

# The Anchor Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2017



## **The Bittersweet Reality of Holy Week** - by Pastor Anthony

The Lenten Season and Holy Week are reminders of the brutality that Christ was confronted with simply because He spoke the truth. The flogging, crowns of thorn, words and deeds of accelerated humiliation, piercing nails, and unquenchable thirst. Ironically, in the end, our God who gives breath to all of life, takes His final breath...

During our Church's weekly Lenten Prayer Service, we were reminded of the various spiritual disciplines that are intended to heighten our experiences of faith by taking the journey with Christ to Calvary. Those spiritual disciplines include prayer and meditation, reading scripture, acts of repentance, fasting/abstinence, and services of charity and love.

How do any of these contribute us to drawing closer to the Lord? If you've given up sweets for Lent, the smell of cinnamon buns will simply take your breath away--you resist because you want to share with the Lord just a hint of the sacrifices He endured--yet the sweet smell that lingers is a reminder that the pang is temporary and there is much rejoicing to come in the near future--although at the moment it feels at a very far distance...

While in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus suffered great emotional and mental anguish knowing that in the immanent future, He would need to endure great brutality for the sake of taking on the burden of sins for all of humanity. In our reflections of Christ's experiences during Holy Week, we are reminded that Christ modeled for us both the harshness and sweetness in sharing the burdens for one another; being able to provide both comfort and acts of friendship, unselfishly, for someone who may have the need...

The early apostles were able to endure many struggles and sufferings for their Christian faith. They knew that even though they faced similar acts of humiliation and physical and mental abuse as Christ did, they held onto the peace and joy of God's promises in their heart that flows from doing God's will. They applied to their life, Proverbs: 3:5-6 that says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to God, and God will make your paths straight." Whether the path is one of immediate victory or a path of prolonged discomfort...they simply trusted...they believed that one day they would be re-untied with their Lord for eternity

Easter Sunday awaits all of us who have fallen in love with a God who was willing to take His last breath for the sake of our salvation. For the believer, there is always something sweet in the air and we can rest on all of God's promises.

It is joy to be a witness to the life and love of Jesus Christ in our church members who desire to be a comfort to others. Many new church guests and members have said that they feel this sense of welcoming and compassion when they first walk in. Holy Week is also referred to as the week of the Passion of Christ. When you say someone is passionate about something, it means they are willing to suffer and endure for what they are passionate about: God is so passionate about us that God was willing to give Jesus' life for us. The peace of Christ be with you all.

## **First Presbyterian Church of Tuckerton**

210 East Main Street  
Tuckerton, NJ 08087  
Office 609-296-8894  
Pastor Cell 609-848-4204

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**10:00 am**

*Communion – 1st Sunday of the Month  
Fellowship Hour 11:15 am*

### **Inside this issue...**

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### **Family Promise Week @ FPCT May 7 – May 13**

Family Promise of  
Southern Ocean County  
Annual

Cardboard Box City  
Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 6PM St.  
Mary's of the Pines  
Manahawkin

[www.familypromisesoc.org](http://www.familypromisesoc.org)

For more info call:  
609-994-3317

**Visit our website at  
[www.FPCTuckerton.org](http://www.FPCTuckerton.org)**

## **LECTIONARY READINGS**

### **Monday of Holy Week—April 10**

Isaiah 42:1–9  
Psalm 36:5–11  
Hebrews 9:11–15  
John 12:1–11

### **Tuesday of Holy Week—April 11**

Isaiah 49:1–7  
Psalm 71:1–14  
1 Corinthians 1:18–31  
John 12:20–36

### **Wednesday of Holy Week—April 12**

Isaiah 50:4–9a  
Psalm 70  
Hebrews 12:1–3  
John 13:21–3

### **Maundy Thursday—April 13**

Exodus 12:1–4 [5–10] 11–14  
Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19  
1 Corinthians 11:23–26  
John 13:1–17, 31b–35

### **Good Friday—April 14**

Isaiah 52:13–53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16–25 or Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9  
John 18:1–19:42  
Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church  
(U.S.A.) 2

### **Easter Vigil—April 15**

Genesis 1:1–2:4a  
Psalm 136:1–9, 23–26  
Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13  
Psalm 46  
Genesis 22:1–18  
Psalm 16  
Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21

