New Providence NEWS

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AMID UNCERTAINTY, IMPORTANT THINGS STAY THE SAME AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Submitted by Sally Reier, Ministry Associate

Like all religious organizations these days, Faith Lutheran Church has been forced to make some changes--but the most important things have stayed the same. Under the leadership of Pastor Jane McCready and through the generosity and creativity of members, Faith Lutheran has found ways to continue to provide solace, connection, worship opportunities, and prayerful resources even in the era of social distancing.

On Sunday, March 22, Faith live-streamed a brief liturgy of the word on Facebook Live at 10:00 a.m. Ninety-five separate Facebook ID's were logged in and participated in listening and praying together. That liturgy is archived in the video section of the page so it can be viewed anytime.

As Pastor Jane prepares for this week's service, she says, "Worship is the central act of our faith community and it is vitally important that we provide a way to keep that going," The service of the word follows the lectionary as would be the case if worship were being held in the church building. Minister of Music, Shea Velloso, records organ pieces to be used during virtual worship.

Pastor Jane continues, "It's a bit of a work in progress, but we've gotten very good responses and plan to continue to look at all the possibilities that technology allows."

Faith Lutheran has remained committed to its ministry partners including Roots & Wings NJ, Family Promise Union County, and St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark. As an example, this past week, Faith organized an effort to provide St. John's with sandwiches to hand out to those on the lunch lines. In less than 48 hours and with a goal of 400, Faith members and those close to the community responded by delivering 681 sandwiches that were then driven to St. John's. "It just feels good to be able to do something," said one volunteer.

Members are also finding ways to give one another moral support through phone calls, email check ins, and video conferencing. Staff members are making regular calls monitoring the well-being of parents who have kids at home and seniors who might feel isolated. For those missing Sanctuary Choir and Bell Ringing practice, a member was kind enough to join one of the video conferencing services and set up a dial-in every Tuesday night. The church newsletter is also continuing to go out weekly with the current prayer list and that week's devotional resource included.

Also attached to the newsletter is a sign-up for those who would like to have lilies placed on the altar for Easter service.



(above) Faith Lutheran Church is located at 524 South Street, New Providence, NJ 07974. The Rev. Jane McCready is Pastor. To contact the church, please call 908-464-5177 or email family.faith@verizon.net. You can also visit our website at famfaith.org for more information.

"Easter is coming no matter what," Pastor Jane says. "We will continue to be the church, with or without the use of our building, living in the promise of Easter hope as we care for this community and those around us."

Everyone is welcome at Faith Lutheran Church, which is a warm and vibrant Christ-centered servant community that strives to be loving, forgiving, healing and affirming. Join us for virtual worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. Find us on Facebook: Faith Lutheran, New Providence.



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Reserve space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

RETIRED SCOUTS HELP MAINTAIN BOY SCOUT CAMPS

House at Boy Scout Camp Somers in Stanhope, NJ over the winter. This camp serves the Union County area scouts, as well as Morris, Sussex and Middlesex Counties.

The Flintlocks are retired scouters who volunteer every Thursday at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ. All it took was some lumber, some screws and some elbow grease. Since the Flintlocks are all volunteers with outstanding

The Flintlocks repaired the Dan Beard Tree construction skills, it saves the Council from hiring outside contractors to do the repairs. A small group goes up to Camp Somers on Wednesdays to work over there. Most of the men had fathers who helped the Boy Scouts when they were in the scouts as lads, and have sons and grandchildren who were, or are, in the scouts.

> For more information please visit the Facebook Page "Flintlocks", or contact Flintlocks Secretary Michael Hart at drmhart@yahoo.com.









(above) The Dan Beard Tree House at Boy Scout Camp Somers received repairs by the Flintlocks over the winter.



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HEALTH CONCERNS: LIONS CLUB CANCELS ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

After a full half century, 50 consecutive years, of holding fun-filled Easter Egg Hunts, the New Providence Lions Club must cancel this year's event planned for Saturday, April 4th. "We are deeply disappointed in not being able to offer this fabulous community event for the children, parents and especially the NP Lions." noted Ed Morgan, President of the club. "We are hopeful that other events, including our annual Golf Outing and Second Annual Cornhole "Fun" Raiser can be held later this year, when it is safe to do so."

