




# NEWSLETTER



*March 2023*



For  
GOD  
SO  
Loved the World  
that  
HE  
Gave  
His  
ONLY  
SON  
John 3:16



**A Blessing for the Journey into Self**

May the Spirit of God drive away impurity  
and bring fresh and vigorous possibility  
to your soul.

May the freeing Spirit unbind those  
places within held captive by  
hopelessness, anxious thoughts,  
and internal discord.

And may you find a middle  
place of awareness,  
between the blowing and the  
stillness, a feel and  
watch the movement from  
old to new.

**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)**



**NAME**

**First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton**  
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**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 Whelan  
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For regular updates and photos, like us on Facebook



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

Please check the website [www.fpcbridgeton.org](http://www.fpcbridgeton.org)



**March 17, 2023**



Save the Date:  
**LUNCH BUNCH**  
March 21<sup>st</sup> at Green Olive  
@ 12:00 P.M.



(Dutch Treat/ an outing, meal, or other special occasion at which each participant pays for their share of the expenses.)  
Please rsvp to the church office (856) 455-0809 by Monday, January 16.  
(so we can let the restaurant know a head count)



**SAVE THE DATE**

Sunday, March 26, 2023 from 12:00 P.M.- 2:00 P.M.

**Campani's Legacy Lanes**

ALL are welcome!

**GO BOWLING OR WATCH  
HAVE SOME PIZZA & SNACKS**

Please RSVP to the church office  
by Sunday, March 19th



# Session Update—

## Synopsis of Session Meeting February 2, 2023

1. Information: Session Committee assignments for 2023 were made as follows: Christian Education – D. Boykin-Greenberg, Chair, S. Zimmerman; Worship – D. Homan, Chair; Personnel – C. Homan, Chair, S. Zimmerman; Technology – C. Homan, Chair; Memorials – F. Pampuch, Chair; Mission/Outreach & Publicity – D. Boykin-Greenberg, Chair, A. Fooks; Parish Life Dev. – D. Homan, Chair; Nominating Committee – C. Homan, Chair; Friends of OBSC – F. Pampuch, Chair. D. Boykin-Greenberg was nominated as the Presbytery Commissioner for 2023 with C. Homan serving as backup.
2. Session approved the Policy & Procedure Task Force continuing for one more year through 2023.
3. Session approved the Adult Forum following Sunday Worship to start on February 26<sup>th</sup>, First Sunday of Lent.
4. Session approved the following Communion dates for 2023:  
Baptism of the Lord – Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, First Sunday of Lent – Feb 26, Maundy Thursday – April 6  
Trinity Sunday – June 4, Welcome Back Sunday – Sept 10, World Communion Sunday – Oct 1  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Dec 3
5. A draft of a “Church Use Form” was reviewed with suggested changes discussed. A second draft will be reviewed at the March meeting.
6. It was confirmed that the Moderator of Presbytery is available for the installation of Pastor Kaul on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 2 PM and Session approved the date for this event.
7. Session approved plans for the replacement of the PA system and podium used in Bonham Hall with the Memorial Funds being used to pay for this equipment.
8. Session approved plans for changing our Church’s website with a new provider which currently handles the website for our Presbytery. This will include Livestream capabilities and mobile app access.

## NOTEWORTHY

The month of March is when we especially honor the contribution of women to the world. The Presbyterian Church has designated March 5 as “Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday”. The American Guild of Organist’s has designated the same Sunday to honor women composers. I hope you enjoy hearing the work of women composers and arrangers in church that day.



