



Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church

THE OLIVE BRANCH



From Our Pastor



*I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.
~Luke 23:43*

Max Lucado talks about the thief on the cross next to Jesus in his book, No Wonder They Call Him Savior. He writes, “If anyone was ever worthless, this one was. If any man deserved dying, this man probably did. If any fellow was ever a loser, this fellow was at the top of the list. Perhaps that is why Jesus chose him to show us what he thinks of the human race.

Maybe this criminal had heard the Messiah speak. Maybe he had seen him love the lowly. Maybe he had watched him dine with the punks, pickpockets, and potmouths on the streets. Or maybe not. Maybe the only thing he knew about this Messiah was what he now saw: a beaten, slashed, nail-suspended preacher. His face crimson with blood, his bones peeking through torn flesh, his lungs gasping for air.

Something, though, told him he had never been in better company. And somehow he realized that even though all he had was prayer, he had finally met the One to whom he should pray. ‘Any chance that you could put in a good word for me?’ (Loose translation).

‘Consider it done.’

Now why did Jesus do that? What in the world did he have to gain by promising this desperado a place of honor at the banquet table? What in the world could this chiseling quisling ever offer in return? I mean, the Samaritan woman I can understand. She could go back and tell the tale. And Zaccheus had some money that he could give. But this guy? What is he going to do? Nothing.

That’s the point. Listen closely. Jesus’ love does not depend on what we do for him. Not at all. In the eyes of the King, you have value simply because you are. You don’t have to look nice or perform well. Your value is inborn. Period” (Max Lucado. No Wonder They Call Him Savior. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 1986. pp. 32-33).

Christ died for all. For the criminals on the cross. For the worthless, the undeserving, the worst of the worst. For you. For me. All because of love. Thanks be to God – let us celebrate the Savior this Easter season. See you on Sunday!

My love and prayers through Christ,
Pastor Mike

April Events

- 1 Maundy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 6:30am Sunrise Service
Easter Sunday
- 6 6:30pm Deacons Mtg
- 15 Olive Branch Deadline
- 20 7:00pm Session Meeting
- 24-1 Pastor Mike Vacation

Weekly

- Sun 9:30am Worship
- Sun 10:45am Adult Sunday School
- Tues 7:00pm Prayer Meeting
- Wed 7:30am Men’s Bible Study
- Wed 7:00pm Prayer mtg
- Thu 9:30am Ladies Bible Study

All activities will be on Zoom

Sunday Worship Services – We gather every Sunday at 9:30am via Zoom for a time of worship, singing, praying, and hearing God’s Word. The Zoom link and bulletin information are emailed on Saturday morning for you to follow along. Please join us – and invite your friends and family. We have had people from all over the country worship with us!

Adult Sunday School meets every Sunday at 10:45am via Zoom. We have begun a new study of Philip Yancey’s book, Vanishing Grace. Please contact Pastor Mike if you are interested in attending.



Maundy Thursday: Hosted by the Mt. Airy Church
Good Friday: Hosted by the Lambertville Church

Zoom info is below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337963229?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337963229?pwd=UUgwQzFDcWIEbzNhUlhPOU5WRXhLQT09)

[pwd=UUgwQzFDcWIEbzNhUlhPOU5WRXhLQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337963229?pwd=UUgwQzFDcWIEbzNhUlhPOU5WRXhLQT09)



Meeting ID: 853 3796 3229

Passcode: 377638

Dial by your location

1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



Easter Sunrise Service

April 4th 6:30am Union Cemetery on Boss Road.
Please observe social distancing and wear a mask.



Easter Worship

09:30 AM Eastern Time

<https://zoom.us/j/673176006>

Dial by your location 1 929 205 6099 US (New York) Meeting ID: 673 176 006



Prayer on the one-year anniversary of the COVID pandemic lockdown

God of grace and peace, God of beginnings and endings, look upon us as we acknowledge that a year has passed for the Pandemic.

