



The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Vernon, New Jersey

VOL. 66 NO. 9

November 2016

Bill Stone's Reflections

The heavens declare the glory of the Creator; the firmament proclaims the handiwork of Love. Day to day speech pours forth and night to night knowledge is revealed. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; Yet does their music go out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. (From Psalm 19, interpreted by Nan Merrill)

Many people talk about finding God in creation. Some even refer to weekend walks in the forest as their "church." Psalm 19 echoes this same sentiment. With beauty beyond words, creation bears witness to the one who breathed it into being, and at this time of year in New Vernon, it's easy to see why. Walking around Loantaka and Jockey Hollow, or even the short stretch from the manse to the Church, I am continually struck by the beauty of this place.

The Scottish naturalist John Muir, who spent his life exploring some of the most breathtaking parts of our country, once said that it's a good idea every once in a while to spend time in more mundane settings. He even recommended seeking out shadows and darkness. This, he said, helps us to learn more about these less appreciated places and, further, to appreciate the beauty of home even more upon our return.

This is good advice, not just for nature lovers but for Christians as well. We all know from experience that on our journey of faith it is impossible to remain on the mountaintop. Life is not always simple and straightforward, and our faith reflects that. But when we find ourselves in the shadows—especially the shadows of doubt and grief—there is an opportunity to grow deeper in our relationship with God. Acknowledging and naming these difficult times can help us begin to discover that God is just as present in these moments. And when we begin to notice God at work in the shadows, we also see our mountaintops in a new light.

Autumn is a season of beauty, but it is also a season of change. This makes it a good time to reflect on the theme of our stewardship campaign, "Ushering In a New Generation." A few weeks ago as our campaign began, we reflected on the history of our church family. Over the last 180 years there have been moments of great joy and also moments of hardship that, looking back, demonstrate both the perseverance and great faith of those who have gone before us.

And so as we look back and acknowledge that work with gratitude and thanksgiving, we also look forward in anticipation and excitement for what the new generation can bring. We are all invited to reflect on how we might contribute to the ministry of this church—through our time, through our talents, and through our treasure. And as we do, we're confident that God goes with us, and that God will continue to be with us in both the high and low places, guiding us just as he has those who have gone before.

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FPCNV Staff

Rev. William H. Stone, III (Bill)
Pastor

Amanda Napolitano,
Minister of Music/Organist

Debbie Hennessey,
*Office Administrator and
Manager of Accounting*

Darlene Cappel,
Financial Secretary

Tony Rodriguez, *Custodian*

Elders & Deacons**Elders**

Tom MacCowatt, *Clerk of Session*

Julia Buteux

Todd Claytor

Tom Ewig

Caroline Ford

Kerra French

Jane O'Keefe

Meg Richardson

Peter Saulnier

Jonathan Shelby

Carol Conger Vellekamp

Keith Wood

Deacons

Barbara Gill, *Moderator*

Aimee Bloom

Robyn Brown

Janet Bruns

Fenton Chaney

Lisa Chapman

Andrea Di Ruggiero

Olin Friant

Dave Mitchell

Sue Mitchell

Continued from page 1

Everyday Beauty

from John Muir's *The Mountains of California*

Fresh beauty opens one's eyes wherever it is really seen, but the very abundance and completeness of the common beauty that besets our steps prevents its being absorbed and appreciated. It is a good thing, therefore, to make short excursions now and then to the bottom of the sea among dulse and coral, or up among the clouds on mountain-tops, or in balloons, or even to creep like worms into dark holes and caverns underground, not only to learn something of what is going on in those out-of-the-way places, but to see better what the sun sees on our return to common everyday beauty.

Picture of the Month!

Let the little children come...



