



The Protestant Community Church

“Cathedral of the Woods”

100 Stokes Road

Medford Lakes, New Jersey 08055

Phone: (609) 654-4220

Website: www.protestantcommunitychurch.org

The Protestant Community Church: An inclusive, ecumenical faith community purposefully seeking to be caring, faithful disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, study, prayer, and Christian service.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FAITH IS AS FAITH DOES!

Prelude

Call to Worship

(Liturgist/Congregation)

We join our hearts to worship you, O God.

Receive our worship, we pray.

We join our hands to serve you, O God.

Bless the work of our hands, we pray.

We join our vision to see as you see, O God.

Grant us clarity of sight, we pray.

AMEN!

Hymn

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

#395

Invocation

We come ready, O God, to worship. Hear our praise, we pray. We come ready, O God, to serve. Direct our energy, we pray. We come ready, O God, to receive what we need from you. Fill us with that which will bless others and honor you, we pray. These things we pray in the name of our Lord who taught us to pray saying...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Silent Prayers

Assurance

Beloved, God grants fully whatever we are ready to receive from God. Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri #705

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be...world without end . Amen. Amen.

Responsive Reading (Based on Psalm 125)

(Liturgist/Congregation)

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion.

The mountain cannot be moved but abides forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem so the Lord surrounds God's people.

From this time on and forevermore.

The scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land.

Land that God allowed to the righteous.

So that the righteous might not stretch out their hands to do wrong.

Do good, O Lord, to those who are good.

To those who are upright in their hearts.

But to those who turn aside to their own crooked ways.

The Lord will lead away the evildoers.

Peace be upon the people of God!

AMEN!

Hymn "Let Justice Flow Like Streams" #689

Scripture Lesson James 2:1-17

Sermon "PRACTICING FAITH WITHOUT PREJUDICE"
Rev. Dr. R. Tim Meadows

Hymn "O for a Closer Walk with God" #679

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Benediction

PRAYERS OF CONCERN

Those placed on the prayer list will remain on the list for one month unless specified otherwise. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please secure the permission of the individual prior to calling the church office.

Olivia Bruno	Lois Maag & family
Peggie Campbell	Floss Mikle
John Clair	Andy Moll
Faith Dixon	Ron Morgan
Sam Evangelista & family	The Murray family
George G.	Dan Palumbo
Al Garret	Joan Petrucelli
Nancy Gesswein & family	The family of Donald Porter
Jean Gilday	Robert Seubert
The Haney family	The Sheridan family
Harry & Doris Harrison	The Family of Donald S. Smith
Matthew Haydinger & family	Lynda Smith
The Keating family	Stuart
The Markowicz family	Jim Taylor
Jeanne Mellor	Tom & Lynne
Jessica Mellor	Teresa Vignau
Doris Merkh	Vinnie
Lily Meyers & family	The Wu family

Please remember in your prayers all those serving in our military services and their families. Please pray for peace, hope, and healing in the world and for those families separated and faced with life altering decisions.

WINKLER WEEKLY COIN COLLECTION – THE BUCKET RESUMES IN THE NARTHEX

Thank you all for your support of the WWCC! Mission Council has collected thousands of dollars over the last 5 years from your loose change (and \$\$) dropped in the narthex bucket. Each year, Mission Council researches worthy 501 (c)(3) organizations that provide much needed food for children and adults. This year we will be collecting for Beacon of Hope in Mount Holly. If you would like to donate and are unable to attend Sunday services, please bring them to “Casserole Pickup” every Saturday afternoon at 4pm in Todd 1. We can make a difference with the coins on the dresser, in the sock drawer, or in a jar. Thank you all for your continuing support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List, please e-mail Cindy at cindy@protestantcommunitychurch.org no later than 3:00pm on Tuesday afternoon.

The **flowers** on the altar are to the glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Bud Fincken, given by his wife, Mickey.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SATURDAY AMISH MARKET PICK UP

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to meet at the Amish Market in Medford on Saturdays at 3:45pm. You would be asked to help carry donated items to your car and then drive them to the church so they can be divided into ingredients for individual casseroles. If you are able to help out, please call Suzanne Murray at 609-410-9638. Thank you!

OFFERING BASKET

If you have an offering that you would like to give this morning, there is an offering basket on the table to the left as you leave the sanctuary.

MASKING IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND WORSHIP AND OTHER CHURCH FUNCTIONS

Out of an abundance of caution our Board of Trustees decided recently to require that ALL PERSONS attending worship are required to mask for the sake of public health. This requirement also applies to persons coming to the church campus to attend church meetings or other events taking place on our campus as well as to conduct business in the church office. This will include during business hours as well as off hours in which some persons come to the office to conduct business. Your personal health as well as the health of the larger public are important to us so we ask that you assist us in complying with this decision by the Board of Trustees.

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATION EVERYTHING!

Please join us on September 18th at 7:00pm in the PCC courtyard. Festive dress is highly encouraged to help us put the fun in fundraising. Tickets are now available after the 10:00am worship service and in the church office, or mail your order (include your name & phone #) to 100 Stokes Road, Medford Lakes NJ 08055 and your tickets will be held at the door. \$75.00 admission includes food and desserts, 1 complimentary drink and 2 gift basket raffle tickets. Live music, featuring our own David Thomas, dancing, auctions and more promise to make this a night to remember. All proceeds go to support the Protestant Community Church and its missions. Call or text 609-744-3536 for questions.

