



THE SPIRE

March 2018

Dear Friends in Christ:

The Chapel Cross is draped in purple. The children have rolled up the “Alleluia” banner and tucked it safely away until Easter morning. The choir anthems and hymns are trending toward the minor key and the melancholy. Outside, the grays and browns of late winter stretch out in every direction across the town green—the outdoor vistas matching the interior landscape of Lent—when all is stripped away and laid bare as we wait and hope and pray for the Day of Resurrection.

We began Lent on Valentine’s Day with reminders of God’s love as simple as the messages imprinted on candy hearts:

Love You.
Be True.
Dream.
Peace.
Laugh.

LOL.
Love You.
Real Love.
Call Me.
TTYL.

And we will end the season of Lent with the biggest and best reminder of God’s love the world has ever known—in the passion (Maundy Thursday), death (Good Friday) and resurrection (Easter) of Jesus.

During the 40 days of Lent we are traversing uncertain terrain. Each Sunday’s sermon invites us to embrace an aspect of the uncertainty that comes with the territory of living a Christian life to the best of our ability.

Life is short. Good and bad things happen. Love heals. Grief hurts. But God who is the Alpha and the Omega brings joy from sorrow, light from darkness, hope from despair.

We may be knee deep in Lent, but Easter’s coming! That’s a promise.

Yours in Christ’s Service,

Ruth L. Boling

Ruth L. Boling, Pastor



Pssst... A Special Message to Kids...

**You are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt
after the 10:45AM service on Easter morning,
April 1.
All are welcome. Invite a friend.**

MARCH WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

Pastor Boling's Lenten sermon series, "Embracing Uncertainty," continues through March 25. Be sure to look ahead to Holy Week and plan to attend the two joint services that we will host in our Chapel on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Mar. 4 Third Sunday in Lent
 The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
 Exodus 20:1-20
 Luke 12:22-34
 Meditation: "The Uncertainty of Worry"

Mar. 11 Fourth Sunday in Lent
 Numbers 21:4-9
 John 11:17-27
 Sermon: "The Uncertainty of Mortality"



Daylight Saving Time is March 11.
 Turn clocks ahead by one hour.

Mar. 18 Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Jeremiah 31:27-34
 Luke 19:1-10
 Sermon: "The Uncertainty of Surrender"

Mar. 25 Palm/Passion Sunday
 Mark 11:1-11
 Matthew 27:36-46
 Sermon: "The Uncertainty of Obedience"
 Youth Choir

Mar. 29 Maundy Thursday Tenebrae
8:00pm *Joint Worship with Watchung Presbyterian Church in our Chapel*
 Meditation: "Choices and Turning Points"

Mar. 30 Good Friday Service of Word, Art and Song
8:00pm *Joint Worship with Central Presbyterian Church in our Chapel*

April 1
6:30am Easter Sunrise Service
10:45am Easter Worship
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

MARCH WORSHIP NOTES

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

Our Lenten journey of faith and trust continues through the days of March. Obeying God's command to "remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8), join us for worship in the Chapel every Sunday morning at 10:45 as together we give thanks and praise to God for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. March 25, Palm Sunday, begins Holy Week when we will gather on Thursday, March 29 at 8:00 p.m. to celebrate the Lord's Supper and on Friday, March 30 at 8:00 p.m. to meditate on our Lord's crucifixion.

In this month of prayer and meditation, take time to reflect on these familiar Gospel verses - "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17) What is our response to these words? In 1707, Isaac Watts penned his response in these words from the hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" - "See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down; did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." Blessings on your journey. Let us worship God.

FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Notes from the Session meeting of January 24, 2018 shared with the congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 7, 2018. . .

In 2017 our total income, from all sources, was \$173,000. Our total expenses were \$272,000. For 2018 our projected income is \$130,000. Our projected expenses are \$301,000. Our expenses are much greater than our income. Where does the money come from to balance our annual budgets? It comes from our endowments - money received through the years from donations and bequests that has been invested for our use. The balances in all our accounts are listed on page 27 of the Annual Report. \$730,000 is currently available for general expenses - maintaining the buildings, salaries and programs. An additional \$280,000 is restricted in its use, designated for particular groups and their work - the Women's Fellowship, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the Board of Deacons among others.

Recognizing that the money we have in reserve is decreasing rapidly, Session used its January meeting to brainstorm ways to increase revenue **and** decrease expenses. 75 suggestions included letters to previous donors, challenging the congregation to give more, fund raisers, selling the manse and/or other buildings, cutting staff and cutting the pastor. Divided into categories of similar ideas - four categories were chosen for immediate exploration - selling the manse, increasing revenue by increasing building usage, reducing building expenses like utilities and insurance premiums, and participating in presbytery's Revitalization Initiative. The discussion will be ongoing as we struggle to continue our ministry and be good stewards of our resources - both human and financial.

