



THE SPIRE

April 2018

Dear Friends in Christ:

“Up from the grave he arose with a mighty triumph o’er his foes!”

The forty days of Lent are behind us. The Day of Resurrection is upon us! And the celebration of Christ’s victory will continue for the fifty days of Eastertide. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Outside, crocuses, daffodils and tulips surge upward from wintry darkness to bud and bloom in the light of spring supplying their annual metaphor for the central truth that the church proclaims. Knowing ourselves to be “rooted and grounded in love” (Ephesians 3:17), let us likewise reach toward the light, bloom, grow!

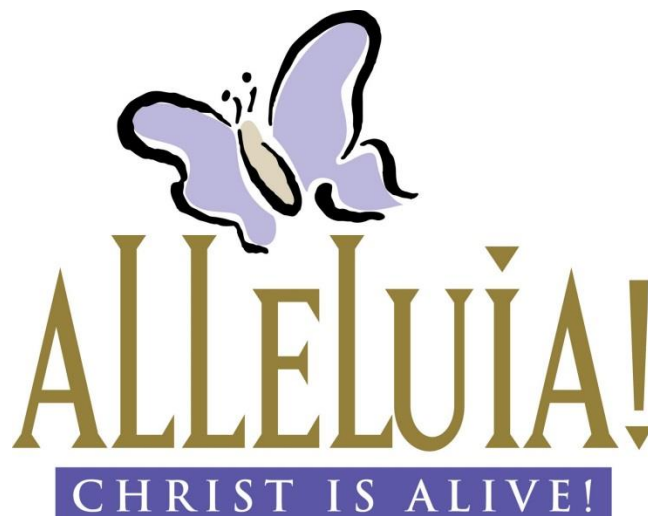
The 2018-2019 Revitalization Initiative begins this season with the first step of the process: a seven-week Sunday morning emphasis on the biblical marks of congregational vitality. Expect Sunday morning worship to be just a little different for these seven Sundays, starting April 8. Each of my sermons will focus on one of the seven biblical marks of vital discipleship, and will include structured time for reflection and quiet conversation in the pews, guided by discussion questions.

This soul-work will provide the basis for everything that comes next over the two-year period of the Revitalization Initiative. Please come each Sunday ready to draw nutrients from the soil of our faith tradition for your own growth and revitalization, and for the growth and revitalization of our congregation so that, together, we may accomplish our purpose of “feeding body and spirit” for years to come.

Yours in Easter faith,

Ruth L. Boling

Ruth L. Boling, Pastor



APRIL WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

The vitality of a church is a function of the vital discipleship that each member brings to the whole. Starting April 8, Pastor Boling will preach on the seven biblical marks of vitality, concluding on Pentecost, May 20.

Apr. 1	Easter Sunday	Apr. 15	Third Sunday of Easter
6:30am	Easter Sunrise Service		Matthew 25:31-46
10:45am	Easter Worship		Sermon: “This Is Us – Outward Incarnational Focus”
	John 20:1-18		
	Meditation: “April Fools and Easter Laughs”	Apr. 22	Fourth Sunday of Easter
	The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper		Matthew 15:1-9
			Sermon: “This Is Us – Ecclesial Health”
Apr. 8	Second Sunday of Easter	Apr. 29	Fifth Sunday of Easter
	Acts 2:42-47		Hebrews 4:12-16
	Sermon: “This Is Us – Lifelong Discipleship Formation”		Sermon: “This Is Us – Spirit Inspired Worship”
			Children's/Youth Sunday

APRIL WORSHIP NOTES

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

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. On that first Easter morning, love conquered hate and life conquered death. Because Christ died, we who believe are forgiven. Because Christ lives, we who bear his name have new life. By faith we have been set free from the bonds of this world to live a life built on the foundation of hope and trust in God. In love we are called to serve - to be the hands and feet of the risen Christ. God gifted us with the fruits of the Holy Spirit for this service: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23) With Easter morning joy singing in our hearts, let us love one another as God loves each one of us. “For God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the World, so that we might live through him.” (I John 4:8-9)

Gather with us at 6:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 1, to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and enjoy a time of breakfast fellowship. Join us at 10:45 a.m. every April Sunday to worship and praise God in song and prayer, the reading of scripture, the hearing of God’s Word proclaimed, and the offering of ourselves to one another in loving service.

