

Connecting with God, One Another and the World First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown

May 2017

DATES TO NOTE:

May 7
Confirmation Sunday

May 14
Women of the Church
Sunday

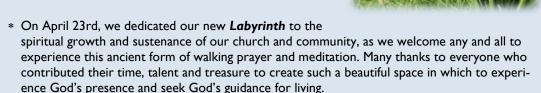
May 21
Adult Education and Legacy Sunday

Last Day to sign up for the Progressive Dinner

New Life in Bloom

Renewed by our Sabbath journey through Lent, we are now celebrating the good news of Jesus' resurrection and the new life this Easter season. An amazing array of beauty and growth is springing forth all around us! From fragrant flowers and budding trees, to singing birds and industrious critters, life is emerging everywhere and filling the world with song and new life.

In addition to the beautiful flowers and trees on our property, new life is blooming at FPCY too!



- * We are the in midst of a **Baptism Bonanza** this spring (celebrating this joyful sacrament of new life 7 times in 3 months!), as we welcome these children and youth into our church family and pledge our love and support to them and their families as they continue to grow in faith.
- * On May 7th, we welcome 10 Confirmation Students into the membership of our church and celebrate their commitment to a life of following Jesus Christ in the world. Many thanks to our Confirmation teachers Gordon Braudaway, Pam Darreff, Ellen Miles and Chip Low for accompanying these young people on this important stage in their faith journey.
- * On May 14th, we celebrate the **Women of the Church** and remember our foremothers in faith whose love and guidance have helped us grow into the people and disciples God calls us to be.
- * Just as our children and youth have been growing in faith all year long, so have our adults.

 On May 21st, we'll hear from participants in our many **Adult Education** programs about how their faith continues to break new ground and grow in new directions. May 21st is also Legacy Sunday, a time to reflect on the many ways we can continue to love and serve God through this faith community.
- * On June 4th, we celebrate **Pentecost**, the day the Holy Spirit blew through that ragtag band of Jesus' disciples and birthed the church, the Body of Christ in the world. Don't forget to wear something RED to church. Growth often brings change and transition, and so we also celebrate Lisa Eliasson's service to our church as YPP Director and Lisa and Gary's ministry among us as they move to North Carolina this summer.
- * Our children and youth will lead us in **Children's Day** worship as we move to one service at 10:00am on June 11 and celebrate the faith and commitment of all those involved in our children's and youth programs.
- * Finally, on June 18, we will celebrate our **Graduates** and honor the **Men of the Church** who have been fathers in faith to us.

Throughout this wonderful season of new life, may we be open to the Spirit's presence in our lives, whether it comes as a gentle spring rain or a thirst-quenching downpour. As we worship and serve God together, may we growth and blossom under the Son's rays of love, grace and peace.

See you in church,





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CONFIRMATION - CLASS OF 2017























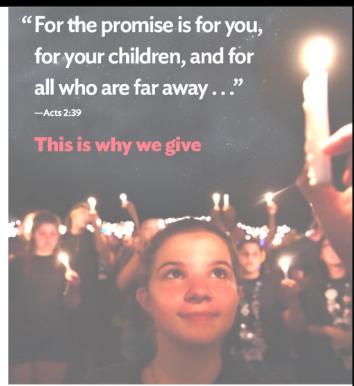


Give toward a more promising future!

When you give to the **Pentecost Offering**, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share their faith in Christ.

