



# The Belltower

April 2024

The Newsletter of the Clover Hill Reformed Church

## Sunday, April 7, 2024, 10:00 AM

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

Leading us in worship:

the Rev. David Hill

## Sunday, April 14, 2024, 10:00 AM

Third Sunday of Easter

“41 is Coming – Noah”

Psalm 46:1-11; Genesis 7:11-19

Leading us in worship:

the Rev. Courtney Cromie

## Sunday, April 21, 2024, 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday of Easter

“41 is Coming – David”

1 Samuel 17: 8-11, 16, 41-46a, 48-50;

Luke 10:17-20

Leading us in worship:

the Rev. Courtney Cromie

## Sunday, April 28, 2024, 10:00 AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter

“41 is Coming – Moses”

Psalm 37:1-9; Exodus 34:10-14, 27-28

Leading us in worship:

the Rev. Courtney Cromie

Pastor Courtney will be preaching a four-week sermon series from April 14-May 5 called “41 Is Coming” – by Mike Meligan.

- ◆ In the Bible, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Day 41 came and the rain stopped.
- ◆ Moses committed murder & hid in the desert for 40 years. Year 41 came, and God called him to help rescue Israel.
- ◆ Moses went up on the mountain for 40 days. On day 41, he received the Ten Commandments.
- ◆ The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Year 41, they walked into the Promised Land.
- ◆ Goliath taunted Israel for 40 days. Day 41 came, and David slew him.
- ◆ Jonah preached a message of repentance to Ninevah for 40 days. On day 41, God stopped His plan to destroy them.
- ◆ Jesus fasted and was tempted for 40 days. Day 41, and the devil fled.
- ◆ After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for 40 days. On day 41, He ascended into Heaven.
- ◆ All this to say...don't quit. The rain will stop, the giant will fall, and you will enter your "promised land." Don't give up at 40.

Thank you to Flemington Floral Company & Greenhouses, Inc

22 N Main St, Flemington, NJ 08822

(908) 782-2219 / <https://www.flemingtonfloral.com/>.

Each year they provide (donate) the palms to the area churches for our Palm Sunday worship services.

This year they are celebrating 100 years of business.

### Communication and Contact Information

Clover Hill Reformed Church, 890 Amwell Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844

908-369-8451 / [chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com) / Website: [www.cloverhillchurch.org](http://www.cloverhillchurch.org) / Like Us On Facebook

The office of CHRC is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.

The office administrator will be working remotely each Wednesday and available by phone (908-369-8451 by leaving a message) and email ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com))



In a survey to the congregation, we asked if Clover Hill provides for our spiritual needs. One said, “Yes, but this is a two-way street. One’s spiritual needs can only be met through one’s own participation.” Another said, “No. I’m still on the search for what my needs are, but I’ll keep coming until I reach that goal.”

Our journey is not finished and we are confident enough in our faith that we keep walking together.

(Excerpt from CHRC Mission Study, September 2022)

We will be led in worship by:

April 7: Rev. David Hill

Deacon: Jim Quick

Elder: Kirsten Posselt

April 14: Rev. Courtney Cromie

Deacon: Carolyn Keck

Elder: Karen Babecki

April 21: Rev. Courtney Cromie

Deacon: Barry Totten

Elder: David Gwin

April 28: Rev. Courtney Cromie

Deacon: Gene Reinhardt

Elder: Amy Frank



# Worship With Us Online

Sundays at 10:00 am

Our live-streamed services will be accessible in real-time through:

**YouTube** [Click Here to check out our YouTube Channel!](#)

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## Zoom Login for meetings only

**By computer:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3847369806>  
Meeting ID: 384 736 9806  
Passcode: 5hhNCv

**By phone:**

+1 646 558 8656  
Meeting ID: 384 736 9806  
Passcode: 544042

**If you are not feeling well (COVID, flu, or other potentially contagious illness)  
please stay home and join us via Zoom.**

We're now on Instagram!



*click, follow & like*

Our Instagram name is 'Clover\_Hill\_Reformed\_Church\_' (that's right, there is a 'dangling' underscore at the end).

Are you following us on Facebook?



*click, follow, like & share*

Even if you are not a Facebook user, you can still see our church's Facebook page. If you have any content that you would like to see up on Facebook or Instagram send to the Office Administration [CHRC1834@gmail.com](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com).

### 2024 Consistory members, officers & team coordinators

**Elders:**

- Amy Frank—Vice President [frankfmly@yahoo.com](mailto:frankfmly@yahoo.com)
- Nancy Lane—Pastoral Care [nlane54@gmail.com](mailto:nlane54@gmail.com)
- Kirsten Posselt—Clerk of Consistory [kirstenposselt3@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenposselt3@gmail.com)
- Lori Voorhees—Spiritual Growth [l.voorhees@comcast.net](mailto:l.voorhees@comcast.net)

**Deacons:**

- Carolyn Keck—Spiritual Growth [carolynkeck64@gmail.com](mailto:carolynkeck64@gmail.com)
- Gene Reinhardt—Stewardship [greinhardt9@gmail.com](mailto:greinhardt9@gmail.com)
- Barbara Sarzillo—Fellowship & Service [barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com)
- Communications—

**Staff:**

- George Farrell—music director [deuscaritasest@aol.com](mailto:deuscaritasest@aol.com)
- Lynn Totten—office administrator [CHRC1834@gmail.com](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com)

Simon Peter said to them,  
"I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you."  
John 21:3

The Gospel according to John was finished. The end of the 20th chapter clearly is a wrap up: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing, you may have life in his name." And then the Gospel continues. A 21st chapter is added. Why? We may speculate that this final story had been forgotten, but could not be left out.

