



The SPIRE

BOONTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2016

Faith, Hope and Love in **ACTION!**

Dear Saints

Late afternoon is not a good time for me to be shopping in the super market, as a developing hunger creates a desire to buy more food than I need. The other day I hurried through and tried hard not to over buy. But then I was waiting in the checkout line and discovered I was right next to the **pretzels!!** I'm sure you can guess the rest of the story.

So we are halfway through Lent and **did you know that the pretzel has a deep spiritual meaning for Lent?** It may have been the ancient Christian Lenten bread as far back as the fourth century. In the old Roman Empire, the faithful kept a very strict fast all through Lent: no milk, no butter, no cheese, no eggs, no cream and no meat. However, we really don't know exactly when the pretzel originated and there are various legends about it. One is that an Italian monk, around 610, would bake strips of dough that he folded into a shape resembling a child crossing its arms in prayer. He would give these treats, which he called "pretiolas" or "little rewards," to children who had memorized their prayers. Unfortunately—and not surprisingly—there's no documented evidence from the 600's to confirm this story.

Whatever their origin, for Christians throughout the centuries, pretzels have been regarded as having religious significance for both their ingredients and shape. They were shaped in the form of crossed arms for the custom was to cross arms over the breast while praying. Pretzels were considered a sign of good luck and spiritual wholeness—possibly due to the three holes in the common pretzel shape, representing the Holy Trinity. Seen as a symbol of good luck, prosperity and spiritual fulfillment, pretzels were also commonly distributed to the poor, as a way of providing them with both spiritual and literal sustenance.

The first pretzels were baked as a soft, squishy bread, like the soft pretzels of today. The popularity of these twisty treats spread across Europe during the Middle Ages. German and Swiss immigrants introduced the pretzel to North America in the 19th century. Hard pretzels became popular in this country as a snack food since they were more durable than soft pretzels. Have you ever checked out the pretzel section in the grocery store to see how many different types there are today?

Over time, pretzels became associated with both **Lent** and **Easter**. In fact, pretzels were often hunted on Easter morning just like many children hunt eggs today. Thus the pretzel is the most appropriate food symbol in Lent. Many types still show the form of arms crossed in prayer, reminding us that Lent is a time of prayer. It consists only of

water and flour, thus proclaiming Lent as a time of simplicity.

(Though you should see the list of ingredients on the kind I bought!!)

Are you using this time of Lent to grow closer to God? Next time you munch on a pretzel let it remind you of your

commitment to Jesus Christ, of our life together as a Christian community, and of the opportunity still ahead to share in our special worship services during **Holy Week** —**Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday** — so very important in helping us prepare for our celebration of Christ's resurrection on **Easter Sunday**.

So glad to be sharing the Lenten Journey with you, in Christ,

♥ *Lorrie*





First Presbyterian Church Boonton has finally caught up with the 21st century! We are now able to accept electronic donations either directly from your bank account or credit

cards. The setup is quite easy; there is a new **Online Giving icon** on the bottom of our website (www.fpcboonton.org). Online giving offers you the opportunity to make secure, automatic contributions from your bank or credit card account to our church. Online Giving costs you nothing and provides many advantages to you and the church:

BENEFITS FOR YOU

No check writing or ATM stops before church

Safe, secure, and confidential transactions

Use your checking/savings account or credit/debit card

Schedule recurring or one-time donations

Change a gift or account anytime you like

Choose unrestricted, pledges or special funds

View your giving history anytime

BENEFITS FOR THE CHURCH

Facilitates standardized giving

Reduces weekly workload on our counters

Creates peace in knowing your data and auto-deposited gifts are secure

Accommodates special funds

Provides giving history for tax statements

Reaches a wider demographic of givers

The service is provided through our contribution tracking software provider CMS (Church Management Solutions) and the payments are processed by Sage Payment Processing, one of the largest and most secure providers in the Payment Card Industry (PCI). Your bank account or credit card information is encrypted in the system and not accessible by anyone else.

The system allows you to setup one-time or regularly scheduled donations. You can suspend or cancel automatic donations at any time and you can change your payment details whenever you wish. We have set the system up to handle direct bank account as well as Visa, Master Card, Discover or American Express donations. We ask if you do use the service to please consider the direct bank approach as First Church incurs no fees in this case. If you do prefer to use a credit card just realize the church will be charged a processing fee of approximately 2.8% for credit card donations. We ask you to consider increasing your contribution to offset those fees.

