

APRIL 2, 2017



First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. As a community of faith, we strive to “above all, love.” As we worship God together, we pray that you will experience Christ’s presence in our midst, and that he will sustain you in the week ahead. A special welcome goes out to you if you are visiting. If you are with us for the first time, stop by the Welcome Center in the foyer to find out about the many opportunities available to you in the life of our congregation. We hope you will worship with us again next Sunday.

We invite you to sign the Friendship Register, which you will find at the center aisle of each pew. As you pass it to others in your pew, note who is sitting near you, so you may greet them by name.

- Please note that hearing aids and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.
- Maps showing available parking are in the racks in the Fellowship Hall.
- Our Nursery is open at both the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. services and welcomes little ones through age 2. It is located at the bottom of the steps just outside the sanctuary.

Children are always welcome, and encouraged to participate in worship. Children’s Worship Activity Bags are available from the ushers.

The Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church

Called to love God and one another, First Presbyterian Church responds to God’s grace by following Christ with ministries of hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity.



Leading Us in Worship Today:

- Greg Stovell, *Pastor*
- Steve Clark, *Associate Pastor*
- David Stone, *Liturgist*
- Jill Reichert, *Interim Director of Children’s Ministry*
- Marcia Sommers, *Director of Music and Fine Arts*
- Sándor Kádár, *Organist*
- Jane Waddington, *Assistant Organist*

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

CHIMES – A call to stillness

Use these moments prior to the Prelude to greet one another briefly. At the ringing of the chimes, please seek the presence of God in stillness and quiet. Please silence cell phones.

** Indicates that all who are able are invited to stand.*

ORGAN PRELUDE Variations on *Aberystwyth*

arr. Janet Linker

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

Hungering and thirsting, we come to the Lord.

Jesus is the living bread!

Feed us with your love and healing power, O Lord.

Give us the bread of hope

and compassion that we may also feed others.

Praise be to you, O Lord, for your compassion for us.

Praise be to you, O Lord, for your steadfast love. Amen.

***HYMN #509** “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

Holy Manna

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (unison)

God of our hopes and dreams,
we are empty, and long to be filled;
we are hungry, and long to be fed;
we are lost, and long to be found.
Gather us into your love,
and pick up the pieces of our lives,
just as Jesus gathered up the fragments
of the five loaves and two fish
that remained after feeding the five thousand.
Call us anew to eat our fill
and to find our true nourishment in Jesus,
the bread of heaven. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 4:8-11 (unison) New Testament Page 235

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

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ORGAN PRELUDE

Meditation from *Thais*

Jules Massenet
(France, 1842-1912)

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

As the children are going to their classes, we will sing Hymn #215, Stanza 1
“What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this,
O my soul? What wondrous love is this,
that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul?
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?”

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (10:30 a.m.)

Jack and Ann Lear

Richard and Susan Smith

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you
to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.**

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ANTHEM “Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee” Johannes Brahms (Germany, 1833-1897)

<i>“Lass dich nur nichts nicht dauren.</i>	<i>Let nothing ever grieve thee.</i>
<i>Mit trauren; sei stille,</i>	<i>In sadness, be still,</i>
<i>wie Gott es fügt,</i>	<i>whatever God has sent,</i>
<i>so sei vergnügt - mein Wille.</i>	<i>be content in it - my will.</i>
<i>Was willst du heute sorgen</i>	<i>Will you worry today</i>
<i>auf morgen?</i>	<i>about tomorrow?</i>
<i>Der Eine</i>	<i>There is One</i>
<i>steht allem für;</i>	<i>who holds all;</i>
<i>der gibt auch dir</i>	<i>He will give you</i>
<i>das Deine.</i>	<i>what is yours.</i>
<i>Sei nur in allem Handel</i>	<i>Be constant in everything</i>
<i>Ohn’ Wandel,</i>	<i>you undertake,</i>
<i>Steh feste;</i>	<i>stand firm;</i>
<i>Was Gott beschleusst,</i>	<i>What God ordains</i>
<i>Das ist und heist das Beste. Amen.</i>	<i>has and always will be best. Amen.”</i>

The Chamber Choir

WELCOME AND MINISTRY UPDATES

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY Congregational Study Team

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE OFFERING

Offertory

“The Lord is My Shepherd”

Thomas Matthews

Psalm 23 - King James’ version

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he restoreth my soul.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for Thou are with me. Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.*

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*

The Chancel Choir; Monica Vera, soprano soloist

*Offertory Response, #606, The Doxology

Old Hundredth

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.”

*HYMN #511

“Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven”

Llanfair

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:10-17

New Testament Page 69

SERMON

“Bold Calling”

Dr. Greg Stovell

(From “When Jesus Came to Dinner” series: Part 4)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

from A Brief Statement of Faith - PC(USA)

In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

*HYMN #547

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Ar Hyd Y Nos

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter C. Lutkin

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Dorian Toccata

J.S.Bach

(Germany, 1685-1750)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are to the Glory of God and are given by:
Pete Galloway, in loving memory of loved ones; Karen Schneck,
in memory of parents, Robert and Virginia Schneck, and
Sam and Joan Blackmore, in memory of loved ones.

