

Glad Tidings

hearts open to christ - doors open to his world

First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield • February 2016



February Highlights

Feb. 7 - Holy Communion
Youth Sunday
Town Hall Meeting

Feb. 8 - Preschool Summer
Registration begins.

Feb. 9 - Fat Tuesday Pancake
Dinner

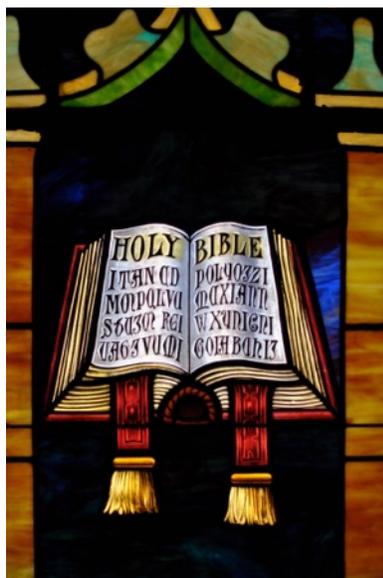
Feb. 9-12 Preschool Open
House

Feb. 10 - Ash Wednesday

Feb. 13 - PW Gathering to
sew for Dress a Girl

Feb. 28 - Women's Sunday*
Haddonfield Church
Choirs Concert at
Haddonfield Baptist
Church

*Join us February 28 on "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" Sunday as we feature the women in the church who have done and are doing God's work.



Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. *Proverbs 4:7*

These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. *Proverbs 6: 16-19*

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)



Easter Sunday Services
9:00 and 11:00

First Presbyterian
Haddonfield, NJ





Pastor's Notes

Dear Family of Faith Members,

In his book, *Songs for the Journey: The Psalms in Life and Liturgy*, Brian Pickett wrote, "Grace must come before sin can be confessed, but Christians are not always good at affirming God's love for themselves or anyone else." We begin Lent this month on Ash Wednesday, February 10. It is a long season in the church year set aside to prepare for Holy Week. Part of our preparation includes the admission that we have often failed to live as God's people. As St. Paul wrote, "All have fallen short of the glory of God." In church language, we have sinned against God and our neighbor.

Acknowledging our sin opens the door for the restoration of our fractured relationships with God and our neighbor. But Brian Pickett is right—grace must precede confession. We can only admit our failures when we are certain that the same God who has loved and forgiven us in the past will do the same in the present.

So I invite you to enter into Lent, a season of confession and repentance, with a confidence that it will be life-giving and faith-sustaining. While some of the language and images we use will call to mind our frailties, our mortality and our sin, such language and images will all be offered within the context of God's grace.

In Christ's peace,

Bill

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Dear Church Family,

To all who shared in my little career milestone of 50+ years of making music for our congregation, thank you so much! The reception and gifts were wonderful and I appreciate every person who made it memorable.

I will always recall January 17, along with the music ministry of which I have been blest to be a part.

David Rhody

Glad Tidings

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YOUTH MINISTRY

Join us for

YOUTH SUNDAY

February 7, 2016

Rachel Rhodes
Associate Pastor

What is Youth Sunday?

Youth Sunday is a Sunday like any other Sunday in the life of our church, except the youth are leading worship! At all three services (8:15am, 9:30am, and 11:00am) on February 7th, Middle School and High School students will be leading worship. It is our way of saying thank you for all the ways that you support us throughout the year, and also an opportunity for you to see who we are and the ways that our faith has grown through the youth ministry program at First Presbyterian Church. We hope that you will join us in worship!

**If you would like to receive regular updates about Youth Group events, please send your name and e-mail address to Rachel Rhodes at rrhodes@haddonfieldpres.org

SENIOR MINISTRY

Come join Betsy B! to see 225 celebrities and icons in wax at **Madame Tussauds Museum** on Friday, April 15, in NYC.

Enjoy the interactive entertainment right in the heart of Times Square. Lunch is included at Bubba Gump Restaurant with free time after lunch in Times Square before returning home.

