



The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

*Rooted in God's Love
Growing as Christ's Caregivers
Nourished by God's Spirit*

Feb. 2014

The Presbyterian
Beacon



Worship

is at the heart of our life in The Presbyterian Church, Lakehurst, NJ, for in worship our relationship with God and one another is given meaning and strength.



Traditional Worship—10 Sunday mornings. This is who we are: a traditional Presbyterian Church. We love to hear the organ and to sing old familiar hymns. We appreciate a sermon that is inspiring, comforting and challenging (and most of all, short). We celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month. We include the children in the beginning of the worship service and we let them be children: exploring the sanctuary and saying whatever is on their mind.

We have a choir that glorifies God with their musical gifts, even as they have fun with one another. They are always open to receiving new singers. They practice from 1:00 to 2:30 on Wednesdays and 9:15 on Sunday morning.

But we realize that not everyone appreciates Traditional Worship. So, on February 2, at 5 pm, we are starting **a new community**—that will meet in the Living Room, and be lay-led—where people will watch a 10-minute thought-provoking video, and discuss pressing life issues.



Come As U R is for people who don't want to listen to a preacher; who do other things on Sunday morning, and who have rejected organized religion, but sense something missing in their life.

Glenn Milana will facilitate the gathering at **5 pm on Sunday, Feb. 2**, when the topic is RAIN: Are there storms in your life? How do you deal with the storms? Why don't you join us, and bring a friend.

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NOTE THE DATE

2/1	Church Officer Retreat
2/2	The Story—study
2/2	Come As U R
2/2	Kid's Klub
2/4	The Story—study
2/9	Called Congregational Meeting
2/9	Ordination & Installation
2/10	Presbyterian Women
2/18	Care for Caregivers
2/26	Food Pantry



From the Pastor

Diana Butler Bass, a church historian, recently wrote about **Civil Religion** in America. She writes: America's public God has had many faces throughout our history: the stern God of Puritan Calvinism; the revolutionary God of Deist Providence; the activist God of Protestant Benevolence; the sword-wielding God of the Civil War; the earnest God of Progress; the tolerant God of Judeo-Christian America. As a people, we have a great capacity to create God in our image, a deity that baptizes each new American generation with a sense of destiny, purpose, and meaning. As we become a more religiously diverse nation, a new Civil Religion is being born.



Today, more than one third of young adults under 30 claim no religious identity; another third belong to new immigrant faiths. The percentage of Americans who reject organized religion is now 20%. By 2013, the "unaffiliated" formed the second largest religious group in the U.S., coming in slightly behind Roman Catholics. And congregations struggle for survival in this shifting religious landscape.

What is happening is a shift from American Civil Religion to **American Civil Spirituality**, where both religious people and non-religious people are developing a common language so that we may continue to speak of God. For example, we say that America is on a journey, which is a central theme to many faiths: the Buddhist seeking enlightenment; a Native American on a vision quest; a Muslim embarked on the Hajj; a Jew hoping for "next year in Jerusalem" at Passover; a Catholic visiting a shrine; a Protestant tracing the footsteps of Paul; a humanist celebrating Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Religious people—and non-religious ones as well—understand pilgrimage as the call to leave the familiar for an uncertain destination, toward a new understanding of who we are and who we might be.

The American journey is not aimless. Instead, it is a journey toward a deep realization of community, prosperity, mutual care, stewardship of the Earth, peacemaking, and human rights. These six ideals form an American creed. Each one of these could be interpreted as Christian or Jewish (as they have traditionally been) or could be much more widely understood through other religious perspectives. *The God of this emerging Civil Spirituality is a personal spirit—the relational presence of inclusion, community, empathy, irony, justice, and service.* Most theists can recognize this God in their own religious traditions; most non-theists can interpret this sort of God as a spirit of beauty or justice in humankind.

As American pluralism grows and deepens, it is very possible that this sense of **communal spirituality** will mature and bind us together, as did Civil Religion in the past. As we at Lakehurst open our doors and invite people to **Come as U R**; as we go about our daily errands, and as we speak with our children and grandchildren, let us look for that common desire for community, prosperity, mutual care, peace, care for the earth and human dignity. And as trust grows, let us share our faith in Jesus Christ.



Stewardship & Administration

At the **Congregational Meeting** on January 26, 2014, the Congregation elected Elders Steven Heaney, Glenn Milana and Bobbie Seidel; Deacons Ray McGlyn, Jim Ryan and Renata Sarajew. Subsequently, Renata Sarajew was nominated to serve as Elder in the Class of 2016. Accordingly, **Session has called a Special Congregational Meeting for 10 am on Sunday, Feb. 9, to act upon the nomination.** We need not fear. God provides! Here are the Church Officers and Officers-elect.

