

THE MARGATE COMMUNITY CHURCH
"An Ecumenical Family of Faith"
8900 Ventnor Avenue
Margate City, New Jersey 08402

Visit our website for current news and information
www.margatecommunitychurch.com

Founded in 1929, MCC is an interdenominational congregation, with membership in the American Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ. Through these affiliations, our church participates in national and global ministries. MCC is a sponsor of Margate Terrace, a seniors residence at 610 N. Fredericksburg Avenue, and is a Covenant Church with Habitat for Humanity. We are lifetime members of the Holocaust Resource Center, Stockton University, Pomona, New Jersey.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. - Service of Worship

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE - (609) 822-5050; FAX - (609) 822-5974

Reverend Victoria Ney, Pastor

Rob Tucker - Director of Music

Chris Simonini - Organist

Carmella Marcheski- Administrative Assistant

Betty Nathanson - Church School Coordinator

Scott Chaffin - Sexton

Michelle Cook-Stewart, Soprano Soloist



THE SPIRE

The Margate Community Church
8900 Ventnor Avenue
Margate, NJ 08402

March 1, 2025

A Message from the Pastor

Did you know that God uses every part of your story for good? Sometimes God works in big, flashy ways, like parting the Red Sea or raising Lazarus from the dead. But sometimes God works behind the scenes, through faithful followers who use their gifts for his purposes. I was thinking of this recently when I realized that we are coming up to the Jewish holiday of Purim that celebrates the story of Esther.

Esther was an ordinary Hebrew woman who used both her gifts and her liabilities to save the nation of Israel. She became the wife of King Xerxes and thwarted a plot to wipe out the Hebrew people. It took a lot of bravery on her part, but she embraced her destiny and did the work God called her to do.

On the surface, Esther looked like an unlikely hero. She was poor, an orphan, and a believer in God—in a culture where no one favored those things. But God also gave Esther gifts. She was smart, which helped her navigate the political intrigue of the palace. She was beautiful, making her stand out to the king. And she had a friendly personality that helped her find favor with many different people. God used her mightily to save her people.

God loves to work through ordinary people. What looks like a recipe for disaster is often the start of God's plan. Everything in your life—even the bad parts or the parts you don't understand—has a purpose.

I grew up in church and heard all about trusting God since I was a little girl. But when life throws a few curve balls at you as an adult, it's challenging to use that faith.

Perhaps you've heard me talk about a rough year or two in my life when Richard went from corporate jobs back to education. He was in and out of work in that time period. I had just quit my job teaching school, we had moved to North Jersey, and I had just begun my classes at seminary. Scared? You bet! Did I pray? Oh yes! But, in that time, I learned to trust God and watch God work things out much better than either Richard or I could have imagined.

Challenging things will happen. Every part of your life will uniquely equip you for what God has planned for you to do. You may not save a nation, as Esther did, but you could bring light to someone who is in darkness. You may not protect an entire group of people, but you could protect and encourage the faith of a family member or young person God has put in your life. All you need to do is remain faithful.

~ Pastor Vicky

Greeters List for March

- March 2 Joe & Susan Clark
- March 9 Effie Russell
- March 16 Don & Lucy Shoap
- March 23 Lisa Gamache / Jody Gowdy
- March 30 Audrey Owen / Leslie Thomas



Deacons' March Communion Offering

Our March Deacons' Communion Offering is designated for Covenant House.

The Covenant House helps youth in need overcome homelessness and human trafficking by providing shelter, unconditional love, and relentless support.

Please be generous in supporting the Deacons as they support those in need.



Prayer Service Resuming

Beginning this Sunday, April 6, we will resume prayer services in the chapel. We will have these brief prayer services after church on the Sundays we have Communion in church (the first Sunday of each month). Pastor Vicky will lead us in a guided meditation and provide a place where your prayer concerns and the concerns of our church family will be lifted up.

Ladies Night Out

This Month's Ladies Night Out will be on **Monday March 10, 6:00 pm**

Hosted by **Kim Walters and Lisa Gamache**

at
Kim Walters House

8702 Winchester Ave, Margate, NJ

BYOB

Sign up to bring appetizers or desserts



PB & J Project

Please join us!