May God grant us the grace to live each day with gratitude for the blessings of hope, love, forgiveness and new life. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

CHILDREN’S/YOUTH SUNDAY

Our children and youth will be our worship leaders whenever there is a fifth Sunday in a month. The next Children’s/Youth Sunday will be April 29. Kids, see Pastor Ruth for your part.

FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Notes from the Session meeting of February 21...

Session 2018 Organization:

1. Ethelyn Fulton - Clerk of Session
2. Scott Maciag - President of the Corporation
3. Diann Cornell - Church Treasurer
4. Session team members
 - a. Buildings and Grounds - Scott Maciag, chair and Manny Rodriguez
 - b. Communications - Eve Space, chair
 - c. Education - Susan Turnbull and Ruth Boling, co-chairs
 - d. Evangelism and Mission - Don Cornell and Edmond Epitime, co-chairs
 - e. Finance and Stewardship - Nancy Edmond, chair and Manny Rodriguez
 - f. Personnel - Clifford Toliver, chair and John Bonnet
 - g. Worship - Ethelyn Fulton, chair
 - h. Co-opted team members will be listed in a future SPIRE
5. Session representatives to the 2018 Church Officers' Nominating Committee
 - a. John Bonnet and Ethelyn Fulton, co-chairs

BPCOG Vision Statement, Motto, Slogan and Tag Line Adopted:

1. A vision statement to inspire and guide us as we look to the future -
Rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, we strive to be a caring and hopeful community with an inner strength and an outward focus.
2. A motto to define who we are -
Rooted and Grounded in Love (Ephesians 3:17b)
3. A slogan to define what we do -
Feeding Body and Spirit
4. A tag line to invite folks to try us -
Come see what's growing on the Green!

Church/Community Task Force Named:

1. This task force will pursue a course of action for sanctuary rehabilitation and evaluate its possible future use beyond a sanctuary.
2. Session members John Bonnet and Scott Maciag, church members Cathy Dalzell and Carlos Monteagudo will represent the church on the task force. Community members will be named in the near future.

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 to those who can.

Respectfully, Ethelyn L. Fulton, Clerk of Session



RE-ESTABLISHING A FORMER TRADITION

For many years the birth of a baby to a member of the congregation was acknowledged by placing a rose on the communion table. For reasons which none of us remember, this tradition ended. At their March meeting, the Board of Deacons voted to re-establish this tradition and fund the costs through the Deacons Flower Fund. A rose will again be placed on the communion table to celebrate the birth of a child or grandchild to someone in the BPCOG church family.



BIBLE PALOOZA—GOT SPIRIT?

Got Spirit? The Holy Spirit, that is? Great! Come to Bible Palooza and get some more! Our next Bible Palooza is Sunday, April 22, 12:15-3:30PM. Children and youth of all ages are invited to join us for a yummy lunch, crazy games, music to remember, crafty creations, Bible learning, fun, fun and more fun! Our theme is “Knowing the Holy Spirit.” RSVP to Pastor Ruth, Susan Turnbull or the Church Office by Sunday, April 15. All are welcome.

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE NOTES

Did you know that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a Presbyterian Health Network (PHN)? PHN is one of ten networks organized under the umbrella of the Presbyterian Health, Education & Welfare Association (PHEWA) to address health concerns in the Church and in society. They define their vision as *a diverse group of health care professionals and health care consumers who believe that the church, as the body of Christ, is called to be a community of health and healing in every level and location of its common life.*

On the PHN website, they offer “TWELVE WARNING SIGNS OF HEALTH.” Most of the time we are asked to be alert to warning signs of impending illness, but instead, they ask us to concentrate on the positive. How many of the following warning signs of HEALTH do you currently identify with in your life? What areas can you work on to become more HEALTHY?

