

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



A Message from the Pastor

If there's one thing that's not in short supply these days, it's bad news. With violence in our streets, the ongoing, seemingly endless war in Ukraine, the escalation in the Mid-East, political party division, the impact of inflation, on top of everything else we have going on in our personal lives, there's no end in sight. For many of us, we think we can't possibly break the worry habit.

But I think we've forgotten that Jesus is all about change, about breaking us free from the natural tendency to worry. All our fears and anxiety rob us of the joy God has for us. We don't have to stay stuck in the pit of worry, bound to the painful uneasiness of a mind that continually feeds on impending fears. When Paul wrote, "Don't worry about anything," the word used for worry indicates choking or strangling. And isn't that what fear feels like? It strangles the life and the joy out of us.

Easter reminded us that there is new life with our risen Lord. He offers us a new atmosphere of serenity in which to live and breathe. Rather than fret and fear, those who learn to trust Christ apply their time and energy in prayer, believing there is no concern too small and no situation too big that God cannot dissolve their worry over it into peace. We can enjoy a feeling of safety rather than trying to anticipate and worry about every imaginable outcome.

As you move through the glorious spring month of May, choose the peace of God by surrendering your worries and entrusting your cares to him. He's listening!

Pastor Vicky

Greeters List for May

May 5 Rich & Judy Paterson
May 12 Dan Thoren & Rose Fitzgerald
May 19 Lynne Daley & Celestine Perry
May 28 Russ & Gail Forrest



Deacons' May Communion Offering

Our May Deacons' Communion Offering is designated for
The Community Food Bank.
Please be generous in supporting the Deacons as they
support those in need.

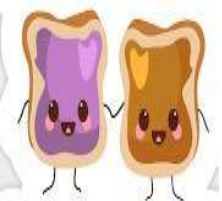


PB & J Project

Please join us!

We will be making our peanut butter and
jelly sandwiches for the
Salvation Army after Church on Sunday
May 19, in Fellowship Hall

WE GO TOGETHER LIKE



PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY

Ladies Night Out

Come out and join us for fun and great
conversation on
Thursday May 9, 6:00 pm at :
Mike's Pasta House
801 Tilton Rd, Northfield
Please come out and join the fun!



Save the date !

Graduation Recognition Day and Lunch
Sunday June 23

Please come and help us honor our Graduates!



During worship service we will be celebrating
and recognizing our young members who
have earned graduation diplomas and are be-
ginning new phases of their lives.

After our 10:00 am service, we will be able to gather and enjoy
meeting, and chatting with them over a luncheon which will be in
Fellowship Hall.

Ladies Lunch Out

This month's Ladies Lunch Out will be on
Thursday May 23, 12 pm at
The Crab Trap
2 Broadway, Somers Point
Come join us!
This will be our last Luncheon before
summer break.



~ UPCOMING MEETINGS ~

Hope SNJ (Grief Group)

Mondays, 4:00 pm Parlor

Bell Choir

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Nursery School Board Meeting

Thursday May 2, 12:30 pm Parlor

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday May 28, 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Trustees' Meeting

Tuesday, May 21 7:00 pm Parlor

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

Men's Breakfast

Thursday May 2, 8:00 am Fellowship Hall

Ladies Dinner Out

Thursday May 9, 6:00 pm Mike's Pasta House

Book Club Meeting

Sunday, 11:30 am Parlor

FMT Presents: A Bad Year for Tomatoes

Friday & Saturday May 10 & 11, 7:30 pm

Sunday May 12, 2:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Spring Fling and Flower Sale

Wednesday May 11, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Church Grounds

Men's Breakfast

Thursday May 16, 8:00 am Fellowship Hall.

