

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

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 24, 2019 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

Voluntary in E Minor

John Stanley
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

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart”

Donovan Klotzbecher
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP

1st -4th Grade Sunday School Class

Wait for the Lord; be strong!

The promises of God will never be broken.

With God as our light, what is there to fear?

The promises of God will never be broken.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

The promises of God will never be broken.

HYMN #625 (Hymnal)*

“How Great Thou Art”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

Holy One, Yours is a story of grace and mercy. Yours is a harvest of righteousness and truth. Yours is a gospel of goodness and sharing. Yours is a love that overflows. Forgive us for the ways we fall short of your call. Convict us of our failings. Enlighten us to your truth. Enliven us for your service. Empower us through your forgiveness. Shower us with your grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS*
HYMN #581 (Hymnal)* *"Gloria Patri"*
THE PEACE*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE Psalm 27 Dina Ellsworth
Pew Bible pgs. 503-504

ANTHEM *Two Spirituals* arr. by Donovan Klotzbeacher
(Deep River, Steal Away) The Chorale

SCRIPTURE Luke 13:31-35 Pew Bible pg. 77

SERMON "The Fox, the Hen and the Cross" Rev. Marie Branigan

THE RESPONSE

HYMN #213 (Hymnal)* *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

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 *"According to Thy Gracious Word"* Gilbert M. Martin
Organ

Hymn #606 (Hymnal)* *"Doxology"*

Prayer of Dedication*

HYMN*

“We’re Citizens of Heaven”

Tune: “O Jesus I have Promised” #724; Biblical Reference: Phil: 3:17-4:1

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We’re citizens of heaven; we know where we belong.
O God, your love surrounds us; we sing your kingdom song.
The grace of Christ transforms us; in him our life is found;
We sing with joy and gladness, for we are heaven-bound.

We’re citizens of heaven here in an earthly home;
Lord, it can be a challenge to live as you have shown.
With loyalties divided, we wonder what to do—
To follow wealth and power, or bravely follow you?

We’re citizens of heaven; renew our sense of call.
Lord, deepen our commitment to serve you over all.
For we are your creation; by grace, we are your own.
Forgive our sinful wanderings and bring your people home.

Lord, give your church the courage to love and serve you more—
To worship you more gladly, to welcome in the poor,
To pardon as you pardon, to give in all we do—
That, heaven-bound, your people may daily live for you.

RESPONSE*

Chorale Amen

The Chorale

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

Toccata del quarto tuono

Luzzasco Luzzaschi
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 Pastor 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 is hosted by the 1st -4th Grade Sunday School Class.

Head Usher is Heidi Knowlton.

Greeter is Jack Britton/Heidi Knowlton.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church members with special prayer concerns: Bill Chermak; Bob Demers; Rose Eller; Carol Fisher; Joan Fraser; Paul Furchak; David Geijer; Sally Giovanos; Judson Hagerty; Scott Kerr; Lucille Kirkenir; Beatrice Mabutho; Charles Patterson, Jr.; Charles Patterson, Sr.; Marie Perrine; Russ & Cheryl Richardson; Ken Rossman; Wilma Shimer; Diane Smith; and Hennie Sushereba.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked:

Helen Dickerson’s mother, Martha & brother, Clifford; Judy Duke’s soon to be son-in-law, Peter; Gail Geijer’s son, Dan & sister, Jane; Mark Hughes’ father, John; Carol Kientz’s cousin, Steve; Dorothy Klotzbeacher’s ex-husband, Rev. John Maltby & son-in-law, Bob; Karen Lovaglio’s friend, Antwon; Michael Lovaglio’s friend, Kyle; Anita McManus’ sister, Nancy; Karen Moser’s friend, Andrew; Art Ryba’s sister-in-law, Patricia; Doris Wiegartner’s friend, Tyler; Loida Wilson’s cousin, Charo & friend, Kathleen; Agnes Winchell’s sister, Aniko; and Walter Wright’s daughter, Mary Alice.

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 Daune Arsnow at deersnow@verizon.net. 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!

