



The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

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

February 2017

The Presbyterian
Beacon



PASTOR - Pastor Donna Lepsky

Dear Friends in Christ,

A little girl was helping her mother fix dinner one evening and they started talking.

"I think I'll give up spinach for Lent, Mom", said the little girl as her Mom was preparing the meal.

"But you don't even like spinach", replied her mother who was now putting the final garnishes on a spinach salad.

"That's why I'm giving it up", replied the little first grader.

Lent is just around the corner, it starts March 1. When we think of Lent, how many of us think about giving up something. What will we choose to sacrifice this year? Knowing that Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us on the cross, our little sacrifices sometimes seem so unimportant. Yet Lent is also a time of reflection and reconciliation. A time to ask ourselves, what are the things that keep me from a closer walk with our Lord, Jesus Christ. What does Jesus mean to me? Is he truly the center of my life? If not, who or what is central in my life? If we are going to give up something for Lent, perhaps we can give up things like worry, cynicism, apathy, impatience or anger. Imagine what it would be like to give up worrying for just six weeks!

Lent is a time for turning away from that which separates us from God. When we acknowledge with sorrow that we have turned away from God, we can have a fresh start. It's no coincidence that the season of Lent coincides with the beginning of spring, a season of rebirth. Soon there will be new life all around us with flowers blooming and trees sprouting new growth.

As we continue our journeys of faith during the time of Lent, let's re-think what we are giving up.

Peace and Grace,

Pastor Donna

Inside this issue:

Calendar	5
Christian Education	3
Evangelism & Fellowship	3
Looking Ahead	4
Mission	2
Pres Women	4
Revenue Gen	4
Worship	2

PLEASE NOTE:

2/5 Scout Sunday
Stewardship Meeting

2/7 Bible Study

2/9 Senior Deaf Club
Service at Hampton
Ridge Healthcare &
Rehab

2/12 Cup of Love
Deacons
Property
Country Wonder

2/13 Presbyterian Women

2/14 Happy Valentines
Day!

2/18 O.C. Deaf Club

2/19 Session Meeting

2/21 Bible Study



Worship Team

NEW FOR 2017- Sponsor a special bulletin for a holiday or special occasion (ex. Birthday, birthday remembrance, anniversary) please speak with Glenn Milana.

The Chancel Choir Practice is at 1 on Wednesday's and if you can't make that, 9 on Sunday morning . There's always room for one more voice. So, please come, and make a joyful noise unto the Lord! No experience required!

The Brass Handbell Choir If you are willing to make a commitment to try, and you can count to four, we would love for you to join us, even if you have never before played an instrument. Practice is at 3 and starts back-up on Feb 15th.

Christian Worship Service for senior residents at the Hampton Ridge Healthcare & Rehab., 94 Stevens Road, Toms River, at 10:30 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Looking for additional volunteers; see Carole Sloan if you want to help bring the church to the people.

Mission Team

Food Pantry is open from **10 to 11 am on the last Wednesday** of each month. **We are in need of pancake mix and syrup, peanut butter, jelly, soups, packaged potatoes, rice, canned fruit, cold cereal, oatmeal, spaghetti sauce and pasta.** Thank you for all of your contributions of non-perishable food items. If you would like to join the Pantry Crew, please tell Ruth Bell.



Other mission programs: Cub Scouts, Pack 10, meet at 6 pm on Fridays, and **Boy Scouts**, Troop 10, meet at 7 pm on Sundays. **Al-Anon Family Meeting** at 1 pm on Fridays is open to the family and friends of people who have addictions, and **N.A.** meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm; **Seniors Deaf Club** on the 2nd Thursday at 9 am, and the **Ocean County Deaf Club** on the 3rd Saturdays at 5 pm.



We are collecting empty pill bottles and sending them to Matthew 25 Ministries of Cincinnati, OH. The empty bottles can be left at both entrances to the sanctuary. Please remove all labels before dropping off.



Christian Education Team

Sunday School is growing with the new curriculum 'Back to Basics'. We love seeing all the children and the many blessings they bring. Children begin the morning in worship at 10 am, and after the Children's Message, they go to their classes. Classes are for children ages 4 through grade 6.

