UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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***March 1, 2015***

##  WELCOME

Welcome! You have come to hear the Word of God, and you shall hear it read and preached. But we hope that by hearing it, you will also meet the Word of God, the Living Word, Jesus, our Master and Savior. And we pray that you will leave our church equipped to serve him more faithfully and effectively.

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

## March 1, 2015

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER HYMN “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” *The Singing Church* 421

***I have decided to follow Jesus,***

***I have decided to follow Jesus,***

***I have decided to follow Jesus,***

***No turning back, no turning back.***

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise and fear the Lord!
**People: Glorify and stand in awe of God!**Leader: Praise God in the great congregation;
**People: Before God all shall bow down.**Leader: I shall live for and serve the Lord.
**People: We will proclaim God’s deliverance**

 **to our children and grandchildren.**Leader: Praise and fear the Lord!

**People: Glorify and stand in awe of God!**

\*HYMN “Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?” *The Singing Church* 492

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful Savior, we have been a wayward people. We were dead in our sin, and you gave us life. We wandered away from you, becoming exiles, and you rescued us and carried us home. We have been sick, broken and needy, and you healed and restored us. We deserve none of this. We deserve the penalty you bore on our behalf. Yet, your love is so deep, your mercy so wide, your embrace so all-enfolding that you have done for us what we could never do for ourselves. You have made us your own. You have forgiven us and loved us. We receive this gift with gratitude, joy and awe. For the sake of Christ we pray. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GIVE GLORY TO GOD“Glory Be to the Father” 577

***Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;***

***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.***

***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.***

***Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Pgs. 475-476 Psalm 22:23-31

23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!
   All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
   stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
24 For he did not despise or abhor
   the affliction of the afflicted;
 he did not hide his face from me,
   but heard when I\* cried to him.
25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
   my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
   those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
   May your hearts live for ever!
27 All the ends of the earth shall remember
   and turn to the Lord;
 and all the families of the nations
   shall worship before him.
28 For dominion belongs to the Lord,
   and he rules over the nations.
29 To him,indeed, shall all who sleep inthe earth bow down;
   before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
   and I shall live for him.
30 Posterity will serve him;
   future generations will be told about the Lord,
31 andproclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
   saying that he has done it.

TIME WITH CHILDREN “Giving to Receive” Rev. Jean Pinto

ANTHEM “The Solid Rock”  W. Bradbury, arr. S. Pethel

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Pgs. 875-876 Mark 8:31-38

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my wordsin this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

SERMON “Creative Insecurity” Rev. Jean Pinto

MOMENT FOR QUIET REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—The Apostles’ Creed

 ***I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus***

***Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.***

 ***I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.***

WE PRESENT TO GOD OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

\*WE GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD (tune # 455)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;***

***Alleluia, Alleluia. Praise Him above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

\*PRAYER TO DEDICATE OUR GIFTS

**Stretch us in our willingness to be in silence before you, Lord of life. Stretch us in our willingness to say no to the constancy of frivolous activities that take us away from you. And stretch us in our giving, that our sacrifices might be for another the gift of sustainable life through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

\*COMMUNION HYMN “Bread of the World in Mercy Broken” 502

***Joys and concerns may be written on the pew cards and given to the ushers during this hymn. They***

***will be shared during the prayers of the people, unless you mark them confidential.***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER

**People: Holy, holy, holy, God who calls life into being.**

 **All the ends of the earth and far corners of the universe sing your glory.
        Hosanna in the highest.
        Blessed is the One who comes to take up his cross.
        Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER

**People: Christ died to bring forth life;
        Christ has risen to declare 'God has done it';
        Christ will come again in glory.**
PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

***Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord***

***Incline Thine ear to us, And grant us Thy peace.***

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE ACT OF COMMUNION

THE BREAD (Please hold the bread until all are served)

THE CUP (Please hold the cup until all are served)

COMMUNION PRAYER

**Thank you, merciful God, for the bounty of your creation — for the gifts of the field and vine that nourish our bodies, souls and hearts. Sustained by this meal and the assurance of your grace through our Lord, Jesus Christ, may our lives reflect your presence and may you be our priority. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*HYMN “’Take Up Your Cross,’ the Savior Said” 393

WE RECEIVE GOD’S BLESSING

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

 **Go in peace, go in love, finding joy in each other.**

 **Go in peace, go in love, in Christ we’re sister and brother.**

 **Led by His Spirit, there’s strength each day,**

 **Light for the way together.**

 **Go in peace, go in love, may God be with you forever.** Edelweiss

POSTLUDE

\*Those who are able may stand.

Greeters & Ushers: David Geijer and Rose Wales

Liturgist: Nancy McHugh

***UPCOMING EVENTS March 1st – March 8th***

**Sunday—March 1st: 9:30 am E3 Communion Worship**

 **9:30 am Adult Sunday School**

 **10:15 am Coffee Hour**

 **11:00 am Traditional Communion Worship**

 **6:00 pm Youth Group**

**Tuesday—March 3rd: 10:00 am UPW Circle Meeting & Bible Study**

 **7:00 pm Education Committee**

**Wednesday—March 4th: 7:00 pm Lenten Study**

**Thursday—March 5th: 7:30 pm Choir**

**Sunday—March 8th: 9:30 am E3 Worship**

 **9:30 am Adult Sunday School**

 **11:00 am Traditional Worship**

 **6:00 pm Youth Group**

There are large print bulletins available. Please see an usher if you need this service.01