Session Highlights from the October 18, 2016 Meeting

The meeting began with Jane O'Keefe leading devotions



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Adult Education (Julia Buteux):

- Doug Simon, emeritus professor of political science at Drew, spoke on Sep. 25. 38 people attended.
- Catherine Morrisett & Nunzio Gubitosa of Grace Counseling in Madison spoke on Oct. 16. 21 attended.
- Dr. J. Perry Leavell will be speaking about the 2016 presidential election results on November 13.

Youth Education (Kerra French):

- Hunger Walk was held on Sunday. Kerra and Jeff walked with Bill Stone.
- Planning a Friday fellowship dinner with families.
- Bill Stone will meet with the Church's youth—may schedule for Fridays at 4 pm.

Congregational Life (Meg Richardson):

- A luncheon was held after church on Sunday, October 2 to welcome Bill Stone on his first day. Approximately 85 people attended the luncheon. \$230 free-will collection taken will help offset the cost.
- A reception is planned for Sunday, November 13th following the Installation Service.
- The congregational Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, Dec. 11th immediately following worship.

Finance (Keith Wood):

- \$10,000 deficit in September. Year over year we are up \$45,000 on the bottom line due to a bequest and up \$9000 vs. budget. Revenues are up and expenses are down.
- We have been recommended for a grant of \$150,000 by the NJ Historic Trust. These funds will be made available to us in early 2017. This grant is for the Roofs and Tower Project recently completed. The funds will cover completed work and ongoing work.

Stewardship (Todd Claytor):

- October 9th was Stewardship Sunday.
- Pledges coming in now and on track. Goal is \$405,000. \$120,000 pledged so far with 37 pledges.
- Second mailing going out with pledge cards the 2nd or 3rd week of Nov. to those who have not pledged.

Membership (Jane O'Keefe):

- Committee met to discuss the contacts they have made with families on our membership list. Progress is being made, but there is still work to be done.
- Reviewed directory to identify members' adult children to see if they wish to be active in the Church.
- Member name tags and the membership packet have been updated.

Mission & Outreach (Jonathan Shelby): Mental Health dinner scheduled for Tues., Oct. 25 in Chorba Hall.

Nominating (Tom MacCowatt): Met to discuss 2017 openings. Slate to be presented at the Nov/Dec meeting.

Personnel (Carol Vellekamp): Personnel evaluation reports are going out soon.

Worship and Music (Peter Saulnier): Choir Director Search is ongoing with several candidate interviews.

Clerk's Report:

- Anne-Marie Christensen wants to be married here, with their minister & Bill Stone sharing the officiating.
- The Membership Committee will develop a welcome banner for Bill Stone.

Pastor's report:

- Bill Stone expressed deep gratitude to everyone for the extremely warm welcome he and his family received.
- Bill has focused his time on getting to know Church members and community in his first few weeks here.
- On Sunday Bill joined Jeff and Kerra French for the Youth Group's walk in support of the Soup Kitchen.
- On October 1st, Bill officiated at the wedding of Lisa Dilenno and Gary Baumann at the Madison Hotel.
- Bill will be participating in the wedding of Katherine Newburg and her fiancé Michael Stieh this weekend.
- Bill will now be focusing on the care and concern list.

The next meeting of Session will be Tuesday, November 15th at 7:00 pm. Vellekamp will provide refreshments, Buteux will lead devotions and Wood is responsible for usher recruitment in November. Communion will be served on Sunday, November 6th, by *Shelby, MacCowatt, Richardson and Claytor. *Team Leader

Reverend Stone adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Tom MacCowatt, Clerk of Session



SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13
3:00 PM
INSTALLATION SERVICE & RECEPTION

Please save the date for our new Pastor's Installation Service followed by a reception hosted by the Congregational Life Committee in Fellowship Hall.



