social Ministry*

Lynne Beard and Dcn. Karen Nurmi, *Worship Music, and Arts*

Youth Group

Director

Youth group weekly MEETINGS



04/05

NO MEETING- CANCELLED (EASTER SUNDAY)

04/12

6-7:30pm @ Emanuel Lutheran Church

04/19

NO MEETING- CANCELLED

04/26

6-7:30pm @ Emanuel Lutheran Church

For more info, contact:
tawe@pvillepresby.org



PLEASANTVILLE ECUMENICAL YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

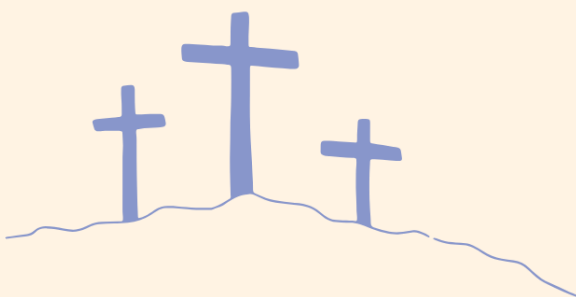
YOUTH
YOUTH
YOUTH
YOUTH
YOUTH
YOUTH

APRIL-JUNE
2026

WEEKLY MEETINGS
SUNDAYS
FROM 6PM-7:30PM

APRIL

- 04/05 EASTER SUNDAY
- 04/10 GAME NIGHT @ 7 PM
- 04/18 SPRING SPRUCE UP @ 9AM
- ★ 04/25 INVITE-A-FRIEND SPRING SOCIAL @ 6PM ★
- 04/18 LUTHERAN CHURCH CLEAN UP



MAY

- 05/09 MOVIE NIGHT @ 7PM
- 05/16 BOWLING @ 4PM
- 05/30 PLEASANTVILLE PRIDE

JUNE

- 06/13 BEACH CLEANUP @ 11AM
- 06/20 BOB ROSS NIGHT @ 6PM
- 06/27 SCHOOL'S OUT PARTY @ 6PM



ALL DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE
FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT: TAW@PVILLEPRESBY.ORG

Youth Group Events for This Month



APRIL



2026

**SUN
05**

HAPPY EASTER !!!



**FRI
10**

GAME NIGHT

↘ Pleasantville Presbyterian Church
7pm



**SAT
25**

**INVITE-A-FRIEND
SPRING SOCIAL**

↘ Pleasantville Presbyterian Church
6 pm



**SUN
26**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
CLEANUP**

↘ Emanuel Lutheran Church

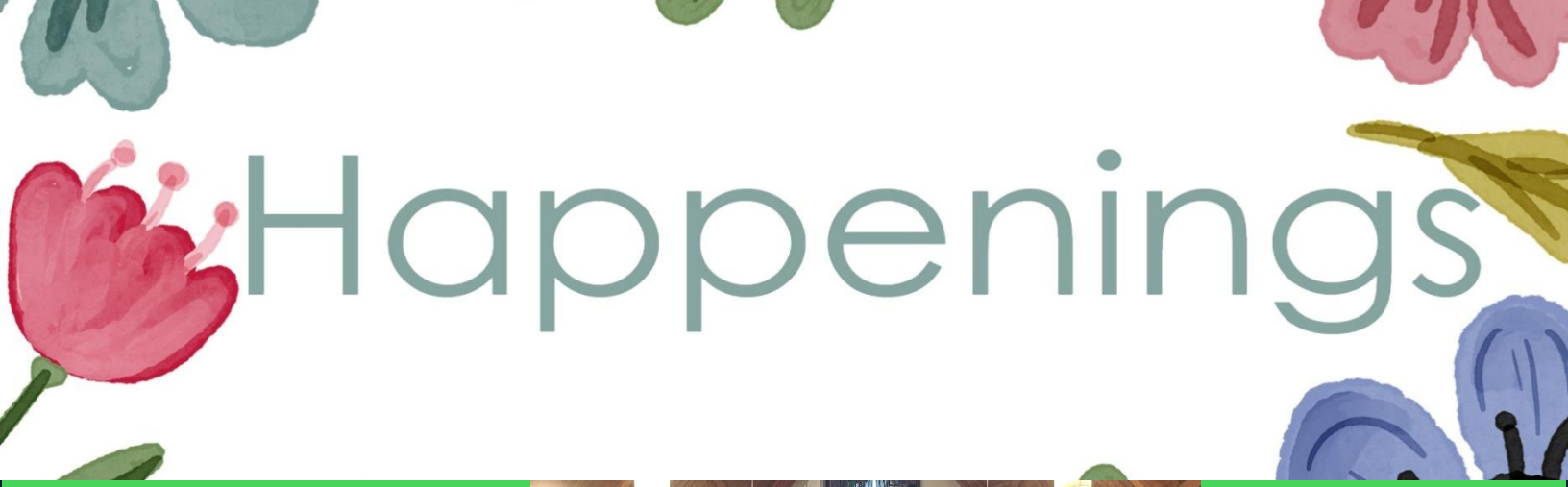


Weekly meetings every Sunday 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

For more information contact:



tawe@pvillepresby.org



Happenings



MARCH WAS FILLED WITH BAPTISMS AT EMANUEL! A TOTAL OF 5 BABIES (WITH ONE MARATHON SUNDAY HOSTING 4) HAPPENED DURING MARCH!



