



APRIL
2024



Greetings to my Cresskill Family!

WOW! March is over already?! I am honestly shocked every time that I sit down to write to you. Time can pass us by when we are in the present moment. Our church has been steadily growing day by day. God's work on us has been paying off. We had a wonderful time connecting with the greater Bergen County community at the George Michael Concert: we had an energetic turn out and there was a lot of love in the air. Our Bible Studies and book clubs are generating important discussion about how we live together in these shared spaces, and what we can do to continue to carry God's love to everyone in an equitable, radically inclusive manner as Jesus has shown us.

I pray that within all of the hustle and bustle of the church inside and outside the building, that you were all able to take some time to be silent with the Holy One in meditation and prayer this Lenten season. This wilderness time gave us the opportunity to put something down that wasn't serving us, and to pick something up to draw us nearer to God. I was able to take some time and write, meditate and pray, go on some walks, and see how God was speaking to me.

Sometimes, God shows up with unexpected turns and opportunities for growth in community and ministry. As some of you may have heard, either directly from myself or in my March 17th sermon, I had an unfortunate experience here in our beloved community. While I was out walking in the neighborhood, an anonymous resident called the police about a suspicious black man in a hoodie taking pictures of houses. My interaction with our local law enforcement was measured, appropriate, but alarming. This is not because of the police- it is because it hit a core issue that people of color deal with every single day: ***the sense that we do not belong***. As I searched my feelings for what God was showing me, it took me to the Hebrew Scriptures where the Israelites were made foreigners in their own land in slavery to the Egyptians and in the Exile. It reminds me of the Samaritans in the Times of Jesus who were occupying the land of Jacob and were talked about and avoided by the religious elite.

After having a positive discussion with the Captain and Chief of Police who spoke of necessary reforms, consulting with our Associations Church on ministry and support from our Associate Conference Minister, I feel that the Spirit has led us to the word of the month, which is ***hospitality***. Our upcoming bible study and spiritual formation work will be focused on building a beloved community with people that are considered the "other", and what the

continued on page 2...

Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

Carolyn, as she takes care of her mother Joyce S., and family, she passed away
Ken B., in hospice care
Phil D. and family, Donna passed away
Our country and the world
People of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine

Health and healing:

Arlene's sister, Anna Marie, for healing
Cindy M. for healing
Colin M., battling ALL leukemia
Dick F., for healing
Judy M., for healing and pain relief
Kurt, battling cancer
Linda, battling cancer
Mary M., for healing
Mary S., battling cancer
Michelle P., waiting for a kidney transplant
Ruth B., for healing
Samantha, for healing
Tashika, for care, comfort and pain relief
Tatiana, recovering from surgery

Memorial Service



You are invited to a Memorial Service for **Donna Daly** on **Sunday, April 28th** at 2pm at the Knights of Columbus, 199 River Road, New Milford.

Hawaiian shirts are the requested attire as we celebrate Donna's life.

*Always be joyful. Never stop praying.
Be thankful in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you
who belong to Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

...continued from page 1

scripture has to say about it. We are such a loving community, and the work that we will do is only going to continue to grow our faith and the blessings that we are able to bring to others. The most important thing that we can do is show up, so let me know if you would like to join me for our next Borough Hall meetings and interactions with our public officials. If you have any ideas that you would like to support getting started here in Cresskill or at the County level, come join me for a coffee or lunch and let's get to work! I am so proud to serve you and I am looking forward to what God will continue to move within us.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Kendall

The Board of Outreach

 NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME!

The Board of Outreach has had, and will have, some thrilling things happening. Check out the bulletin board near the coffee machine on Sunday mornings for updates.

Our resident **Easter Bunny**, formerly known as Cindy Micucci, will be holding court on **Saturday, March 30th**. Beginning with a rain-or-shine **Easter Egg hunt** in conjunction with the Board of Ed, the Bunny Bash will host the egg hunt for kids through 5th grade. Prizes will be offered, and every egg will contain candy AND cash. All kids near and far are welcome--we even have some spare baskets on hand to make sure everyone gets plenty of loot. Several of our last-year's confirmation class will be on hand to help, hide eggs, and herd kids!