Jeff and Kerra French with Bill and Ewan Stone at the Community Soup Kitchen Hunger Walk

Thank You
Flower Donors

July-August

Suzie Morris, Ann & Tom Ewig, Beth & George Gibson, Kay Lyall, Ann Talcott, Caroline Ford, and Eileen Urban

September

Tricia Tiensch, Bobbi & Mike Phillips, Barbara Gill & Family

October

Janet & Ted Bruns, Jane Coyle, Isabel Broshek, The Brown Family, and Suzanne & Jonathan Shelby





The Congregational Life Committee
Invites you to attend

The 2016 Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, December 11
After the Children's Christmas Pageant

This year's luncheon will be a potluck meal with the Congregational Life Committee supplying the meat and beverages. It will be held in Fellowship Hall.

Meg Richardson will be coordinating the luncheon this year.

Come and enjoy the spirit of the Christmas Season together.

Stewardship Campaign 2016-2017

Ushering In A New Generation



The "Ushering In A New Generation" Stewardship campaign for 2017 is under way. You should already have received a pledge card; if you have not, please let us know. Our new pastor, Bill Stone, arrived from Scotland with Hayley and the children last month. Let us show them an active congregation and financially strong church! Please make your pledge soon. The closing date is **November 20**.

Todd Claytor

Youth Ministry News & 2016-2017 Schedule

All activities open to students Grades 6-12 unless otherwise noted.

NOVEMBER

- THU, NOV 10** 2:00 pm Service Project: CSK Breakfast-To-Go Bags
FRI, NOV 11 1:15-5:00 pm Service Project: Community Food Bank of NJ (**Must be 12 or older**)
SAT, NOV 12 10:00 am-1:00 pm Service Project: In-reach Workday

DECEMBER

- SUN, DEC 11** Children's Christmas Pageant/Christmas Luncheon
SUN, DEC 11 Service Project: Christmas Is for Children shopping (after Christmas luncheon)

JANUARY

- SUN, JAN 29** 11:30 am Service Project: Valentine's Day Care Packages

FEBRUARY

- SAT, FEB 4** Souper Bowl Pregame: Dessert Baking (**Time TBD**)
SUN, FEB 5 11:00 am Souper Bowl Sunday Luncheon Serving

MARCH

- SAT, MAR 25** Service Project: TBD

APRIL

- SUN, APR 9** 11:30 am Service Project: Easter Egg Stuffing
SUN, APR 16 Service Project: Easter Egg Hunt

MAY

- SAT, MAY 13 or 20** Service Project: TBD

JUNE

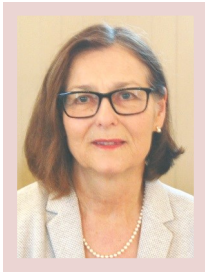
- SAT, JUN 3** Service Project: Car Wash
SUN, JUN 4 High School Graduate Recognition Sunday
SAT, JUN 10 Car Wash rain date
TBD Sr. High Mission Trip (Grades 9-12)



Our Annual Children's Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 11. If your child (K-6) or youth (7-12) would like to participate, please let me know. There are speaking roles available for everyone who would like one and there will be non-speaking roles for everyone who would like to participate without speaking.

For Questions or to sign up: shfischer@verizon.net

Our Newest Members

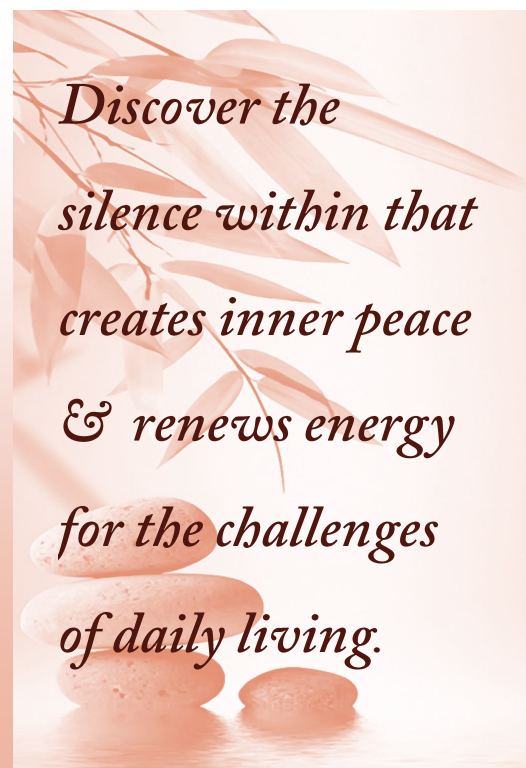
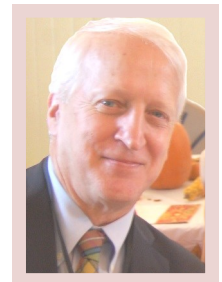