Birthdays of Distinction: Mary Jane Hager on March 25, Joan Brown on March 28 and Beatrice Mabutho on March 29. **Happy Birthday!**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Study Luke this Lent! Join us for a Lenten Bible Study on The Gospel of Luke on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. in the Library (**March 25, April 1, 8, 15**).

Sunday School: Children are invited to Gathering Time from 9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning in the Library, followed by Sunday School from 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

On **April 7**, Sunday school students will enjoy a pancake breakfast with their Sunday school teachers during the Sunday school hour at our Annual All Church Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall!

Save the Date! Vacation Bible School (VBS): Join us on June 24 through June 28 for VBS – To Mars & Beyond! You can register at <https://tmab.cokesburyvbs.com/FirstPresCranbury>.

Youth Group (Sundays): Joint Middle School and High School Youth Group tonight from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Book Club! Join us for our next book club meeting tomorrow **Monday, March 25** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 1. We will be reading *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann. Pastor Hannah Lovaglio will be our discussion leader.

Save the Date – May 3 -4 for our **32nd Annual Adult Retreat** at the Fellowship Deaconry in Liberty Corner, NJ. The church van will once again be available for those who would prefer to go as a group. Watch for upcoming details.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Save the Date - Annual All Church Pancake Breakfast on April 7: Please join us in Fellowship Hall for our Annual All Church Pancake Breakfast including egg casseroles, fruit and gluten free options. Breakfast will be served from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome and everyone is encouraged to invite a friend.

CPNS

Preschool children are learning all the time and they learn by being actively involved in all they do. They are excited and curious about the world around them and we want to encourage their exploration and help them develop their natural curiosity. We need to teach children how to learn for a lifetime of learning. We want them to get along with others and become enthusiastic learners as well as becoming independent and self-confident individuals.

We are having a Parent Education night in April for our families of CPNS, our church family, and families in our surrounding community providing helpful information regarding how preschoolers learn. Please **Save the Date, Monday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Hannah Lovaglio and Dr. Janice Parker will be sharing information about raising a reader and writer, technology and young children, kindergarten readiness, and the spiritual development of young children. Please join us; light refreshments will be served and child care will be provided.

The registration for the 2019-2020 school year has begun. Please let your friends and neighbors know about CPNS. We want everyone to take advantage of giving their children a developmentally appropriate academic, Christian preschool experience.

DEACONS

Coffee Hour: Anyone who signs up for Coffee Hour will have a Deacon helper if they want a Deacon helper. There are two sign-up lists; the first is to sign-up to be a Coffee Hour Host. The second is to volunteer to bring a plate of cookies or crackers or the like to help the host. If you have any questions, please contact Fran Stewart at (609)395-7159 or email her at frannymag58@aol.com.

OUTREACH

Lenten Challenge: This Lent, we invite you to commit to **40 Acts of Kindness**. We heard about the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke Chapter 10:30-36 given by Jesus when he answered the question “who is my neighbor?” In this parable, Jesus asked us to love your neighbors, including everyone, people we love, people we don’t like, even people who despise us.

I pray God gives us the heart and the strength to not only be kind to the people we love and the people who love us, but also to be loving to the people we don’t like and the people who don’t like us.

Dinner for Eight: What better time than now, to gather, with our church family for an evening of fellowship and good food. Please join us for Dinner for Eight. We are looking for guests and hosts or hostesses for this semi-annual event. Sign up today at a table located in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please call Carol Fisher at (609)655-5153.

Church Name Badges – Available Soon!! The Outreach Committee invites you to sign-up to purchase a magnetic name badge to wear to church services, meetings and events. You may have seen members of the Outreach Committee wearing their name badges. Sign-up at coffee hour with any Committee member or email Audrey Smith at aud123abc@aol.com to place your order. Please be sure to give us the spelling of your name the way you want it to appear on your name badge. The badges cost Outreach \$7 each – any contribution you might wish to make would be great!

