

Chapel Chimes

The newsletter of New Hope Christian Church, 57 Main Street, Monsey, New York

May 2013

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Don't Leave Any Praise Out

The Hebrew name for the book of Psalms is *Tehilim*, which means *praises*, and that is interesting when you consider that some of the Psalms would never be accepted as the lyrics of praise songs by many congregations today.

Have you read Psalm 88 recently? The first stanza (vv. 1-2) probably wouldn't raise any eyebrows:

*O Lord, God of my salvation;
I cry out day and night before you.
Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry!*

But beginning in v. 3 the lyric turns grim:

*For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am a man who has no strength,
like one set loose among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.*

The psalmists (the sons of Korah) maintain this dark tone and subject matter straight through to the end of the Psalm.

The last verse is this:

*You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me;
my companions have become darkness.*

Where are all the hallelujahs and lines about God being our rock and hiding place, awesome and glorious, waiting for him to fill our hearts, fill this place, and so forth? In Psalm 88, we end with a man alone, in darkness, on the verge of death—and it's all God's fault. Some praise!

I hope you have realized, though, that the man is not actually alone. The whole Psalm is about him making his complaint and his appeal to God: Every day I call upon you, O LORD; I spread out my hands to you. Here he is

spreading out his hands again. He knows God hasn't really abandoned him, and he isn't going to abandon God either. That's why he opens the Psalm by addressing God as the God of my salvation and asking him to incline your ear to my cry.

The Psalms were the church hymnbook of Israel. The lyrics of all the Psalms, including laments like Psalm 88, prompted the people of Israel to come to God with all their experiences and all their emotions, good and bad, to lay their whole lives and all their concerns before the Holy One of Israel. None of their life is hidden from God. None of it is held back. We must also remember that as they continued their praise, the cumulative message of the whole Psalter would also shape their understanding of their place in the world and their expectations about how God would act in the future, decisively to save his people from all their troubles.



What I want to impress upon you is simply this: praise is more than good feelings and more than celebration; sometimes praise is downcast and downbeat. Laments have their place in the praises of God's people,

individually and as a body. When trouble comes and your soul is cast down within you, don't leave any praise out—go to God in that condition and express it to him, trusting that he hears, he is good, and he will do what is right.

A lament may be right for today, but the Psalms also teach us to expect a coming day of never-ending celebration. The Psalter ends with a call for everything that has breath to praise the Lord, and the day is quickly coming in which that call shall be heard and come true.

—Phillip Dennis



May Birthdays

6: Taraja Amoako-Poku

24: Barbara Voss

Psalm 146

Starting in May, our opening Psalm will be 146 to the tune Ripley:

Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah!
 O my soul, Jehovah praise!
 I will sing the glorious praises
 Of my God through all my days.
 Put no confidence in princes,
 Nor for help on man depend;
 He shall die, to dust returning,
 And his purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses
 Jacob's God to be his aid;
 He is blessed whose hope of blessing
 On the LORD his God is stayed.
 He has made the earth and heaven,
 Seas and all that they contain;
 He will keep His truth forever,
 Rights of those oppressed maintain.

Food Jehovah gives the hungry,
 Sight Jehovah gives the blind,
 Freedom gives he to the pris'ner,
 Cheer to those bowed down in mind.
 Well Jehovah loves the righteous
 To the stranger is a stay,
 Helps the fatherless and widow,
 But subverts the sinner's way.

Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah!
 O my soul, Jehovah praise!
 I will sing the glorious praises
 Of my God through all my days.
 Over all GOD reigns forever,
 Through all ages He is King;
 Unto Him, thy God, O Zion,
 Joyful hallelujahs sing.



The children of Joy Reformed Presbyterian Church school in Nakuru, Kenya send us their thanks for the money we collected and sent to them in March.

