

Sunday Worship 9:00 & 10:30 am

Saturday Worship 6pm

395 Valley Road, Wayne, New Jersey 07470

sttimothynj.org

#### The Rev. Robert M. Mountenay, Pastor

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Parsonage
Director of Music
Church Secretary
Church Office Email

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#### **Church Council**

Robert Andersen	 (973) 831-0326
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Lisa Fabian	 (973) 835-4148
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Pat Kaplan	 (973) 341-7920
Robin Koegel	 (201) 939-5518
James Koppenal	 (973) 406-7405
Barbara Westerberg	 (973) 696-1471
Hannah Wantula	 (973) 616-8330



# Cive Thanks November 2018

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				All Saints Day	2 <u>7 pm</u> AAFH (AA in Fellowship Hall)	3 6 pm Worship with Holy Communion
						Consecration Set Up
9:30 am Cooks 4  9:30 am Cooks 4  Worship with Holy Communion  All Saints Sunday  Consecration Sunday	9 am Mon Morn Crew 9:30 am HHM Sorting 7:00 pm WELCA Board	6 <u>11:30 am</u> Chair Yoga	11 am PrimeTimers 7 pm: Outreach7 pm: Handbells 7:15 pm: AAFH 8 pm: Choir	8	9 <i>7 pm</i> AAFH	10 6 pm Worship with Holy Communion FH RENTED
9 & 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion  Veterans DAY	9 am Mon Morn Crew 9:30 am HHM Sorting	2 13  11:30 am Chair Yoga 7 pm: HHM Blessing Bags 7:30 pm Council Meeting	10 am Angel Circle 12 Noon Miriam Circle 7:30 pm: Handbells & Choir 7:15 pm: AAFH	15 10:30 am Adult Book Group  Remite! TIPS Deadline!	16 <u>7 pm</u> AAFH	9:30 am Bookworms 6 pm Worship with Holy Communion
18 9 & 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion  WIN Baskets	1 <u>9 am</u> Mon Morn Crew <u>9:30 am</u> HHM Sorting	11:30 am Chair Yoga 1pm Knitting 7 pm Community Thanksgiving Service 7 pm CEC Meeting	21 <u>7 pm</u> : Choir <u>7:15 pm:</u> AAFH <u>8 pm</u> : Handbells	Happy Thanksgiving Office closed	23 7 pm AAFH  Office closed	24 <u>6 pm</u> Worship with Holy Communion
25  9 & 10:30 am  Worship with  Holy Communion  CHRIS he KING	2 <u>9 am</u> Mon Morn Crew <u>9:30 am</u> HHM Sorting	27  10:15 am Atrium Hymn Sing 11:30 am Chair Yoga	28 <u>7:15 pm</u> : AAFH	29	Andrew, Apostle	



# Worship Participants

# November 2018

Date	Altar Guild	Ushers	Acolytes	Reader	Communion Assistants	Coffee Hosts
November 4 All Saints	Ilona Oosterwyk Terri Loftus	Marnie Sperling Lindsay Sperling Cindy Gaffney	Olivia Gaffney Colin Logtus Erik Lawson	Laura Dec  Reading Names: 1 Robin Koegel	Deana Fagan Cindy Cleaver Ken Fernandez	Consecration Sunday
November 11 Pentecost 25	Alice Huizinga Mary Laverack	Andrew Gaffney Chris Taranto Dave Taranto Amy Taranto Tom Sajban	Bryan Lawson Henry McGrath Caroline Corbett	2 Eileen Smith TBD	Justin Oosterwyk Intinction	The Kaplans
November 18 Pentecost 26	Lori VanDerStad Lisa Fabian	Justin Oosterwyk Doug Zangrilli Craig Beyer Rick Beyer	Hailey Oosterwyk Tyler Westerberg	Lori VanDerStad	Intinction	Carolyn Russo Carol Neilson
November 25 Christ the King	Debbie Andersen	Bill Monsees Jeff Riotto Alex Banu Bob Bartelt	Ava Serventi Jaclyn Langschultz Erik Lawson Bryan Lawson	Carolyn Russo	Intinction	The Brassels

## From the Pastor

# November

The eleventh month is bracketed by two holidays, one of which is ecclesiastical (churchly), yet relates to what has become a popular secular holiday, and the other, civil, yet relates closely to our life of faith. The holidays of which I speak are All Saints Day and Thanksgiving Day. Both are eclipsed in popularity by Christmas, whose secular observance starts earlier each year, but both are widely celebrated, especially if we consider All Saints Day to be a cognate of Halloween.