SENIOR BREAKFAST CLUB

Please join us for Senior Breakfast Club on **Thursday, March 28** at 8:30 a.m. at The Cranbury Inn. The program will be about a Harbor Pilot. It will be presented by Captain Ron Perry and Bob Kane.

The Senior Breakfast Club is open to all who wish to hear these events at our Thursday, once-a-month breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at the Cranbury Inn. If you wish to attend, and have not done so before, please notify the church office at (609)395-0897 so that we can contact you. We need to notify the Cranbury Inn with the number of guests that will attend. The cost of breakfast is \$6 payable at the Inn. For information, contact Fritz Hager at (609)655-2787.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Sr. Exercise Schedule: March 25, March 28, April 1, April 4, April 8, April 11, April 15, April 18, (April 22-NO CLASS), April 25 and April 29

SMALL GROUPS

Prayer Shawl Group: Join us in Room 1 on **March 28, April 11 and April 25** at 11:00 a.m. Knit or crochet along with us. We need to prepare an inventory of shawls so they are ready whenever needed by one of our Pastors or one of the Deacons. We'd love to welcome you into our group. While we knit together, we enjoy our fellowship time together – so will you!

Religions of the World.... our focus is to increase our knowledge and understanding of the religious faiths in our community.

In late April, there will be a visit to the Mosque on Old Trenton Rd.... **date to be advised.**

Additional Interfaith Knowledge Sharing..... sponsored by Chesterfield Baptist Church on March 31 at 4:00 p.m. for those who are interested: “Town Teach-In” will be held at Chesterfield Baptist Church, 209 Matthews Lane, Chesterfield, NJ. Please join us for a lively discussion of the Hindu faith tradition. Following the discussion there will be a time to enjoy some chocolate cake, cookies, homemade pies, beverages and each other’s company. Please invite friends.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Pledge Envelopes: Your 2019 pledge envelopes are available to pick up in Fellowship Hall.

Counting Teams: 3/24 (Team #3) – 3/31 (Team #4) – 4/7 (Team #1)

Month Ended 2/28/19

YTD Offerings	\$52,126
YTD Expenses	\$57,600
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	(\$5,474)
YTD Per Capita	\$2,142 (8% of \$25,960)

Per Capita: Commit yourself to work and live in fellowship with “all persons in every nation” Part of being Presbyterian is understanding the connectional nature of our denomination, and celebrating the strength that is achieved in the

interrelationships among congregation, presbytery, synod and General Assembly. These interrelationships in our denomination provide a sound structure that allows us to go places we could not otherwise get to alone. Please consider contributing your per capita of \$40/member!

WORSHIP

We need volunteers to Usher! If you have questions or would like to usher, please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)480-9176 or email her at cabotk@comcast.net. There is also a sign-up sheet on the Congregational Life bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Flowers: If anyone wishes to provide flowers for any given Sunday in memory or in honor of a loved one(s), please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)799-1724 or email her at cabotk@comcast.net.

Lay Readers: The Lay Reader schedule now through June 2019 is posted in Fellowship Hall. We are looking for, and would welcome, any new Readers to our group. Any questions please contact Joan Fraser.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

March 24 (3rd Sunday in Lent)

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour

5p-6:30p Joint Middle School and High School Yth Grp

March 25

10:00a Senior Exercise (FH)

1:30p Lenten Bible Study (Lib)

7:30p Book Club (Rm 1)

7:30p Brass Choir

8:00p Al-Anon (McK Rm)

March 26

9:00a Bulletin Material Due

9:30a Staff Mtg

3:30p Children's Choir

7:00p Deacons Mtg (FH)

7:30p AA (McK Rm)

March 27

11:30a-12:30p CPNS Mtg (Lib)

7:30p Bell Choir

March 28

8:30a Sr. Breakfast Club at the Cranbury Inn

10:00a Senior Exercise (FH)

11:00a Prayer Shawl Group (Rm 1)

7:30p The Chorale

March 29

9:00a Bulletin Assembly

March 30**March 31 (4th Sunday in Lent)**

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour

5p-6:30p Middle School Yth Grp (All Areas)

6:30p-8p High School Yth Grp (Yth Rm)