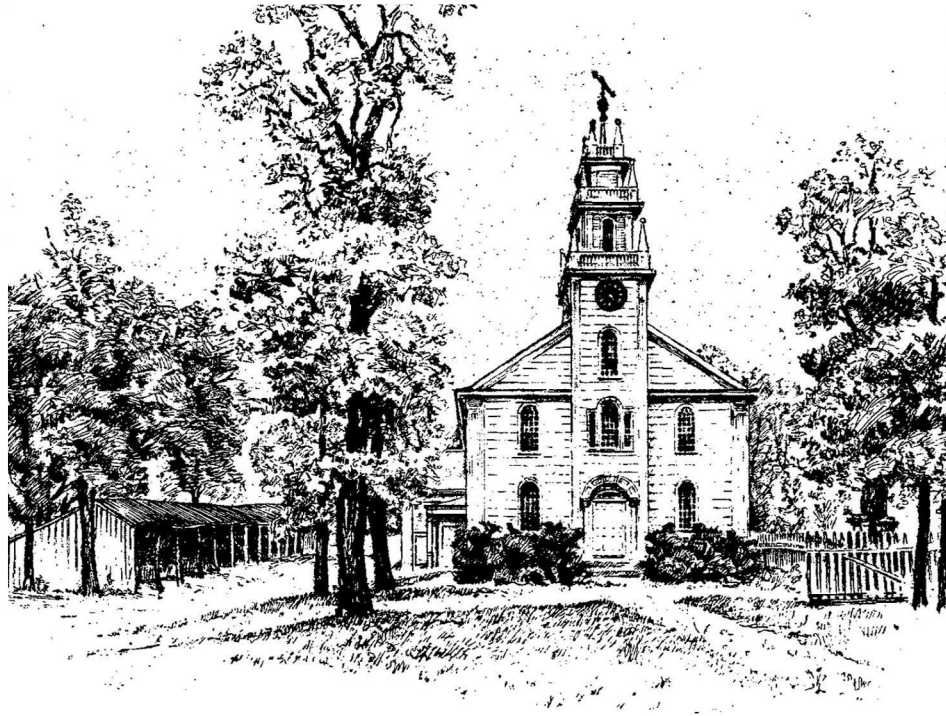


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TIDINGS
MARCH 2010



The Rev. James W. Hulsey, Pastor

Ms. Janice Moore-Caputo

Assistant to the Pastor

The Rev. William H. Edwards III

Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Joanna Kaczorowska, Director of Music

Dr. Pablo Lavandera, Organist

Ms. Bette J. Adams, Administrative Assistant

Mr. John Weisman, Facilities Manager

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Dear Friends,

As I write, this is a snowy day. My guess is that we have seven or eight inches on the back deck. Our ten-pound Jack Russell terrier was surprised to sink in so much snow.

Snow days cover ground and shrubs and trees with a delightful freshness. Were it not for our concerns about driving and falling and shoveling, we might enjoy the scene outside.

But that may be how life is generally. Were it not for what we worry about, we could enjoy many scenes more fully.

Jesus prayed, "give to us our daily bread." The Twelve Step movement has popularized the phrase, "one day at a time." There is something about learning to live in the moment. For me that translates into learning to worry about only those things we can do something about. In those instances, we expend our worry usefully by working to do what we can.

Recently I attended a meeting which was called to discuss a knotty problem. We made a decision to do what we could. In other words, we untied what we could, but there were knots left our hands were powerless to untie. After a while, we recognized there wasn't anything left to do, so we prayed and adjourned home.

That was very productive. We left in good faith that we had addressed a problem, done all we could and walked away from the other, knowing some things are not in our hands to control.

Our confirmation class meets in a room in our church also used by a Twelve Step group. Two copies of Reinhold Niebuhr's great Serenity Prayer are on the walls. So, I have been teaching the confirmands:

God, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change;

the Courage to change the things I can;

And the Wisdom to know the difference.

Though we may step into things that are deeper than we are, Serenity, Courage and Wisdom still apply. God has given each of us the same amount of time, one day at a time, and asks us to summon the courage to untie only the knots we can and gives us wisdom to claim the beauty and grace of the snowfall even though we may have to slow our pace and allow the sun to melt it.

