

Parish Happenings

June 2017

FROM PASTOR CHAD

Momentum

On a recent weekend Annalise and I shared a two night binge on space movies and Häagen-Dazs bars. We watched two of the best ones ever made: *Apollo 13* and *The Martian*. After 20 years *Apollo 13* still holds up and *The Martian* is especially good considering it is a fictional tale about our future hopes of traveling to Mars. I'm pretty sure either the author of the novel



The Martian or the film makers were heavily influenced by *Apollo 13* because the films are so similar. Basically the mission doesn't go to plan, but with the ingenuity, creativity, and quick thinking under pressure of the team of astronauts in space and the teams of engineers on the ground (spoiler alert) everyone gets home to earth safely. Then both films end with dramatic staring into space and more rockets launching.

The Martian generally received great reviews from scientists for its realism. The things that happen in the film and the way we as human beings move through space and might get a mission to Mars were based on actual science. The limitations of our technology and knowledge were part of the story and some of the basic laws of physics were on display. After watching these films I just couldn't help, but connect those laws of physics to the life of the Church. It is a hazard of my role I guess.

I was thinking about Newton's first law: an object remains in its state of rest or motion in a straight line unless acted on by some force. Once something has momentum it keeps going in the same direction until something gets in the way. Space ships need to burn their thrusters or use the gravitational forces from orbiting a planet to change course otherwise, they will just move off through space until colliding with something. Here on earth movement is a little different because we are constantly being acted on by the combination of friction and gravity. Momentum is not sustained unless we apply a constant force.

noun (plural **momenta** |-tə| or **momentums**)

1 *Physics* the quantity of motion of a moving body, measured as a product of its mass and velocity.

Here's the thing about churches with respect to Newton's first law; churches tend to think of themselves like space ships in space. We establish some momentum, set a course, and off we go. There is no friction or gravitational forces in the voids of space, so no attention is needed to our course. Once we get things moving we assume that there is little else to do until we get

nearer to Mars. We are really good at assuming that no other forces are influencing our congregations. This is, however, a big mistake because we are not in the voids of space. We are always being acted on by forces out of our control. We are affected by the cultural changes that constantly swirl around us, but also, and just as profoundly, by the changes in the individual lives of those in our community: illness, loss, jobs lost, jobs found, aging, students going off to college, retirement, new members, are all constantly changing our course and sometimes even redefining our mission.

In my experience church life is more like a good space movie. I think we will be a stronger congregation when we learn that our life together is like a good space movie, "the mission" never goes to plan and will always require constant attention, ingenuity, creativity, and quick thinking from both our leadership teams and our whole congregation to stay on course. At times we may even need to change the mission (also a common theme in good space movies).

Over the past 9.5 years I've served as pastor at LVPC, we have worked together to establish momentum and for that I'm grateful. However, we must remember that change, like friction and gravity, is always acting on us and we need to continue engaging in God's mission with creativity and new energy. It is my hope that we can continue our work of transformation together with enthusiasm and the sustained engagement of those new to our community and those who've been around a while.

Claudia

WORSHIP

Worship in the Park!

Mark your calendars for our Annual Worship in the Park which will be on June 4th at Califon Park. Everyone is asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. The church will be providing sub sandwiches. In the case of rain, worship will be at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary with the picnic following in the Parish Hall.

EVENING CIRCLE

Our annual Women's luncheon will be on June 19th at Jake and Riley's in Clinton on Route 31 at 12:30. Family style meal \$20 all inclusive (even tip). Always delicious! RSVP to Nancy Knight 537-4347 or Joni Nodes 236-7996.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