At first glance, it may seem that these two holidays have little in common, except for the autumnal colors of their decorations and a preponderance of pumpkins, either carved as jack o' lanterns for Halloween or baked into pies for Thanksgiving. Yet, both All Saints Day and Thanksgiving observances are rooted deeply in the assertion that we have been richly blessed by God, both in the lives of the people we've been given to know and to love (All Saints), and through the sustenance God continually provides (Thanksgiving).

Thanksgiving is a word fraught with Christian significance. It appears at least 16 times in the Old Testament and 12 times in the New Testament. Even more significant is the meaning it's acquired in church usage. The word translated as "thanksgiving" in the NT is the Greek eucharistia, the source of the word, "Eucharist," which is a term we use to describe the sacrament of Holy Communion. Each Sunday we gather to worship, we share a thanksgiving meal with our brothers and sisters in Christ, both in our own congregation, and wherever Christians gather around the Lord's table. Our role in the holy supper is to give God thanks for the gift of his Son who died for us and comes to us in the meal. Though the sacred meal we share pales in terms of quantity when compared with the meals we enjoy on Thanksgiving Day, Christ pours himself out in the Eucharist, forgiving our sins, promising us eternal life,

and uniting us as one body in him. We more can we offer in gratitude for God's abundant blessings than our thanks and praise?

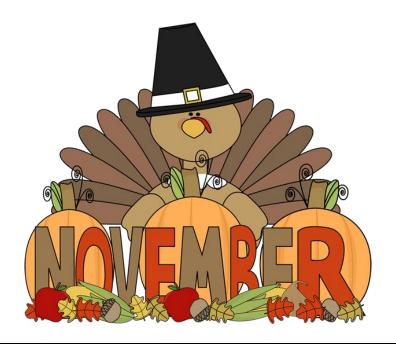
Likewise, the core of our All Saints observance carries over into our weekly Christian worship. We honor the faithful departed with flowers, candles, and prayers as we lovingly remember their record of Christian service. We experience a remarkable unity with our beloved dead what we gather around the Lord's table. The sacrament is a foretaste of the feast to come, a glimpse, taste, and proleptic experience of the heavenly banquet our Lord prepares for those he loves. Just as the Eucharist binds us together with Christians in every place when we receive Christ's body and blood, it also unites us with the faithful of every time. Until the resurrection, we will never be closer to our departed loved ones than when we participate in the Paschal feast. Christ unites the living and the dead by his cross and resurrection, spanning the chasm between heaven and earth. Just as each Sunday becomes a little Thanksgiving meal, so does each Sunday become a little All Saints observance.

While November might seem to us to be four weeks of gray skies and cool, damp weather, punctuated by a veritable hogathon towards the end of the month, it is a month that is truly significant. We begin and end the eleventh month with grateful praise and joyful thanksgiving, two central aspects of year 'round Christian worship.

In Jesus' name,

Pastor Robin Mountenay





11/1 Dolores Monsees11/1 Jessica Perrone

11/2 Louis Russo

11/2 Mark Muschko

11/2 Robert Andersen

11/3 Richard Wedemeyer

11/4 Karen Vogt

11/9 Elizabeth Koch

11/12 Jillian Englesbe Sborz

11/13 Joel McKenzie

11/13 Samantha DeRose

11/15 Robert Bartelt

11/16 William Koppenal

11/17 Amanda George

11/17 Eric Mains

11/19 Carol Cook

11/20 Carolyn Russo

11/20 Mary Tiefenbacher

11/21 Jeff Riotto

11/21 Laura Ann Dec

11/22 Karen Taylor

11/23 William Monsees

11/25 Carl E. Schroeder





11/30 Valerie & Mark McGrath

Should you be on this list, and you're not?? Please email Laurie at <a href="mailto:st.tims395@yahoo.com">st.tims395@yahoo.com</a> or call the office at 973-694-8316!



