

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 68 NO. 3

March 2018

Bill's Reflections

Isaiah 55:1-8

*"Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.
Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.
See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.
Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor."
Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on
them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the Lord.*

We are now in the season of Lent. As a church, this is a time when we are meant to reflect on our relationship with God, noting places where we feel energized and places where we are being invited to make a change. The religious word for this activity is repentance.

Repentance is a common theme in the New Testament, and especially in Luke's gospel. The Greek word *metanoia* that we translate as repent occurs more frequently in his

gospel than in Matthew, Mark, and John combined. The teachers and preachers in the early church always included a call to repentance in their message, because they believed that without it faith was impossible (Richardson, 192). Today the call to repentance is still a central part of Christian doctrine, but it's something that we don't talk about very much. Repentance makes many of us uncomfortable, and I think there are two big reasons for that.

Firstly, repentance is almost always connected to the image/idea of God as a judge who punishes unrepentant sinners. The threat of immanent punishment brings an urgency to a call for repentance. In Matthew's Gospel, we hear both John the Baptist and Jesus declaring, "Repent for the kingdom of God is near." In other places, we hear Jesus saying, "Repent, or you too will perish." It's hard not to hear these as warnings or even threats.

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FPCNV Staff

Rev. William H. Stone, III,
Pastor

Martin Sedek,
Music Director

Jany Izaguirre,
Accompanist

Debbie Hennessey,
*Office Administrator and
Manager of Accounting*

Darlene Cappel,
Financial Secretary

Tony Rodriguez,
Church Custodian

Elders

Jonathan Shelby, *Clerk*

Martha Coy

Tom Ewig

Tom MacCowatt

Jenn McCann

James Muchmore

Jane O'Keefe

Don Richardson

Peter Saulnier

Eileen Urban

Carol Conger Vellekamp

Keith Wood

Deacons

Barbara Gill, *Moderator*

Jane Coyle

Andrea Di Ruggiero

Olin Friant

Beth Gibson

Michael McCann

Dave Mitchell

Sue Mitchell

Susie Morris

Karen Pennett

Judith Shelton

Faith Winow

Session Committees

CLERK OF SESSION: The primary role of the Clerk of Session is to maintain and preserve the records of the Church, including the minutes of Session and Congregational Meetings, and the Rolls and Registers. They may assist the moderator in docket preparation. Clerk: Jonathan Shelby

ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Responsible for our insurance policies, use of building policies, office management, and phone and office equipment contracts, technology, and other aspects of the administration of the Church. Chair: James Muchmore

ADULT EDUCATION: Responsible for programs to instruct adults in faith and life application through Bible study, guest speakers, and discussion groups throughout the year. Chair: Martha Coy

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Care and maintenance of the church buildings and property. Chair: Tom Ewig

CEMETERY: Oversight of burials, Memorial Garden, and cemetery grounds. Chair: Carol Conger Vellekamp

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Fellowship is an important part of the life of the Church. This group takes the lead in planning and supervising dinners, picnics, and special events throughout the year. Chair: Jenn McCann

FINANCE: Responsible for the formulation of a budget, the monitoring of income and spending, investments, and the reporting of the Church's financial status to Session and the congregation. The leader of this committee is the Treasurer. Chair: Keith Wood

MEMBERSHIP: Responsible for care of current members, recruitment of new members, and the keeping of an accurate roll of membership. Chair: Jane O'Keefe

MISSION AND OUTREACH: The Church accepts responsibility to care for those beyond our doors. This committee is responsible for the allocation of mission funds to organizations in our community and throughout the world. They are also involved in the interpretation of our mission to the congregation. Chair: Eileen Urban

NOMINATING: Each year this committee is responsible for choosing candidates to serve as Elders and Deacons as well as other corporate officers for the Church. Chair: Carol Conger Vellekamp

PERSONNEL: Responsible for hiring, monitoring, and evaluating the paid staff of the Church. Chair: Jonathan Shelby

STEWARDSHIP: Leads the campaign to interpret our mission as a church and encourages faithful giving by members of the congregation through the pledge process. Chair: Tom MacCowatt

WORSHIP AND MUSIC: The planning and monitoring of worship services, communion and baptisms, the choir and other musical programs in the Church are the responsibility of this group. Chair: Peter Saulnier