On behalf of Session, I ask for your prayers as we seek ways to stabilize our financial picture for the long term. Because, together we are the Church on the Green, I also ask for your suggestions and input. Drop a note in my mailbox, give me a call or see me in person with your questions and suggestions. The task will not be easy. But trusting God and working together, if we are willing to make the hard choices which might include letting go of some old, cherished traditions and/or spaces, we can continue the work that comes with saying "yes" to God's call to service.

To paraphrase the words of the old hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory" -
May God grant us wisdom and grant us courage for the facing of this hour and for the living of these days so that we fail not the community we are called to serve or God.

Respectfully, Ethelyn L. Fulton, Clerk of Session

PRAYERS

Please pray for our elderly and homebound church members and for the following persons for whom special prayers have been requested: Lois Erickson, Bruce Turnbull, Michael Lewis Jr., Laura Boger, Joan Campbell, Helen LeDoux, Joseph Campbell, Frank Truncali, Indira Bissoondath, Doris Murray, Candy Antoine



Daylight Saving Time is March 11.
Turn clocks ahead by one hour,
ideally at bedtime on the Saturday night before.

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE NOTES

Winter continues. Our hours of sunlight are increasing ever so slowly, yet the sun still seems to set way too early. It is the time of year when it is easy to feel depressed and feel more negative about the world around us. Those negative feelings impact our immune system. The immune system is responsible for recognizing any organisms foreign to our bodies, protecting us from disease and fighting disease when it occurs. Negative feelings make us more susceptible to all of those winter viral and bacterial infections - colds, the flu and pneumonia.

The good news is that research has documented that our immune system is boosted by positive emotions. As we enter the last month of winter, remember to keep a positive attitude, even during the difficult times like a tough day at work or an argument with a family member or friend. That positive attitude is good for you and those around you. Remember the words to an old Louis Armstrong hit:

When you're smilin', when you're smilin'
The whole world smiles with you.
When you're laughin', when you're laughin'
The sun comes shinin' through.

But when you're cryin', you bring on the rain
So stop that cryin', be happy again.
Keep on smilin', 'cause when you're smilin'
The whole world smiles with you.

Boost your immune system every day with a smile and a good belly laugh. That does not mean writing or texting LOL in response to something you received; it means a deep down belly laugh! Boost your immune system every day by remembering that you are a child of God, loved by him and saved by his grace. Janice Fulton RN - Faith Community Nurse

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)*

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING - MARCH SPECIAL OFFERING

Lent is traditionally a season of fasting and prayer. During this time, Christians pay close attention to spiritual disciplines that deepen our understanding of what God is doing in our lives and in the world. Jesus' ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. **One Great Hour of Sharing** helps us share this same good news to those same vulnerable people in our world today: those who are hungry, suffering from disaster, or dealing with oppression in society. Every gift made to this offering will help make huge differences in the lives of our brothers and sisters all over the world through its support of the following programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which witnesses to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events;

Presbyterian Hunger Program, which works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes;

Self-Development of People, which works with low-income communities to overcome oppression and injustice.

These programs can respond to the needs of our poorest and hungriest neighbors only to the extent of our generosity. Please join Christians all across the country in opening our hearts to witness tangibly to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.

PALMS AND EASTER LILIES

Spring is almost upon us and Easter is not far behind. We want to once again fill the sanctuary with Palms and Easter Lilies to help us celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord.

Our Palms and Easter Lilies are supported by donations to the Deacons' Flower Fund from members and friends. We are suggesting a donation of \$15.00, but donations of any amount are appreciated. Donations may be dedicated "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" family and friends, and will be listed in the weekly and monthly Spire. Following the Palm Sunday Worship Service, the Palms will be distributed to all in the congregation. Following the Easter Worship Service, the Deacons will bring the Lilies to our shut-in members and others who are currently dealing with difficult life issues.

If you wish to donate, please tear off the section below, complete the requested information and place in an envelope stating **Deacons' Flower Fund**. The envelope can be placed in the Sunday Offering or mailed to the church office: 147 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

DEADLINE: March 25th

2018 Easter Lily Donations (**\$15.00 per dedication suggested**)

Given By: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

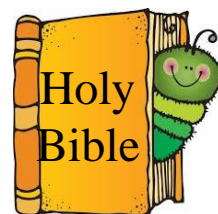
Donation Amount Enclosed: \$_____

MONDAY EVENING BOOK GROUP

Our once a month Monday evening book group will meet again on Monday evening March 12 at 7:30 PM. We meet in the education building. Our book this year is The Discipline of Grace: God's Role and Our Role in the Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges. On March 12, we will discuss chapter 6, "Transformed Into His Likeness" and chapter 7 "Obeying the Great Commandment". If you have any questions or want to get your own copy of our book, please contact Glenn Maciag. All are welcome to join us!

