



THE NEW LEAF

First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton



And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you.

Luke 12:28 (NET)



April

Be present.
Let the day flow with grace.
Expect joy. Be positive.
Serve with compassion.
Speak only kindness.
Impart only love.
Never forget you're not alone.
Give thanks for everything.
See goodness in others.

mary davis



Welcome Spring!

isaiah 61:11

For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Lord will make
righteousness and praise
spring up before all nations.

lynnlove.com

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In office at FPC 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Monday thru Thursday

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For regular updates and photos,

like us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FPCbridgeton>

Or go to our website www.fpcbridgeton.org



A time to reflect . . .

APRIL

Grace

1	II Corinthians 12:9	16	Acts 15:11
2	Ephesians 4:7	17	Romans 5:8
3	Romans 11:6	18	II Timothy 2:1
4	Hebrews 4:16	19	II Peter 3:9
5	Ephesians 2:4-9	20	Romans 1:1-5
6	Romans 6:14	21	Isaiah 40:31
7	James 4:6	22	Acts 6:8
8	John 1:14-17	23	Hebrews 13:9
9	II Corinthians 1:12	24	II Corinthians 9:8
10	Titus 3:7	25	II Thessalonians 2:16
11	I Corinthians 15:10	26	Acts 20:32
12	II Peter 1:2	27	I Peter 5:10
13	Romans 3:20-24	28	Romans 4:15-17
14	Titus 2:11	29	Romans 5:1-2
15	Ephesians 1:6	30	Revelation 22:21

Board Updates

SESSION NOTES

Session members continue to read **Sailboat Church**. The reflection questions at the end of each chapter cause one to dig deep for answers. For instance, how would you answer this question: "How do you experience yourself as a partner with God in God's work in the world?" FOOD FOR THOUGHT

DEACONS NOTES

The Deacons are making plans for a church yard sale on Friday, May 31st and Saturday, June 1st. Times to be announced. The Deacons will let us know when we can bring in our "stuff."



Looking forward to a church picnic in June, possibly at an interesting location.

TRUSTEE NOTES

- Plans are moving along for the **Memorial Day Program at Historic Broad Street Church**. The focus this year will be on those who served in Vietnam. If anyone knows of a Vietnam vet who would be willing to talk about their experience, please contact Howard T.
- **Mission** Committee reported interest in doing another **water project** to provide clean water to those needing it. **Presbytery of South Jersey** will **acknowledge the 2023 project of First Presbyterian** and may use it as a **model for other churches**.
- The **bee problem** will be **addressed** in **April**.
- The **repairs** to the **roof over the kitchen** and **office** are **done**. The purchase of a new modern range for the church kitchen is being discussed.
- **Job descriptions** and guidelines are **needed** for the **AV technicians**.
- The Memorial Committee has decided to purchase a number of **Glory To God hymnals** for the sanctuary.

A time for church family . . .

Crafters' Comradery

Thursdays 1:30 - 3:30 in Bonham Hall Bring your own craft materials , plan to accomplish some crafting, and enjoy fun and fellowship.



Fellowship Time Hosts Needed

Fellowship time following Sunday worship is important in the life of our church family. Please help the deacons by volunteering to host fellowship time once in a while. There is a calendar on the kitchen counter for sign-ups. Just write your name on the Sunday of your choice.



Thanks to Jane H for making the fellowship food and drink table look so festive every month. It not only looks lovely, but volunteers for fellowship time don't have to worry about it.

PUZZLE LIBRARY



The deacons have a shelf now in the little area by the bathrooms. At this point it is empty so we need you to bring in any puzzles you wish to donate and put them on the shelves. If at any time you see a puzzle you would like to borrow and put together please do so, then return it and get another. Unlike the public library there is no sign out policy.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1 - Jennifer C.
4/10 - Christian P.
4/15 - John A.
4/19 - Caroline O.



If you or a family member or a close friend needs prayer, please contact the church office or one of the deacons.



A time to laugh . . .



Holy Humor Sunday is April 7th!

Come to church in your favorite crazy outfit.

Wear mismatched, backwards or crazy clothes!

A prize will be awarded to the craziest, wackiest costume!!!

Don't forget to send in your good, clean jokes for Holy Humor Sunday by April 2!