- Personal presence of supportive friends
- Chronic positive expectations (a tendency to frame events in a positive light)
- Regular signs of joy in living
- Sense of spiritual renewal in God
- Increased sensitivity to others
- A tendency to adapt to changing conditions
- Increased appetite for physical activity
- Tendency to identify and communicate feelings
- Repeated episodes of gratitude and generosity
- Compulsion to care for other people
- Persistent sense of humor (to laugh out loud)
- A life centered in the forgiveness of Christ

Jesus said, “. . . I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

Our Sunday morning adult education series on the Heidelberg Catechism, one of the great catechisms of church history (written in 1563 primarily by the reformer Zacharius Ursinus), begins again on Sunday, April 8. We will meet each Sunday from 9:45 to 10:30 AM in the church parlor on the first floor of the education building. We will begin with Question 29 "Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, Savior?". For more information, or to get your own copy of the catechism, please talk to Glenn Maciag. Everyone is welcome to join our lively discussions, whether you attended our earlier sessions or not.

MONDAY EVENING BOOK GROUP

Our once a month Monday evening book group will meet again on Monday evening April 9 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 April 9, we will discuss chapter 8, "Dependent Discipline" and chapter 9 "The Discipline of Commitment". 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!

BYE BYE TRAILER!

Could almost be a musical if you change a word. We are so close to emptying the trailer. As of this writing everything is out of the trailer except 1 1/2 pallets of shingles. We are hoping they will be gone within the next two weeks and the trailer gone by May 1. The sanctuary window has been moved back to the sanctuary and the fencing has temporarily been moved over behind the Parish House. Thank you to Le Vuong for his hard work and leadership.

APRIL 28TH, I WILL SAY IT AGAIN, APRIL 28TH

So what is the big deal about April 28th? It is our Spring All Church Work Day!! From 9 AM to 1 PM we are going to cut, scrub, clean, polish, trim and any other positive verb you can think of. Bring your family, friends, neighbors and strangers. This is meant to be a fun filled positive fellowship day. We have big jobs, little jobs, dirty jobs, easy jobs and any other adjective you can think of. Getting the picture?? We can find a job that fits your interest, skill and passion. Not up to anything physically? Come just for the fellowship. We want you with us. Bring your supplies, tools and gloves. Do you see something that needs to be done? See Scott Maciag to add it to the list. This is going to be awesome. Rain or shine our spirits will be as bright as the sun.



SUMMER CAMP IS COMING TO TOWN

In preparation for our summer camp guests we are actively working on the 2nd floor of the education building to make sure it is in tip top shape and this can be a positive experience for everyone. Have some free time? Come clean a window, straighten up a room wash a table or two. This is just one example of how we are trying to reach out to and connect with the community around us.

A PENNY SAVED IS A PENNY EARNED

Last month the education building had an energy audit walk through by the NJ Clean Energy Group to see how and where we can save money on utilities. We are waiting for the report and

suggestions. Some items will probably be easy to implement and others not so easy. A big thank you to Diann Cornell for all her hard work pulling together bills and information for the last two years in order to participate in the program. In some cases the information had to be pulled multiple times for different reasons.

WHOA, WHOA! DON'T LEAVE THAT BEHIND, CLEAN THAT FRIDGE!

We may have to install voice activated sensors (Think of Mr. T. from the A Team show of the 80s.) in the refrigerators and freezers to remind folks not to leave food after their events. Label it, Use it, Take it, but please don't leave it without information on it. Can the next person use it? Is it there for Sunday Fellowship Hour? Have you opened a container of bad milk recently? Many of us have had that experience. Treat those refrigerators and freezers as if they are your own because remember they belong to all of us. We appreciate your kind support and assistance.

Buildings and Grounds is not just about fixing and maintaining our buildings. Our buildings are meant to be used to spread the good news of the Gospel in the surrounding community. Have ideas... share them. Taking care of our buildings is everyone's business.

