

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church
Please join us for fellowship and refreshments at “Coffee Hour” in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.
(✦ Latecomers may be seated.)

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2015 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

Voluntary in A Minor

John James
Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please sign the red “friendship pads” found at the end of each pew by the center aisle. Note the names of those worshipping around you as you pass the pad back. We encourage you to greet each other after the service.)

INTROIT

“Give to our God immortal praise”

Donovan Klotzbeacher
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brett Butler

The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

He lays down his life for his sheep.

Surely goodness and mercy are with us

and we will live in God’s house forever.

Let us worship God.

HYMN #123 (Hymnal)*

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

God of all hope and joy, we confess that we continue to live in fear. We speak of your great love but our own hearts condemn us. We express concern for the poor but our own actions betray us. Forgive us, God of grace. Good shepherd, restore our souls and lead us in right paths for your name’s sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)*

“Gloria Patri”

THE PEACE* ✦

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ✚

Pastor Brett

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9: 1-18

Joan Fraser
Pew Bible pgs. 127-128

ANTHEM

"Shall we gather at the river"

arr. John Carter
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 1: 11-24 & Philippians 3: 4b-11

Pew Bible pgs. 187, 198

SERMON

"Easter People"

Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

HYMN*

"Easter People Raise Your Voices"

Regent Square

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in
Earth should ring. Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
Heavenly music, let it ring. Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing
here below. For our Lord empowered us to
triumph over every foe. Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Mitchell

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 GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

J. S. Bach
Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

"Doxology"

Prayer of Dedication*

Mr. Butler

HYMN #111 (Hymnal)* *“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!”*

RESPONSE* *Choral Amen*

The Chorale

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE* *“Christ lag in todesbanden”*

Heinrich Bach
Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

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 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.

Friends, as we prepare to worship please be mindful of our neighbors in the pews who are allergic to strong scents and perfumes. Either refrain from wearing perfume or lessening the amount of perfume worn to church on Sundays. We want everyone to be comfortable and healthy as we worship the Lord together! Thanks very much for your thoughtfulness. We are also considering designating a "perfume free area" of the sanctuary.

The Flowers in the chancel today are given by his wife, Margaret, and family to celebrate the life of Edgar Lawson.

Head Ushers are Ken Ellsworth and Ginny Swanagan.

Greeters are Earl Davison and Heidi Knowlton.

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: Will Ellsworth; Cyndi Girardet; Bill Keller; Karen Moser; Karen Moutenot; Matt Rhodes; Russ Richardson; Mark Sasso; Margo and Larry Wegner.

Meadow Lakes members with special needs: Peg Dubell; Warren Moore; and Bob Smith.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: Vicki Bain's mother, Joan Stiles; CPNS Board Member, Chris Cenci; Jean Dunham's sister, Pat; Joan Fraser's friend, Rev. Greg Keosaian; Paul & Janet Furchak's nephew, Bobby Hennessy; Gail Geijer's son, Dan; Mark Hughes' grandmother, Olga Zelder; Leah Moy's friend, JoAnn Post; Fran Stewart's father, Eugene Feeney; 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: Anne Taylor on April 28. **Happy Birthday!**

APNC

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee members would like to ask the members of the congregation to keep our team in their prayers as we move forward during the process of selection of a new Associate Pastor. Prayers for guidance, wisdom and unity from the Holy Spirit in leading us to the perfect match for our needs will be much appreciated.

Thank you, In Christ's Service,

Jo D. Andrews, Courtney Brown, Jane Curran, Bea Davison, Charles Ill, Mike Kasper, Jennifer Kong, Janice Luffey, Vicki Waciega, and Diane Yeager.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Vacation Bible School: We are already getting all ramped up with excitement here getting ready for VBS 2015!!

Pastor Suzanne Schafer-Coates, Youth Director, Brett Butler and VBS Coordinator, Cassandra Khazem are heading up a team of volunteers to help with the planning and organization for VBS and we are looking for team members!

