

CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 21, No. 3

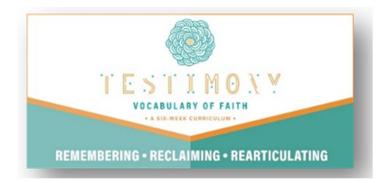
MARCH 2021



17th - Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Every Tuesday — Lenten Study via Zoom at 7pm



Every Sunday — 10am Live Streaming Worship on Facebook and then available on YouTube for later viewing



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH **P.O. BOX 1 5 WANTAGE AVE. BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826**



Our Mission Statement:

Our mission is to gather as a church family for worship and spiritual fellowship, to nurture and educate, and to proclaim the gospel to the world.

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VOLUME 21, NO. 3

FROM THE

PASTOR'S DESK

A Look Back at

MARCH 2021



It was just about a year ago that everything changed. We had a Session meeting on a Tuesday night where we talked about taking precautions in church regarding this new corona-virus that was spreading, but we didn't take any action. By Thursday I had circulated the precautions to the elders again and suggested that we consider them even more, but the next day, Friday the 13th (of March), things began shutting down. Enough members reported to me that they wouldn't be in church that Sunday, that we had to do some scrambling.

The choices were to shut down church totally, or try to do worship online. We chose the latter and set up a phone-camera on a tripod in the sanctuary, figured out how to get the sound to the phone which was too far down the aisle to record sound from there (so we pumped the sound through a hearing aid device into a portable speaker set up next to the phone), and took a crash course on how to stream worship over Facebook. We got word out to our members as quickly as we could that worship was only via streaming, but we also figured out that there was a way to download that live stream and post it to YouTube afterward (for those without Facebook). We began emailing out the bulletin to everyone as well as making it available for download on our webpage (2 places) and Facebook (our regular page and via the Members Only section). Prayer requests were solicited via a Facebook post.

All of that was figured out in one hectic weekend, and by March 15th we were up and running. Along the way we've modified the system by installing a permanent high definition camera in the back of the sanctuary that brings in sound directly from our sound system, but otherwise the setup is basically the same. We send out bulletins the same way, receive prayer concerns, do online remote communion, and limit the number of people in the building all pretty much the same way. And it's been a year! Who would have ever imagined back then that it would last this long, and even longer? Along the way we've learned how to do church despite technological setbacks (do you remember when we accidentally turned on a filter and I had glasses and a bow tie superimposed on me throughout the service? LOL!).

Along the way we've missed out on a lot. Our 200th Anniversary celebration was postponed. We didn't have a Fish n Chips, or Jeans Sunday, a Youth Group Work Camp, or the State Fair with our Coffee Booth, or Coffee Hours, and much more. 2020 was memorable in all the wrong ways.

But there is a light on the horizon named "vaccines." More and more people are being vaccinated, and the scale will tip soon for us to be back together in worship. We all want that day to arrive soon. When it does, though, we'll still be streaming our worship, because we have worshipers all over the country who tune in regularly. In April of last year our Maundy Thursday service had over 500 views, and considering we have 212 members that means a lot of folks outside of the church tuned in for the experience. We're hoping for a repeat of that this coming April when we offer the Tenebrae service again.

So I'm hoping we'll continue to stay safe, but also begin to open up the sanctuary again soon for in-person worship. When we do, though, we'll be sharing the experience with others who are too far away to join us in person, or who aren't able to make it here. I am looking forward to being around both the in-person and online groups soon! May this next 12 months see us returning back to some grafferson L. Hatch semblance of normalcy.

Your pastor,



Please offer prayers for these concerns that have been brought to our attention. They are collected each Sunday morning during the past month from the prayer concerns list used in worship.

- The Arnedt Family on the loss of John
- All those who have lost loved onest to Covid-19
- All our friends in Texas
- Walter Ackerly
- Alex
- Alfund Family
- Amy
- Ann
- John Arnedt on his passing
- Connie's Mom, Anna and her sisterin-law, Terry
- Kenneth Anderson
- Anthony
- Audrey
- Joanne B
- Joyce B.
- Barbara
- Kenny Belcher
- Beth
- Beth & Ken
- Bobby
- Mike Bohdan
- Brittney
- Linda Buehrer
- Roberta Burkhart
- Rob
- Peg Carlson
- Clara
- · Chris's family
- Cole
- Corine
- Courtney

