



The Presbyterian Church at Lakehurst, NJ

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

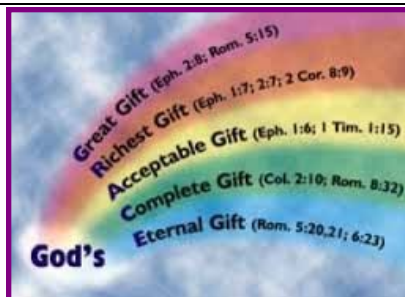
September 2015

The Presbyterian
Beacon



Growing in Grace

If someone asks you, “what is **grace**,” how do you answer? We love to sing the old hymn “*Amazing Grace*,” but why? When and how do you experience God’s grace?



Webster’s Dictionary defines **grace** as: 1. unmerited divine assistance, 2. short prayer before or after a meal, 3. respite, and 4. ease of movement or bearing. In the Presbyterian church, we focus on the first definition: God’s gift to us, a gift that we do not deserve and cannot earn.

In Paul’s letter to the *Romans* that says we are saved by **grace** through faith, Martin Luther “discovered the true meaning of Christian freedom for a soul tormented by the demands of God’s law and a corrupt church.” God’s grace offers us freedom!

John Calvin said God’s grace is the basis for Christian life, and he described it as “divine benevolence—God’s good will made known in Jesus Christ.” God’s grace initiates every “good” thing that we do.

Today Reformed Christians understand the grace of God to be that which frees us to witness to God in the world and to participate in God’s transformation of it.

When and how do we share God’s grace?

- when someone accepts an unwanted gift with a sincere smile?
- when someone responds to a hurtful comment with compassion?
- when someone lets go and lets God?
- when someone accepts an apology?
- when we accept God’s gift of forgiveness?
- when we feel peace and hope in the midst of turmoil?
- when we love our unlovable neighbor?
- when we are unkind and receive an act of kindness?

Let’s add to this list, my friends, every single day, and grow in awareness of God’s Grace!
Pastor Christina

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DON'T FORGET

- 9/6 **BLESSING OF SCHOOL BACK PACKS**
Sunday School !!
- 9/9 Choir Practice !!
- 9/10 Hampton Ridge
Worship 10:30 am
- 9/14 P. W.
- 9/20 Country Wonder
- 9/27 Fall Luncheon
Memorial Service
- 9/30 Food Pantry

SAVE THE DATE

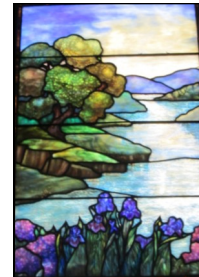
- 10/13 Life Line Screening
- 10/25 Visioning Retreat**
3:00 pm



Children in Worship

Parents, Grandparents and Friends are invited to help children feel comfortable in Worship. Bring them into the Sanctuary and go on a **scavenger hunt**, looking for the following symbols of the Christian faith. Can you match the Symbol with the picture?

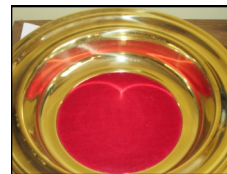
1. The Baptismal Font where, by water and the Holy Spirit, people are adopted and welcomed into God's family.



2. The Bible is the book through which we come to know Jesus and grow in our relationship with God.

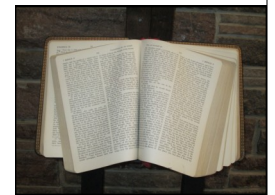
3. The Cross reminds us of Jesus Christ and his great love for all God's people.

4. The Candle reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.



5. The Communion Table where we receive the Lord's Supper which renews our faith and gives the gift of eternal life.

6. The Pulpit is the place where some ministers read and explain the Bible.

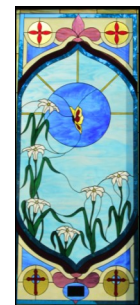


7. The organ is a big instrument that helps us sing hymns in worship.

8. The Pews are where we sit with friends who come to worship God.



9. The Hymnal is the book of songs that we sing to praise and worship God.

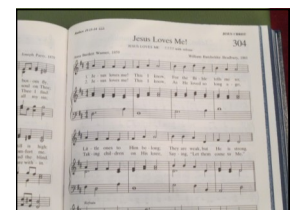


10. The Tiffany Windows show us the beauty of God's creation and help us worship.

11. The Offering Plates are used to collect the gifts that we give back to God each week.



12. The Window that represents the resurrection of Jesus Christ (look for butterfly).





Christian Education Team

Growing in Grace & Gratitude curriculum begins on **Sunday, September 6.**

Children begin the morning in worship at 10 am, and after the Children's Message, they go to their classes:

Nursery will meet in the Living Room.

