

Worship in January

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

FIRST WEDNESDAY

Supper

6:30 P.M.

Taizé Prayer Service

7:35 P.M.

JANUARY 7

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship | Communion

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Damien J. Lake, Preacher
Craig Wood, Lay Leader

Music by the Chancel Choir

JANUARY 14

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Damien J. Lake, Preacher
Joan Donnelly, Lay Leader

Music by the Chancel Choir & Carillon Bells

JANUARY 21

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Damien J. Lake, Preacher
John Flippin, Lay Leader

Music by the Chancel Choir

JANUARY 28

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship

10:00 A.M.

Rev. Damien J. Lake, Preacher
Bill McConnell, Lay Leader

Music by the Chancel Choir,
Carol and Cherub Choirs, Chapel Bells

From Damien J. Lake, *Interim Minister* *Pastor's Ponderings...*



Pastor's Pondering's

The season of Advent is over, Christmas is now here and we are drawing closer to Epiphany, and with every new season comes new ideas, thoughts, and challenges. The last four months of my time here at GRCC have been filled with all of these things as well. Many of you have been so kind to ask me how things are going and if I am enjoying my time here. As an Interim Minister in the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ denominations I find it enjoyable to experience new places and meet new faces wherever I go. I have always been one who embraces most change. I say "most" because even I struggle at times with change.

What is change? According to Webster's dictionary it is to make or become different, the act of instance of making or becoming different. It many ways change happens all around us every day and we don't pay attention to most of it because it doesn't directly impact us or our way of life. However, when we experience a change that does impact our way of life we get agitated or irritated and even some times act out in an attempt to affect the change that is occurring.

In my continuous attempts to be a more forward thinking individual in my ministerial calling I see change as necessary. As an example I like to challenge the words or phrases we have been using to encompass new meanings. One of the phrases I have coined is, "that we have to keep thinking outside of the pew." In the business world we would say "outside of the box," but when it comes to The Church (meaning all churches), it is important for us to use church words and not business terms.

The truth is that we all get comfortable using old language and doing things the way we have always done them. Some people would call this tradition, while others might say we are just stuck in our ways. There are so many churches in the world that are struggling to stay relevant and part of that is in the procedures, the languages, and even the music we play. I love to hear an organ played on a Sunday morning as much as I enjoy hearing Bach or Mozart. However, as our membership declines we must ask ourselves how would new members like our church. Are we willing to change to attract new members?

What if we changed the words during worship to a more open language, a gender neutral language? What if we played some

more modern music during worship right along with our classics? What if we stopped saying we are hosting business meetings of the church and said we are hosting a meeting with the Holy Spirit? Okay, maybe that is pretty far from your comfort level, but the challenge is to keep thinking outside of the pew. The new year is almost upon us, and while many people are preparing to make resolutions for themselves, what might be the resolution for the church?

Some people say that we shouldn't change just to change, but I say change can inspire us to see things differently and to think differently. The purpose of change is to try something new, because insanity is defined as doing the same thing over and over without accomplishing a new result. In the United Church of Christ, we believe in a God who is still speaking, and it is that idea that can help us to embrace change.

Change is inevitable, we are always moving, changing, and evolving in our thoughts and ideas as human creatures. Our ability to adjust to change is the more challenging part of life, but we can do it and we already are doing it every day. Our molecular structure changes every seven years. Which means we are a completely different person every seven years...MIND BLOWING!

So, let us begin the New Year, ready for change, and make a resolution not only for us but in our church. If you have a resolution for the church that you would

like to share please email, text, or call me so we can have an exciting discussion about what could be...Put on your thinking caps on in 2018 and start thinking outside of the pew.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Damien

From Thomas Mustachio, *Minister of Music*



*Thank
You*

TO OUR CHOIRS, SOLOISTS and INSTRUMENTALISTS

Happy New Year! A college student who was going to be playing for Christmas Eve at GRCC contacted me in November with a Youtube link to a piece he wished to play. I found the music and sent it to him in mid-December. He returned from college on December 16th for his Christmas break. He spent the majority of his time since December 16th mastering this virtuosic trumpet piece and offered it as the Prelude at the 10:30pm service on Christmas Eve. When we bemoan the lack of participation of our young people, let us remember this young man who made his choice and bettered himself, serving his congregation and honoring Christ's birth with his musical abilities on Christmas Eve. Thank you, Andrew!

