



FEBRUARY 2018

# THE GRAPEVINE

*Community Presbyterian Church*



145 CARLETONDALE ROAD, RINGWOOD, NJ 07456  
WWW.COMMUNITYPC.ORG 973-962-7431 RINGWOODCPC@GMAIL.COM

## Service Schedule



**Service Schedule**  
Saturday Vespers 5.30 pm  
Sunday 9.00 am and 10.30 am

## Hospitality

Please find a weekend to help keep this friendly part of service consistent by signing up for hospitality on Sunday.



## Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary each month are paid for by families who wish to dedicate them for a special occasion or memory.

For more information on flower dedications, contact Carol at 962-7556.



## Three things for February....

1. Annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting. We give annual reports and elect new officers. Do come. Sunday February 4th (after the 10:30 service)
2. February 14th is not only Valentines Day, but it is Ash Wednesday this year. Our Ash Wednesday service is at 7:30 p.m.
3. Our Lenten Adult Study starts the first Tuesday of Lent. We will study C.S. Lewis's most famous book, "The Screwtape Letters". This is really a profound book with both deadly seriousness and deadly wit (is that possible? YES!!!) We will run the class every Tuesday night in Lent (that

is six straight weeks) starting February 20th at 7:30 p.m. You can pick up a copy of the book in the office. Payment is on the honor system. If you cannot afford the book, steal it (if you will read it). Sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. We would love to have you come. There will be both learning and fellowship. Do come.

Yours for the Whole Ride Home,  
Ben  
Yours for the whole Ride Home in Christ, Ben



# Clerk's Corner: Open Letter to the Community of the Synod of the Northeast and the communities we serve

CONTRIBUTED BY HEATHER NEMETH

**D**EAR FRIENDS,  
As with many of you, I have become weary and sad at the constant flow of hateful speech and racist rhetoric from our president and his followers. The daily barrage of these words, and devastating actions that follow them, leaves me exhausted and wondering how to best use my public voice in ways that don't simply add to the constant flood of exchanges around them.

This morning as I rise from morning prayer there is a fire in my bones that I cannot quench. It rises from the deepest part of my spirit and compels me to speak a word that makes it clear that there are regular episodes of our current president's behavior that are undeniably immoral and contrary to the teachings of Jesus.

I am compelled to specifically address the recent comments he has made regarding our sister countries of Haiti and countries in Africa.

There are times when the intersection of public discourse and the Gospel so powerfully intersect that we cannot remain silent. The door into political discourse has been flung open to the community of believers by the hateful disrespect exhibited in that conversation. The many ways the president's words are contrary to the Gospel are clear to us all.

In light of this I would like to share how terribly wrong these words are from personal experience. I have had the privilege of sharing hospitality in the homes of beautiful people in numerous African countries. I will forever cherish the memories of hospitality and beauty living in the

home of a widowed woman in Soweto who opened her home to me for many days. I remember the breakfasts of quince jelly on toast and lingering conversations over coffee in her lovely home. I cherish the memory of dinner in the home of a pastornamed Samson in Eldoret, Kenya where I was embraced with loving welcome. The makeshift walls and thatched roof tenderly held within them abundant grace and love that still makes my heart explode.

Neither of these, nor the countless other places where I have been welcomed could ever be described by the language used this week. Certainly, they did not have gold plated toilet fixtures, or rooms to hold racks of designer clothing. Yet Trump Tower in all of its glory could not compare with any of these magnificent places and the people who dwell in them.

Soon, by God's grace our family will adopt a beautiful young woman from Liberia. The orphanage she will come from has its own beauty that is created by the love of those who make that place a home for them. I only hope that our family and our community can live up to that standard.

In the New Way Forward document that expresses the values of our Synod Community, we make public confession that;

We are a regional community of presbyteries and congregations learning to respond to God's call to become agents of divine justice, transforming the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the Northeast into a community of hospitality and welcome for all. (<http://www.synodne.org/new-way-forward/>).

There are beautiful parts of our Synod community that come from these African countries that our president has spoken of so disrespectfully. It is essential that we all express that these latest words are unequivocally unacceptable. The president's hubris will probably prevent him from apology. Quite honestly that would not be enough. The way to truly address this is for him and those who would defend him to repent of the deeper racism and selfish xenophobia that shape so many recent governmental decisions. We need to make this the tipping point that opens toward deep change in our approach on many issues, including immigration and healthcare.