Grace and peace,

Jimmy

THE BLUE PER CAPITA ENVELOPE, the first envelope in the 2010 Offering Envelope Box, is to be used for your contribution to the ‘cost of being a Presbyterian’. To cover ecclesiastical expenses (not mission) of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, we are asked to pay \$28.81 per capita for each member of our church, including recent confirmands, in 2010. You can help cover that cost by using the blue Per Capita envelope for your contribution.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY , March 28 th	Worship with Communion at 9 and 11 a.m.
MAUNDY THURSDAY , April 1 st	Worship at 8 p.m. with Communion
GOOD FRIDAY , April 2 nd	Worship at 8 p.m.
EASTER DAY , April 4 th	Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. at Long Beach Worship at 9 and 11 a.m. with Communion

EASTER DAY, April 4th, a broadly-graded class will be held for children who have completed one full year of pre-school through first grade at 9 a.m. in Room #21.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – Since the end of World War II when Presbyterians were helping people to rebuild their lives in Europe, One Great Hour of Sharing has helped people to know that Christ cares for them in tough times. Again this year we are receiving this special offering on Easter Sunday, April 4th. It is our privilege to join our hearts with those of Presbyterians across this nation to serve God’s people in this and all nations. Please let us give as generously as we are able. OGHS envelopes will be in the pews and on the mission table in the Narthex.

Back by popular demand – Adult Bible Study – Join us once again for an informal class led by Pastor Hulsey using the second half of the Kerygma program “*That You May Believe – The Gospel of John.*” This class will continue “studying John and asking where God intersects our lives in a very personal way.” Classes will meet Thursdays mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 and evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 on the following dates: March 11th, 18th, 25th and April 15, 22nd and 29th. It is important to note that you do not have to have participated in the fall bible study to be part of this class! Newcomers are not only welcomed, they are encouraged!!

COME JOIN A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN who create prayer shawls as we wait together this Holy Saturday. Our Prayer Shawl ministry will be hosting a gathering of local prayer shawl groups on April 3rd from 9 to 11 a.m. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Lois Netter (544-1133), Carol Link (979-3946) or Sue Nunziata (724-3812).

PLAY BALL: SOFTBALL PLAYERS WANTED – The softball season is almost upon us. Our church team is in the process of recruiting additional players for the 2010 season. In order to qualify, a player must be at least 18 years old. Games are doubleheaders, played on Monday nights beginning at 8 p.m. Since we belong to an organized town league involving umpires, the fee is \$160 per player which covers 36 games. If you are interested in playing, please contact Guido Agostini (584-5231) or John Agostini (585-5239). Make checks payable to Guido Agostini.

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WEDNESDAY, MAR 10th	The Early Bird Circle meets in the Narthex at 10:30; bring your lunch, dessert and beverage will be provided. We will be studying Lessons 4 and 5. Circle Leaders: June Auer (234-8991) and Lorraine Bird (864-6244).
TUESDAY, MAR 16th	The New Horizons Circle meets at 11 a.m.; bring your lunch, dessert and beverage will be provided. Circle Leader: Trudy Engel (724-6165).
THURSDAY, MAR 18th	NEW BEGININGS CIRCLE meets at 7:45. Please call Circle Leader: Karen Schilling (265-1463).
MONDAY, MAR 22nd	FRESH START CIRCLE at 7:45 in the Narthex. Circle Leader is Lori Scarlatos (584-6457).

FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Join us during Fellowship Hour on the second Sunday of each month as the Deacons gather all those celebrating their birthdays and honor them by singing “Happy Birthday”.