In this season of remembering, we lift up our brokenness, our anger, our sadness. We reflect on the previous year with tears and heartache. We have lost loved ones and lived through illness. Families have been isolated and flung into grief. We have lost jobs, school, and a normal sense of life. We do not want to look back and at the same time don't know how to move forward.

Help us to remember and sit with us for a time in our grief. Then help us to move forward. We can see the end of the tunnel, but it feels so far away and a bit out of reach. Fill us with courage, with hope and with peace. Guide us to begin again in the world that is emerging on the other side of the pandemic.

God of goodness and grace, you with us now and forever Amen.

(Source: <https://newtonpresbytery.org/2021/03/12/prayer-on-the-one-year-anniversary-of-the-covid-pandemic-lockdown/>)

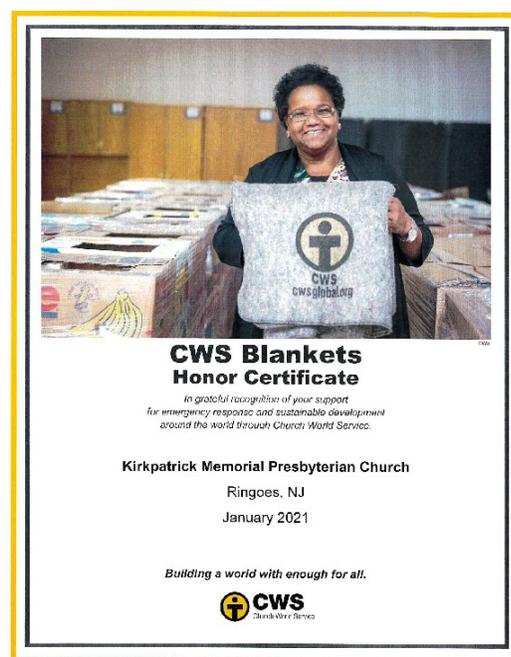
Pastor Sabbatical – Pastor Mike will be taking a 3-month sabbatical in 2022. The sabbatical has been a part of his terms of call since he was called to be our pastor in 2013. He qualified for the sabbatical after 7 years of service, in July 2020. The Session and Pastor Mike are applying for a Clergy Renewal Grant through the Lilly Endowment to help fund the sabbatical and assist the church in covering the cost for pastoral coverage. The grant application is due on April 21, 2021, and we will be notified if we have been selected in August, 2021. On Sunday, April 11th, there will be a presentation after the worship service. Pastor Mike will present his plans for the sabbatical, and there will be a time for questions and answers from him and the elders who are working with him on the grant. Please plan to join us for the Q&A. Any questions, please contact Roger Pickard, Linda Hults, or Don Reilly. More information about the grant can be found at <https://www.cts.edu/clergy-renewal/>.

Email Prayer Chain - The email prayer chain is somewhat outdated and needs updating. If you would like to be included on email prayer requests during the week and haven't been receiving them, please let Chris (admin@kirkpatrickchurch.org) or Pastor Mike (pastormike@kirkpatrickchurch.org) know. Or if you have been receiving them and no longer wish to, please let Chris or Pastor Mike know. Thank you.

New Presbytery – As of March 1st, our church is now a part of the Highlands Presbytery of New Jersey. The new Presbytery consists of churches from the former Newton, New Brunswick, Elizabeth, and Palisades Presbyteries. If you would like to know what churches now make up the Highlands Presbytery of New Jersey, please check out <https://newtonpresbytery.org/about-us/church-locator/>. Many details still need to be worked out to finalize the structure of Highlands Presbytery of New Jersey. For more information, you can go to: <https://newtonpresbytery.org/2021/03/02/presbytery-of-the-highlands-of-new-jersey/> or contact Pastor Mike.

Grocery Giveaway – On Saturday, March 27th, the church held its 2nd Grocery Giveaway in the church parking lot. We distributed Easter Food Baskets to those in need. We gave out 40 baskets. Thanks to Sue King for coordinating and to all the volunteers who donated food items, shopped for food items, and helped out on the day of the giveaway. Special thanks to our own Scout Troop 65, Athletes in Action, and the Auxiliary of the Amwell Valley Fire Company for their support and donations.