We are looking for the following volunteers to help work together with our leaders:

- 3 - Volunteers to help with Staffing
- 2 - Volunteers to help with Advertising
- 1 - Volunteer to help with Registration
- 1 - Volunteer to help organize a Decorating Team
- 1 - Volunteer to help with the Mission Project

Please feel free to email anyone of us (firstpressuz@comcast.net, bbutler532@gmail.com and/or ckhazem@gmail.com), if you are interested in being a small part of this amazing adventure!

VBS 2015 Everest! Join us from July 27 to July 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for an awesome and unforgettable VBS experience!

At Everest, kids discover what it means to hold on to God's mighty power in everyday life. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and dig into yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Summit Celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

Registration is \$27 per child for the whole week! It's easy and fast, just visit this website to register today!

www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/cranbury

Cranbury Men's Bible Study (Sundays 8:00 p.m.): All men are invited to join us in the church office. Please contact Brett Butler for more information.

Mark Your Calendars!!! Adult Retreat Coming Up In May! Imagine yourself relaxing and enjoying the natural beauty and peaceful surroundings of the Fellowship Deaconry in Liberty Corner, NJ while deepening your faith along with others from our church family.

Our upcoming Annual Adult Retreat will take place this year on May 1 and May 2. We are blessed to have the Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates lead us in reflection and discussion as we consider the biblical teachings of Jesus and how they guide us in our lives today. How does Jesus speak to us and how do we respond?

This year marks the 28th year anniversary of the Adult Retreat. For those of you who have never attended but are wondering what it's like now is a wonderful time to find out. To those of you who have attended in the past, we hope you'll join us again.

Look for more info and sign ups in upcoming weeks. Look for the sign up table during coffee hour in fellowship hall. Transportation is available on the church van for all who are interested. Barbara Santoro will be our driver. If you have further questions or would like more information, please see Dorothy Klotzbecher (Mrs. K) or call her at 732-521-2026.

CPNS

The parents and families of all of our CPNS children will have the opportunity for parent/teacher conferences this week. Communication is continuously shared with our families, and

our parent teacher conferences is just another opportunity for building this relationship. Working together to ensure each child's success is so important for their academic future. We are currently registering for the 2015-2016 school year, as well as our Pre-Summer and Summer Programs. Please let your friends and neighbors know about the opportunity to send their child to our Christian preschool. Ask them to email or call me for a private tour of our school. We look forward to sharing our wonderful school with the families of our church and our local community. Registration forms can be found on our church website, or at CPNS.

MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS

Snippets from the Year Book of Prayer: At the American Biblical University in San Jose, Costa Rica, a requirement, in order to graduate, is for each student, even distant ones, to complete 150 hours of community service in Costa Rica. One student dedicated her 150 hours and many more, to serving children in the marginalized community of La Isla, even while she worked hard on finishing her degree program. These students are living the prophet Micah's answer to "With what shall I come before the Lord?" with these words, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Feeding our Children: It would seem that we, as Christians, have no choice but to feed our children, not just those in our family, but all children.

We remember the passage from Matthew 7:9-11 "Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him." Our answers to these questions are automatically "no." Of course, we'll give the child the food, the fish! But do we? Do we support the projects that feed the children of our country, of our world? As Christians, feeding the children should be a primary objective. On May 17 at the BREAD FOR THE WORLD Annual Offering of Letters, we'll have an opportunity to urge our Senators and Congressional Representative to vote against proposals that would undermine our help in keeping our children well-nourished and healthy. Join us in the Fellowship Hall to send your letters.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Senior Exercise Schedule: April 27, April 30, May 4 – starting at 10:30 a.m., May 7, May 11, May 14, May 18, May 21

Upcoming Event: Senior Fellowship will go to the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton on Tuesday, May 12. We will depart from the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. sharp. Once we arrive, we will be walking the grounds, the indoor museum and the Domestic Arts buildings for about 3 hours. You will be on your own to tour as you wish. No food can be brought with you so you will be purchasing your lunch at the Peacock Cafe where you can eat it inside or outside in their beautiful Acer Courtyard.

