



The Blawenburg Beacon

Newsletter for the members and friends of the Blawenburg Reformed Church

Spring 2019

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Dear Friends,

April 15, 2019

I recently attended an event put on by the Montgomery Township Health Department. The event was focused on improving and understanding access to healthcare for Montgomery residents. Based on what I learned, I can see with new clarity the importance and blessings of our church community.

There was a panel of six health professionals representing various local hospitals, clinics, and health programs. There was a man who works on suicide prevention. There was a woman who works for the PROUD family clinic at RWJ Hospital in Somerset, which gives primary care geared for the particular needs of people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, inter-sex, queer, or otherwise non-heteronormative. There was a doctor whose focus is heart health and several other leaders from the RWJ Barnabas hospital system.

The panel talked extensively about the barriers that exist between our mental and physical healthcare needs and the care that is available at the many health care outlets in our area. We all experience these barriers in various ways and to various degrees. Fear is a universal barrier. We worry about many things when we face health care issues. We fear a diagnosis; we fear treatment; we fear more basic things like, "Will I be able to find the doctor's office?". Social stigma is also a universal barrier. There is a stigma associated just with admitting you need help. There can be shame in admitting, for example, that you are overweight, have heart-health issues, or need to change your routine or diet. Many people worry what their co-workers, family, friends, neighbors, fellow congregants will think if they seek the mental healthcare they need.

While there are barriers that we all face, I was encouraged to realize that our church community helps us to overcome some of the barriers that we might otherwise face. The panelists agreed that social isolation and the lack of a supportive community were some of the worst barriers standing between people and healthcare in our Montgomery area. If you are isolated, it is hard for you to know what healthcare resources exist. If you don't have a supportive community, you don't have anyone checking up on you, helping you realize your needs, or helping you access healthcare.

It is clear to me that being a part of the Blawenburg Church is good for our health. Together we share what we know about illness, treatment options, doctors, clinics, tests, medicines, best practices, and healthy lifestyle choices. Together we help to dispel stigma, by being honest about the healthcare issues we have faced or the healthcare issues we are currently facing. Our church community is also an extremely supportive community. We pray for one another; we make meals for one another, we follow up with one another; we give each other rides to appointments and doctors' offices; we make care baskets and prayer blankets to remind one another of our love, prayers, and support. Following Christ's call to love and serve one another and modeling our lives according to his grace-filled example, we are here for each other in powerful and amazing ways.

I was proud to be able to share with a few of the other people at this event about how our church is helping the members of our community overcome barriers to healthcare. I am grateful to God for the support and care that we provide. May God continue to work in us and through us to be a blessing to one another and to more and more people in our community and in God's world. Amen!

Pastor Jeff

ADMINISTRATION



Run With Rotary

Registration for the 2019 Run With Rotary event is open and our joint team from the Blawenburg and Griggstown churches is growing. The event takes place on Sunday, May 5, starting around 9:30am. That Sunday morning, everyone is invited and encouraged to come to Skillman Park to take part in the event. If you would like to run the 5k or ramble the one-mile ramble, you can register online. Both the 5k and one-mile ramble have a registration fee, and 100% of the money collected will go toward wonderful charitable causes in our local area and around the world. You can also help by being a host at our outreach table,

which will be set up in the park during the race. Registration can be done online at: <https://runsignup.com/race/nj/skillman/runwithrotarynj>

Guild of Organists



Katie performed on the Princeton University chapel organ at The Central NJ American Guild of Organists Annual Members' Recital on March 24. Five church members enjoyed the concert.

MHS Robotics Team # 1403



We are so proud of Preetham for his many robotics medals. He was the Chairman's Award winner at both Mt. Olive H.S. and Lehigh University. Event winner at Bridgewater H.S., and event finalist at Montgomery H.S.

Montgomery Mosaic



Some of our church folks enjoyed the Montgomery Mosaic's presentation in March at the municipal building. The focus was on our African American neighbors dating back to colonial times.