We will be making our peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Salvation Army after Church on Sunday March 16, in Fellowship Hall

WE GO TOGETHER LIKE



PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY

Ladies Lunch Out

This month's Ladies Lunch Out will be on Thursday March 20, 12 pm at

Hannah G's

7310 Ventnor Ave, Ventnor



~ UPCOMING MEETINGS ~

Hope SNJ (Grief Group)

Mondays, 4:00 pm Parlor

Bell Choir

Wednesday March 5, 19, and 26, 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Chancel Choir

Wednesday March 5, 19, and 26, 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Trustees' Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 7:30 pm Library

Advisory Council

Sunday March 23, 11:00 am Library

Deacons' Meeting

Monday March 24, 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday March 5, 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Men's Breakfast

Thursday March 6, 8:00 am Fellowship Hall

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Sunday March 9 Spring Ahead

Recorder Group

Sunday March 9, 11:30 Sanctuary

Ladies Dinner Out

Monday March 10, 6:00 pm Kim Walter's House

Charity League

Tuesday March 11, 9:00 am Fellowship Hall

Lenten Bible Studies

Tuesday March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, 6:30 Fellowship Hall

New Members Welcomed

Sunday March 16, during Worship Sanctuary

PB & J Project

Sunday March 16, after Worship in Fellowship Hall

Book Club Meeting

Sunday March 16, 11:30 Parlor

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Monday March 17

Men's Breakfast

Thursday March 20, 8:00 am Fellowship Hall

Ladies Lunch Out

*Thursday March 20, 12:00 pm Hannah G's
7310 Ventnor Ave, Ventnor*

Services in March

Sunday, March 2nd

Transfiguration Sunday

Worship - 10:00 am

Message by Reverend Victoria Ney

Sunday, March 9th

First Sunday in Lent

Worship - 10:00 am

Message by Reverend Victoria Ney

Sunday, March 16th

Second Sunday in Lent

Worship - 10:00 am

Message by Reverend Victoria Ney

Sunday, March 23rd

Third Sunday in Lent

Worship - 10:00 am

Message by Reverend Victoria Ney

Sunday, March 30th

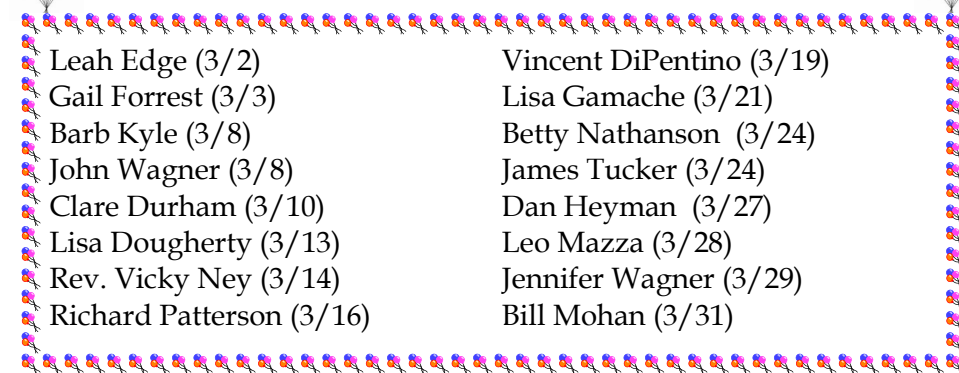
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship - 10:00 am

Message by Reverend Victoria Ney



Happy Birthday to all of our March Birthday Members



Leah Edge (3/2)	Vincent DiPentino (3/19)
Gail Forrest (3/3)	Lisa Gamache (3/21)
Barb Kyle (3/8)	Betty Nathanson (3/24)
John Wagner (3/8)	James Tucker (3/24)
Clare Durham (3/10)	Dan Heyman (3/27)
Lisa Dougherty (3/13)	Leo Mazza (3/28)
Rev. Vicky Ney (3/14)	Jennifer Wagner (3/29)
Richard Patterson (3/16)	Bill Mohan (3/31)

That we know of!

Ash Wednesday
Communion Service

You are invited to attend an Ash Wednesday Communion Service on Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The Communion Service will take place around the tables. If you would like the disposition of ashes, Pastor Vicky will make them available following the service. We hope you will join us for this lovely service as we begin our Lenten journey together.