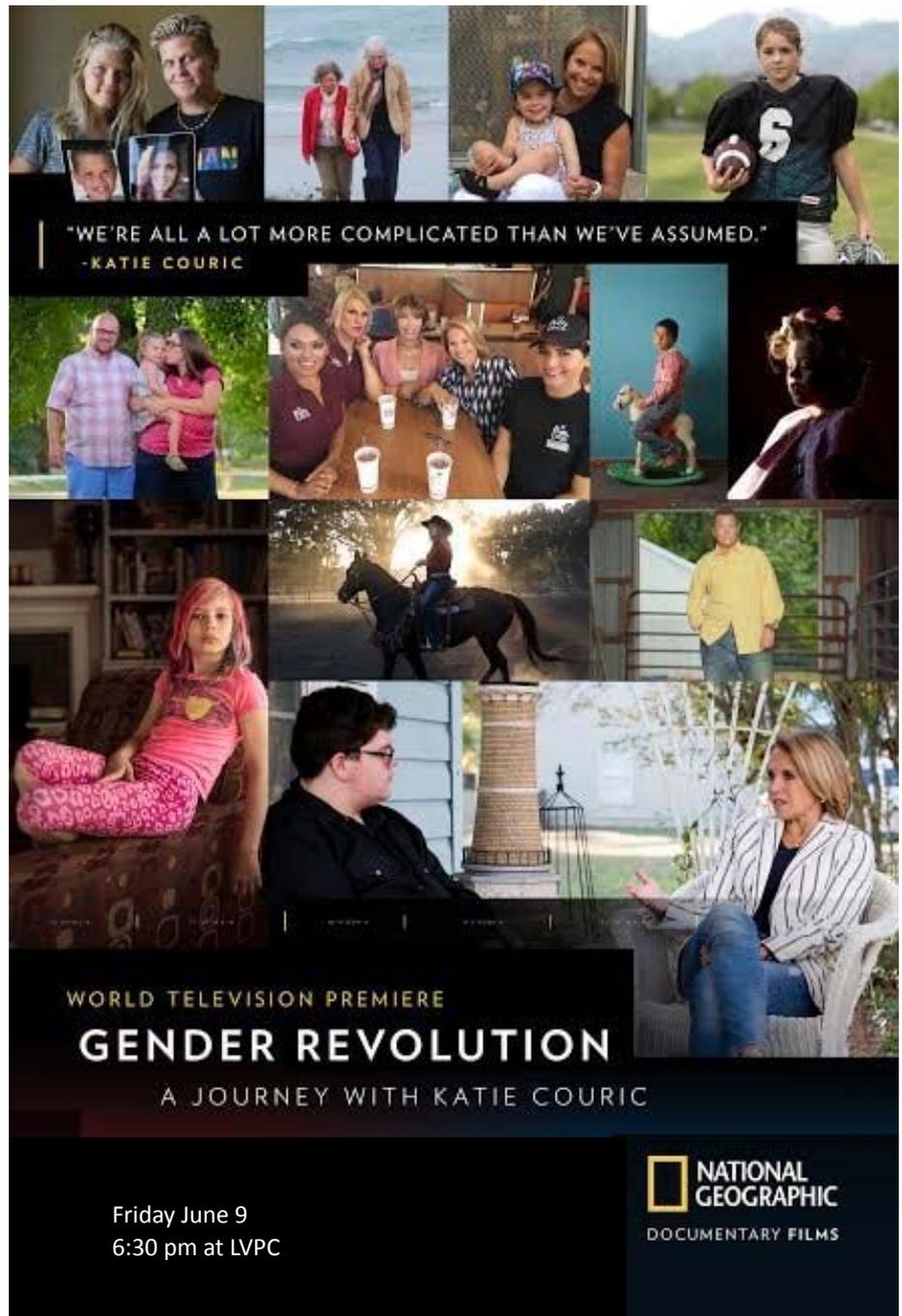
There are a few garden beds available in the Community Garden for this growing season. If you are interested please call Claudia in the office to get a registration form. Each bed is \$25.



MISSION NEWS

Film Series Update

We are hosting our next film, "Gender Revolution: A Journey With Katie Couric" on **June 9th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. We hope you will join us for an informative film and discussion afterwards. Snacks provided.



Calling All Volunteers: Habitat For Humanity

LVPC has an exciting opportunity to serve and help build a home on **Saturday, October 14th**. We will be working on a home in Franklin Township in Somerset County with Habitat For Humanity. We need fifteen people over the age of 16 to volunteer. Please contact Abby if you are interested:
abigailernst@gmail.com

Copper Kettle

Have you noticed the Copper Kettle in the Narthex? This Kettle waits for your loose change each Sunday morning. For several years this change has been collected for Missions. Eleanor Clawson collects and rolls the change. Open Cupboard Thrift Store and Food Pantry benefits from this change collection in the Copper Kettle....a small but unknown and rewarding part of our Mission program. Please consider dropping in some change the next time you are at church.

