

The First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains

Sunday, January 20, 2019 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

GATHERING MUSIC

REFLECTION BEFORE WORSHIP

"It is crucial that Jesus is led by the Spirit. There are two wildernesses, two darkneses in the spiritual journey. One you go into by your own stupidity, by your sin, blindness, ignorance and mistakes. We all do that. But there's another darkness. The holy darkness is the darkness that God leads us into, through and beyond. This is a necessary darkness for the journey. In a certain sense, God's darkness is a much better teacher than light. There comes a time when you have to either go deeper into faith or you will turn back, when you have to live without knowing or you lose faith altogether. So we have the Spirit leading Jesus into the wilderness, to face the essential darkness." - Father Richard Rohr, Center for Action & Contemplation
When have you felt 'in the wilderness'?
Are such moments always a negative experience?

WELCOME The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

GATHERING PRAYER

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY VIDEO

*OPENING SONG OF PRAISE #435 (blue) **"God of Grace and God of Glory"**
Lori Yost, Musician

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: One day
Right Side: One day
Left Side: One day
All: One day, every valley gonna be filled;
Leader: One day
Left Side: One day
Right Side: One day
All: One day, every mountain and hill gonna be made low;
Right Side: One day
Leader: One day
Left Side: One day
All: One day, all the crooked gonna be made straight;
Leader: One day
Right and Left Sides: One day
All: One day, all the rough ways gonna be made smooth;
Leader: One day
Right and Left Sides: One day
Leader: One day
All: One day, God's gonna do it! We're all gonna see it!

CHORAL ANTHEM "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

arr. by J. Roy Ringwald Chancel Choir, John Hellyer, Director

*PASSING OF THE PEACE The Peace of Christ be with you. **And, also with you.**
(Children and youth are invited to leave for their classes.)

*SONG OF PREPARATION #713 (blue) **"Seek Ye First"**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Forgive us, God. Forgive us for hungering for what we do not need, and thirsting for what will not satisfy, when the feast is already offered to us: the bread of life and living water. Forgive the rootedness we welcome in traditions that bind us when faith spells liberation. Forgive us for kissing the cheek of power instead of the hand of righteousness, when the world cries out for justice. May we know your forgiveness in our hearts, and be transformed and cleansed, a new beginning from the temptations we have known. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HALLE HALLE HALLE

PSALMIST Psalm 91:9-12 (NIV)

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MESSAGE "The Wild Wilderness"

Dave Sippel, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Abide With Me" Phoebe Patterson, saxophone

*DOXOLOGY #166 (blue) **"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

*SENDING SONG #267 (green) **"Will You Come & Follow Me"**

*BENEDICTION

Congregational Participation

ONE OR TWO COMMUNION SERVICES – FIRST SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH? As we enter a new season, we have been discussing whether it is beneficial to our community to worship together the first Sunday of each month – communion Sunday, or to continue to have two services. We would love to hear the thoughts of the congregation. Let us know what you think: comments@frc-pp.org You are also welcome to talk with Pastor Kathleen, Dave Sippel or a Consistory member: Kerri Palen, VP, Angela Kohle, Sr. Elder, Eric Reichenbach, Sr. Deacon, Rose Chara, Mike Petrucelli, Pauline McKeown, or Tom Kamp. We cannot consider any anonymous comments or suggestions.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON THE 2019 BUDGET ON JAN. 27: Each year, the Consistory recommends its annual budget to the congregation for vote and gives an update on mission and vision. That meeting will take place between worship services on Sunday, Jan. 27. It will be held at 9:20 AM in Friendship Hall. The budget will be available to be picked up on Sunday, Jan. 20.

Events



DINNER AND A MOVIE: MRS. DOUBTFIRE ON MONDAY

JANUARY 28 AT 6:30 PM: The Health and Wellness Team invites you to our dinner and movie on Monday January 28th from 6:30 to 9:00 PM in Friendship Hall. Dinner will be lasagna, salad, bread and gelato and the cost is \$5.00 per person. The movie will be a comedy "Mrs. Doubtfire". Tickets will be available starting Jan. 13th in Friendship Hall after

services or during the week in the office.

SENIOR ACTIVITY NIGHT "COOKING WITH SUSY!" ON WED., JAN 23RD AT 7 PM IN FRIENDSHIP HALL: For this fourth Senior Activity Night, join Susy Kerber as she teaches us how to make biscotti. Come at 7 PM, on Wed., Jan. 23rd. No great expertise needed, just come and have some fun and yum! For seniors who don't like driving at night, bring a friend, and carpool. If a ride is needed, call Joyce Forde-Muller (973) 650 8870. Sign up in Friendship Hall.



Learning & Growth

"INTENTIONAL PARENTING: 10 WAYS TO BE AN EXCEPTIONAL PARENT IN A QUICK FIX WORLD": 5-Session Video Series - Group Leader: Dave Sippel

Raising kids in today's culture is a difficult challenge and it requires a plan. Without a plan, parents usually default to Quick-Fix Parenting. To be an exceptional parent, you need to be an intentional parent. Classes will be held on Sunday nights from January 27th to March 3rd. 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Cost is \$20 per participant. Gathering Place. Nursery care is available upon request. Register at www.firstreformedchurch.com (Grow With Us then Adult Education)

KOINONIA BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW WEDNESDAYS (STARTING JAN. 16) 7 – 8:30 PM AND FRIDAY DAYTIME (STARTING JAN 18) @ NOON IN BLUE ROOM: Koinonia means "fellowship."