This year’s Adult Sunday School Class has selected 14 different topics to help us learn more about the Bible and Jesus’ teachings. Interested? Want a place to discuss and explore?? Pick one or all. Then come to the Bertolet Lounge on Sunday mornings at 9:30. The coffee is on.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Teacher | Topic |
| March 1  | Jean M | Christian Fasting  |
| March 8, 15, 22 | Jean Pinto | Interpreting the Bible |

Come to Bertolet Lounge each Wednesday from Feb. 25 to April 1 from 7 to 8 p.m. to participate in **"Catching Fire Becoming Flame,"** a guide for spiritual transformation. Ever wonder how some people become enthusiastic and on fire about their relationship with God?  This six-session video presentation features Father Albert Haase, a Franciscan monk, former missionary to China, and award winning author of six books. He will give you the tools and kindling to prepare for the spark of God in your life and then show you how to fan it into flame until you are set ablaze. Jean Pinto will facilitate the discussion of the video, reading suggestions, and reflection questions.

The United Presbyterian Women are planning to hold their monthly circle meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall.  All women are invited to attend.  We will have our coffee and fellowship time from 10:00 - 10:15 followed by our Bible study.  This month we will be studying Deborah from our book, **Women of the Bible**.  After the Bible study, we will have our business meeting and then all those who want to will be going for lunch at a local restaurant.  On March 3rd at our circle meeting, we will be collecting the Birthday Offering.  This is a free will offering, a "birthday gift", given by all Presbyterian Women of the church at large to help fund mission projects that improve the lives of women and children in need.  Also UPW members, please remember to bring men's white tube socks to Tuesday's circle meeting to be donated to the Trenton Soup Kitchen.

The Survivors Senior Group will meet at Golden Dawn Diner, 2090 Whitehorse-Mercerville Rd, Mercerville, NJ 08619, March 11th at 10:00 a.m. to enjoy breakfast together.  After breakfast we will come back to the church, Fellowship Hall, to welcome Rev. Joanne Petto, a member of Monmouth Presbytery, and a Law Enforcement Chaplain with the Plainsboro Twp. Police Department and the New Jersey State Police. Contact Rita Peterson at 259-7256 or email ritapete@optonline.net if you plan to attend.  All seniors and their friends are most welcome. **Also the Survivors will meet on April 15th (the 3rd Wednesday in April) to tour Homewood Suites by Hilton, then lunch at Long Horn Steak House.**

Come to the Youth Group’s Annual Pasta Dinner on Saturday, March 14th, 5 to 7 pm. Cost: Adults $7; Children $5.

The United Presbyterian Men’s Group will have a Breakfast Meeting on March 28th at 9:00 AM, at the TOWN AND COUNTRY DINER, ROUTE 206 BORDENTOWN. This will be a DUTCH TREAT EVENT. Come join us for the fellowship and spiritual up-lifting. Notify Jim Dixon by Sunday, March 21, 2015. If you have any questions, contact Jim at 609-298-3398.

All are welcome to join the choir as we present our Easter cantata “The Weeping Tree” on Sunday, March 29th, during the 11 a.m. worship service.  Weekly rehearsals began on Thursday, Feb. 4th at 7:30 in the sanctuary (there will be a dress rehearsal on Sat. March 21st at 10 a.m.). There are listening CDs available to assist in learning the cantata.  “The Weeping Tree” is a poignant rendering of the cross that uses beloved hymns, newly composed music, thoughtful narration and simple sacred symbols to create a touching testament of grace.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Healing of Beverly Tabor (lupus); Carol Stahl (chemo and radiation for cancer); and Donna Pulhalski (for successful treatment of complications following a procedure).

Prayers for Joyce Vaughn’s cousin, Carole Wagg in dealing with COPD, and in hospice care in the last stage of life.

Concern about Jen awaiting a biopsy report.

Prayers for those taking certification tests for nursing this week.

Traveling mercies for Maria going to the Philippines to see her sick father.

**Our Mission Statement**

**We are called by Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to celebrate and share the love of God with grace and joy.**

**Gracefully and joyfully we seek to share our gifts in the community through:**

[**Open Doors**](http://www.upcnj.org/opendoors.htm)

[**Diverse Worship**](http://www.upcnj.org/worship.htm)

[**Innovative Education**](http://www.upcnj.org/education-nurture.htm)

[**Creative Mission**](http://www.upcnj.org/mission.htm)

[**Dynamic Service**](http://www.upcnj.org/dynamicservice.htm)

**OUR STAFF**

Ministers: All the members of the Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Jean B. Pinto (737-8011) jeanbpinto@gmail.net

Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Terry E. Fouse and Rev. John H. Milne

Organist: Michael Mraz

Choir Director: Marilyn Machmer

Church Secretary: Betty Reinert

Prayer Chain: Daytime: Carol Heberling (298-2594); Betty Reinert (585-5770)

 Evening: Gail Fouse (585-3248); Joyce Vaughn (888-1187)

### OUR CONGREGATION IN MISSION

Because of your stewardship commitment, the United Presbyterian Church is supporting the ministries of:

* The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through Monmouth Presbytery; the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly.
* Mobile Meals of Hamilton Township
* Princeton Theological Seminary Scholarship Fund
* Trenton Area Habitat for Humanity
* Trenton Area Rescue Mission
* Presbyterian Camp at Johnsonburg
* Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
* Pierson Memorial Food Bank
* Womanspace
* Homefront
* Trenton Area Campus Ministries