Since September 15, 2018, gifts were given to the General Memorial Fund in memory of:

Rita Laubscher
Arthur Udland, brother of Peg Gerding
Marie Eggers
Kathleen Kemenczy, sister of Janet DeStefano
Elaine Clark Trama
Patricia Spardel

and to the George Laubscher Monday Morning Fund in memory of:
Rita Laubscher

There have been no Memorial purchases during this month.



No Memorial Garden pavers were purchased this month, so our paver total stands at 112. The price of a paver is \$300.00. Checks may be made to St. Timothy Memorial Fund, with the words "Memorial Garden" on the memo line. Pavers may be engraved with the names of deceased loved ones, or left blank for future engraving. Paver application sheets are available in the narthex. Please see

Pat Winters for further information or assistance. The Memorial Garden is self-supporting; gifts are welcome at all times!

We also welcome contributions to the fund for restoration and enhancement of our Church organ. The work is on-going and should be completed very soon. Checks may be made to St. Timothy Memorial Fund, with the words "Organ Repair" on the memo line.



We are grateful to all who have given to the St. Timothy Memorial Funds – the General Memorial Fund, the Music Fund, the George

Laubscher Monday Morning Fund, the Memorial Garden Fund, the Eternal Light Candle Fund, and the Flanders/Schleer Scholarship Loan Funds — and for the faithful repayments to each loan fund. We welcome additional contributions to these Funds, that we may continue to assist families with the high price of college.

# Adult Book Group ~ November 15th

New time: 10:30am



We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:30am in the parlor. In November we will be reviewing chapter 7 of Borg's book, Reading the Bible again for the first time. Our discussions are lively and many times go off topic. We are lead by our wonderful leader Art DeRose. Everyone is welcome.

Carol, Art, Sandy, Dolores, Le, Nancy, and Barbara

#### **Bookworms ~ November 17th**

We have changed our schedule and book selection for November. We will be meeting November 17th at the usual Barnes & Noble coffee shop. Our book selection is *My Italian Bulldozer* by Mc Call Smith. In December we will be reviewing *Our Souls at Night* by Haruf. This book is also a change. Come and join us for good camaraderie and interesting discussion. We'd love to have you.

November - *My Italian Bulldozer* by Mc Call Smith December - *Our Souls at Night* by Haruf January - *An Innocent Client* by Scott Pratt February - *The Home for Unwanted Girls* by Joanna Goodman March - *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbalo Mbue

Join us any time at the coffee shop in Barnes & Noble on Rt. 46. Happy reading.

Colleen, Nancy, Le, Dolores, Carolyn, Elsie and Barbara

# **PRIME TIMERS**

# WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> • 11 AM WE'VE DECLUTTERED, NOW WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL OF THOSE TREASURES?

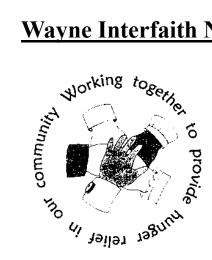


PRIME TIMERS (our 50+ group) will meet on Wednesday, November 7, at 11 a.m. We've had presentations on housing options, should the time come when we look to down-size and declutter – now we will have a presentation on what to do with those items we no longer need. It seems that what are treasures to us are clutter to our children. At November's Prime Timers we will

learn of the many resources available to us when we've made the decision to declutter. There will be two very noticeably empty seats at Prime Times; we mourn the loss of Rita Laubscher and Pat Spardel. We will take a few moments to share some memories of these two women who were so dear to us. Finally, we will recognize our veterans with a special cake. It's a full day – one in which we will learn, grieve, and honor. Please try to be prompt so as not to miss any of this gathering. As always, bring your lunch and dessert will be served.

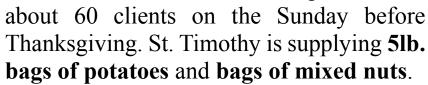
Eileen Smith has copies of the slides and lists of senior living resources from our October Prime Timers. If you were not able to attend and would like a set, please see Eileen.

### **Wayne Interfaith Network**



Currently WIN is serving 118 clients and their families. Approximately 22 families are served each week. The pantry particularly needs cereal, coffee, canned fruit and pasta sauce. There is no need for canned corn, green beans, variety beans, soup or pasta.

