

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

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www.upcnj.org

March 16, 2014

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 16, 2014

PRELUDE

“In the Quietness”

arr. Higgins

PRAYER HYMN

“Open Our Eyes”

Sing the Faith 2086

*Open Our Eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.*

WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus, our Savior, gave his life so that we may have life.

People: Thank you, Jesus, for life everlasting!

Leader: God, our Father, has loved us and called us his own.

People: Thank you, Father, for calling us your children!

Leader: Christ, our King, has come to redeem us.

People: Thank you, Jesus, for our salvation!

Leader: Let us worship him in word and song.

**People: We praise you and honor you, Savior, God and King,
for you alone are worthy of all our worship and praise!**

*HYMN

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus or Sarah. We look for answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives.

Yet you continue to keep watch of us, Promise Giver, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the

night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether or not we recognize it or accept it, even as you remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GIVE GLORY TO GOD

The Singing Church 148

“King of My Life, I Crown Thee Now”
*King of my life, I crown Thee now,
Thine shall the glory be;
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,
Lead me to Calvary.
Lest I forget Gethsemane;
Lest I forget Thine agony;
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Pg. 536

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
- 8 The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” **3** Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” **4** Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ **8** The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **9** Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

MOMENT FOR QUIET REFLECTION

*HYMN

“God So Loved the World”

The Singing Church 260

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.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—The Apostle's Creed

We are a community of faith.

We share a vision of God:

**Of the Creator, the Almighty,
who made everything that is, and saw that it was good.**

**Of Jesus of Nazareth, who in history lived among us,
healed the afflicted, taught, suffered and died.**

He forgave those who crucified him.

**In the mystery of the resurrection
he continues to live more profoundly through the ages,
the Incarnation of Love.**

**Of the Spirit, the Giver of Life, the Holy Wisdom,
who inspires the people of God.**

We are reborn in the Spirit,

followers of that Way shown by Jesus:

to love God with our whole being;

to love our neighbors as ourselves;

to treat others as we would have them treat us;

to strive for justice and peace;

**to have respect and compassion for every person
and for the whole of creation;**

to forgive those who do us harm;

to love one another as Christ has loved us.

This is our community. This is our faith.

(An Affirmation of Faith, St. John's-Grace Episcopal Church, abridged)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.*

WE PRESENT TO GOD OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Settled in the Peace of God”

Smith

*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!*

Topic	Dates	Teacher
First Corinthians, One In Christ	Mar 2 - May 18	
	Mar 16, 23	Curly Rentner
	Mar 30, Apr 6, 13, 20	Peggy Ayres
	Apr 27, May 4, 11, 18	Tony Nami

Easter Cantata Choir Rehearsals began Thurs. Feb. 13th. The choir began rehearsals on the Easter cantata “In His Hands” on Thursday, Feb. 13th at 7:30 in the sanctuary. The cantata will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014. There will be a dress rehearsal on Sat., April 5th at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome to join the choir for this special presentation. This cantata contains a narration that skillfully weaves the perspective of two narrators: one believing disciple, Jude, and one unbelieving disciple, Judas. Through a first-hand description of Christ's ministry on earth, each narrator explains His miracles, healings, and personal experiences while watching the life of Christ. This cantata also includes a powerpoint presentation that contains works of art from the Bob Jones University art gallery. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend; this cantata speaks powerfully to believer and unbeliever alike.

THE WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB will meet March 25th (the last Tues. of the month) at 7:00 pm in the Bertolet Lounge. We will be discussing THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY by Rachel Joyce. Newly retired Harold Fry receives a note saying that an old friend is dying. He decides to walk 500 miles, in yachting shoes, to see this friend and ends up taking a journey questioning the meaning of life, and faith, and love. All women of the church and their friends who enjoy books and fellowship are invited to join us. April selection: THE PROMISE OF STARDUST by Priscille Sibley.

The Outreach Committee is organizing a response to the gas explosion disaster that left one dead, many hurt, and even more homeless. Ewing Presbyterian Church has one family whose home is uninhabitable, plus some members of the extended church family that have been impacted by the disaster to some degree. EPC is following the recommendations of the township emergency response by encouraging people to respond through donations of gift cards for grocery stores and department stores (Target, Walmart). Only donations of new clothing and bedding (tags attached) will be accepted. In the pews, you will find envelopes marked "Ewing." We will use all the funds collected to purchase gift cards. The Ewing Church will be working with the Township to see that any donations we receive will be fairly and appropriately distributed to the families impacted.

Our mission focus for the month of March is the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK). All of the contributions received for Mission this month will support the work being done by the TASK. Please give generously.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Healing of Casey Ashe (brain tumor); Eugene LaMonica (cancer treatment); Angela (breast cancer); Cyndy (breast cancer); Melissa; Karla; Tony; John; Jack; Ralph Giordano (healing from auto accident); Paul Smalser (stroke); Margaret Archibald's granddaughter Heather (infected sinuses); Chris Agron; Pam Rose; 5 year old Mary Anna Beck (stage 4 kidney cancer); and Ed Dolton (collapsed lung and in rehab).

Prayers for the people of the Ukraine; for Geri LaMonica (for strength); for Nancy Giordano (for patience); for Matthew in his struggle with faith; for Sue Lanning (test results); Erica (surgery and results); and for Cookie and Karen whose business was vandalized.

Thanksgiving for spring; for Carolyn LaCrosse's mom's life after a close call and trip to the ER.

Support and traveling mercies for Gracie Spreat.

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](#)
[Diverse Worship](#)
[Innovative Education](#)
[Creative Mission](#)
[Dynamic Service](#)

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: All the members of the Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Jean B. Pinto (737-8011) jeanbpinto@comcast.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
- ❖ Pearson Memorial Food Bank
- ❖ Womanspace
- ❖ Homefront
- ❖ Trenton Area Campus Ministries