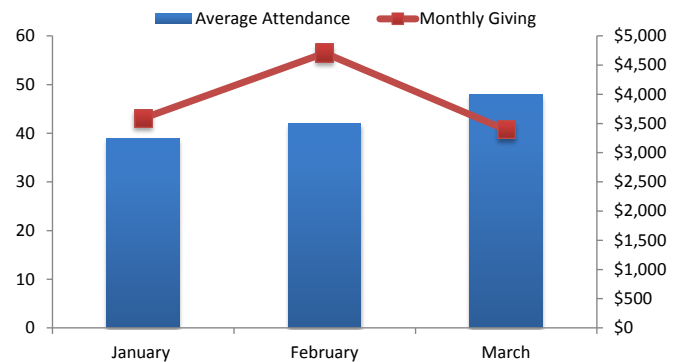


Statistics

March average attendance: **48**

March tithes and offerings: **\$3,390 total;**

weekly average: **\$678**

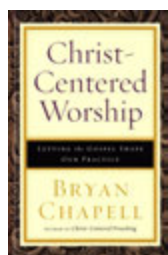


Library Recommendations on Corporate Worship

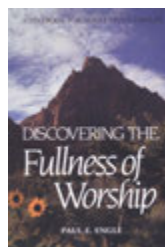
Corporate worship is what we gather to do every Sunday morning: worship God together as a body, as his body, his people. If you want to learn more about why we worship God the way we do on Sunday mornings and have a deeper understanding and experience of our corporate worship, here are some titles you can check out from the church library.



“Gospel-Driven Presbyterian Worship” (chapter 7) in *On Being Presbyterian: Our Beliefs, Practices, and Stories* by Sean Michael Lucas. Here you will learn about what God’s word says about worship, and how his word regulates our worship, and how the gospel gives shape to our corporate worship of covenant renewal on Sunday mornings.



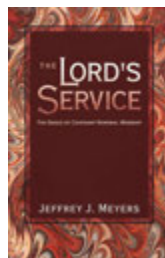
Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice by Bryan Chapell. The church’s worship has always been shaped by its understanding of the gospel. Here Bryan Chapell offers a Christ-centered understanding of worship that teaches how churches can shape their worship based on Christ’s ministry to and through them and how the gospel should shape every element of our corporate worship.



Discovering the Fullness of Worship by Paul Engel. In a day when many false views of worship exist, Engel goes straight to the Bible to explore this subject using both the Old and New Testament. The study offers practical help in understanding the parts of a worship service, preparing for worship and enriching the private and corporate worship experience.



O Come, Let Us Worship: Corporate Worship in the Evangelical Church by Robert Rayburn. A classic about the nature and significance of public worship and the meaning of the different elements we incorporate in our worship services. Biblical theology is integrated with practical directives for developing the worship service.



The Lord's Service: The Grace of Covenant Renewal Worship by Jeffrey J. Meyers. Begun as a practical pastoral guide to worship, this book balances theory and praxis to create a compelling case for a biblical, aesthetic, and covenantal worship service as the place where the Triune God and His people renew the bonds of love and loyalty.

Women’s Book Study

GLOW is sponsoring a monthly study for all women based on Stormie Omartian’s book *The Power of a Praying Woman*. Women wanting a strong and fruitful prayer life will find the means to that end in this book written for the feminine heart. Stormie uses personal illustrations, Scriptures, and heartfelt prayers to help women develop a vision for their future, avoid a “pray-and-run” existence, and find wholeness and completeness in God’s embrace.

The May meeting is **Saturday, May 11, at 9:30** in the church fellowship hall



Men’s Breakfast

Saturday, May 18, 8:30 a.m. In preparation, read Thomas Watson’s *The Godly Man’s Picture* section 4, “A Godly Man Is Like God.”

Missionary Update



is a Ph.D. engineer who is working to meet energy and water needs in the local community.

Their spring letter is posted on the narthex bulletin board for anyone to read, but here is an excerpt from Jacinda:

The school now serves over 100 students; approximately 80 students are “day kids” (who go home to their families at night) and 20 are “boarding kids,” whose families live in the mountainous interior of the island. Last weekend we gathered with the dorm kids and dorm parents to have a group discussion about making wise choices in the face of temptation. When I asked everyone to list some Biblical examples, Ester, a fourth grader said, “Matthew 4!” I had to ask her to remind me what happened in Matthew 4 (Jesus was tempted to submit to Satan in the desert). Ester proceeded to share the example of Joseph standing up to Potiphar’s wife’s seductive behavior, and the example of Job resisting the temptation to curse God when his life was falling apart. What a joy it was to see how discipleship-based education is shaping the character of these future leaders!

Matt and Jacinda Basinger, with their two young sons Zeph (Zephaniah) and Ezra (just born on October 29!), are serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship in the highlands of Papua, Indonesia. They recently finished a yearlong study of Indonesian language and culture on the island of Java and are now beginning their work in Papua. Jacinda is a counselor serving at a Christian school there and Matt

Our church supports the Basingers at the rate of \$25 per month. You can follow them online at mattandjacinda.blogspot.com.