Exodus 15:1b–13, 17–18  
Isaiah 55:1–11  
Isaiah 12:2–6  
Baruch 3:9–15, 32—4:4 or Proverbs 8:1–8, 19–21; 9:4b–6  
Psalm 19  
Ezekiel 36:24–28  
Psalm 42 and 43  
Zephaniah 3:14–20  
Psalm 98  
Ezekiel 37:1–14  
Psalm 143  
Romans 6:3–11  
Psalm 114  
Matthew 28:1–10

### **Resurrection of the Lord—April 16**

#### **Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6  
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24  
Colossians 3:1–4 or Acts 10:34–43  
John 20:1–18 or Matthew 28:1–10  
Easter Evening  
Isaiah 25:6–9  
Psalm 114  
1 Corinthians 5:6b–8  
Luke 24:13–4

### **Second Sunday of Easter—April 23**

Acts 2:14a, 22–32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3–9  
John 20:19–31

### **Third Sunday of Easter—April 30**

Acts 2:14a, 36–41  
Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19  
1 Peter 1:17–23  
Luke 24:13–35

# Lenten Prayer Service

submitted by Walter Geldart

Lenten Prayer Services were led by Pastor Anthony on five Wednesdays from March 8 thru April 5 at 7 pm following the community soup and bread meal at 6 pm. The same order of service was followed on each of the five weeks and the same hymns were sung but different Psalms were read and different Lenten series lessons were presented. Each week a monologue acted by a member of the congregation brought the lesson to life. Dramatic monologues were presented of Peter (George Dingfield), Pontius Pilate (Walter Geldart), a Roman soldier (Jon Peterson), Mary Magdalene & Miriam (who?), and Simon of Cyrene (who?). Kathryn Kern provided scripts for the monologues and coached the actors ahead of time.

Pastor Anthony invited all to reflect on the meaning of Lent and the teachings of Jesus and his suffering during this period leading up to Easter. Several Lenten disciplines were suggested for our Christian community to follow. One suggestion was to read one of the gospels on a daily basis, reflect on it, and complete the gospel over a 40 day period.

## Worship Notes

### EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday is usually the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the March equinox which occurs when the Earth's equator passes through the center of the Sun. The earliest Easter date on record is March 22, and the latest date is April 25.

As the Bible tells us, Jesus' death and resurrection occurred around the time of the Jewish Passover, which was celebrated on the first full moon following the equinox.

For we Christians, Easter is the most special day of the year. The day when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His resurrection offers the hope of everlasting life to all who believe.

Here at FPCT our Easter Sunday service is a time of celebration with special music & appointments, Easter flowers, an Easter Egg Hunt for the children and a great deal of rejoicing as we celebrate our Risen King.

### PENTECOST

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2: 1-4

Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Twelve Apostles and other followers of Jesus. It is sometimes described by Christians as the "Birthday of the Church." This year we will celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, June 4. Here at FPCT we honor the day by wearing red which symbolizes the power and fire of the Holy Spirit, and by adorning the sanctuary with red, orange and gold colors that symbolize the colors in the flame of the fire from Acts 2: 3. Celebrate the Spirit!!



## Deacon Doings

The Deacons have had a busy and productive start to the year. We are pleased to have Kim Sprague as our new moderator and Sharon Brenhuber as our new treasurer. Additionally, we welcome Kelly Domitrowsky, Gail Hruby and Lona LeSchander to the Board of Deacons. We will miss our former moderator, Marla Hoon, as well as our Deacons who have fulfilled their terms, Jon Peterson and Linda Waldt. As we always remind each other, "once a Deacon, always a Deacon", so we know these wonderful and helpful "retiring" Deacons will stay in our midst. This has already been demonstrated by Marla assisting Georgette to give our kitchen a total cleaning and freshening.

Pastor Anthony provided a workshop in January and a follow-up in March for us to receive information to assist us in our roles as Deacons. The session was highly regarded by all who attended. We have recently updated our Shepherd Lists and will be working to connect with our "flock".

We are looking forward to hosting a yummy Community Dinner on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be assisting Lona who graciously agreed to head this up.

We are proud to say that our Acme/ShopRite cards have earned \$1045 for our church. Please consider purchasing these cards, as a way to grocery shop, if you have not tried their use. Also those of you who shop for church events, please consider using them as your method of purchase. Please let any Deacon know of any way that we can help you or someone you know. We are here to be of service to our church family and community.

