

Welcome to Worship at The First Presbyterian Church
Please join us for fellowship and refreshments at “Coffee Hour” in the
Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Passion/Palm Sunday

March 25, 2018 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

March
(Judas Maccabaeus)

Geo F. Handel
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

“Blessed Is the One” music & lyrics, **Jo D. Andrews**
Piano arrangement, **George Andrews**
Children’s Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in love.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!
Let us worship God.

HYMN #89 (Hymnal)*

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

PRAYER OF CONFESSIOIN (In Unison)*

God our Redeemer, we confess that we are people of ashes and dust. We join the parade and shout hosanna, then deny our Lord in his hour of need. We wave the palms and sing praise, then hand our Savior over to die. Forgive us, God of grace. Our lives are in your hands—deliver us from evil. Save us, by your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)*

“Gloria Patri”

THE PEACE*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Mark: 11: 1-11

Janet Furchak

Pew Bible pg. 47

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Palm Parade

HYMN #88 (Hymnal)

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

ANTHEM

Palm Sunday Welcome French, arr. Austin C. Lovelace

The Chorale and Children’s Choir

SCRIPTURE

Mark 15: 25-39

Pew Bible pg. 54

SERMON

“Cries of Joy, Anger and Sorrow”

Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

HYMN #93 (Hymnal)*

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

LITANY FOR LENT AND PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Because temptation is woven into the fabric of our lives, and we know the weariness of forty days in the desert, and the beckoning power of constant activity, and the vain promises of achievement,

God, we turn to you for rest, so we may lay our burdens down.

Because we still see the broken before the whole, and the half empty cup, and the unfinished task, and the thirst for freedom,

God, we turn to you for healing, so we may be made whole.

Because we trust in what we can see, and we are blinded by our prejudices, and we will not admit what we do not know,

God, we turn to you for truth, so we may stop pretending.

Because our need to be right exceeds our need for truth, and our excuses preempt the cry of the wounded, and our celebration of blessing is mindless of those who go without,

God, we turn to you for compassion, so we may join your community of caring.

Because you came among us in Jesus, and breathe life into our souls, and reach out a hand to heal our pain, and take up the cross, that we might be made new, and the world made new through us,

God, we turn to you for hope, so that we may claim the new life you offer each of us through Christ.

Because the cross is not the end of the story; as Easter dawns, Christ is alive with the power of your self-giving love.

God, you are the source of light, hope, and resurrection, in this Lenten season and in every season.

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.

OFFERINGS AND ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Offertory

Meditation on a Plainsong Kyrie

G. Winston Cassler
Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

"Doxology"

Prayer of Dedication*

HYMN #91 (Hymnal)*

"Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"

RESPONSE*

Choral Amen

The Chorale

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

Joyous Postlude

M. Florentine, PHJC
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”.

Worship Bags, Children’s Bulletins & Coloring Pages! All three are available in the narthex, and are offered with the hope that children who want to will be able to worship alongside the whole church family.

Hearing devices are available for your convenience in the Narthex.

Coffee Hour today is hosted by Monty & Peg Hagerty and Heidi Knowlton.

Head Ushers are Bob and Carol Kane.

Greeter is Jack Britton/Heidi Knowlton.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church members with special prayer concerns: Betty Borgeson; Bill Chermak; Robert Dyke; Paul Furchak; David Geijer; Judson Hagerty; Beatrice Mabutho; Karen Moser; Charlie Patterson; Marie Perrine; Russ & Cheryl Richardson; Wilma Shimer; Diane Smith; Agnes Winchell and Ina Zimmer.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: CPNS family, baby Nicholas & family; Pat Demers’ husband, Bob; Helen Dickerson’s mother, Martha & brother, Clifford; Linda Ferguson’s sister, Patty & daughter-in-law, Kristin; Joan & Gordon Fraser’s friend, Joe; Patricia Grasso’s mother, Eileen & friends, Barbara, Joanne & Debbie; Fritz & Mary Jane Hager’s daughter-in-law, Liz; Andy Jost’s mother, Clarissa; Dorothy Klotzbeacher’s ex-husband, Rev. John Maltby & daughter, Nancy & son-in-law, Bob; Flo Kremann’s son, Ronnie; Beatrice Mabutho’s sister, Phyllis, brother-in-law, Joe & niece, Diana; 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. Members of our church family are encouraged to make prayer requests for relatives serving in our armed services, most especially those serving in harm’s way.

Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer concern, please call the church office at (609)395-0897 or email Doris Wiegartner at doriswieg@aol.com. 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.