Gospel of John Bible Study for Women

**Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m.
Starting May 14**

in the church fellowship hall. The study will run through August. **Child care will be provided.** Contact Eileen for more information.



School's Out!

Remember to pray for our college students who are returning home for the summer. We look forward to seeing Sarah Bacote, Luke Eskelund, and Tehillah Eskelund in September!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30p Prayer Meeting	2	3	4 12p GLOW Mother's Day Potluck
5 New City Street Fair 10a Sunday School 11a Worship (Communion and Deacon's Fund) 12:30p GLOW 3:15p Northern Metropolitan Chapel †† Mrs. Bakker ☉ Rosales v/v Phillip Dennis	6	7 11:15a Summit Park Hospital Chapel ☪ Taraja Amoako-Poku	8 7:30p Prayer Meeting	9 7p Classical Conversations Info Meeting	10	11 9:30a Women's Book Group
12 10a Sunday School 11a Worship 2p Ramapo Manor Chapel †† Mr. Blacklock ☉ Dennis	13	14 7p Women's Bible Study	15 7:30p Prayer Meeting	16	17	18 8:30a Men's Breakfast
19 10a Sunday School 11a Worship †† Mrs. Dennis ☉ Mapes v/v Hank Bakker	20	21 9a Presbytery 7p Women's Bible Study 7:30p Session	22 7:30p Prayer Meeting	23	24 ☪ Barbara Voss	25
26 10a Sunday School 11a Worship †† Miss Mapes ☉ Bakker	27	28 7p Women's Bible Study	29 7:30p Prayer Meeting	30	31	

From a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures.

Family				Secret				
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter	Date	Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Numbers	8	Psalms	44	1	Song	6	Hebrews	6
Numbers	9	Psalms	45	2	Song	7	Hebrews	7
Numbers	10	Psalms	46, 47	3	Song	8	Hebrews	8
Numbers	11	Psalms	48	4	Isaiah	1	Hebrews	9
Numbers	12, 13	Psalms	49	5	Isaiah	2	Hebrews	10
Numbers	14	Psalms	50	6	Isaiah	3, 4	Hebrews	11
Numbers	15	Psalms	51	7	Isaiah	5	Hebrews	12
Numbers	16	Psalms	52, 53, 54	8	Isaiah	6	Hebrews	13
Numbers	17, 18	Psalms	55	9	Isaiah	7	James	1
Numbers	19	Psalms	56, 57	10	Isaiah	8, 9:1-7	James	2
Numbers	20	Psalms	58, 59	11	Isaiah	9:7-21, 10:1-4	James	3
Numbers	21	Psalms	60, 61	12	Isaiah	10:5-34	James	4
Numbers	22	Psalms	62, 63	13	Isaiah	11, 12	James	5
Numbers	23	Psalms	64, 65	14	Isaiah	13	1 Peter	1
Numbers	24	Psalms	66, 67	15	Isaiah	14	1 Peter	2
Numbers	25	Psalms	68	16	Isaiah	15	1 Peter	3
Numbers	26	Psalms	69	17	Isaiah	16	1 Peter	4
Numbers	27	Psalms	70, 71	18	Isaiah	17, 18	1 Peter	5
Numbers	28	Psalms	72	19	Isaiah	19, 20	2 Peter	1
Numbers	29	Psalms	73	20	Isaiah	21	2 Peter	2
Numbers	30	Psalms	74	21	Isaiah	22	2 Peter	3
Numbers	31	Psalms	75, 76	22	Isaiah	23	1 John	1
Numbers	32	Psalms	77	23	Isaiah	24	1 John	2
Numbers	33	Psalms	78:1-37	24	Isaiah	25	1 John	3
Numbers	34	Psalms	78:38-72	25	Isaiah	26	1 John	4
Numbers	35	Psalms	79	26	Isaiah	27	1 John	5
Numbers	36	Psalms	80	27	Isaiah	28	2 John	1
Deuteronomy	1	Psalms	81, 82	28	Isaiah	29	3 John	1
Deuteronomy	2	Psalms	83, 84	29	Isaiah	30	Jude	1
Deuteronomy	3	Psalms	85	30	Isaiah	31	Revelation	1
Deuteronomy	4	Psalms	86, 87	31	Isaiah	32	Revelation	2