

Parish Happenings

January 2020

FROM PASTOR CHAD

Each year, on the last Sunday in January, we hold an annual congregational meeting. Too often this is a rather perfunctory event, required by our constitution, and nothing more. There are a couple items that need to be voted on by the congregation so we can maintain decency and order. If you did not already know, Presbyterians take pride in conducting all business decently and in order. So, as the new year picks up steam, we will get our new church year started decently and in order on Sunday, January 26th following our regular worship.



Over the years we've tried different approaches to our annual meeting. Our goal was always that it would be more than a few quick motions that a few faithful members, who feel compelled to stick around, vote on. Instead the session would always like the participation of the whole congregation (members and friends) to gather and consider both the mandatory business and the mission of our congregation.

On year we tried gathering in the Parish Hall for a meal, but it was loud and didn't really accomplish what we had hoped. We've tried having a slide show and we've held the meeting with and without our children, but keeping the main thing the main thing is always the goal. Although there won't be any strategic meeting gimmicks this year, or a unique format, we are planning to to dive into our ministry and mission through the church budget.

I know, I know, as soon as you read the world 'budget' many of you started looking for the meeting date so you could mark the calendar too busy for church, but don't give up just yet. Our budget won't just be a bunch of numbers this year. It will be presented in a new format (sometimes called a narrative budget). The intent is to take a hard look at both our financial situation (which has been a bit of a challenge the last couple years) and how our finances reflect our values and congregational mission. We working on this project now and I'm excited for how it will help us think about our life together.

The meeting will convene in the Sanctuary immediately following the benediction.

Everyone is encouraged to stay and participate (even though only members can vote, we believe our whole worshipping community is a vital part of our ministry and mission).

Nursery care for the youngest, most squirrely, among us will continue through the meeting. Following the official business there will most certainly be coffee, treats, and fellowship in the Parish Hall.

It is my hope and the hope of the Session, that you won't want to miss this particular Sunday as we take some time to focus on the unique ways we carry out Christ's mission together as Christ's Church.

As I mentioned above there are of course some proper motions that need to be made and voted on by those who are members; we'll be sure to do that, but the real focus will be on how we carry out, and can continue to carry out, the mission of our congregation together.

While it is the roll of those elected to the Session to set a course for the congregation we want to know what the hopes and dreams of the people are for our church. In preparation for our shared time of reflection I think it is always helpful to consider the following questions:

- What is it that I most love about LVPC that makes it my church?
- What areas of our church life need to be reinvigorated?
- How can I be more committed to sharing in the life of LVPC?
- What gifts am I not sharing with this community of faith?
- How can we as a church better witness to God's love in our community?

It is our hope that these few simple questions will help us remain focused on being faithful to following the Holy Spirit, promote our growing faith, and to be a community open to a changing world.

God has given us the gift of carrying out Christ's work in the world. May we continue to experience God's abundant blessings as we take on the challenges and joys of our shared work.



CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. following worship

As provided in the by-laws of the Lower Valley Presbyterian Church, there shall be a meeting of the congregation following worship on **January 26, 2020**, for the purpose of receiving the annual reports of the Session and reviewing the 2020 budget.

Other business to attend:

- We will elect Nominating Committee Class of 2022
- We will elect Elders for the Class of 2022
- We will approve the Pastor's Terms of Call

All are welcome to attend. Only active members of the congregation have voice and vote.

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW!

The Buildings and Grounds team is putting together a list of people who would be willing to help with some of the snow blowing and shoveling during the winter months. When it snows, we have our parking lot and driveways plowed, but the sidewalks, walkways, and front steps need to be cleared by us. Pastor Chad often takes care of the bulk of this, but he will be having surgery on his shoulder in early January, and won't be able to help at all this winter. This is **NOT** a commitment to head to the church every time it snows. We'd like to have a list of people who we can contact (hopefully with a text message) as the



need arises. If you are available, great! If not, hopefully someone else will be. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact Karen Newman at kjnewman115@gmail.com or 908-763-9483.

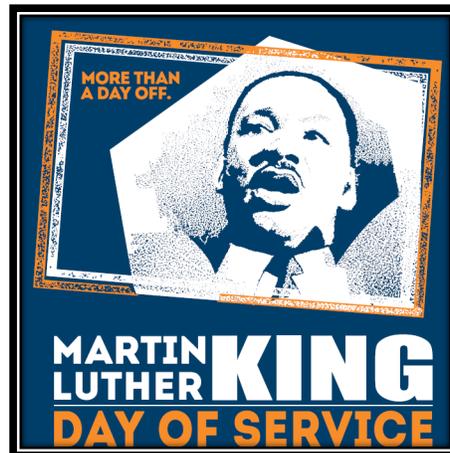
MISSION NEWS

All ages and abilities are invited to participate in the 17th Annual

MLK DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

MONDAY JANUARY 20th from 12-2 at the **Lower Valley Presbyterian Church**

443 County Route 513 * Califon NJ (enter & park from the Sliker Road entrance across from Aqi supermarket)



We will be collecting:

1. *Canned goods (fruits, vegetables, chili and ravioli requested) paper products, detergent and Shop Rite gift cards for Two Local Food Pantries*
2. *Dog/Cat food, pet-safe ice melt for Local Animal Shelters*
3. *Diapers (esp. toddler sizes) & feminine hygiene products for the United Way & Local Women's Shelters*

For more information, find us on Facebook: **Northern Hunterdon County MLK Day of Service** or email ginamsampaio@gmail.com

GIVING FAIR WRAP-UP

The Giving Fair was another huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this day run smoothly. Donations totaled \$7,838.65. The mission team will be meeting Thursday, January 9 at 7 p.m. to distribute mission funds to organizations that were associated with the Giving Fair. If you'd like to join the Mission Team, please contact Marilyn El-Zahr.



