



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ✨

Pastor Lou

SCRIPTURE

John 3: 16-21

Don Winchell  
Pew Bible pg. 94

ANTHEM

*"Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace"*  
(Luke 2: 29-32)

**Donovan Klotzbeacher**  
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2: 1-12

Pew Bible pg. 2

SERMON

"The Gift, the Giver, the Giving"

Dr. Louis Mitchell

### THE RESPONSE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*"This Little Light of Mine"* **African American Spiritual**  
Bell Choir

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)\*

*"Doxology"*

Prayer of Dedication\*

HYMN #27 (Hymnal)\*

*"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"*

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.** [The Minister continues.]

*God is praised for the history of faithfulness shown to God's people. The congregation then joins the celestial choirs and all the faithful of every time and place to sing:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The prayer continues with thanksgiving for the life and work of Jesus Christ. The Words of Institution are recalled. The elements are set apart for their sacred use, and we offer ourselves to God's service. Then, this response:*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

*The presence of the Holy Spirit is sought, as well as God's blessing on our lives. The prayer concludes with a Trinitarian doxology.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Please come forward by a side aisle. At the front, take a piece of bread and dip the bread in the cup before eating. Those unable to come forward will be served in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN #63 (Hymnal)\*                      *"As with Gladness Men of Old"*

RESPONSE\*                                      *"Threefold Amen"*                                      **Traditional  
Bell Choir**

BENEDICTION\*

POSTLUDE\*                                      *Processional*                                      **Colin Hand  
Organ**

**\*ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**22 South Main Street**  
**Cranbury, New Jersey 08512**

Telephone No. (609)395-0897

Fax No. (609)860-6552

Founded 1734

Dear Friends,

It is the season for singing and celebration. Many of us have enjoyed “Lessons and Carols” in the Sanctuary, caroling with our Youth Group at the Elms, the Christmas Luncheon where we were led in song, the Sunday School students and teachers providing a wonderful prelude to our Worship Service and our awe-inspiring Christmas Eve services.. This, and the faith we share, in such a beautifully decorated Sanctuary is inspiring. We are blessed by our talented staff, great volunteers and participation by many of our congregation in supporting our missions and ministries.

Many of you have been generous givers throughout 2014, as total offerings have exceeded what we expected at the beginning of the year. Nevertheless, many of you are contemplating your contribution for 2015. If you believe, as I do, that we are a community of faith that is blessed with a very active and vital ministry for children, youth, adults and seniors, will you consider renewing your pledge for 2015 by going “above and beyond” your gift from 2014? Your gifts, of any size, will make a BIG difference for all that our congregation does in the community and the world at large.

Wishing all of you blessings of the Christmas season and a wonderful New Year.

Ken Gordon  
Moderator, Stewardship & Finance

P.S. Many donors inquire about giving a year-end gift of appreciated securities. Please contact the church office (or download instructions from the Stewardship & Finance section of our website) for additional information.

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**PASTOR**  
THE REV. DR. LOUIS MITCHELL

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY & CHRISTIAN ED**  
MR. BRETT BUTLER

**PARISH ASSOCIATE**  
THE REV. SUZANNE SCHAFER-COATES

**Visitors!** We hope you will find a warm welcome here. We invite you to consider membership in our church family. Please speak to one of the greeters or pastors after worship for more information; or if you would like to be contacted by the Outreach Committee, please provide us with your address and/or email address in the red “friendship pad”.

**Childcare is provided during worship.** Children from birth to age 2 may be taken to the infant room, and children age 3 through Kindergarten are welcome in the toddler room. Linda Protinick is the Nursery Coordinator.

Our congregation is very happy to have children participate in worship with their family as part of our church family! “Worship bags” containing quiet faith activities are available in the narthex for children to enjoy during worship.