FMT Presents: A Bad Year for Tomatoes

Friday & Saturday May 17 & 18, 7:30 pm

Sunday May 19, 2:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Ballard Baptism

Sunday May 19, during Worship Sanctuary

PB & J Project

Sunday May 19, after Worship in Fellowship Hall

Ladies Lunch Out

Thursday May 30, 12:00 pm Crab Trap

Services in May

Sunday, May 5th

Communion Sunday

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Worship - 10:00 am

Message by Reverend Victoria Ney

Sunday, May 12th

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Worship - 10:00 am

Message by Reverend Victoria Ney

Sunday, May 19th

Pentecost Sunday

Worship - 10:00 am

Message by Reverend Victoria Ney

Sunday, May 26th

First Sunday after Pentecost

Worship - 10:00 am

Message by Reverend Victoria Ney

Happy Birthday to all of our May Birthday Members



Elaine Meglathery (5/2)	Melanie Zappone (5/16)
Caroline King (5/3)	Dennis Westhafer (5/17)
Richard King IV (5/3)	Lillian DelCollo (5/21)
Eleanor Hagan (5/7)	Karen Connolly (5/23)
Connor Fogletto (5/10)	Susan Clark (5/23)
Jan Roegiers (5/10)	Susan Callio (5/23)
Sharon Fleming(5/11)	Gabriel Yob (5/27)
Geoffrey Lovett (5/11)	Judith Garbutt (5/27)
David Ford (5/11)	Larry Meglathery, Jr. (5/28)
Sharon Goff (5/14)	Carl Ekstrom (5/29)
Martha Martucci (5/15)	Michele Gooden (5/31)
Donna Cramer (5/16)	



Book Club Meeting

Sunday May 19, 2024

11:30 Parlor

Mostly What God Does:

Reflections On Seeking and Finding His Love

By Savannah Guthrie

#1 New York Times Bestseller

Guthrie persuasively renders the evolution of a hard-won religious belief that makes room for imperfection and "does not require us to ignore... the sorrows we experience or the unjustness we see but to believe past it." This openhearted offering inspires. - Publishers Weekly

Mostly what God does is love you.

*If we could believe this, really believe this, how different would we be?
How different would our lives be? How different would our world be?*

Upcoming Book Club Reads

June 9th ~ The Women by Kristin Hannah

July 21st ~ Beyond That The Sea by Laura Spence-Ash

Mother's Day

You have a special invitation to attend our Mother's Day service on Sunday, May 12. There will be a gift for every woman in attendance and some prizes for "special" moms! Don't miss it!



Wisznat/LeFavre Memorial Scholarship Update Information For High School Seniors and College Students

With the exciting news that the 2024 Wisznat/LeFavre Memorial Scholarship Award will be increasing from \$750 to \$1000 for qualifying applicants, new guidelines have been established to recognize candidates as active church members, a mandatory component for our church scholarship. A list of church-based activities with assigned point values, ranging from attending church to participating in church services or church-based community service opportunities, is available on our church website. These activities are suggested as they represent important aspects of the life of our church, and many could be completed during breaks in school calendars. Each candidate will be required to accrue a minimum of 10 points over the course of a school year and log each of their actions in the Scholarship Applicants' Notebook located in the back of the church. As they are being notified of this change mid-year, candidates will only need to earn 5 points for the 2024 scholarship application by the mid-June deadline. This log will be one part of the application process that will become available in the spring.

Please note: *Applicants are responsible for recording each of their activities in the Scholarship Applicants' Notebook as they complete them.*

The Wisznat/LeFavre Memorial Scholarship
Committee



Made possible by funds from the Atlantic County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Fool Moon Theatre Co.
Presents

Winner of Bronze Best of Press 2023
Best Live Theater



"The Funniest Show You Never Heard Of."



May 10 - 19
Fridays & Saturdays
at 7:30 pm
Sundays at 2 pm

Hurry for the Mother's Day Special!

Margate Community Church
8900 Ventnor Parkway • Margate City, NJ

Tickets at **foolmoontheatre.org**
or at the Door



like us on
facebook

For Tickets NOW! Scan me



Fool Moon Theatre is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation

Group sales available for 10 tix or more. Text 609-457-0903.

Margate Community Church's

SPRING FLING



Spring Fling

Saturday, May 11th

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Church Grounds

Petting Zoo * Pony Rides * Face Painting * Games
*Balloon Animals *Food Truck * Music

Mother's Day Flower Sale

Saturday, May 11th 12:00-4:00 pm

Sunday, May 12th after Church

Church Courtyard



For more information call (609) 822-5050
8900 Ventnor Avenue, Margate



Happy Memorial Day!

Thank you to all our soldiers who have given of themselves for our freedom!

