

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

4th Sunday in Lent

March 31, 2019 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

Prelude in D minor

J.S. Bach
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

Annual Adult Retreat

Joan Fraser

INTROIT

“I will extol thee, O God”
(Ps. 30)

Donovan Klotzbeacher
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

O God, we seek you, and our souls thirst for you.

Our flesh faints for the Lord, as in a dry and weary land.

O God, your steadfast love is better than life itself!

Let us bless the Lord as long as we live, lift up our hands and call on God’s name.

All: Let Us worship God!

HYMN #475 (Hymnal)* *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

We try to draw boundaries around your forgiveness, for we cannot imagine the endlessness of your grace. We try to make a rule book of your holy stories, for we cannot grasp the depth of your living word. We try to make a worldly hero of our holy savior, for we cannot understand the majesty of your gift. Forgive us, Holy One, and gather us more closely into the realm of your transforming love. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS*

HYMN #581 (Hymnal)*

"Gloria Patri"

THE PEACE*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Hannah

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:1-9

Mary Speer
Pew Bible pgs. 685-686

ANTHEM

"Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"

Howard Helvey
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:1-9

Pew Bible pg. 76

SERMON

"Fruit or Famine"

Rev. Marie Branigan

THE RESPONSE

HYMN*

"The Gifts of God Are Free"

ST. THOMAS 6.6.8.6 ("I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord")

The gifts of God are free— the water, milk and wine;
the feast of God's community is set— for all to dine.

O God, we tend to see a world of limits here;
we share your gifts reluctantly and hoard them out of fear.

And yet you give your grace like food from heaven above;
your church becomes a welcome place, a banquet of your love.

There's joy, and joy to spare; there's bread that satisfies;
you call us now to seek and share your love that changes lives.

Biblical Reference: Isaiah 55:1-9

Tune: *The Universal Psalmist*, 1763; adapted by Aaron Williams, 1770

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MINUTE FOR MISSION

One Great Hour of Sharing

Anne Gordon

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

“Rejoice greatly, o my soul”

Georg Boehm
Organ

Hymn #606 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

HYMN #65 (Hymnal)*

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

RESPONSE*

Choral Amen

The Chorale

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

Postlude on “Italian Hymn”

Edward Broughton
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 Carol Edelson and Anne Gordon in celebration of the kick off to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Head Usher is Janice Parker.

Greeter is Jack Britton and Andy Kremann.

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; Margaret Lawson; 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; Gordon & Joan Fraser's son, Iain; 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 & daughter's friend, Jamie; Art Ryba's sister-in-law, Patricia; John Ryba & Sharon Marshall's niece, McKenna; Joan Smith's brother, Jim; 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 fill out and 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: Elsie Sutton on April 4. **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 (**April 1, 8, and 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!

Register for 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): Middle School Youth Group meets tonight from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., followed by High School Youth Group from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Book Club! Join us for our next book club meeting **Monday, April 29** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 1. We're reading *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman.

Mark Your Calendars!!! Adult Retreat Coming Up In May: Our upcoming Annual Retreat is just weeks away and will take place this year on May 3 and May 4. This year marks the 32nd Anniversary of the Adult Retreat. If you have never attended but are wondering what it's like, now is a wonderful time to find out. For those who have attended in the past, we hope you'll join us again.

We are blessed to have Loida Wilson as our leader again this year as we gather together in Christian love and fellowship to learn, share and grow. We all look forward to relaxing and enjoying the natural beauty and peaceful surroundings of the Fellowship Deaconry in Liberty Corner, New Jersey while deepening our faith along with others from our church family. This is sure to be an uplifting weekend!

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

Join Us for our 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 academic success. 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. We will be sharing helpful information regarding how preschoolers learn. Please **save the date, Monday, April 8 beginning 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 and our Parent Education Night. 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.

MISSIONS, SERVICE & GRANTS

One Great Hour of Sharing is all about sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relieve from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. During this season of Lent, as a church family, let us open our hearts and wallets to support this longstanding, vital mission fundraising effort. The children of our church will be filling fish boxes full of coins and dollars, the "hip among us" can text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10.00 and the rest of us can prayerfully write a check to the First Presbyterian Church, with OGHS in the memo line. One Great Hour of Sharing offerings will be dedicated on Palm Sunday, April 14.

Now is the time, not tomorrow, not yesterday, but now is the time to give to One Great Hour of Sharing! Our goal is to raise \$2,500. Last year our church family contributed \$2,042. Let us join together to meet our goal and spread God's love! Thank you for your generous support.

OTHER NEWS

Save the Date: Johnsonburg Spring Women's Retreat on April 26 through April 28, 2019. Topic is *"Resilience for the Fearfully & Wonderfully Made"* led by Rev. Dr. Tracy Mehr-Muska. For more information and flyer go to: <https://www.campjburg.org/camp/wp-content/uploads/Womens-Retreat-Flyer-2019.pdf>

OUTREACH

Lenten Challenge: This Lent, we invite you to commit to **40 Acts of Kindness**. "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." quoted from the Lenten challenge blurb from last year given by Bea Davison. Let us pray for Bea; wishing her well.

Church Name Badges!! The Outreach Committee invites you to sign-up to purchase a magnetic name badge to wear to church services, meetings and events. 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 FELLOWSHIP

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

Senior Fellowship has changed its program for its meeting on Tuesday, April 9. We will not go on a trip but instead have a presentation by the Monroe Historical Society about their preservation of the Dey Farm. The program will be held in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon on April 9. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. If you are not on our calling list and would like to register to attend this program, please call the church office at (609)395-0897 by Friday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m.

SMALL GROUPS

Prayer Shawl Group: Join us in Room 1 on **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 tonight, **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

Counting Teams: 3/31 (Team #4) – 4/7 (Team #1) – 4/14 (Team #2)

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” Per capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together as we seek to discern with one another where it is God is leading us. 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 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)

April 1

10:00a Senior Exercise (FH)

1:30p Lenten Bible Study (Lib)

7:00p B&G Mtg (Lib)

7:30p Brass Choir

8:00p Al-Anon (McK Rm)

April 2

9:00a Bulletin Material Due
9:30a Staff Mtg
3:30p Children's Choir
7:00p CE and Youth Mtg (Lib)
7:30p AA (McK Rm)
7:30p MS&G Mtg (church office)

April 3

11:30a-12:30p CPNS Mtg (Lib)
11:30p Set-up: Women's Club Mtg (FH/Kit)
12:30p Women's Club Mtg (FH/Kit)
7:30p Bell Choir

April 4

10:00a Senior Exercise (FH)
2:30p-5:30p TASK - VAN
6:45p Worship Cmte Mtg (Lib)
7:30p The Chorale

April 5

9:00a Bulletin Assembly

April 6

11a-5p Event (H.L./FH/Kit)

April 7 (5th Sunday in Lent)

9:00a-10:00a All Church Pancake Breakfast
9:15a Sunday School @ Pancake Breakfast
9:00a-12:00p Confirmation Retreat
10:30a Worship with Communion
3:30p Boy Scout Mtg (FH)
4p-5p Webelos Mtg (McK Rm)
5p-6:30p Middle School Yth Grp (All Areas)
6:30p-8p High School Yth Grp (Yth Rm)