USHERING IN PALM SUNDAY AND THE YOUTH PREPARING FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT!



Check
OUT the
News!

This month's focus comes from our Episcopal friends. As a first, the Anglican community (of which the Episcopal Church is a part) has called Rev. Sarah Mullally as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. She is the first female in the role, and as the article references, this is causing a little division. Still, the majority of the Anglican community is excited and she is more than gifted for this role. Our news source comes from Episcopal News Service at episcopalnewsservice.org. You can get the full article [here](#).

Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally installed in service attended by Anglican Communion leaders

By David Paulsen

Posted Mar 25, 2026

Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally was installed March 25 at a service at Canterbury Cathedral that was attended by leaders from across the Anglican Communion, including Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe and several other representatives from The Episcopal Church.



The ceremonial installation marks the start of Mullally's public ministry. As the 106th archbishop of Canterbury and the first woman to hold that office, she acknowledged that history and her unlikely path to this moment in her sermon.

"I make this journey both on a personal level ... but more significantly I make this journey with others and in the footsteps of the past," she said, mentioning Thomas Becket, who served as archbishop of Canterbury 850 years ago. "Today, I think of the many thousand unknown Christians who have trodden these same paths since, and not just on this ancient land, but all across the world. People walk the pilgrim paths of faith each and every day."

Mullally, 63, was ordained to the priesthood in 2001 after a career as a nurse treating cancer patients and had served as the bishop of London since 2018. As archbishop of Canterbury, she now leads the Church of England and serves as a "focus of unity" for all 42 autonomous, interdependent provinces of the Anglican Communion, including The Episcopal Church, which have historical roots in England.

She was named the church's next archbishop of Canterbury in October, and she took office Jan. 28 after her election was confirmed. Her installation service, also known as an enthronement, at the 1,400-year-old Canterbury Cathedral was livestreamed on the Church of England's YouTube channel.

The installation also marked the feast day of the Annunciation of Our Lord... During the procession of bishops before the service, more than 5,000 viewers already were watching online, and that number topped 8,000 after the service got underway.

"This is a truly global gathering," Canterbury Cathedral Dean David Monteith said in welcoming remarks at the start of the service that acknowledged the geographic breadth of those in attendance. "We meet in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose service we are united."

After a ceremonial reading of the mandate for Mullally's installation, those inside the cathedral stood as, outside, the new archbishop gave the customary three knocks with her pastoral staff on the cathedral door, which opened for her entrance.

"I am Sarah, a servant of Jesus Christ, and I come as one seeking the grace of God, to travel with you in his service together," Mullally said, in the words appointed for the liturgy. "I am sent as archbishop to serve you, to proclaim the love of Christ and with you to worship and love him with heart and soul, mind and strength."

After processing to the nave altar, Mullally kneeled, and Monteith said: "Let us join Sarah, our archbishop, in prayer for God's blessing on her ministry in this diocese, in the Province of Canterbury and throughout the world-wide Anglican Communion."

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell and Monteith then led Mullally through the Declaration of Assent and the Oaths, which she spoke after placing her hand on a Bible.

After she was formally installed, Mullally said: "I solemnly commit myself before you to the service of the Church of England, the Anglican Communion and the whole Church of Christ throughout the world, that together we may proclaim the Gospel of Christ who reconciles us to God and breaks down the walls that divide us."

On the dean's cue, all stood in applause.

Twenty-six Anglican primates — archbishops and presiding bishops who lead the Anglican Communion's provinces — were reported in attendance at Mullally's installation, including the Most Rev. Alba Sally Sue Hernández García, who was just elected primate of the Anglican Church of Mexico on March 21. Speaking in Spanish, she read the Gospel reading for Mullally's installation, Luke 1:26-38.

In her sermon, Mullally noted that some Anglican leaders were unable to attend the service because of the war in the Middle East between the United States, Israel and Iran. "We pray for them without ceasing, and for all those in worn-torn areas of the world, in Ukraine, in Sudan and Myanmar, that they would know God's presence with them, just as we pray for peace to prevail," she said.

