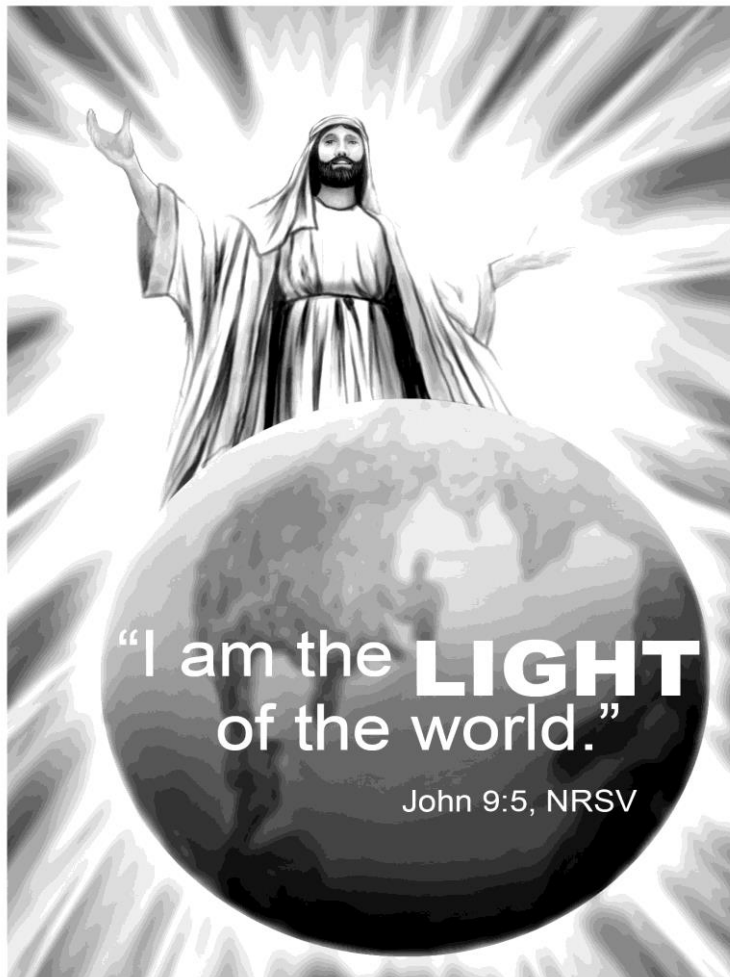


# *UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



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[www.upcnj.org](http://www.upcnj.org)

*March 30, 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 30, 2014

PRELUDE	“Hear Me, O Lord”	Dubois
PRAYER HYMN	“Open My Eyes That I May See” <i>Open my eyes, that I may see Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me; Place in my hands the wonderful key That shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see; Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!</i>	324

## WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Early each morning, God waits to greet us  
with joy and wonder.

**People: We awake to find ourselves enveloped in grace.**

Leader: During the day, Jesus comes to invite us to serve.

**People: We rise from our work and leisure  
to bring healing and hope to others.**

Leader: In the shadowed evenings of our fears and worries,  
the Spirit is with us.

**People: The Light of life shines on us  
in every moment of every day.**

**All: Let us worship the Light of the World  
Who penetrates our darkness with His goodness.**

*HYMN	“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”	474
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### CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Like Cinderella, Loving God, we sit in the ashes of our hopes, but you see us as your beloved children. We pay strict attention to all who break the rules, but ignore the grace which is poured out upon us. We try to box you in with boundaries we can manage, but you continue to burst forth to bring newness into the world.**

**Have mercy on us, God of forgiveness, and open our eyes to your presence among us. As you look at our hearts, may we see others in a different way, not as enemies or strangers, but sisters and brothers of the same family, kin 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

### EPISTLE LESSON

Pgs. 1019-1020

Ephesians 5:8-14

**8** For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— **9** for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. **10** Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. **11** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. **12** For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; **13** but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, **14** for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,  
“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

### A TIME WITH CHILDREN

“Children of Light”

Rev. Jean Pinto

**9** As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” **3** Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. **4** We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” **6** When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, **7** saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. **8** The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” **9** Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” **10** But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” **11** He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” **12** They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

**13** They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. **14** Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. **15** Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” **16** Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. **17** So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

**18** The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight **19** and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” **20** His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; **21** but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” **22** His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. **23** Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

**24** So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” **25** He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” **26** They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open

your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" 28 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." 30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

SERMON

"Blindness and Light"

Rev. Jean Pinto

MOMENT FOR QUIET REFLECTION

\*HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

280

*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

**We believe that the LORD is God,**

**who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
who called us in righteousness,  
who took us by the hand and kept us;  
who has given us as a light to the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out from the prison those who sit in darkness.**

**We believe the former things have come to pass,  
and new things now spring forth.**

**For we believe the one seated on the throne of heaven  
who says "See, I am making all things new." Amen.**

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

“Andantino in g”

Franck

\*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

**We thank you, Lord, for calling us to be children of light. May these gifts we bring serve as a beacon to spread your light of love, compassion, and dignity near and far that all may see and come to know your blessed name. Amen.**

\*HYMN

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

*Sing the Faith* 2173

WE RECEIVE GOD’S BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Wonderful Peace”

Hughes

\*Those who are able may stand.