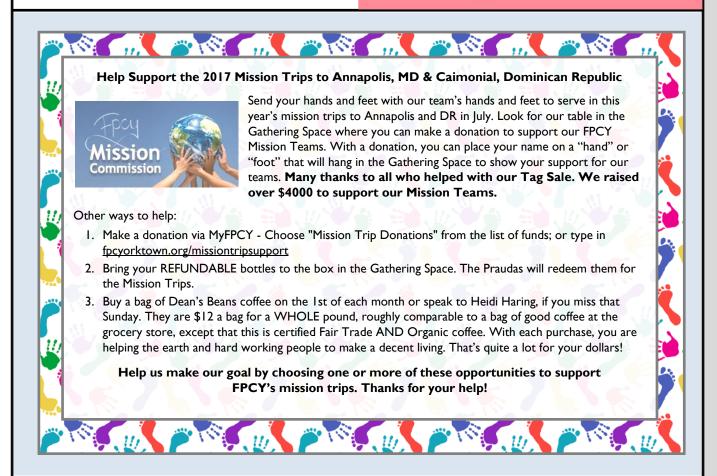
- 40% stays with your congregation Develop and support programs for young people in your own church and community
- 25% supports Young Adult Volunteers Provide opportunities for young adults to serve communities around the world and grow as leaders through transformative Christian service
- 25% goes to Ministries with Youth Help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word
- 10% advocates for at-risk children Support vital ministries helping to improve education and provide safe havens for children

Give in addition to your regular offering on Sunday mornings, visit https://tinyurl.com/FPCYpentecost or text FPCY PCYOUTH to 73256 to give to the Pentecost fund using your text messaging (standard text messaging rates may apply).





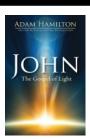




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Join us on Sunday mornings beginning Sunday May 7 for a six-week study of the Gospel of John. We'll be reading Adam Hamilton's book *John: The Gospel of Light and Life* and joining Adam Hamilton (on DVD) as he shares his insights and takes questions from a group of fifteen people with questions similar to ours. You can join for as many or as few sessions as you like. See you in "class!"

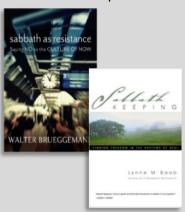


A Sabbath Library

Many of you appreciated our Lenten focus on the practice of Sabbath, and many would like to continue to explore how this spiritual discipline can help us grow in our faith and thrive in our daily lives. In preparation for our Lenten theme, we amassed quite an array of Sabbath resources which are not available in our Church Library. To continue to experience the renewing rest and promised peace that Sabbath brings, check out these resources:

Sabbath As Resistance: Saying NO to the Culture of NOW by Walter Brueggemann One of the foremost biblical scholars of our time, Brueggemann offers world-weary Christians a glimpse of a more fulfilling and simpler life through Sabbath observance.

Sabbath Keeping: Finding Freedom in the Rhythms of Rest by Lynne M. Baab After spending 6 months in Iran and 18 months in Israel, where all activity stops on every 7th day, Lynne Baab began her 25-year journey of Sabbath keeping – as a stay-athome mom, a professional writer, a graduate student and a Presbyterian minister. Now she offers "a practical and hopeful guidebook for all of us to slow down and enjoy our relationship with the God of the universe."



Terry Chapman
Sabbath

The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul By Restoring Sabbath by Mark Buchanan

Pastor Mark Buchanan explains how we've lost and can regain the "rest of God," the gift of Sabbath that is essential to our humanity and our faith. In a culture sick with busyness,

"Sabbath is our best cure, our best path for rest and reverence and discipleship."

The Sabbath Experiment: Spiritual Formation for Living in a Non-Stop World by Rob Muthiah

This helpful 6-week guidebook brings together stories, scripture and theological reflection to help us understand how Sabbath can change the way we live in a busy, fast-paced world. Includes tips for families with children and a plan for devising your own Sabbath Experiment.



Rhythms of Rest: Finding the Spirit of Sabbath in a Busy World by Shelly Miller Using her own personal experience and stories from people in different stages of life, Shelly Miller helps busy people find ways to incorporate a rhythm of rest into their lives. "Miller shares practical advice for not only finding physical refreshment but also restoring your soul."

Sabbath Pause: Seven Weeks of Daily Practices by Terry Chapman Presbyterian pastor and professor Terry Chapman has compiled a book of beautiful poetry and rich reflections that help you "slow down, breathe and live in the atmosphere of God's abundant love" every day.

