

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

5th Sunday in Lent

March 13, 2016 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE *“Jesus, priceless treasure”* **G. Ph. Telemann**
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.)

MINUTE FOR MISSION OGHs Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates
(One Great Hour of Sharing)

INTROIT *“O praise the Lord, all ye nations”* **Donovan Klotzbecher**
(Ps. 117) The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Louis Mitchell
Like Mary, who lavished her treasure on the feet of Christ,
we come now to worship and offer ourselves to the Lord.
The things we once treasured are worthless,
compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus!
Let us worship God.

HYMN #466 (Hymnal)* *“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*
Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you. We fix our minds on former things, missing the new thing you are doing. We focus on worldly treasure and gain, forgetting the value of knowing Christ. Forgive us, God of grace. Through the great mystery of faith deliver us from our captivity to sin and lead us from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)* *“Gloria Patri”*

THE PEACE* ✈

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ✚		Pastor Lou
SCRIPTURE	Philippians 3: 4b-14	Lil Conley Pew Bible pg. 198
ANTHEM	<i>"Boundless Mercy"</i>	Spiritual, arr. Donovan Klotzbeacher The Chorale
SCRIPTURE	John 12: 1-8	Pew Bible pg. 106
SERMON	<i>"Random Acts of Lavish Love"</i>	Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

HYMN #102 (Hymnal)* *"Were You There?"*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 *"Lord Jesus Christ, be present now"* **G. Ph. Telemann**
Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)* *"Doxology"*
Prayer of Dedication*

HYMN #371 (Hymnal)* *"Lift High the Cross"*

RESPONSE* *Choral Amen*
The Chorale

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE* *"I call to thee, Lord Jesus"* **G. Ph. Telemann**
Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

Announcements

Visitors! We hope you will find a warm welcome here. We invite you to consider membership in our church family. Please speak to our Greeter or Pastors after worship for more information; or if you would like to be contacted, 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.

Flowers are given by Jim and Debbie Taylor in loving memory of Debbie’s parents, Dorothy and Wilson Schnell and her aunt, Lillian Gustafson.

Coffee Hour is hosted by Pat Bohrs.

Head Ushers are Stan and Helen Dickerson.

Greeter is Jack Britton/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: Bill Chermak; Robert Dyke; Will Ellsworth; Bob & Carol Kane; Walter “Pete” Keve; Matt Rhodes; Russ Richardson; Marge Scott; Barbara Wahlers; and Ina Zimmer.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: David Anderson’s father, Robert; Betty Borgeson’s sister, Martha; Helen Dickerson’s mother; Joan & Gordon Fraser’s son, Iain; Gaylord French’s wife, Molly; Gail Geijer’s son, Dan; Mark Hughes’ grandmother, Olga; Rob Irving’s daughter, Emma; Noël & Danny Kinney’s son, JP; Andy Kremann’s brother, Timothy; Sharon Ramkishun’s niece, Kaitlyn; Dale & Joan Smith’s sister-in-law, Beverly; Mary Speer’s brother, Ralph; Gretchen Stults’ granddaughter, Jodi & family; and Agnes Winchell’s sister, Aniko.

We pray for all 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!

Birthdays of Distinction: Jean Nostrand on March 13; Margaret Lawson on March 16; Marie Perrine on March 16 and Pat Scott on March 17. **Happy Birthday!**

CPNS

We will be having our first ever Easter Parade with the children on March 23 and 24. If it's not on your calendar yet, please add it. The times are on March 23 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and then again on the March 24 at 11:00 a.m. All programs will be in our sanctuary. It will be a wonderful celebration for the children as well as those that attend. We have always had Palm Day programs, but with our Easter break the week after Easter we thought we should have an Easter Parade instead. Our music teachers are so excited to share this new program with everyone, we hope you will be able to come and enjoy it.

The 2016-2017 registration process for the Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School has begun. We are also registering for our pre-summer and summer programs. The registration forms can be found on our website. Please tell your friends and neighbors about our Christian preschool.

SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, April 23, 2016

CPNS's First Ever Gala Event Celebrating Mrs. K (Dorothy Klotzbeacher) for over 30 years of love and nurturing at the Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group Schedule:

Middle Schoolers 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. High Schoolers 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS

Save the Date! On **Saturday, April 9, Better Beginnings** will have its Shining Star Gala to benefit the child development center; a non-profit agency. For details and tickets, contact Loida Wilson at loidawilson@comcast.net.