A Lenten organ recital series is being presented at St. Peter United Methodist Church in Ocean City, N.J. and I am honored to be the guest artist on Wednesday, March 8. You are invited to this and all the recitals in the series. The program begins at noon with a brief devotion, then the organ recital followed by a soup luncheon in their social hall. A free will offering will be received. The rest of the series is as follows:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| March 1        | John G. Bate (director of music/organist at St. Peter in Ocean City)   |
| <b>March 8</b> | <b>Gae Finch (director of music/organist at First Presbyterian in Bridgeton)</b>                                 |
| March 15       | Scott J. Breiner (director of music/organist at Grace Lutheran in Somers Point)                                  |
| March 22       | (To Be Announced)  |
| March 29       | John G. Bate & H. Ray Hunsicker<br>(retired director of music/organist at Calvary Lutheran in West Chester, Pa.) |

## MARCH Recap:

The Giving Tree is in the Fithian Room. We are collecting **SOCKS** for children, women, and men - all colors and sizes. This will continue through February. Monetary donations will also be accepted. We will pass them on to the **Bethany Grace Shower Program** along with the toiletries we collected.



**Super Bowl Sunday Collection results are in!** Chiefs \$38 and **Eagles \$179**. This money will be sent to the **Bethany Grace Food Kitchen**. Thank you to all who contributed!

The collection from the **Mitten Tree resulted in 44** items to be given to the local **West Avenue School**. Thanks for your donations!



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to pray for you or a loved one, **call** the church office at 856-455-0809.  
*(Your concern will not go beyond the prayer team unless you request it be shared with others)*

Your Worship Committee, consisting of Debbie H, chair, John A, Sandy Z, Heather N, Gae F, and Pastor Norlita, met February 13.

We discussed the many pieces that come together to form our weekly worship services. Plans were finalized for the Ash Wednesday covered dish dinner and worship service. Those who were able to participate, including many from the Greenwich church, enjoyed not only the time of fellowship and good food, but also the informal but meaningful worship service following the meal.

We hope Lent will be a time of intentional self-reflection and connection with our Lord. The Worship Committee encourages the congregation to use the weekly devotions, based on the Beatitudes, to help focus our life in Christ. Copies are available at the church. Something new for our congregation this year will be the use of the Lenten wreath. The committee believes gradual extinguishment of the light (one candle each week) will be an effective visual as we move toward the darkness of the crucifixion and the return of the light Easter morning.

Sunday, February 26, we had the first in a Lenten Adult Forum series on the Lord's Prayer. We had thoughtful conversations about the first line of the familiar prayer. Five more sessions will be held up after fellowship following worship. Please feel free to join us for any session.

We want to involve as many people as possible in the various aspects of worship. If you're not already in the choir or serving as an usher or liturgist and would like to volunteer, please let a member of the worship committee know how you'd like to help.





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

## News You Can Use

**Sunday, March 12:** Daylight Saving Time  
**Tuesday, March 21:** Lunch Bunch at the Green Olive @ 12:00 P.M.  
**Monday, March 20:** Mr. Roger's Day  
**Sunday, March 26:** All Church Bowling and Pizza Party

### UPCOMING MARCH MEETINGS

Thursday, March 2: **Session Meeting** in the Bonham Hall at 6:30 P.M.  
Monday, March 6: **Worship Committee Meeting** in Bonham Hall at 1:00 P.M.  
Monday, March 13: **Deacons Meeting** in Bonham Hall at 7:00 P.M.  
Monday, March 20: **Trustee Meeting** in Bonham Hall at 7:00 P.M.

### SERVING IN MARCH

DATE	USHERS	COUNTERS
March 5	Team 5	Team A
March 12	Team 6	Team B
March 19	Team 7	Team C
March 26	Team 8	Team D

### MARCH WORSHIP FLOWERS

March 5:  
March 12:  
March 19:  
March 26:

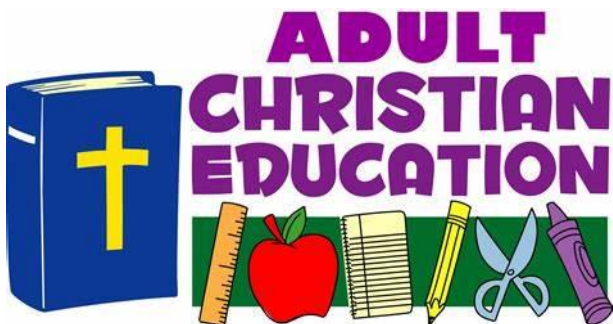


### FELLOWSHIP IN MARCH

March 5:  
March 12:  
March 19:  
March 26: Marion C.