Our Synod Community celebrates the gift of our diversity and is committed to seeing that diversity grow. We cherish the beauty that our African congregations bring into our midst. I encourage the members of our community to find courageous voices and to make this latest event the tipping point we need to claim and cherish the gift of diversity and the heritage of hospitality that has always been a keystone of our society and a core value of the beloved community we aspire to become.

With love and grace,

HAROLD DELHAGEN  
SYNOD LEADER

# Ladies Night Is the Second Friday of the month!

**W**It was tough to top our Christmas Party in December yet, each event continues to get better and better. The Women's Group held a planning session at our most recent Ladies Night. In addition to an exciting Yankee Gift swap and some fabulous food, our growing group brainstormed ideas for activities this year. We've decided to move the Ladies Night to the first Friday of each month, too.

Upcoming events being planned are:

February 2 Movie Night

March 2 Dinner Outing

April 6 Wine & Painting  
(advance reservations will be required)

Other events we are looking to get on the calendar include an overnight, pool

party, game nights, craft activities, educational talks, mission activities and book discussions. Additionally, we plan to expand our prayer shawl mission in the coming months.

Did you know we're still growing? Women of all ages are encouraged to join us as you are available. In the event you've had a long day or a heck of a week and you find yourself wrestling with whether you feel like going back out on that first Friday, COME! Even if the event isn't up your alley, come help us support each other. You never know when you'd like someone to be there for you, too. To be included on the distribution list, please contact Holly at [threescoutsmom@hotmail.com](mailto:threescoutsmom@hotmail.com).

Save the Date!

Women's  
Communion  
Breakfast  
Saturday,  
March 24th at  
9:00am

## FOOD FOR THE SOUL

### Hot Sausage and Cheese Puffs



#### Ingredients:

**1 pound hot or sweet Italian sausage or brown and serve breakfast sausage**  
**1 pound of sharp Cheddar cheese, shredded**  
**3 cups of biscuit baking mix**  
**¾ cup of water**

#### Directions

Remove sausage from casings, cook in large skillet, breaking up the meat with a fork until no longer pink, about 8 to 10 minutes. Drain off fat. If using brown and serve, follow the directions on the box and then break up into small pieces. I shredded the meat in a

small food processor. Spoon sausage into a large bowl; cool completely. Add cheese, biscuit mix and water; mix with a fork just until blended. Roll into 1-inch balls, place on large cookie sheets 2 inches apart. Bake in hot oven (400°) for 12 to 15 minutes or until puffed and browned. Remove from cookie sheets; cool completely on wire racks. To freeze ahead; Freeze in single layer on cookie sheet. Place in plastic bag when frozen. Makes about 120 puffs. To reheat: Arrange in single layer on large cookie sheet. Bake at 375° for 10 minutes

Contributed by  
Rich Crowe.

# Florida Disaster Relief Update

CONTRIBUTED BY CHIP CRONOUR,

There are presently unmet reconstruction needs in both Hendry County and Glades County FL.

Several other counties are also looking for help but these two counties have the fewest number of volunteers currently. Hendry County has the highest unemployment rate in the state and suffered greatly from the loss of the citrus crop this year. Both counties have undocumented populations and many of the affected

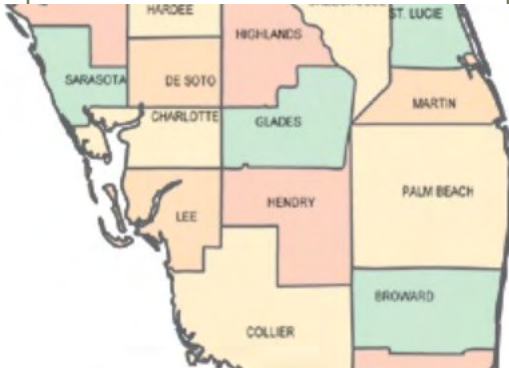
are seniors and the poor who are living in mobile homes. Groups such as Habitat are helping but do not work on mobile homes so that is a great need.

Our FEMA coordinator is meeting with the long-term recovery group in those counties this week. She is identifying places for volunteers to stay as a group and to help them with meals, transportation, etc. A presentation in front of the county commissioners was given this week in an effort to garner support from local government.

At this time we are looking at a time frame of late March or early

April. Housing, tools and other equipment, food and transportation must be in place before our much needed work can begin.

