

## On the Road to Damascus

### The Presbyterian Church on the Hill Third Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2019

#### WE GATHER TOGETHER

In Preparation (*Thought for Silent Reflection*)

***“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.”***

*-Desmond Tutu*

#### CHIMES

PRELUDE **“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

*arr. Joel Raney*

*As we gather together in the sanctuary, please listen to the music and spend time in silent reflection in preparation for worship.*

**Our Liturgist this morning is Hilary Epstein**

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths  
People: **Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me**  
Leader: You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of darkness  
People: **Faithful people, Let us sing the praises of the LORD, praise his holy name**  
All: **For weeping may stay for the night,  
But rejoicing comes in the morning!**

#### UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

Lord, we come together just as we are: some of us in a season of weeping in the night and others in a season of rejoicing in the morning- and others - somewhere between. We come together united under one roof, sitting side by side. We have come to hear your Word, sing your praise, experience your Spirit and have our hearts transformed by the renewing of our minds. Please help us to clear our cluttered thoughts so we can fully receive the abundance of peace and love You want for each of us. And Lord we pray the same abundance of peace and love for everyone else not in these pews. Amen

▲ HYMN No. 240 **“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”**

*Alleluia No. 1*

▲ CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us come before God honestly and humbly confessing our sins.

▲ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves; we have not actively made justice or shown mercy or walked humbly with our Lord. We come before you asking for forgiveness. Lord hear our prayer and have mercy. Amen

*Silent prayers of confession.*

## “One Great Hour of Sharing”

PCOH 2019 Goal - **\$6,000**

Current Total - **\$6,271**

### ▲ WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news! If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!

In the name of Christ we are forgiven

### ▲ PASSING OF THE PEACE

### ▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - HYMN No. 232

**“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”** *Easter Hymn*

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God’s love, Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

### Life on the Hill

Today (May 5): ☩ WORSHIP with Holy Communion 10:15am

Wednesday (May 8): ☩ Stephen Ministry 7pm

Thursday (May 9): ☩ Adult Study with lunch 11:30am

Mission Community 6:30pm

Chancel Choir 7:30pm

Saturday (May 11): ☩ Property Day 9am - Noon

Next Sunday ☩ WORSHIP 10:15am

*Passing of the RED PAD: The person sitting in the pew closest to the center aisle fills out the RED PAD, then passes it down the pew so that each family would do the same. THEN, pass it back so that we can put names and faces together.*



### TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

**Dismiss all children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

### WE HEAR GOD’S WORD



### First Scripture Reading

Psalm 30:6-12 (NRSV)

<sup>6</sup>As for me, I said in my prosperity,  
“I shall never be moved.”  
<sup>7</sup>By your favor, O LORD,  
you had established me as a strong mountain;  
you hid your face;  
I was dismayed.  
<sup>8</sup>To you, O LORD, I cried,  
and to the LORD I made supplication:  
<sup>9</sup>“What profit is there in my death,  
if I go down to the Pit?  
Will the dust praise you?  
Will it tell of your faithfulness?  
<sup>10</sup>Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!  
O LORD, be my helper!”  
<sup>11</sup>You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,  
<sup>12</sup>so that my soul<sup>[b]</sup> may praise you and not be silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

**ANTHEM****“Heart Song of Praise”***Mock/Lopez*

In the day, in the night, may our heart song rise to You:  
 in the moment evening falls, when the morning dawns anew.  
 For your light shines upon us as it guides in unseen ways;  
 life assails, and yet your presence brings joy and leads to praise.  
 Alleluia!

In the day, in the night, may our heart song rise to You:  
 in the moment evening falls, when the morning dawns anew.  
 You our Refuge, Defender, Helper to the one in need,  
 Our Salvation and our Triumph, Mighty God who knows and sees.  
 Alleluia!

Lord of goodness and grace,  
 with wonder we raise our voices forever  
 with a heart song of praise! Alleluia!  
 Now let our voices be raised. Alleluia!