PARTICIPATION – We had a remarkable year of ministry through music in 2017. We had an amazing 43 members in the Glen Ridge Choral Society this fall preparing for *Welcome Christmas!* Membership in our Chancel Choir and Carillon Bells numbers 37. Our teen bell choir has 11 faithful members. Our children's choirs have 15 participating.

Our children's choirs had 100% attendance at the *Welcome Christmas!* Concert, Bell Sunday and Christmas Eve Family Service – that is extraordinary!

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT – We were blessed with outstanding attendance for all our musical offerings: *Welcome Christmas!* concert had over 400 present; The Community Holiday Sing Along at the Women's Club of Glen Ridge on December 17th had approximately 100 present. Our two Christmas Eve services had a total of nearly 400.

Chancel, Carol and Cherub Choirs; Carillon and Chapel Bells, and Tower Ringers – each helped make our worship encounters more meaningful, and brought us closer to God.

Our section leader/soloists provide invaluable leadership and mentoring within each section and provide us with great solo work as needed throughout the year. Thanks to Karen Momary, Genya Muzyczka, Diane Schaming, Bruce Turner and Tom Jeszeck.

We are blessed to have talented instrumentalists in our congregation who regularly share their musical gifts with us: Kim Augis, *percussion*; Andrew Dik, *trumpet*; Patti Gsell, *flute*; Victor

Magnusson, *oboe/english horn*; Jill Simmons, *piano/organ/cymbells*; Craig Wood, *flute*, Wynne Zalewski, *clarinet*. Any other singers or instrumentalists out there that we should know about?

WANT TO JOIN THE MUSIC MAKERS?

January is a perfect time to join a choir at GRCC

All Children's Choirs gather on Wednesdays at 3:30 for snack & a gathering activity, then:
3:45 to 4:15pm...Cherub Choir (Grades K – 2)
4:15 to 4:45pm...Carol Choir (Grades 3 – 8)
4:45 to 5:15pm...Chapel Bells (Grades 3 – 8) – open to Carol Choir members

Our Chancel Choir and GR Choral Society would love to welcome new adult and youth singers. The Chancel Choir leads in worship each Sunday. The Choral Society joins them for special presentations and concerts. Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 8pm. Contact Tom Mustachio for additional information! Make 2018 a singing season!

Thanks to all who helped make the 12/31 service so enjoyable!

It was a faithful (hungry) crowd who braved the 14° temperature to come to Robinson Hall and enjoy fresh egg bake, sausage links, french toast sticks and Clementines at 9am.

- Jan Spoerl, Jill Simmons, David Dik, Andrew Dik, The Song family, John Dobbs – for helping with breakfast: planning, set-up, food prep, cooking and clean-up.
- Sherry Brabham, David Ellertson, Rita Ellertson, Jill Simmons for doing such a fine job with the readings and service leadership.



Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday, February 13, 2018

5:30 to 8:00 p.m. – continuous serving

Tickets on sale beginning January 28th during Fellowship Time.

Musings from the Moderator, Janet Spoerl



Janus, a mythical character, is two-faced with the capacity to look at the past as well as to look forward. The month of January puts folks in the "Janus position" – remember the past, examine the current, and set goals for stepping into the future.

It is exciting to be part of an institution like GRCC that experiences change, examines status, and then works together as a congregational unit, building strength in faith and service as we share our commitment as Christians with the world.

Nine ministries guide the work; they are, however, dependent on each person "grabbing onto some project / activity" that contributes to our mission and outreach. Look for the opportunities starting in January.

Come to worship. Feed your spirit soul with music, word, and welcome.

I look forward stepping into 2018 at GRCC - together!

~ Janet Spoerl, *Moderator*

A Message from



"God Can Do It: We Can Help"

\$ amount needed: \$450,000
\$ amount pledged \$254,949
Difference: - \$194,051

of pledges needed: 150
of pledges received: 78
Difference: 72

Please make a pledge.
Our church needs you!