And what happens in this last chapter? It is after Easter, after the resurrection, after Jesus's appearance with his disciples. What to do now? Simon Peter had an answer. "I am going fishing." It was what they did; it was who they were. They returned to what they knew. And there, they encountered Jesus.

It is easy to see the parallels for our journey. As we move past our observances of Holy Week, past the celebration of Easter, where do we go as individuals? As we move past the end of Pastor Beth's transitional ministry with us, where do we go as a church? The answer is simple. We continue to do what we do. We continue to be who we are. And we look for Jesus, joining us where we are--in the ordinary busy-ness of our lives and in the ongoing worship and work of the church. Like the disciples, we may fail to recognize Him at first. But if we allow ourselves to see with the eyes of faith, with the eyes of the heart, we will know that He is there, directing us, challenging us to trust and cast the nets again.

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."

*Recalled and adapted from a sermon delivered by Rev. Jack Cherry*

## Covenant of Closure

Upon her arrival in Clover Hill, when asked how she preferred to be addressed, Pastor Beth responded that "reverend is a title; pastor is a relationship." Over the course of more than two years, we have lived in this relationship together. We have prayed together, worshipped together, celebrated together, mourned together, talked, discussed, disagreed, shared. And while this relationship has been of relatively short duration, life has happened during our time together and a pastoral bond has been formed.

At our March meeting, the members of Consistory discussed and agreed to enter into a Covenant of Closure with Pastor Beth. We are grateful for the participation of the Rev. Dawn Alpaugh, our Classis minister, in this conversation. She helped us to understand why this Covenant is necessary and required by the Classis at the end of a pastorate. It is precisely because of the sacred and personal role of the pastor in the life of a congregation and its members that the Covenant is entered into. The stated purposes of the Covenant of Closure are to provide for a grace-filled dissolution of the pastoral relationship and to promote the formation of healthy, new pastoral relationships.

Under this Covenant, Pastor Beth agrees that, with the exception of specific commitments she has made and will honor, she will no longer be providing pastoral services to Clover Hill or its members. If there are to be any additional exceptions for which Pastor Beth is asked to provide pastoral services of any kind for anyone who is a part of the Clover Hill family, these will be handled through consultation with the new pastor, if one is in place, or the Consistory or the Classis minister, as appropriate.

This pastoral relationship, now ending, has been a blessing. We join in asking for God's blessings on Pastor Beth's ministry and on the ministry of the Clover Hill Reformed Church as we come to the end of our journey together.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to any of us.

Amy Frank ([frankfmly@yahoo.com](mailto:frankfmly@yahoo.com))

Carolyn Keck ([carolynkeck64@gmail.com](mailto:carolynkeck64@gmail.com))

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Gene Reinhardt ([greinhardt9@gmail.com](mailto:greinhardt9@gmail.com))

Kirsten Posselt ([kirstenposselt3@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenposselt3@gmail.com))

Barbara Sarzillo ([barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com))

Lori Voorhees ([l.voorhees@comcast.net](mailto:l.voorhees@comcast.net))



January 2022



March 2024

# Message from the Pastoral Search Team

## Search Team Update:

This last month has given us opportunities as well as setbacks with so many obligations with us journeying through Lent and Holy Week. That offered the team more options to see one of our candidates' preach in person at various venues. The candidates' calendars are also very full with preaching obligations and wrapping up their semester at seminary. We are feeling very positive and praying for God's guidance as we move forward.

Our focus is on number 7 of the "Seven C's" from the book "The Calling of a Part-Time Pastor is Compensation (pg. 89-90)

### Compensation

*The main idea here is to be honest, fair, and creative. This pertains to the church and to the pastor. Don't make it a negotiation between two competing parties; instead make it an exploration of the best way to enter into a partnership in the gospel together for the benefit of the church. What does this look like? Basically, you all sit down together to come up (with) what is mutually beneficial. Remember, the part-time pastor has already agreed not to be fully compensated by the church, has already committed to working another job to serve your church, and has already relinquished many benefits of serving in a fully-funded ministry (like more time for sermon preparation, more days for visitation, more opportunities to attend conferences and church events, more flexibility in scheduling, and the like). In other words, this pastor has already demonstrated their dedication to serving as a partner in the gospel with you.*

*You can show your dedication to serving in partnership in the gospel with them by representing the financial position of the church with integrity.*

*Another way to show your dedication is to offer what is right, financially speaking, for the amount of ministry you expect of them. If you really expect your pastor to serve in a 'full-time' role in terms of hours per week, but you are only offering them compensation equal to 'half-time' in terms of hours per week, you (are) being dishonest and unfair. . . . This, as you can imagine, is a recipe for disaster.*