Thanksgiving Baskets will be packed for







Thank you for your generosity. www.WinFoodPantry.org

#### THANK YOU FROM EVA'S KITCHEN

Stew seems to be one of the favorite meals of guests at Eva's Kitchen and once again our stews were greatly appreciated. St. Timothy chefs were very generous in their gifts and while we had 18 sign-ups we had 27 stews! If your name is not on this list, please let me know.



With thanks to our Stew Chefs: Laura Dec, Danielle Dittmer, Deana Fagan, Nancy Farina, Sandy DeRose, Liz Koch, Lisa Koppenal, Ed and Lisa Langschultz, Jaclyn Langschultz, Terri and Colin Loftus, Hailey Oosterwyk, Ilona Oosterwyk, Pam Richardson, Ann Rocko, Carolyn Russo, Madison Schloesser, Eileen Smith, Nancy Tammi, Margot Weinert

In Jesus Love, Eileen Smith



# Wayne Clergy Fellowship Community Thanksgiving Service

The Wayne Clergy Fellowship will hold a community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2018

beginning at 7pm at The United Methodist Church, 99 Parish Drive, Wayne, NJ. Please join your friends and neighbors in thanking God for His generous bounty.



November 4	Consecration	December 2	Angel Gifts
	Sunday	D 0	Karen Sajban
November 11	The Kaplans	December 9	Terri Loftus
November 18	Carolyn Russo	D 1 40	Valerie McGrath
	Carol Nielson	December 16	The Wantulas
November 25	The Brassels	December 23	Sandy DeRose
			Dolores Monsees
		December 30	Barbara Westerberg Nancy Farina

IN EVERYTHING give thanks.... FOR THIS IS THE will OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING you

# Gifted by God

# Celebrating the Diversity of God's Many Gifts

# **ALL SAINTS / CONSECRATION SUNDAY, 2018:**

We'll gather for worship on November 4 at 9:30 a.m. with a festival service celebrating the Feast of All Saints with special emphasis on the members and friends of St. Timothy who entered the life eternal since last All Saints Day. In thanksgiving for their lives of service, we'll have an opportunity at the end of the liturgy to pledge our financial support to God's work here at St. Timothy.



Following worship, we gather for a special pot luck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to bring your favorite **ethnic** food to share with your St. Timothy friends and family. It may be a dish that represents your own background or that of others in God's diverse household. Please bring enough to share. There will be sign-up sheets

on the Happenings bulletin board to indicate the number in your party, as well as what kind of dish you plan to bring.

Our entertainment at the luncheon will be two-fold. First, we're asking you to share a talent. Are you an amateur magician? Do you sing or play an instrument? Can you juggle or tap dance? Do you enjoy telling jokes (remember, it's a family gathering!)? We'd love for you to share your talent in a *brief* demonstration. You can also sign up for this on the Happenings Bulletin Board.

We'll also celebrate the many ministries of St. Timothy with entertaining demonstrations and games in which you'll learn something about what it takes to be the people of God in this place.



Please join us for an excitingly new take on one of St. Timothy's favorite annual events!



We've had many losses of active and much loved members of our congregation recently. I'm reminded of things I've read and, sorry, don't always remember who said them. For example, "Religion, art, music and the written word help us to handle the pain and hurt experienced in life". Another one is "God gave burdens, also shoulders." This one is a Yiddish proverb. And the last quote "When "Life throws you a curve, it's to teach you to bend". I'm sure you have your own that you use and remind yourself that life isn't easy.

We need to live in the moment. If it's sadness, we need to grieve, if it's joy, enjoy it fully. If it is being arrogant, we need to ask for forgiveness and practice humility. If it is a time of relaxing, enjoy it. If it's loving, express it warmly. Life is so complex.

The members we have lost were all wonderful examples of living life with giving friendship, sharing their talents, and serving others in their way. We all have to do things that fit with our personalities. So live fully in who you are, sharing the gifts God has given you.

"One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon - instead of enjoying the roses that (bloom) outside our windows today." Dale Carnegie.

