

The Church Steeple

First Presbyterian Church

February 2021

PASTOR CHRIS' CORNER

“...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”---Galatians 2:20b

We as Christians have two powerful symbols of our faith—each one telling us what we need to remember each day:



The first symbol is the Cross with the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ hanging upon it. It is hard to look at isn't it? It reminds us of our sinfulness. It reminds us that human beings often take what is beautiful and destroy it out of jealousy, fear, suspicion or anger. Yet at the same time, it reminds us of God's great love....a love that will not let us go....a self-sacrificing love that will die so that we may live.



The second symbol is the Empty Cross. So much easier to look at, isn't it? It reminds us that Jesus, who gave up His life, rose victorious over sin, death, and all evil. The Cross is empty because the hard work was done and the time of rejoicing has begun. The Empty Cross says to us, “Love never dies....it is eternal. God's all-encompassing love has the power to fix what was broken, heal what was diseased, and restore to beauty that which evil defaced.”

What profound mysteries of sorrow, joy, and wonder these two symbols represent!!

Join me, during the upcoming seasons of Lent and Easter, in special contemplation of these two crosses and Our Savior, who for the glory of the second cross, was willing to endure the first.

*Blessings to you all,
Pastor Chris*

Lent, Holy Week, Easter Schedule:

Ash Wednesday, February 17 th	11 AM Service at 1 st Presbyterian Church 7 PM Service at Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
Palm Sunday, March 28 th	9 AM Easter Service at Zion 11 AM Service at 1 st Presbyterian Church
Maundy Thursday, April 1 st	7 PM Service at 1 st Presbyterian Church
Good Friday, April 2 nd	Zion will be open from Noon to 2:30 PM for silent prayer/meditation. Service at 2:30 PM
Resurrection of Our Lord, April 4 th	9 AM Easter Service at Zion 11 AM Easter Service at 1 st Presbyterian

January 21, 2021

1st Presbyterian Church
c/o Pastor Chris Bridge
83 Carteret Ave.
Carteret, NJ 07008

Dear Pastor Chris and the Members of 1st Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the Resource Family Support Network of Middlesex/Union counties, I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation of gifts for children in foster care this past Christmas. Our expectation was that donations of toys and gifts would be slow to come in this holiday season as our regular donors faced shut-downs due to COVID-19. Instead, we were overwhelmed and grateful for the outpouring of support by the members of your church.

The pandemic, which has made life difficult for everyone, has severely destabilized the lives of children entering foster care. In-person contact with social workers and therapists, who help children cope with the changes and challenges they are experiencing, has been restricted. Visitation with birth parents was suspended for months, exacerbating the loss and grief our children experience. And, although children in foster care already feel 'different' and alone, the need for social distancing has increased their feelings of isolation.

Children in foster care are the community's children, with the same hopes and dreams as all children. They need the support of the community, as do the resource parents who help these children overcome the difficulties of foster care so they can go on to lead happy, productive lives. We are thankful to all the donors who provided gifts during these difficult times to help our children realize that they are not alone. Thank you.

Gratefully,



Janis Nietzer

Resource Family Support Network Coordinator

Effective February 1st, Pastor will be in the Church Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 9:30 AM until Noon. Mondays and Tuesdays will be at Zion, Fridays will be her day off, and 1/2 Saturdays will be spent either with the Food Bank or the Thrift Shop.



February 10 Dorothea Schmidt
February 18 Linda Anosike
February 23 Pastor Chris
February 24 Casey Browne
February 25 John R. Stefura

February 22-28 –Pastor Chris will be using some much deserved vacation time.

ZION'S FOOD BANK Please donate cereal, tuna, pasta sauce, pasta, rice, soups, and evaporated milk always needed. **MORE THAN EVER!!**

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING was held on Sunday, January 17th, 2021. If you would like a copy of the annual docket please get in touch with Amy at the office and she can mail or email you a copy.

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE We want to thank everyone who participated in the readings and the lighting of the Advent Candles, and to those who helped decorate the sanctuary.

We continue to look for volunteers to Usher and help with Communion.

For health reasons, we will continue to use the individually packaged Communion kits. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, on February 17th with an 11 AM service at 1st Presbyterian Church. There will be a 7 PM at Zion.

Edith Raimo, Kathy Sager, and Pastor Chris

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

January 13, 2021

BOARD OF FINANCE & PROPERTY

Monies from Thrift Shop will be transferred to balance the negative collection for Per Capita 2020. If we pay our portion of the 2021 Per Capita in full by February 1st we will save close to \$200. Since we are in the position to do so we will pay in full.

Pastor Chris' covenant for 2021 was received, a few corrections need to be made.

We received the final distribution from Lorraine Gurney Trust in the amount of \$1,115.76.

We received a \$10,000 donation in honor of Jessie and Walter Woodhull from Rebecca and Walter Woodhull charitable fund.

Counter for February will be Doris.

BOARD OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

Ushers and communion set up for February are John and Kathy.

OUTREACH AND FELLOWSHIP

We received \$200 in Shoprite gift cards from Mayor Reiman's office and a \$25 gift card from the Rotary club. These will be given out as needed throughout the year.

The Mission Budget for 2021 will remain the same.

NEW BUSINESS

Session approved Pastor Chris to change her schedule at the church office. She will be there on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

OLD BUSINESS

The gutter project is still in the exploration stage as we continue to get bids for the job.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Doris Stefura*

Please pay your Per Capita otherwise the church will be responsible to pay your portion.

OUTREACH AND FELLOWSHIP Our Mission pledge was sent to Presbytery and will remain the same as last year's. Please check out the bulletin board in the Narthex for some updates on the Missions we support. Covid-19 has severely limited our ability to gather for fellowship, but we continue to do outreach through the Thrift Shop, Food Bank, Souper Bowl Sundays, and Operation Warm Feet (a sock drive---socks collected will be donated to a homeless shelter in Newark). Please donate cans or packages of soup during the month of February. Socks may be put in the container that will be provided for them at the Church. Thank you!

Debbie Beyfuss, Debbie Elliott, and Pastor Chris

THE CHURCH STEEPLE

F e b r u a r y



Please remember to keep the prayer list up to date!! Please look over the list each Sunday and make any changes and leave in the collection plate for Amy's attention. Thank you we love hearing that our prayers are working!!! And we love praying for the needs of this church and church family!

First Presbyterian Church

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JesuslovesCarteret.org

Checkout our website: *Jesuslovescarteret.org* or Find us on Facebook *Carteret Presbyterian*