SKEET'S PANTRY GETS READY FOR EASTER: Doesn't seem possible, but our next Skeet's Food Pantry Day is Friday, March 18 which will be our Easter food distribution. So we're stocking up on all our favorite food staples again, and asking for your help with:

**PANCAKE SYRUP ♦ TUNA FISH ♦ CANNED BEANS
CANNED FRUIT ♦ PASTA**

Our congregation and community friends of Skeet's Pantry have continued to be magnificent! Your donations of food and funds are making it possible for a lot of local folks and families to smile just a bit more when meal time rolls around – so we THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts.

A big round of applause, too, goes to all of our volunteers. The work they do behind the scenes as well as on Pantry Days are really amazing. This is truly an “all-church” mission – maybe even an “all community” mission, given the help we also get from people and groups from Cranbury, Plainsboro, Jamesburg and more. So here’s to all of you – give yourselves a great big pat on the back!!!

That Little Presbyterian Church in Syria: When I think of Syria, I think of people leaving, fleeing from danger and fleeing towards a new life. Currently, more than 7 million people have been displaced from their homes. But not all of them have fled from Syria itself. Some of them have settled in the relatively safe northwest province of Tartous. Hundreds of thousands of families have fled from nearby cities and towns and settled in the vicinity of Yazdieh. And it is there that many of them find succor. A small Presbyterian Congregation in Yazdieh. Syria is ministering to more than 1,700 displaced families, providing food baskets, assistance with housing, pastoral care and much more. What a blessing to know that even in beleaguered Syria through small dedicated churches the love of Jesus Christ is being extended to those in the shadow of death.

Gretchen Stults

SCOLARSHIPS

The Women's Club of Cranbury will be awarding two \$2,000 scholarships to Cranbury Township students who will be entering their first year of post-secondary education. The student should demonstrate a commitment to community involvement.

The application can be obtained through school Guidance Offices, the Women's Club website at cranburywomensclub.org and the Cranbury Public Library.

The completed application must be submitted on or before April 30, 2016 to the following address: The Women's Club of Cranbury, PO Box 94, Cranbury, NJ 08512

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Senior Exercise Schedule: March 14, March 17, March 21, March 24, March 28 (NO CLASS), and March 31

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Counting Teams: 3/13 (Team #1) – 3/20 (Team #2)

	Week Ended 3/6/16
Weekly Offering	\$9,521
YTD Offerings	\$120,895
YTD Expenses	\$67,044
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$53,851
YTD Per Capita: \$2,998 (14% of \$21,780)	

Per Capita: Supporting our denomination is an important part of any congregation that is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This denomination support is used to pay for services and resources offered by Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly for use by our congregation or any other congregation that is part of PC (USA). Since the denomination support paid from our operating budget is only a portion of the total assessment for our Church, Session is asking for your help in supporting our ministry by covering the cost of per capita. The amount of this assessment is **\$36 per active member**. The *per capita* is paid for by all active members, including youth who have been confirmed.

WORSHIP

Usher Needed: We are in need of 1 Usher to fill the remaining empty spot on one of our 2016 Ushering Teams. Please contact Heidi Knowlton at cabotk@comcast.net if you're interested.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

March 13, 2016 (5th Sunday in Lent/Daylight Savings Time begins)

9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour
11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service
Sr. High Johnsonburg Trip - VAN
4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice
5:30p-6:30p Middle Schoolers-FH

March 14, 2016

10:00a Senior Exercise
7:30p Brass Choir
7:30p Congregational Life Mtg-Lib.
8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm

March 15, 2016

9:00a Bulletin Material Due for March 20, March 24, and March 25
9:30a Staff Mtg.-Church Office
11p-4p Sr. Fellowship Luncheon (West Windsor)-VAN
4:15p Children's Choir-Sanctuary
7:30p Session Mtg - FH
7:30p AA - McKnight Room

March 16, 2016

9:00a Skeet's Food Pantry Packing
7:30p Bell Choir

March 17, 2016

8:30a Senior Breakfast at the Cranbury Inn
10:00a Senior Exercise
7:30p The Chorale - Sanctuary

March 18, 2016

8:00a-10:30a Skeet's Food Pantry Distribution
9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office

March 19, 2016

12:00p-2:00p Easter egg prep

March 20, 2016 (Passion/Palm Sunday)

9:15a Celebration Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School (CRs/Lib./FH/McK Rm/Rm 1)
10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour
11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service
11:45 Lib. Cmte - Lib.
4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice
5:30p-6:30p Middle Schoolers-FH
6:30p-8p Boy Scouts - McK Rm (GC)
6:30p-8p High School Youth Group-FH/Youth Rm