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		
April Theme:	Called to Obedience, We Rejoice at the Empty Tomb -		
	And Go Forth to Serve		
Scripture Texts:	Matthew 28:16-20	Acts 10:34-43	
	Acts 4:32-35	Acts 3:12-19	Acts 4:5-12

Special Prayer Requests from the Presbytery of Newark:

- April 1 – That we may live as a resurrection people
- April 8 – Fewsmith Presbyterian Church, Belleville
- April 15 – First Hispanic Presbyterian Church, Newark
- April 22 – Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair
- April 29 – Meeting of the Presbytery's Ministry Relationships Team

*"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

PRAYERS

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

CONDOLENCES

The heartfelt sympathy of the congregation is extended to the LaGuardia family on the death of **Judith LaGuardia**.

The heartfelt sympathy of the congregation is extended to Hellen Motoma and family on the death of Hellen's grandfather.

“To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die...” Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3...	Deborah LeDoux	17...	Glenn Maciag
7...	Fred Chichester		Erika Rose Marshall
8...	Norada Nerahoo	18..	Nevaeh James
11..	Glory Kalu	27..	Jiles Nerahoo
13..	Yvonne Wedderburn	29..	Liz Hemminger
14..	John Bonnet		Eve Space
		30..	Emmanuel Ackom

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Emmanuel Ackom and Yaa Boakyewa on April 2nd.



A NEW ADDITION TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to Chris and Heather Doherty on the birth of their son ***Connor Liam Doherty***. Connor was born on Saturday, March 17th.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP—THE BEST WEEK OF YOUR SUMMER!

Parents, plan now to send your kids on an island adventure this summer. At “Shipwrecked Vacation Bible Camp,” children and youth will discover how Jesus rescues us through life’s storms. Vacation Bible Camp will be July 8-12 (Sunday through Thursday), 6:00-8:30PM, and is open to the church and the community. Vacation Bible Camp is filled with kid-friendly, hands-on, Bible-learning experiences. Daily activities include dinner, singing, games, crafts, Bible study and the “KidVid Cinema” featuring videos of real kids sharing real stories of how Jesus rescued them. If your kids like Bible Palooza, they’ll love “Shipwrecked Vacation Bible Camp!”

We’ll need all the help we can get while we’re Shipwrecked on the island together. Whether or not you have kids at home, you are invited to join the fun as part of the Vacation Bible Camp kitchen crew, or as an activity leader, or by pitching in with publicity and planning. See Pastor Ruth or Susan Turnbull to find out more. You can also help by donating supplies needed for the program. (Watch for more information in next month’s Spire.)

Last but not least, please add “Shipwrecked Vacation Bible Camp” to your prayer list. Pray for God to bless this ministry with an abundance of kids and adult helpers. Pray for young lives to be shaped and changed by Christ.





Easter Lilies Given In Memory or In Honor Of

Stephen Bastedo	In memory of Frank Bastedo
Stephen Bastedo	In memory of Jennifer Bastedo
Stephen Bastedo	In memory of Rose Bastedo
Rev. Ruth Boling and	In memory of Dr. & Mrs. Robert & Jean Boling
Dr. Carlos Monteagudo	and Iluminado & Gilda Monteagudo
Board of Deacons	In memory of Judy LaGuardia
John Bonnet	In memory of Ruth Soper, Agnes Turnbull, Judy Mead and Betty Beyer
Lualhati Caluag	In memory of Anastacio Caluag
Don and Diann Cornell	In honor of our grandson Kevin on his first Easter
Catherine Fleming	In memory of Ruth and Richard Soper
Ethelyn and Janice Fulton	In memory of our mom and dad
Ethelyn and Janice Fulton	In memory of family and friends
Ethelyn and Janice Fulton	In honor of Ellen Smith, a charter member and our oldest living member
The Hernandez family	In memory of Ofelia C. Hernandez
The Hernandez and Kinloch family	In memory of Ofelia Hernandez, our loving mother
The Hernandez and Kinloch family	In honor of Eloy D. Hernandez and his grandchildren
Glenn Maciag	In memory of Charlotte Fulton and Ed Stewart
Glenn Maciag	In memory of Barbara Thal and Olive Logan
Glenn Maciag	In memory of Bruce Arlett, Sr. and Ofelia Hernandez
Glenn Maciag	In memory of family members
Glenn Maciag	In honor of Rebecca and Eric
Glenn Maciag	In honor of H. Bruce and Barbara Turnbull
The Maciag Family	In memory of family members
The Maciag Family	In memory of Otto Groel, Charlotte Fulton, Olive Logan and Barbara Thal
The Maciag Family	In memory of Bruce S. Arlett, Sr.
Beverly Monahan	In memory of family members
Elba and Manuel Rodriguez	In memory of our parents; Jose M. and Aida Rodriguez
Elba and Manuel Rodriguez	In memory of our parents; Jose P. and Ramonita Torro