YOUTH EDUCATION: Plans and monitors the Church's Confirmation Class, Sunday School, and Youth Ministry. Chair: Don Richardson



Session Highlights from Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm
Devotions were led by Rev. Stone



Pastor's report:

- 15 pastoral visits, 10 administrative meetings
- Held another *Messy Church* on 2/11
- Attended Fire Department Installation event on 1/19, led a Memorial Service for Skip Fennimore with Fire Department on 2/11
- Officiated Ash Wednesday service on 2/14
- Officiated at funeral of Phil Van Kirk on 2/17

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adult Education (Julia Buteux, excused): No report

Youth Education (Don Richardson):

- *Messy Church* went very well on 2/11: 18 children, 17 volunteers
- Planning a dinner in April for youth and young adults

Cemetery (Carol Vellekamp): Interred Phil Van Kirk last week

Congregational Life (Jenn McCann): Raised \$600 at Souper Bowl Sunday

- Looking for more sign-ups for square dance

Finance (Keith Wood):

- In Church financials, cash position is comfortable
- MacCowatt and Shelby will take over Stewardship for next year
- Reviewed rental possibilities for basement and brick manse
- Presented results of Crossroads Society effort: 15 families confirmed, 10 more potentially to join, 9 to be approached next

Administration/Communication (Tom MacCowatt, excused): No report

Buildings & Grounds (Tom Ewig, excused):

- Showed the new plaques to go outside the sanctuary; date needed for presentation
- New freezer installed
- Communion table repaired
- Tom is creating a summary of B&G projects
- Garage doors going in at Manse

Membership (Jane O'Keeffe):

- Held a meeting recently, looking to improve the greeting of new people at Coffee Hour
- Cited the success of *Messy Church* and Toddler Time
- Possibly hold an Inquirers Class in March

Mission & Outreach (Eileen Urban, excused): No report

Nominating (Tom MacCowatt, excused): Asked that we approve two new elders: Jim Muchmore and Martha Coy for 3-year terms and Keith Wood for a 1-year term—*moved, seconded, carried*

Personnel (Jonathan Shelby): Nursery Volunteer Coverage: two adults per Sunday going forward

Worship and Music (Peter Saulnier, absent): No report

Adjourned with prayer by Bill Stone at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Jonathan Shelby, Clerk of Session

Continued from page 1

The second reason we are uncomfortable talking about repentance is that we think of it as synonymous with remorse and shame. As we do our best to juggle the demands of work and family and to deal with the stresses that both bring, we're not likely to accept an invitation—even from Jesus himself—to find even more reasons to feel bad about ourselves. This is actually a misconception of this deeply spiritual discipline. Real repentance is about finding peace and bearing fruit.

British priest and theologian Alan Richardson notes that repenting—turning or returning—“represents a reorientation of one’s whole life and personality, which includes the adoption of a new ethical line of conduct, a forsaking of sin and a turning to righteousness. That this was the fundamental call of the prophets to Israel can be seen by a casual glance at a concordance...” (*ibid.*, 191).

In Jesus’ teaching, and especially alongside this reading from Isaiah, we hear the call to repentance as a call to life in all its fullness, a fullness that brings deep peace. “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live,” says Isaiah. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? In this season of Lent, God invites all of us to reflect on this same question: Are you investing your time and energy in ways that will bear fruit?

The call to repentance is a call to live fully into our identity as children of God. It doesn’t promise us a life free from pain or tragedy. But it does remind us that in our best moments and in our worst, whether we realize it or not, God is there inviting us to join in making God’s love, peace, and justice a reality here and now for all people.

This year, as we journey through Lent together, we will be creating a prayer tree in the sanctuary. Each week during worship, we will be invited to write one or two words on a slip of paper that represents the prayer of our hearts. These slips will be placed in the offering plate, and during the week they will be hung on our tree. As we move further into the season, we will see our prayers grow and multiply as we anticipate them bearing fruit at Easter.

As I read through the first week’s prayers, one thing I noticed coming up again and again was the theme of peace. People prayed for peace in war torn countries, peace in relationships, peace at home, and peace of mind. There is a deep need for peace in our world today. One of the first steps we can take to finding that peace is making space for it in our own lives. My prayer is that during this season of Lent we might be moved and encouraged by our prayer tree project to do this. As we bear the fruit of peace in our own lives and hold this peace in our prayers, we can make space for God’s Holy Spirit to bring healing and wholeness in our world once again.