*Here is where creativity must come in. Perhaps you plan on calling a part-time pastor for '1/2' time. Yet your church cannot afford what is required for this. There are other benefits you can offer, rather than money. There may be a parsonage that can be used by the pastor. If the pastor will reside in the parsonage with full utilities paid by the church, but is only going to be '1/2' time, you are already providing a substantial benefit to the pastor. Therefore, the pastor may agree to the salary portion of the compensation being less than usual for '1/2' time. Think also about a pastor who makes a good living at their other job. Maybe being offered more money will not appeal to them as much as being offered more weeks off for vacation or continuing education.*

### Your Search Team:

Patty Agnew [paw61961@gmail.com](mailto:paw61961@gmail.com)

Janet Durborow [jdurbor@gmail.com](mailto:jdurbor@gmail.com)

Marilyn Fineman (Search Team Chair) [marilyn@fineman.me](mailto:marilyn@fineman.me)

Matt Furmato [tmfurmato@embarqmail.com](mailto:tmfurmato@embarqmail.com)

Gary Keck [gkeck6@gmail.com](mailto:gkeck6@gmail.com)

Laurel Suk [sukart24@gmail.com](mailto:sukart24@gmail.com)

Gary Tully [crusingg@aol.com](mailto:crusingg@aol.com)

Linda Santa-Lucia (Classis Supervisor)

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team

Coordinator: Carolyn Keck ([carolynkeck64@gmail.com](mailto:carolynkeck64@gmail.com)) and Lori Voorhees ([l.voorhees@comcast.net](mailto:l.voorhees@comcast.net))

## Ten Ways to Love Like God Loves

### 1 CORINTHIANS 13

We talk a lot about love but know less about it today than any generation since the time of Christ. It's amazing how the word "love" can be misused.

Many think love is just a feeling—oceans of emotions. We get confused because English has only one word for love. But there are several kinds of love, and Scripture uses a different Greek word for each kind.

*Eros* is romantic love between a man and a woman.

*Phileo* is the brotherly love we feel for friends and companions.

*Storge* is the love family members have for each other.

**But *agape* (pronounced "ah-gah'-pay") is God's love—the love He extends to everyone.**

Love may contain feelings. But God's love isn't an emotion because the Bible commands us to love, and you cannot command an emotion. Think about it.

We cannot *phileo* or *storge* the world because those types of love involve feelings and emotions. But *agape* isn't something you feel—it's something you do. *Agape* is the love God commands us to give. *Agapeis* results in action, not feelings. It's listed first in the fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22](#)). We can *agape* even those we don't like, because to *agape* is a choice.

What is God's *agape* love like? [First Corinthians 13](#) perfectly summarizes ten aspects of it. Let's do a little fruit inspecting.

Are these ten qualities in your heart?



#### STEADFAST

God's *agape* love is longsuffering. If you're impatient, then you're unlike the Lord Jesus. "... having loved His own, He loved them unto the end" ([John 13:1](#)). *Agape* is longsuffering; it forgives 70 times 7, and then keeps right on.

#### SERVING

*Agape* love doesn't give what others deserve, but what they need. If someone has wronged you, find a way to be kind. You say, "They don't deserve it." That's right. *Agape* serves those who don't deserve it. Do good, speak well, pray hard for your enemies.

#### SINCERE

*Agape* rejoices when another is blessed. If I say I love you but cringe when you're praised, if I think your gain is my loss, I don't sincerely love you.

#### SELF-EFFACING

*Agape* is humble. It doesn't swagger. Pride and love do not dwell in the same heart. If you're filled with egotism and pride, you're hard to be around. You're argumentative. "Only by pride comes contention" ([Pro. 13:10](#)). Any contention in your home? The problem in our homes is ego against ego, self-love against self-love. *Agape* quells your pride.

#### SELF-RESTRAINING

*Agape* is courteous. A rude person is so unlike Jesus, who was meek and gentle, putting others first. *Agape* loves in little things. If you don't love in little things, you won't love in big things.

#### SELF-DENYING

*Agape* doesn't say, "Me first," or "I know my rights." When you were saved, you were crucified with Christ. You're not your own; you're bought with a price, and He has commanded you to love. When we stop thinking about our rights and seek to bless others, our world will change.

#### SERENE

*Agape* is not easily provoked. If you want to know what you're full of, just see what spills out when you're jostled. If you quickly explode, the love of Jesus is missing within.

#### SACRIFICIAL

There's no forgiveness without someone paying a price. If you owe me \$10 and I forgive it, it costs me \$10, doesn't it? Bury past hurts in the grave of God's forgetfulness. It costs to forgive.

#### SYMPATHETIC

*Agape* love doesn't rejoice when someone falls. It weeps. When you hear of someone's hurt or failure, you're heartbroken over sin.

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

## And the Tenth Way to Love Like God Loves

### SUFFERING

Agape is sacrificial. It's the love that, choosing to love, also chooses to suffer. When you love someone, you risk that they may hurt and disappoint you. You cannot love without suffering. It "beareth all things."