Marjatta DiSerio

Born in Finland, which she visits each year, Marjatta (pronounced Mar'yatta) first came to the US as an au pair. Upon returning to Finland, she completed studies in nursing. Marriage brought her back to the States, where she embarked on a 23-year career with Sandoz/Novartis as Research Manager in the cardiovascular field. Since retirement, Marjatta has been enjoying theater and all forms of music, especially jazz, and belongs to two reading clubs. She volunteers at several charities, including *Dress for Success*. A widow, she has five grandchildren. Marjatta looks forward to becoming an active participant in the life of our church. Welcome, Marjatta!

Russ MacAusland

Hailing from Boston, Russ spent his business career and lived in New York before moving to New Vernon eight years ago. Now retired, he was an executive in the magazine publishing business that took him all over the world. He spent a lot of time traveling, which he still enjoys, recent excursions focusing on Central and South America. An active sportsman, he has been temporarily sidelined by a hip replacement but hopes soon to resume skiing and mountain climbing. Russ is presently teaching himself Spanish and is on the Landscape Committee for *Mansion in May*. Partner Pam Kerschner has been a member of FPCNV for 25 years. Welcome, Russ!



*Discover the
silence within that
creates inner peace
& renews energy
for the challenges
of daily living.*

Three-Session Meditation Seminar with

Laura Nash

certified by Deepak Chopra, MD

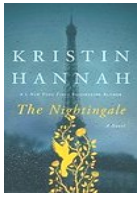
**Wednesday November 9, 16, & 23
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

FPCNV Library & Conference Room

Contact: *Laura Nash* (973) 879-8179 or
laura@lauranash.com for pricing information.

In addition, many find that 30-minute group meditation sessions reinforce their intention and deepen their practice. Julia Buteux will facilitate these sessions in Fellowship Hall Library, joined by Laura when possible. These will be held every Wednesday from 6-6:30 pm, beginning November 30, and are free.

FPCNV Book Club November Book Selection



The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
FRANCE, 1939 In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France ... but invade they

do, in droves of marching soldiers, in caravans of trucks and tanks, in planes that fill the skies and drop bombs upon the innocent. When a German captain requisitions Vianne's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything. Without food or money or hope, as danger escalates all around them, she is forced to make one impossible choice after another to keep her family alive.

Vianne's sister, Isabelle, is a rebellious eighteen-year-old girl, searching for purpose with all the reckless passion of youth. While thousands of Parisians march into the unknown terrors of war, she meets G aetan, a partisan who believes the French can fight the Nazis from within France, and she falls in love as only the young can ... completely. But when he betrays her, Isabelle joins the Resistance and never looks back, risking her life time and again to save others.

With courage, grace and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of WWII and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. *The Nightingale* tells

Book Club Meeting Dates & Book Selections

Where: Library **When:** 7:30 pm

- NOV 15** *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah
DEC TBA Caf e Beethoven Dinner
JAN 10 *The Golden Notebook* by Doris Lessing
FEB 14 *D-Day* by Stephen Ambrose
MAR 14 *The Blackwater Lightship*-Colm Tobin
APR 11 *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace* by Jeff Hobb
MAY 9 *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich
JUN 13 *The Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole

the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France--a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime. - Amazon.com

It's Time To Brighten a Child's Life: Christmas Is for Children 2016



Christmas Is for Children, Inc. is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing all children the love, care, and joy that comprise the spirit of Christmas. Since 1991, CIFC has supported over tens of thousands of local, underprivileged children dealing with poverty, AIDS, domestic violence, and substance-abusing parents.