Age3-Kindergarten meet in the Fellowship Hall Classroom;

Grades 1 to 3 meet in the Downstairs-West Classroom;

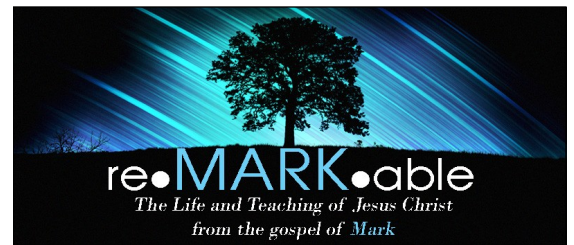
Grades 4 to 6 meet in the Downstairs-East Classroom.



CONFIRMATION CLASS meets on the **3rd Sundays from 4 to 6 pm.** All youth who are interested in exploring their faith and are contemplating joining the church. Note in Sept. we will meet on **Sept. 13.**

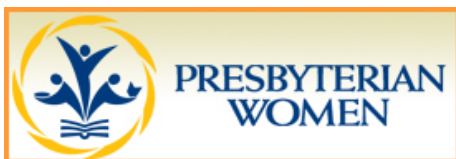
Adult Education:

We will study the Gospel of Mark which biblical scholars call **re-MARK-able!** Find out why when Pastor Christina introduces the study on Sept. 6 at 11:30, and Sept. 8 at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome.



Please read through the Gospel of Mark. And note that our study guide is: *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark* by Marcus J. Borg. A few copies are available in our library.

2015 Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc. Fall Conference, Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015, from 9 am to 3:30 pm, at the Manasquan Presbyterian Church. **EVERYONE** who is interested in Energizing your Church, Listening to God and Others, Knowing What to Say, and more – is welcome. Pick up a brochure from the table in the sanctuary, or call the office for a copy.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women of the church are Presbyterian Women! Join us on **Monday, Sept. 14, at 1:30** as we nurture our faith and build a caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Please read Genesis chapters 1, 2 and 3 in your Bible in preparation for the Sept. 14 meeting.



Evangelism & Fellowship Team

Membership—What is the difference between a *member* of this faith community and someone who *visits* regularly – even for years? Not much, from all appearances. We have many long-time visitors who actively participate in the life and ministry of this church, and we are very grateful.



But something life-giving and life-changing happens *internally* when you declare that “Jesus is your Lord and Savior” and you respond to God’s grace by promising to be a faithful member of a faith community. It could be likened to living together and then getting married, or being a foster parent and then adopting a child, but the difference is between you and God.

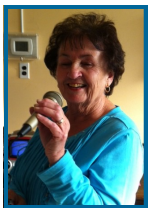
Interested? The Session has decided to **receive new members before (or after) worship on the 2nd Sunday of each month.** Talk with the pastor or any member of the church. And know that you are welcome here any time as a member, a friend, a Christmas-Easter worshipper, or a mission partner!

Fall Pot-Luck Luncheon—Sunday, September 27, after worship. Please sign up in the sanctuary or call the Church office to make sure we save a seat for you! If you wish to contribute, let us know what you will bring.



Fellowship Hour: Every Sunday, join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments. This is a **great** time to catch up with friends and make new friends. Please also consider hosting fellowship hour one Sunday with a friend. We supply the coffee, tea, plates and utensils. We ask the hosts to bring a snack, a quart of milk, and some juice.

Care for the Caregivers: On the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am, we gather in the Living Room for an hour of prayer, sharing and caring. Give and receive the support that we all need, and bask in the love and care of God.



Country Wonder – Carole Sloan sings lovely ballads with a country flair at **5 pm on the 2nd Sundays, but this month—September 20.** 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.

Ladies’ PlayGroup – Donna Lemanski leads a women’s group on the **1st & 3rd Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.** Bring your favorite craft or needlework project, or sit and chat with us. The more, the merrier.



Worship Team

The **Summer Pick-Up Choir** is winding down. Thank you to all you courageous, would-be Chancel Choir members, for offering a lovely old hymn during the Offering. It was great to see new faces and to hear new voices in the choir loft!



The Chancel Choir resumes practice on Wednesday, **Sept. 9**, and returns to the loft on Sunday, Sept. 13. Diana has lovely new music planned for the fall, and a Cantata selected for Christmas. There's always room for one more voice. So, please come, and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

The Brass Handbell Choir also resumes practice on Sept. 9 at 3 pm. 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.

Christian Worship & Communion Service for Jim Murray and senior residents at the Hampton Ridge Healthcare & Rehab., 94 Stevens Road, Toms River, at **10:30 on the 2nd Thursday**, starting **Sept. 10**. Please let Pastor Christina know if you can participate. Let's bring the church to people who hunger to hear the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Deacons

The ministry of the Deacons is one of *Care and Compassion*. In addition to serving on Session Teams to help prepare for worship, education and fellowship, the Deacons pray for members and friends of the church, and offer support whenever we can. Our ministry is particularly important during a time of pastoral transition. Even as we pledge our faithful support, we would appreciate your prayers and your participation in the **2015 Lay Pastors Ministry Conference on October 3**. (See page 3 for details.)

