



NEWSLETTER



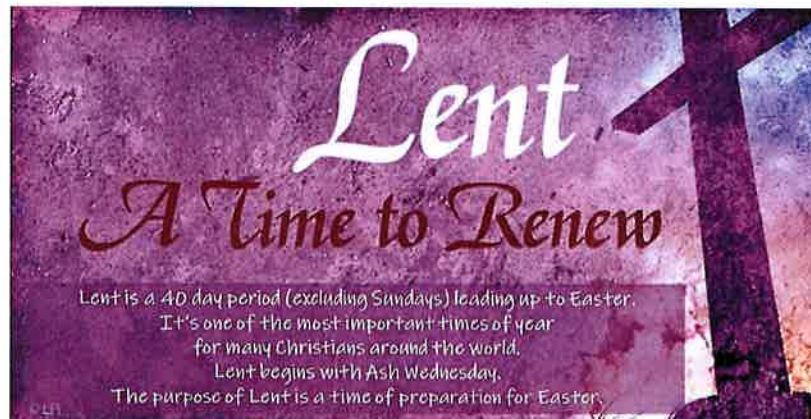
February 2023



Transfiguration Sunday (the last Sunday of Epiphany) Sunday, February 19th



Ash Wednesday Worship with a meal 5:30 February 22nd



Lent Begins Wednesday February 22nd!

See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland. (Is. 43:19)

FEBRUARY

NAME

First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton

119 West Commerce St.
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
(856) 455 - 0809
www.fpcbridgeton.org

Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190

bridgetonfpcpastor@gmail.com

In office at FPC 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Monday thru Thursday
(other times available by appointment)

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9 am – 2:00 pm

Admin. Assistant

Kimberly W.
fpcbridgeton@gmail.com

For regular updates and
photos, like us on
Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/FPCbridgeton>

Please check the website www.fpcbridgeton.org

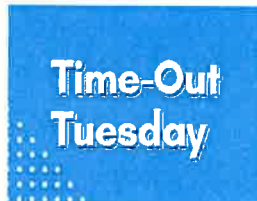


February 20, 2023

Many thanks to our members and friends for your continued financial support. Offerings can still be made by sending a check to the church or visit FPCbridgeton.org to give online.



*For your information, the per capita per person for 2023 is \$38.75 (same as last year). If you have not done so, we would appreciate your donation.



Save the Date:
TIME OUT TUESDAY
Feb. 21st in Bonhman Hall
@ 12:00 P.M.
More info to come!



Session Update—

Synopsis of 2023 Annual Meeting FPCB (for year 2022), January 22, 2023

- This meeting was held in Bonham Hall shortly after worship with 34 active members in attendance. While individual committee reports in the Annual Report for 2022 pamphlet were not covered, members were encouraged to review these reports and address any questions/concerns with the chairs of the respective committees.
- Annual reports of the Moderator, Clerk of Session, Boards, Committees, and Groups were received and approved by the Congregation.
- Changes made to the Church Bylaws which have been approved by Session were reviewed at this meeting. Copies of the revised bylaws have been emailed with copies available at the entrance to the church over the past two weeks.
- Establishment of the Session/Trustee-approved operating budget for 2023 was reviewed. Special Funds/Investment and Treasurer's reports are present in the Annual Report.
- The Nominating Committee has nominated, and the Congregation approved, the following candidates for placement on the respective boards:

Session:

Debbie H. – 3 yr. term
Debbi B-G – 2yr. term

Deacons:

Marge P. – 3 yr. term
Robin F.– 3 yr. term
Amy B.– 3-yr. term
Debbie F.– 3 yr. term

Trustees:

Sherry M.– 3 yr. term
Beth S.– 3 yr. term
Caroline O.– 3 yr. term

Nominating Committee At Large:

Ted R.

Sally R.

Connie C.

Audit Committee:

Ken F.

Yvonne C.

Bruce H.

🎵 NOTEWORTHY 🎵

February is Black History month. Listen for the choir to be singing several Spirituals in the coming Sundays. Anyone interested in singing with us is welcome. See Music Director: Gae F. or any choir member



ORGAN RECITAL



Organ Recital

When: Sunday, February 12th @ 4:00pm

When: Deerfield Presbyterian

530 Old Deerfield Pike, Deerfield NJ

Accessible Entrance-on Deerfield St.

www.deerfieldpres.org

Artist: Colin Howland, Dir. of Music/Organist

Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia

Featuring: Handel, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Vierne and more.

Freewill Offering to Benefit The Church Recital Series



January Recap:

January 1st, a Welcome Reception for our new pastor, Rev. Norlita Kaul was held during Fellowship Time. Thanks to the Old Broad Street Cemetery Assoc. for providing the snacks. We're excited to have her as our new pastor.

