

FUMC Westfield Highlights Holy Week, Easter Services

WESTFIELD — The First United Methodist Church (FUMC) Westfield has revealed its schedule of Holy Week and Easter services. The community is invited to join the congregation at all services in remembrance of Jesus' last days, death and resurrection.

Holy Week begins this Sunday, April 14. FUMC will hold Palm Sunday worship at 10 a.m.

The church's Maundy Thursday service will be held April 18 at FUMC, and streamed live on its Facebook and Instagram accounts, at 7:30 p.m.

FUMC's Good Friday service will take place April 19 at the church, and streamed live on its Facebook and

Instagram accounts, at 7:30 p.m. Easter Sunday will be celebrated April 21 with a Sunrise Service held at FUMC, and streamed live on its Facebook and Instagram accounts, at 6:30 a.m. An Easter Brunch will take place at 9 a.m., and Easter Worship will be offered at 10 a.m.

FUMC Westfield holds worship every Sunday at 10 a.m., with Christian Education programs for all ages at 9 a.m. and Fellowship Time following worship at 11 a.m. The church building is located at 1 East Broad Street, Westfield. For more information about FUMC, visit the church online at fumcwestfield.org, on Facebook (FUMC Westfield) or on Instagram (fumcwestfield).



JUBILATION...Easter Sunday is celebrated at the First Congregational Church of Westfield with glorious hymns and choral music featuring organ and brass quartet, as well as the inspirational readings and message.

FCC Invites Community To Celebrate Holy Week

WESTFIELD — The leaders and members of the First Congregational Church of Westfield invite all to observe Holy Week with them during special services beginning on Palm Sunday, April 14, and continuing through Easter Sunday, April 21, in its sanctuary at 125 Elmer Street, Westfield.

The Palm Sunday service this Sunday will begin with a Palm Processional led by the congregation's children. Children are invited to meet in Wightman Chapel Lounge prior to the 10 a.m. worship time to receive palms and prepare for the

processional. Maundy (Holy) Thursday will be observed on April 18, at 7:30 p.m., with a candlelight service recalling the Last Supper and Jesus' final hours through scripture, hymns, dramatic reflection and Communion. A Good Friday service of meditation and reflection will be held on April 19, at 7:30 p.m., in the church's Patton Auditorium.

Easter Sunday worship celebrations will take place at 9 and 11 a.m. Both services will feature music for organ and brass quartet, including Widor's "Toccata" and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." A One-Room Church School and infant care will be available at both. The Reverend Mark Boyea, senior minister, will deliver the morning's message.

The First Congregational Church of Westfield is a spiritual community with a rich history of encouraging freedom of thought and a strong commitment to supporting and serving those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. In all aspects of its life and mission, the church welcomes and affirms people of every race, age, gender, marital circumstance, sexual orientation and expression, physical or psychological ability, economic condition, ethnic origin and theological tradition.

First Congregational Church is a member of the United Church of Christ. The sanctuary is accessible via a wheelchair ramp and features a hearing loop for the hearing impaired. For further information, call the church office at (908) 233-2494 or visit fccofwestfield.org.

Alzheimer's Group To Meet April 19

WESTFIELD — Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey, a non-sectarian health and social service agency, will host an Alzheimer's Support Group, through Alzheimer's New Jersey, on Friday, April 19. It will take place from 10 to 11 a.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at 140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield.

This program is free and open to Alzheimer's/Dementia caregivers in the community and is run in accordance with Alzheimer's New Jersey guidelines. Participants are welcome to join the group at any time. The support group is not suitable for individuals with the dementia diagnosis.

Registration is recommended. If planning to attend, or seeking more information about the JFS program for Alzheimer's and Dementia Disorders, contact Alice Greenberg-Sheedy, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, at agreenberg-sheedy@jfscentralnj.org or (908) 352-8375.

Imagine Offers Training In Providing Grief Support

MOUNTAINSIDE — Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss, will present a training program entitled "Supporting Children, Teens and Adults Coping with Loss" from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 25. It will be held at Imagine, located at 244 Sheffield Street, Mountainside.

Participants will learn the definitions of loss, grief and mourning; how children and adults grieve differently; how grief affects behavior, and ways to support grieving children, teens and adults.

This training is for anyone who wants to learn how to support someone who is grieving. While loss due to death will be the primary focus of this seminar, the concepts that will be presented are applicable to all types of loss. This program is especially designed for parents and grandparents, teachers, members of community orga-

nizations, coaches, therapists, counselors and social workers.

"The most important thing a grieving child needs is the active presence of at least one, preferably more, caring, healthy and functional adults in their lives who understands that when a child has a loss they need support," said Imagine's Executive Director and founder, Mary Robinson. "This program will teach you how to be that presence in the life of a grieving child or youth."

A \$20 donation is appreciated. Pizza dinner will be provided at 6:15 p.m. and the program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Interested persons are asked to RSVP by Tuesday, April 23. To RSVP or for further information, contact Connie Palmer at connie@imaginej.org or call (908) 264-3100.