Seniors 60+ are \$96. per person; others are \$99. per person. Deadline for reservations is March 20. Call Betsy in the office for a flyer.

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Care to **cruise down Toms River on a paddleboat**? June 10th we'll board the River Lady Paddleboat for a historical sightseeing cruise down Toms River followed by lunch in a Victorian tea room.

Lunch includes soup, salad, scone, sandwiches, desserts and tea. Cost of the trip is \$85. and reservations must be made by April 15. Call the church office for reservations.

Parish Register

Baptized

January 10

Mackenzie Jane Williams, daughter of Jennifer Brown Williams and Bruce Williams

Hudson Ryan Harris, son of Matthew Harris and Monika Harris

Joined the Church Triumphant

Colleen M. Binder wife of Fred W. Binder; children, Matthew, Nicholas & Alexis
January 17

Helen M. Walters
January 23

Dress a Girl with Love

The second gathering date for the mission, "Dress a Girl", for the Haitian orphanage will be held on Saturday, February 13 from 9:00 AM to noon in the parlor of the **First Presbyterian Church, 28 Seventh Avenue in Haddon Heights**. Whether you sew or not, you are welcome to come because there are various tasks involved.

Everyone can help by donating plain (not white) children's t-shirts, one inch or larger buttons of different colors and shapes and cotton fabrics for skirts.

Call Carole Leadbeater at 856-546-7257 for more information or to let her know

you have materials to donate or a portable sewing machine to bring.

Information about transportation can be found by contacting our Presbyterian Women liaison through Carol Carty, 856-858-6442 or Sue Smith at 856-546-8482.

PW Coffee Project

Valentine's Day is the perfect time to give your loved ones some of those tasty chocolate bars from the Coffee Project table. Presbyterian Women will be there to help you after all services through the month.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Peter Leibensperger
Music Director

In addition to regular Worship Participation, the Chapel Choir and Chancel Choir will participate in the Haddonfield Church Choir Concert this February. Please read below for all the details.

Worship Participation Schedule

Carol Choir	2/7/16	9:30am
Cherub Choir	2/7/16	9:30am
Thomas Sherrerd	2/7/16	11:00am
Whitechapel	2/14/16	11:00am
Chapel Choir	2/21/16	9:30am
Kirk Ringers	2/21/16	11:00am
Moore Bells	2/21/16	11:00am

Community Festival of Church Choirs

On Sunday, February 28th, the Chapel Choir and the Chancel Choir will sing in a choral festival with all of the adult and youth church choirs (ages 3rd – 6th grade) in our community. The event will be held at the First Baptist Church, just a few doors down Kings Highway, and there will be a mandatory dress rehearsal on Saturday February 20th. Please reserve the following dates and times so that we will have 100% participation:

February 20th

10:00am – 11:30am: CHAPEL CHOIR Rehearses at First Baptist Church
11:00am – 12:30pm: CHANCEL CHOIR Rehearses at First Baptist Church

February 28th

2:30pm: ALL CHOIRS gather at First Baptist Church
4:00pm: Festival Begins!

If you or your child has a conflict with any of these dates or times, please give me a call (610-301-2776) or email me (PLeibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org).

The Deacons' Bench

The Board of Deacons bids a reluctant farewell to those who have served faithfully on the board for the past three years. Their service has been a blessing to this family of faith.

At the same time we joyfully welcome those who have chosen to continue their service to the church by joining the board. Under the able leadership of Moderator Larissa Willison, they have become part of a group of people dedicated to a ministry of compassion, witness and service.

Jesus said, "... Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

It will happen to all of us who are temporarily able-bodied. We will be dependent upon others to take us or not take us where we wish to go. We have lovely people in our congregation who have served this church with diligence, dignity and courage in the past who now find themselves dependent upon the generosity of others to bring them to worship.

Do you live near Collingswood Manor or the Evergreens in Moorestown? Do you have 20-30 minutes prior to 11:00 worship to swing by and collect those who need your help? They would even be happy to arrive early if choir members are available to take them.