BIBLE BOOKWORM CHALLENGE

Our New Testament Bible Bookworm continues in March. If you do not already have a copy, get your schedule now! We encourage adults and children of all ages to participate and help feed our very hungry Bible bookworm! Our goal is that as a church family we will read 1,000 New Testament passages so all hands



on deck!! And thanks to those of you who have been keeping up with the reading schedule! If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Glenn Maciag or Pastor Ruth.

WORKING TO RAISE INCOME AND LOWER EXPENSES

Buildings and Grounds is working to be creative to assist in raising income and lowering expenses. So what are we doing you may ask.

- We are in the final arrangements of bringing in a summer camp rental from June – August. (The income will exceed any additional expenses.)
- We are working on a second temporary rental.
- We are participating in an energy audit that may pay for up to 70% of upgrades if we qualify - with additional savings being realized in our bills.
- We are exploring information for an oil co-op to receive a better price on our oil deliveries.
- We are caulking around some windows and doors (including the sanctuary).

Have additional ideas? Don't keep them to yourself. Share your knowledge and wisdom with Buildings and Grounds. We are all in this together.

SANCTUARY UPDATE

Realizing that we do not have the resources to fix the sanctuary on our own, we have reached out to the community for help and are in the process of developing a church/community task force to explore options to rehabilitate and then develop additional community opportunities to use the sanctuary. This will be an ongoing endeavor. Representing the church will be Scott Maciag, Carlos Monteagudo, John Bonnet and Cathy Dalzell. This is a great opportunity to explore new and different supporters and partners to bring back a beautiful part of Bloomfield as well as engaging the community to support a bright future. The possibilities are endless. We are grateful for the help and support from Essex County Freeholder Carlos Pomares and Bloomfield Councilman Rich Rockwell. Awesome and Exciting!!!!

HEY WHAT ABOUT THOSE SHINGLES?

After offering the shingles to a variety of camps and agencies we have no takers so we are back to square one. If you know someone who needs some shingles for small jobs or you need some, please see Scott Maciag. If you have any suggestions for disposal of the shingles please reach out to anyone on the Buildings and Grounds Committee. We are paying rent on the container. We get rid of the shingles and we can get rid of the container to save us even more money. A letter has been sent to the shingle manufacturer GAF asking for help and support for our sanctuary rehabilitation. We will keep you posted when and if we hear back.

TIME TO ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES

There is work to be done and we get to do it. We have:

- Air conditioners to remove and put in.
- A little woodworking/minor construction.
- Major cleaning and much, much more.

Does this sound like an opportunity for a church work day? Sure does. Stay tuned, but feel free to take on a job that is calling your name. We have more!



IS THAT YOURS?

Many times we have found expired and bad food in one of the refrigerators or freezers. We are asking everyone to take all food/drink after your event and if you are having an event feel free to go through and dispose of any food that is no longer good. You have the support and blessings of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Be proactive and get rid of bad food. If you need to leave anything in the fridges or freezers put a note on it! A very simple task that can have big results. Your support is appreciated.

QUESTION- WHO DOES THAT? ANSWER - YOU DO

We are asking everyone to be mindful that we no longer have a full-time custodian, or even a half time custodian. We must continue to get better at relying on ourselves. If you move it, put it back. Please straighten up your pews after service, picking up your bulletin. Let children take responsibility helping care for our building. Remind them to pick up their bulletin and restack the hymnals and Bibles in the pew. Every little bit helps. If you see a mess, help clean it up. We are all in this together. We thank everyone that goes the extra mile to help maintain our facility but let's all go that extra mile. We know people take out the garbage, check the heat, make sure windows and doors are locked, dishes are clean and we thank you. Enthusiasm and care is contagious. Let's spread it around.

THE CHURCH IN PRAYER

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

To:	Our Church Family
From:	Charlotte Cade, Ethelyn Fulton, Eve Space
About:	Our Church Family Prayer Journey
Purpose:	To develop the discipline of prayer To build relationships centered and focused on prayer To pray in one accord with all members of the church family
Who:	Individuals or Prayer Triplets
What:	Read and discuss scripture texts, pray
Where:	Any place that is comfortable for you
When:	Any time that is workable and comfortable for you
March Theme:	Called to Obedience, We Follow Jesus to the Foot of the Cross- Giving thanks for God's Steadfast Love and Gracious Mercy
Scripture Texts:	John 3:14-21 John 12:20-36 John 13:1-20 John 17:17-30 Psalm 22

Special Prayer Requests from the Presbytery of Newark:

- March 4 – Presbyterian Church of Livingston
- March 11 – Meeting of presbytery's Vision Accountability Board
- March 18 – Wyoming Presbyterian Church, Millburn
- March 25 – Palm Sunday – the passion of our Lord

*"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

I Thessalonians 5:16-18



3..	Cathy Dalzell	16..	Sharon LeDoux-Arlett
	Billy Dalzell	20..	Nancy Edmond
7..	Christopher Pescatore	23..	Judith Epitime
10..	Bill Dalzell	27..	David Murray
13..	Lulu Bernardez-Hicks	29..	Duncan Arlett
14..	John Bonnet		

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

As a first time Moderator I feel that Women's Fellowship offers the opportunity to grow in faith with the knowledge that Jesus will light the way, and brighten the day for our TEAM.... While this may sound cliché it is TRUE!