Sabbath in the Suburbs: A Family's Experiment with Holy Time by MaryAnn McKibben Dana With humor, practical tips and spiritual insight, this Presbyterian pastor and mother of 3 shares her family's "real life" Sabbath experiment and how it helped them regain some sanity and control in their hectic lives and deepened their relationships with God and one another.

What *You* Can Do About Climate Change

With Earth Day just behind us, perhaps you're wondering what you can do about climate change. Sometimes it can be hard to figure out what changes we can personally make to reduce our own "carbon footprint." Some of us are considering, or have already installed solar panels on our homes, others of us try to eat less meat,



or eat more "local" food, and some of us are considering a hybrid or electric car, or already own one. But what are the biggest "bang for the buck" changes we can make in our own lives? Fortunately the New York Times recently had an article to help us out.

The take-away message? If you really want to make a difference, strongly consider a very fuel-efficient car when next in the market. It is the single most effective thing you can easily do. Some of the other choices are pretty easy as well, and are great to add to our "energy saving diet."

The Big Winner:

If every American household drove a vehicle getting 56 miles per gallon, it would reduce U.S. emissions by 10 percent. The American new-vehicle fleet now averages less than half that. It is expected to average 36 m.p.g. in 2025 if Obama administration standards remain in place, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Runners-Up

If every household collectively took these 11 actions — changes not likely to upend the typical American lifestyle — they would reduce emissions by 2.2 percent (0.2 percent each), far less than driving highly fuel efficient cars.

- Reduce the distance you drive by 1.2 percent. That's the equivalent of about 13 miles a month for the average American driver, who logs roughly 13,000 miles a year.
- Replace a vehicle getting the current average of 21.4 m.p.g. with one that gets 21.7 m.p.g.
- Keep your tires inflated to the recommended air pressure, or buy new tires marketed to have better rolling resistance.
- Reduce your driving over 70 m.p.h. by 25 percent.
- Reduce aggressive driving (making hard starts and stops, and speeding far above posted limits) by 25 percent.
- Fly 10 percent less.
- Turn down thermostat by three degrees, eight hours a day in winter.
- Replace one of every five incandescent light bulbs with LEDs.
- Reduce food consumption by 2 percent, roughly 48 fewer calories per day for many people. A miniature box of raisins is 42 calories.
- Reduce meat consumption by 7 percent about a pound a month for some adults.
- Cut the amount of discarded food by 13 percent. This could be about three meals a week from leftovers that would have been thrown away.



Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool

2017-2018 Registration Open for 3's, 4's and Mommy & Me

For more information contact:
Lisa Eliasson 914-962-8712 or email Lisa@fpcyorktown.org

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Deacons' Corner

The Deacons are very pleased... more than pleased, actually... we are very excited to let you all know that we have had a very successful transition of our Food Pantry to a "Full Choice Model." We had an email from Katharine Frase on Sunday, April 9th thanking everyone who had worked on the transition and at the Pantry the day before.

There was so much that had to go into coordinating the transition. New shelving and a freezer were purchased with Grant monies or from donation. A new floor plan and design was needed to accommodate the new set-up. Practice sessions were conducted ahead of time to run through the actual steps that clients would be taking on Food Pantry day when we launched the new model.

Volunteers were reassigned and retrained for the new positions and duties they would be performing to make everything run smoothly. The Friday afternoon volunteers also found themselves helping out differently to prepare for the next day.

Spanish language phrases were thought of to anticipate new instructions or directions we might have to give the clients as they came through the line to make their choices when we launched the operation "for real!" The leaders were so glad that they had had the practice sessions and found that the basic mechanics of their new design actually worked very well.

The clients were so pleased and helpful, too. They were patient with us and willing to cooperate in any way they could to help us make it a success.

And what a success it was! What a wonderfully cooperative effort there was by so many people. The leadership

and planning of a core group was so effective that if you had been there you could have felt the excitement in the air around you.