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
 Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
 Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
 Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
 Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

(Newell)



Quotes are from:

Alan Richardson, *Theological Word Book of the Bible*, Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd., 2012.

Philip Newell, *Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer*, William B. Eardmans Publishing Company, 2000.



HOW TO CREATE A HEALTHY LIFE

A series of free talks at Grace Counseling Center, 16 Madison Avenue, Madison

Come join us for a series of monthly discussions to help you create a more meaningful life. Grace Counseling Center in Madison, NJ is offering these discussions free to the community. Each one focuses on an aspect of your life that can help you unleash true happiness.

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018 7:00- 8:00 p.m. "RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN"

Raising children in today's world is complicated. One of the greatest gifts we can give them is the ability to be resilient. This workshop will explore the characteristics that define resilience and how to cultivate it in your child. **Presented by: Nunzio Gubitosa, MA, M Phil, LP**

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018 10:00-11:00 a.m. "INFANT MASSAGE"

Learn about Infant Massage! Babies 0-12 months old and loved ones welcome. Parents, Grandparents, Caretakers. We will spend time learning the theory about infant massage and time massaging your baby. The benefits and practice techniques of Infant Massage will be discussed. Infant Massage promotes speech and neurodevelopment for infants and reduces stress and blood pressure for adults. **Presented by: Gabrielle M. Salomon, MD**

PLEASE RSVP TO 973-822-0707 – SPACE IS LIMITED

JOIN US FOR

TODDLER TIME



Where: Kemmerer Library, Lower Floor

When: Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm

Our Church has partnered with Kemmerer Library to host TODDLER TIME, a play group for children under 5 and their parents/caregivers/grandparents/friends, etc.

The group meets Wednesday afternoons on the lower level of the Kemmerer Library from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Our hope is to create a safe, fun environment where children can play with one another while adults have an opportunity to socialize.

Contact Hayley for more information:
occonnorhe@gmail.com



New Toys for the Nursery

Our church nursery is in need of a few new toys. We have a wish list on Amazon.com if you'd like to help out. To purchase an item on the wish list, visit this link:

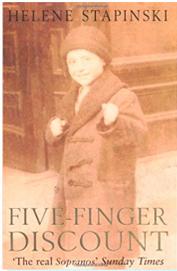
<http://a.co/1BzHmu>



Questions? Contact
Hayley Stone at:
occonnorhe@gmail.com



FPCNV Book Club Schedule



5-Finger Discount: A Crooked Family History by Helen Strapinski

'The night my grandfather tried to kill us, I was five years old, the age I stopped believing in Santa Claus. Helene Strapinski had been playing in the family's apartment above the Majestic Tavern in Jersey City when, in the bar downstairs, Grandpa - an ex-con and armed robber - pointed his loaded gun and bragged he had a bullet for each of them. But news travelled fast, and within minutes Helene was watching a handcuffed Grandpa go to jail for the last time. The Stapinskis have a knack for breaking the law. Helene's daily bread was stolen by her father from the cold storage company where he worked, and the books on her shelves were swiped from the local bookbinding company. In her own generation, her first cousin embezzled a quarter of a million dollars, tearing the

Meeting Dates and Book Selections

Where: Library When: 7:30 pm

- MAR 13** *5-Finger Discount: A Crooked Family History* by Helen Strapinski
- APR 10** *The Perfect Horse: The Daring U.S. Mission to Rescue the Priceless Stallions Kidnapped by the Nazis* by Elizabeth Letts
- MAY 8** *Blood at the Root* by Patrick Phillips
- JUN 12** *The Body Builders: Inside the Science of the Engineered Human* by Adam Piore

clan apart. All these stories are part of Helene's unbelievable heritage and of FIVE-FINGER DISCOUNT, a raucous and heartbreaking tale. – Amazon.com

Sunday Speaker Series 2017-2018

11:15 am to 12:15 pm



THE HEROIN AND OPIATE EPIDEMIC IN MORRIS COUNTY **Brad Seabury**

April 22

Morris County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Brad Seabury will bring 12 years of experience in the Special Operations Division to share facts about the opiate epidemic in Morris County and what is being done to help individuals and families. Mr. Seabury will detail the latest national and local statistics and delve into how illicit drugs are distributed and sold here in the United States, where approximately 80 percent of the world's opioids are consumed. He will also describe how addiction can start and ways to combat it. Although realizing that addiction is a disease, he understands that the stigma of addiction makes getting help difficult. Representatives from the Center for Addiction Recovery Education & Success (CARES) will be on hand to provide advice to families who have been touched by addiction.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