Ecumenical guests included the leaders of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Assyrian Orthodox Church, a representative from the Vatican, other Roman Catholic officials and British Protestant leaders. Others present included representatives from a wide range of global faith traditions, including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Sikhism.

Mullally preached about the Gospel story of Mary's acceptance of God's call, saying it was an inspiration for her and for all Christians.

"As I look back over my life, at the teenage Sarah who put her faith in God and made a commitment to follow Jesus, I could never have imagined the future that lay ahead, and certainly not the ministry to which I am now called," Mullally said. "Mary followed in the footsteps of the faithful. Her story resonates with the beautiful stories of women, like Hannah, in the Scriptures. Mary put her hope in God's future. She trusted that he was with her, and through Mary, God did a new thing..."

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send us your address changes, thank you notes, words of encouragement for the congregation, and thoughts and you might just see them in future publications. As a community, we want to stay connected and stay encouraged! **In particular, as students come to the end of the school year, we want to hear what life has in store! We'll publish these stories in our May and June editions!**



Updates on Pastor Kevin's Family Leave Plan

Pastor Kevin will be on the second part of his leave from April 6 until May 16. Coverage continues like before.

During this time, 9:30 am worship services will be covered mainly by Rev. Kathleen Koran. Our 8 am worship service will be covered by our deacons; there will be no communion available for this service while Pastor Kevin is on leave.

When it comes to administrative operations, Deacon Nancy Schoener will be covering for Pastor Kevin. If you should need pastoral care during this time, please reach out to her. Should the request need a pastor, Deacon Nancy will be in consultation with Rev. Kathleen. Deacon Nancy is happy to make visitations upon request.

Dee Furgang, our church's office administrator, will continue to cover all aspects of coordination and communication between our church body. Please continue to reach out to her as you normally would.

Both our council president, Darlene Esposito, and our vice president, Helayne McDonnell, are providing assistance and support to the staff and ministries during this time. Please show them deep appreciation for their stepping up in this role which is more than volunteer leaders are ever asked to do.

Just note that during the leave, Pastor Kevin is not expected to check email or answer the phone. Continue to direct all needs to the church staff, deacons, or Council leaders during this time.

Rev. Kevin O'Hara
Pastor
914-769-1559 ext. 2

Deborah Jones-Norberto
Director of Music

Eiko Cornelius
Director of Handbells

Dee Furgang
Office Administrator
914-769-1559 ext. 1

Louise Edelman
Comptroller

Maureen McArdle
Pleasant Hill Nursery School
914-769-1559 ext. 3

Eka Tawe
Director of Youth Ministry

Lynne Beard
Liturgical Artist in Residence

Jessie Edelman
Videographer Head

Dcn. Nancy Schoener
Office Assistant, Parish Nurse

Deacons
Bill Bello
Karen Nurmi
Barbara Meberg
Nancy Schoener
Victoria Lee Struss

Upcoming Events

4/7 – Ladies Breakfast – 9:00 am
4/7 – Emanuel Ringers I – 6:45 pm
4/8 – Bible Study – 1:00 pm
4/8 - Choir Rehearsal – 4:30 pm
4/9 – Emanuel Ringers II – 5:45 pm
4/9 – Adult Ringers – 7:30 pm
4/14 – Boys Breakfast – 9:00 am
4/14 – Emanuel Ringers I – 6:45 pm
4/14 – Worship, Music & Arts – 7:00 pm
4/15 – Bible Study – 1:00 pm – Zoom
4/15 – Choir Rehearsal
4/16 – Emanuel Ringers II – 5:45 pm
4/16 – Church Council Mtg. – 7:00 pm
4/16 – Adult Ringers – 7:30 pm
4/19 – Youth Group Mtg - 6:00 pm
@ Emanuel
4/21 – Staff Mtg. – 11:30 am

4/21 – Emanuel Ringers I – 6:45 pm
4/22 - Bible Study – 1:00 pm – Zoom
4/22 – Choir Rehearsal – 4:30 pm
4/23 – Emanuel Ringers II – 5:45 pm
4/23 – Adult Ringers – 7:30 pm
4/25 – Hudson Valley Handbell Festival – Iona
University, Bronxville, 4:00 pm
4/26 – Church Clean-up Day – 11:00 am
4/26 – Youth Group Mtg. – 6:00 pm
@Presbyterian Church
4/28 – Emanuel Ringers I – 6:45 pm
4/29 - Boy's Breakfast – 9:00 pm
4/29 – Bible Study – Zoom – 1:00 pm
4/29 – Choir Rehearsal – 4:30 pm
4/30 – Emanuel Ringers II – 5:45 pm
4/30 – Adult Ringers – 7:30 pm



Inspirational quote:

“But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said.’”

(Matthew 28:5-6)