Please prayerfully consider if this is a ministry you can fulfill and then contact Pete Hurd (429-0622 or phurd75@gmail.com) to volunteer.

The Board of Deacons strives to connect with those who cannot attend worship regularly. They schedule regular visitations to shut-ins to assure them that the church thinks of them often and holds them dear.

If you know of someone who would appreciate a visit please contact Linda Nussey (428-2868 or lnussey1@gmail.com).

TOWN HALL MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED . . .

for the next two Sundays (January 31 and February 7) following the 11:00 service in the Sanctuary. Please join Bill and Elders of our church as we provide two opportunities to discuss the decisions reached in recent months and the direction we believe God is calling us to go.

Preschool News

February 8 – Summer registration begins at 9 am in the Preschool Hallway
May 31 – June 17th, Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 am – noon

February 9 – 12 , Tuesday to Friday – Preschool Open House, 10 am – 2 pm

Our 45 year old Preschool Programs of NURSERY SCHOOL and MOTHER'S MORNING OUT provide opportunities for children ages 1 ½ years-old to 6 years-old to experience their first step away from home in a loving supportive atmosphere.....**we've got everything** – CPR & professionally trained teachers, small class sizes, large colorful rooms, modern play yards, extended programs of movement/art/music/yoga/Spanish
.....and a lot of love to share for those who enter our building!



Barbara Sewall
Preschool Director

WINTER CARNIVAL

March 11, Friday Fellowship Hall, 9:30 am - noon

Used Toy Sale

...If you have toys that you would like to donate to the "**used toy sale**", please -no stuffed animals!

Book Sale....If you have children's books (Infant to Grade 1 /in good condition) *please bring all items to the Preschool Office. Thanks!

A Valentine's Day Card to you:

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy- age 4

In case of snow cancellations:

Check the website - www.haddonfieldpres.org, go to the Preschool Page, weather alerts



FAT TUESDAY PANGAKE DINNER

**Tuesday, February 9th @ 6pm
in the Manse/Light House**

BYOTopping

Christian Education



Laura Colee
Director of Christian
Education

Congratulations to the 2015-2016 Confirmation Class. Congratulations to our seventeen wonderful new members: Spencer Wilson Annable; Benjamin Cole Bono; Caitlyn Madison Clarke; Gabriele Marie Connor; Alexander Stephen Dante; Michael Vincent Gallo; Derek Tyler Gess; Ryan Joseph McConnell; Maxwell Peter Pollack; Brian Mark Schlitt; Jennifer Darlene Scott; Emma Dorothy Skey; Samuel Connor Taffet; Corinna Ware Vielehr; Chloe Sara Willison; Kurt Richard Wolff; and Jack Henley Zeigler.

We warmly welcome you into full membership in the church! It has been such a privilege and a delight to walk along side you in this time of self-reflection and spiritual growth. Thank you for offering so much of yourselves with your thoughtful meditations, scripture readings, music and prayers while leading worship on **Sunday, January 31, 2016**. We offer special thanks to our Confirmation teachers Lee Federline, Lindsay Harris, Holly Robins with Rev. Rachel Rhodes, Rev. Bill Getman, and DCE Laura Colee.

Also, a special thank you to our **CONFIRMATION MENTORS**, who have met with our Confirmation Students, gotten to know them, guided them and shared their faith with them over the past several months! Thank you for showing our newest members how much this community cares about them and how excited we are to have them here with us. You are wonderful!

Lent 2016

LENT DEVOTIONAL WRITTEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 10th, 2016, daily Lent Devotionals will be available in the back of the Sanctuary and Chapel. Members of our own community helped to create this year's Lent Devotional by writing a reflection on one of Parables and Proverbs of the Bible. Our community-written Lent Devotional promises to help you reflect and worship during the Lenten season. You can also follow the daily devotional online at fpchaddonfield.tumblr.com

LENTEN BOOK GROUPS BEGIN THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 10th SIGN UP FOR A GROUP IN THE PARLOR

We believe God is everywhere, and yet we sometimes have trouble acknowledging God outside of the church walls. Acclaimed Christian author, Barbara Brown Taylor shows us how to worship God everywhere and embrace the sacred parts of everyday life in her book *An Altar in the World*. Throughout Lent, our FPC community will be gathering in small groups to read and discuss together Taylor's book. During this season of introspection, we hope to discover God's sacred presence in our daily lives through small and simple practices.