IN MEMORIAM

Doris O. Faust, member of First Presbyterian Church
from December 4, 1966 to March 22, 2017.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Thomas Faust and family in the death of his mother.

Ushers

8:00 a.m. – Bill Benson, *Head Usher*; Charles Haverstraw

9:00 a.m. – Rick Wentz, *Head Usher*; Joe Schorn, Scott Gamble,
Dave Rathbun, Patience Rathbun

10:30 a.m. – Bill Benson, *Head Usher*; Jean and Dave Russell,
Evelyn Norton

Coffee Deacons today: Greg and Gerallyn Duke

* * * * *

WORSHIP

• **Easter Flowers:** In the pew racks, and throughout the church, you'll find envelopes you can use to support the lilies and other spring flowers that will bring our Sanctuary to life on Easter Day (April 16). Return the envelope, or contact the church office with a gift of \$12.00 by April 9; be sure to complete the envelope with your name and the name of your loved ones. You can also make your gift online at:

<http://www.shelbygiving.com/dl/?uid=firs130226>.

There is also a link at the bottom of the church homepage <http://www.firstpreswc.com> (please note "paid online" on the envelope). Thank you from your Worship Committee.

• **Easter Sunrise Service** - This year, we are blessed that our sunrise service will be held at The Barn at Springbrook Farm at 6:30 a.m. It is great to partner with a place that ministers to families of children who have disabilities. They experience God's love through nature. Join us for worship, then stay and visit the grounds. You will be blessed. Here are the directions to get there from First Pres. Head southwest on W. Miner St (Route 842). Follow Route 842 for about 4 miles. Turn right onto South Wawaset Rd. Follow for 0.09 miles then turn slight right onto Hickory Hill Rd. This road takes a slight left after 0.38 miles. Go 0.46 miles to slight right onto Locust Grove Rd. Follow for 0.07 miles to Springbrook Farm, 350 Locust Grove Rd. It is on the right side.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- **Christian Faith & Issues Class:** Join us this morning at 9:00 a.m. (Room 209), as we continue a three-week series looking at the Confession of 1967, a document adopted by our Presbyterian Church in a time when we were experiencing great changes and challenges in the United States. We'll look at the issues addressed by the document, how scripture is interpreted to address those issues, and how those issues – and others - are still present in our culture today.
- **Looking for a Way to Get Involved at First Pres?** There are lots of opportunities to gather with others for fellowship or study or service. Check out the First Pres web site: click on “CONNECT”, then “ADULT GROUPS” for info about all the ways you can get involved.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND MEMBERSHIP

Please note: parent/responsible adult presence required at all family friendly events.

- **Bridge Dinner this Wednesday** – Join us for a delicious baked ham dinner. Salad Bar and dessert are also included. Call the church office for reservations or email Samantha Myers at smyers@firstpreswc.com by Monday at Noon. Reminder: There is no dinner on Wednesday April 12, but will resume April 19.
- **BridgeKidz** - will meet this Wednesday evening to explore the spiritual practice of caring for our bodies. We will look at ways that Jesus cared for himself and consider what we can do care for ourselves so that we can be ready to care for others. Join us from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Room 214b. Contact Sara Pantazes at spantazes@firstpreswc.com with any questions.
- **Adult Learning Opportunity at The Bridge:** *“On the Way with Jesus”* a Bible study led by Pastor Steve Clark, continues this week. Wednesday evening in the Herron Lounge from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. No registration required, just bring your Bible and join the conversation!
- **Lenten Lunches** - continue through April 12. Join us for a brief Lenten Study, along with lunch and table fellowship from 12:00 - 12:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There is no cost for lunch, but contributions are welcomed!
- **Christmas in Providence and Newport, Rhode Island:** Join the First Pres Travelers for a wonderful time: Experience the Festival of Lights and Rhode Islander Story Telling, tour Gilded Age Mansions, enjoy a play at the Trinity Repertory Theater, visit a historic home and a church, and much more. Info on the church website, www.firstpreswc.com, the newsletter, and from Thom & Irene Clapper at psuthom@verizon.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **13th Annual Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, April 15 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Everhart Park. We are being featured on K-Love Radio station 106.9 FM Philadelphia for our upcoming hunt. They are bringing giveaways as well as playing their radio feed during our event. We need your help! Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or email Linda Simunov at lsimunov@firstpreswc.com. We also need filled eggs. There are empty eggs to fill while supplies last and they can be dropped off in the marked bins in Fellowship Hall. Together, we can make this event the Talk of the Town!

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

• **Rise Against Hunger:** April 30 is Sticky Bun Sunday. Come hungry and ready to purchase a yummy Sticky Bun or two. Proceeds go to our next Rise Against Hunger Event which is June 4 from Noon - 2:00 p.m. Watch for sign ups for the event in late March. Donations accepted online and in the offering plate please put *Rise Against Hunger* in the memo.