Imagine is a free grief support center for children ages 3 to 18 and young adults ages 18 to 30 who are coping with loss due to the death of a parent or sibling, or coping with a family member living with an illness. Concurrent support is provided for the parents and guardians of the youth. Imagine is located in Mountainside, serving all of Union County and beyond, and in Newark's South Ward, serving Newark and surrounding towns. For more information, call (908) 264-3100 or visit imaginej.org.



Photo: Nancy Noonan, Cranford

HOLY WALK...The Trinity Episcopal Church of Cranford is preparing to observe Holy Week, leading up to the celebration of Easter, beginning with Palm Sunday on April 14. Pictured, congregants form a Palm Sunday procession during a previous Holy Week.

Trinity Episcopal Plans Services For Holy Week

CRANFORD — The Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 119 Forest Avenue, Cranford, welcomes all to celebrate Holy Week services at the church from April 14 to 21.

"We invite everyone to join us for these very special Holy Week services which encapsulate the heart of the Christian faith," said the Reverend Andy Kruger, Trinity's Priest-in-Charge.

Holy Week will begin on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14. The service opens with the Liturgy of the Palms commemorating the joy of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. This is followed by a dramatic reading of the Liturgy of the Passion according to St Mark. Mass will be held at 8 a.m. (Rite I Liturgy) and 10 a.m. (Rite II Liturgy) with choral music.

Contemplative Holy Eucharist services will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 15, 16 and 17, at 7:30 p.m. each evening. These are said services with readings followed by instrumental music.

The Maundy Thursday commemoration April 18 will commence at 7:30 p.m. It will begin with the ritual of hand washing, showing the true meaning of

servant hood. The service will then focus on the institution of the Eucharist within the context of the Last Supper Jesus celebrated with his disciples. Attendees will witness the stripping of the altar and exit in silence. Those who wish to may keep the vigil through the night as the disciples did with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday will be observed on April 19 with Stations of the Cross at 7 a.m. and a Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m.

The Stations of the Cross service stops at each station, in order to say selected readings to honor the Passion of Christ.

The Taize form of worship utilizes short, repetitive chants and periods of silence to nurture a quiet meditative space for participants to encounter God. The church will be specially decorated for the service with Taize-inspired elements to create an environment of intimacy.

Easter Sunday Eucharist will be offered April 21 at 8 a.m. (Rite I) and 10 a.m. (Rite II) with music.

For more information about the Trinity Episcopal Church, call (908) 276-4047 or visit trinitycranford.org/

First Pres. of Cranford Plans Music-Filled Holy Week

CRANFORD — The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, located at 11 Springfield Avenue, will offer multiple opportunities to join in family-friendly worship during the Easter season. Services include both traditional and unique worship experiences.

Palm Sunday will be observed this Sunday, April 14, with 10 a.m. worship celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. All will gather in the main sanctuary and wave palms while the children process down the aisles, praising and singing hosanna. Additionally, the Adult Choir will sing.

The Maundy Thursday service will take place at 7:30 p.m. on April 18 in the church's Snyder Memorial Chapel (signs will indicate where to go). This worship service will commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples before His passion through reflections on traditional scriptures and communion served in an intimate setting.

An Easter "Sonrise" Service will be held April 21, at 8 a.m., in the narthex of the church. Weather permitting, everyone is welcomed to come and worship outside and bask in the spring air while celebrating Jesus' resurrection with an "un-plugged" acoustic version of Easter worship.

A traditional Easter Service will be offered at 10 a.m. in the main sanctuary. Full choirs, music and flowers symbolizing rebirth will enrich the celebration of Christ's resurrection. All are invited forward at the end of the service to sing Handel's "Hallelu-

jah Chorus."

After the Easter festivities, everyone is invited back the following week for a special celebration of the Helen K. Baldwin Nursery School.

On Sunday, April 28, at 10 a.m., in the main sanctuary, congregants will celebrate the 63 years of Helen K. Baldwin's service to Cranford and beyond. Teachers, parents, current students and alumni are encouraged to attend.

For more information about the church and its services, call the church office at (908) 276-8440 or visit its website at firstprescranford.org/.

Historical Society To Host 'Hat Box Tea'

CRANFORD — The Cranford Historical Society's Third "Victorian Hat Box Tea" fundraiser will take place on Sunday, May 5, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Back by popular demand, it will be held at the Hanson House, located at 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford. The cost is \$25 per person. Those interested are asked to RSVP by Saturday, April 13, as seating is limited to 24.

Participants can mail a check, made out to Cranford Historical Society, to: 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, N.J. 07016. Flyers can be obtained at the Cranford Public Library, 224 Walnut Avenue; the Hanson House, and the Crane-Phillips House Museum, 124 North Union Avenue, Cranford.

Gail Alterman, costume curator for the Cranford Historical Society, will be the guest speaker for this event. Two hat boxes and a Victorian floral chandelier will be raffled off. There also will be a 50/50 raffle and a door prize.