Sign up for a Lenten Discussion Group on Sundays in the Church Parlor. *An Altar in the World* is available for purchase in the church office for \$10. Lenten groups will be meeting throughout the Lenten season, starting the week of Feb. 14th.

The Lenten Group Schedule:

Sunday Morning: 9:30-10:30am

Leader: Judy Grantham Location: Basement Office

Sunday Morning High School/Young Adult Group:

10-11am

Leader: Laura Colee Location: Room 304

Tuesday Morning: 11:00am-12:30pm

Leader: Laura Colee Location: Church Parlor

Tuesday Evening: 7-8:30pm

Leader: Nadia Vanderkuip/Becky Bryan

Location: Nadia's House

Wednesday Evening: 7:30-9pm

Leader: Lisa Hurd/Laura Colee Location: Lisa's House

Friday Morning: 9:30-11am (starting February 12th)

Leader: Laura Poliero/Nancy Ruth Wainwright

Location: Laura's House

FAT TUESDAY LENTEN SMALL GROUP KICK OFF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9th STARTING AT 6pm LIGHT HOUSE/MANSE

Join us on Fat Tuesday for pancakes, pancakes, and more pancakes. Indulge in some delicious and decadent breakfast delights before Lent begins. The party is BYOT—bring your own (favorite) topping! We'll have additional toppings for you as well.

Our Fat Tuesday celebration will serve as our Lenten Small Group kick off party. Everyone in the FPC community, including all the Lenten Small Groups, is invited to join! We'll see you there!

“Hearts Open to Christ, Doors Opening to His World”

GUATEMALA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our church family donated 100 bags for the Christmas Party given for families of children in the MILK PROGRAM.

These bags contained hygiene items (first time having toothbrush, soap, shampoo, or a brush), a Happy Meal toy, a Beanie Bag toy, 5 crayons, a pencil with extra eraser, pencil sharpener, a glue stick, scissors and a notepad. Thank you for helping fill these bags

For new families in the program, it is the first time many learn about Christmas and what God is all about. Christmas isn't celebrated in Guatemala. If you would like to see the party which was on December 3rd, google “ASELSI CHRISTMAS PARTY 2015.”

Several in our church family sponsor babies who are failing to thrive by donating to the Milk Program. \$20 a month provides food, vitamins, medical care and parent training. Any amount would help. Checks made out to “First Presbyterian Church” with “Guat. Milk” on the memo line may be dropped off at the church’s office. This can be done any time during the year. Thank you for caring!

Doctors, Nurses, Translators and friendly helping hands are always needed at St. Wilfrid’s on the **first Saturday** of each month and at the food cooperative now operating in the **Spirit Building at Urban Promise** on the **third Saturday** of each month. Dedicated members of our church need your help as they continue to offer health screenings, food, clothing and referral services to some of the most vulnerable people in our region. Contact Melinda Lamb at mflemlamb@aol.com or Jill Mascena at amascena@msn.com to sign up or get more information about either program.

Responses to Christ’s Call to Each of Us

Even our younger members can participate in these mission projects by helping to select and deliver their donations.

There are many ways we can be faithful followers of Christ in our daily lives. Sometimes it takes just a moment’s thought to help others or strengthen our ties to the church and God. It is the mission committee’s responsibility to offer opportunities for our church members to act on Christ’s call to care for all of God’s children and live in peace. Not every mission project is a reasonable activity for every person. However, there are some simple actions we can all take.

What will you choose to do?