If you are not on our calling list and you would like to go with us on this trip, please preregister by calling the church office by Wednesday, May 6 at 609-395-0897 and leaving your name and your PHONE NUMBER. Please wear sunscreen, comfortable walking shoes and sunglasses. If it should rain we will be rescheduling this trip.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Counting Teams: 4/26 (Team #3) – 5/3 (Team #4)

	Week Ended 4/19/15
Weekly Offering	\$10,812
YTD Offerings	\$161,412
YTD Expenses	\$123,835
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$37,577
YTD Per Capita	\$4,822
% of 2015 Assessment (\$21,286) = 22.7%	

Session is asking for your help in supporting our ministry by covering the cost of our "per capita" assessment as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church, USA. The amount of this assessment is \$35.30 per active member. The per capita is paid for by all active members, including youth who have been confirmed.

What is the Per Capita? The per capita is an annual assessment paid by all presbyteries to synod and General Assembly in order to fund the operating and administrative expenses of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Per capita pays for services and resources offered by Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly for use by congregations. The total assessment for our Church in 2015 is \$21,286. Of this amount, Monmouth Presbytery is required to remit \$2,412 to the Synod of the Northeast and \$4,263 to the General Assembly of PC (USA), the remainder, or \$14,611, is retained in our Presbytery.

WORSHIP

Flower Openings: We have two openings in May - Sunday May 17 and May 31. If you are interested, please call Diane Smith at 609-890-0822. Thanks.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

April 26, 2015

- 9:15a New Member Class - Lib
- 9:15a Christian Ed for all ages (CRs/FH/McK Rm/Rm 1)
- 10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour
- 11:30a Operation Easter Mtg. - Library
- 11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service
- 4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice--CR upstairs
- 5p - 6p Jr. High Youth Group - FH
- 6p- 8p Sr. High Youth Group-FH
- 8p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study-Church Office

April 27, 2015

- 9:00a - 3:00p CPNS Parent/Teacher Conferences - Lib/Rm 1
- 10:00a Senior Exercise
- 7:15p APNC Mtg.- Lib.
- 7:30p Brass Choir
- 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm

April 28, 2015

- 9:00a Bulletin Material Due**
- 9:00a - 3:00p CPNS Parent/Teacher Conferences - Lib/Rm 1
- 9:30a Staff Mtg.-Church Office
- 7:00p Presbytery Meeting - Lakewood Hope
- 7:30p Deacons - FH
- 7:30p AA - McKnight Room

April 29, 2015

- 9:00a - 3:00p CPNS Parent/Teacher Conferences - Lib/Rm 1
- 7:30p Bell Choir

April 30, 2015

- 9:00a - 3:00p CPNS Parent/Teacher Conferences - Lib/Rm 1
- 10:00a Senior Exercise
- 7:00p Intrepid Warriors Planning Meeting - Library (GC)
- 7:30p The Chorale - Sanctuary

May 1, 2015

- Annual Adult Retreat at the Fellowship Deaconry, Liberty Corner, NJ (VAN)
- 9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office
- 9:00a - 3:00p CPNS Parent/Teacher Conferences - Lib/Rm 1

May 2, 2015

- Annual Adult Retreat at the Fellowship Deaconry, Liberty Corner, NJ (VAN)
- 9:00a - 12:00p Session Records Review - FH

May 3, 2015

- 9:15a Christian Ed for all ages (CRs/Lib/McK Rm/Rm 1)
- 10:30a Worship with Communion followed coffee hour
- 11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service
- 4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice--CR upstairs
- 5p - 6p Jr. High Youth Group - FH
- 6p- 8p Sr. High Youth Group-FH
- 6:15p-8p Boy Scouts - McK Rm (GC)
- 8:00p-9:00p Cranbury Men's Bible -Church Office