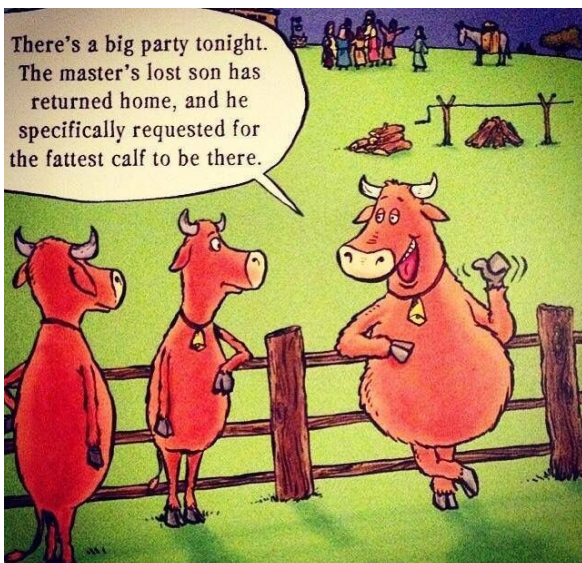
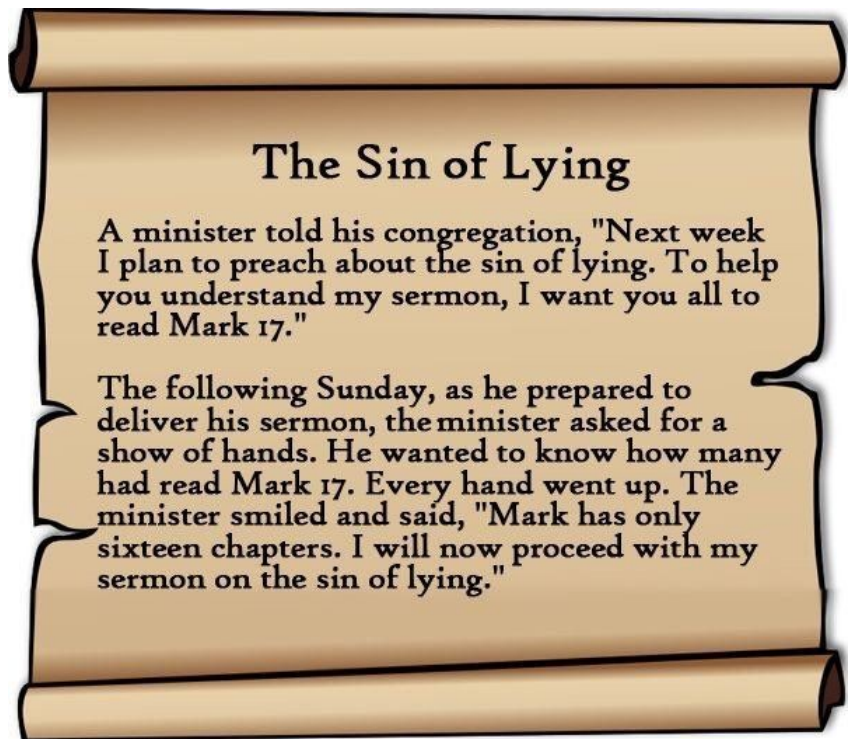
Why wouldn't
the Pharaoh let the
Hebrews go?

He was in de-Nile.



How do we know
Peter was a successful
fisherman?

By his net income.



A time to give

**BETHANY GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
AND CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION
ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY**

Starting in March, Bethany Grace Community Church will provide a location for the well-established Food Pantry of the Church of the Resurrection. This pantry currently serves 150 households on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 11 AM-2 PM.

The Food Pantry will be hosted in the Bethany Grace Community Church Fellowship/ Outreach Hall. The Food Pantry program is operated in partnership with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.

Bethany Grace Community Church will continue to offer free Community Showers and Sandwich Lunch Program on Sundays at 12:30 PM. Additionally, free Community Showers are available on Wednesdays at 3:00 PM.

The ministries are currently in need of volunteers. Please visit www.faithinactioncentral.com to volunteer or call 1-855-818-3810.

Bethany Grace Community Church is located at 31 N. Pearl St., Bridgeton, NJ 08302.



Help Fill the Baskets

There are baskets in the rear of the Sanctuary for toiletries for Bethany Grace's Shower Program and for metal pull tabs for



Bakeless Bake Sale -
Donations are still coming in.
Thank you for supporting our deacons.

Donations totaling \$214 were collected on March 17th for the St Patrick's Day Potluck.



Monies collected will be donated to Trinity First Hope Center in Millville for their food program.