And why not?? Truly this was a labor of love. A labor undertaken by our Deacons under the leadership of our session and in accord with Jesus command to us to "Love one another as I have loved you." Truly the Holy Spirit has been at work in our midst as we moved forward into un-

known territory... not knowing exactly how it would all work... not knowing if we would have the funds necessary to get the equipment and refrigeration we would need for our new set up... not knowing if we could anticipate exactly what the need would

Food Pantry Item-of-the-Month

Canned Fruit

Next Dates: May 13 & 27 9 to 11am

be for numbers of Friday and Saturday helpers and... not knowing exactly how volunteer roles would change.

But it worked!! Sure we have a few kinks to work out, but we are up and running. Join us won't you?! Join us on a Friday afternoon to set up. You can call Bud or Gloria Coccodrilli for the date, place and time to come. Join us on a Saturday Pantry morning. Join us in sharing God's love with our fellow brothers and sisters. "For as surely as you have done this to one of the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me."

God Bless you all. We continue to look for your support with donations and your time.

~Carol Thorne-Gaetani for the Deacons

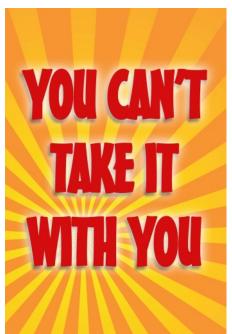


The 25th Annual Progressive Dinner

Saturday June 10, 2017 RSVP by May 22

This is a great event and offers a chance to meet new friends or become better acquainted with other Church friends over appetizers and cocktails beginning at 5:30p.m. At 7p.m. we will separate into smaller groups at the home of various hosts. The evening will end with desserts and coffee back at the Church.

Please register online at http://tinyurl.com/FPCYpd2017 or on the Sign Up Poster located in the Gathering Space. We will be collecting the money on Sunday May 21st between services. It is also possible to pay online with the registration. The cost will be \$10.00 per person. For any questions please contact Sue Nelson, Gloria Coccodrilli, or Louise Fang.



Stewardship Commission

The playwrights Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman entitled their 1936 Pulitzer-Prize winning play, 'You Can't Take it with You.' It was a comedy about an eccentric family that put love ahead of material gain (and they kept fireworks in their basement - but that part is NOT recommended in this missive!).

This successful and popular play provides a great tag line for us all on Legacy Sunday. As we consider what kind of legacy each of us would like to leave, let us remember that a good way to make the fruits of our labors continue to bear fruit is to dedicate some of our treasure to the church as a long-term gift.

Please think about what we can leave in a will or as a direct gift to the church's endowment fund that can provide stability over time, helping the church through the inevitable ups and downs of the economic cycles.

If anyone has any questions about how to initiate a Planned Gift, please contact Chip or Tami, or any member of the Stewardship Commission. Thank you.

College Outreach

The Stewardship Commission was happy to send 30 care packages of goodies to our current college students. We wanted them to know that their church family was thinking about them as they were studying and taking final exams. As a part of the Stewardship Commission's outreach, this program has been ongoing for over 5 years!





A Note About Our Steinway

We are blessed to have such a wonderful instrument to enhance our worship experience. Please note that our Steinway is old and fragile. For this reason, the sanctuary piano should only be played with the permission of our Music Director, Simona Frenkel.

We also ask that you refrain from placing anything on it.

Thank you for our cooperation.



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FPCY YOUTH

Save the Dates

Sunday, May 7: Middle School Youth Group: 4:30 - 6 pm; High School Youth Group: 6 - 8 pm.

Sunday, May 21: Middle and High School Youth Combined Meeting: 6:30 - 8 pm (after VBS teen orientation)

June 10
Progressive Dinner

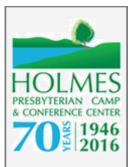
What have the Youth been up to lately? Loving our Neighbors and our Environment at the same time!

If you have taken a stroll past the Memorial Garden in the last couple of weeks (that's the interior courtyard garden accessible from the Library-Lounge and the hallway near the bathrooms) you may have noticed two unusual looking planters that have popped up there. They look a bit like pastel colored garbage cans, but they do not contain trash! They are housing three different varieties of potato plants, planted by our Youth Groups in April. By planting potatoes in soil filled garbage cans, adding additional soil and tending them through out the spring and summer, we hope to have a bounty of potatoes grown in a relatively small space with no synthetic fertilizers or insecticides. Our goal is to have enough potatoes to make a nice sized donation to the Food Pantry in early September. Thanks to Jenna Shaughnessy for the idea!