May 6

Dr. Gerald Liu

Rev. Gerald C. Liu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Worship and Preaching at Princeton Theological Seminary, will be introducing his new book, slated for publication in 2017, entitled *Music and the Generosity of God*. In a world where access to the divine can seem impossible, Dr. Liu invites readers to experience all sounds as gifts from God. Born in Jackson, Mississippi to immigrants from Taiwan, he is an ordained United Methodist Minister and serves as a Minister-in-Residence at Church of the Village in Manhattan. With a Masters in Divinity from Emory University and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt, Dr. Liu has taught and ministered throughout the U.S. and Europe.





Supplies Needed for Homeless Solutions

The shelter is currently low on some critical supplies and would appreciate donations of any of the following

- washcloths
- irons (like new)
- Anti-bacterial hand soap
- Coffee
- Flavored oatmeal
- Tissues
- Anti-bacterial wipes (Clorox or Lysol, not baby wipes)

Please bring donations to Fellowship Hall and leave them on the stage by Sunday, March 25. We will see that they are delivered. Thank you for your generosity.

About Homeless Solutions

Today, Homeless Solutions, Inc. **provides shelter for 25 homeless men, 10 homeless women, 10 families, and 20 Safe Haven guests.** Our guests receive services including case management, transportation to work and necessary appointments, money management and employment assistance, housing search assistance and daily living skills training. Referral services for counseling, substance abuse intervention and prevention are also provided.

Homeless Solutions, Inc. employs 49 staff, 36 full-time and 13 part-time. Homeless Solutions, Inc. is governed by a Board of Trustees and is incorporated as a non-profit organization in the State of New Jersey.

*A Hand UP,
not a HandOUT...*

Square Dance & Pasta Dinner

Saturday, March 3



Dinner
5:00 pm

Dancing
6:30 pm

Questions? Contact
Jenn at:

jennmccann43@gmail.com

PELA Meetings (Parents Enduring Loss to Addiction)

There will be a meeting for parents who have experienced loss to addiction on the third Wednesday of each month. This is a free meeting open to all, led by Sue Nobleman in the Church Library from 5:30-7 pm.

Questions? Contact Sue Nobleman:
sue@willowtree.org

St Patrick's Day Coffee Hour Sunday, March 18

Hosted by the
Congregational Life Committee

Immediately following
worship



Calendar of Events March - June, 2018

MARCH

- SAT 03/03 Spaghetti Dinner/Square Dance 5-8 pm
 SUN 03/04 Communion/Installation Service
 WED 03/07 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 TUE 03/13 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm
 WED 03/14 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 THU 03/15 Senior Luncheon: 12:00 pm
 SUN 03/18 St Patrick's Day Coffee Hour
 MON 03/19 Finance Committee Meeting @ 7pm
 TUE 03/20 Session Meeting @ 7 pm
 WED 03/21 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 SUN 03/25 Palm Sunday
 WED 03/28 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 THU 03/29 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 pm
 FRI 03/30 Good Friday (Office Closed)

APRIL

- SUN 04/01 Easter Sunday & Communion
 6:30 am: Sunrise Service @ Bayne Park
 9:00 am: Morning Worship
 10:00 am: Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt
 11:15 am: Morning Worship
 WED 04/01 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 TUE 04/10 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm
 WED 04/11 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 MON 04/16 Finance Committee Meeting @ 7pm
 TUE 04/17 Session Meeting @ 7 pm
 WED 04/18 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 SUN 04/22 Adult Education Speaker @ 11:15 am
 Brad Seabury, *Addiction*
 WED 4/25 Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Café @ 7:30 am
 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm

MAY

- WED 05/02 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 SUN 05/06 Communion
 Adult Education Speaker @11:15 am
 Dr. Gerald Liu: *Music & Worship*
 TUE 05/08 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm
 WED 05/09 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 SUN 05/13 Mothers' Day
 MON 05/14 Finance Committee Meeting @ 7pm
 TUE 05/15 Session Meeting @ 7 pm
 WED 05/16 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 SUN 05/20 Pentecost
 WED 05/23 Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Café @7:30 am
 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 MON 05/28 Memorial Day (Office Closed)
 WED 05/30 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm

JUNE

- SUN 06/03 Communion
 WED 06/06 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 SUN 06/10 Youth Celebration Sunday
 TUE 06/12 Deacons' Meeting @ 7 pm
 WED 06/13 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 SUN 06/17 Fathers' Day
 MON 06/18 Finance Committee Meeting @ 7pm
 TUE 06/19 Session Meeting @ 7 pm
 WED 06/20 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm
 WED 06/27 Men's Breakfast at La Di Da Café @ 7:30 am
 Toddler Time/Kemmerer Library: 1:30-3 pm



Easter Dedications

If you would like to make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one, please complete the following form and send in your donation by Monday, April 10.

Please select your preference:

- In memory In honor of

Dedication from:

Dedication to:

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday: March 25 at 10:00 am

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week as we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Our Sunday morning service will include a parade of palms and special music.

Maundy Thursday: March 29 at 7:00 pm

This year our Maundy Thursday service will feature music from Mozart's *Requiem*, sung by a quartet from FPCNV. The Requiem was originally written as music for a mass, but has since been primarily presented in concert halls. Join us for an evening of sacred music, as we weave these pieces into our service of worship and celebrate the sacrament of communion together.



Sunrise Service at Bayne Park: 6:30 am

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. -Luke 24:1-2a

Start your Easter with this Sunrise Celebration of our Risen Lord.

Worship Services: 9:00 am & 11:15 am

There will be two Worship Services on Easter Morning again this year. The first is at 9:00 am, and the second will begin at 11:15 am.



Easter Morning Breakfast: 10:00-11:00 am

The Deacons invite all members of the congregation to join them for Easter breakfast at 10 am.

Children's Egg Hunt: 10:00 am

In our traditional Egg Hunt, bright eggs will be hidden throughout the grounds for your children to find. The egg is a symbol of the rebirth of the earth in celebration of spring and was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus.

Children, bring your basket or bag to hold your eggs!



Messy Church - A Good Time Was Had By All!





“Love Your Neighbor” was our theme at Messy Church. We made a collage, decorated heart cookies, made candle holders, and acted out the story of the Good Samaritan. Thank you to everyone who came and helped out!

Senior Luncheon on February 21



A Special Senior Luncheon was held on February 21st. The Deacons provided soups, salad, and bread, followed by homemade cake and cookies with coffee. It was a fun time of fellowship (and great food!)

BELOW: Toys from the wish list have begun to arrive! But Amazon did not send information on who the purchasers were. If you donated a toy, please let us know who you are so we can thank you!





Presents
Music Made Here
Quartet Plus

Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 pm

The second of their four-concert series, ***Music Made Here***, will be held on Sunday afternoon, **April 8, at 3 o'clock** in the sanctuary. Entitled *Quartet Plus*, the program features the exciting Harlem Quartet, a Grammy-winning ensemble, joined by Steinway Artist, award-winning pianist and CME founder and director Min Kwon, as they perform Robert Schumann's glorious *Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Opus 44*. Also appearing are Lucy Lee on viola and Patrick Hopkins on cello playing Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*. The concert will be followed by an informal reception to meet the artists in Fellowship Hall.

The series continues on October 14 with *Opera Extravaganza* and December 9, *Winter Celebration*. For tickets and further information, kindly consult: cmemusic.org.

Tickets also available at the door: \$30 for adults, under 18 free.



Next Senior Luncheon

Thursday, March 15
12 pm

There will be a special luncheon again this month for our Seniors, their friends, and caregivers on Thursday, March 15th at 12:00 pm.

If you would like to attend, please **RSVP by March 12**

to

Debbie Hennessey in the Church Office :

dhennessey@pcnv.org or 97-538-8394

Information Request

- We are grateful to all members who have already named FPCNV in their Estate Plans.
- So that your Crossroads Membership becomes immediately effective, please inform Deb in the Church Office.
- More Information on this topic is coming soon.