January 8th, the Christmas decorations throughout the church were wistfully taken down. Many thanks to hall who helped. Many Hands make light work.

January 29th, a Meet the Minister Luncheon was held after worship. Thanks to our Deacons (and Franco's Market) for providing the meal of Meatball Sandwiches, salad, desserts and beverages.

Our February News:

February 12th- "Souper Bowl Sunday" monetary collection with the proceeds to go to a local soup kitchen. Soup Pots for the collection decorated for each team. Who will win?

Saturday February 25th- OUR SOUP & BAKE SALE IS ON AGAIN (woohoo!). Donations of homemade soup and baked goods would be greatly appreciated, especially the morning of the sale. Soup and Bake goods available for purchase from 8:00-11:00am. Proceeds will support the Deacon's Fund. Scout Pancake Breakfast will also be held concurrently in Bonham Hall.

Bethany Grace Shower Program Needs: (new items please) Unused Hotel Toiletries
Chapstick Lotions Toothbrushes/Paste Wash Cloths Deodorant Combs/Hair Brushes

Giving Tree: New Socks of all colors/sizes for Children, Women and Men can be placed on the tree in Bonham Hall.

Sunday Morning Fellowship Time Host(s) Needed and Provide: Snacks, Creamer, Setup/Cleanup. Paper goods available in the Kitchen. Tables, coverings and decorations already set up/provided. The Deacon of the month is available for questions. Calendar for sign up on the kitchen counter. Thanks!



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to pray for you or a loved one, please contact **Caroline O** at (856)451-8348, **Sandy Z** at (856) 451-6863, or the church office at 856-455-0809 who will contact the prayer volunteers. *(Your concern will not go beyond the prayer team unless you request it be shared with others)*



OUR FOREVER VALENTINE

I PRAY THAT YOU,
BEING ROOTED AND ESTABLISHED IN LOVE,
MAY HAVE POWER... TO GRASP
HOW WIDE AND LONG AND HIGH AND
DEEP IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST,
AND TO KNOW THIS LOVE
THAT SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE- THAT
YOU MAY BE FILLED TO THE MEASURE
OF ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD.
EPHESIANS 3:17-19



Committees, please have your representative submit a committee update each month by the 15th of the previous month for the Newsletter! Deadline for March is Feb. 15th.

News You Can Use

Sunday, February 5: Scout Sunday observed during worship
Sunday, February 12: Souper Bowl Sunday
Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday Worship with a meal
Sunday, February 26: 1st Sunday in Lent

UPCOMING JANUARY MEETINGS

Thursday, February 2: **Session Meeting** in the church office 6:30 P.M.
Monday, February 13: **Deacons Meeting** in Bonham Hall at 7:00 P.M.
Monday, February 20: **Trustee Meeting** in Bonham Hall at 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday, February 28: **OBSCA Meeting** in Bonham Hall at 7:00 P.M.

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

DATE	USHERS	COUNTERS
Feb. 5	Team 1 Debbie H., captain; Curtis H. & William C.	Team A Debbie F. & Sherry M.
Feb. 12	Team 2 Bruce H., captain; Albert F.	Team B Marion C. & Heather N.
Feb. 19	Team 3 Joyce I., captain; Marie D.	Team C Yvonne C. & Debbie H.
Feb. 26	Team 4 Kahlil W., captain;	Team D Marie D. & Joyce I.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP FLOWERS

Feb. 5:
Feb. 12:
Feb. 19:
Feb. 26:

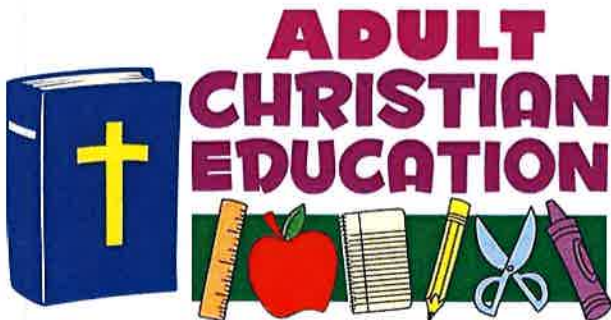


FELLOWSHIP IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 5: Yvonne C.
Feb. 12:
Feb. 19:
Feb. 26:



Help us fill open Sunday Morning slots above!



The Forum Time Returns!

When: **Sunday February 26th** after Fellowship Time

Where: **Bonham Hall**

What: **Reflection On The Lord's Prayer (6 Sessions)**

Please join Rev. Kaul as we look more closely at this most influential prayer we often use. If you're interested, please **contact Kim in the Church Office for your copy** of the materials. (This is a downloadable study from the PCUSA store that our church has purchased). We hope many will join us!