Lenten Bible Studies

During the Lenten season, you are invited to attend four Bible studies in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday evenings beginning March 11 and continuing March 18, 25, and April 1 at 6:30 p.m. The study is entitled "The Disciples You Don't know." Most of us are familiar with Peter, James, John, Thomas, and Judas, but there are 7 others we know very little about. Through video, extra writings, and tradition, we will learn about the other disciples Jesus chose to take up his ministry. Come and enjoy the warmth of good fellowship while you feed your spirit during the Lenten season.



Book Club Meeting
Sunday March 16, 2025
11:30 Parlor
Lady Tan's Circle of Women
by Lisa See

Tan Yunxian is born into an elite family during the Ming dynasty. Her childhood is marked by loss and loneliness, especially after her mother's death. Raised by her grandparents, Yunxian receives an unusual education for a girl of her time. Her grandmother, one of the few female doctors in China, teaches her the Four Examinations of Chinese medicine: looking, listening, touching, and asking. These methods are essential for diagnosing and treating women's illnesses, which often relate to childbearing.

Upcoming Book Club Meetings:

April 6th ~ All the Colors of the Dark
by Chris Whitaker

May 18th ~ The God of the Woods
by Liz Moore

June 8th ~ Source Code
by Bill Gates

July 13th ~ The Wedding People
by Alison Espach

August ~ Summer Break / No Meeting

Church Service Project Hygiene / Shower Kits

In March from we will be putting together the hygiene kits and we will need volunteers to come out and help us assemble shower kits for the Salvation Army. The collection bin for the Salvation Army will be in the Narthex from Ash Wednesday to March 30th. Kits will be put together on March 30th. This is for their Shower Ministry that helps the homeless.

PLEASE TRAVEL SIZE ONLY

We will need donations for these kits:

- ◆ Wash Cloths
- ◆ Feminine hygiene products
- ◆ Razors
- ◆ Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
- ◆ Shampoo and Conditioner
- ◆ Body wash
- ◆ Socks



New Members

Welcoming New Members March 16 during worship.

Thomas DeRitis
Rick & Maria Lascheid
Bob Smith
Scottie VanDuyne

Welcome
© ChurchArt.com
to Our Church



BAY ATLANTIC
SYMPHONY
JED GAYLIN · MUSIC DIRECTOR



Powerful Voices

Out of the Depths: *Haydn's Choral Masterpiece!*

Experience an afternoon of Powerful Voices as Bay Atlantic Symphony presents Joseph Haydn's "Lord Nelson Mass" in collaboration with the 130-voice Greater South Jersey Chorus and renowned soloists. Originally called a "Mass for Troubled Times," this stirring work blends solemnity, torment and joyous celebration. Beethoven's Symphony No. 4 opens the program with its mysterious introduction and vibrant, playful energy. Don't miss this unforgettable musical journey!

Rowan College of South Jersey
Saturday, March 15 at 3pm

Stockton University
Sunday, March 16 at 2pm

Join us for some beautiful music.
\$15 per ticket if we can get 10 people.
Please contact Jenn Barr (609)442-1717.

Member Spotlight – John Agner

Long-time member, John Agner, is an attorney and counselor, admitted to the bar in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Colorado. He has a broad array of practice areas, including commercial litigation, Veterans Administration claims, appellate work, construction matters, criminal matters, personal injury, civil rights, family matters, disability law, education law, and municipal matters. He advises small and mid-sized businesses. He also serves as a litigation witness and consultant on school matters relating to education and special education, from the perspective of the student/parent, the teacher, the administrator, and the school board. In addition, John is the chair of the board of EDIFI Federal Credit Union (formerly ABCO Credit Union). He began his law career in 1989 working as a litigation attorney at Dechert, Price & Rhoads in Philadelphia.


Prior to becoming an attorney, John worked in education as a special education teacher, a learning consultant, and a building administrator for 30 years. John began his education career in 1980 as a special education teacher and learning consultant in the Adams County School District 14 in Colorado where he conducted evaluations, testing of special education students, wrote IEPs, and held IEP conferences. In 1986, he was hired by the Mount Laurel School District as a special education teacher. He was the assistant principal for Winslow High School from 1996 – 2014, a school with 1600 students and over 100 staff. He served in leadership roles in teachers' associations and principals' associations at the local, county and state levels.