How did you do on these qualities? Examine your heart and ask: "Is this true in of me?"

The New English Bible puts it this way: "There is nothing love cannot face. There is no limit to its faith." There's a burden to bear when you love like God loves. His *agape* love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Agape is the love our world needs. My friend, that's the fruit of the Spirit.

Do you find that you have work to do on your list? If so, then talk to the Lord about it.

(Article from Love Worth Finding Ministries)



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.  
Colossians 3:12

## Camp Caring

Learning to LOVE like GOD  
**Vacation Bible School**

July 15-19, 2024  
9:15-11:30 AM

**Clover Hill Reformed Church**  
890 Amwell Road  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844  
908-369-8451  
[chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com)

**FREE** for  
age 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
as of September 2024

**Registration opens April 15!**  
at [www.cloverhillchurch.org](http://www.cloverhillchurch.org)

Learning to LOVE like GOD with Bible Stories, Music, C <https://www.cloverhillchurch.org> areness makes for a busy week at CAMP CARING.

- Campers will learn the Golden Rule.
- Campers will discover God's love in all of us and what we need to do with that love.
- They'll explore Old and New Testament stories and how the Bible's lessons connect to their lives.
- They will celebrate how God's Love works in the lives of Bible characters and explore how that love works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

Serving age 3 through grade 5- FREE- Volunteers, age 11 and up, welcome. (Parents with children younger than age 3 may register as a volunteer with their children). Questions: Contact the church office at 908-369-8451 or [chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com) Family VBS Resources: [www.cloverhillchurch.org](http://www.cloverhillchurch.org)



Questions: Contact the church office at 908-369-8451 or [chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com)  
Family VBS Resources:  
<https://www.cloverhillchurch.org>





# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

## VBS 2024 Camp Caring

### How Can I Help?

Become part of spreading God's Word and Love in the summer children's Ministry, VBS 2024 Camp Caring. Volunteer behind the scenes in prep opportunities, during the week of July 15-19, or help with setup and cleanup. A VBS Team Leader will contact you based on your survey (link below) or reach out to the Team Leader to find out more.



### Camp Caring Team Leaders

Communication/Registration: Carolyn Keck, Lynn- Totten, Janet Duborow  
Crafts: Marilyn Fineman  
Kid Service/Mission: Nancy Lane  
Music: George Farrell, Lori Vorhees  
Bible Brief: Amy Frank  
Opening/Closing: Carolyn Keck  
Bible Re-storytelling: Lesley Amnott  
Recreation: Christian Clover  
Snack: TBD  
Photography: TBD  
Art Hangings: Laurel Suk, Lynn- Totten  
Traffic Safety: Hillsborough PD Traffic  
Decorations: Lynn Totten, Nancy Johnson  
Group Shepherds: Diana Reinhardt, Bryn Marzullo  
Kid Yoga: TBD

### [Congregation Volunteering](#)

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

## Early Birds



Same day of the week –  
**different time!**  
Wednesdays at **7:00 am** on Zoom

*When we pray together, we experience God's presence.*

Matthew 18:20 (NLT)

*For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”*

Ephesians 3:12 (NLT)

**Come and be in community** with others while we seek God’s guidance and comfort for the new day.

**Come join in** each Wednesday at 7:00 am on Zoom for a 10-15 minute time of devotion, scripture, sharing of concerns and joys, prayer, and lifting those on the CHRC prayer list to God.

**Come as you are** – PJ's allowed!

Questions: email Lynn-Totten (chrc1834@gmail.com)

## Lunch Bunch



**Come - Be - Reflect -**  
**Share an hour of enjoying a meal,**  
**touching base with God and each other**

**Date:** Tuesday April 30, 2024

**Time:** noon- about 1:00 pm

**Location:** we will meet in the CHRC  
Nevius Fellowship Hall  
or if inclement weather on Zoom

**Bring:** something to drink,  
your lunch or snack,  
and yourself

*“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42*

An opening prayer, 15-minute discussion on Bible/religious topic, fellowship,  
closing prayer will be provided to deepen our experience together.

**No need to RSVP, you do not need to attend each one, just show up!**

If you need further information, please contact the church office.

(908-369-8451 or chrc1834@gmail.com)

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

"The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'" - Billy Graham

We invite you to take a moment or so, as you can, between the hours of 8 and 11 Wednesday mornings, and pray for all of those who are called by God to be connected to Clover Hill. He will guide our Church, our country, and our world on a path of faith and benevolence to all.



## Can We Pray for You?

For years, Clover Hill has kept a 'prayer list', a list of people and things that need our prayers. During COVID, a group of CHRC congregants read Thomas S. Rainer's book, "The Post-Quarantine Church". In the book, he talks about reaching out to our community. And he talks a lot about how we need to do more praying. One of the specific actions he mentions is praying for our community. While we acted on several of his suggestions shortly after reading the book, the action of praying for our community was not acted on, but stayed in our thoughts. Recently, we decided to tap into our Social Media outlets of Facebook and Instagram to reach out to our 'community' and ask them, 'Can we pray for you?'. Those posts go up once a week, generally on Monday. When we get a prayer request, we will put it on our church prayer list for you to include these requests in your prayers. You will see them under 'We ask for God's guidance for:'

You can continue to request prayers the way you always have, by sending an email to our church administrator, Lynn- ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com)), but now our 'community' can also request prayers from us.

*"When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you."*  
Jeremiah 29:12 (CEB)

Our church Communication Team put this idea into practice spiritually and technically. Their thoughtful thinking and skills expand the reach of our prayers beyond the walls of our church building into the community and in our first response to the question, "Can we pray for you?", beyond the shores of our country.

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

## CHRC Choir

You are invited to participate in rehearsals at 9:00 am each Sunday morning.

Choir then sings during the 10:00 am worship.

George Farrell, organist/choir director / ([deuscaritasest@aol.com](mailto:deuscaritasest@aol.com)) or cell number (732) 599-4077

St. Augustine of Hippo said that “We are an Easter people and ‘Alleluia’ is our song!” And because of this, we celebrate not just the day of Easter but a whole 50-day season of Easter. Easter is a big deal. Without Easter there would be no Christianity. With Easter we celebrate the hope Jesus’ Resurrection gives us. May we enjoy this season to the fullest!

Now maybe you’re looking at what I wrote and are thinking to yourself, “50 days? That’s a long time!” I agree, it is a lot of time. Longer than the 12 days of Christmas! And of course, it ought to be longer than the 12 days of Christmas, because the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our faith as Christians. So why wouldn’t we celebrate that for a significant amount of time? After all, Easter is not only the greatest Christian feast; Easter Sunday symbolizes the fulfillment of our faith as Christians. Through His Death, Christ destroyed our bondage to sin; through His Resurrection, He brought us the promise of new life, both in Heaven and on earth.

How do we make the season of Easter a celebration? Well, in the church building it’s a bit easier. We use white on all the Sundays until Pentecost, the last day of Easter, when we use red.

Generally, we don’t *read from the Hebrew scriptures during Easter but rather from the Acts of the Apostles each Sunday of the Easter season according to the Revised Common Lectionary. Of course, we also reintroduce the use of Alleluia in our songs and prayers.*

What about in our everyday lives? That’s a little tougher isn’t it. I have a couple of ideas. I’m sure my ideas are not exhaustive. If you have some other ideas share them!

A couple thoughts: Read the Easter passages of the Bible as you have time during the Easter Season. Matthew 27:62-28:20; Mark 15:42-16:20; Luke 23:50-24:53; John 19:38-21:25 and Acts 1:1 to 3:26.

Spread Easter joy. Get yourself in the Easter mood and others too, by sending out Easter cards this Easter season. This is an easy way to remind friends that Easter is an entire season, not just a single day!

Decorate your house with symbols of vibrant life and fruitfulness.

Spring and the Resurrection go together! Fill your house with the lovely fragrance of fresh flowers in honor of the Resurrection of Jesus and a sign of hope in our own resurrection. You can also decorate your home by draping white sashes on all your crosses, thus reminding your family that the joy of this season goes beyond Easter Sunday.

The fifty days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday is a great time to pray for the Holy Spirit to fill and transform your life, just as the Holy Spirit did for the Apostles when they were living in fear in the Upper Room.

Of course, you could celebrate the joy of Easter by giving the choir a try. No commitment for trying or not being able to commit to every Sunday. Pray about it!

Sincerely in Christ,  
George Farrell

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

Palm Sunday March 24, 2024  
Children's sermon led into the sharing of the palms with the congregation and "It began with a parade."



"Simple Gifts"



"I Danced in the Morning"

# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

Palm Sunday March 24, 2024

Our palm parade was followed by readings of Mark 11:1-19, Mark 14:1-31, Mark 14:43-46, with verses of "Simple Gifts" and "I Danced in the Morning" sung by the congregation, as well as the choir anthem, "Jerusalem, My Destiny," between the verses read. A meditation by Pastor Beth took us through the journey and experience of Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in preparation for the coming Easter resurrection.



# News from the Spiritual Growth Team, continued...

## Celebration Brunch for Pastor Beth Following our Palm Sunday Worship



We gathered in fellowship to wish Pastor Beth the best as she finishes her transitional pastorship with us and moves on to a full-time pastorship with Hopewell Presbyterian Church.

This pastoral relationship has been a blessing. We join in asking for God's blessings on Pastor Beth's ministry and on the ministry of the Clover Hill Reformed Church as we come to the end of our journey together.



# News from the Fellowship Team

Coordinator: Barbara Sarzillo ([barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com))



## Skins of Hope

Zoom meetings will be on  
Thursday, April 18, 2024,  
at 8:00 pm.