More "Make Life Easy" next Tips God bless us all, Barbara Westerberg

#### **MUSICALES ASSISTANTS - 2018**



To all the wonderful people who assisted at our 35th annual October Musicales – contacting artists, ushering, welcoming all our visitors, assisting the disabled, shepherding groups into place, putting up our outdoor sign, directing traffic and parking cars, manning the elevator, taking photographs, printing program booklets, checking the P.A. system, making the poster, collecting

patron donations, saving newspaper clippings, donating and arranging altar flowers, purchasing bouquets for the artists, "spreading the word," and otherwise working so very hard behind the scenes:

#### THANK YOU – YOU'RE TERRIFIC!

#### Committee:

Peggy Gerding Art & Sandy DeRose Pam Griffin

Dolores Monsees Carol Cook The Monday Morning Crew

Jean Marc Le Eckert

Thank you again to our Committee, to all these willing helpers, to our 2018 Musicales Patrons and to Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council, who gives us a grant. GREAT 35th season!

Sincerely, Anne Loffredo Caroline Parody

#### St. Timothy Musicales Patrons, 2018

Stu Anderson

Anita & Harold Bontekoe

Ray Breimer

Lois Clapp

Cindy & Ed Cleaver

Carol Cook

Sandy & Art DeRose

Barbara & Peter Johanson

Margaretha & Carl Johnson

Robin Koegel

Anne Loffredo

Norma Massood

Jean Marc

Valerie & Mark McGrath

Sandy & Art DeRose Valerie & Mark McGrath
Leona Eckert Dolores & Bill Monsees
Nancy Farina Pastor & Debra Mountenay
Peg Gerding Carol Neilson

Ellen Grexa Donna & Charles Purcel
Alice Hamm Pamela & David Richardson
Alice Huizinga Janet & Bud Romaine

Ann Rocko

Carolyn & Louis Russo

Irene Schulze
Carol Smith

Eileen & Joseph Smith

Margot Weinert
Johanna Wilbert
Pat & Harold Winters

Paterson Day Care

Anonymous

# **Angels Circle**



In October, we donated 20 quilts to the Atrium. Thanks to Dolores Monsees for delivering them. We also

donated 14 children's quilts to Heart 'n Hands Mission. These quilts went to children in Passaic and Newark.

Thanks ladies for all your work! Happy Thanksgiving!

Barbara Kaplan



## Heart 'n Hands Mission

Our Columbus Day of Service on October 8 was another success! Forty volunteers sorted and packed 210 boxes of clothing, 4 crates of shoes and purses, and 2 full racks of coats for distribution in November.

On the third Monday of each month, a small group of ladies led by Debbie Andersen and Barbara Kaplan gather to sort clothing from 7 to 9 pm. We are grateful for their help in keeping up with our monthly delivery schedule.

Don't miss our Blessing Bag Assembly Night on Tuesday, November 13, at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Of the 2,000 people we reach each month, more than 300 of them are homeless. We are still accepting donations of travel size items for our Blessing Bags: Gold Bond powder, shave gel, lotion, shampoo, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, and body wash. It is our hope that through monetary contributions and donations of supplies, we will be able to assemble a Blessing Bag for each of our homeless friends.

Please Like our Facebook page and share news of our activities with your friends, and we thank you all for your continuing support.

Lord, we ask that you watch over those in need, that they may find shelter when they seek it, food when they are hungry, clothing and comfort when they are cold, and Your grace and loving encouragement in their darkness.



#### Heart 'n Hands Mission ~ Blessing Bag Project

The 2018 Blessing Bag Project will officially begin on September 1st.

In an effort to keep the Blessing Bags consistent, please note the following helpful hints:

- TRAVEL SIZE toiletries are the key to fitting everything comfortably in a gallon size Ziploc bag.
- TRAVEL SIZE toiletries can be purchased for less than \$1 in stores like Target, Harmon,
   Dollar Stores and Big Lots.
- Some items are sold in multiples this reduces the overall cost per bag.
- It is also important to stick to the list Travel size not Hotel size toiletries for our homeless friends and <u>1 of each item</u> unless stated otherwise.
- Please do not substitute or add additional items especially loose cotton balls.
- Q-Tips, Bandaids and Flossers purchased in bulk should be divided into separate snack size
- bags to preserve cleanliness.
- Please pack <u>all food items</u> together in a smaller Ziploc bag.
- Please check expiration dates! Items should not expire before March 2019!
- If you are unable to complete a bag we welcome individual items to help fill a bag.
- Monetary donations are always welcome.
- We will gladly accept your donations from September 1st through November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- Thank you for your continued support of the Blessing Bag Project!