The following who have signed up have recently celebrated their birthday or will soon be celebrating. Please add your name on the sign-up Birthday List outside the Narthex if it is not already on the list

<u>January</u>		<u>February</u>		<u>March</u>	
1 st	Janet Ashby	1 st	Karen Crecco	1 st	Tom Rice
	Sharon Castlen	2 nd	Stephanie Castlen	3 rd	Cate Zimmerman
2 nd	Nicole Rosenberg	3 rd	Emily Wagenhauser	4 th	Jasmine Scarlatos
4 th	Kaeleigh Johnston	9 th	Kevin Henchey	5 th	Lauren Buturla
6 th	Mary Charlene Harris		Jon Schmidt		Hayley Spates
6 th	Jason Lipinsky	13 th	Timmi Nalepa	8 th	Edward Hertford
10 th	Michelle Colón	14 th	Linda Craig	9 th	Rigel Johnston
15 th	Lynne Leftenant	17 th	Kathleen Barry	11 th	Meredith McLeod
16 th	Pat Sartain	18 th	Elizabeth Sartain		Karen Langella
17 th	Wendy Countryman	20 th	Patti Ann Powers	13 th	Timothy Crecco
18 th	Brian Dalba	22 nd	Tom Castlen	15 th	Lindsey Crecco
18 th	Michael Dalba		Ted Klug		Michelle Reser
19 th	Janice Meaney	24 th	Ellen Klug		Bill Zimmer
	Lauren Jaronczyk		Tracy Schilling	19 th	Joslyn Betz
21 st	Bente Schmidt		Terry Schifflet		Gregory Yates, Jr.
22 nd	Margaret Cowie		Ashley Farino	20 th	Kristopher Crecco
22 nd	Emily Hulsey	25 th	Crysta Craig	22 nd	Palma Courtney
23 rd	Cayla Faverio		Meredith Schraner		Kyla O’Brien
	Danny Schule	26 th	Sue Dalba	23 rd	Steven Schraner
24 th	Dini Zimmerman	29 th	Joan Jones	24 th	Robert Heath
	Lori Kohn				Stephanie Leatherman
	Alexa Chibbaro			25 th	Betty Bunton
28 th	Evan McLeod				Wendy Drechsler
29 th	Doug Goodwin				Jeannine Rosengrant
	Carol Link				
	Lori Scarlatos				
31 st	Brian Femminella				

LAWRENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The A. B. Lawrence, Sr. Memorial Fund was established several years ago to honor the memory of a long-time member of this congregation. A primary purpose for the Fund is scholarships for full-time students in accredited institutions of higher education.

THE WILLIAM and EDNA LINK MEMORIAL FUND

An award shall be given annually by the Session to high school seniors who are active in the music programs of the church, and who show special interest and/or promise in the general field of music. These persons shall be nominated to the Session by the Pastor and the Director of Music.

Applications will be accepted on or before May 1st for both these grants. For more information, contact Lynne Leftenant (361-9835) or Chris Veech (499-1680).

TEENS! 30-HOUR FAMINE BEGINS HERE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 12th, at 6:30 p.m. and continues through Saturday, March 13th, at 6:30 p.m. Bring a sleeping bag, juice or bottled water. We need parents to drive students to the supermarkets on Saturday and to prepare a meal on Saturday after the Second Saturday Service. Please help us provide salad, drinks and dessert for our “Will Starve for Food” kids!!! Please sign up in Room #12 or at the youth bulletin board and be sure to fill out the required permission form.



**We want to bring our kids closer to GOD, and each other,
in 30 intense hours.**

Friday March 12 - Saturday March 13, 2010

30 Hour Famine is an international youth movement to fight hunger. It will bring our group closer together and to God, feed hungry children, and change our world forever.

Listen to one Youth Leader's story from another church...

'Hungry children weren't the only ones fed by the actions of 8 gutsy youth on their Famine. I was fed emotionally, spiritually, and intangibly.

See, raising money for World Vision feels like a drop in the bucket facing down the horrendous, stat of 29,000 young deaths daily. Thankfully, the Famine is one way to make a small, significant difference. Let us not forget that at one point 40,000 children died per day—change is possible.

This year's Famine was our first; it's become an important yearly event!!! Despite their inexperience with voluntary self-deprivation, the youth did remarkably well. This has become an established tradition in our church—one that continues to dare their bodies and confront their minds.'

What will we say once *our* famine is over?

What will we have learned...

about ourselves, each other, our neighbors, our God?

If you're a parent or a member of the congregation, please encourage our young people, please pray for them.

If you're a teen, please think about joining in. You can do it!

If you need more information, please e-mail Amy Fortunato at amypfortunato@optimum.net