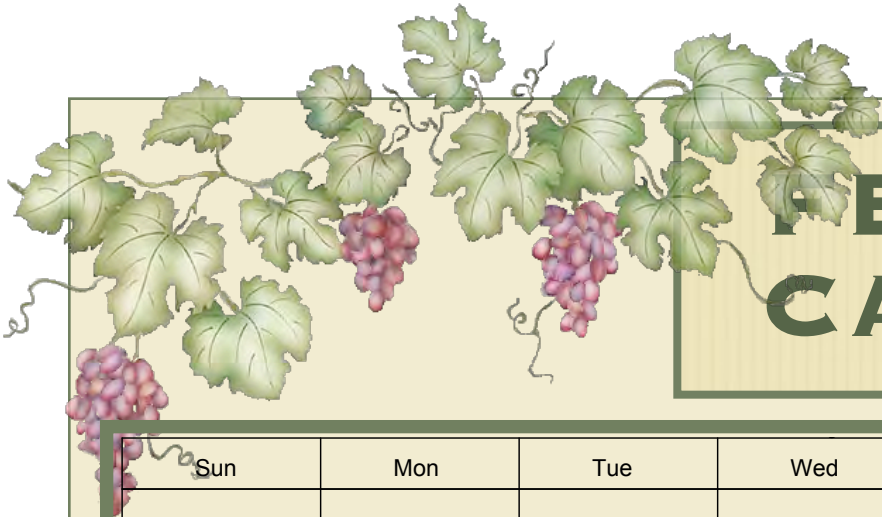
We will post announcements for upcoming events



*This home is in nearby Glades county where you can see the tree is still on the roof.*



*This home belongs to a Korean War veteran whose home lost part of the roof.*



# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Center for Food Action 04:15 PM & 04:45 PM Children's Chimes/Bells (S) 07:30 PM Bridge Club (FH)	2	3 07:00 AM AA (Gym) 08:30 AM Saturday Stars (FH, S & CR) 05:30 PM Vespers
4 09:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship/Sunday School 12:00 PM Annual Congregational Meeting 04:00 PM GS Troop #96418 (FH)	5 06:30 PM Daisy Troop #6808 (Gym) 07:00 PM AA (FH)	6 Center for Food Action 07:00 PM Cub Scout Den #2 (Gym)	7 06:30 AM Men's Breakfast 07:00 PM Boy Scout Pack #76 (Gym) 07:30 PM Harmony Bells (S) 07:30 PM The Wayne Ross Men's Group Dinner (FH)	8 Center for Food Action 04:15 PM & 04:45 PM Children's Chimes/Bells (S)	9 06:30 PM Cub Scout Den #3 (Gym) 07:00 PM Ladies Night Out (FH)	10 07:00 AM AA (Gym) 08:30 AM Saturday Stars (FH, S & CR) 05:30 PM Vespers
11 09:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship/Communion/Children's Church 10:30 AM Middle School Youth Group 07:00 PM RFM (snow date)	12 07:00 PM AA (FH)	13 Center for Food Action 07:00 PM Cub Scout Den #2 (Gym)	14 Ash Wednesday 06:30 AM Men's Breakfast 07:00 PM Boy Scout Pack #76 (Gym) 07:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service	15 04:15 PM & 04:45 PM Children's Chimes/Bells (S) 07:30 PM Bridge Club (FH)	16	17 07:00 AM AA 05:30 PM Vespers
18 1st Sunday in Lent 09:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship/Sunday School	19 07:00 PM AA (FH)	20 Center for Food Action 07:30 PM Lenten Adult Study (FH)	21 06:30 AM Men's Breakfast 07:00 PM Boy Scout Pack #76 (Gym) 07:30 PM Harmony Bells (S) 07:30 PM Session Meeting (FH)	22 04:15 PM & 04:45 PM Children's Chimes/Bells (S) 07:30 PM Bridge Club (FH)	23 06:30 PM Cub Scout Den #3 (Gym)	24 07:00 AM AA 08:30 AM Saturday Stars (FH, S & CR) 03:00 PM Cub Scout Den #4 (Gym) 05:30 PM Vespers
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 09:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship/Sunday School 10:30 AM Middle School Youth Group	26 07:00 PM AA (FH)	27 Center for Food Action 07:00 PM Cub Scout Den #5 (Gym) 07:30 PM Lenten Adult Study (FH)	28 06:30 AM Men's Breakfast 07:00 PM Boy Scout Pack #76 (Gym) 07:30 PM Harmony Bells (S)			

### The Audio/Video Guys Need You!!!

We're looking for help covering services.

No experience needed and no set schedule.

Call Bob at 201-788-9175 or email [bkreutz@optonline.net](mailto:bkreutz@optonline.net)  
for more information.