Adult Bible Study— Starting new book called "*Exodus*". 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6pm. Beginners are welcome! Please see Glenn about book.

Evangelism & Fellowship Team

Fellowship Hour—Our **new 2017 calendar is up** please sign up to host a coffee hour in this wonderful new year! We provide the coffee, plates, cups and plastic ware, you provide the goodies, milk and juice. It is so nice to see others share in the joy and fellowship of hosting coffee hour.



February 12th, for our second annual **Cup of Love**. Please come and warm your body, soul and spirit with great friends and fellowship. It is a special coffee hour filled with various soup offerings, bread/crackers, and dessert, all served in a *cup full of love*.

Reception of New Members—the Team is always ready to welcome you into this community.

Country Wonder – Carole Sloan sings lovely ballads with a country flair at 5 pm on the 2nd Sundays. Please bring a table ready dish to share and join us for a pot luck supper. It is a delightful evening of good music, good food and good fellowship.



Presbyterian Women

Monday, February 13th @ 1:30 pm all are welcome to attend.

Lenten Devotionals are going to be distributed to all members and shut-ins.

Looking Ahead:

Evangelism & Fellowship: Plans are in the works for a visit to Old Tennant Church on Saturday, April 1st, more information will be available in the March newsletter.

Worship:

Ash Wednesday, March 1st there will be a 12 noon service.

Maundy Thursday more information coming in March newsletter

Property: Church clean-up day is going to be Saturday, April 8th.

Revenue Generations: Fund raisers that you can be a part of and benefit our church!

Shop Rite Gift Cards



To date you have raised \$300 for the church operating fund!

Are you a Shop Rite shopper? If so you can support the church by purchasing Shop Rite Gift cards here. We are selling the gift cards as a fundraiser for the church. Gift cards are available in \$25 & \$50 denomination, you can purchase as much as you like and the church will be getting 5% of the proceeds. To purchase you can see Renata Sarajew or Dave Weeden after service or go to the office on Tuesday and Wednesday and see Laure.



Big Brothers and Big Sisters Bin in the back parking lot. You can deposit unwanted gently used clothes, sheets, towels, curtains, quilts, etc. We are getting \$50 a month to keep their bin on site and once a week they will come and collect the donated items. So please share with your friends and neighbors if they

are cleaning out their closets to please put items that can be passed along in our clothing bin.



February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1 Choir 6:30 N.A.	2	3 1 AI Anon Mtg 6 Cub Scouts	4
5 10 Worship Scout Sunday 11 Fellowship 11 Stewardship Meeting 7 Boy Scouts	6	7 6 Bible Study	8 1 Choir 6:30 N.A.	9 9 Sr Deaf Club 10:30 Hampton Ridge Healthcare & Rehab	10 1 AI Anon Mtg 6 Cub Scouts	11
12 10 Worship 11 Fellowship—Cup of Love 11:30 Deacons 11:30 Property Team 5 Country Wonder 7 Boy Scouts	13 1:30 Presbyterian Women	14	15 1 Choir 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	16	17 1 AI Anon Mtg	18 5 Deaf Club
19 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Session 7:00 Boy Scouts	20	21 6 Bible Study	22 10 Food Pantry 1 Choir 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	23	24 1 AI Anon Mtg	25
26 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Worship 7:00 Boy Scouts	28	28				



**The Presbyterian Church
at Lakehurst, NJ**



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 www.LakehurstChurch.org
 Sunday School & Worship: 10 am
 Pastor Donna Lepsky
 Elder Dawn Heaney, Clerk of Session



WORSHIP  WITH US!

<p>February 5 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p>	<p>Scout Sunday</p>	<p>Worship LDR—Charles Seidel Coffee Hour Host—Deacons</p>
<p>February 12 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p>	<p>Cup of Love</p>	<p>Worship LDR—Renata Sarajew Coffee Hour Host - Evangelism & Fellowship</p>
<p>February 19 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p>		<p>Worship LDR—David Weeden Coffee Hour Host—Marge Furze</p>
<p>February 26 Transfiguration of the Lord</p>		<p>Worship LDR— David Bryce Coffee Hour Host - Stewart Family</p>