The Crossroads Society

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Bible Study 9:30-10:30 am Choir 7:30 pm	2 AA Meeting noon	3 Pasta Dinner & Square Dance 5-8 pm
4 Worship 10 am Communion Installation Service Followed by Coffee Hour	5 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	6 Women's AA Step Meeting 12:00 pm	7 Toddler Time 1:30-3 pm	8 Bible Study 9:30-10:30 am Choir 7:30 pm	9 AA Meeting noon	10
11 Worship 10 am followed by Coffee Hour	12 No Bible Study	13 Women's AA Step Meeting 12:00 pm Deacons' Mtg 7:00 pm Book Club 7:30 pm Library	14 Toddler Time 1:30-3 pm	15 Bible Study 9:30-10:30 am Senior Luncheon 12 pm Choir 7:30 pm	16 AA Meeting noon	17
18 Worship 10 am Congregational Life Hosts St. Patrick's Day Coffee Hour	19 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Finance Mtg 7 pm	20 Women's AA Step Meeting 12:00 pm Session Mtg. 7 pm	21 Toddler Time 1:30-3 pm PELA Meeting 5:30-7 pm	22 Bible Study 9:30-10:30 am Choir 7:30 pm	23 AA Meeting noon	24
25 Worship 10 am Followed by Coffee Hour	26 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	27 Women's AA Step Meeting 12:00 pm	28 Toddler Time 1:30-3 pm	29 Bible Study 9:30-10:30 am Choir 7:30 pm	30 Good Friday Church Office Closed AA Meeting noon	31

March Worship Plans

Communion Sunday, March 4

Third Sunday in Lent
Preacher: Rev. Joanne Miller
Liturgist: Jonathan Shelby



Sunday, March 11

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Preacher: Rev. Joanne Miller
Liturgist: Jane Coyle

Sunday, March 18

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Preacher: Rev. Joanne Miller
Liturgist: Eileen Urban

Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday
Preacher: Rev. Joanne Miller
Liturgist: Ann Talcott

Hymn of the Month

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Author: George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870); rev. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt.

The original nine-stanza version of this text was published in a religious periodical with the title "Poetry for Lent: As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing." In that form it was, as Julian candidly says, "impossible for public worship" (Julian, 1637.) From its original text, a sufficient sense of its overwrought nature can be gained from the second stanza:

*Sunbeams scorching all the day, Chilly dewdrops nightly shed,
Prowling beasts about thy way, Stones thy pillow, sand thy bed?*

It is understandable that this text would be revised, as it was five years later by a hymnal compiler, who reduced the stanzas from nine to six. Strangely enough, he left almost untouched the stanza quoted above, but his other five stanzas form the basis of the present text.

Second-person singular pronouns and verbs have been revised from archaic to modern forms. A few other adjustments have also been made: 2.1, "sorrow" for "watchings"; 2.2, "worldly" for "earthy"; 2.4, "strong" for "glad"; 3.1, "on us press" for "vexing sore"; 3.2, "to" for "should"; 3.3, "victor in the wilderness" for "Thou, his vanquisher before"; 3.4, "that we not" for "we may not"; 4.4, "served you faithfully" for "ministered to thee."

While it is true that the number of the days of Lent derive from a desire to imitate Christ's period of preparation for his ministry, the medieval accretions to this season have left such a shadow of negation on them that many people associate Lent entirely with avoiding temptations, especially those of the worldly sort. From that perspective, this hymn offers a summation of what Lent is about.

A glimmer of a balancing consideration comes at the end of the fifth stanza with the mention of Easter. Before the church assumed that Lent was a penitential season for everyone, it had been a time for preparing catechumens for baptism at Easter and for restoring to fellowship repentant persons who had been separated from the faithful. So Lent was a season oriented to its positive outcome. Regaining that sense of Lent as a time of preparation for Easter is still one of the challenges of our day. -Glory to God: A Companion, Carl P. Daw Jr.

The Pipe Organ

First Presbyterian Church
2 Lee's Hill Road, PO Box 218
New Vernon, NJ 07976-0218

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, March 3

Square Dance & Pasta Dinner

Sunday, March 4

Installation Service

Thursday, March 15

Senior Luncheon

Sunday, March 18

St Patrick's Day Coffee Hour

Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday Service

Thursday, March 29

Maundy Thursday Service

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 officeadmin@pcnv.org or call 973-538-8394.

CHURCH OFFICE

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