SESSION		
Class of 2015	Class of 2016	Class of 2017
Kim Milana, Mission	David Weeden, S & A	Glenn Milana, Worship
Steve Heaney, Property	Nominee: <i>Renata Sarajew, E & F</i>	Bobbie Seidel, Education
Moderator is Christina Hindley and Clerk of Session is Dawn Heaney		
BOARD OF DEACONS		
Barbara Fair	Alice Loonam ² Moderator	Ray McGlyn
Nancy Lehrach	Carol Reagor ²	Jim Ryan

2014 Per Capita – contribution for active members is **\$35.20** for the whole year. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a “connectional” church in which local congregations receive support, resources and guidance from the denomination. We work together, and the per capita assessment supports the mission of the denomination. The Lakehurst Church pays per capita for **all** active members whether or not you contribute to it. So, if at all possible, we ask active members to pay the **\$35.20 per capita**. A blue envelope for this purpose is in your box of offering envelopes.



2014 Budget—thank you for your generous response to the 2014 stewardship campaign! We received 44 pledges totaling \$63,169. This includes 17 new pledges, 11 increased pledges and 16 continued pledges. It’s not too late if you haven’t pledged. Pledge cards are at both entrances to the sanctuary.

2013 Annual Report – is available at both entrances to the Sanctuary, along with an up-dated **membership directory**.





Evangelism & Fellowship

The sign-up Calendar to host **Coffee Hour** is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Sign up with a friend to bring a snack and a quart of milk. The Church supplies coffee, tea, and all paper goods and plastic ware.

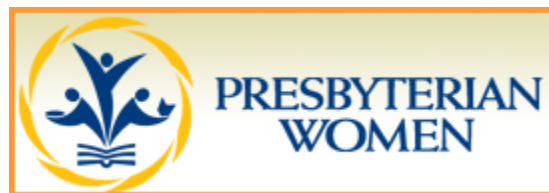
Mission

Lakehurst Presbyterian Food Pantry. Last year, we distributed a total of **379 bags of food**. We also gave Shop-Rite gifts cards so that people in need could buy healthy and fresh fruit, vegetables and meat. And this year, we kept disposable baby diapers and wipes on hand. Donations of canned soup, vegetables, meats, tuna, peanut butter and jelly, pasta and sauce, and cereal are always appreciated. Members can use the pantry throughout the month. Just speak with Kim Milana or the pastor. You are welcome to join the Food Pantry Crew and share the love of Christ on the last Wednesday of each month. It is amazing to watch the “loaves and fishes” multiply and nourish so many people!



Cub Scout Pack 10—The Cub Scouts meet here on Friday evenings and are open to all boys in 1st to 5th grade. February 2 is Scout Sunday, and the Scouts will join us in worship.

Boy Scout Troop 10 meets here on Sunday evenings at 7.



Presbyterian Women met on January 13 to have a Bible study led by Anne Bell on Exodus 4 -5, “An Abiding Hope.” We enjoyed refreshments and held our business meeting, discussing a second cookie project for the college students during exam time in May; a second Christmas tree in the sanctuary for next Christmas and the Christ-moms needed to complete same; the hygiene packs that we will assemble in February for the residents of Tent City in Lakewood, and the Mother’s Day blanket program in May.

Anyone who is interested in joining friendly, active, hopeful, loving, servants of God, as we make our way in guiding each other through programs that we feel honor Our Lord, please join us on the **2nd Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m.**



Christian Education

Sunday School classes are: **Toddlers** – in the Living Room; **Age 3 to Grade 1** – in the Fellowship Hall Classroom, and **Grade 2 to 6** – in the Lower Level Classroom. The teachers use the *All-in-One Bible Fun* curriculum.



In addition, on the 1st Sunday of each month, the Preschool and Elementary classes will learn the **Belonging to God Catechism**, published by the PC(USA) in 1998. In case you have never seen the catechism, it begins: “1. *Who are you?* A. *I am a child of God.* 2. *What does it mean to be a child of God?* A. *That I belong to God, who loves me.*” And it teaches the children about the Sacraments and the Lord’s Prayer.



Kid’s Klub for children ages 8 to 12 will meet at **5 pm on the 1st Sunday** of the month for food, fun, study and music. This will start Feb. 2 and coincide with the **Come As U R** adult gathering. Emily Heaney and Casey Kiernan will lead the fun, and Pastor Christina will coordinate the hour’s activities.

Confirmation Class

The Confirmation Class has begun with a combination of face-to-face meetings, on-line reflections and chats, an interview with a faithful senior adult, a “mission” project which will involve launching the Kid’s Klub—all the while exploring our faith and deepening our relationship with God.

Adult Education – The Congregation is studying *The Story*, which is a condensed, narrative version of the Bible on the 1st Sunday of each month after worship. During Lent and Advent, we will meet every Sunday. For those who cannot meet after worship on Sunday, an identical class will be offered Tuesday at 7 pm. You can also join the discussion on the Church’s Facebook page. Everyone is welcome to participate – and see how God is still speaking to us.



The initial schedule is:

February 2 and 4	Chapter 1—The Creation
March 9 and 11 (Lent)	Chapter 2—Abraham: the Call
March 16 and 18	Chapter 3—Joseph: the Favorite
March 23 and 25	Chapter 4—Moses: the Liberator
March 30 and Apr. 1	Chapter 5—Ten Commandments



Deacons



Care for the Caregivers.