Christian Education



Resolutions for a new year are important. Set a goal. New beginnings and starting over are the themes for January for church school, too. As the Bible tells us, with

Jesus' baptism, everything became new. We are called to stop, listen, and follow God.

Now is the time to affirm belief in God no matter how we feel. Sometimes folks feel good; other times are more difficult. The church school curriculum guides all ages in learning to discern the spirit of how God works in us. How can it be shown in every day activities: home, church, school, sports, with siblings, with friends?

Children and Youth will engage in intergenerational Worship in the Sanctuary before going to church school. Gathering in Room 6, students will learn bible stories (John the Baptist, Jonah, Samuel, and Jesus) and then have extended learning activities in small groups. Childcare is provided from 9:00.



Family Faith 2018!

January is cold and snowy but friendship and fun bring warmth. Join Family Faith on Saturday, January 13th at 4:30 pm. Watch the movie "Frozen" and share some "frozen / cold" foods as well as foods that warm one up.

Family faith is a church group that loves kids, parents, friends, and grandparents - anyone who loves fun. There is nothing like a free movie, food, and fellowship. All are welcome!



We are saddened to inform you that
Dr. Doris Anne (Dodie) Younger
died on December 25, 2017.

A memorial service will be held at
Glen Ridge Congregational Church
on Saturday, January 20, 2018
at 11:00 a.m.

Thank You to...



- Norma Batastini for creating the beautiful display of poinsettias for Bell Sunday
- everyone who made a donation toward the poinsettias.
- all the folks who delivered the plants to some of our special church members.

Star Tree

Thank you to all who have made the Star Tree a success this year. Over 375 stars were put up on the tree for families in need, and with the help and generosity of all of you they have been filled.



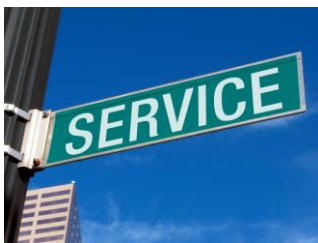
72nd Annual
**Glen Ridge
Antiques Show**
February 2 & 3, 2018



Friday 10 am to 9 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Glen Ridge Congregational Church
195 Ridgewood Avenue
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

www.glenridgeantiques.com



January 15, 2018

ATTENTION ALL WOMEN

As I am sure you are aware Martin Luther King Jr. Day has become known as a day of service. With that in mind the Women's Association in conjunction with Missions and Outreach (MOM), is sponsoring a service project at the church on Monday January 15th. We will be decorating duffle bags for foster children so they will have something nice in which to keep their personal belongings. This activity is open to women of all ages - Mothers, Daughters, Grandmothers, Aunts, Nieces. You don't have to be a member of the church, so invite your friends and neighbors to join us. This will take place in Robinson Hall at 10:00 am on Monday January 15th. Refreshments will be served and I am sure a few laughs will be shared.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2018 are available in the Narthex. If you don't see a set and would like one, please fill out one of the green forms on the Clark Street Action Table and leave in the church office.



ANNUAL REPORT

Church officers and Ministries are reminded that Annual Reports are due in digital form no later than Friday, January 5th. Please email to: info@glenridgecong.org. Thanks.

The church's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11th. All members are encouraged to attend to discuss and vote on a budget, new officers and other important business of the congregation.



Yoga

Start the new year with a yoga class January 2, 2016 from 7-8:30pm. Each session is 8 weeks. To join us or for more information call: Janet Dickinson 973-748-1509.

Thank you!
Happy Holidays!



2018

The 72nd Annual Glen Ridge Antiques Show

is just around the corner!

It may be hard to believe but the Women's Association and the GRCC hosts the longest running antiques show in Northern New Jersey and one of the longest in the US. What an achievement! Yet this would not be possible without the 100+ volunteers from our church who work hard every year to make this show a success.

So why do our volunteers keep coming back? Well, as much as we talk about hard work, anyone who has volunteered to help with the show knows that they keep coming back for the fellowship, fun and the food! This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know members of the congregation you may not have met and donate your time to help with the **single-largest fund raising event our church puts on every year.**

Look for sign-up sheets and list for announcements. **We'll need help with:**

- **the set-up January 27th**
- **the break-down on February 3rd**
- **numerous activities during the show itself: Friday, February 2nd and Saturday, February 3rd.**

Listen for announcements in church and look for sign-up sheets for the various volunteer opportunities available.