Help us fill open Sunday Morning slots above!



### The Forum Time Returns!

When: **Sunday March 5** after Fellowship Time

Where: **Bonham Hall**

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

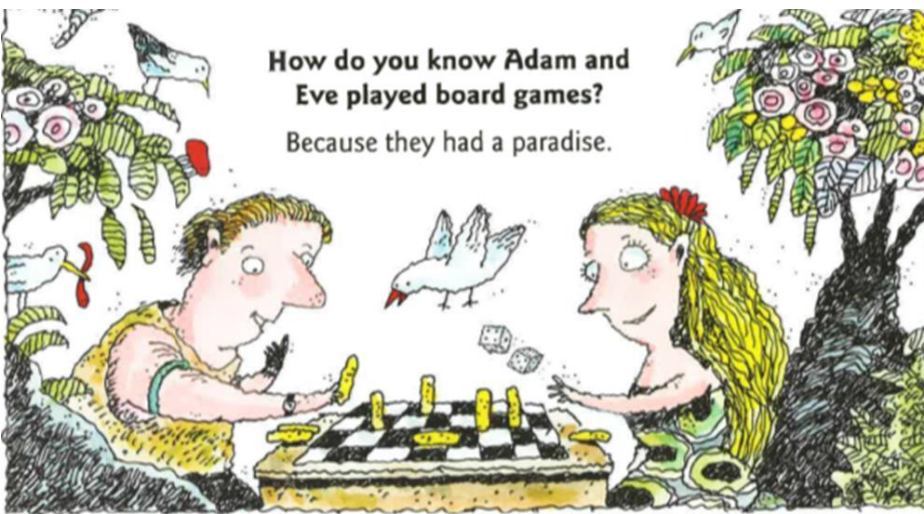
Please join Rev. Kaul as we look more closely at this most influential prayer we often use. If you're interested, please **contact Kim in the Church Office for your copy** of the materials. (This is a downloadable study from the PCUSA store that our church has purchased). We hope many will join us!



## THE SEASON OF LENT

“Lent” comes from an old English word for springtime, perhaps connected with the lengthening of days in this time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith—through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ. In ancient Christian practice, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of Baptism at Easter. In many churches, it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for Baptism or confirmation, and for the whole community of faith to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship. Reconciliation is the key theme in the season of Lent—reconciliation with God and with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Lent is a period of forty days—like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call of repentance to Nineveh, and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. The Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days, as every Lord’s Day is celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sunset on Holy Saturday, at the start of the Great Vigil of Easter.



What do you eat when you’re fasting?

Fast food.



# LIMERICKS

There once was a lassie named Kaul  
To serve other souls was her call  
With fervor and passion,  
Her life did she fashion  
And here at First Pres did she fall

Norlita we know is her name,  
She's short but she's really got game,  
With her hand on the helm,  
We'll continue to whelm  
As we search for new worlds we can tame

~Robert Woodruff Sr.

## Save the Date

*Morris Goodwin School*  
839 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich, NJ

### **"Ye Greate Street, Live"**

on

### **Saturday March 25, 2023**

*Entrance donation is \$10 per family*

5:00 – 6:30 PM Preview Auction Items (Live & Silent & Chinese) & 'Live' Music

6:30 PM "Live" Auction begins interspersed with Music

*PTO Food Fare & Student Council Bake Sale*

All proceeds from this event benefit the Historic Greenwich Education Foundation, Inc. a 501c3 organization that provides opportunities for the children and the Greenwich Stow Creek Partnership Schools.