RCA Today Magazine

The Reformed Church in America magazine, known as *RCA Today*, comes out each winter, spring, and fall, free of charge. If you would like to receive it at your home, please let Barb Reid know.

office@blawenburgchurch.org

For Your Planning Convenience

Beacon material is due to the office (office@blawenburgchurch.org) and Barb P. (bjp1998@aol.com) by the date of the deadline. Also, if anyone would like to contribute photos for future Beacons, we welcome them.

Deadline
May 14

*We commit our gifts to **WORSHIP** gathering as a community to celebrate God's presence among us!*

Ash Wednesday began the Lenten Season at United Reformed Church in Somerville. Rev. Bethany Popkes led the service, assisted by Rev. Paul Janssen and Pastor Jeff.



Ritual washing of hands



Imposition of ashes and communion



Closing hymn



BVS children led us into worship.



“Twelve Little Angels” sang two prelude songs in the March 24 service.
What a Mighty God We Serve and *Jesus’ Love Is Bubbling Over*

Who could find the Prodigal Teddy Bear?
The children searched the sanctuary and found it.

Worship Guide

- April 18 Maundy Thursday - @GRC 7:00pm - John 13:1-7, 12-17, 34-35 - A New Commandment
- April 21 Easter - John 20:1-18
- April 28 Second Sunday of Easter - Nancy Curtis Preaching
- May 5 5pm - Joint Service at BRC - John 21:1-19
- May 12 Mother's Day - Selections from 1 Samuel 1-2
- May 19 John 13:31-35 - Jesus' Parting Commandment
- May 26 John 14:23-29 - Jesus' Parting Promise
- June 2 Luke 24:44-53 - Jesus' Ascension
- June 9 Genesis 11:1-9 - Pentecost
- June 16 Joint Worship at BRC - Guest Preacher: Reverend Laura Colee

WORSHIP—Continued



Ash Wednesday Purple



Maundy Thursday No Color



Easter Sunday White and Gold



The Colors of the Lenten-Easter Seasons

The season of Lent is a time of reflection, penitence, and the preparation for the death of Jesus. It is also a season of rich color as we see each week with the paraments, Pastor Jeff's stoles, and sometimes in the clothing of our liturgists and in the chancel flowers. From Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday, the color in front of us on the communion table, on the pulpit, and in our pastor's stole is purple, a solemn color, a color for royalty, and repentance. During Holy Week the color remains purple through Wednesday. Then for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, there is no liturgical color at all. The resurrection of Jesus, the Christ, and the joy of Easter are celebrated with white and gold. The white and gold paraments remain for the following six Sundays. The season of Easter ends with the Day of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, and the liturgical color of red.



Pentecost Red



Lenten Chancel Flowers

*We commit our gifts to **HOSPITALITY** caring for those in our congregation*

Entertainment and Treats at Acorn Glen



Ruthie so enjoys music time, especially when there is dancing and awards!

Well wishes from our church family



This prayer quilt was prayed over and made for Diana Pfannebecker to let her know that her church friends are with her during her chemotherapy treatments for colon cancer.



A gift a day to help you on your way to recovery. We send our blessings to Keith as he recovers from hip surgery.

*We commit our gifts to **LIFE-LONG LEARNING** providing spiritual growth opportunities for all.*

Nursery and Sunday School

Eleanor Meyers, our caregiver, is in the **nursery** in the east wing of Cook Hall from 8:45am until 10:15am on Sunday mornings. She will text or call you if she or your child needs you.

Sunday school starts at 10:00am in the west wing of Cook Hall. There is a Bible story, with follow-up activities.



The M&M group will meet again on April 24. They will discuss Chapters 8--10 of The Ragamuffin Gospel by Brennan Manning. All women are welcome to join us at Bernice's home at 6:15 for discussion and dinner.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets at 10am in the church library. Come join us as we read and discuss scripture for the upcoming Sunday message and take time to pray with one another. Coffee and an occasional treat will be provided.

Bible and Cell Phone

A new symbol for 21st century Bible study. When in doubt, Google!



The Old Adage Is True!

March came in like a lion at the Pavliceks' house, with a snow-storm, but went out like a lamb at the church! The beautiful daffodils were planted by Nancy Curtis many years ago, and have stood the test of time!





Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504 | 609-466-6600
info@blawenburgvillageschool.com | Angela Wright, Director

Spring is a busy time of year at BVS:

BVS students have enjoyed displaying their artwork in their very first art show. They were very proud of all the different masterpieces that they created. They spent their time exploring various art mediums while using their imaginations. We have quite the artists at BVS.

Some of our students also formed a choir and sang two songs at the 9:00am service at BRC on March 24. Their little voices carried like angels throughout the Church. They did a beautiful job under the direction of Mrs. Lizzi. We are so happy that so many of our young friends could join us on that day.

On April 13, BVS hosted a Family Fun Day and Easter Egg Hunt. All of our current and future students were invited to attend. This day also served as an Open House; so if you or anyone you know is thinking about attending our preschool, please know that you may do so now.

Our last Kids' Night Out of the school year will be held on Friday, May 31, 5:30-8:30.

In addition to enrolling for the 2019-2020 school year, BVS is also enrolling for summer camp.

For information, contact Angela Wright, 609.466.6600 or awright@blawenburgvillageschool.com.

Join us on Facebook and Instagram!



Our Young Artists and Their Creations

*We commit our gifts to **MISSIONS** serving those in need both locally and around the world.*

A Missions Opportunity Fulfilled

Despite the fast turn-around time, we met our promised number of Spring Meal Program food baskets (plus one) for the Montgomery Food Pantry. Six meals were delivered to the pantry on Monday morning, April 15. They will be distributed to the patrons in the afternoon. Thank you for caring about and sharing with families in our community.



SHIP Lunch

Tuesday, April 30 is our next opportunity to make and serve a lunch with the SHIP program in Somerville. As with the last few lunches, we will be partnering

with Griggstown for this event. Altogether, we will need around ten volunteers between 10:30am and around 2pm. We will also need sloppy joe sandwiches, salads, dessert, and all the fixings for around 50 guests. There are many ways to help, including financial donations to cover the cost of supplies. Jamie and Jeff Knol will be helping coordinate the food, donations, and volunteers. Please reach out with any questions or look for the sign-up sheets in fellowship hall.



Short Takes

1.) In March, Barb and Joe Pavlicek attended a Faith Leaders Luncheon and presentation on the work of Habitat for Humanity in Somerset and Hunterdon counties. Twenty percent of our upcoming rummage sale income will go to Habitat.

2.) Because of a change in staff, we have a new liaison for the global mission in South Africa that BRC supports. An updated "Dear Friends" letter is anticipated. The Missions Team is eager to hear about the children in the care of the Setshabelo Family and Child Services organization.

*We commit our gifts to **PROCLAMATION** spreading the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.*

2019 Rummage Sale

Friday, May 3 – 9am to 6pm Saturday, May 4 – 9am to 3pm

DROP-OFF DATES AT COOK HALL:

Saturday, April 27 through Tuesday, April 30 – 9am to 5pm

Acceptable Donations:

- ◆ clothing, accessories, shoes, jewelry
- ◆ household items, knickknacks, linens
- ◆ small appliances, small furniture
- ◆ games and toys, outside toys
- ◆ sports equipment

Bake Sale Items – Friday am, May 3

Sorry, we cannot accept:

- ◆ large electronics, i.e. computers, TVs, stereos
- ◆ books
- ◆ large furniture
- ◆ damaged items

Profit from our rummage sale will help Habitat for Humanity and the restoration and preservation of our historic church

Questions? Contact Sonya Hunt, Chairperson spghunt@aol.com

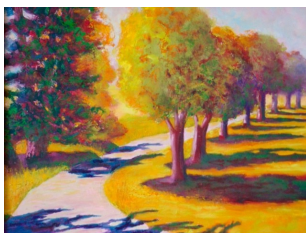


Blue Pomegranate—April 25

Blue Pomegranate launches its seventh season on Thursday, April 25.