Looking ahead to June: is your family going to the Progressive Dinner on June 10th? For the second year, we will have a dinner house just for Middle and High School Youth. Last year we had so much fun! Check out the announcement about Progressive Dinner from the Congregational Life Commission for info on how to sign up.

Youth Group activities are always open to FPCY youth and friends, whether you've been coming all year or not, so feel free to come check out Youth Group anytime.

Questions? Contact Steph at youth@fpcyortkown.org or 914-826-1227.



Summer Camp @ Holmes

For more
information
on camp
opportunities,
go to:
holmescamp.org
and click on
"Summer Camp."

If cost is a concern, there are scholarships are available. Please speak to Chip or Tami.

Want to follow the progress of our potato project on Instagram?

Follow us at fpcy_youth or #FPCYPotatoProject











As we prepare for our final rotation (Jesus Feeds 5,000), we are marveling at how quickly this Sunday School year has passed! What a wonderful year it has been, thinking and learning about all the ways that God is counting on us!

Are you interested in volunteering with Sunday School next year? We are seeking adult and youth volunteers for the 2017-2018 Sunday School year, and would love to speak with you! Please contact Michele or Jessica directly, or



leave a message with the office and we will get back to you. Remember that you do not need to have a child in Sunday School to volunteer – we welcome all church members in this important (and fun!) ministry.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

May 28 – It's movie day at Sunday School! Everyone who is in town for Memorial Day weekend is invited to join us for a short movie in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m., in lieu of our usual Sunday School routine.

June 4 – Rehearsal for Children's Sunday; please make every effort to attend!

June 11 – Children's Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. We are so excited for our annual Children's Sunday service, where the children will present songs, lessons and other fun activities to the congregation, to share with you all what we have learned this year!

Peace, Michele Mosca and Jessica Mayes









Go to cokesburyvbs.com/yorktown to register

Questions? Contact Tami Seidel (914) 245-2186 ~ www.FPCYorktown.org

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OUR LABYRINTH IS DEDICATED

On April 23rd, we had a dedication ceremony for the outdoor labyrinth that so many helped to install on our church property over the last year.

ABOUT LABYRINTHS

Labyrinths are used world-wide as a way to quiet the mind, find balance, and encourage meditation, insight, and celebration. They are open to all people as a non-denominational, cross-cultural tool of well-being. The labyrinth is not a maze. There are no tricks to it and no dead ends. It has a single circuitous path that winds into the center. The person walking it uses the same path to return and the entrance then becomes the exit. The path is in full view, which allows a person to be quiet and focus internally. Generally there are three stages to the walk: releasing on the way in, receiving in the center, and returning; that is, taking back out into the world that which you have received. Please be aware that you may be sharing the labyrinth with others who are on their own personal journeys. The path is two-way and you may pass others as you walk.

ABOUT OUR DESIGN

The Santa Rosa Labyrinth © by Lea Goode-Harris, Ph.D. is but one in the lineage of the many labyrinths created over the past three to five thousand years in all parts of the world. It was the first of a wave of neo-medieval designs, created since the midnineties in the United States by diverse labyrinthers for different

needs and styles. These contemporary designs meld together the seven circuits of the classical labyrinth and the quarter and half turns of the ancient medieval labyrinths. The design includes an open space on the fourth path, the heart path. This space allows for a focus of the heart, experienced and viewed from all four directions.