A time to recognize gifts . . .

This month we recognize long-time FPC member Harriett (2 t's) W. Harriett, in addition to being a wife and mother, had a long career in hospital work. She still volunteers at the Bridgeton location as well as the West Cumberland Senior Center, where she taught quilting. Harriett also founded the Downing Street Quilt Group. While her husband Fred was alive, she also found time to help with the family candy business. Fred was the third generation of his family to run the shop, which opened in 1888. Everyone loved the shop. Sadly they closed the shop in 2011. While he was alive, the two of them loved to travel. Harriett has wonderful memories of their trips. Now Harriett spends time with her crafts. She is an incredible sewer, sewing by hand! What a gift! And she shares that gift with her church family, decorating the hallway and Bonham Hall with her beautiful handiwork.



Thank you!

Thank you to our musicians for your help during
our Lenten Services! Great Job!
Gae F.

We will use this space every month to showcase the many gifts God has bestowed upon members of our church family. If you have an idea of someone we can feature, please contact Christie in the office or Debbie H.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3



DailyVerses.net

Thanks be to God for this great gift of salvation and eternal life, which we have received as Christians. It is truly something that we should shout from the rooftops! I am a person who prefers the Fall time of the year, more than Springtime. But I do, and can very much appreciate the beauty, and hope that April/May, and Spring does bring, to us to enjoy. Our God is truly awesome and benevolent! The gifts we have all around us, are just there, free for the taking. It is through the spiritual discipline of observation, being mindful, and spending time with God, in God's presence. These are beyond measure!

Recently on Facebook, I read a posting that referenced the book, "Reasons to Stay Alive," by Matt Haig, which has intrigued me much! The posting alludes to various "spiritual" understandings/insights/ knowing. Here's what was posted: "The world is increasingly designed to depress us. Happiness isn't very good for the economy. If we were happy with what we had, why would we "need" more? How do you sell an anti-aging moisturizer? You make someone worry about aging. How do you get people to vote for a political party? You make them worry about immigration, (along with many other hot-button issues, especially in this current Presidential Election year.).

How do you get them to buy insurance? By making them worry about everything. How do you get them to have plastic surgery? By highlighting their physical flaws. How do you get them to watch a TV show? By making them worry about "missing out." How do you get them to buy a new smartphone? By making them feel like they are being "left behind.

Continued.....

To be calm becomes a kind of revolutionary act. To be happy with your own non-upgraded existence, to be comfortable with our messy human selves, would not be good for "business."

Praise God and Thanks Be To God, that we have the alternatives as presented to us to draw upon, from God's Holy Word, and Jesus' teachings/examples. We are an Easter People! We are a people of Hope!

Jesus indeed was a revolutionary in spiritual terms. He embraced our "messy human selves," wholeheartedly, without reservation, offering us a "better" way. Jesus was in the "God Business," and I know I'm so thankful that we are invited into this kingdom, into this "kin-dom," into this "God Business," to see, feel, experience, and be a part of!

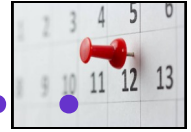
How about you?

Happy April! Happy Spring! May God's blessings be yours, and richly, each day!
Soli Deo Gloria,
Rev. Norlita





A time to plan . . .



April Meetings

Session Meeting Sunday, April 14 following fellowship
Deacons Meeting Monday, April 8 @ 7:00
Trustees Meeting Monday, April 15 @ 7:00

SERVING IN APRIL

DATE

USHERS

COUNTERS

April 7
 April 14
 April 21
 April 28

Team 1: Curtis H., Debbie H., Frank P.
 Team 2: John A., Bruce C., Ken F.
 Team 3: Marie D., Joyce I., Heather N.
 Team 4: Bruce H., Howard T., Bill F.

Team 1: Debbie F., Sherry M.
 Team 2: Marion C., Heather N.
 Team 3: Yvonne C., Debbie H.
 Team 4: Marie D., Joyce I.

APRIL WORSHIP FLOWERS

April 7: Amy B.
 April 14: Sherry M.
 April 21:
 April 28:

FELLOWSHIP IN APRIL

April 7:
 April 14:
 April 21:
 April 28:

Blank spaces for flowers and fellowship? Would you consider helping us to fill them in? It takes a village.....



Our next special Music Sunday will be on April 28th. The choir will be singing anthems based on the Psalms. The hand bells will play as well as other musical surprises. You won't want to miss it!