Fortunately, the Community Service Association of New Providence Annual Pasta Dinner, hosted by the CSA and NP Lions, was held on March 1st before the virus invaded. The Lions supported this critical CSA fundraiser by cooking and serving well over 250 pasta dinners. The Lions are proud to support the CSA

and deeply appreciate their celebrity guest chef, Kenny DeRoberts, "Ken makes us look good with his delicious "secret" sauce." noted Ed Morgan.

Another new event the club is planning with Community Service Association is the "CSA"/Lion Pancake Breakfast, later this fall.

The New Providence Lions Club has a long tradition of service to the New Providence community. At this difficult time the club is heartened by the community's response to recent events and the Lions Club stands ready to help out anyway they can. Please support the local restaurant's "Take-Out" service at this time and local businesses when permitted.

Also, follow the health advisory protocol that is recommended so you can stay healthy and safe. Check on your neighbors to see if they need help. Reach out if you need help.

The New Providence Lions Club is a 501(c)3 organization, we give back to the community all of the proceeds we receive. Organizations that benefit from our annual support include NP Recreation Dept., Fire Dept., Community Service Assoc., EMS Rescue Squad, Senior Citizens Center, PBA, NPHS Scholarships, NP Historical Society, Health Fair, NP Public Library, American Legion Post 433, Drive for Autism, and many more!

Being a Lion empowers you to help others in a way that no one person could alone.

The Lions are dedicated to helping others. Lions make a difference!

To Donate: Mail check to NP Lions Club, PO Box 854, New Providence, NJ 07974 For more information/membership please e mail info@nplions.org or visit www.nplions.org.



(above) Community Service Association of New Providence Annual Pasta Dinner, hosted by the CSA and NP Lions, was held on March 1st.











SHROVE TUESDAY SUPPER AT FAITH LUTHERAN

Submitted by Larry Holt

On the evening of Mardi Gras, February 25, 2020, the day before Ash Wednesday, members of Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence shared in a traditional Shrove Tuesday supper of pancakes, ham and berries. The evening included decorations of Mardi Gras.

Shrove Tuesday derives its name from the ritual of shriving that Christians undertook many years ago. In shriving, Christians confess their sins and receive absolution for the sins. Since Lent is a time of abstinence, Shrove Tuesday was viewed by Christians as their last chance in forty days to indulge themselves. They would eat the foods that were not allowed in Lent and particularly the foods that would spoil. Pancakes were often chosen as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

The chairperson of Faith's Shrove Tuesday Supper, for the fifth consecutive year, was Jessica Short of New Providence.

The pastor of Faith is Rev. Jane McCready.

The address is 524 South Street, New Providence 07974. Reach by phone at 908-464-5177 or visit online at famfaith.org.



(above, l-r) Donna Wlodarski, Jessica Short, and Walter Wlodarski serve pancakes and ham. For the fifth consecutive year, Jessica Short of New Providence was the chairperson of Faith's Shrove Tuesday Supper.



(above, l-r) The Carovillano family, Natalie, Marci, Audrey, and Steve, of New Providence enjoys the Mardi Gras props and decorations.



(above, l-r) The chefs and kitchen staff take a momentary break. Front row:Jessica, James and Andrew Short; back row Steve Short, Desiree Bouchat, Monika Bouchat, and Jim Kwan





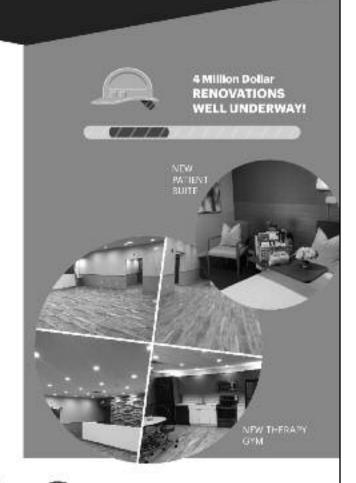
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JULIENNE CHERRY TAKES HELM AT CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP CASA

Submitted by Gretchen M. Boger-O'Bryan

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County is pleased to announce the selection of Julienne Cherry as its new Executive Director. The organization recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned Union County youth removed from home and living in foster care.