Diana Reinhardt (908-369-4362 or  
[greinhardt9@gmail.com](mailto:greinhardt9@gmail.com))

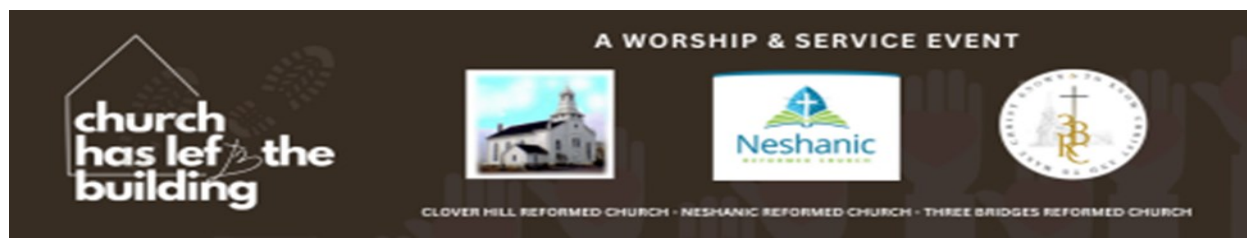
Following Palm Sunday worship —Egg Hunt in the sanctuary.





# News from the Service Team

Coordinator: Barbara Sarzillo ([barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasuesarzillo@gmail.com))



## CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

WHEN? April 21, 2024

WHO? The mission team at Three Bridges Reformed Church is organizing this year's CHLB and has a wide variety of opportunities to fit all skill sets and abilities! Clover Hill and Neshanic are invited to participate as well as to invite your friends!

Part of a group

such as girl scouts/ boy scouts or a sports team? Maybe invite them to get involved in helping our local community! The more hands, the more impact we can make!

Links for volunteering at a site and/or purchasing needed supplies are below. Everyone who signs up will get more information via email prior to April 21st!

For those of you who would like to attend a worship, both Clover Hill and Neshanic will be holding 10:00 am worship services.

Sign Up Link to Volunteer for a Site: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA9AE2DAAF4C07-48383314-sign>

Sign Up Link to Purchase Needed Supplies for Womenspace: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA9AE2DAAF4C07-48383313-food>

If you need further information please contact Stefanie Hutchins, from Three Bridges RC, by emailing her at [reuter.stef@gmail.com](mailto:reuter.stef@gmail.com)

# News from the Stewardship Team

Consistory Facilitator: Gene Reinhardt ([greinhardt9@gmail.com](mailto:greinhardt9@gmail.com))

**A few times each year, we like to remind everyone about some of the non-traditional ways to make gifts to the church.**

**Here are a few things to consider:**

## **CHECK WITH YOUR EMPLOYER TO SEE IF THEY HAVE A MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM:**

Over 26 million individuals work for a company that offers a matching gift program, but many are not aware of it. There are numerous companies that will match an employee's donation to a charity (usually up to a certain limit). This could DOUBLE what you donate to the church without costing you anything! Ask your HR department if such a program is available. If the church needs to register, let us know. We are already registered with a few matching setups such as Benevity and Blackbard Giving.

## **SET UP AN IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD):**

This is an IRA withdrawal that is paid directly from your IRA to a qualifying charity (such as the church). You must be aged at least 70 1/2 and the IRS has other qualifications to be met, but you may be able to eliminate the need to pay income tax on this donation. But remember, if you don't pay income tax on this donation, you will not be able to count it towards your charitable donation deduction on your taxes. Check with your tax advisor for guidance.

## **DONATE STOCKS OR OTHER SECURITIES:**

You can donate stocks and other securities directly to the church through our brokerage account. Consult with your tax advisor, as you may be able to benefit from a tax savings by donating highly appreciated stocks or bonds. Contact the church office for brokerage account information: 908-369-8451 or [CHRC1834@gmail.com](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com).

## **AUTOMATIC BILL PAY:**

This has become a very popular option. It is easy, just contact your bank to set up an online bill pay option. Set it up once and the bank will automatically withdraw the chosen amount from your account and mail a check to the church at whatever interval you want—monthly, weekly, etc.

## **PAYPAL GIVING FUND:**

This is a great option for someone who wants to use their credit card to make a donation. Just search online for "PayPal Giving Fund" and select Clover Hill Reformed Church or The Reformed Dutch Church of Clover Hill as the charity you want to support. Choose the amount you want to donate through your PayPal account. Please be aware that your donation will be anonymous to the church from PayPal and so you will NOT get a receipt from the church, but you will get one from PayPal.

## **DON'T FORGET ABOUT SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS!:**

If you buy ShopRite gift cards through the church, you get the full value of the gift card and the church gets 5% of the value on the gift card. That's a great return on your investment! Contact Karen Babecki to purchase cards ([kbabecki@comcast.net](mailto:kbabecki@comcast.net)). This has been a great fundraiser over the years.