PATCHWORK WITH PURPOSE

SENSORY QUILTS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN
WITH AUTISM AND NEURODIVERSE NEEDS

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR GIRL SCOUT SILVER
AWARD PROJECT BY DONATING THE FOLLOWING:

- FABRIC (ALL TEXTURES, COLORS, PATTERNS)
- BATTING
- ZIPPERS, BUCKLES, SNAPS
- BUTTONS, BOWS, BRICKBRACK

JOIN US MAY 25 & JUNE 22

FOR A SEW-A-THON TO CREATE SENSORY LAP QUILTS FOR
DONATION TO ATLANTIC COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES AND
SHORE MEMORIAL PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY ROOM

DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 609-241-6293.
THANK YOU-LILY & LEAH EDGE

Member Spotlight – Betty Nathanson

Betty Nathanson is a resident of Margate and has been a member of the Margate Community Church for decades. Her husband, Mark Steven, was Jewish, so this was the perfect church with an interdenominational spirit for Betty to attend with her children, Eric E. and Michelle Lee. Sadly, Betty's husband passed away in 1990 at the age of 46.

Betty has always had a passion for education. She co-taught Sunday School with Connie Learn for 17 years. Together, they influenced a great number of children in the church. She currently serves as the Church School Coordinator at the Margate Community Church. She works with the Board of Christian Education to provide our Sunday School Program. In addition, Betty enlists teachers and communicates with families about special activities and events associated with Sunday School. When needed, she presents the children's talk during worship. Prior to serving in this role, Betty served for years as the director of education at the Lighthouse Rehabilitation Facility in Mays Landing.

Sunday School is not the only recipient of Betty's dedication at the church. She is a co-founder of the Book Club. Over the years, Betty has been involved with Women's Night Out and has hosted progressive dinners at her home. Betty has served as a Deacon and presently organizes the interviews for the Wiznat-LaFave Scholarship candidates. Betty has been a long-time member of the Alter Sanctuary Guild and has worked to re-energize this group after the passing of long-time member Dot Johnston. Along with this role, Betty organizes the church flower sales. And, of course, her passion for education led her to serve on the Board of Christian Education for many years.

It's hard to think of an aspect of the church that Betty is not involved with! You might see her setting up coffee hour and making the coffee for fellowship hour. She organizes activities for special events like the Cherry Blossom Festival, Spring Fling, and the Live Nativity. In addition, Betty has served on several pulpit committees for the church. Her experience was very valuable to the most recent pulpit committee. In addition to her role as the Church School Coordinator, Betty works part-time for the Atlantic City Convention Center where you can find her checking in participants and welcoming guests. The Margate Community Church would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Betty Nathanson for her dedication and service!

Thank You Betty!

The Margate Community Church Pulpit Committee -

Final Report

The purpose of this communication is to announce the disbanding of the Pulpit Committee and to summarize for the congregation a brief history of the process and the work that transpired.

The Pulpit Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous participation in a church survey and two "Chat and Chew" conversations. The information from those sources concluded the first phase of our work together, a congregational "self-study." In order to know what sort of Senior Minister we need, we first asked what sort of church we are and where we think God is leading us in the future. We came together during the "Chat and Chew" events to discuss the important issues of our identity and calling. The dialogue was very fruitful, resulting in clear statements of our values, concrete directions in which to focus our energy, and a sense of our trajectory, or where we thought we needed to go.

To summarize the results from the survey and the "Chat and Chew" events, where we talked about what we value most about our church, we said that Margate Community Church is a:

1. A welcoming church who values authentic relationships.
2. A Church who values mission and outwardly-focused service.
3. A spiritual community who values ecumenical and interdenominational connections.
4. A worshipping community who values depth and reverence in music and word.
5. A learning community who values education for children, youth, and adults.

After the "Chat and Chew" results were shared with the congregation, the Pulpit Committee moved into a less visible phase. We developed two important documents: a Church Profile, which described the nature and vision of our church, and the Congregation Opportunity Form which was posted on the UCC Ministry Opportunities web page. We submitted the Church Profile in March of 2023. In addition to being posted on the UCC Ministry Opportunities web page, the profile was posted on a Christian Career Center job search and on the job boards of Yale Divinity School and Princeton Theological Seminary. Next, we moved into the search phase, where we actively sought the person who we would present to the church as our next Senior Minister. During this phase, we diligently reviewed resumes and videos from 44 applicants. We conducted preliminary and follow-up interviews. We even traveled to another church to

view a finalist leading a service.