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: Mary Jane Hager today, March 25. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!**

CHOIR NEWS

The Introit today is one of the children’s favorite songs to sing in our repertoire. It brings them great joy and as a result, the Introit has become our Annual Palm Sunday Celebratory Song. Yes, we have sung it before, but each year new children join our choir. And, those who know the anthem have even more fervor as they praise the Lord, Jesus Christ, who is about to enter Jerusalem.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School: Many thanks to all who participated in our wonderful Celebration Sunday this morning! No Sunday School next week, April 1 (no foolin’!)

Youth Group – March 25

2:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. High School Interfaith Youth Event @ Hightstown
Presbyterian Church (meet at our church)

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group

Yardsale Fundraiser! The Youth Group is participating in the town-wide yard sale on Saturday, April 28, and would graciously accept any items you’d like to donate to their cause starting April 1. So clean out your closets and your basements, and bring donated items (that you think will sell) to the church in April. Please organize drop-offs with Pastor Hannah ahead of time. Proceeds will support their Summer Mission Trips to New York City and Lorain County, Ohio.

This month's Book Club meets tomorrow, March 26: Join us from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Room 1. We will be discussing *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.

Mark your calendars!!! Adult retreat coming up in May: Tired of all the snow, the shoveling and the cold, long, dark days of winter? Then imagine yourself relaxing and enjoying the natural beauty and peaceful surroundings of the Fellowship Deaconry in Liberty Corner, New Jersey while deepening your faith along with others from our church family.

Our upcoming Annual Retreat is just weeks away and will take place this year on May 4 and May 5. We are blessed to have Loida Wilson as our leader. Loida will be leading us in a study on the Gift of Encouragement based on the book *Silver Boxes*. Scripture tells us to ‘...encourage one another and build one another up...’ (1 Thessalonians 5:11) and to ‘...consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...’ (Hebrews 10:24). Join us as we reflect how we as Christians can show love and encouragement to our brothers and sisters. This is sure to be an uplifting weekend!

This year marks the 31st 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. And for those who have attended in the past, we hope you'll join us again.

Look for the sign up table in upcoming weeks 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 call Dorothy Klotzbecher (Mrs. K) at (732)521-2026.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Annual Pancake Breakfast on April 8: Please join us in Fellowship Hall for an all church Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 8, before worship from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Coffee Hour Host(s) NEEDED! Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall if you are interested. If you have any questions, please contact Fran Stewart at (609)395-7159 or email her at frannymag58@aol.com.

CPNS

Happy Easter! Please join us for one or all three of our Easter Parades. They will take place on Wednesday, March 28 at 11:00 a.m. and on Thursday, March 29 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us.

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year has begun. As you begin to research your options for a preschool for your child, please consider CPNS. Please call Janice Parker at (609)655-8663 or email her at CPNSchool@comcast.net for more information. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors about our developmentally appropriate academic Christian preschool. We don't want anyone to miss the opportunity to give their children the strongest foundation for their child's academic success.

DEACONS

At coffee hour this morning, the Deacons will be selling beautiful spring mugs (designed by Ginny Swanagan) and pillows. All items are \$12.00 each. The proceeds from their sale will benefit the Deacons Benevolence Fund.

MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS

One Great Hour of Sharing: Today, we will be dedicating the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering. Through this longstanding, ecumenical effort, Presbyterians share God's love through ministries that provide relief to those affected by disasters, food for the hungry and support toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.

There are envelopes in the pews, in the Narthex and Gifts may also be easily made online at www.presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs. Children have an opportunity to share God's love too, by filling their fish boxes with coins and dollars.

Our goal this year is to raise \$3,300. We can do it, because we are a congregation that shares and cares!

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome! If you are looking for a church home, we would love for you to be a part of our congregation. Our new member classes will be on April 15, April 22 and April 29 beginning at 9:15 a.m. in the church library. The new member recognition will be on May 6 during the Worship Service. Pastor Lou Mitchell will lead these sessions. This is your opportunity to learn what it means to be a member of our church. We are a congregation which offers members of all ages opportunities to join in fellowship and grow in their faith. Please call the church office at (609)395-0897 and let us know you want to participate or if you have any questions.

OTHER NEWS

Springtime at Johnsonburg! Come see and experience the natural beauty of this place, set apart by God. Johnsonburg is yours to enjoy!

The **Women's Spring Retreat**, scheduled for April 20-22 promises to be a fun weekend of fellowship with other women with engaged worship, small group discussions, hiking, boating, zip line, delicious meals, massage, campfire, star watching and lots of laughter. Lodges are furnished with new comfy mattresses (Tempur-pedic, no less) and fresh bed linens.

Retreat fee is \$160 per person; private rooms are available for \$180. For more information and to register online visit www.campjburg.org.

Spruce Up Day, scheduled for Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., is a fun filled day of service! Put your faith in action, meet new people, and work with others as you assist the camp staff in preparing the facilities for summer. There is a job for every age and ability. Lunch is included. More information about projects and what to bring will be provided when you register at www.campjburg.org.