If you have any questions or wish to sign-up today, please contact Dorothy Waldt at dorothy.waldt@gmail.com or call her at 973.680.9600.

And please, mark your calendars to come to the show!

Food of the Month



We support the MEND pantry at the Church of the Green. In January please fill the shopping cart in the narthex with peanut butter and jelly. Thank you!



Glen Ridge Virtual Food Drive

Once again the Women's Club of Glen Ridge is partnering with the Community FoodBank of New Jersey to run the Glen Ridge Virtual Food Drive. More information at:
<http://www.womensclubglenridge.com/virtual-food-drive-cfbnj>

Coffee Cans Needed

Please bring your leftover coffee cans. They are needed for flower deliveries. You can leave them in the kitchenette off the Blue Room. Many thanks!



January 3, 2018
February 7, 2018

Food is provided.
All are welcome!

6:30pm Supper (Robinson Hall)

7:35pm Taizé Prayer Service



January

BIRTHDAYS

2.....	Jeremy Mitchell
2.....	Paul Harrison
3.....	Kim DiStefano
5.....	Tyra Brown
6.....	Alden Schade
9.....	Joan Weinman
10.....	Sofia Carroll
10.....	Gurly Niewood
12.....	Lisa Dickinson
14.....	Meredith Batastini
15.....	Megan Downey
16.....	Genya Muzyczka
16.....	Jan Spoerl
17.....	Lynne Oliver
19.....	Blake Harrison
22.....	Tim Delorm
23.....	Horace Ashenfelter
23.....	Victoria Mitchell
25.....	Andrew Downey
26.....	Joan Donnelly
27.....	Rebecca Mitchell
31.....	Lizann Coleman
31.....	Carol Harpster
31.....	Jim Watson

If your birthday is incorrect, please let the office know so we can correct it in our database. If we don't have you listed, please let us know.

*Our thoughts
And prayers
Are with you.*

AT HOME

Barbara Metro, Sylvia Caldwell, Phyllis Domenic, Fred Worth, Roger Nelson, Xavier Ross, Sue Watson.

IN EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

Joe Connolly (Mountainside Hospital) Lucy Force (Sunrise, Woodcliff Lake), Irene Stevens Heun (Job Haines), Doris Hollander (The Villages, Duxbury, MA), and Jean Lancaster (Sunrise, Marlboro), Barbara Underwood (Van Dyk, Montclair), Theodora Wilcox (Van Dyk, Montclair)

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF OUR CHURCH

The family of Dodie Younger, Mindy Lytle, Karen Marshall, Erika Lomaga, Peter Bartlett, Meghann Marturano, Jeff Domenic, Jean Sparks, Marie O'Grady, Cheryl Vivona, Becky Bodnar, Courtney Connolly, Grace Uliano, JC Egbert, Stephen Strickland, Len Calvin, Andrea Row, George Boltnew, Anna Withington, Jill Reintjes, Dan Glitzer, Merrill Roberts, Joan Lytle, Barbara Acosta, Thomas Bright, Sr., Jean and Barry Frere, Jim Marturano, Elizabeth Knox, Carolyn Pescatore, Bill Phillips, Brad Turner, Christina Hepp, LeWanda Pleasant, Margot Priest, Sally Calhoun, Pamela Jeffery, Dennis Sinclair, Cathy Rohling, Dorothy Lefkovits, Billy Martin.

Star-Giving

by Ann Weems

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas
Is a Star . . .
Brilliance in a package,
Something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
Or in the pocket of your being,
Something to take out in times of darkness,
Something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
Something you could hold in your hand,
Something for wonderment,
Something for pondering,
Something that would remind you of
What Christmas has always meant:
God's Advent Light into the Darkness of this world.
But Stars are only God's for giving,
And I must be content to give you words and wishes and
Packages without Stars.
But I can wish you Life
As radiant as the Star
That announced the Christ Child's coming,
And as filled with awe as the Shepherds who stood
Beneath its Light,
And I can pass on to you the Love
That has been given to me,
Ignited countless times by others
Who have knelt in Bethlehem's Light.
Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a Star.