- Alan D
- Damion
- Dave & Pat
- Debbie & Tom
- · Debbie awaiting biopsy results
- Decker Boys
- John DeVita
- Doss family who lost their son to Covid
- Dottie
- · Gale Eamigh, just out of ICU
- Fanning Family on the death of their father, age 96
- Michael & Chris Fedder
- · Flo who is in the hospital after a fall
- Genell
- Heemstra Family with an adult daughter dealing with a brain tumor
- Sylvia Hoisington
- Carole Edwards
- Lorraine Feaser
- Charles Fine in the ICU
- Roy & Donna Havelin
- Heidi
- Irene
- Jay
- Jack
- Jess
- Jim
- Joe
- Joe, Sr.
- John
- John Dudas
- Johnny
- Josh
- Jolene & John
- Karen P
- Kate & Mike
- Kayden
- Kevin
- Kim
- Kim Kus and her family after the passing of her husband due to Covid pneumonia
- Kristie
- Lamar
- Amy, Dave & Josh Langley
- Linda
- Sharon Lee

- Lisa & Rob
- Susan Martin on the loss of John
- Melissa
- Michelle and her son, John
- Mikey
- Sherry Moon
- Morgan
- Ruth Morrow
- Elaine Murtha, recovering from Covid
- Gail M.
- Nancy
- Natalie
- Joe Oliver, Sr. & Jr.
- Ginny Otis, recovering from a triplebypass
- Karen P
- Patty
- Ray & Diane
- Rahn
- Rick
- Riley
- Robin & Joe
- Sally Rude after she fell and broke her hip
- Joseph Seeger
- Sharon Lee Shaeffer
- Steve
- Sue
- Suzanne & Jerry
- Tim
- Tom
- Tom & Kathy
- Karen Utter
- Vickie recovering from knee surgery
- Family of Joe Westorp
- Scott & Debbie Williams
- Family of Ken Wiik who just passed away from cancer



 We offer thanks for the joyful news of a baby boy born to Cully & Joanna Opilla, named Theodore Hudson Opilla, God Bless him.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Do you play a musical instrument or sing? Then we need you to please sign-up to participate during the anthem portion of our worship service. If you are willing to help out, please call Kay Hatch at: 973-459-1238 to sign-up to participate. Thank you! - Kay Hatch

USEFUL TIPS TO GET COVID VACCINE APPOINTMENT - Trish Cherny found a helpful article to get a jump on getting a Covid vaccine appointment. Here is the link:

Tech Tips to Help Score a Covid-19 Vaccine Appointment at CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens and More - WSJ

SIGN UP TO BE AN USHER—Below is the link to the Usher sign-up form. If you would like to volunteer to be an usher, just use the link and add your name to the date you would like to sign-up. Thank you.

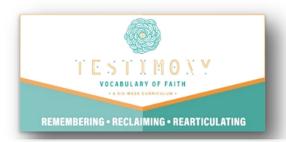
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PtxTt-j8tGs0Zil6mqjJbgQPKFspneu6pjxvsQWuPd8/edit?usp=sharing

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Sunday School families will be working on a Lenten banner to be hung in the sanctuary.

And **our Adult Lenten Study** continues on Tuesday evenings at 7pm via Zoom. Our study is themed "TESTIMONY: Vocabulary of Faith" to help us live our Reformed faith by remembering, reclaiming, and articulating what we believe about who God is and who we are so that we conform more closely to the love and grace of Jesus Christ. The online class goes for 6 weeks and includes a short video, then discussion and prayer. Sign-up via Facebook, or by emailing pastorjh@ptd.net.

Each class will last 1-1.5 hours (depending on the amount of discussion).



MISSIONS MARCHING ON!

Our congregation is doing great Mission things in the midst of this pandemic!

The Souper Bowl of Caring garnered \$190 in a one-time collection that will be donated to the Rotary program "Hunger 3.6" this year due to the fact that they will not be able to run the shelf stable meal-packaging program this year. Instead, Rotary will purchase and distribute meals with donations. Way to go TEAM!!!



 We are in our last month of our 1st Quarter mission that benefits local soup kitchens Manna House and Harvest House. Please consider sending a check made out to FPCB with "Quarterly Mission" on the note line. Tackling Food Insecurity is our mission here!

One Great Hour of Sharing began on Ash Wednesday and will culminate on Easter Sunday.



This is an annual mission project from Presbyterian Church USA that impacts people all over the world. This year we are splitting the collections between OGHS and Presbyterian Gifts, a site that allows donors to choose what they would like to give. More details and more information can be found at https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/gifts. Please make

checks out to the church and mark your donation "OGHS" on the memo line. We mailed out OGHS information and envelopes last month, if you haven't received it, please call the church office. Together we can make a world of difference for those lacking the basics we take for granted...clean water, sanitation, medical care, and food. Thank you!

Thank you all so much for your contributions to the various projects the Mission Committee has selected that the Session has approved!!