Judy and Ron Skorupski	In honor of our youngest granddaughter, Jillian Robertson whose 12 th birthday is the Saturday before Easter
Cliff Toliver	In memory of Doree Barnes
Barbara and Bruce Turnbull	In memory of our Parents: Marion and & Bill Devonald and Betty & Bob Turnbull and our brother Dave Turnbull
Barbara and Bruce Turnbull	In loving honor of our children: Bruce, Susan, Stuart, and Peter, and our grandchildren: Stephanie, Drew, Abigail, Cory and Jordan
Van Tassel Funeral Home	In memory of Bruce Arlett Sr.
Van Tassel Funeral Home	In memory of Joan Duncan
Women's Fellowship	In celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

DID YOU KNOW?

Beverly Monahan not only volunteers her time at the Thrift Shop but also comes in every week to fold and stuff (with inserts) all of the Sunday bulletins and Spires.

Ethelyn Fulton, Janice Fulton, Dodie Dalzell, Diann Cornell, Beverly Monahan, Linda Rosania are members of the SPIRE team who fold, seal and label all of the Monthly Spires. Then, John Bolland comes to pick them up and drop them off at the Newark post office.



THRIFT SHOP

Here we are in April already and the Thrift Shop has not yet changed over to their Spring/Summer items. The snow days set us back quite a bit and now we **really need your help** in getting this done. Can you come in and help us pack a bag of winter clothing so we can donate it? We need all types of help; sorting, pricing, putting clothes on racks, washing dishes, polish silver, cleaning and straightening the baby items. The Thrift Shop generates income for your church. You can come in any day to help or if you want to come in after hours just call Marlene at the church office (973) 743-1796 and she will make sure that someone is here to let you in.

APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter 6:30am Sunrise Service Easter breakfast follows 10:45 Easter Worship Service Celebrating the Lords Supper	2 Church office is closed for Holiday	3 7:30 Women's Fellowship Coordinating Team (Parlor)	4 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:00 Lenape Trails (Library) 7:30 Finance Team (History Room) 7:30 Church Community Task Force (Parlor)	5 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	6 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	7 Thrift Shop
8 9:45 Adult Education 10:45 Worship Service Noon – Deacons Meeting (Parlor) Noon – Nominating Committee (History Room)	9 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Book Group (History Room)	10	11 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	12 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	13 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	14 Thrift Shop
15 9:45 Adult Education 10:45 Worship Service SPIRE Articles Due Session Reports Due	16 5:00 Feed the World	17	18 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:30pm Session	18 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	20 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	21 Thrift Shop
22 9:45 Adult Education 10:45 Worship Service Youth Choir rehearsal after worship in the music room	23 6:00pm Cub Scouts	24 Noon –Naomi Circle (Parish House)	25 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	26 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	27 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	28 Thrift Shop Food Pantry
29 9:45 Adult Education 10:45 Worship Service Youth Choir rehearsal after worship in the music room	30	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

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The Reverend Ruth L. Boling, Pastor

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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