If you have any questions there is a short tutorial available through the online giving link on our website or feel free to either email donations@fpcboonton.org or give Allen Whipple a call on 1-917-363-0663. ♥

DEACON'S DOIN'S

Thank You

**ATTENTION:
Ongoing
NEEDS**



Please continue to use the **GREEN** envelopes provided.

Boonton Food Pantry

When doing your grocery shopping, please remember those less fortunate.

The pantry is currently in need of non-perishable items. Please keep in mind that food stamps do not allow for the purchase of health and beauty items. Items such as shampoo, soap, cleansers, paper goods and diapers must all be paid for with cash. So these items are always much needed. The shelves are located downstairs, just outside Reighart Hall. Your continued support of the pantry is very important and very much appreciated. ♥



*"O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, thine only crown:
How pale thou art with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn!"*

NOTES FROM SARAH

March 2016

<http://www.fpcboonton.org>

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

As the season of Lent began on February 10th, so too does our time of reflection during which we experience the anticipation of the glorious **Easter Season**. During this time of reflection, the members of the music ministry at First Presbyterian are diligently rehearsing for Lenten worship services, as well as preparing for **Palm Sunday on March 20th**, and **Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday, March 24th** and **Good Friday, March 25th**.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE:
MARCH Rehearsals as follows:

Chancel Choir

Thursdays, 7:30–9 pm
BONUS REHEARSAL
Sunday, 3/6 – 11:30 am–1 pm

Hand Bell Choir

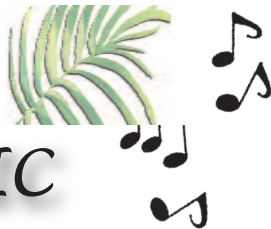
Thursdays, 6:15 - 7:30 pm
(March 3, 10, 17;
April 7, 21, 28)

Music Sunday is coming soon!

Save the date of May 15th for a music filled Pentecost Sunday service!

If you are interested in becoming a member of any of the above-mentioned choirs, please call or e-mail the organist/choir director, Sarah Berta (570-947-6330, bableon247@yahoo.com). Hope to see you at the next rehearsal! ♥

WORSHIP
&
MUSIC



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

March 4

ROCK Retreat

March 11

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

March 17th



PALM SUNDAY

Intergenerational Event

MARCH 20

(See pg 4 for details)

Maundy Thursday

March 24

8:00 pm Worship Service

Good Friday

Tenebrae Service

8:00 pm Worship Service

Great Easter Vigil

9:00 pm – 12 am

He is Risen!!

EASTER SUNDAY

March 27

Save the Date!!!

The Triad Arts Ensemble will present the 2016 Canticles for Life concert here at First Church on April 9 at 7pm. (see page 8 for details)

GIFTS

In Memory or in Honor of Loved Ones

The Memorials Committee encourages all to continue their generous gifts/ contributions to the Memorials Fund which cares for many special projects including (but not limited to) Music, Care of the Grounds, and the Scholarship Fund.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GORDON'S SISTER

GLADYS MAZZEI

FROM:

GORDON AND NANCY NICHOLSON



Love 2 Learn will be having an **OPEN HOUSE** on March 8th and 9th from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM for the 2016-2017 school year.

Please visit our Facebook page for more information.

One great hour of sharing

Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. Each gift to OGHS serves to help change the lives of people in these challenging situations. This offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Hear more about it during Minutes for Mission on Sundays, February 28th through Easter. ♥

Shall We Gather

The next meeting for the Shall We Gather group will be on March 13th after worship, with a pot luck lunch followed by discussion of the DVD segment: "Stories of Creation." All are welcome for good food and lively discussion. ♥

Palm Sunday Intergenerational Event







It's only the beginning of March but please remember to put Palm Sunday on your calendar!!! It's coming up soon, on March 20th and we're looking forward to a special day here at church!! Following our 10 a.m. Worship Service and Sunday School classes, our coffee hour, in Reighart Hall, will include our friends from St. Johns for a special event to celebrate the day.

Would you like to learn more about what happened on the first Palm Sunday?

- make palm crosses?
- act out the story?
- paint a banner?
- play games?

