

The First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains

Second Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2019 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

GATHERING MUSIC

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

EXTINGUISHING A LENTEN CANDLE (*Unison*)

Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming the world. Amen.

*OPENING SONG OF PRAISE #562 (*blue hymnal*) **"Be Thou My Vision"**

Lori Yost, Musician

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

In this hour we will pray, **Because we long to draw near to God.**

In this hour we will sing, **Because words are hardly ever enough.**

In this hour we will sit side by side, **As a reminder that we belong together.**

And in this hour, we will cultivate faith - together.

So let us worship with open hearts.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Children and youth are invited to leave for their classes)

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Will Lift My Eyes" by Bebo Norman *Michele Crefeld, solo*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 20:1-16 *Roland Petit, Visitation Pastor*

SONG OF PREPARATION #79 (*green book*) "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MESSAGE Gospel of Matthew: The Unfairness of God"

Rev. Kathleen Edwards Chase, Lead Pastor

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY "The Presence of God" by Jay Althouse

Chancel Choir, John Hellyer, Director

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

*SENDING SONG **"Go Now in Peace"**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

The altar flowers are in memory of Frances & Anthony Nigri, Jim Black & Stephen Black given by Pat Black

Today and This Week at FRC

Prayer for Healing

PRAYERS FOR HEALING SERVICE TODAY @ 11:15 AM IN THE SANCTUARY: If you need healing for yourself or prayers for someone close to you, stay after worship for this brief service.

FRC-PP ART GALLERY OPEN HOUSE RECEPTION –

MARCH 17 FROM 2-3 PM: The FRC-PP gallery show in March features Karen DeLuca and is a collection of still life, travels and nature using watercolor. Stop by the gallery to meet the artist. Light refreshments will be served.

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER & MUSIC TONIGHT at 5 PM in Friendship Hall. Tickets already sold out.

Service Sunday April 7th

ALL AGES - SERVICE SUNDAY WILL BE APRIL 7TH – NO WORSHIP SERVICE: Sign-ups for Service Sunday are going on right now. This is an event that all ages and abilities can participate in. At 8:30 AM that day we will gather as a congregation in the sanctuary for a 20 minute communion service. Then, we will scatter to serve in various locations. You do not need to be a member to participate. Register on our website <http://www.firstreformedchurch.com/event/1183424-2019-04-07-service-sunday/>

SERVICE SUNDAY LEADERS MEETING MARCH 26 AT 7 PM IN THE BLUE ROOM:

Please come to the meeting and contact Bob Nixon

at robertnixon9@hotmail.com or John Driesse at johndriesse@optonline.net

SERVICE SUNDAY EASTER BASKET DONATIONS: Donations are needed for the Service Sunday Easter Basket Project. Check out the board in Friendship Hall, pick a tag, and return the items by 3/31. Our goal is to compile 100 baskets. Baskets will be sent to places including Grandma's House, Lincoln Park Food Pantry, a shelter in West Milford, Project Self Sufficiency, Connect for Community and a school supporting some homeless students

Support

EASTER PLANT DEADLINE NEXT WEEK: Forms are in your bulletins this week. Please fill out and leave in the basket or return to the office. Flowers can be in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Plants are \$12. Orders due by March 24.

FOOD PANTRY CURRENT NEEDS: laundry detergent, dish detergent, shampoo & conditioner, mac & cheese, Chef boy-r-dee, paper towels, pasta sauce, oatmeal, hot chocolate

Trip to Israel

INTERESTED IN A TRIP TO ISRAEL?: Pastor Kathleen is fielding interest of members and guests to see who is interested in taking a trip to Israel and possibly Petra in Jordan sometime next year 2020. The total 10-day trip cost would probably be in the \$4,000 - \$5,000/per person range, including airfare, on-ground transportation, guide, accommodations and most meals. Participants would also need to be in good enough physical shape to walk several miles a day. If you have interest, please email PK at Kathleen@frc-pp.org and let her know the best travel months for you next year.

