



THE SPIRE

February 2018

Dear Friends in Christ:

Life is full of uncertainties. We can wish that were not the case and fret over all that we don't know and can't predict, or we can embrace uncertainty and enter into it with curiosity and an adventuresome spirit. Let's do the latter!

"Embracing the Uncertain" will be our theme during Lent. Our Lenten Small Groups will study Magrey R. deVega's book by that title, and my Sunday sermons will explore the uncertainties that are part and parcel of the Christian life.

Here is a favorite prayer of mine by the Trappist monk, writer, theologian and mystic from Kentucky, Thomas Merton:

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

I invite us to make this our prayer during the season of Lent. Go get a pair of scissors right now and cut out this prayer and tape it on your refrigerator, or slip it in your wallet, or tuck it into your Bible...

As we embrace the uncertain, I am confident that we will find the holy. I look forward to exploring this uncertain terrain with each of you.

Yours in Christ's service,

Ruth L. Boling

Ruth L. Boling, Pastor

Ash Wednesday Worship
February 14, 2018
8:00PM

FEBRUARY WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

In celebration of Black History Month, our service on February 11 will feature music in the African American style, with Rev. George White and soloist Philip (PJ) Booker as our guest musicians. Pastor Boling's sermon series during Lent, "Embracing the Uncertain," begins on February 18.

Feb. 4 **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Isaiah 40:21-31
Mark 1:29-39
Meditation: "A Purposeful Pause"

Feb. 11 **Transfiguration of the Lord**
Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20
Sermon: "Gospel Imperatives"
The Rev. George White and Philip
(PJ) Booker, Guest Musicians
Youth Choir

Feb. 14 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
8:00PM Psalm 51:1-17
1 John 3:1-2, 16-18, 23-24
Meditation: "'Be Mine' and Other
Valentines from God"
Imposition of Ashes and the Lord's
Super

Feb. 18 **First Sunday in Lent**
Genesis 9:8-15
Mark 9:14-29
Sermon: "The Uncertainty of Faith"

Feb. 25 **Second Sunday in Lent**
Genesis 17:1-16
Matthew 18:21-22
Sermon: "The Uncertainty of
Forgiveness"

FEBRUARY WORSHIP NOTES

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

It seems like only yesterday we were packing away Christmas decorations and settling into a new year. While coping with the cold and the darkness of winter, memories of angels announcing a baby's birth still sing a song of joy and light in our hearts. This month, however, we will sing a new song as we enter the season of Lent journeying on the road that leads to Jerusalem and a cross. "Yet even now," says the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." (Joel 2:12-13) Lent is a season to reflect on God's amazing love for us and Christ's amazing sacrifice on our behalf. The psalmist writes, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. . . Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. . . O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise." (Psalm 51:10, 12, 15)

Join us for worship in February at 10:45 a.m. every Sunday in the Chapel as we prepare our hearts and our lives for the journey ahead. It is a journey of faith and trust in obedience to God who has called us each by name. Let us give praise and thanks to God for light and love, and for the gift of one who came to be our Savior. Let us worship God.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, February 4 immediately following morning worship (snow date February 11). Join us as church leaders share information about their work and activities in 2017. You will have the opportunity to ask questions as, together, we commit to a new year of ministry and service. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting – and at worship every Sunday.



Ethelyn L. Fulton, Clerk of Session

FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Notes from the Special Session meeting of December 3, 2017. . .

Reception of New Members:

Session voted enthusiastically to receive three new members to be publicly welcomed at morning worship on December 3 - John Conneely, Jennifer Kohnen and Mathew Kohnen. A fourth new member, Michelle Singh, was received and will be publicly welcomed at the time of her baptism at morning worship on December 24.

Notes from the Session meeting of December 20, 2017. . .

Reception of New Members:

1. Met with and enthusiastically received Ugonma Kalu and Uma Kalu as members of the Church on the Green to be publicly welcomed at worship on December 24.

Clerk's Report:

1. Named Scott Maciag "Chartered Organization Representative" to act as liaison between the church and Cub Scout Pack 2.

Buildings and Grounds Team:

1. Voted to approve the sale or disposal of roofing shingles currently stored in the container on the quad outside the Education Building.
2. Heard a presentation from Carlos Monteagudo on "Solar Nation" - a pilot program which would invite the community to invest in the project with us, provide energy savings, and fulfill God's command to be stewards of God's earth.