"Julienne's history in the nonprofit arena, as well as her experience, knowledge and connections within the state, make her ideal to lead CASA of Union County. The board is excited to welcome her to the organization just as it celebrates 15 years of advocacy for our community's foster youth," said Dr. Ron Silver, president of the organization's Board of Trustees.

She joins the Elizabeth-based nonprofit from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey in Hillside, where she was Director of Agency Relations, overseeing more than 1,000 feeding programs in eight New Jersey counties. Among Cherry's community service efforts in Union County are serving on the board of Moms Helping Moms, a diaper and baby supply bank in Plainfield, and remaining active with the local chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Eta Omicron Zeta, including serving as its Health Fair Chair. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Kean University.

"I'm very thankful for the wonderful opportunity to join the CASA family," said Cherry. "As a resident of Union County, this new position aligns perfectly with the last 20-plus years I've devoted to advocating for our community's underserved and voiceless. I'm looking forward to meeting with key stakeholders and community members to help move our mission forward. Ensuring the best interests of

(above) Julienne Cherry has joined Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County as its new Executive Director.

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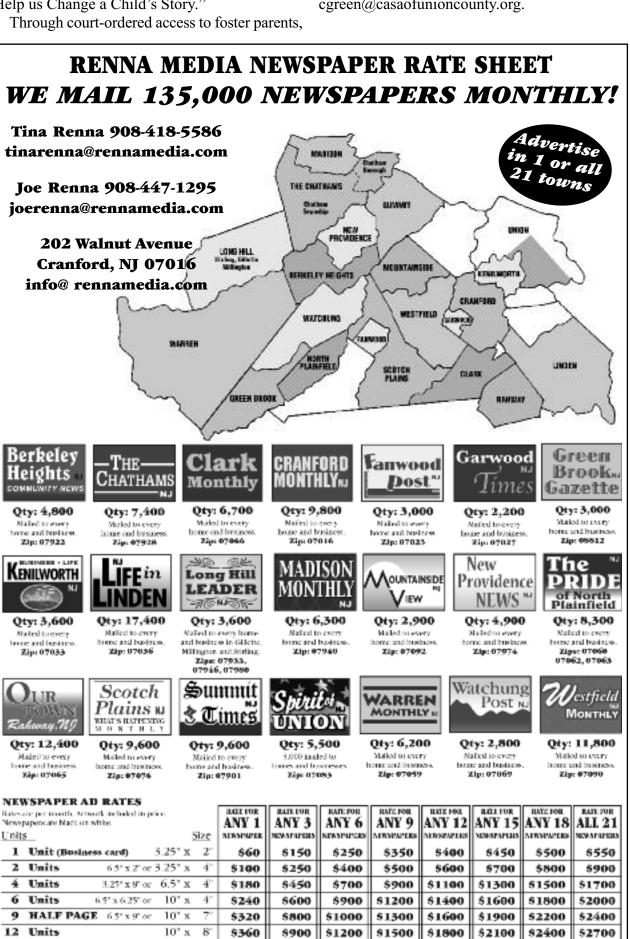
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no fault of their own will remain my top priority. As the organization reaches its 15th year of advocacy, the goal continues to be providing an advocate for every fragile youth that needs one. To do this, we need the support of our village. From monthly gives, employer matches and event sponsorships to corporate and business partnerships, every dollar of support for our small-but-mighty nonprofit directly impacts how many waiting foster youth we can reach. Simply, writing a check means writing another chapter. Help us Change a Child's Story."

every Union County youth in foster care through doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, CASA volunteers ensure the best interests of foster youth remain a priority while parties work toward establishing a safe, stable and permanent home. There are nearly 500 Union County youth in foster care and the organization currently serves just over half those. Its goal is to provide an advocate for every youth that needs one.

> To make a tax-deductible donation, log on to casaofunioncounty.org/donate. To learn about how to become an advocate for a foster child, contact Courtney, 908-293-8136, cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org.



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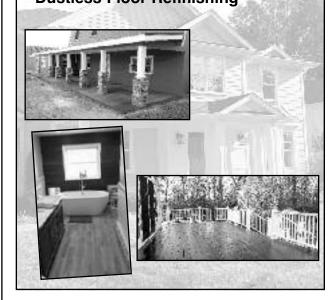


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