**Hearing devices** are available for your convenience in the narthex. The ushers can assist you.

**Gluten free bread** will be presented on the bread and cup trays which are served to those who do not come forward.

**Communion Servers** are Pat Demers, Jim Dixon, Jean Dunham, Heidi Knowlton and Larry White.

**Coffee Hour** today is hosted by Barbara Hannon and Margo Wegner.

**Greeters** are Linda Campbell and Earl Davison.

**Head Usher** is George Arsnow.

**Prayer Chain** If you have a prayer request, or if you would like to become part of the “chain” of church members, who pray daily with and for people with a particular need, please call the church office at 609/395-0897.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Church members with special needs:** Marge Bloom; Will Ellsworth; Marlene French; Bill Keller; Scott Kerr; Claire Maselli; Karen Moser; Karen Moutenot; Russ Richardson; Mark Sasso; Russell Sutton; Doris Wiegartner and Ann Zimmerman.

**Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked:** Vicki Bain’s mother, Joan Stiles; Alan Balcomb’s sister, Elizabeth Goodfellow; Alan and Barbara Balcomb’s friend, Don Driggers; Barbara & Arthur Danser’s, friend, Lynda Patterson; Jean Dunham’s sister, Pat; Arlene Duran’s daughter, Catherine Lepp; Paul & Janet Furchak’s friend, Lori Sigley; Gail Geijer’s son, Dan; Mark Hughes’ grandmother, Olga Zelder; Bryan Nemeth’s friend, Ellen Weiner; Fran Stewart’s father, Eugene Feeny; and Gretchen Stults’ granddaughter, Jodi Mallette & family.

**We pray for all the people** who are in need in our wider community and please remember family and friends in our nation’s service.

**Prayer Requests in the Bulletin:** In order to keep the prayer request list up to date we will print the names of friends and family of church members who have prayer requests for one month. After that time you may call the church office to have a name reappear on the prayer list.

Please be sure to **sign** the “**Pipeline to Session**” cards found in the pews if you have any questions/concerns for the Session. This is a great way to give “kudos” as well!

**Birthday of Distinction:** Rose Eller on January 5.  
**Happy Birthday!**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Cranbury Men’s Bible Study (Sundays 8:00 p.m.):** All men are invited to join us in a relaxed setting at the Cranbury Inn. Please contact Brett Butler for more information. There will be **NO** Men’s Bible Study tonight and January 4.

## CPNS

We hope everyone had an extra special Christmas with family and friends, and the chance to have some relaxing quality time together. CPNS has been closed for the Christmas holiday and will be back tomorrow, January 5; however, our teachers continue to plan and look forward to sharing our time together in the new year making many happy memories.

The 2015-2016 registration process for the Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School begins on Monday, January 12, and Tuesday, January 13 for our currently enrolled children. On January 20, January 21, and thereafter church members, siblings of alumni, and siblings of currently enrolled children, as well as our volunteers in the Cranbury Fire Department and Cranbury First Aid Squad can register. The general public can register beginning on Monday, February 2. This year we will be having an Open House on Wednesday, January 28, more details to follow in January. Anyone attending this informational session will have the chance to register before the general public. Please tell your friends and neighbors about this opportunity to register before the general public and let them know about our very special Christian preschool.

We wish you all a Blessed New Year!

## MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS

**Snippets from the Year Book of Prayer:** In the drought-afflicted summer of 2012 a devastating high Park fire burned over 136 square miles of mountain terrain near Fort Collins. On June 12, Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, 30 miles north of Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center in Allenspark, Colorado, was forced to evacuate. The Lutheran camp faced losing an entire

summer's program. The Highlands camp immediately invited their Lutheran neighbors to share space of the Presbyterian camp. Cabins, tents, recreational facilities, and worship space were opened wide as the camp population tripled. Office space and nursing quarters were shared, the kitchen worked double time to accommodate the influx. For almost a month, the two camps ran programs side by side, with each week capped by a shared service of Holy communion in which Christian unity was affirmed in sacrament and song. A grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance helped Highlands host their new friends until Sky Ranch was able to reopen.

**Trenton Area Soup Kitchen News (TASK):** We will not be going to TASK in January, for the first Thursday of the month falls on New Year's Day. Anyone over the age of 13 is welcome to join us starting in February. Please call Anne Gordon if you would like to serve.