Evangelism and Mission Team:

1. Reported that we helped a mother and her four children through the Help a Family at Christmas project - with thanks to members, friends and the Board of Deacons we provided clothes, gifts, hats, scarves, gloves and gift cards to brighten the holidays.
2. Thanked the Harris Foundation for sponsoring the December Feed the World dinner.
3. Reported that the Food Pantry served 79 families in November which included 13 seniors, 150 adults and 103 children.

Finance and Stewardship Team:

1. Reviewed and received on first reading the Proposed 2018 Budget.
2. Reported pledges to date (12/3/17) of \$85,000.

New Business:

1. January monthly meeting date changed to Wednesday, January 24.
2. Church Officers' Training date changed to Saturday, February 17.

3. Officers will be ordained and installed on Sunday, February 18 at morning worship.

Questions or Concerns for Session?

Drop a note in the Clerk's mailbox in the Church Office or see me after Sunday worship. I will be happy to listen and to answer your questions or direct you those who can.

Respectfully, Ethelyn L. Fulton, Clerk of Session

DEACONS 4th QUARTER REPORT

This report is a summary of our activities from October through December 2017:

Contacts with our Church Family (total = 60)

† Hospital and Rehab Visits (4)

† Home Visits (26)

† Home Communion Visits with Pastor Ruth (4)

† Phone Call Follow Up (22)

† Attended Memorial Service for Member of our Church Family (1)

† Sent Cards (3)

We donated \$200 to a church in Texas damaged by Hurricane Harvey - the First Presbyterian Church in Taft, Texas.

We donated and mailed \$200 in supplies to a church in Puerto Rico helping those impacted by Hurricane Maria - the Caparra Terrace Presbyterian Church in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

We continued to send the Upper Room to those on our Visitation and Phone Follow-Up Lists who were interested.

We continued the BPCOG Prayer Chain, including all of our Deacons and Prayer Triplets.

We delivered the Sunday Worship Flowers to our shut-ins, those in the hospital, those experiencing difficult times and those celebrating special occasions.

We gave/delivered 28 Christmas Poinsettias to everyone on the Deacon Visitation List, members who lost a loved one since Easter, members who were having a difficult time, elderly members living alone, church officers and employees, and our pastor.

We prepared and cleaned up Communion on the first Sunday of each month.

We continued to sponsor a Social Worker (Sonia Mulero) for Feed the World on a quarterly basis.

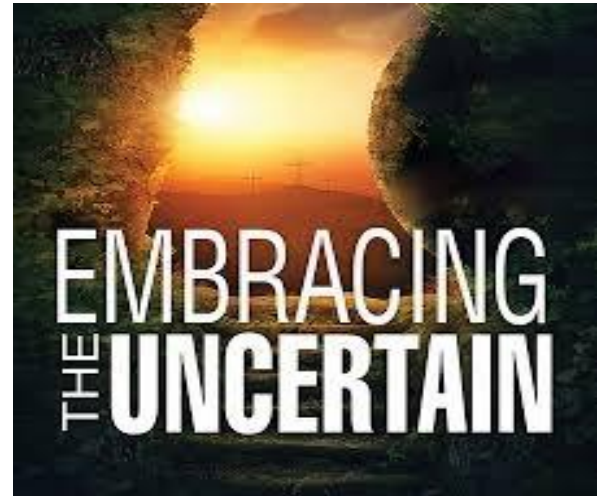
We continued to sponsor Renata Arizabeth Gonzales Vidal, who lives in Mexico, through ChildFund.

We made 8 charitable donations for 2017: Bloomfield Emergency Squad, Help a Family at Christmas, Integrity House, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Market Street Mission, M.E.N.D., M.E.S.H., and the Paction Newark Consortium.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information about the work of the Deacons in 2017, please read the BPCOG Annual Report and/or contact Janice Fulton, Moderator.