The number of people who are caring for loved ones is growing. On the 3rd Tuesday of each month, we gather in the Living Room, for an hour of prayer, sharing and caring. Pastor Christina facilitates the group. Everyone is welcome to come on **Tuesday, February 18, at 11 am.**

Seeing Through Your “Eye” Teeth

By BJ Nelson, Parish Nurse



Taking care of our teeth should be something we do without thinking. We are taught as children to brush, floss, not eat too many sweets, and keep 6 month appointments with our dentist. But as we get older, we slip up, Medicare does not cover dental care, fillings fall out, teeth break, etc. There are discount dental plans one can purchase that cover preventative visits, exams, teeth cleaning, x-rays and then they cover problem visits like fillings, tooth extractions and dentures on a percentage payment. They cover 15-60% of these services.

There are many different companies to choose from; just go online and search for “dental insurance.” A degree of searching and comparison is involved, but a good plan can be located. Even if you are lucky enough to have some dental coverage, there still may be hefty co-pays. The common cry, “I’m afraid of the dentist” can leave you with some expensive work that needs to be done when you put it off long enough. The bottom line is to take good care of your teeth. Think of it this way, you’re being spied on regarding you dental hygiene: seeing through your “eye” teeth. So maintain all those old childhood habits and keep your 6 month check-ups.



The Deacons ask you to join them in prayer for:

Bob Bell’s sister, Ruth; Nellie Breiner; Richard Burke; Laure Childer’s friends Debbie, Bruce & Tara; the Claus’ granddaughter, Carol; Patty Coleman’s niece Lisa; Don Covert; Mary & Lenny Earley’s daughter-in-law, Amanda; Barbara Fair’s daughter-in-law, Karen, and son Steve, and friends Doris, Mary, Joan, Billy and Tom; Alice Georgeson; Rev. Granozio and friends Maria, Charlie, Lillian, a child, John and Carol, Fran, Emma and Stephen; Shirley Hiller’s friend Jack; Donna Lemanski and brothers, Ken and Tom; Alice Loonam, her parents Tom and Joan, Kim & Tommy, Heather, Lisette; Bob Lykes’ friends, Erika and George; Alice McCollum; Hazel Melone’s granddaughter, Jennifer; Glenn Milana’s cousin Joann; BJ Nelson and sister Karen and niece Jill; Margaret Plenk; Jim Ryan; Renata Sarajew’s cousins Rich and Emily; Claire Schutz’s friend Darlene; Evol Sealy; Carol Sloan’s son Raymond and friend Louise; Diana Smerillo’s son Ryan and Kristen, and friends Sue and Lee; Barbara Swindlehurst; Arlene Trelease’s sister Barbara; David Weeden’s nephew Kevin; Estelle Werner; Carol & Ken White and friend Carol; Marjorie & Joe Wong’s son, Jason, son-in-law, Anthony, and friend Carlin. Please pray for all who are serving overseas and all who are grieving.



FEBRUARY

2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2/9 SPECIAL CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 10 am						1 9-12 Church Officer Retreat
2 10 Worship 11:30 The Story 5 Come As U R 5 Kids Klub 7 Boy Scouts	3	4 7 The Story	5 10 Mission Team 1 Choir Practice 6:30 N.A.	6	7 6 Cub Scouts	8
9 10 Worship & Ordination 11 Fellowship 7 Boy Scouts	10 1:30 P.W.	11 10 Stewardship 1 Deacons	12 1 Choir Practice 6:30 N.A.	13 9 Sr. Deaf Club	14 7 Pack Meeting	15 3 Deaf Club
16 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11 Christian Ed. 7 Boy Scouts	17	18 11 Care for the Caregiver 6 Session Mtg.	19 12 Worship Tm. 1 Choir Practice 6:30 N.A.	20	21 6 Cub Scouts	22
23 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 7 Boy Scouts	24	25	26 10 Food Pantry 1 Choir Practice 6:30 N.A.	27	28 6 Cub Scouts	



Scout Sunday
February 2, 2014
All are welcome to worship!



**The Presbyterian Church
at Lakehurst, NJ**



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Sunday School & Worship: 10 am

Rev. Christina Hindley, Pastor

Elder Dawn Heaney, Clerk of Session



Come As U R

a new community
for people
who are “spiritual”
but not “religious”

1st Sunday of the month at 5 pm

February’s topic: Rain.

How do we deal with the storms of life?

WORSHIP  WITH US!

February 2 4th Sunday after Epiphany Study of <i>The Story</i> begins	I Corinthians 1:18-31	<i>“Foolishness & the Cross”</i>
February 9 5th Sunday after Epiphany Ordination & Installation	I Corinthians 2:1-16	<i>“Knowing Nothing”</i>
February 16 6th Sunday after Epiphany	I Corinthians 3:1-9	<i>“God Gives Growth”</i>
February 23 7th Sunday after Epiphany	Matthew 5:38-48	Carole Sloan is preaching <i>“Love Your Enemies”</i>
March 2 Transfiguration of the Lord	Exodus 24:12-18	<i>“40 Days and 40 Nights”</i>
March 5 Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58:1-2	<i>“Living Our Faith”</i>