• **Do you need help with spring cleaning** or other home projects? Our deacons are here to serve! We are helping members with their projects on Saturday, April 22 in the morning. Contact the church office at 610-696-0554 or email care@firstpreswc.com to let us know if you have a project that we can help you with. No job is too small!

CAREGIVING

• **Spiritual Connections** continues studying *The Book of Joy* on Monday, April 3 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Herron Lounge. Women are welcome to join the discussion about the conversation between the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Please obtain your own copy of the book. If you have questions, please contact Ellen Endslow at eendslow@verizon.net.

• **Need Encouragement?** Stephen Ministers don't just provide care for people experiencing a major Crisis. Whatever circumstances or emotional or spiritual challenges may be weighing on you, they are there to listen and to care. It's free. It's highly confidential. And it will really make a difference in your life. To find out more about Stephen Ministry, talk with Rev. Caroline Cupp (Church 610-696-0554) or Mary Pellack (Cell 610-570-0886).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY – April 2

- 8:30am Sunday Social (til 10:30am)
9:00am Worship, Nursery to age 2;
Adult Bible Study;
Sunday School for
all ages Confirmation
Class; Radio Broadcast
on 1520AM; Live web
stream
10:30am Worship,
Nursery to age 2;
JAM age 3-Grade 5
4:00pm Chancel Ringers Concert
at Basking Ridge
Presbyterian Church;
Youth Fellowship

MONDAY – April 3

- 6:30pm Spiritual Connections
7:00pm Congregational Study
Team;
Congregational Life &
Membership Committee

TUESDAY – April 4

- 5:30pm Men's Ministry Studies -
Mars Group
7:00pm Pub Theology at
Ryan's Pub

WEDNESDAY – April 5

The Bridge

- 9:00am Sew Many Blessings
12:00pm Lenten Lunch;
Bulletin deadline
5:30pm Bridge Dinner (*til 6:15*);
Cherub Choir
6:00pm Celebration Singers
6:30pm BridgeKidz;
Adult Study;
Women's Adult Study
7:30pm Chancel Ringers

THURSDAY – April 6

- 5:30pm Mom's Group (offsite)
6:30pm JuBellation Ringers;
Brass Ensemble;
Bucket School Sports
Night with Dads
7:00pm Men's *Mere Christianity*
Study
7:30pm Chancel Choir;
Youth Bible Study (offsite)

FRIDAY – April 7

Youth Lock-In

- 6:30am Men's Friday Morning Study
1:00pm Sweet Dreams
5:00pm Youth Lock-In

SATURDAY – April 8

Youth Lock-In

SUNDAY – April 9 - Palm Sunday

- 8:00am Worship
8:30am Sunday Social (til 10:30am)
9:00am Worship, Nursery to age 2;
Adult Bible Study
Sunday School for
all ages; Confirmation
Class; Radio Broadcast
on 1520AM; Live web
stream
10:30am Worship,
Nursery to age 2;
JAM age 3-Grade 5
4:00pm Youth Fellowship

Office Hours:

Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

First Pres on Facebook

Keep up with your church family at www.facebook.com/firstpreswc

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Congregational Study focus groups held last fall. Session identified three immediate areas of focus and formed teams to make plans and engage the congregation.

We are energized about how, together, we can take some bold steps, and see where God is leading us. Part 1 is framed to go through August 31, and then we will regroup to plan for the next phase. At Session, this will be a regular agenda item at our monthly meetings. The initiative teams will meet each month to put the plans in place. Look for monthly communications with updates and information on how to get involved. For a full report, visit www.firstpreswc.com/cst.



Faith Development Initiative Goal: Intentional Faith Development is our Journey of Faith toward becoming the people God wants us to be. Christian Education gives us the context and background to help us understand this calling. We learn what it means to be a follower of Christ. Some initial ideas for action:

- Involving children and youth more in worship for their faith development and reminding adults that throughout our Journeys, we all continue to grow.
- Regular coordination between the directors of each main area (Nursery, Sunday School, Youth, Adult Education) on how their programs support the vision of our Journey of Faith.

Service & Outreach Initiative Goal: Serving God by serving our neighbors and engaging more of our congregation in the faith practice of service. We plan to learn about our local neighbors—where has God placed our church and what are the needs in the community that surrounds us? Some initial ideas for action:

- Prayer walk (more information to come)
- Neighborhood social event—just to get to know our neighbors

Worship Initiative Goal: Providing a variety of engaging and authentic worship opportunities that connects with worshipers in our community today. In the Congregational Study conversations, many people expressed an appreciation and desire for different opportunities to engage in worship. Some initial ideas for action:

- Worship-focused “Town Hall” meetings to share the feedback received during the Congregational Study meetings and ask specific follow up questions .
- Session is reading Tom Long’s book *Beyond the Worship Wars*. We invite everyone in the congregation to read along with us!