We also ask you to take care of your health, and consider signing up for the Preventive Lifeline Screening that will be offered in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, October 13. The non-invasive screenings scan for blocked arteries, atrial fibrillation, osteoporosis and other health risks. A flyer with cost and other information is available through the church office.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life," says the Lord.

On Aug. 28, honored member Richard Childers died peacefully in his sleep. Everyone is welcome to join Elder Kim Milana and her family for a memorial service for her parents, Joan and Richard Childers, on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 4 pm in the Sanctuary.



Mission Team

School supplies—THANK YOU! The Lakehurst Elementary School staff was overjoyed by your generosity in preparing the children in need with necessary supplies. Thank you!



Food Pantry is open at **10 on the last Wednesday** of each month. Thank you for all of your contributions, especially of pasta and sauce, peanut butter and jelly, canned fish and meat, soup and vegetables, breakfast cereal and toiletries. If you would like to join the Pantry Crew, please tell Kim Milana or Ruth Bell.



Foreign Mission Worker. On August 30, the congregation commissioned **Gladys Ruccella** as an ambassador of Jesus Christ and this faith community to the people of the Dominican Republic. This is Gladys' 12th mission trip to the D.R. where she serves meals, distributes shoes, clothing, and household items, and builds loving relationships with children, youth and adults. Please pray for Gladys' ministry during the week of Sept. 4, and for her safe return.

Cub Scout Pack 10 meets here on Friday evenings at 6 pm and is open to all boys in 1st to 5th grades. See Kim Milana for information. Also **Boy Scout Troop 10** meets here on Sunday evenings at 7 pm.

Al-Anon Meetings are open to the family and friends of people who are addicted to alcohol or drugs. Following the 12-step program, members share their experience, strength and hope and offer support to one another on **Fridays at 1 pm**. Anyone who wants to learn more is encouraged to come to Fellowship Hall any Friday.

Narcotics Anonymous offers recovery from the effects of addiction to any mind-altering substance through working a twelve-step program, including regular attendance at group meetings. The group atmosphere provides help from peers and offers ongoing support network for addicts who wish to pursue and maintain a drug-free lifestyle. An N.A. group meets here 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. These are active fellowship groups that are open to the deaf community.



SEPTEMBER

2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:30 Care for Caregivers 1 Ladies Play 7 Bible study	2 10 Mission Tm 6:30 N.A.	3	4 1 AIAnon Group	5
6 10 worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible Sty 7 Boy Scouts	7 LABOR DAY	8 10 Property Tm 1 Deacons 6 Christian Ed. 7 Bible Study	9 10 Stewardship 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	10 9 Sr Deaf Club 10:30 Hampton Ridge-Worship 6 Fellowship T.	11 1 AIAnon Group 6 Club Scouts	12
13 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Property 4 Confirmation 7 Boy Scouts	14 1:30 Presbyte- rian Women	15 10:30 Care for Caregivers 1 Ladies Play 6 Session	16 12 Worship Tm 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	17	18 1 AIAnon Group 6 Club Scouts	19 5 Deaf Club
20 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:30 Bible Sty 5 Country Musc 7 Boy Scouts	21	22 7 Bible study	23 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.	24	25 1 AIAnon Group 6 Club Scouts	26
27 10 Worship 11 Luncheon 4 Memorial Svc 7 Boy Scouts	28	29	30 10 Food Pantry 1 Choir Practice 3 Bell Choir 6:30 N.A.			



James Murray, Hampton Ridge Healthcare & Rehab., 94 Stevens Road, Toms River NJ 08755.

Margaret Plenk, East Neck Nursing & Rehab Center, 134 Great East Neck Road, Room 336, West Babylon NY 11704, (cell ph. 732-323-0172)



**The Presbyterian Church
at Lakehurst, NJ**



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www.LakehurstChurch.org

Sunday School & Worship: 10 am

Rev. Christina Hindley, Pastor

Elder Dawn Heaney, Clerk of Session



**Fall Luncheon—After Worship
Sunday, September 27
Everyone is Welcome!!**

WORSHIP  WITH US!

September 6 Blessing of Back Packs	Genesis 1:1-2:3	<i>“And Everything Was Good”</i>
September 13 Choir Returns	Genesis 12:1-9 Mark 8:27-38	<i>“God’s Call”</i>
September 20	Genesis 18:1-15 Mark 9:30-37	<i>“God’s Way”</i>
September 27 Fall Luncheon	Genesis 21:1-7, 9-13 Mark 9:38-50	<i>“Grace Enough for Everyone!”</i>
October 4 World Communion Sunday	Genesis 24 Mark 10:12-16	<i>“Grace—from One Generation to the Next”</i>