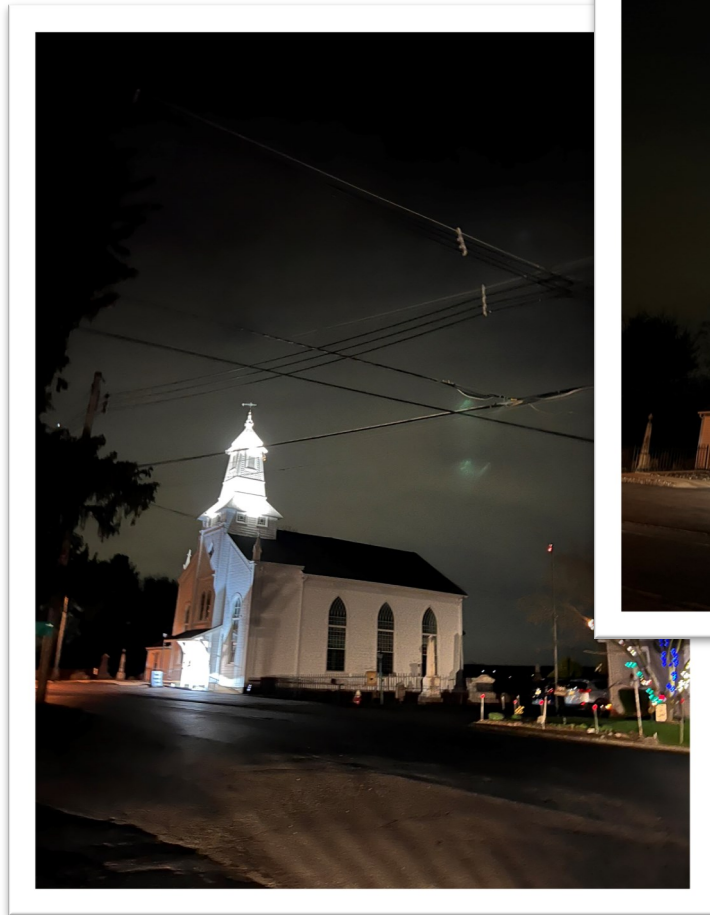
# News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

## The Light Still Shines – Steeple Lighting Progress Report

The Property Team has been steadily replacing the decades-old steeple lights with new, commercial grade LED lighting fixtures. The new lights, which replace old, problematic halogen fixtures are much brighter, cost effective and have a longer lifespan than those that they replace. These fixtures are a gift to the church from a donation we received. We are very grateful for this gift and equally as excited to see the results come to light!

To date, 5 of the 8 fixtures have been replaced and as you can see by the pictures the results are impressive. It takes approximately 2 hours to replace each fixture, so we have some more work ahead of us. We will report back later when the last fixture is replaced.

Until then, be assured that ‘The Light Still Shines’ at Clover Hill!!



# News from the Stewardship Team, continued...



**New Cleaners Always Welcome** *Many hands make light work!*

**Next Clean Team Meeting:**  
**April 10, 8 am**  
**Nancy Lane**  
**908-399-4791**

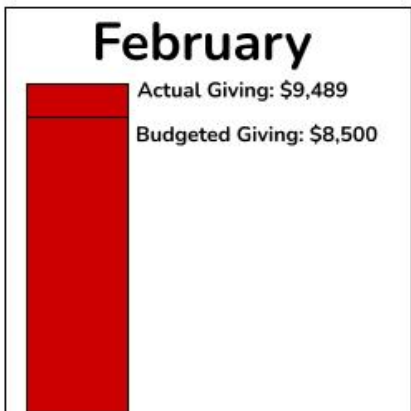
**GARDENING ANGELS**

On April 24th, at 8:30 am  
 the Gardening Angels  
 will meet at the  
**Church Parking Lot Garden**

**All are welcome!**

Contact Diana Reinhardt  
 908-369-4362

## 2024 MONTHLY GIVING RECAP



### Year to Date (thru February)

*attributable & non-attributable gifts - excludes Memorial Gifts*

Actual Giving:	\$22,548	
Budgeted Giving:	\$21,500	
Difference:	\$1,048	

# News from the Stewardship Team, continued...

<b>Cash Financial Snapshot (as of 3/28/2023)</b>	
Income Year to Date (excluding special gifts)	\$29,302.20
Expense Year to Date	\$41,171.78
<b>Balance to Date</b>	<b>-\$11,869.58</b>
<b>TD Checking Balance (Operating Cash):</b>	
	<b>\$6,546.89</b>
<b>TD Money Market Account (Savings)</b>	
	<b>\$39,626.78</b>
<b>TD Money Market Account (Restricted Funds)</b>	
	<b>\$13,906.10</b>
<i>Accessibility Fund</i>	\$5,089.63
<i>Benevolence Fund</i>	\$1,039.00
<i>Building Fund</i>	\$30.40
<i>Castellano Scholarships Fund</i>	\$700.99
<i>Kris Kanach Library Fund</i>	\$556.50
<i>Mary Nevius Music Fund</i>	\$4,769.58
<i>Paving Seal Fund</i>	\$1,720.00
<b>Vanguard Savings as of 3/28/2024 (opened 5/2023)</b>	<b>\$223,079.23</b>
<b>Total of all Operating and Funds Cash:</b>	<b>\$292,331.76</b>

***Next Stewardship  
Team Meeting:  
April 3, 2023, 7:00 pm***



# Message from the Pastoral Care Team



Coordinator: Nancy Lane ([nlane54@gmail.com](mailto:nlane54@gmail.com))

Team members: Ann Cucchiara ([uncannie09@gmail.com](mailto:uncannie09@gmail.com)), Lori Voorhees ([l.voorhees@comcast.net](mailto:l.voorhees@comcast.net))



## Loneliness

“But a time is coming, and has come when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.”  
**John 16:32 (NIV)**

When I googled “loneliness” I found a lot of articles about the different types of loneliness, the causes and health consequences of loneliness, how to overcome and cope with loneliness and the list goes on and on. The one thing that is a constant theme throughout these articles is how prevalent it is now and even described it as an epidemic. It is affecting people of all ages, especially now on college campuses. Too many Americans feel lonely and isolated- but simple actions to strengthen our relationships can help.