**April Deacon of the Month:** Kim Sprague

**May Deacon of the Month:** Lona LeSchander

**June Deacon of the Month:** Marcy Curtin

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."* 1 Peter 4:10

## Mission

Our church is involved in many missions both locally and globally. Many are aware of our help with Community Dinners, Family Promise and monthly trips to the Atlantic City Mission, so for this quarter, the focus will be on of **Hearts for Honduras**.

The Presbyterian Church of Liberty Corner, began this mission several years ago. The main goal is providing benefit to the boys and girls of LaEntrads, Honduras. There are very few economic resources there. Many children were not able to attend school. Hearts for Honduras School provides a safe haven, gives family support and provides a well-rounded education founded on the principles in the Word of God, preparing them for a higher education, and teaching them to be responsible member of the community and nation.

For just over \$1 per day, \$400 per year, you have the opportunity to help a child learn to read and write and reach their God-Given potential.

Our church began supporting this mission in 2006. We support three students each year, and receive pictures and letters quarterly on the student's progress. Currently we support two second graders and 1 sixth grader. Recent correspondence from the students is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Several years ago a group from this church traveled to Honduras, and witnessed first-hand how the program worked. Perhaps we could plan a return trip sometime in the future. The 2017 mission trip to the [Hearts For Honduras School](#) in La Entrada, Honduras will take place July 15-23. The trip is an amazing opportunity to connect with Hearts For Honduras students, parents, and staff on a personal level. If you would like more information, please contact [Nancy Coto](#) or [Joe Davignon](#) at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church.

**Applications for individuals willing to sponsor a child are available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.**

### **Up and coming Missions**

Cardboard City Fundraiser (for Family Promise) April 28. More details to come in Friday Blasts-see Amy Genberg for any questions

Family Promise week of May 7th. Sign-up sheet to volunteer in Fellowship Hall ---see Lona LeSchander for any questions

Physicians For Humanity- Haiti --surgical mission April 29-May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Presbyterian Women

PW Potluck Dinner April 22, 2017 at 6PM in Fellowship Hall

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to move to a country where no one speaks your language, you have no family nearby, and you must learn to adapt to the customs and laws of your adopted home?

Come listen to Jill DeFelice recount the payoffs and pitfalls of life as an expatriate; from language mix-ups to exotic menus to the downright hilarities of everyday life while raising kids in a different culture. Her 24 years on the road in Russia, China, Poland and Hong Kong were not always easy, but there was never a dull moment. She will answer all your questions about the people, the culture, and anything else you've wondered about. Sign-up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall. We ask that you also bring an item for Sister Jean's. More information on items needed will be in bulletin and Friday e-blasts.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The PW End-of-Year Dinner will be June 12, 2017 at 6PM at the Grapevine. "Family Style" dinner. Cost: \$28.00 per person. More details to follow.

In addition to Shop-Rite Gift Cards, we are now also selling Acme Gift Cards as a church fundraiser. See Georgette Schenk or any one of the Deacons for info.



*This month's prayer meeting is not scheduled. New date to be announced at a further time. If you are unable to join us in person, please join us in spirit at that time by taking time for a pause and a prayer.*

## Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee of FPCT is on We had several new faces our first meeting with lots of enthusiasm towards building all aspects of Christian education within our church. A new curriculum was introduced to include books of the old and new testaments and a new bible entitled the Action Bible was also introduced to the committee members. We are blessed to have four dedicated teachers who will be rotating teaching our children: Donna Doherty; Cindy Cruz; Cathy Pronnicki; and Kelly Domitrowsky. Our bible study in May entitled "The Nature of God" will be led by Rev. Bob Harvey. Don't miss it!! We are putting a new face lift on our Nursery (pastors office), Sunday School classroom and by moving the choir to fellowship hall we are developing a youth space with fresh paint, carpeting, and some new furniture! A cleanup is scheduled April 21 and 22 from 9-1 both days. A signup sheet, if you can help, is located in fellowship hall with various jobs and tools needed for both days. God is good!!