Earlier in March, Rev. Ney shared her decision not to retire and expressed an interest in remaining as our Minister. Reverend Ney officially submitted that request to the Pulpit committee. With that turn of events, our potential candidates withdrew their names from consideration. Upon review of the Church By-laws, the Pulpit Committee ultimately determined that there was no longer a need to continue our search to replace our sitting minister. The committee then further agreed that we should end the search process and disband our committee.

Our final report was submitted to the Board of Trustees, who have now accepted Reverend Ney's offer to continue as Pastor of the Margate Community Church.

With this report to our congregation, this final step officially concludes the work of the Pulpit committee and now ends the search process.

While the committee disbanded without a new call, we feel that our efforts in preparing a Church Survey and conducting "Chat and Chew" events were beneficial to the Congregation as a whole. We sincerely hope that the Advisory Committee or other church boards will continue with this introspection.

Throughout the search process, we received indispensable assistance from Rev. Craig Peterson, the UCC Conference minister that includes New Jersey. Rev. Peterson recommended that Rev. Ney and other church boards actively participate in the New Jersey Conference by attending annual meetings and upcoming events. We hope that this will be considered. Rev. Peterson emphasized that this would help the church to be more visible to UCC candidates the next time a search takes place for a Senior Minister.

The congregation will need to decide when to elect another Pulpit Committee. The committee is typically formed when a minister announces his/her retirement date. This Pulpit Committee learned much about the process over the last several years. Again, the recommendations provided by our conference minister will help streamline a future search and call. The next Pulpit Committee may want to consider the possibility of hiring a headhunter to assist with the search. In addition, we learned that there is a need to be very timely and responsive so as to not lose a desirable candidate to another church.

In closing we want to thank the congregation for its support, patience and understanding. This has been a long and arduous process for the committee and probably the congregation as well. We now pray and look forward to continued success, growth, and guidance as Reverend Ney continues her leadership of the Margate Community Church.

Sincerely,
The Pulpit Committee

Happy Mothers Day

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains -- we appreciate you.

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions or running away -- we mourn with you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears and disappointment -- we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms and spiritual moms -- we need you.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children -- we celebrate with you.

To those who have disappointment, heartache and distance with your children -- we sit with you.

To those who lost their mothers this year -- we grieve with you.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother -- we acknowledge your experience.

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests and the overall testing of motherhood -- we are better for having you in our midst.

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Margate Community Church 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 - Noon NS 12:30 AA (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 	2 9:00 - Noon NS 8:00 Men's Breakfast	3 9:00 - Noon NS	4
5 10:00 Worship Communion Sunday Cinco de Mayo	6 9:00 - Noon NS 4:00 pm Hope SNJ	7 9:00 - Noon NS	8 9:00 - Noon NS 12:30 AA (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 	9 9:00 - Noon NS 6:00 Ladies Dinner Out	10 9:00 - Noon NS 7:30pm FMT Presents: A Bad Year for Tomatoes	11 1:00pm—3:00 pm Spring Fling & Flower Sale 7:30pm FMT Presents: A Bad Year for Tomatoes
12 10:00 Worship 2:00pm FMT Presents: A Bad Year for Tomatoes	13 9:00 - Noon NS 4:00 Hope SNJ	14 9:00 - Noon NS	15 9:00 - Noon NS 12:30 AA (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 	16 8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 - Noon NS	17 9:00 - Noon NS 7:30pm FMT Presents: A Bad Year for Tomatoes	18 7:30pm FMT Presents: A Bad Year for Tomatoes
19 10:00 Worship Ballard Baptism 11:00 PB & J Project 11:30 Book Club 2:00pm FMT Presents: A Bad Year for Tomatoes	20 9:00 - Noon NS	21 9:00 - Noon NS 7:00 Trustee's Meeting	22 9:00 - Noon NS 12:30 AA (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 	23 9:00 - Noon NS 12:00 Ladies Lunch Out	24 9:00 - Noon NS	25 Patchwork With A Purpose with Lily & Leah Edge 11:00 am—2:00 pm
26 10:00 Worship	27 Memorial Day Office Closed 	28 6:00 Deacons' Meeting	29 9:00 - Noon NS (SC) 12:30 AA (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 	30		