#### Each GALLON SIZE Ziploc Blessing Bag for an Adult should include:

Travel size Toothpaste Toothbrush

Travel size Mouthwash Small Deodorant – generic scent please

Travel size Shampoo Small Bar of Soap (not Family size, not hotel size)

Travel size Shave Gel Disposable Razors – 2 generic

Travel size Lotion Bandaids – 8

Travel Size Gold Bond Medicated Powder Chapstick – non-flavored

**Travel size** Body Wash

Q-Tips – 1 travel pack or 30 Q-Tips in a snack size bag **Pocket Pack** of Tissues

Generic Comb or **small** brush

Q-Tips – 1 travel pack or 30 Q-Tips in a snack size bag **Travel Size** Hand Sanitizer or **Pocket** Antibacterial wipes

Pack of Hand warmers - 1 CHEWY Granola or Protein Bar - 1
2 small Slim Jims or 1 pack of Snack Crackers Gum or Lifesavers — 1 pack

Please add a note of encouragement or holiday cheer! Notes neatly decorated by children are welcomed.

#### DURING OUR BLESSING BAG PROJECT WE WILL ALSO COLLECT:

Warm Hats Adults White Crew Length Socks Warm Gloves

These items can be donated separately from the Blessing Bags

Blessing Bags, toiletries, hats, socks and gloves can be placed in the collection basket on the Street Level near the elevator or in The Orange Room across from the elevator.

FYI: we do collect <u>unused</u> Hotel toiletries for distribution throughout the year.

Please remember the homeless while you are traveling! Hotel toiletries can be placed in our collection basket at any time.

Please bring your donations to Heart 'n Hands Mission at St. Timothy Lutheran Church 395 Valley Road, Wayne 973-694-8316 Mailbox #6



WELCA assembles and sends gift bags to the seafarers every year in October these gifts are then distributed through Seafarers International.

This year WELCA is asking for donations in the month of September to help in stuffing the gift bags for this Christmas season. Please look at the list below and see if you could donate some of those items, no matter how small. WELCA will have a box decorated with Christmas paper for your donations.

t-shirt (large or X-large)
sweat shirt (large or X-large)
can of nuts or large chocolate bar







Sunday School's God's Global Barnyard Outreach Mission is underway and going strong. We have decided to open up this special ELCA World Hunger Appeal to the entire congregation. A Barnyard display, thanks to Valerie McGrath, is in the Narthex with envelopes to accept donations. The last day of donations is Sunday Nov. 18. Please help our Sunday School beat our last collection amount of around \$700.

St. Timothy's Heart 'N' Hands Mission has asked our Sunday School to help fill Blessing Bags. Protein or Granola bars, snack cracker packs, small Slim Jims, packs of gum, and Lifesavers are items they are in need of. Items should not expire before March 2019 please. A collection basket will be in the SonRise Bistro. A special Blessing Bag assembly night is on Tuesday Nov. 13 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall and all are welcome to come and help.

Sunday Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> is All Saints/Consecration Sunday at St. Tim's. A combined service will be at 9:30 with a Children's sermon. Hannah and Christian Wantula will have a special lesson and craft for our Sunday School students during the service. A potluck luncheon will follow in Fellowship Hall.

In His Name, Laura Dec

#### **Dates to Remember:**

Nov. 4 – Daylight Savings time ends – turn clocks back 1 hour

#### **All Saints/ Consecration Sunday**

9:30 Combined Service - No Sunday School - Potluck Luncheon

Nov. 18 – God's Global Barnyard appeal ends – Banks due back

Nov. 21 – Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 25 – Sunday School HAS Classes

Dec. 16 – Sunday School Christmas Program at 9:30 – No Snow Date

Dec. 23 – Sunday School HAS Classes

# North Jersey Interfaith Cares (NJIC)



Several members of St Timothy attended the September 27th fundraiser for NJIC at the Bethwood in Totowa. We enjoyed a recital by Tambi Cimuk who first played at St Timothy several months ago. Volunteers were recognized including all those congregations that have been a part of this interfaith ministry. Below is a transcript of thanks

presented that evening by NJIC president Barbara Lisa-Johnson. Thank you St Timothy for your support.