Hopewell Township artist Lynn Ebeling, who paints mainly with oils, and pays particular attention to the use of color to portray light in her paintings, will be showing her work. Nina Moukova, of *Seeds to Sew International*, a Hopewell non-profit organization with the mission of improving the lives of women and girls in disadvantaged communities, will also have products on display and for sale, made by artisans around the world. In addition, artist Jill Nielsen, owner on Nonesuch Picture Framing and Jewelry, in Montgomery Township will be selling her handmade jewelry, made with bold beads and semi-precious stones. Music for the evening will be provided by New Jersey band *So It Goes*, known for performing classic, acoustic, and alternative rock.



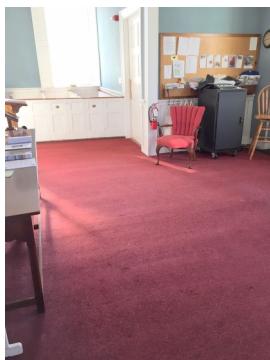
Doors open at 7:00pm in Cook Hall. Light refreshments will be served and admission is free, although donations are encouraged and go to support the musicians.

For details, go to www.BlawenburgChurch.org, or on Facebook @BluePomArt.

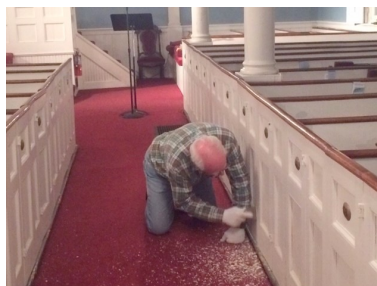
PROPERTIES



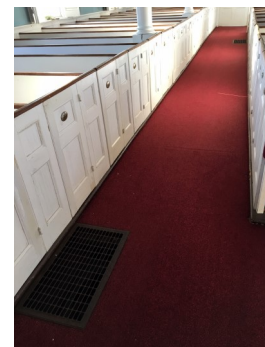
Saturday



Sunday



Saturday



Sunday

A big thank you to all the “cleaning volunteers” on March 21 and 23. Everyone worked very hard to clean areas of the sanctuary that are rarely cleaned. The five missing pew doors on the east side have been removed to be scraped, sanded, and painted by Don Terhune and daughter Tera Terhune Reese.

Properties Team, always on the move

If you saw something strange flying around our church recently, it was a drone. Eric Perkins, with the help of his fellow firefighter friend Bob Maslanka, was evaluating the exterior of the church steeple which is our number one priority for preservation, along with the bell. The bell was donated in 1860 by Paul Tulane, Esq. (Tulane University), who was a neighbor at the time. We have been reviewing contractor estimates and proposals, and have found that this project, as well as other needs, are much larger than our budget can handle. Therefore, Dave Cochran will be heading up a fund raising campaign.

A new storage closet will be put in BVS as a new fire code requires that we follow certain safety procedures for attic storage in a public building. BVS will pay for half of the expense.

Be sure to take notice of the special lighting and the new outlets that have been installed downstairs in fellowship hall. We recognize and thank Blue Pomegranate, and Alan Taback in particular, for all of their hard work in making this happen.

It is spring clean up time! Your help is needed in cleaning up the yard and filling those really bad pot-holes in the driveway. Please speak to Ethel Terhune (908.922.4118) if you can help with either of these projects.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week



Maundy Thursday at the Griggstown Reformed Church – April 18, 7pm. This year we will have a combined Maundy Thursday service at the Griggstown Reformed Church. We will join them in their traditional Tenebrae-style service. The service will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper and will end with the congregation leaving the darkened sanctuary in silence to prepare for the sorrow of Good Friday and the joy of Easter.

Good Friday – Personal Prayer at Blawenburg and a Service at The Hillsborough Reformed Church, 7:30pm. There will be two ways to observe this solemn day. The sanctuary at Blawenburg will be open for a time of personal prayer between 12:00pm and 3:00pm. Pastor Jeff also invites you to attend the Good Friday service at the Hillsborough Reformed Church in Millstone at 7:30pm - please reach out to pastor Jeff if you are interested in carpooling.