John grew up in North Jersey and graduated high school from Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from the Metropolitan State University of Denver in Political Science and Government and then went on to earn a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master of Arts from Colorado State University in Secondary School Administration/Principalship. Finally, John earned his Doctor of Law with High Honors from Rutgers Law School.

John is proud to be a dad and pop-pop. He is the caretaker for his mom and his elderly aunt. His interests include hiking, skiing, motorcycles, soccer, politics, education, law, and community service. John continues to travel to Colorado and elsewhere for skiing in the winter. John plays many instruments and has recently joined the newly formed recorder society at the Margate Community Church. In the summer, you can often find him at Friday night beach concerts in Somers Point. He has served in a variety of roles at MCC and can often be found lending a helping hand at events or making PB&J for the rescue mission.



Margate Community Church 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 Worship Communion Sunday	3 9:00 - Noon NS 4:00 pm Hope SNJ	4 9:00 - Noon NS	5 Ash Wednesday 9:00 - Noon NS 12:30 AA (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Ash Wednesday Communion Service 7:30 Chancel Choir	6 8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 - Noon NS	7 9:00 - Noon NS	8
9 Daylight Saving Time 10:00 Worship 11:30 Recorder Group	10 9:00 - Noon NS 4:00 pm Hope SNJ 6:00 Ladies Night Out 	11 9:00 - Noon NS 9:00 Charity League 6:30 Lenten Bible Study	12 9:00 - Noon NS 12:30 AA (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	13 9:00 - Noon NS	14 9:00 - Noon NS	15
16 10:00 Worship Welcome New Members 11:00 PB & J Project 11:30 Book Club	17 St Patrick's Day 9:00 - Noon NS 4:00 pm Hope SNJ 	18 9:00 - Noon NS 6:30 Lenten Bible Study 7:30 Trustee's Meeting	19 9:00 - Noon NS 12:30 AA (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	20 8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 - Noon NS 12:00 Ladies Lunch Out	21 9:00 - Noon NS	22
23 10:00 Worship 11:00 Advisory Committee	24 4:00 Hope SNJ 6:00 Deacons' Meeting	25 9:00 - Noon NS 6:30 Lenten Bible Study	26 9:00 - Noon NS 12:30 AA (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	27 9:00 - Noon NS	28 9:00 - Noon NS	29
30 10:00 Worship Assemble Hygiene Kits						

PALM SUNDAY/EASTER SUNDAY
FLOWER ORDER FORM

Below is a list of available flower suggestions for Palm Sunday (April 13th) and Easter Sunday (April 20th):

Palm Sunday - Altar Arrangement	\$125
Palm Sunday - Chancel Steps Arrangement (2)	\$75
Palm Sunday - Narthex	\$125
Easter Sunday -Tower Narthex Arrangement	\$150
Easter Sunday - Altar Arrangement	\$150
Easter Sunday - Chancel Steps Arrangement (2)	\$75
Lilies	\$30 each
6" Daffodil \$8.00	8" Hyacinth \$15.00
6" Hyacinth \$10.00	8" Tulip \$15.00
6" Tulip \$10.00	6" Pansies \$5.00

Please note that flower orders are on a first come, first served basis and must be received by Monday, March 31st. Be sure to include a check with your order (payable to "MCC Altar Sanctuary Guild") and send it to the Church Office.

-----TEAR OFF-----

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Item 1. _____ Qty. _____ x price each _____ Total _____

Item 2. _____ Qty. _____ x price each _____ Total _____

MESSAGE (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY AS YOU WISH IT TO BE PRINTED IN BULLETIN, BUT LIMIT TO 15 WORDS MAXIMUM)

Flowers are delivered to shut-ins unless otherwise specified. Please check box if you will be picking up your flowers after the 10 a.m. Easter Sunday service. Flower purchases are announced in the Sunday Bulletin.

All orders must be received by Monday, March 31st!
(Please Note The Deadline Date)