In a community of fellowship with elements of both learning and support, we will gather and study the Gospel of Matthew. You don't need to know anything about the Bible to come. A study book will be provided. Bring your Bible. To register sign up on our website, in Friendship Hall, or by calling the church office. You are also welcome to join us by the web video conference: <https://zoom.us/9739350939>



LABYRINTH JANUARY 27 FROM 6-9 PM IN FRIENDSHIP HALL: A labyrinth is a simple walking path that simulates a spiritual journey. Simply come anytime between 6:00 and 8:30 P.M., take off your shoes, and when ready, follow the path.

"FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY" NEW SESSION BEGINS ON MONDAYS, FEB. 11 – APRIL 8 AT 7 PM: *Financial Peace University* will help you take control of your money, plan for your future, and transform your life. Private information is confidential. This 9 week course is taught with video lessons created by Dave Ramsey over 25 years in the making. Class will be taught by Dolores Wagoner, our Finance Manager, on Mondays Feb. 11-April 8 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Ministry Arts and Music Center. To register go to fpu.com, then scroll down to enter your zip code. Click the "join" button for First Reformed Church. Class materials can be purchased online for \$119 after you register for class.

Youth Ministry

LOCK-IN AND SNOW TUBING AT CAMPGAW: 5:00pm on Sunday, February 17th to 8:00am on Monday, the 18th. Tubing and snow fun at Campgaw Mountain. Chili and Soup Supper back at the church. Overnight fun including a game of Sardines! \$30. Register online: <http://firstreformedchurch.com/event/1258639-2019-02-18-youth-lock-in-and-fun-at-campgaw/>

HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT: March 8th to 10th. Students should come to the FUSE Room at 5:00pm on Friday night. They should bring a bag supper prior with them. We'll return to the church at around 2:30pm on Sunday afternoon. Please go online to register right away: <http://firstreformedchurch.com/event/1183391-2019-03-08-youth-winter-retreat/>

NEW HERE? WELCOME!

We are so pleased that you chose to share this New Year with us here at First Reformed. You'll find we are a community of faith trying to help people live and love like Jesus in their communities. If you are new to us, we'd love to help along the journey. No matter who you are or how you are, we hope you know you can belong here. Our vision is to be the church in the heart of this town with OPEN DOORS, OPEN HEARTS & OPEN HANDS. If that is the type of church you are looking for, you can take a first step by filling out a connection card, which is located on the table by the entrance to our worship space at 8:30 a.m. service or in the pew at 10 a.m. service. Also, check out our website www.firstreformedchurch.com

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

We believe that **discipleship** is a lifelong journey. There is never a time in our lives when we can be satisfied with our growth or our certainty. Certainty is about being right. Faith is about being guided by what's right and training yourself to do it. FRC's worshipping community welcomes faith with all the doubts, the questions and the mystery. Our hope is to provide space and opportunities for exploration and inquiry, questioning and listening, dialogue and discernment. There is also nothing like participating in hands-on service to deepen your faith and put it in action. Throughout the year, we offer many opportunities for missional service.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES

We have a thriving ministry with 6th to 12th graders here at First Reformed Church. There are trips, retreats, service projects, and fun outings scheduled throughout the year. We have a very dedicated team that has been working with the youth for many years. The middle school program is called IGNITE, and the high school program is called F.U.S.E. The youth meet on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in middle school and high school classes. They also meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. for FUEL youth group. Wednesday evening is a midweek opportunity to see your friends. Learn and have fun.

BABIES & KIDZ MINISTRIES

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available at both services. The nursery is located on the main floor of the Ministry Center near the church office. Our Spark Kidz program for children age 2 years to 5th grade begins at 10 a.m. each Sunday in the Sanctuary, where children attend the first 15 minutes of the service with their family and then are dismissed for their individual classes. There they explore the Bible through exciting hands-on multi-sensory lessons. Parents can pick up their children in their classrooms upstairs in the Ministry Center following the conclusion of our 10 AM service.

WAYS TO GIVE

Direct: Donation into the plate

Bank Transfer: Set up donations directly from your checking or savings

Online: Donate thru our secure website www.firstreformedchurch.com

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

JOYS:

Congratulations to **Michelle Little** and family, who got engaged to Christian Canzellarini on Christmas Day.

FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE:

Prayers for **Gayle Dunlap and family** after the loss of her mom on 12/30. Cards to 26 Terrace Ave., Butler, 07405

CONCERNS:

Dennis Rosen, prayers for healing

Sue Breznak, prayers as she recovers from surgery. Cards to 4 Benjamin Place, Pequannock 07440

Valerie Floyd, Joan Muller's cousin, diagnosed with brain cancer.

Diane Grossmueller, Joan Muller's niece, diagnosed with lung cancer

Cris Bowsher, Chad's dad, recovering from stroke.

Charles Bowsher, Chad's granddad, prayers for accurate diagnosis of illness

John Woods Pray for healing after a surgery. Cards to 12 Cameron Ave. PP

Prayers for **Rusty Ayers**, who is on hospice care. Cards to 27 Woodland Place, PP

LONG TERM ILLNESS:

John Holmes, Brian Spring, Connie, Jamie, Bob, friend of Joann Warner, **Andres Echevarria, Hannah Cerullo** (Lew Shafer's cousin's daughter), **Jennie Byram, Eugene Fletcher, Carol Ratz, Kathy** (Sue Leonard's friend), **Candace** (Jane Young's sister), **Michael Barch, Gavin Brady, Blair Ludemann, Cheryl, Lawrence Trumppore, Jim** (the Bundz's neighbor).

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Thanks for Coming



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For more information visit us online at firstreformedchurch.com