This will be an opportunity for all ages to come together to share our creative talents, or just sit and talk, in small groups made up of children, teens, young adults, middle-aged adults, and older adults. We're calling it an Intergenerational Event .Come share in this time of benefits and blessings for our faith community. ♥

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 28 3rd Sunday of Lent 10:00 Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 Christian Ed. 7:00 A.A.	FEBRUARY 29	1 3:00 Conservatory 6:30 Cub Scouts	2 3:00 Conservatory	3 6:15 Hand Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir 	4 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 	5 St. John's Luncheon
4th Sunday of Lent 10:00 Worship Communion Deacons at Firemen's Home 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:30 Choir 11:30 Deacon's Intergenerational Team Mtg. 7:00 A.A.	7 7:00 Cub Scouts	8 3:00 Conservatory 7:00 Operations Co-op 7:00 A.A.	9 3:00 Conservatory	10 6:15 Hand Bell Choir 7:00 Conservatory 7:30 Chancel Choir	11 6:00 ROCK – Sr. High Retreat	12  Daylight Savings Begins
Daylight Savings Begins 10:00 Worship - SHALL WE GATHER 11:15 Coffee Hour 7:00 A.A.	14 7:00 SESSION	15 3:00 Conservatory 6:30 Deacons Meeting 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 PW Bible Study	16 3:00 Conservatory	17 St. Patrick's Day 6:30 Hand Bell Choir 7:00 Conservatory 7:30 Chancel Choir	18 7:00 Cub Scouts Pack 201	19
Palm Sunday 20 Intergenerational Event 10:00 Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour 7:00 A.A.	21 7:00 MISSION Co-op	22 3:00 Conservatory 7:00 Worship Comm. Meeting	23 3:00 Conservatory	24 7:00 Conservatory 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service & Communion	25 Office Closed 8:00 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service 9:00 pm – 12 am Great Easter Vigil	26 5:00 pm – 12 am Great Easter Vigil 
EASTER Sunday 27 He is Risen!! 10:00 Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 Children's Scavenger Hunt 7:00 A.A.	28	29 3:00 Conservatory 6:30 Cub Scouts	30 3:00 Conservatory	31 3:00 Conservatory 7:30 Chancel Choir	March 2016	
Rev. Jen's Vacation - March 28 - April 3						

HOLY ALPHABET: A POEM

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanks giving
Do not begin to blame

Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know

Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee

Move out of 'Camp Complaining'
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone

Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To 'thank' is a command

Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky
We'll run the race with gratitude
Xalting God most high

Yes, there'll be good times and
 yes some will be bad, but...
Zion waits in glory...where
 none are ever sad! !

MARCH



1 Adelaide Keoppel	11 Judy Caggiano	22 Dilan A. Smith
1 Amanda Roberts	11 Zachary Stoveken	24 Dan Keoppel
3 Jean Lobb	15 Eric Rothrock	24 Clara Jean Rothrock
5 Glenn Lobb	16 Sandy Albert	25 Lisa Hordnes
5 Sienna Curran	18 Michelle Klach	26 Shavaun Pizar
6 Arlene Langdon	18 Bonnie Lobb	27 Theresa Charlton
6 Joey Maida	18 Luke Hettrich	28 Don Estler
7 Jason Eveleth	18 Amy Salas	28 Jean Rothrock
8 Alexis Schaefer	19 Casey Reed	29 Chloe Harris
9 Zachery Keoppel	22 Donald Coe	
9 Carina Jean DeLaro	22 Lauren Middleton	

Victory

Prayer for Easter

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as Easter people trusting in your Redemption. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the grace to complete it.

Adapted from
 "New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book"

PRAYER TO GO... is the monthly prayer that's printed in the Sunday bulletin. It's offered so that you can pray the prayer with family and friends or send it to someone who needs it. **It's reprinted here so that you can pray with family and friends or send to someone who needs it!**



IN OUR PRAYERS: Concerns

REV. JEN — is gradually recovering from pneumonia and is very grateful for all your prayers and expressions of concern. She expects to return shortly for a few hours each day.

JOAN PETRUCCELLI — is home after a stay in the hospital. She will be receiving physical therapy at home.

DON KEARNEY — is awaiting test results. Keep him in your prayers.

ALLIE BEDNORZ — Linda Blank's great cousin, has been suffering with Chron's disease for the past 11 years. Please keep her in your prayers.

ARIEL BEDNORZ — Linda Blank's great cousin, has just learned she has Chron's disease and hopes she is well enough for finish her last semester of nursing school. She needs our prayers.

JOE KUHL — Friend of Chris' husband, fell on ice and hit his head. He had a brain bleed and is now in rehab with short term memory loss and language retrieval issues.

KATHY PIZAR — has begun chemo and thus far has endured it well. Please pray for Kathy and her family as she continues treatment. Please keep her in your prayers

DORIS HORNICK — has moved to Merry Heart in Boonton.