Revelings

Thank you dear friends for such a warm welcome over the last weeks. The Meet the Pastor Luncheon as an after worship fellowship opportunity on January 29th was special. Many thanks to our Deacons for making the arrangements and overseeing the event.



I can't believe that Lent is already upon us, but it is. We will be hosting an Ash Wednesday Potluck Meal and Worship service on Wednesday Feb. 22nd (5:30-6:20 pm meal/fellowship, 6:30pm Worship) in Bonham Hall. We've invited some other Presbyterian Churches in Cumberland County to join us. I hope this will be a meaningful time of fellowship and worship, a fitting way to begin a very meaningful season in the church year.

We also know that in February the days of Valentine's Day and President's Day are celebrated. Let us never forget that we are God's Valentine and that God is ours, first and foremost in our lives. So we're never alone, especially on the day that "love" is highlighted, February 14th.

Let us never forget as well, that because of God's love for us, our nation's founding fathers felt strongly that we are, should and must be, "One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Because of our freedom, we can worship, pray, study, discuss without fear of any retribution for doing so. Let us remember to pray for our nation's leaders on "President's Day" Monday, Feb. 20th.

The unifying theme for all of these is God's love to us, for us, in us and through us always. We recall the well-known verse from John's Gospel, Chapter 3, verse 16;

" For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. " (NIV). May we take this into the core of our very being, each and every day.

Have a Blessed February!

Faithfully,

Rev. Norlita

Lenten Sermon Series

1st Sunday in Lent	Feb. 26	Not Today, Satan	Matthew 4:1-11
2nd Sunday in Lent	March 5	Hush-Hush	John 3:1-17
3rd Sunday in Lent	March 12	Well, Actually...	John 4:5-42
4th Sunday in Lent	March 19	So Many Questions	John 9:1-41
5th Sunday in Lent	March 26	To Little, Too Late	John 11:1-45
Palm/Passion Sunday	April 2	The Truth Hurts	Matthew 26:14-35
Easter Sunday	April 9	Spread the Word	John 20:1-8

Why Do We Celebrate Lent?



Interesting Facts About Lent

People can get cranky when they don't get what they want, especially over the Lenten season. So please, take pity on your Christian friends during Lent; they're sacrificing their vices for the betterment of their health.

Lent is the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed by the Roman Catholic, Eastern, and some Protestant churches as a period of penitence and fasting. Sundays aren't included in the 40-day count.

Since Sunday's aren't included, Lent technically lasts 46 days.

When Lent started, it was only 36 days. Later, it was changed to 40 days.

Why is Lent 40 days? The number 40 is a significant number for Christians. Jesus spent 40 days in a desert. Noah had to wait 40 days for his ark to float. And Moses, along with his followers, traveled through the wilderness for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land.

Catholics started the tradition of Lent around the year 325, during the Council of Nicea, but it has spread through other Christian denominations. These include the following denominations: Western Orthodox Churches, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Anglicans, among others.

Lent comes from the Middle English word "lente," which means springtime.

Lent starts on what's known as Ash Wednesday. This is when followers spread ashes on their forehead to signal their repentance to God.

(Some) Christians also abstain themselves from certain vices, whether it's chocolate or TV or video games or other pleasurable activities

Prayer is another common practice for those practicing Lent. This helps Christians to stay centered in Christ and God.

Violet is the official color of Lent, as this represents mourning for Jesus dying on the cross while also celebrating his resurrection with the colors of royalty.

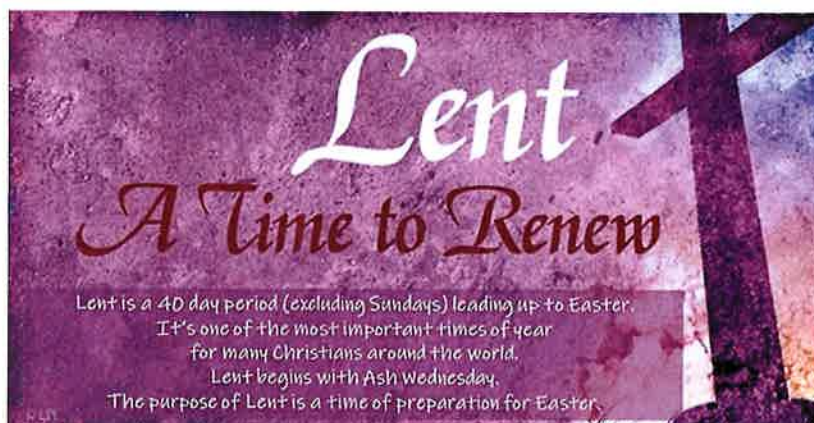
Lent doesn't actually end on Easter; it ends on Good Thursday, the day Jesus has The Last Supper. Good Friday is when Jesus dies on the cross, and on Easter Sunday, he rises from the grave.