After the kids have grabbed every egg, the Bunny will open the doors to her rabbit hutch and pose for free photos for anyone, including pets. Shelisa, our near-professional photographer, will again be on hand to take and email pictures for all comers. CareOne will be providing free hot chocolate and tons of pastries. Ash will have a face-painting booth, and crafts and puzzles will be available.

You don't have to bring kids or grandkids to come celebrate the sweet efforts of our egg-citing teams. Fun is for everyone, so join us when you can and welcome spring with noise and chocolate!

On **May 4th**, Outreach will join the Cresskill annual garage sale group and the White Elephant team by holding a **Teen Market and Vendor Fair**. This event has grown out of a desire to serve youth in our community. We offer a table area for any person ages 12-18 who has either handmade goods to sell or collectibles to vend.

The rental cost for a table is \$25, and the vendor keeps anything he/she makes. If you would like to sponsor a table for a teen, just see Bonnie, Mary, or Pat Flynn. Local businesses will also be offered a chance to sponsor a table, They will be allowed to advertise with signs and distribute flyers if they wish. This event runs only from 1pm until 4 pm on May 4th, and table space is limited. Contact Bonnie to sponsor a table or register a teen vendor. Proceeds from table rental and refreshments will be donated to a local charity that supports youth.

In addition, our board is waiting for a schedule of **June pride parades and festivals**. Last year, along with the Rainbow Cafe board, we attended a number of events just to publicize the Cafe and to announce the welcoming, judgement-free nature of our church. Several of us commented on how surprised folks seemed to find representatives from a church alongside the rainbow flags and drag queen story hours! We know, however, that welcoming others should be the number one job of Christians, and we look forward to once again proving our church's commitment to exactly that.

Mary Foster, Chair



The **Women’s Book Club** is reading “The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store” by James McBride. The group will meet on Tuesday, April 9th at 1pm in the social hall.

Bible Study with Pastor Kendall returns on Wednesday, April 10th at 6:30pm in the social hall.



Happy Birthday

Matthew Minkler	1
Charlie Waage	2
Judy Morlock	3
Laura Michelson	6
Pat Rickly	18
Glenn Woertz	18
Howard Vigusin	21
Christina Abreau	22
Lauren Lazzaro	27
Eric Bartlett	30



Have you remembered us in your will?

If not, consider adding this: *“After all of my bills are paid, I want 10 percent of my estate (a tithe) to go to The Cresskill Congregational Church.”*

And that’s it. Your gift will provide a lasting benefit to the congregation for many years to come.



ATTENTION

The Sunshine Club has many lovely feminine birthday cards with flowers and butterflies. The club is now requesting birthday cards that are masculine.

Thank you in advance- Howard Vigusin



Happy Spring from The White Elephant

The White Elephant is very happy to announce we made \$1,520.00 at our March 8th & 9th sale. We are again thankful for Pastor Kendall coming on Friday to meet and greet our customers.

We would like to share another exciting story from The White Elephant. One of our customers, Donnajo Pascetta (who happens to be the director of the Cresskill Senior Center) purchased some beautiful cups, saucers, a tea pot and plates to give away as gifts for her daughter's shower (pictures below.) So you can see our amazing merchandise gets distributed all over the county and beyond!

Our coming sale dates are:

April 12th & 13th
May 4th - town-wide garage sale
May 17th & 18th
June 14th & 15th

We thank you once again for your continued support of The White Elephant. As always, we appreciate any donations (think of us during your spring cleaning.) Please call the office or Karen at 201-245-5946 to set up a time to drop off donations.