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS—EMBRACING THE UNCERTAIN

Amid the demands of your busy schedule and your personal and church commitments, do you take time out to feed your body and spirit? Joining a Lenten Small Group is a perfect opportunity for you to do both! Hosted by Pastor Boling in the manse, the meetings consist of a simple Lenten meal of soup and bread, followed by a discussion of the book, Embracing the Uncertain, by Magrey R. DeVega, and concluding with shared prayer. This year's theme is planned to correlate with Pastor Boling's sermons. The cost of the book is \$9 and participants are invited to provide either the soup or the bread for one of the meals. A display copy of the book is available in the Chapel. Call the church office, the sooner the better, or sign up on Sunday. There are two options:



Sundays, 6-8PM, Feb. 11-March 25
Wednesdays, Noon-2PM, Feb. 14-March 28

BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND SPECIAL OFFERING

Our special offering for February will go to the Bloomfield High School (BHS) Scholarship fund. Conceived by the 50th Anniversary Team as a way to celebrate our connection to the community, for the past two years we have awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to a BHS senior who has shown exceptional academic and/or citizenship improvement to assist with their post-secondary education at a community college or vocational school. Your donation to this year's Scholarship fund will provide welcome assistance to a student who is not receiving any other scholarship award through BHS. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

SUNDAY MORNING SERIES

Our Sunday morning series on the Heidelberg Catechism continues until (and including) Sunday, February 4. We meet on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:30 AM. It is not too late if you still want to join us!! Please talk to Glenn Maciag to get your own copy of the pocket-sized book we are using for this series!! On February 11, we will start another series, facilitated by Pastor Ruth (see article elsewhere in SPIRE).

PRAYERS

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

CONDOLENCES

To the Rev. Henry Cade and Charlotte Cade on the death of Charlotte's sister.

To Dr. Cliff Toliver on the death of his sister Doree Barnes.

"In my Father's house are many rooms... I go to prepare a place for you..." John 14:2

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE NOTES

In January, I introduced you to my role as Faith Community Nurse and spoke about wholistic health - health of body, mind and spirit. Our body, mind and spirit are inextricably connected. When we are emotionally stressed, we often have physical symptoms. When we have a physical illness, we often feel stressed in mind and spirit. Maintaining a balance in our day to day lives helps to keep us healthy in body, mind and spirit. Using this chart (The Benedictine Resource Center), is your life in balance?

Work	_____	Play
	Δ	
Giving	_____	Receiving
	Δ	
Serious	_____	Humor
	Δ	
Activity	_____	Rest
	Δ	
Serving	_____	Being served
	Δ	
Joy	_____	Sadness
	Δ	
Pushing on	_____	Easing back
	Δ	
Being home	_____	Getting away
	Δ	
Togetherness	_____	Solitude
	Δ	
Change	_____	Status quo
	Δ	
Noise	_____	Quiet
	Δ	
Excitement	_____	Calm
	Δ	
Relaxation	_____	Anticipation
	Δ	
Confidence	_____	Uncertainty
	Δ	

If you identify areas of imbalance, make 2018 the year you initiate some lifestyle changes to restore a healthy balance in body, mind and spirit. Consider a daily prayer routine, attending worship, attending Bible study, adding meditation or yoga (BPCOG has a yoga group that meets on Saturdays), eating healthier (avoid sweets at Sunday Coffee hour), exercising a bit more (take the stairs instead of the elevator), getting enough sleep, keeping in touch with friends, volunteering to help with a BPCOG program, getting in touch with a BPCOG member that you have not seen lately. ~ Janice Fulton, Faith Community Nurse

This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

MONDAY EVENING BOOK GROUP

Our once a month Monday evening book group will meet again on Monday evening February 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 February 12, we will discuss chapter 5, "Disciplined by Grace." 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 will start in February (with the first reading scheduled for Monday, February 5). 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. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Glenn Maciag or Pastor Ruth.



BIBLE BOOKWORM—SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION

Are you getting ready for the New Testament Bible Bookworm Challenge? Reading the scriptures on one's own can be daunting! Would you like the opportunity for conversation with other Bible readers during the eight weeks of directed reading? You are invited to come on Sunday mornings for Q&A and discussion of each week's readings with Pastor Boling, 9:30-10:30AM in the parlor. We hope this opportunity for weekly conversation will make the Bible Bookworm New Testament Challenge as meaningful as possible for each of you. While the conversations are geared toward adults, interested youth are more than welcome to bring their questions and join in as they are able! Dates are Feb. 11-March 25. You may attend weekly or drop in with a question on any given Sunday. All welcome!