Some scenes
from Live
nativity at the
annual Giving
Fair



SESSION MEMBERS' WISH LIST

- Marilyn wishes more people would join the Mission team so that we can continue to serve others in the spirit of Jesus Christ;
- Krista wishes for the sound of the hand bells ringing in worship again; we've found someone to work with a group ... all we need are the hand bell ringers;
- Karen wishes someone would volunteer to serve as Clerk of Session so that she may move over to the Finance team; Kyle's Session term has ended and we no longer have a Session representative on the Finance team (you don't need to be a member of Session to serve as Clerk and Karen will provide any assistance you may need);
- Warren wishes things would stop breaking, and when they do, that we would have the resources to fix them in a timely manner;
- Lisamarie wishes we had more hands to help with fellowship on Sunday mornings and that we could outfit our kitchen with some new supplies (where did all the dish towels go?);
- Renee wishes we had more people interested in congregational care and community outreach so we could better support members of our church community as well as the community surrounding us;
- Pastor Chad wishes we had a Worship team to assist him in coming up with new and creative ideas for our worship services; and,
- We all wish everyone a joyful and spiritual year filled with the peace and love of God and the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ!

BIBLE STUDIES AND FELLOWSHIP

Women's Bible study meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, from 7:00-8:30 in the library. Please join us as we study the book of Matthew using N.T. Wright's "Matthew for Everyone." and together learn more of who Jesus was, his teachings, and what this means for our lives. Join us!

Men's Fellowship: There's plenty of bible study, but that's not all. Join us on Saturdays at 8 a.m. in the church library. We share food and life and wrestle with scripture together. At the present we're spending time in the Gospel of Matthew.

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee is actively seeking church members who are interested in serving on Session or the nominating committee for three year terms beginning in 2020. We are seeking people who want to actively serve our congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. The Session sets the course for carrying out the vision and mission of our congregation and has some fun along the way. We hope that all members would prayerfully consider whether this is an area of church life God may be calling you to.

If you would like to serve in a leadership role at LVPC or you know of someone who you believe has particular skill or gifts for a leadership role please contact the nominating team or speak with Chad.

BYG SUPER BOWL PLATTERS AVAILABLE

See attached or enclosed (depending on how you receive the newsletter) for information and order form. Your support of our summer mission trip is always appreciated. Thank you!

SCENES FROM “THE NATIVITY”

The Children of LVPC presented their Christmas Play, “The Nativity” on December 22. Here are some photos:



We are looking for church members
(of any age) who would like to
contribute something to our
newsletter. Share your experiences,
your memories and your hopes for
LVPC. We want to hear from you.
E-mail Claudia at
lowervalleypc@embarqmail.com.

Pastor Chad's Contact info:

Cell phone: 908.892.0044

E-mail: revchadrodgers@gmail.com

Church Info:

Claudia Gilbert: Church Administrator

Phone: 908-832-2933

E-mail: lowervalleypc@embarqmail.com

Website: www.lowervalley.org

Office hours: W-F, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Session Members

Lisamarie Boehm: 432-3414/lisamarie_boehm@yahoo.com

Marilyn El-Zahr: 392-0934/marilyn.lastname@gmail.com

Kyle Garcia: 867-7186/ kylesgarcia@yahoo.com

Krista Jenkins: 328-8967/KJenkins1970@gmail.com

Renee Ollerenshaw: 832-7250/Jems101992@gmail.com

Karen Newman (clerk): 763-9483/kjnewman115@gmail.com

Warren Newman: 763-6094/wnewman115@gmail.com

Upcoming Servers

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Communion Servers
January 5	Kim Rodgers	Karen and Warren Newman	Warren Newman Marilyn El-Zahr Renee Ollerenshaw Lisamarie Boehm
January 12	Karen Newman	Cindy and Tim O’Keefe	
January 19 – Family Worship	Renee Ollerenshaw	Marilyn and Al El-Zahr	
January 26	Warren Newman	Kim Rodgers and Peggy Macaoay	
February 2	Al El-Zahr	OPEN and OPEN	OPEN OPEN OPEN OPEN
February 9	Marilyn El-Zahr	Karen and Warren Newman	
February 16 – Family Worship	Karen Newman	Peggy Macaoay and OPEN	
February 23	Jacob El-Zahr	Renee Ollerenshaw and OPEN	

If you are able to serve in one of the OPEN spots, please let Claudia know. Thank you!

Lower Valley Presbyterian Church
445 County Road 513
Califon, NJ 07830
January 2020

The Vision of our Church

Lower Valley Presbyterian Church is a community of believers who worship God in word and deed, nurture each other through prayer, friendship, and education, and seek to serve others in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Our four areas of ministry are faith development, caring for each other, outreach ministry and supporting ministry.