1. **Bring a nonperishable FOOD item to church EVERY WEEK.** Collection baskets are at the entrances to our worship spaces and in the open closet behind the parlor on the main floor. If each of us brought just one item, that would be a

huge benefit to those who come to our church seeking assistance and the clients at St. Wilfrid’s clinic and New Visions Homeless Day Shelter. All unexpired, nonperishable foods are welcome. However, there is always a real need for proteins, cereals, oatmeal, pasta sauces and large bags of Krustea brand pancake mix. Imagine 350 or more food items per week!

*If you cannot do this because you are in need of assistance yourself, please contact the pastors or community caseworker.

2. **Remember the church when you shop on AMAZON.com!** You can designate our church to receive a percentage of your purchase price every time you shop Amazon. Go to the church website or find the donation screen on Amazon for more details.
3. **Drop off gently used or new COATS and JACKETS** in the church office.
4. **Put jigsaw puzzles, note cards, and 2016 pocket calendars** in the closed mission closet behind the parlor.(Prison Ministry)
5. **Sweet Treats** (usually cookies) are always needed to go with the meal prepared in our kitchen every month for approximately 150 people at New Visions Day Shelter. Join the cooks if you can or drop off homemade or store bought cookies in the kitchen the day before we cook. Dates are posted.

A R I S E, my soul, on wings enraptur'd, rise
To praise the monarch of the earth and skies,
Whose goodness and beneficence appear
As round its centre moves the rolling year,
Or when the morning glows with rosy charms,
Or the sun slumbers in the ocean's arms:
Of light divine be a rich portion lent
To guide my soul, and favour my intend.
Celestial muse, my arduous flight sustain
And raise my mind to a seraphic strain!
Ador'd for ever be the God unseen,
Which round the sun revolves this vast machine,
Though to his eye its mass a point appears:
Ador'd the God that whirls surrounding
spheres, ...

—Phillis Wheatley (c. 1753 – December 5, 1784)
the [first published African-American female poet](#).

Snowmen
fall from
heaven
unassembled.

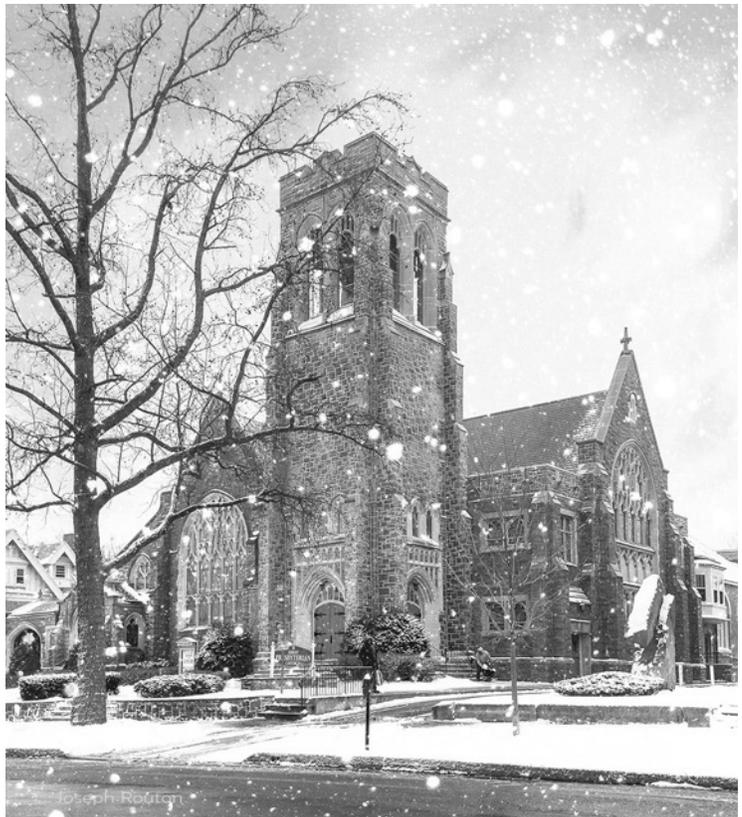


Photo by Joseph Routon