MATT ROSIN — Jessica Beatty's college friend, remains unconscious from severe head trauma. His prognosis is unknown even after several surgeries.

DONNA GAMSBY — friend of Judy Caggiano, is recovering from back surgery.

KATHY MCCLELLAN — friend of Judy Caggiano, went into kidney failure and is waiting to be put on the transplant list.

MIKE VELIKY — has cancer in one lymph node and at the base of his tongue. Please pray as he begins chemo.

BRINLY LARKIN — daughter of a friend of Lynn & John Ware, is being treated for brain cancer. Keep her in your prayers.

VIVIAN — Kim Robbins mother, had a brain tumor removed and is now home awaiting test results and next treatment plan.

KEVIN SANDRUE — Donna Kurley's brother-in-law, has brain cancer and a mass on his lung. Please pray for strength during his treatments.

MARK — Betty Tilli's friend, is undergoing radiation treatment for a rare melanoma.

BOB BIRRELL — Lynn Ware's friend, is in late stage of prostate cancer and has kidney stones.

OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM — Let our prayers be with all soldiers as they defend the freedoms that we hold so dear. We are truly grateful for their service to our nation. We will continue to hold all our service personnel in our prayers until they ALL come home. ♥

For those who keep their needs private:

Many are going through difficult times but prefer to remain in private. We will hold you in our prayers.



JOYS

REVEREND JEN — is celebrating her 9th year with us, AMEN!!! (Please see Concerns)

DIANE KEARNEY — is home and doing rehab there following knee replacement surgery.

JEAN LOBB — has moved in with her daughter Kathy and her family. Her new address is: 21 Richwood Pl, Denville, NJ 07834

ELSIE FORCE — is home again and doing well! Praise God!

DON ESTLER — is due to return home this week from rehab.

SANDY — Debbie Stora's sister, is home after a double knee replacement and is doing very well.

JON BINGHAM — is engaged to be married at the end of June.

GWEN WITMER — Marilyn Ward's niece. the tumor is undetectable!! She is sure it is because of all the prayers. ♥

Please continue to contribute your change to the "Drop-in-the-Bucket" Font.



First Presbyterian Church

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973-334-3535 • FAX 973-334-3549
Website: www.fpcboonton.org

Rev. Jennifer M. Van Zandt, *Minister*
Sarah Berta, *Music Director*
Nancy Arienta, *Administrator*

2016 SCHOLARSHIPS Applications EXTENSION!!!

**Are you a High School Senior????
Taking Graduate classes????**

The Memorials Committee is pleased to announce that the Scholarship Subcommittee will be accepting applications from First Presbyterian Church of Boonton members who have applied to or are attending an accredited college or professional school in pursuit of professional certification, undergraduate education, or a graduate degree.

The criteria for the scholarship requires:

- The applicant to be a member of the First Presbyterian and
- Demonstrate service to both the church and community.

Please contact the church office at 973-334-3535 or office@fpcboonton.org for application forms for the student, the school and the church. The forms may also be received electronically via email.

Please NOTE that the deadline has been EXTENDED!!!

Completed applications need to be received by **APRIL 1, 2016** (deadline) to First Presbyterian Church Boonton, P.O. Box 157, Boonton, NJ 07005 * ATTN: Scholarship Subcommittee. The application may also be transmitted electronically to teamarena@optimum.net. ♥

CONCERTS

TRIAD ARTS ENSEMBLE
PRESENTS THE

 a musical journey and celebration of
the human spirit through song
**2016
Canticles for Life**
AIDS Benefit Concerts



Dan Crisci Jazz Trio



Sean Altman Trio



Triad Vocal Ensemble

Saturday, April 9 at 7:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church of Boonton
513 Birch St, Boonton NJ

Sunday, April 10 at 7:00 PM
Parsippany United Methodist Church
903 S. Beverwyck Road, Parsippany NJ

PREVIEW CONCERT on Sunday, April 3 at 7:00 PM
St. Joseph Church
767 Prospect St, Maplewood NJ

This is a shorter one-hour program, still benefitting the charities below.

Join us for music in traditional, jazz and pop styles!

All concert proceeds to benefit:

The AIDS Resource Foundation for Children
The NAMES Project of Northern NJ
and New Jersey AIDS Services

To purchase tickets or donate securely online,
and for more information, visit
www.CanticlesForLife.org.



Program Sponsor \$60
(Includes 2 tickets)
Contributor Ticket \$25
(\$10 Tax Deductible)
General Admission \$15
Student/Senior \$12



Large
Print