**Mission Dinner Fundraiser (Formerly Guatemala Dinner):** Our mission dinner is quickly approaching. Don't miss the wonderful opportunity for church fellowship, entertainment and a delicious meal. There are a limited number of tickets being sold, so buy them today.

We will be serving dinner on Friday, February 6 and Saturday, February 7 beginning at 7:00 p.m. with open seating beginning at 6:30 p.m. Both nights will have entertainment.

The cost of the meal will be \$50.00 per person (remember this is a fundraiser). You may want to attend both evenings to experience the variety of entertainment being offered. We will be selling only a limited number of tickets, so plan on buying your ticket early. They are on sale now and will be available during coffee hour (see Lil or George Conley) or call the church office. We are offering a filet mignon, grilled salmon, or stuffed chicken, as your main entrees along with all the trimmings and a delicious desert to top it off with.

Checks can be made payable to The First Presbyterian Church (tax deductible) memo: Mission dinner. Any amount above the \$50.00 fee will be greatly appreciated. Please save this date, we are counting on you for our success in this project.

## **SENIOR FELLOWSHIP**

**Senior Exercise Schedule:** January 5, January 8, January 12, January 15, January 19, January 22, January 26 and January 29

## **STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE**

**Counting Teams:** 1/4 (Team #3) – 1/11 (Team #4)

**2015 Pledge Envelopes:** Pledge envelopes are available to pick up in **Room 1**. **Please note:** You may have a new number for 2015, so please use your new envelopes in January.

## **WORSHIP**

**January is open for flowers!** If you would like to place flowers in the church, please contact Diane Smith at 609-890-0822.

**Do you have an extra hour or two 4 or 6 times a year?** Would you like to help the church? Would you like to be part of a great team?

The Ushers Guild is always looking for new members. Every week the ushers provide an invaluable service before, during and after the Sunday services. If you are interested in joining one of our many teams, or would like more information, please contact: Caren Anuszewski the Ushers Guild Coordinator at (609)587-8883 or email her at [ccrabbeg91@optimum.net](mailto:ccrabbeg91@optimum.net).

The **Lay Reader Schedule** for January to June 2015 is available in Fellowship Hall. We are always looking for, and welcome, new lay readers. If you have any questions, please call Joan Fraser.

## **OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR**

### **January 4, 2015 (Epiphany Sunday)**

9:15a Christian Ed for all ages (CRs/Lib./FH/McK Rm/Rm 1)  
10:30a Worship with Communion followed by coffee hour  
11:00a Meadow Lakes Communion Worship Service  
4p–5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice – upstairs classroom  
6:15p–8p Boy Scouts – McK Rm (GC)

### **January 5, 2015**

10:00a Senior Exercise  
1:30p Martha's Circle – Lib.  
7:30p Brass Choir  
8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm

### **January 6, 2015 (Epiphany of the Lord)**

**9:00a Bulletin Material Due**  
9:30a Staff Mtg.-Church Office  
1:00p Outreach Committee Meeting- Lib.  
7:30p Christian Ed. Meeting-Lib.  
7:30p MS&G Meeting-FH  
7:30p Stewardship & Finance-Church Office  
7:30p AA – McKnight Room

### **January 7, 2015**

7:30p Bell Choir

### **January 8, 2015**

10:00a Senior Exercise  
4:30p- Children's Choir - Sanctuary  
7:00p Worship Meeting—Lib.  
7:30p B&G Meeting-Lib.  
7:30p P&A Meeting-church office (upstairs)  
7:30p The Chorale - Sanctuary

### **January 9, 2015**

9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office  
8:00p–9:00p AA (Promises 12 Steps)McK Room

**January 10, 2015**

9:00a-3:00p Equipping the Saints Training – Princeton  
Theological Seminary (Stuart Hall, 64 Mercer St.,  
Princeton)

**January 11, 2015 (Baptism of the Lord)**

9:15a Christian Ed for all ages (CRs/Lib./FH/McK  
Rm/Rm 1)

10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour

11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service

4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice – upstairs classroom

6p – 7:30p Sr. High Youth Group-FH

8:00p-9:00p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn