



MARCH
2024

THE SPIRIT SEEKER

Cresskill Congregational Church, UCC

85 Union Avenue, Cresskill, NJ 07626

Phone: 201-568-0608

website: www.cresskillucc.org

Greetings Cresskill Family!

I pray that as your February has come to a close, that it has been full of opportunities for fellowship, love, joy, peace, and spiritual growth. My heart has been full as I continue to get to know all of you and as we continue this journey together to see what God has in store for our church.

God is really shaking things up for us! All of the church events, the constant traffic in and out of the building with Cresskill Cares and the White Elephant are bringing us in closer contact with the greater. The Sandwich Line ministry continues to be a bright beacon of God's desire for us to connect with other faith communities and serve. Our Bible Study around Justice and our new study around Women of the scriptures are getting us to work on our spiritual formation and not just know new ways to think- but new ways to live in a fuller, more inclusive image of Christ. I am so proud of how everyone is showing up to dig in and stretch ourselves to keep answering where God is calling us. The Church has also been growing in person and online. The support from Ash connecting our prayer requests online and assisting with tech, and our newest Volunteer Cassandra who has done a full re-work of our website (go check it out- it's fantastic!) has helped us increase our engagement on instagram and facebook has brought new people into the doors and a budding online congregation. Our prayers for more hands on deck are being answered, and God is showing up and showing out in a mighty way.

There are three events that gave me a lot of joy and gratitude for this community that I would like to lift up. First, on February 4th, I was genuinely touched by the installation ceremony and banquet. It was so heartening to be loved by all of you and appreciated, and it was truly one of my happiest days of ministry. Second, our combined worship with FCC Haworth for Ash Wednesday was a beautiful moment for our community. We got to serve each other food, worship with music and the imposition of ashes, and our church showed such graciousness and love in receiving their hospitality. Our churches fully mixed together so naturally, and I look forward to worshipping with them again. Finally, February 17th we had a church cleaning event! People came, rolled up their sleeves and got to work, and we covered a lot of ground. It wasn't the work that was so notable, it was the *cooperation* of all of God's people in the church working for a common goal. It didn't matter if you were on a committee or not, a member or just started regularly attending, all parts of our Beloved community showed up to work. It was just a glimpse of the Kingdom to come, and that kind of community really keeps me going through the week!

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Please pray for:
Ken B., in hospice care
Our country and the world
People of Japan, Ukraine, Israel and Palestine

Health and healing:

Adam

Anna L., for healing and pain relief

Arlene's sister, Anna Marie, for healing

Colin M., battling ALL leukemia

Donna D., for comfort

Jack R., for healing

Joan B., for recovery and healing

John K., in the ICU

Judy M., for healing

Karen Mc., battling cancer

Kurt, battling cancer

Linda, battling cancer

Mike O', battling cancer

Rico, for healing

Ruth B., for healing

Sue, for healing

Tashika, for care, comfort and pain relief



Bible Study with Pastor Kendall
continues through the month of March
on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.

Please bring with you:
any translation of the bible and
a pencil or something to write with.

If you cannot attend in person, you can
join us on zoom at:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87593830820?
pwd=QkVVDurXVP6D5SkTnv6DlhibQI
0J3E.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87593830820?pwd=QkVVDurXVP6D5SkTnv6DlhibQI0J3E.1)

Meeting ID: 875 9383 0820
Passcode: 533322

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As we enter March and prepare ourselves for the coming holidays, let us continue to focus on our spiritual formation in this Lenten Season. Yes, many of us may have decided to give things up, to say no to certain foods or habits or behaviors, but **let's stay focused on what we are saying yes to.** We are saying yes in Lent to spending more time with God in prayer and meditation, saying yes to being of service, saying yes to continuing to Build the Community. We have a number of events to look forward to as a church, so please take a look at the newsletter and look for where God is calling you to join in! As always, please reach out to me by phone or email, or come to the office and let's grab a cup of coffee or a meal together- let's keep serving together!

Peace and Love,

Pastor Kendall

The Board of Outreach

The Board of Outreach has some exciting events coming up:

On Saturday, March 30, we will be partnering with the Board of Christian Ed for our annual **Easter Egg hunt**. This year, a Special Guest Appearance by the Easter Bunny has been confirmed! This happy hare has made room in a busy schedule to take photos with pets and people.

The kids will begin their imitations of Biblical locusts at 2:00 when they spread out to locate plastic eggs with candy and money. Prizes will be offered, and CareOne has agreed to furnish some delicious pastries and hot chocolate. Photos will begin at 3pm and run until 5:00, and there will be no charge. The events will take place rain or shine. Even if you don't have little ones who love egg hunts, come on out to share the fun! (*flyer is on page 9*)

In May, we are planning a **Teen Artisan and Vendor Fair** on Saturday, May the 4th (be with you) from 1-4:00 pm. All local teens are invited to sell their wares, either homemade or collectible. Local businesses are invited to sponsor a teen's table for \$25 and advertise if they choose to do so. Our goal is to support local teens and connect to the community with a fun activity. Spread the word, and if you have any questions or are interested in sponsoring a table, please see Bonnie Slockett, Mary Foster, or Pat Flynn. Hope you can join us to shop for some unique gifts and support our local teens.

Bonnie's book club, **Pagez**, is continuing to meet. This group is aimed at teens who identify with the LGBTQ spectrum. See her for more information.

Fitz sends thanks for the personal hygiene products that you contributed. The organization served over 50 teenagers in the January event. Free clothing, accessories, shoes, makeup, and personal products were offered to any teen who came. There are even two seamstresses ON SITE who modify the outfits! We are proud that our church supports this group by providing storage and by hosting the event every few months. In tough economic times, it feels great to offer a place where a young person can find something that helps them either stand out or blend in—whichever they prefer!

Rainbow Cafe's Valentine Dance had the joint jumping on the 16th! With Scott as DJ, about 50 local teens had a place to dance and mingle—and Pastor Kendall and Carolyn are experts at both! There is also quieter place in the basement for chatting or crafting. We have several congregation members who actively support the café and would be happy to answer questions or share information. Inquire of Pat or Jack Flynn, Scott or Shelisa Foster, Jess or Ashleigh Horan, Mary or Dick Foster, Phil Daly, Carolyn Schinkel, and Carolyn or Kendall.

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BOOK CLUB

The **Women's Book Club** is reading
"The Woman" by Kristin Hannah.
The group will meet on Tuesday, March 12th
at 1pm in the social hall.



Sunday, March 10th is Daylight Savings.
Set your clocks ahead one hour!



**For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son, that
whoever believes
in him shall not
perish but have
eternal life.**

—John 3:16



Dick Foster	6
Geoffrey Rickly	8
Matthew Foster	13
Emily Hallmeyer	13
Sally Bartlett	18
Patricia Dobish	20
Jeremy Plasencia	27
Barbara Soine	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.

Thank you.

Sunday Service Prayer List

Please send your joys, concerns and anything you would like us to pray for to:
pastor@cresskillucc.org.

Let us join together in faith, hope and love as we lift each other up in prayer!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees does not have much to report this month. As mandated by our constitution, the board recently held its re-organization as it was our first meeting of the new year after the church wide annual meeting. Mike Depalo and Bob Hargrove Jr were again elected as co-chairs and Jack Rickly as secretary for the board. Please refer to the church website for a listing of all current board members, as well as a roster for the various sub-committees that each member is responsible for.

Thank you to Pastor Kendall for organizing and to all who helped with our church cleaning project last month. We accomplished a lot, but there is still more work to be done.

Following up on last month's article regarding the flooding in the White Elephant room, the church did receive payment of around \$5,000 from our insurance carrier for the loss. That covers around half of the \$10,000 amount in damages we sustained. We are thankful that it is all cleaned up and that the White Elephant was able to be up and running for their most recent sale.

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. It is greatly appreciated.

Regards,
Mike Depalo & Bob Hargrove, Jr, Co-Chairs

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Our **Sandwich Line** continues its dependable behind-the-scenes service to nearby day workers each week. Providing bagged lunches plus warm gloves and hats is the truest evidence of people being "God's hands and feet." Outreach has designated every 5th Sunday as "Sandwich Sunday." You will see a special envelope in your bulletin to make it easy to donate a few dollars to support this mission. The group regularly serves over 30 men who wait in all kinds of weather for an opportunity to earn a day's wage. We are proud of Opal, Jacks Rickly and Flynn, and Carolyn Schinkel for their work.

Mary Foster, Chair, Board of Outreach



Easter Flowers

**Please help enhance the beauty
of our sanctuary this Easter**

Please fill out the form below and
return your order with a check (or cash) for the total amount.

Please make out all checks to:
Cresskill Congregational Church, with a notation for Easter Flowers
and place it in the office mail slot in the kitchen.
You can also mail a check to the office, please call Eileen 201-568-0608
to alert her that a check is on its way.

All order forms need to be returned by Monday, March 11th.

The plants are 6" and are \$10.00 each.

If you do not want a plant and just want to make a dedication,
a donation of \$5.00 is suggested. Thank you.

tulips

daffodils

no flowers/
dedication only

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Other: _____

From: _____



Happy St. Patrick's Day from The White Elephant

The White Elephant is very happy to announce we made \$1,772.00 at our February 9th and 10th sale. We were especially happy to be able to open on time for our February sale in spite of the White Elephant being flooded in the January 10th storm.

With the help of many people, especially Nic Hargrove and Serv Pro,
we were able to clean up and open as planned.

We were very happy to have Pastor Kendall at our Friday sale once again to meet and greet our customers. Pastor Kendall not only “meets and greets” but lends a hand whenever needed, carrying boxes to cars, packing items, etc.

These are our upcoming sale dates:

March 8th & 9th

April 12th & 13th

May 4th - Town-wide Garage Sale

May 17th & 18th

June 14th & 15th

We are always looking for donations. Please call the church office
or Karen at 201-245-5946 to set up a time to drop off donations.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy “Almost” Spring from
The White Elephant Crew

Here are pictures from our sale last month.





Did you know that the United Church of Christ has a program called 5 for 5? Here is what our denomination says about it:

"The success and sustainability of the United Church of Christ's national ministries is relying on your church's contributions to basic operating support and mission. Being 5 for 5 means that your church is a leader, providing support to Our Church's Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need & The Christmas Fund."

Our church includes Our Church's Wider Mission in our yearly budget. Watch for information from the Board of Outreach on contributing to each of the four special mission offerings.

Our first collection is for OGHS – SEE BELOW

Share the Light



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Look for the insert and envelope in Sunday's bulletin on March 10th.

The Easter Bunny is Hopping into Cresskill!

Saturday March 30 starting at 2 PM

Activities to follow from 3-5 pm...FREE to the Community

Easter Egg Hunt and Bunny Photoshoot!

Cresskill Congregational Church UCC
85 Union Avenue
Cresskill, New Jersey
201-568-0608

Toddlers through 5th grade
Bring an Easter basket

Hunt will begin at 2 pm, rain or shine
(Indoors if rainy or cold)

Prizes, Candy, and money in every egg!
Find the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Egg for even more prizes!

Hot chocolate, coffee, and snacks provided by CareOne

Join us inside after the Egg Hunt for FREE activities from 3-5 pm!

PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY (PETS TOO!)

FACE PAINTING

CRAFTING

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sponsored by:
CAREONE
QUESTIONS BY OUR CARE

**CRESSKILL
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

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

PASTOR
Rev. Dr. Kendall Moore
973-692-6256

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Cheryl Woertz

CHOIR DIRECTOR
Julie Schmidt

OFFICE MANAGER
Eileen Andriano

Save the date!

Maundy Thursday Service and Pot Luck Supper March 28th

Good Friday March 29th

Easter Egg Hunt and Bunny Photoshoot March 30th

Easter Sunday Service
March 31, 2024 at 10:00am



**CRESSKILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

85 Union Avenue
Cresskill, NJ 07626