*Congregational Choir***Second Scripture Reading**

Acts 9:1-20 (NRSV)

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest<sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.<sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”<sup>5</sup> He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.<sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”<sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.<sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.<sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.”<sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, “Get up and

go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,<sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision<sup>[a]</sup> a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”<sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;<sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.”<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;<sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”<sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul<sup>[b]</sup> and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,<sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,<sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

**SERMON “What Does It Take to See the Light?”***Rev. Cynthia Wilcox*▲ **HYMN No. 451 “Open My Eyes, That I May See”***Open My Eyes***PRESENTING OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD****OFFERTORY “Now the Silence, Now the Peace”***arr. Sue Mitchell-Wallace*▲ **DOXOLOGY – HYMN No. 609 – “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”***Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise God, all creatures high and low;  
 Alleluia, Alleluia!  
 Praise God, in Jesus fully known:  
 Creator, Word, and Spirit one,  
 Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us praise God together.

**Let us give God thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Sharing the Bread\* and Cup

*\*(The bread in the small cup is gluten free.)*

***Let us partake together, when all are served.***

Music at Communion:

**“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”** arr. Vicki Tucker Courtney

**“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”** arr. Brad Nix

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

▲ HYMN No. 667 **“When Morning Gilds the Skies”**

*Laudes Domini*

▲ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

▲ POSTLUDE **“Laudes Domini”** *arr. Noel Rawsthorne*

*\*Indicates when, if you are able, the congregation stands.*

**Our worship has ended – now our service begins.**

We sincerely welcome all who have come to worship the Creator of us all. As brothers and sisters, let us give evidence that we belong to the family of God. Extend the hand of friendship to those around you, and be grateful for the gift of friends and family. If you are in need of pastoral care or perhaps a listening ear, please speak to one of our Elders, Deacons, or Stephen Ministers.

□ \_\_\_\_\_  
**LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED. & NURTURE

**Dr. Jeff Unger**, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST

**Bonnie Carle**, NURSERY SUPERVISOR

**Isaiah C. Mason**, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S & YOUTH MUSIC

**Sharon Fix**, CLERK OF SESSION

**Jamie Montero**, HEAD USHER

**Deanne Nirider & Rick Degurski**,

STEPHEN MINISTRY COORDINATORS

**Michael Compoly**, TREASURER

**Robin Compoly**, DEACON MODERATOR

**Jackie Colin**, ADMIN. ASSISTANT/OFFICE SUPERVISOR

**Letitia Jensen**, WORSHIP PREPARATION COORDINATOR

**Bill Turner**, PASTOR – HONORABLY RETIRED

*The Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor and thanks to all those who have volunteered their time and talents to our PCOH Family by Carol Cox*

## Rev. Cynthia Wilcox

A native of New Jersey, and a Manasquan High alumni, Cindy moved to Massachusetts where she attended Gordon College, got married and raised her four kids. While living in Andover, MA Cindy was Director of Children's Ministries, a personal trainer, a lifestyle weight management coach, and produced fitness shows for television. In 2013, as an empty nester, Cindy moved back 'home' and presently lives with her husband, Dennis Wilcox, in Spring Lake Hgts. She graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div) and is an ordained Presbyterian minister, presently serving as a full time chaplain at Jersey Shore University Medical Center.

She is passionate about faith, fitness and fellowship, and her ministry vision is to encourage others to live gratefully, hopefully and intentionally for Christ.