Reopening Plan – Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the Reopening Team's survey. The Reopening Team is reviewing the results and will be sharing them with the congregation soon. Please stay tuned for updates and next steps toward reopening our church building. And keep us all in your prayers.



Deacon's April 2021 Prayer List

KMPC Family

Ashlyne – Jen B
 Bart and Norma
 Ben D. (military)
 Barb K (healing)
 Corliss & Family
 Dave M. (Wellbeing) – Jen B
 Dorothy S. (healing)
 Fulper Family (grieving)
 Ginger, Shirley and Bob
 Irene (Parkinson and Covid)
 grieving
 Lanie and Husband
 Paul M (grieving)
 Pat W (broken ankle)
 Steve & Terri F. (healing)
 Shawn and Anthony
 Caregivers
 Families suffering with addictions
 Homebound members & Shut-Ins
 Hospice Patients
 Teachers & /Students

Assisted living/ Care

Center

Phyllis P
 Millie W

Extended KMPC Family

Albert (healing) Bev
 Alice (healing)
 Amy F. (healing)
 Bob D (Kidney)
 Arlene – (Karen D Neighbor)
 Vance (liver cancer) Karen D
 Denise and John (John has bladder
 cancer) KL
 Diane F (car accident) Karen D
 Erick F in rehab hospital (Janice L
 friend)
 Franklin (Cancer)
 Gail K (Parkinson)
 Helen B (moved to care facility)
 Dorothy
 Ivy (baby having surgery) Jeanne &
 Chuck
 Jackie -- Betsy P Daughter

Jeff (heart) Mike's Brother
 Jen (Health Issues – Betsy P
 Kate (Lost Job) Bev K
 Lolly H.(brain tumor) Debbie N
 friend
 Lucas 3 year old great grandson of
 Gail Abdominal pain
 Mark (cancer)
 Mary (cancer)
 Nancy C grieving (brother and aunt
 passed away)
 Nancy F. (Health issues) Kathy's
 friend
 Keith P. (healing)
 Linda (Cancer)
 Pauline (Alzheimer's) Kathy L.
 Aunt
 Richard B. Sr. (Healing, diabetes)-
 Dorothy
 Sandra H. (healing)
 Sherri B. (healing, lupus) –
 Richard's daughter
 Ron and Sandy P. (healing)
 Steve (cancer) -Tracy's friend.
 Toby & Judy N. (healing, Safety)
 Tom (Lymphoma)
 Families of Natural Disasters
 First Responders
 Military Men & Women and their
 Families
 President & Congress
 Prisoners
 Refugees
 Shooting Victims
 Troubled youth
 U.S. & World Situations
 Unemployed
 Victims of Violence
 People with flu and virus
 People waiting for vaccine for virus



Linda Hults	Apr. 4
Steve Little	Apr. 4
Ernst Friedermann	Apr. 5
Jennifer Hoppaugh	Apr. 7
John Shipman	Apr. 7
Millie Wolfe	Apr. 13
TeriGene Angelone	Apr. 13
Declan Bacorn	Apr. 16
Lauren Stover Esock	Apr. 16
Cindi Fulper	Apr. 17
Mia McDaniels	Apr. 18
Greg Manners	Apr. 22
Skip Kell	Apr. 23
Pastor Mike	Apr. 24
Amanda Cronce	Apr. 24
Tracy McClelland	Apr. 25
Kae O'Leary	Apr. 27
Joe Rapp	Apr. 29



Can you spot the differences?



Please contact us to have names added or deleted at admin@kirkpatrickchurch.org

Virtual Paint Party

Thank you to Colleen for organizing another fun painting party with Kathie from Cranbury Station Gallery.

These came out wonderfully!

If you'd like to participate in a future painting event, please let Colleen or Pastor Mike know.

(Apologies to those who can only see these in black & white)