PURCHASE EASTER LILIES FOR THE SANCTUARY AND/OR DONATE TO OUR PVR CAMPAIGN

The Music & Worship Committee would like you to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Lilies are a beautiful symbol of the Easter Season and the promise of spring. You may order your Easter Lily now for Easter Sunday, April 4th. New this year, we are asking that you call the church office at 973-948-3495 to place your order. Please mail your check made out to FBCB (deadline is March 22nd). You may pick up your lily on Tuesday, April 6th in the Fellowship Hall. You may also give a gift in memory or in honor of a loved one to help grow our PVR campaign. We encourage you to continue to support our PVR Campaign. Happy Easter!

Purchase an Easter Lily @ \$15
-or-
Donate to the PVR Campaign
In Memory of
-or-
In Honor of
Given by
Phone #
Email

Thanks in advance for your donation.

Gail Burckes, Music & Worship Committee





MARCH 2021 CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARCH

Kurt Nussberger	3/1	Frank Cardinale	3/18
Jennifer Knaust	3/2	Bret Swanson	3/20
Nancy Clink	3/8	Stephanie Leenheer	3/23
Kay Hatch	3/8	Geoff Dean	3/26
Baylie Rawson	3/8	David Langley	3/26
Sarah Matheis-Smith	3/10	Geri Sutphen	3/27
Greg Becker	3/13	Karen Bath	3/28
Matthew Hlavaty	3/14	Matthew Seeger	3/30
Jeff Willis	3/15	5	
Bev Keur	3/16		

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

GUINNESS-GLAZED LAMB CHOPS

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups (16 ounces) Guinness stout
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons coriander seeds, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon black peppercorns, crushed
- 16 rib lamb chops (buy separately or buy two 8-rib racks of lamb and cut them yourself into individual chops)



PREPARATION

- 1. Bring stout, sugar, coriander seeds, peppercorns, and 1/4 teaspoon salt to a boil in a 2-quart nonreactive saucepan, stirring until sugar is dissolved, then continue boiling (keep an eye on it and reduce heat to keep it from boiling over) until glaze is syrupy and reduced to about 1/2 cup, 20 to 30 minutes.
- 2. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve into a bowl and discard solids.
- 3. Preheat broiler.
- 4. Pat chops dry and sprinkle with 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper.
- 5. Divide glaze between 2 small bowls and set 1 aside for use later. Brush both sides of chops with glaze (from remaining bowl) and arrange on rack of a broiler pan.
- 6. Broil 5 inches from heat, 4 to 5 minutes on each side for medium rare.
- 7. Transfer chops to a platter and drizzle with reserved glaze, let rest 5 minutes, then serve.

lá fhéile Pádraig sona

(Happy St. Patrick's Day)



MARCH

LAY READERS

7th-Judy Casey 14th-Trish Cherny 21st-Mike Opilla 28th-Lois Kinney

USHERS

7th -Wende Clausen 14th - Marion Alden 21st - Aimee Nishimura 28th - Judy Casey



View our website at: http://www.fpcbranchville.org

and join us for live-streamed worship on Facebook at: http://www.facebook.com (ask to be friends with "pastorjh@ptd.net")

You may e-mail the secretary at presbsec@ptd.net or the pastor at pastorih@ptd.net

View a daily devotion at: http://www.d365.org

MARCH FLOWER CHART:

If you would like to provide flowers for any of the dates, please see instructions below:

Dates: 7th 14th 21st 28th

Call the florist the week before your signup to have flowers delivered, or you may bring them yourself. Gail Burckes will contact you for your dedication or memorial.

> We use Lisa's Stonebrook Florist 973-948-7100

> > First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, New Jersey PO Box 1 3-5 Wantage Avenue Branchville, NJ 07826

> > > Phone 973-948-3495 Fax 973-948-3495

Laura Scherr, Copy Editor





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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	10:00 AM -12:30 PM	2 7:00 PM Lenten Study	<i>3</i> 10:00 AM -12:30 PM	4 10:00 AM -12:30 PM	5	6
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	Zoom	LENITENI				
1000	Church Music	LENTEN				
	& Worship					
		STUDY GROUP				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00 AM Livestream Worship/Communion	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open	7:00 PM Lenten Study via Zoom	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open		
	7:00 PM Session					
	Meeting via Zoom					
	Session	LENTEN				
	Meeting	火火				
		STUDY GROUP				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00 AM Livestream Worship	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open	7:00 PM Presbytery Meeting via Zoom	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open		
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	LENTEN					
	W 30 T7		Happy St. Patrick's			
	STUDY GROUP		Day			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00 AM Livestream	10:00 AM -12:30 PM	7:00 PM Lenten Study	10:00 AM -12:30 PM	10:00 AM -12:30 PM		
Worship Youth Group via Zoom	Food Pantry open	via Zoom	Food Pantry open	Food Pantry open		
routii Gioup via 200iii						
		LENTEN				
		STUDY GROUP				
28	29	30	31			
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		LENTEN		14 15 16 17 18		13 14 15 16 17
				21 22 23 24 2 28		20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30
		STUDY GROUP				
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