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is looking for people to:

- help remove a broken air conditioner from room 203
- take on a staining project
- do a simple wood working project.
- help develop a plan to remove unwanted objects from around the building
- do some simple repairs, weather stripping, and things along that nature
- call and meet contractors around various jobs.



You could just be the person we are looking for... See Scott Maciag to say Yes I can.

WHAT IS SHOWING ON THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS RADAR?

As we continue to work through the beginning of 2018 we are trying to make plans for:

- Disposal of the roofing shingles in the container in the quad and then the container itself.
- Looking at reducing our landscaping expenses.
- Increasing rental income.
- Working on making some movement on the stabilization of the sanctuary. We continue to explore and talk to people who can help us move forward.
- General repair work on the Parish House windows.
- Continue to address heating issues in the sanctuary. We are hitting multiple issues with the heating and are trying to address them. At the present moment there continues to be no heat

in the sanctuary.

- We continue to look at the possibility of solar panels for the education building.

If you see something please let us know. Thank you for your continued diligence in watching over our buildings.

SHINGLES FOR ALL

No, I do not mean the illness! We are talking roofing shingles! After multiple independent evaluations it has been determined that only some of the shingles in the trailer in the quad are still usable. The shingles have been sitting in the trailer for over 5 years and the temperature during the summer has been high enough to activate the adhesive gluing some of the shingles into "bricks" while other shingles have also become brittle. When it comes time to do the roof we will need to purchase new shingles as there will not be enough to do the roof and we will not be able to match what we have. Session has approved the disposal of the shingles and knowing there are some good shingles mixed in with the bad, we are offering bundles of roofing shingles to church members and their friends to use on sheds or other small projects they may have going on. Donations for bundles will be graciously accepted and encouraged, but not required. If you are interested in any shingles please see Scott Maciag. We are reaching out to the shingle manufacturer to see if we can receive a partial credit for a future purchase. Once the trailer is empty we want to then return it as we do pay a monthly rental fee. Any and all suggestions and thoughts are graciously accepted.

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
February Theme:	Obedience to God Demands a Contrite Heart
Scripture Texts:	Psalm 51:1-17 Isaiah 58 Joel 2:12-17 Matthew 6:1-21 II Corinthians 5:20-6:10



Special Prayer Requests from the Presbytery of Newark:

- February 4 – presbytery meeting February 11 – Roseland Presbyterian Church
- February 18 – presbytery staff members
- February 25 – Elizabeth Avenue – Weequahic Presbyterian Church, Newark

*"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

FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
Birthdays this month: 7 – Edmond Epitime 10 – Rebecca Maciag 11 – Jarod Nerahoo 16 – Judith LaGuardia 23 – Ugonma Kalu 27 – Mathew Kohnen			Anniversaries this month: 16 – Janis and Albert Sledge						
1 10:00- SPIRE Team 2:00 Revitalization Initiative Training (Parish House) 7:30 Buildngs & Grounds(Parlor) 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	2 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	3 Thrift Shop	4 9:45 Adult Education 10:45 Worship Service celebrating the Lord's Supper Youth Choir rehearsal after worship in the music room Annual Meeting immediately following worship	5	6 7:15 Women's Fellowship Coordinating Team (Parlor)	7 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:00 Lenape Trails (Library) 7:30 Finance Team (Parlor)	8 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	9 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	10 Thrift Shop Private Party in Parish House
11 9:30 Youth choir warm-up 9:30 Adult Education 10:45 Worship Service Noon – Deacons Meeting (Parlor) 6:00pm – Lenten Small Group (Manse) Annual Meeting snow date	12 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:30pm Book Group (History Room) 7:30pm Mission & Evangelism (Parlor)	13	14 Ash Wednesday  Food Pantry Thrift Shop Noon –Lenten Small Group (Manse) 8:00pm – Worship Service with Imposition of Ashes and the Lord's Supper	15 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	16 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	17 Thrift Shop 10:00 Church Officers Training (The Chapel)			
18 9:0 Adult Education 10:45 Worship Service with Ordination and Installation of Church Officers SPIRE Articles Due Session Reports Due	19 Presidents' Day Church Office is closed 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 9:30 Adult Education 10:45 Worship Service	26 6:00 Cub Scouts	27 Noon –Naomi Circle (Parish House)	28 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 10:00am SPIRE Team (Parlor)	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					

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

Trusting God and Ministering to All People as Christ Teaches Us in the Gospel