ALTAR FLOWER OPENINGS IN SEPTEMBER

We have two Sundays in September open for altar flowers. They are **September 12** and **September 19**. If you would like to place flowers, please contact Sandy Konrad at 609-654-3153 or Cindy Conolly in the church office at 609-654-4220. The cost for altar flowers is \$50.00.

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday, September 12 is "Homecoming Sunday School Rally Day"! There will be a very special "Blessing of the Children Prayer Service" at 10:00am. The prayer service will be held in the Memorial Garden, beginning with a celebration of all God's children and to give thanks to God for loving all the children of the world. All are invited - so please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us! Fun activities are planned following the prayer service. And, a special surprise will happen at 11:00am!

BOSCOV'S DAY - GET YOUR SHOPPING SHOES READY!

Let it be known that Boscov's Day is coming up! Wednesday, October 20th from 8:00am to 11:00pm. Purchase a shopping pass for \$5.00, and receive 25% off your entire purchases for this day. Use it all day long. It is in-store only. It is good for any Boscov's location. They will be available for purchase after church, at Homecoming Sunday, or get in touch with me. Happy Shopping! Linda Hoffman - lindysue121@gmail.com. 856-816-5494

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

08.29.21

WORSHIP SERVICE - 40

SUNDAY SCHOOL REQUEST

In an attempt to better organize the Sunday school supplies, large clear storage bins with lids are needed. If you are out shopping for school supplies (Yep, it's time to do that again!), at either Staples, Target or Walmart, might you pick up a large (clear) storage bin for us? It looks like the stores are having a sales on them. Thank you so much for helping us with this big project. Having clear storage bins will help us better view the supplies that we currently have which will save the budget and will prevent any "duplicate shopping"!

GROCERY CARDS ARE AVAILABLE!

If you would like to purchase either ShopRite or Murphy's grocery gift cards, please call the church office (609-654-4220) or e-mail Cindy Conolly at cindy@protestantcommunitychurch.org. We can have the cards ready for you when you stop in the office. You may also purchase grocery gift cards immediately following the worship service in the Todd building.

The church office phone number is 609-654-4220. The pastor may be contacted through the church office, by email: tim@protestantcommunitychurch.org, or in pastoral emergencies at (865) 898-4727.

Pamela Jones - pamela@protestantcommunitychurch.org

Cindy Conolly - cindy@protestantcommunitychurch.org

Andria Gross - sundayschool@protestantcommunitychurch.org

Lynne Poag - chimescoordinator@protestantcommunitychurch.org

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today

10:00 a: Morning Worship

Mon. - September 6

Labor Day - Office Closed

Tue. - September 7

Wed. - September 8

1:00 p: PCC Bridge

6:30 p: Worship Committee Meeting

Thur. - September 9

4:00 p: Outreach Meeting

Fri. - September 10

8:30 a: Medford Arts Center Veteran's Art Class

Sat. - September 11

8:30 a: 9/11 Remembrance Silent Vigil (until 4:00pm)

Sun. - September 12

Homecoming Sunday/Rally Day!

8:00 a: Morning Worship

10:00 a: Blessing of the Children Prayer Service

10:00 a: Morning Worship

If you need locations for any of the above meetings please contact the church office.

PRACTICING FAITH WITHOUT PREJUDICE

A STUDY OF JAMES 2:1-17

WHAT THE TEXT SAYS: The Epistle of James is primarily concerned with instructing the communities to which it is sent in the practice of faith. Orthopraxy or correct practice is preferred over orthodoxy or correct belief. The epistle is linked to James, the brother of Jesus, who was a leader in the early church. The specific text we view today is directed at the problem of showing partiality to the affluent while neglecting the poor. James condemns this and reminds his recipients that one of the ways of demonstrating the works of one's faith is how they treat the poor who are in their midst. This theme of the epistle is consistent with the major theme of the Old Testament prophets as well as the teachings of Jesus. Some suggest that James not only condemns showing partiality to the affluent but encourages the faithful to show partiality to the poor and needy.

WHAT THE PREACHER SAYS: James says our treatment of the poor is a test of faith we must pass if we are going to claim to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. For James, the practice of faith without prejudice may be the most important test:

- Practicing faith without prejudice means we must see people as God sees them and not as their economic circumstances suggest.
- Practicing faith without prejudice means we must love people as God loves them regardless of what their economic circumstances suggest.
- Practicing faith without prejudice means we must view the "Law of Faith" as God views it and not with an a' la carte selective neglect.
- Practicing faith without prejudice means we must act on the needs of others to help meet those needs.

WHAT THE TEXT AND THE PREACHER ASK OF YOU: "Faith without works is dead", James proclaims, and then seeks to define what

appropriate works will make our faith live. James' concept of living faith demands consideration and answers to at least the following questions:

- Do you agree with James' conclusions in today's Scripture lesson? Why or why not?
- Have you ever witnessed or been guilty of what James describes as the preferential treatment of the affluent? Did you recognize such? Did you attempt such?
- Why do you think as a society we tend to prefer the affluent, even though they are often our oppressors? In what ways do you see or experience the oppression of the affluent?
- In what specific ways do you seek or have you sought to fulfill what James describes as the works of faith?
- What makes you more uncomfortable: James' condemnation of how people of faith often treat the poor, or the poor themselves?