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT (ASP) HAPPENINGS

ASP Prayer Cards

Our Appalachia Service Project trip this year is July 15-22 to Harlan, KY. We are again offering Prayer Cards

featuring our volunteers. This time there is one group photo – we're being environmentally "green," saving paper/trees! We will be selling the cards for \$10 each during May and June before and after church. Our congregation has always been generous in supporting our volunteers financially, and these Prayer Cards have been a very successful fundraiser. We encourage you to think about buying "shares" in the trip, since there is not a whole collection of different cards to purchase this year. All of us cannot go on the trip, but we all can be a part of this life-changing mission opportunity. Our volunteers help make homes warmer, safer and drier for people in Appalachia. In addition, volunteers lives are changed as they see and experience life in a totally different area of our country. We have 29-30 volunteers going, which is more than we've ever had before! Each volunteer pays \$150 towards their trip and then attempts to raise \$400 more. The money goes toward travel expenses, food, and building supplies. The cards can remind you to pray for our volunteers before the trip, while they travel to and from Appalachia, and while they work. We urge you to continue your generous support by donating as much as you can to this huge

undertaking. Checks can be made out to "LVPC" with "ASP" on the memo line; your donations are tax deductible. Thank you!

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Spiritual Formation of Children

Even though Sunday School has ended, we can still look forward to Family Worship with the art tables during the summer months.

Youth Group

Middle schoolers – It's that time again – Toxic Cereal Night is June 7!!

High school students...Join us on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month as we spend time looking at issues of faith through scripture and discussion in order to dive deeper into what it means to have a relationship with God. Yummy dessert and lots of laughs are always included. We meet at 7 p.m. at either the Rodgers or the Gasts. Feel free to invite friends. **Our June meeting dates are 6/2 and 6/16.**

Men's Bible Study

It's always a great time to join our Men's Fellowship Group! We meet on Saturday mornings from 8-9:30 a.m. If you have questions, are interested, have questions or would like a study guide see Pastor Chad.

G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER)

If you're not sure what G.i.F.T. is then it is time for you to find out! The Spiritual Formation Team is hard at work preparing for 5 evenings (Sunday July 9th - July 13th from 5:30 p.m. -

8.p.m.) of faith deepening, community forming, summer fun for the whole church family right here at LVPC. More details will be coming soon, but if you ask around you'll find that many of us have participated in past

summers and would love to share our experiences. Our goal is to wrap up registration on Sunday June 4th so mark your calendars now. Below is the registration form.

G.i.F.T.

We're getting ready for our Growing in Faith Together summer program for 2017. Please register to let us know if you are able to attend. As usual we will have dinner together to start each evening off (5:30-8:00pm). **July 9-13.**

All ages are encouraged to attend!

\$25/family donation is requested.

Names of people attending. (Please include ages of anyone under 18.)

Email and Phone



Any Questions, ask:
Natalie Gast
908-451-5220
gast.natalie@gmail.com

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

Abby Ernst: 439-3549/abigailernst@gmail.com

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

Sue Hostler: 574-5337/JSHostler@gmail.com

Warren Newman: 638-4332/newmanwj@cdmsmith.com

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

Kim Rodgers: 892-0141/chadandkimrodgers@gmail.com

Karen Newman (clerk): 638-4332/karennewman@embarqmail.com

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Communion Servers
June 4 — Worship in the Park	Warren Newman	The Donlon Family	Warren Newman OPEN OPEN OPEN
June 11	OPEN	Judy Eckwielen Ed Getz	
June 18	Warren Newman	Judie and Adam Ambielli	
June 25	Lisamarie Boehm	Renee and Jeff Ollerenshaw	
July 2	Judy Eckwielen	Nancy and David Knight	OPEN OPEN
July 9	Christina Wilson	Lisa Coffaro Isabel Roppolo	
July 16	Dick Kline	Rich Ehrlich OPEN	
July 23	Stephanie Donlon	Judy Eckwielen Ed Getz	
July 30	Marilyn El-Zahr	Judie and Adam Ambielli	
August 6	OPEN	Rich Ehrlich Lisamarie Boehm	OPEN OPEN
August 13	Christina Wilson	Abby and Ken Ernst	
August 20	Judy Eckwielen	The El-Zahr Family	
August 27	OPEN	Judie and Adam Ambielli	

Please let the office know if you are able to serve in one of the OPEN spots

Lower Valley Presbyterian Church
445 County Road 513
Califon, NJ 07830
June 2017

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.