WITH THANKS

For supporting the construction of this labyrinth, we would like to thank the following for their efforts:

Measuring and laying out the site: Lynn Brown, Anne Corey, Connie Knapp

Choosing bricks and getting materials: Connie Knapp, Tami Seidel, Dick Seymour

Digging out weeds and laying bricks: Dick Seymour (who put in many, many hours); Margaret Gruber; Matt Hager; Stephanie Hare; Ben Low; Chip Low; Tami Seidel; Andy, Erik and Alex Mavian; Dick and Squeegee Mills; Renna, Ajay, Kunal and Smita Mohindra; Anthony Mosca; Yoham Ortiz; Margery Rossi and Andy Torres; Luke Torres-Rossi; Faith and Tony Tomicich; Greg Mack; Vinnie Wallace,

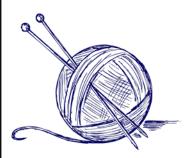
Financial Support: Hudson River Presbytery's Challenge to Change Grant

FPCY's Memorial Fund, remembering all the saints of the church









The **Knit Togethers** will meet on May 8 & 22 and June 12 & 26.

We continue to enjoy knitting for others in the community. Come and join us. All who knit or crochet are

welcome. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, in the Lounge Room 15.

For information: Norean Radke (call 962-4370 or email radke30@msn.com) or Lois Ostling (962-2809)



Join us for monthly Pot Luck Lunches on Wednesdays, May 17th and June 21st at noon in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share or a dessert. Coffee, tea and cold drinks will be supplied.

Bring a friend, meet someone new or just catch up on what is happening at Church. All are welcome!



Noon Time Meal Preparation

We are always looking for an extra pair of hands to help prepare a noontime meal. We will meet at 1:15 pm on Tuesday May 9th at the Peekskill Presbyterian Church in Peekskill (705 South Street, Peekskill—use the kitchen entrance off of Washington St). The meal will be served to the Homeless Clients at the Salvation Army on Wednesday, May 10th.

If you can spare I to I.5 hours, we could surely use you! Interested in helping? Speak to Pat Prauda.

Prayer Shawl Group

will meet next on May 17 at 10:30am.

We were thrilled to donate 96 blankets to the Linus Project (see the picture below). Anyone who

would like to join us in knitting is most welcome. In addition to the regular knitters who come on Wednesdays, we have at least seven off site knitters.

Any questions please call Marianna Sherman at 914-737-8294 or Fran Schiel at 914-245-5396.



Jan Peek House

is a shelter for people experiencing homelessness, including several veterans. Our Mission Commission has been involved with Jan Peek for many years. They depend on a meal from our congregation on the 4th Saturday of each month.

HELP! 2 families urgently needed to Prepare and Serve the Meal at the Jan Peek House in Peekskill Saturday May 27th at 6pm. August 26th and September 23rd are also available.

If you would be interested in preparing a meal, please sign up on the bulletin board in the

hallway across from Fellowship

Questions? Speak to Pat Prauda (email ppladyofscotland@aol.com or call 737-4674)



First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown 2880 Crompond Road Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

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MAY 7 Confirmation Sunday 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 12:00pm Youth Bells 4:30pm MS Youth 6:00pm HS Youth	8 10:00am Knit Togethers	9 I:15pm Noontime Meal Prep (Peekskill Pres) 7:30pm Worship Design Team	7:00pm Disciple 4	11 10:00am Adult Bible Study 6:45pm Bells 8:00pm Choir	12	13 9am Food Pantry
14 Women of the Church 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Ed	15	9:30am Disciple 4 7:30pm Mission & Operations	17 9:00am Stewardship 10:30am Prayer Shawl 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 7:00pm Disciple 4	18 10:00am Adult Bible Study 6:45pm Bells 8:00pm Choir	19	20
21 Adult Ed & Legacy Sunday 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Ed 4:00pm VBS Teen Training 6:30pm Youth Groups	22 10:00am Knit Togethers	9:30am Disciple 4 7:30pm Education/ Communications	7:00pm Disciple 4	25 10:00am Adult Bible Study 8:00pm Choir	26	9am Food Pantry 6:00pm Jan Peek Meal
28 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Ed	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30 9:30am Disciple 4 7:30pm Session	31	JUNE I 10:00am Adult Bible Study 7pm Disciple FT 8:00pm Choir	2	3
4 Pentecost 8:30 & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Ed	MAY					