### Serving Today

† **Greeters:** Mission Community

† **Ushers:** Team 3: Ed Kelsey, Capt., Linda Klose, Del Kunert, Pat Meyers, George Woodnorth

† **Flower Duty:** Robin Compoly, Meghan Pringle

† **Trustee Duty:** Sharon Fix, Michael Compoly

† **Fellowship Host:** Mission Community

† **Worship Prep:** 5/04 - Elda Gall, 5/11 – Laura Evernham

† **Communion Setup:** Gee McCormick, Elda Gall

† **Communion Cleanup:** Randy Stolze, Meghan Pringle

† **Elders and Deacons Serving Communion:** Ralph Jensen, Captain, Kurt Kaboth, Pat Lee, Janet Lee

† **Deacons Serving Communion to Contacts:** Gee McCormick, Robin Compoly, Randy Stolze, Pat Lee, Guy Rayner, Connie Perry, Shirley Carle

† **Contacts Receiving Communion:** Barbara Sicherman, Ginny Akelaitis, Mary Galyean, Asela Gejo, Diane Foye, Jim Isacson, Bill Weller



## The Ministry of Flowers

**The 2019 Flower Chart is posted outside the Office.** Lots of empty spaces! If you would like flowers in the sanctuary for a particular Sunday please sign up. Cost: \$45.00. Questions? Please speak with one of the Deacons. Are you aware that our Deacons deliver the flowers to our shut-ins and hospitalized folks with our prayers and concern every Sunday?



## Music Notes from Dr. Jeff

Thanks to the volunteer Congregational Choir this morning!



## Sign Up Sheets

*(posted on rear table in sanctuary)*



## Fellowship Time Hosts



## Liturgists



## Greeters

## Life on the Hill Notes

May 5<sup>th</sup>



## PCOH NURSERY

TODAY

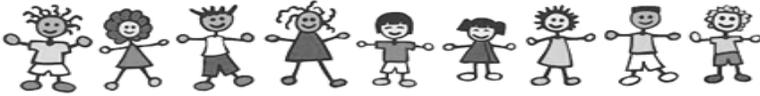
Tina Ellis

May 12 Cheryl Miller

May 26 \_\_\_\_\_

May 19 \_\_\_\_\_

June 2 Jamie Montero



**Children & Youth Team Leaders**

**Today**

**Pre-k & Kindergarten**  
(brick classroom)

Shirley Carle  
Stephanie Toth

**1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
(fellowship hall)

Carol Cox  
Sherri Ryan

**6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
(youth room)

No Sunday  
School  
Holy  
Communion

**May 12**

Cheryl Schleuss  
Stephanie Toth

Kristin Worthley  
Laura Morales

Anne Pagnoni  
Kelli Tobin



**“CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE”**

*If you, or a neighbor, co-worker or friend could benefit from the trained, caring presence and listening ear of a Stephen Minister, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Deanne Nirider (281/744-1054) or Rick Degurski (908/309-2378).*

**THE CENTER IN ASBURY PARK – ANNUAL FUND  
RAISER**

The Center in Asbury Park is having its annual fund-raiser on May 17 in Asbury Park’s Convention Hall from 7 to 10 PM. Center-a-la Carte will feature signature dishes from over 25 restaurants, an open bar and entertainment. The tickets are \$100 per person and they are also holding a 50-50 raffle. If you are interested in purchasing tickets to this event, please go to their web site, [www.thecenterinap.org](http://www.thecenterinap.org). For those wanting to buy one of the raffle tickets, the cost is \$10 per person and they are available by calling 732-774-3416, ext. 115. We do have a few that were sent to PCOH which are available for purchase. If you are interested, please see Letitia Jensen.



*When you are shopping,  
please remember that:*

**Trinity Needs Food**

*When you are cooking,  
please remember that:*

**The Center Needs Meals**

“CHURCH ON THE HILL is a diverse, inclusive community of God’s people whose faith is led by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We welcome, love, and empower all persons to become constructive, affirming thinkers, filled with hope, making a difference in the world. Armed with forgiveness and understanding in the knowledge that “God alone is Lord of the conscience” (Historical Principles), we will move forward in an ever changing culture and world.

□ **FAITH** □ **LOVE** □ **HOPE** □ **FORGIVENESS** □ **UNDERSTANDING** □

### Presbyterian Church on the Hill

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**Church Office HOURS: Mon. - Wed. - Fri. 9am-1pm**