The Cranford Historical Society has been dedicated to the perpetuation of Cranford's history by continuing to collect items and document the township's past. For more information, visit cranfordhistoricalsociety.com.

Guided Meditation On Tap at Library

MOUNTAINSIDE — Mountainside resident Sally Younghans will be at the Mountainside Public Library to lead an hour-long session of "Guided Meditation for Inner Peace" on Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. The library is located at 1 Constitution Plaza. It will be closed on April 19 in observance of Good Friday.

Palm Sunday Choral Event To Begin Holy Week at IHM

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Music Ministry of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Parish will offer a choral narrative of the Passion Story on Palm Sunday, April 14, at 3 p.m. The presentation, based on the Gospel of St. Mark, is free and all are invited. IHM is located at 1571 South Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of IHM's observances associated with Holy Week, culminating with the celebration of Easter. This year the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered in conjunction with St. Bartholomew the Apostle Parish of Scotch Plains. Priests from both parishes will be on hand to welcome and bless penitents at IHM this evening, Thursday, April 11, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, April 13, at 4:45 p.m. They also will be available at St. Bartholomew, located at 2032 Westfield Avenue, on April 13, from 2 until 4 p.m., and on Tuesday, April 16, at 7 p.m.

Holy Thursday, recalling the Last Supper, will be observed on April 18. Mass will be offered at IHM at 7:30 p.m. followed by Eucharistic reflection.

On Good Friday, April 19, all are invited to walk the Way of the Cross at either noon or 7 p.m. Veneration of the Cross will take place at 3 p.m. Holy Saturday, April 20, will see a morning prayer service at 8:30 a.m.

IHM's Easter Celebration begins with a Vigil Mass at 8 p.m. on April

20, which also serves to welcome new catechumens into the church. The spirit of rejoicing extends into Easter Sunday, April 21. Masses on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday will follow IHM's normal Sunday schedule: 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and noon.

For additional information and directions, call the Parish Office at (908) 889-2100 or see the parish website at ihmparish.net.

Fanwood Egg Hunt Is This Saturday

FANWOOD — The borough of Fanwood will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, April 13, beginning at 10 a.m. sharp, at Forest Road Park. The rain date is the following Saturday, April 20, at the same time and place.

All children age 10 and under are invited to meet the Easter Bunny and join the fun. Almost 2,000 eggs filled with all sorts of goodies — including hundreds of prize tickets — will be hidden around the park.

Additionally, even more prizes will be given out to the winners of the jellybean-counting, chocolate egg-counting, bunny-drawing and egg-decorating contests. Participants are asked to bring their own completed bunny drawings and decorated eggs.

For more information, go to fanwoodrecreation.org or call Fanwood Recreation at (908) 370-7092.

Village Shop at Levi Cory Posts Spring Opening Hours

MOUNTAINSIDE — The new Village Shop located in the Mountainside Restoration Committee's Levi Cory House has announced special Spring opening hours. The shop will be open this Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13, and on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Levi Cory House officially opened to the public in December. The circa 1818 house, which was moved to Constitution Plaza five years ago, was originally located at the corner of New Providence Road and Mountain Avenue. The house was the location of the first Children's Country Home, during the 1890s, before expanding to its current location as the Children's Specialized Hospital.

After years of repair, renovation and restoration, the Levi Cory House now opens as a Museum for Children's Interests and the Village Shop.

The Village Shop serves as a fundraiser for the continued restoration of the Levi Cory House and maintenance of the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House. The shop has been restocked with hundreds of new items for gift giving, as well as home décor, jewelry, antique and vintage items,

furniture pieces and many interesting items and curiosities. All are offered at reasonable prices. Purchases benefit the Mountainside Restoration Committee.

The Levi Cory House and Deacon Andrew Hetfield House are located at Constitution Plaza (Watchung Avenue, off Birch Hill Road), adjacent to the Mountainside Public Library.

The Mountainside Restoration Committee is a 501(c)(3) charity and a committee of volunteers whose purpose is to maintain the Deacon Andrew Hetfield House, restore and maintain the Levi Cory House and collect and save historic Mountainside information and items from destruction. For further information, call (908) 789-9420 or go to mountainsidehistory.org.

Westfield Egg Hunt Happening Saturday

WESTFIELD — The 84th Annual Westfield Children's Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Westfield, will be held this Saturday, April 13, at the Mindowaskin Park playground at 1 p.m.

Youngsters through grade 3 and their families should gather with a basket or bag in which to collect the plastic eggs. The collected eggs will be traded in to the Kiwanians and Westfield High School Key Club members for bags of jelly beans.

The Easter Bunny will be on hand for picture taking with children in attendance. The Kiwanis Club, the local chapter of the international club, is the adult sponsor of the Key Club, which is a community service organization. For more information about the clubs or the Easter Egg Hunt, contact Kiwanis President John-Michael Jones at grayfdjr@gmail.com.

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