Contact Anne Gordon for carpooling options at (609) 409-7885 or agordon321@outlook.com.

2018 Summer Camp Brochures are available now from Pastor Hannah or register your child for summer camp on the Johnsonburg website at www.campjburg.org.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Lenten Challenge: Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the ones who receive them and they bless you the giver. Doing this challenge has been a true blessing for us.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Senior Exercise Schedule: March 26, March 29, (April 2 – NO CLASS), April 5, April 9, April 12, April 16, April 19, April 23, April 26 and April 30

Senior Fellowship: We have a wonderful group and hope to see you at one of our programs. If you are interested in our schedule of programs or in joining one of our exercise classes, please call the church office at (609)395-0897 and we will have someone call you.

SMALL GROUPS

Prayer Shawl Group (Knitters and Crocheters): Our initial meeting has been rescheduled to **Thursday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 1.** Prayer shawls have been made for centuries. They comfort and enfold; wrap and warm; mother and hug; shelter and embrace. Those who knit and those who receive shawls are blessed.

We can enjoy our handiwork and good fellowship while reaching out to those who may be comforted by receiving our shawls.

Don't knit? Don't crochet? Want to learn? We will have instructors there for you! Try it—you'll like it! You don't have to bring anything—we will have needles, etc. for you to use to get started. (Actually, we need a crochet instructor—let me know if you can help that day.) If you have any questions, please call Doris at (609)395-7099.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Counting Teams: 3/25 (Team #3) – 4/1 (Team #4)

	Month Ended 2/28/18
YTD Offerings	\$81,896
YTD Expenses	\$81,475
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	\$421
YTD Per Capita	\$1,576 (7% of \$21,978)

Per Capita Message: Commit yourself to work and live in fellowship with “all persons in every nation.”

“We understand a disciple to be one who gives generously, who serves faithfully, who reaches out to include others in the faith, and who regularly seeks spiritual growth through study, participation in small groups, private and corporate worship.”

- Excerpt from the Monmouth Presbytery mission statement

Please consider contributing your per capita of \$37/member!

WORSHIP

Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, March 29, 2018

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Tenebrae and Communion Service

Good Friday, March 30, 2018

12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Prayer and Meditation
2:30 p.m. Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service – Church Courtyard
No Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Easter Worship and Communion Service



Help Wanted: The Worship Committee is actively seeking three persons to work as a team coordinating communion once a month. If you would like to be part of the communion team, please email Pat Bohrs at pbohrs@verizon.net or call the church office at (609)395-0897. **Our heartfelt thanks** to Renee Welch and Chris Welch for their years of service as our communion coordinators! We wish them all the best in their new endeavors!

Lay Readers Needed: We are looking for lay readers for now through June 2018. We welcome new readers to join our team, and would be happy to see your name for one or two Sundays on the sign-up sheet which may be found on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Ushers Needed: We have a number of vacancies to fill on our Ushering Guild. All ages are welcome to participate! If you are interested in joining our ushering team, please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)480-1976 or email her at cabotk@comcast.net.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

March 25, 2018 (Palm Sunday)

9:15a Celebration Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt

10:30a Worship and Palm Parade followed by coffee hour

2:30-4:30p High School Youth Grp Interfaith Event -Hightstown(VAN)

5p-6:30p Middle School Youth Grp (Yth Rm)

5:30p-7p Boy Scouts Blue & Gold Night (FH)

March 26, 2018

10:45a CPNS Easter Parade Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

10:00a Senior Exercise

7:00p Brass Choir

7:30p-9:00p Book Club (Rm 1)

8:00p Al-Anon (McK Rm)

March 27, 2018

9:00a Bulletin Material Due

10:45a CPNS Easter Parade Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

9:30a Staff Mtg

10:50a-4:00p Sr. Fellowship Lunch Trip (VAN)

12:45p CPNS Easter Parade Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

3:30p Children's Choir

7:30p AA (McK Rm)

7:00p Deacons Mtg (FH)

March 28, 2018

11:00a CPNS Easter Parade (Sanctuary)

7:00p Bell Choir

March 29, 2018 (Maundy Thursday)

9:00a Bulletin Assembly (Church Office)

9:00a-12:00p Church Office hours

10:00a Senior Exercise

11:00a CPNS Easter Parade (Sanctuary)

2:30p CPNS Easter Parade (Sanctuary)

7:30p-8:30p Maundy Thursday Service

8:30p The Chorale

March 30, 2018 (Good Friday)

CPNS/Church Office closed

12:00p-2:30p Open Prayer (Sanctuary)

2:30p Good Friday Service

March 31, 2018

April 1, 2018 (Easter Sunday)

7:00a Easter Sunrise Service (Courtyard)

10:30a Easter Worship Service w/Communion followed by coffee hour