On Saturday, February 11, 2018, I attended the Winter Gathering hosted at Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair, NJ. I met so many women from the Newark Presbytery...what a warm welcome I received from these women...The Theme = LOVE/POWER FOR CHANGE
Love, Sharing, Caring, Healing & Comfort, Guest Speakers / Presenters / Table Group Dynamics re: Activists for Women's Rights, Local & Global Mission Reports, Hymns.
It would not be a Presbyterian Gathering unless there was Fellowship, Friendship, and of course, Food!! I invite you to attend the Spring Gathering at Bethel Presbyterian Church in East Orange, NJ on Saturday...April 21, 2018...9:00am-Noon.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Coordinating Team meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm = Parlor.

March 6, 2018 – Tuesday..Coordinating Team 7:30pm = Parlor

April 21, 2018 – Saturday..Women's Fellowship Spring Gathering, Bethel Presbyterian Church, East Orange, NJ, 9:00am - Noon

May 13, 2018 – Sunday..International Women's Day/Celebrated during our Worship Service

****CALLING ALL WOMEN TO A SPIRITUAL TUNE-UP****

August 2-5 (Thurs – Sun) in Louisville, KY

THE CHURCHWIDE GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

You are invited to spend time in a spiritual and relaxed atmosphere with other women of Faith. For further information please see any WF team member: Eve Space, Nancy Edmond, Mala Maharaj, Diann Cornell, Linda Rosania....

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Rosania,
Moderator

MARCH 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA and NA meet in the Parish House unless otherwise noted AA meets: Sunday at 2:00 pm, Tuesday at 8:00 pm and Thursday at 8:00 pm NA meets: Thursday at 7:30 pm Spanish Church : Wednesday at 7:30pm Cub Scouts meet in the Parish House				1 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	2 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	3 Thrift Shop
4 9:30 Bible Bookworm discussion 10:45 Worship Service celebrating the Lord's Supper Youth Choir rehearsal after worship in the music room 6:00pm – Lenten Small Group (Manse)	5	6 7:30 Women's Fellowship Coordinating Team (Parlor)	7 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:00 Lenape Trails (Library) 7:30 Finance Team (Parlor) 7:30 Building & Grounds Team (History Room)	8 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	9 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	10 Thrift Shop
11 Daylight Saving Time begins 9:30 Bible Bookworm discussion 10:45 Worship Service Youth Choir rehearsal after worship in the music room Noon – Deacons Meeting (Parlor) 6:00pm – Lenten Small Group (Manse)	12 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:30pm Book Group (History Room)	13	14 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:30 Prayer Triplets (History Room)	15 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	16 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	17 Thrift Shop
18 9:30 Bible Bookworm discussion 10:45 Worship Service 6:00pm – Lenten Small Group (Manse) SPIRE Articles Due Session Reports Due	19 5:00 Feed the World	20	21 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:30pm Session	22 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	23 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	24 Thrift Shop Food Pantry
25 Palm/Passion Sunday 9:30 Bible Bookworm discussion 10:45 Worship Service 6:00pm – Lenten Small Group (Manse)	26 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:30 Prayer Triplets (History Room)	27 Noon –Naomi Circle (Parish House) 7pm – Bloomfield Chorale rehearsal in the Chapel	28 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 10:00am SPIRE Team (Parlor)	29 Maundy Thursday 8:00pm Joint Worship with Watchung Presbyterian Church in our Chapel	30 Good Friday Food Pantry Thrift Shop 8:00pm – Joint Worship with Central Presbyterian Church in our Chapel	31 Thrift Shop

Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green

147 Broad Street
Bloomfield NJ 07003



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green

147 Broad Street, Bloomfield NJ 07003
The Reverend Ruth L. Boling, Pastor

Phone: 973-743-1796

Thrift Shop: 973-743-8425

Fax: 973-743-0262

www.bpcog.org

Worship : Sunday 10:45am

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am – 1pm

Thrift Shop: Wednesday and Friday, 10:00am - 2:30pm, Saturday 10am - 1pm

Food Pantry: Wednesday and Friday, 9:30 -11am, 4th Saturday 10:00-noon

Feeding Body and Spirit