## Revelings-March 2023      John 3:1-17

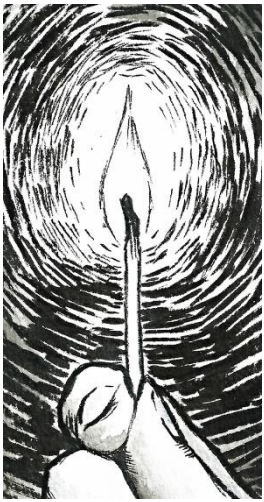
3Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2He came to Jesus\* by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' 3Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'\* 4Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' 5Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.\* 7Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You\* must be born from above."\* 8The wind\* blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' 9Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' 10Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?



11 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you\* do not receive our testimony. 12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.\* 14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.\*

16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.



Our Theme for Lent this year, and for our Sermon Series is "Heart-to-Heart Talks." Martha K. Spong provides an overview of the seven weeks and their texts, as she wrote; "We will explore conversations with Jesus depicted in the Gospels. As people come seeking answers to their deepest questions,,,or wondering who he is, Jesus engages, challenges, and exhorts. What would we ask Jesus if we could meet him? How might he answer us?" As we read a perhaps all too familiar John 3:1-17, we see such a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. See the questions that Nicodemus posed to Jesus. His questions are at times, just as ours. How, what, when, why...these are often deep questions about our life together as church, as believers, as we follow our calling each day. Often these questions arise, and we may find that there are no quick fixes or easy answers to them. Our life of faith in our Triune God comes into view, we are tested, just as our Lord and Savior Jesus, was tested in every way. We're called to risk something, just as Jesus did for the sake of the Kingdom of God, on earth as it is in heaven.

I propose that during this season that we individually and as a church, give something away rather than give something up, for Lent. You will find a weekly devotional for private use during this season that is most certainly focused inward and in penitential ways. This devotional focuses on the "Beatitudes" found in Matthew 5. There is also a Seven Day Challenge for us to try to complete, the same set of challenges for each week. These have been created and adapted from The Church Of Scotland's Worship Ideas and William Barclay's Prayer Devotional Book. Our Adult Forum returns on Sun. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday in Lent, and we'll be studying the Lord's Prayer after Fellowship Time.

Have a Blessed March!

Faithfully,

Rev. Norlita





# MARCH 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Choir 7:30 P.M.  Gae F. Joe S.	<b>2</b> Session Meeting @ 6:30 P.M. in Bonham Hall	<b>3</b>  Erety S.	4
<b>5<sup>2nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Worship @ 10 A.M. in Bonham Hall  Adult Forum	<b>6</b> Worship Committee @ 1:00 P.M. in Bonham hall	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Choir 7:30 P.M.   Bruce C.	<b>9</b>   Meredith S.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12<sup>3rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Worship @ 10 A.M. in Bonham Hall Adult Forum Daylight saving time begins 	<b>13</b> Deacons Meeting @ 7 P.M.   Franz P. Betsy C.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Choir 7:30 P.M.	<b>16</b>   Robin F.	<b>17</b> Happy St. Patrick's Day 	<b>18</b>   Sandy Z.
<b>19<sup>4th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Worship @ 10 A.M. in Bonham Hall  Adult Forum	<b>20</b> Trustees Meeting @ 7:00 P.M.  <b>MR. ROGERS DAY</b>	<b>21</b> Lunch Bunch @ 12:00 P.M. Green Olive (RSVP by 3/19 to Kim at the church office)	<b>22</b> Choir 7:30 P.M.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>   Jeremy P.	<b>25</b>
<b>26<sup>5th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> Worship @ 10 A.M. in Bonham Hall Adult Forum All Bowling and Skate Party @ Campani's Lanes from 12pm-2pm  Eric E.	<b>27</b>    De B.	<b>28</b>   Darlene F. Bill C.				