Events

GRAINS OF HOPE FOOD PACKING EVENT NEXT WEEK MARCH 24: There are spots left, so if you haven't signed up, the time is now. To register go to our



website under "Events" or <http://goh2019peq.eventbrite.com>

ON MARCH 31 – ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM & POT LUCK BREAKFAST AT 9 AM: Plan to make

your favorite recipe for all to share. Join us for breakfast at 9 in Friendship Hall and worship at 10 in the sanctuary.

READING & VIDEO CORNER DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF HAYDEN BECKER ON SUN., MARCH 31 11:15 AM: We will be dedicating the newly renovated reading and video corner in our 2 & 3 year old classroom in memory of Hayden Becker on Sunday, March 31st immediately following the 10 AM service. All are welcome.

SR. ACTIVITY NIGHT: Our next senior activity night features "Exercises with Amy Muller". It will be held on March 27 at 7 pm in Grace Chapel. Come move with us and have fun with chair and standing exercises. Bring a small throw pillow. If you need a ride, notify Joyce Forde Muller at 973-650-8870.

HEALTH & WELLNESS TEAM UPDATE: Do you know about vaping and its dangers? The team will be handing out informational packets after each service on March 24th. Parents & grandparents, get informed!

VAPING AND THE IMPACT ON OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS – APRIL 2 @ 7 PM IN FRIENDSHIP HALL: Jim Sarto, Ed.S will provide some valuable information on vaping & the drug crisis along with new teen drug trends including edibles, bagging study drugs and opioids. He will also identify hidden social media technology and what we as parents and caregivers need to know. Please join the Community Partners for HOPE to learn more on this topic. Register at <http://cpfh1901.eventbrite.com/>

LABYRINTH - MARCH 24 FROM 6-9 PM IN FRIENDSHIP HALL: Labyrinths help facilitate calming the mind and soul, meditation, prayer, a deeper relationship with God, healing, a feeling of spiritual peace and safety and as a way to empower and develop self-knowledge. Simply come anytime between 6:00 and 8:30 P.M., take off your shoes, and when ready, follow the path.

Children's Ministry

SUPER-HERO DAY – 5TH SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST: As part of our 5th Sunday celebration, all kids in Pre-K to 5th grade will meet together during Spark Kidz. Our activities that morning will be based on superheroes and how we can follow our real superhero Jesus. Kids are welcome to wear their favorite superhero attire.

NURSERY CAREGIVERS NEEDED: Love babies? Volunteers are needed to serve in our church nursery on a rotating basis (approx. 1/month) during the 10 AM service. Contact Janet at janet@fr-pp.org for more details.

Youth Ministry

MIDDLE SCHOOL PHILLY MISSION TRIP: March 29th to 31st. We'll serve those in need across West Philly. We'll be staying in the manse of St. James UMC, and serving with Red Door Ministries and Ray of Hope. Sign up is available online. The deadline for sign up in Sunday, March 17th

NEW HERE? WELCOME!

We are so pleased that you chose to share Season of Lent 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

CONCERNS:

Jane, Joann Warner's neighbor, will have serious spinal surgery on March 18, followed by intensive physical therapy.

Jan, Jane Young's friend, cervical spine surgery went well and she is recovering at home. Thank you for your prayers

William Vincent Byrne III, health concerns receiving hospice care. Cards to 27 Woodland Pl., PP

LONG TERM ILLNESS:

Candice Rienstra (receiving Hospice), **Rusty Ayers** (receiving Hospice), Diane **Grossmueller** (Joan Muller's niece), **Valerie Floyd** (Joan Muller's cousin), **John Holmes** (Steve's brother), **Brian Spring**, **Connie**, **Jamie**, **Bob**, friend of Joann Warner, **Andres Echevarria**, **Jennie Byram**, **Eugene Fletcher**, **Carol Ratz**, **Kathy** (Sue Leonard's friend), **Candace** (Jane Young's sister), **Michael Barch**, **Gavin Brady**, **Blair Ludemann**, **Cheryl**, **Lawrence Trumpore**, **Jim** (the Bundz's neighbor)



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For more information visit us online at
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Lent

The Gospel of Matthew