The White Elephant Crew



A Blast from our Church's Past
(found in office church files dated 1955)

ANNOUNCING
A FOODLESS
FOOD SALE

*A bit of news we have today
A foodless food sale is on the way
In these busy days, now who would bake
Pies or cookies or even cake?*

*You'd be surprised if you counted the cost
Of material, heat and the time you'd have lost.
Cooking for sale is extra work,
Yet nobody really wishes to shirk.*

*So we've thought of a plan that's truly grand
And feel quite sure you'll understand
In this little envelope please put the price
Of a pie or cake or something nice.*

*Without fuss or bother you've done your part
We're sure you'll give with a willing heart
This is the end of our little tale
Wishing success for our foodless food sale.*

LADIES AID SOCIETY
Cresskill Congregational Church

Mark your calendar: coming in May!

RSVP by **April 17th** to reserve a table!

CALLING ALL TEEN ENTREPRENEURS!



Teen Artisan and Vendor Fair

Cresskill Congregational Church
85 Union Ave.
Cresskill, NJ 07626

Sat. May 4

1:00--4:00 PM

**RSVP by April 17 to
reserve your table!**

pottery | painting | jewelry |
knitwear | crafts | mixed media |
collector's items | memorabilia

Teens: Reserve your free table by April 17!
Local businesses: \$25 will sponsor a teen's table!

**TO RESERVE A TABLE
OR MORE INFORMATION**

Bonnie
chasbon234@gmail.com



Altar Flowers

If you would like to have flowers on the altar in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the order form below and return it to the church office or put it in the office mailbox in the kitchen. The flower dedication will be announced at the worship service for the month and date you select.

Elaine Hargrove and Barbara Emer - the Altar Flower Committee

Altar Flowers Request Form

Your Name: _____

I am donating \$20.00 towards flowers for the altar
on Sunday: _____
month and day

How you would like your announcement to appear in Sunday's bulletin
and to be read aloud to the congregation:

Examples: *In Memory of my mom, Nancy O'Connell, today is her birthday.*
In Honor of my parents, John and Mary Smith, today is their 50th anniversary.

Please return this form and cash (or check) to the church office
or place it in the office mailbox in the kitchen. Checks should be made out to:
Cresskill Congregational Church. Thank you!

A P R I L						
SUNDAY	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4 Pagez Book Club 7pm	5	6
7 Worship Service & Holy Communion 10am	8	9 Women's Book Club 1pm	10 Bible Study 6:30pm	11	12 White Elephant Sale 9am-2pm	13 White Elephant Sale 9am-2pm
14 Worship Service 10am	15	16	17 Bible Study 6:30pm	18	19 Rainbow Cafe Dance 7pm	20
21 Worship Service & food collection 10am	22	23	24 Bible Study 6:30pm	25	26	27 Fitz Clothing Sale 9am
28 Worship Service 10am	29	30				

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It is often said, no news is good news and that continues to be the case with regards to items handled by the trustees. Winter has hopefully come and gone without too much snow and without any extended extreme cold spells. This definitely helps us out budget wise.

Although we did not get much snow this winter, the rainfall amounts that we received were of a historic nature. We did experience a severe flooding issue that we mentioned in last month's newsletter when a couple of our sump pumps failed. The good news is that since that time, they have all been working properly and preventing any further flooding. However, there has still been water seepage issues in the lower-level areas that have required cleaning up with a shop vac and mop. At our next meeting, we will be discussing options to try to prevent future water seepage issues.

Thanks as always to all who give of their time, talents and treasures. We simply ask that you please continue giving, as you are able.

Regards,

Mike Depalo & Bob Hargrove, Jr, Co-Chairs



**CRESSKILL
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

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Cresskill, NJ 07626
201-568-0608
www.cresskillucc.org

PASTOR
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973-692-6256

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Cheryl Woertz

CHOIR DIRECTOR
Julie Schmidt

OFFICE MANAGER
Eileen Andriano

Bible Study returns beginning on
Wednesday, **April 10th** at 6:30pm

Next Month –
on Saturday, May 4th

The White Elephant participates in the
Cresskill town-wide garage sale 9am-4pm &
Teen Artisan and Vendor Fair 1pm-4pm (see pg.7)



**CRESSKILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

85 Union Avenue
Cresskill, NJ 07626