## Finance

Session approved Finance's recommendation to keep the congregation informed as to our financial condition on a monthly basis; here are the income and expense figures:

### FPCT financial status

Income in March - \$11,140

Income YTD thru 3/31 - \$39,876

Expenses in March -- \$10,283    Expenses YTD thru 3/31 -- \$32,590

## A BIG THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to everyone who in 2017 made a donation to the Flower Fund to decorate our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings and for Christmas and Easter. Glory to God!

There is a Flower Calendar in Fellowship Hall in the bulletin board next to the entrance to the kitchen. If you would like to donate flowers either in memory or in honor of someone or some event, please sign up on the calendar and fill out a form. The offering may be placed on the offering plate, given to Claire Miller of left in the Flower Folder in the church office. The weekly flowers are \$40.00 and a check in this amount should be made out to FPCT with FLOWERS marked on the memo line



## Update

fire!!  
attend

together with your envelope number. If paying with cash, please put it in an envelope and mark it FLOWERS with your name and envelope number. If you have any questions regarding the flowers, please contact Claire Miller at 296-5234. You may donate your flowers to be taken to someone in need of cheering up or take them home (or do both). For quite a few years now, our flowers have been beautifully done by P.J. in Little Egg Harbor and delivered to the church each week.

This ministry is a part of the Worship Committee and we all thank you for your donations. There are still a few Sundays in 2017 that have not been taken, so please, check it out and help us to have every Sunday covered.

Thank you.

Blessings, Claire Miller

## Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Committee managed to make it through the winter with only one snow fall that required the service for snow removal. In February we had trees removed due to their deteriorating condition. Our next project this spring is the final stage of replacing of Fellowship Hall Windows. We will be scheduling a date for the spring cleanup. Please see Jon Peterson for any comments, and/or suggestions.



## BIBLE STUDY

**Votes for Bible Study Ideas** A survey was taken to see what topics would be of most interest to potential attendees for the upcoming Bible Study in May. The survey form was designed by Bob Harvey and announced from the pulpit in Mid-March; 11 forms were completed that day and 7 forms in the next 2 weeks. Bob used the data from the first 11 responses to select *The Nature of God* as the May Bible Study topic. Votes for a Study on the Nature of God stood head and shoulders above the other choices (statistically speaking) when the additional 7 responses came in. The spreadsheet analysis below was done by Walter Geldart. The results may be a useful guide for future classes and subjects to be included or avoided in the future.



The Jewish Community Center of Long Beach Island would like to invite everyone to join them in prayer at their Annual Sabbath Interfaith Service at 8:00pm on Friday May 5, 2017. It will be held at their house of worship at 2411 Long

Beach Boulevard, Spray Beach, NJ. Rabbi Michael Jay will lead the service with the help of any and all clergy who attend and wish to participate.

### SAVE THE DATE

*Musical Masterpiece ~World Class A Cappella*

Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 2:00 PM  
Robbinsville High School  
155 Robbinsville Edinburg Road  
Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Richard LeSchander is 'a proud member' of this chorus.

	Mark	Epistles	God's Nature	Environment	Stewardship	Reformation
<b>Total score</b>	54	5.4	65	41	37	44
<b>Average score</b>	3.2	3.2	3.8	2.4	2.2	2.6
<b>lowest is 1 highest is 5</b>						
<b>Number of 5 votes</b>	6	8	12	3	3	5
			1st choice			

## ECUMENICAL CONNECTIONS



### High Tea...Shakespeare themed to

be held at Cuisine on the Green April 29th at 12 noon. Gift auction, 50/50,

three course high tea including their fabulous scones. Tickets are \$28 and will be available beginning Sunday, March 26 or by calling the church office. See Anna Tews for more information (608-296-2603).

### Good Dirt Day II

#### Hop 2 It!

Celebrate Earth Day with family fun! Learn fun facts about life around us! Join a scavenger hunt! Make a toad house. Craft a butterfly! Race like a frog! Eat fun snacks!

Special Guest Speaker

April 22, 2017 10AM until 12 noon

Church of the Holy Spirit

220 E. Main Street, Tuckerton, NJ 08087

For more info, [holyspiritirepiscopal@verizon.net](mailto:holyspiritirepiscopal@verizon.net) or 609-296-9618

Visit us @ [holyspiritituckerton.org](http://holyspiritituckerton.org) or on Facebook