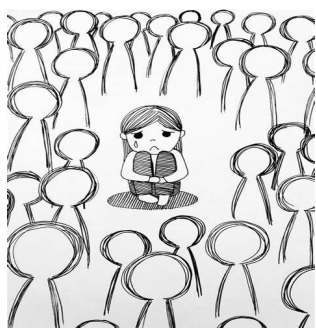
In December 2023, United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy launched a national connection challenge to encourage people to prioritize relationships: the "5-for-5 Connection Challenge". The challenge entails taking simple but powerful actions to build and strengthen relationships and incorporate these connections on a daily basis.

The challenge is to “take 5 actions over 5 days that express gratitude to, offer support to, or ask for help from people in our lives. These simple but powerful types of actions can foster better social connection, which is associated with improved heart and brain health, protection against depression and anxiety, and even lowered risk of premature death.” Learn more at <https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/connection/challenge/index.html>.

This is one way to combat loneliness. There are many other ways too. The bottom line is to be present and involved with the people around you.

So, I challenge you today to take the 5-for-5 Connection Challenge. And in five days check in with yourself to see if you feel differently. Did you make a new friend? Meet your neighbor? Feel happier?

Know you are not alone. There is always someone to talk to on Sunday morning. If you need Pastoral Care please reach out to Nancy Lane, Lori Voorhees, Ann Cucchiara, or the Church Office (908-369-8451).



“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 8: 38-39. (NIV)**



# News from the Communication & A/V Teams

Consistory Facilitator: Communication – Church office ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com))

## Motivational Message Coming to You from our Church Parking Lot Sign

A group of very dedicated people faithfully change the sign in the parking lot every two (or more) weeks. Sometimes the sign gives information (e.g. about Vacation Bible School), but mostly it provides words of inspiration to those at our church and those who pass by the sign.

We pull the inspiration from various places on the internet, but if you have a message you would like to see displayed, or would like to be part of this group that changes the sign, just email to the office administrator [CHRC1834@gmail.com](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com), and she will pass it on. Just keep in mind, we are limited to seven lines and a maximum of 11 letters (spaces included) per line.



Whether we are social distancing or gathering at church, you can always stay on top of what is going on through:

- Belltower and bulletin announcements/inserts
- Facebook
- Instagram
- church website:  
[www.cloverhillchurch.org](http://www.cloverhillchurch.org)
- emails from MailChimp
- Zoom worship/meetings/activities



If you would like to join our 'team' and help us spread the word about what is going on at our church, contact the church office ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com)).

Communications Team Members:

Bob DiMilia, Janet Durborow, Marilyn Fineman, Ken Skillman, Lynn– Totten

**All social media items must go through the church office before they can be posted. Please send all write ups to Lynn– Totten at [CHRC1834@gmail.com](mailto:CHRC1834@gmail.com) Thank you!**



If you take pictures at any church event please share with the church office ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com)) so we may include them in our social media and Belltower. Not all pictures will be used but it is good to have them on file.

Please be aware we have a Family Photo Release form on file in the church office that limits the publication of the minors in our church family. Please check with the office admin before posting any photos on social media platforms.

## Belltower Deadline

Please submit all write ups to be included in the May issue, to the church office ([chrc1834@gmail.com](mailto:chrc1834@gmail.com)), by Thursday, April 18, 2024.

# APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 11am-2pm NFHall in Use 7:00 pm Consistory meeting Zoom	3 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in Use 7:00 pm Stewardship Team meeting Zoom	4 11:30am—2pm sanctuary use by organist	5	6
7 9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School / Communion	8	9 11am-2pm NFHall in Use	10 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00 am Clean Team Meets 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in Use	11 11:30am—2pm sanctuary use by organist	12	13
14 9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School	15	16 11am-2pm NFHall in Use 1:30 pm Fellowship & Service Teams meeting in the NFHall	17 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 11am-2pm NFHall in use	18 11:30am—2pm sanctuary use by organist 8:00 pm Skeins of Hope meeting Zoom Belltower Deadline	19	20
21 9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School The Church Has Left the Building	22	23 11am-2pm NFHall in Use 7:00 pm Spiritual Growth Team Zoom meeting	24 7:00 am Early Bird Devotion & Prayer Time Zoom 8:00-11:00 am Prayers 8:30 am Garden Angels meet in parking lot 11am-2pm NFHall in use	25 11:30am—2pm sanctuary use by organist	26	27
28 9:00 am Vocal Choir 10:00 am Worship & School	29	30 Prayer “Refresh” 11am-2pm NFHall in Use 12noon Lunch Bunch NFHall (inclement weather on Zoom)	<div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><b>Consistory</b> The Consistory will meet Tuesday, April 2, at 7:00 pm Zoom</p> </div>			