In His name, Cliff and Nancy Konnerth

When we heard about the refugee families we didn't know about Hallal food, or, the frequency of Muslim prayer and fasting. We didn't know Arabic, or the customs, ... and it just seemed like we were not knowledgeable in anything we needed to be. So, we were hesitant.... yet we felt called...

But, what we *did* know was that there were these families... families that had been torn by bloodshed and war. Families that had been brutally stripped of their homeland... families that witnessed the unthinkable and had been shuffled from place to place with no place to call home.

What we *did* know was that in the US every person has the right to worship their God as they desire. That North Jersey Interfaith Cares -our humble group of congregations - call ourselves interfaith for a reason, because we believe that people of different faiths united together for a common cause can help change the world. We know that by emphasizing our similarities instead of our differences we might make a difference, even if it's only in a small corner of the universe, yet, you never know where the ripple effects of that wind up.

We **did** know that we share a commitment to help families in need establish self-sufficiency, so they can walk with pride in the knowledge that they can do for themselves. Yet, we didn't know where to begin.

In the short time we've worked hand in hand with GERA and the YMCA we've attempted to build bridges first, by traveling to Paterson to a gathering of all the families providing gifts of love around Christmas, that's where we met. We attempted to educate by having a film "Cries from Syria". We shared culture with two annual picnics, and, a Syrian Mother's Day. We were concerned over the education of the children by sending

volunteers to tutor and gathering backpacks filled with school supplies. From asking our congregants to purchase hats, scarves and gloves to gift cards, to plants for Syrian Mother's Day, to refrigerators, vacuums, and household supplies we've opened our hearts and our wallets to promote a better tomorrow for those we now call neighbor.

Christians, Jews and Muslims worked together. The rationale was that the first step toward self-sufficiency was to learn the language. Great strides were made in many ways, but in my opinion, they could not have been made so quickly without the many volunteers that helped.

To be a volunteer takes a special heart. It takes passion and commitment to do the right thing (usually for the sake of others) simply because it's the right thing to do. It's not always easy nor is it convenient. Yet, we know that it's in giving that we receive... we've been blessed with many graces through this process and these are experiences we are not likely to forget. So, thank you GERA for the opportunity for us to be blessed with these families.

Any of the accomplishments we claim - GERA or NJIC – are typically accomplished on the backs of our volunteers. AT NJIC our volunteers have:

- Provided a vehicle and manpower to move furniture and appliances
- Volunteered 1-3 times per week to participate in ESL
- Planned menus for food we didn't understand
- Planned and manned picnics
- Traveled throughout Paterson to find pastries
- Researched the internet on hallal
- Shopped for plants and food,
- Lite up the faces of children with face-painting and helium balloons
- Shared the joy of children blowing bubbles
- Played soccer and GaGa ball don't ask but had a blast
- Cried through the film "Cries from Syria"
- Collected supplies and loaded backpacks and got the joy of seeing the children take one

*Our volunteers* rallied at their congregations for the needs of others...They listened... They cheered... They understood... and they acted...

And the list goes on... but really, we've gotten so much more from these experiences... we've gotten PURE JOY!

It's time to thank the volunteers that worked to make this all happen – Thank you!