Local social agencies, such as Children on the Green, Homeless Solutions, and Eric Johnson House, help to identify those children in our community who are most in need of assistance this holiday season.

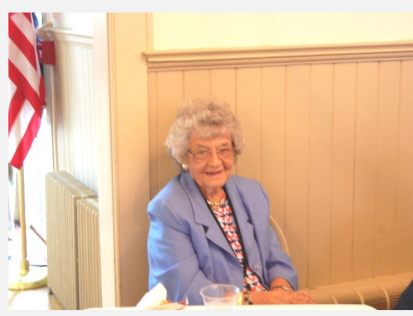
On **Sunday, November 20**, gift wish lists will be available at Coffee Hour for anyone who would like to sponsor a local child this Christmas. The gifts are due back on Sunday, December 11.

To learn more about Christmas Is for Children, log onto www.NJChristmasIsForChildren.org or contact Susan Fischer at 908-204-0820.

Blessing of the Animals

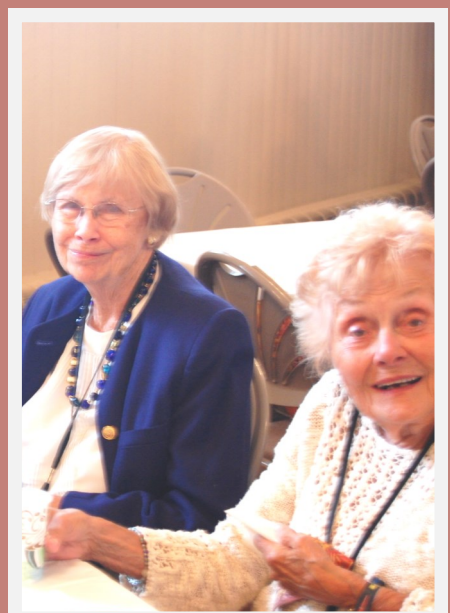


First Worship Service with Bill as our Pastor



Thank-you to this *Pipe Organ* edition's photo submitters:
Nancy Burrows, Andrea Di Ruggiero, Jeffrey French, and John Thomas.

Welcome Luncheon for Bill, Hayley, and Family



Sunday Speaker Series 2016-2017

11:15 am to 12:15 pm

THE ROLE OF OUTSIDERS IN THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

November 13

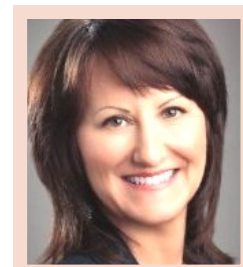


Dr. J. Perry Leavell, professor of history emeritus at Drew, will provide clarity as we take stock of the 2016 presidential election and its results. He will consider the historical context for such extra-party factions as the Tea Party, Occupy Wall Street, and the political movement spearheaded by Bernie Sanders, as well as offering insights into the influence these movements may have in the future. A highly popular speaker with a wide following in the area, Dr. Leavell lectures frequently on the American presidency and has written histories on James Madison, Harry S. Truman, and Woodrow Wilson.

MAINTAINING GOOD FENCES WITH FAMILY AND OTHERS

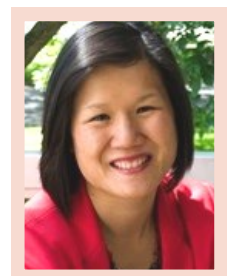
January 22

Cindy Browning, LCSW, is a dynamic and entertaining speaker who has been in private practice for over 20 years where she specializes in the treatment of trauma, couples, family therapy, and addictions. With a dash of humor, Cindy will give guidelines to improving your relationship with yourself, your children, your spouse, and even your boss. In addition to her private practice, she provides professional development workshops and consultations to other therapists. Cindy has been extensively trained at the Meadows in Arizona, recognized internationally for their work in childhood trauma, codependence, and addiction. Childcare will be provided.



