

# Parish Happenings

## January 2023

### FROM PASTOR CHAD

The calendar marches on and we have turned the last page of 2022. Around here, at the church building, we've had a rather exciting finish to 2022 and start to 2023. Some of the long planned for and long awaited building improvements are being finished up. For anyone who has participated in the work to address some much needed upgrades this is an exciting development.

Our upstairs classrooms (used by Happy Face Preschool) and our Library/Meeting Room have a reconstructed wall with all new casement windows. The results are actually quite striking (see some photos on next page). This was a long over due upgrade that we expect to significantly improve energy efficiency. It also addresses rotting trim around the old windows and gives the whole exterior and interior of these rooms a much needed refresh and upgrade. There were also three windows in the kitchen that needed replacement and we began a long term window replacement project at the manse, where five new windows were installed.



Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

*You won't find the church underneath the steeple, you'll find the church where its members choose to take it.*

As you might guess, a project like this doesn't happen without some significant expense. We continue to be grateful for all the years that Ruth Paradise committed to the life of our congregation and now the generous gift she left us in her estate. Most of the recent work has been funded through her gift. It is also important to note that the window replacements at the manse were accomplished with a \$2000 matching grant (for energy efficient upgrades to manses) from our Presbytery and the generous donation, of the installation labor, of our contractor Heartwood Homes and Construction.

On our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration Sunday I quoted our Pastor Emeritus Rev. William Bender, "You won't find the church underneath the steeple, you'll find the church where its members choose to take it." While this remains at the heart of who we are as God's people and at the heart of what brings us together as a community at LVPC, we do have a building that can be very useful in carrying out our mission to bless our community. Look no further than the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on January 16. We are able to host this wonderful community event because we have this resource which was established by past generations of church members.

So, we continue to balance our investment in maintaining this resource with our goal of taking the gospel out into our community. There are still some door replacements to come as part of this project and we are working with our contractor to turn our attention to some needed upgrades to our sanctuary. There will certainly be opportunities to get involved and I would invite anyone to get involved in the process. There is much to do and it is exciting and gratifying to get a glimpse of what is possible.

*Chad*

## RENOVATION BEFORE AND AFTER SHOTS



Getz Library with Door Removed and Old Windows



Completed Getz Library Window Replacement



Classrooms with Doors Removed and Old Windows



Completed Classroom Window Replacement

### **CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

**Sunday, January 29, 2023 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 29, 2023**, for the purpose of receiving the annual reports of the Session and reviewing the 2023 budget.

Other business to attend:

- We will elect Nominating Committee Class of 2025
- We will elect Elders for the Class of 2025
- We will approve the Pastor's Terms of Call

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

**YOUTH GROUP**

High school youth group has begun on Sundays from 7 - 8:30 p.m. We generally meet every Sunday at the church for some fun and games and a bit of bible study and fellowship. Our main communication comes from our Student Communications Coordinator’s large text group. If your phone number is not part of that group and you’d like it to be, make sure to let pastor Chad know and we’ll get you included.

**ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

**Men’s Fellowship:** There’s plenty of bible study, but that’s not all. Join us virtually on Saturdays at 8 a.m. We share life and wrestle with scripture together. At the present we’re spending time in Leviticus. Contact Chad with any questions to get the zoom link.

**PRAYER CHAIN**

Reminder! The church maintains a virtual prayer chain. If you would like to be informed about those in need of prayers, and are willing to commit to prayerfully participate, please contact Krista Jenkins at [kjenkins1970@gmail.com](mailto:kjenkins1970@gmail.com). Prayer requests can also go to Krista.

<b>Upcoming Servers</b>			
Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Fellowship
January 1	Mike Reaves	Krista Jenkins and Peggy Macaoay	Marilyn El-Zahr
January 8	Marilyn El-Zahr	Karen and Warren Newman	Krista Jenkins and Mike Reaves
January 15	Laurie Garneri	Renee Ollerenshaw and Janet Dixon	Karen Newman, Linda Stetler and Anne Cooley
January 22	Warren Newman	Marilyn El-Zahr and Judy Eckwielen	The Ernst Family
January 29	Krista Jenkins	The Ernst Family	Madeleine Argue, Cindy O’Keefe, Diane Staph, Judy Eckwielen
February 5	Peggy Macaoay	Linda Stetler and Anne Cooley	Marilyn El-Zahr
February 12	Ken Ernst	Karen and Warren Newman	Krista Jenkins and Mike Reaves
February 19	Karen Newman	Dick Kline and Mike Reaves	Karen Newman, Linda Stetler and Anne Cooley
February 26	Laurie Garneri	Madeleine Argue and Diane Staph	The Ernst Family

Lower Valley Presbyterian Church  
445 County Road 513  
Califon, NJ 07830  
January 2023

## **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.