# **NOVEMBER LECTIONARY**

Thursday, November 1	Isaiah 25:6-9	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
Friday, November 2	Leviticus 19:32-37	Romans 3:21-31	Psalm 119:1-8
Saturday, November 3	Numbers 9:9-14	Luke 10:25-37	Psalm 119:1-8
Sunday, November 4	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 12:28-34
Monday, November 5	Deuteronomy 6:10-25	Romans 12:17-21; 13:8-10	Psalm 51
Tuesday, November 6	Deuteronomy 28:58— 29:1	Acts 7:17-29	Psalm 51
Wednesday, November 7	Micah 6:1-8	John 13:31-35	Psalm 51
Thursday, November 8	Numbers 36:1-13	Romans 5:6-11	Psalm 146
Friday, November 9	Deuteronomy 15:1-11	Hebrews 9:15-24	Psalm 146
Saturday, November 10	Deuteronomy 24:17-22	Mark 11:12-14, 20-24	Psalm 146
Sunday, November 11	1 Kings 17:8-16	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
Monday, November 12	Ruth 1:1-22	1 Timothy 5:1-8	Psalm 94
Tuesday, November 13	Ruth 3:14—4:6	1 Timothy 5:9-16	Psalm 94
Wednesday, November 14	Ruth 4:7-22	Luke 4:16-30	Psalm 94
Thursday, November 15	Daniel 4:4-18	1 Timothy 6:11-21	Psalm 16
Friday, November 16	Daniel 4:19-27	Colossians 2:6-15	Psalm 16
Saturday, November 17	Daniel 4:28-37	Mark 12:1-12	Psalm 16
Sunday, November 18	<b>Daniel 12:1-3</b>	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-8
Monday, November 19	Daniel 8:1-14	Hebrews 10:26-31	Psalm 13
Tuesday, November 20	Daniel 8:15-27	Hebrews 10:32-39	Psalm 13
Wednesday, November 21	Zechariah 12:1—13:1	Mark 13:9-23	Psalm 13
		Mark 15:9-25	PSaim 13
Thursday, November 22	Joel 2:21-27	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Matthew 6:25-33
<i>Thursday, November 22</i> Friday, November 23			
	Joel 2:21-27	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Matthew 6:25-33
Friday, November 23	<i>Joel 2:21-27</i> Ezekiel 28:20-26	<i>1 Timothy 2:1-7</i> 1 Corinthians 15:20-28	<i>Matthew 6:25-33</i> Psalm 93
Friday, November 23 Saturday, November 24	<i>Joel 2:21-27</i> Ezekiel 28:20-26 Daniel 7:1-8, 15-18	1 Timothy 2:1-7 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 John 3:31-36	Matthew 6:25-33 Psalm 93 Psalm 93
Friday, November 23 Saturday, November 24 <b>Sunday, November 25</b>	Joel 2:21-27 Ezekiel 28:20-26 Daniel 7:1-8, 15-18 Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	1 Timothy 2:1-7 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 John 3:31-36 <b>Revelation 1:4b-8</b>	Matthew 6:25-33 Psalm 93 Psalm 93 John 18:33-37
Friday, November 23 Saturday, November 24 Sunday, November 25 Monday, November 26	Joel 2:21-27 Ezekiel 28:20-26 Daniel 7:1-8, 15-18 Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Daniel 7:19-27	1 Timothy 2:1-7 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 John 3:31-36 Revelation 1:4b-8 Revelation 11:1-14	Matthew 6:25-33 Psalm 93 Psalm 93 John 18:33-37 Psalm 76
Friday, November 23 Saturday, November 24 Sunday, November 25 Monday, November 26 Tuesday, November 27	Joel 2:21-27 Ezekiel 28:20-26 Daniel 7:1-8, 15-18  Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14  Daniel 7:19-27 Ezekiel 29:1-12	1 Timothy 2:1-7 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 John 3:31-36 Revelation 1:4b-8 Revelation 11:1-14 Revelation 11:15-19	Matthew 6:25-33 Psalm 93 Psalm 93 John 18:33-37 Psalm 76 Psalm 76
Friday, November 23 Saturday, November 24 Sunday, November 25 Monday, November 26 Tuesday, November 27 Wednesday, November 28	Joel 2:21-27 Ezekiel 28:20-26 Daniel 7:1-8, 15-18  Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14  Daniel 7:19-27 Ezekiel 29:1-12 Ezekiel 30:20-26	1 Timothy 2:1-7 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 John 3:31-36 Revelation 1:4b-8 Revelation 11:1-14 Revelation 11:15-19 John 16:25-33	Matthew 6:25-33 Psalm 93 Psalm 93 John 18:33-37 Psalm 76 Psalm 76 Psalm 76

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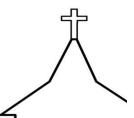
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