The date for Easter has been set for thousands of years. It all has to do with the full moon of the Pashal, or Passover, full moon. Easter will fall between March 22 and April 25. There are mathematical formulas you can use to determine when Easter will fall in any year.

Because we know the date for every Easter from now until the end of time, we also know the date Lent starts. Just count 46 days (include Sundays) or 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Easter, and you know when Ash Wednesday is.

In a study done in 2014, 72% of adults knew what Lent was, and 88% of those participating in Lent were giving up some item of food for 40 days. Chocolate was the number one food most people were willing to give up during Lent.

(Adapted from : <https://stunningfun.com>)





January 2023 Presbytery For Southern New Jersey Gathering on Zoom Highlights

- **WHAT A GATHERING!!!** We welcomed over 80 people last evening on Zoom.

Our Moderator Jonathan Cohill and Moderator-elect Rev. Eliza Jaremko welcomed us to this gathering along with Stated Clerk Rev. Wendy Boer








- We celebrated the lives of faithful Ruling and Teaching Elders in the reading of our necrology - well done, good and faithful servants!
- We welcomed new commissioners
- We welcomed Elise Bates Russell from Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center offering us a word of challenge and sharing the ministry of all that they are doing
- We celebrated the Lord's Supper in many forms on Zoom and knew we were one in the Spirit
- We dedicated Mission Pledges for 2023 for which we are grateful
- We dedicated our offering to Johnsonburg Camp and Conference Center in gratitude for their ministry and in support of their work
- We were reminded about our "online giving" platform for the presbytery
- We heard Council approved grants for Zoom (\$160) and Technology (\$1,000) and we have given over \$80,000 in hunger, technology and zoom grants since 2020. Thanks be to God.
- We were reminded that we are 100% compliant in our Boundary Training!!!
- We heard of conversations for rightsizing leadership with over 40 in attendance. Training for Clerks of Session, Elders, Deacons, Treasurer and more.
- Notified that our presbytery name is FINALLY The Presbytery For Southern New Jersey (from the IRS) only took 18 months.
- We were reminded about Hunger Grants being available from Mission and PDA
- We celebrated ordination anniversaries
- Vital Congregations meets first Wednesdays at 7 - all are welcome to join
- New policies for Moderators, Boundary Training and Conflict of Interest, Statement of Ethics and approved the duties for the Committee on Representation and Nominating Committee
- We heard that HLLP (Hispanic Leadership Development Classes) would resume this week
- Reminder that "Souper Bowl of Caring" will be February 12th
- We heard beautiful anthems from Victory Atlantic City, Pitman, and Moorestown
- The annual parity report: no churches will need to provide additional representation.
- We worshipped and smiled at each other, and it was a cacophony of sounds and laughter
- We heard each other and gave thanks for our ministry together. We continue to grow and develop. We invite and need each one of you to be part of this community

Join us in March for a Hybrid meeting on Zoom and in-person (location to be announced) for the Lord's Supper and as we come to know each other better.

Thanks be to God

February 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Choir 7:30 P.M.	2 Session Meeting @ 6:30 P.M. in Church Office	3	4
5th Sunday after Epiphany Scout Sunday Observed during Worship @ 10 A.M. in Sanctuary	6  Bob B. Leslie K. Linda W.	7	8 Choir 7:30 P.M.  Curtis H.	9	10	11  Kahlil W.
12th Sunday after Epiphany Souper Bowl Sunday Worship @ 10 A.M. in Bonham Hall	13 Deacons Meeting @ 7 P.M.	14 Happy Valentine's Day  <small>John 3:16</small>	15 Choir 7:30 P.M.	16	17  Carter Mingin	18
19 Communion Transfiguration of the Lord Worship @ 10 A.M. in Bonham Hall	20 Trustees Meeting @ 7 P.M. President's Day Church Office Closed	21 Time Out Tuesday @ Noon  Shery M. Kyle S.	22 Ash Wednesday Meal @ 5:30 P.M. Worship @ 6:30 P.M. In Bonham Hall Choir 7:30 P.M.	23	24	25 Scout Pancake Breakfast & Deacons Soup & Bake Sale 8 A.M. - 12 P.M. Sally R.
26^{1st} Sunday in Lent Worship @ 10 A.M. in Bonham Hall	27  Bob S. Bob W.	28 OBSCA Meeting @ 7 P.M. in Church Office Marion C.				