Interfaith Prayer Service and Iftar

Celebrating and Strengthening Our Community

Presented by Montgomery Mosaic and
hosted at the Blawenburg Reformed Church
7pm, Wednesday, May 15

In the season of Ramadan, Muslims break their fast with an iftar, an evening meal that follows a time of prayer. Montgomery Mosaic, an organization founded by Montgomery mayor, Sadaf Jaffer, has planned an interfaith prayer service and iftar which we are hosting at the Blawenburg Reformed Church. People of any religious background will be welcome to the event, which will celebrate and seek to strengthen our diverse Montgomery community. The evening will begin with an interfaith prayer service in the church sanctuary. During this time local religious leaders, including Imam Sohaib N. Sultan, the Muslim chaplain at Princeton University, will share reflections on the topic of community. Following the service everyone is welcome to the iftar meal in the church hall. "I am proud that our church is able to host this event," says Pastor Jeff Knol. "I am looking forward to praying for our community in all our diversity and with all we share in common." The service will begin at 7pm on Wednesday, May 15.

Men's Breakfast

Because of setting up for the rummage sale, the Men's Community Breakfast will be held at the Red Oak Diner at the corner of Routes 206 and 518 on May 1 at 7:30am.

OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Wed, Thurs.

8:00am -1:00pm

Fri—11:00am—12:30pm

The Blawenburg Beacon
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Blawenburg Reformed Church

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Bernice Van Nostrand

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Barb Reid

Beacon Editor
Barb Pavlicek

Summary of Dates (See articles for more information.)

Plan Ahead:**April**

16 Scout Meeting, 7:00pm Fellowship Hall
Consistory, 7:30pm, CW Center
18 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00pm, GRC
19 Sanctuary Open, 12:00pm—3:00pm
Good Friday Service, 7:30pm, Hillsborough RC
22 Scout Training, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall
24 Mary & Martha, 6:15pm, Bernice's Home
25 Missions Team, 10:15am, Library
Communications Team, 11:00am, Library
Blue Pomegranate, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall
27-30 Rummage Sale Drop-Off
30 SHIP Lunch, 11:00am, Parking Lot

May

1 Men's Breakfast, 7:30am, Red Oak Diner
3 Rummage Sale, All Day, Fellowship Hall
4 Rummage Sale, All Day, Fellowship Hall
5 Run With Rotary, 9:00am, Skillman Park
Scout Leadership Meeting, 2:00pm, F'ship Hall
Worship, 5:00pm, Sanctuary
6 Properties Team, 12:30pm, CW Center
7 Scout Exec Committee, 7:30pm, CW Center
8 Confirmation Class, 7:30pm, GRC
9 BVS Board Meeting, 9:30am, Library
Worship Team, 2:30pm, Library
10 Muffins with Mom, 9:00am, Fellowship Hall
11 Scout Training, 9:00am, Fellowship Hall
14 **Beacon Materials Due**
15 Interfaith Service, 7:00pm, Sanctuary
16 Blue Pomegranate, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall
21 Consistory, 7:30pm, CW Center
22 Mary & Martha, 6:15pm, Bernice's Home
Confirmation Class 7:30pm GRC

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

If you don't see your name listed and it should be, please let Barb know so we can celebrate with you!

April

25 Jacque Parmele
26 Sarah Tel
27 Lori Bradsell

May

6 Bob Harrison
7 Irene Harrison
11 Craig Seitz
13 Travis Winkler
16 Barb Bradsell
17 Sarah Liao
18 Robin Maestriperio
22 Ethel Terhune
25 Tom Sharman
26 Chip Parmele
Jean Seitz
27 Don Terhune
29 Angelina Han
31 Eric Perkins

If anyone would like to contribute photos for future Beacons, we welcome them. Please send photos via email to Barb Pavlicek and Barb Reid by the date of the deadline.
(See p. 2)

Weekly Events**Tuesday**

Bible Study 10:00am

Saturday

AA 8:00pm

Sunday

Worship 9am
Sunday School 10am

BRC Mission Statement

The Blawenburg Reformed Church is a covenant community of God's people united in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

We commit our gifts to worship, hospitality, lifelong learning, serving those in need, and proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.



Like us on facebook to view more news and events!