**The flowers today are given by Pat Anthony in memory of Dick Anthony.**

Greeters and Ushers: Don and Carolyn LaCrosse

Liturgist: Don LaCrosse

***UPCOMING EVENTS March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>***

**Sunday—March 30<sup>th</sup>:**

**9:30 am E3 Worship**

**9:30 am Adult Bible Study**

**11:00 am Traditional Worship**

**5:00 pm Confirmation Class**

**6:00 pm Youth Group**

**Tuesday—April 1<sup>st</sup>:**

**10:00 am UPW Circle Meeting**

**7:00 pm Education Committee**

**Wednesday—April 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

**7:00 pm Stewardship Ministry Team-Finances**

**Thursday—April 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

**10:00 am TASK**

**7:30 pm Choir-Cantata Rehearsal**

**Friday—April 4<sup>th</sup>:**

**Senior High Retreat**

**Sunday—April 6<sup>th</sup>:**

**9:30 am E3 Communion Worship**

**9:30 am Adult Bible Study**

**10:15 am Coffee Hour**

**11:00 am Traditional Communion Worship**

**5:00 pm Confirmation Class**

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

Looking for a change in the new year? The **Adult Sunday School** offers the opportunity for learning about some Old Testament and New Testament subjects and church history over the past 1000 years as well as having some fellowship and coffee. We hope to see you on Sunday mornings at 9:30. SS Teachers

Topic	Dates	Teacher
<b>First Corinthians, One In Christ</b>	<b>Mar 2 - May 18</b>	
	<b>Mar 30, Apr 6, 13, 20</b>	Peggy Ayres
	<b>Apr 27, May 4, 11, 18</b>	Tony Nami

Please join us for coffee hour next Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am for refreshments and fellowship, hosted by the Member Care Committee.

The Easter cantata will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014 at the 11:00 am worship service. 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. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend; this cantata speaks powerfully to believer and unbeliever alike.

The United Presbyterian Women's Association will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 1, at 10:00 am in the Bertolet lounge. We will have our fellowship time, Bible study, and business meeting. Our Bible study will be Rebekah from the book, "Women of the Bible". After our meeting, those who want to will be going to a local restaurant for lunch. All women are welcome!

The Survivors Senior Group will meet at the church, Fellowship Hall, on Wed., April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. for a program presented by the Mercer County Sheriff's Office on Mercer County Senior ID's. Each participant is asked to complete a form, distributed by Rita Peterson, and must be a Mercer County resident 62 years of age or older. Two (2) forms of identification must be presented on Apr. 9<sup>th</sup> as per the Senior ID Form. Please drop off your completed form with Rita no later than Mar. 30. Also during our meeting there will be a presentation, Project

Lifesaver, which identifies those persons who might wander and disappear. This program can be very helpful for families dealing Alzheimer's patients. Following the presentation we will car pool to Town & Country Restaurant in Bordentown, NJ on Route 130 North to enjoy lunch. If you plan to attend please make your reservation and receive your form for the Senior ID with Rita Peterson 259-7256 or email [ritapete@optonline.net](mailto:ritapete@optonline.net). All seniors of the church and their friends are welcome to join the Survivors for a wonderful presentation and a great lunch and fellowship.

**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.**

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

Healing of Pam Rose; Chris Agron; Debbie Larkin; Ken Lincoln (quadruple bypass surgery); Beverly Tabor (lupus); Ronnie Tabor (back); Baby Elaina Schacht (surgery); and Casey Ashe (brain tumor).  
Comfort for the bereaved families of Peter Burkhalter and Vince DiPierro.  
Prayers for Marilyn Machmer's mother in hospice; for Dot Schroeder's twin grandsons born Mar. 12 at 33 weeks, both still in incubators and now over 4 lbs; for Gracie Spreat for support and success in testing; for Joe Ragusa for support and success in major life interview; and for Dave struggling with addictions.  
Thanksgiving for the birth of Aster Daniel Ahrnt, great nephew of Jean Pinto.

**You Can Help** with a few clicks of your mouse. Curly Rentner's great nephew, Travis Lada, is disabled and his parents are in need of a wheel chair accessible van. National Mobility Equipment Dealers' Association, a non-profit dedicated to expanding mobility options for people with disabilities has a website where everyone vote once a day for Travis. With enough votes, Travis could be awarded a van. Please register and vote for Travis on the website: <http://www.mobilityawarenessmonth.com/entrant/Travis-Lada-Hamilton,NJ>.



## 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](mailto: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