FAITH IN A DIVIDED WORLD

February 26

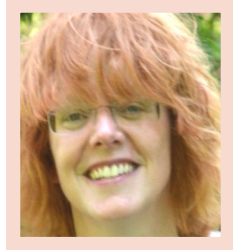


Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, Director of Church Relations at Princeton Theological Seminary, will lead a lively conversation exploring ways people of faith struggle to live in the world, but not of it. The challenges before us seem to grow daily: racism, war, prejudice, violence, and divisions among people—us versus them. What is the Church's place in reducing this confusion? How can faith inform ways that we engage in the important work of transforming the world around us? Larissa is a member of the Committee on Representation for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and recently served as Vice Moderator of the 221st

General Assembly.

UNDERSTANDING THE MIDDLE EAST

March 26



Dr. Brid Nicholson, an engaging and informative associate professor of history at Kean University with a particular interest in social and cultural history, will consider the latest political and military developments in the middle East. Be it Syria, Israel, or Egypt, she will place these events in their historical context and offer insights into what lies behind the various and escalating conflicts. A native of Ireland, Nicholson received her Ph. D. from Drew and now teaches Irish, American, and Middle Eastern history at Kean.

RAISING CHILDREN, PART II: IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE, IT'S HARDER!

April 2

Popular speakers, Catherine Morrisett and Nunzio Gubitosa of Grace Counseling Center in Madison, will teach listeners how to use their gut instincts to get new, essential information in unpredictable family moments. Unlike consistent rocket science, family relationships are volatile and can change 180 degrees from one minute to the next. See your parenting style in a new light and get answers you need to raise confident children. Nunzio Gubitosa is certified in individual, family, and group psychotherapy, specializing in work with adolescents. Dr. Morrisett, as a therapist, specializes in individual, marital, and family therapy. Childcare will be provided.



GOOD HEALTH BEGINS AT THE END OF YOUR FORK



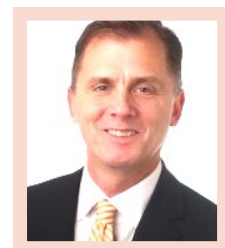
Tuesday, April 25 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Bring a friend and join us for a special Workshop and Cooking Demonstration with Living Plate! A Registered Dietician Nutritionist will demonstrate evidence-based techniques and tips to help you and your family eat healthier and without mealtime stress. Proper nutrition today can affect not only physical health but mood as well. Scientists have found it can also affect the health of future generations in your family. Call Barbara Coe at 973-425-4088 or email her at waffcoe@aol.com to reserve a spot.

SHARING THE WEALTH: GIVING TRENDS IN NEW JERSEY

May 7

Hans Dekker, president of the Community Foundation of New Jersey since 2003, will discuss the interaction of NJ estate/income taxes and their impact on charitable giving in New Jersey. During Mr. Dekker's tenure, the Foundation's donor and legacy funds have made over \$348 million in grants to charitable causes in our communities. Highlights of the Community Foundation's work in New Jersey include human trafficking awareness, juvenile justice reform, and public media. Mr. Dekker is a past chair of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers and a trustee of the Hyde and Watson and the Ohl Foundations.



NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Bible Study 9-10 am Choir 7:30 pm	4 AA Meeting noon	5
6 Communion Worship: 10 am Coffee Hour: 11 am	7 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	8 Women's AA Step Meeting Noon Adult Ed. 5 pm Deacons' Mtg 7:00 pm	9 Men's Breakfast 7:30 am Nautilus Diner Laura Nash Meditation Work Shop 7-8:30 pm	10 Bible Study 9-10 am Youth Group Breakfast-To-Go Bags 2 pm Choir 7:30 pm	11 AA Meeting noon Youth Group Community Food Bank Trip 1:15-5 pm	12 Youth Group In-Reach Workday 10 am-1 pm
13 Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Sunday Speaker Series: Perry Leavell 11:15 am Installation Service and Reception 3:00 pm	14 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Finance Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm	15 Women's AA Step Meeting Noon Session Mtg. 7:00 pm Book Club 7:30 pm	16 Laura Nash Meditation Work Shop 7-8:30 pm	17 Bible Study 9-10 am Choir 7:30 pm	18 AA Meeting noon	19
20 Worship: 10 am Coffee Hour: 11 am Deacons' Bake Sale at Coffee Hour Christmas Is for Children: Gift Wish Lists available at Coffee Hour	21 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	22 Women's AA Step Meeting noon	23	24 No Bible Study No Choir Thanksgiving Day <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Church Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving!</div>	25 AA Meeting noon	26
27 Worship: 10 am Coffee Hour: 11 am	28 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	29	30 Group Meditation 6-6:30 pm			

November Worship

Sunday, November 6

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

Liturgist: Carol Conger Vellekamp

Sunday, November 13

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

Liturgist: Tom MacCowatt

Sunday, November 20

Christ the King Sunday

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

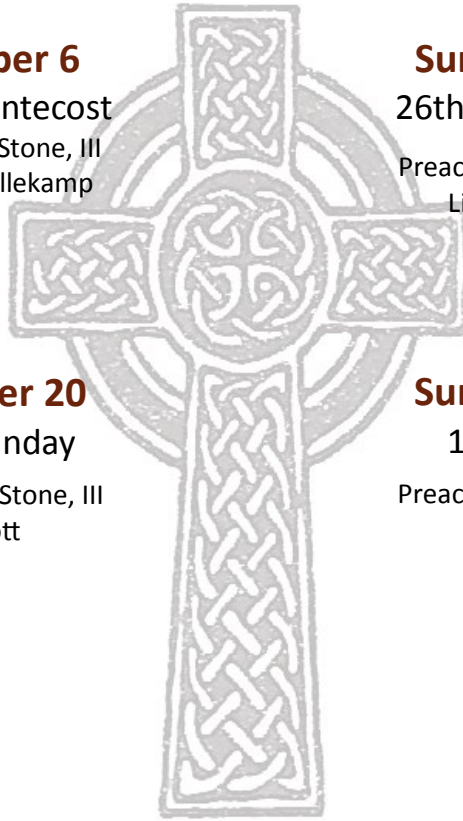
Liturgist: Ann Talcott

Sunday, November 27

1st Sunday of Advent

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

Liturgist: Jane Coyle



Deacons' Pantry Sale

Sunday, November 20 at Coffee Hour

The Deacons will hold a Pantry Sale on SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, featuring soups, stews, salads, salad dressings, homemade bread, cookies, candies, and other baked goods. All will be festively packaged to make lovely hostess gifts. Or, use these homemade delights as part of your own Thanksgiving celebration. All proceeds will benefit the PIN Fund.



The Pipe Organ

First Presbyterian Church
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New Vernon, NJ 07976-0218



Highlights This Month

Wednesday, November 9
Men's Breakfast at the Nautilus Diner

Thursday-Saturday, November 10-12
Youth Group Service Weekend

Sunday, November 13
Sunday Speaker Series: Perry Leavell
Installation Service for Rev. William H. Stone, III
Installation Reception hosted by Congregational Life

Sunday, November 20
Deacons' Pantry Sale!

Church Office Closed
November 27 & 28
Happy Thanksgiving!

E-mail Addresses

The Church Office is still collecting and correcting e-mail addresses from our members. If you would like to be included in various e-mail mailings, please e-mail the office at Office@pcnv.org or call 973-538-8394.

CHURCH OFFICE

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