



Dear Friends,

We seem to live in a society that avoids suffering at almost any cost. We want our military to be successful without any or very limited sacrifice. We want more social services without higher taxes. The list could be long, but I'll end it there. We like to bypass suffering. And who wouldn't!

But the vocabulary of discipleship includes suffering or at least some type of self-sacrifice, and Jesus sees it as an important part of marching on the pathway of God. "There can be no love without suffering, insisted the late, Pope Benedict, because it always involves an element of self-sacrifice." We simply cannot mature into the loving and sacrificial people God wants us to be, if we flee away from suffering.

Jesus illustrates this life of loving sacrifice by lifting the image of the cross. Calling to both the crowd and his disciples, he says, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

This is not a call to disengage; it's a call to faithfully engage...and sometimes that involves some sort of suffering. Whether we like it or not, this is the Christians call in which followers of Christ are asked to take up a cross instead of a weapon. Our struggle will involve both love and suffering, and it will certainly include self-sacrifice. But if we set our minds on the things of God, we will receive the riches of everlasting life, and we will know how to answer the question of Jesus, "What will you gain, if you own the whole world but destroy yourself?" Jesus doesn't want anything to undermine our life with God.

During the season of Lent, let's not forget that our deepest convictions come out of an experience of spiritual conflict and struggle, one that includes suffering and death...but also, thanks be to God, everlasting life. This is the vocabulary of discipleship.

I wanted to share this preceding reflection because it reminded me of what path discipleship takes and where our Lenten thoughts and actions should be directed. This suffering that scripture talks about is a personal suffering resulting from a "giving up of things," a redirection of one's spiritual life with a new commitment to refocus on serving the things of God and not the things of the world. The Lenten discipline is personal. It's not a time to rope other people in so they might share in your suffering or sacrifice to avoid being alone. The Lenten journey and the discipline it invokes are between you and the Lord. I pray you might be changed this Lenten season as you allow Christ to meet with you as He journeys with you.

God's Richest Blessings,
Pastor Jim

Mark Your Calendar

Church School/Bible Study 9:00am	
Worship/Communion/Facebook Live 10:30 am/.....	Mar 1
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Mar 3
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	Mar 4
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Mar 5
Facebook Live 8:30am.....	Mar 6
Needles & Pins 10:00 am.....	Mar 7
Church School/Bible Study 9:00am	
Worship/Facebook Live 10:30 am.....	Mar 8
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Mar 10
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Mar 11
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Mar 12
Facebook Devotions 8:30am.....	Mar 13
Church School/Bible Study 9:00am	
Facebook Live 10:30am/.....	Mar 15
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	Mar 17
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	Mar 18
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	Mar 19
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	Mar 20
Spaghetti Dinner 5 & 6:30 pm.....	Mar 21
Church School/Bible Study 9:00am	
Worship/ Facebook Live 10:30 am.....	Mar 22
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	Mar 24
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	Mar 25
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	Mar 26
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	Mar 27
Worship/Palm Sunday/Facebook Live 10:30.....	Mar 29
Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....	Mar 31

One Great Hour Of Sharing March 2026

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity for a better life.

Three of the programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing include:

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance,
Presbyterian Hunger Program,
Self-Development of People**

They all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Please consider giving a donation to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Your contribution can make a difference and will be matched by the Kathleen Smith Fund!

Checks should be made out to the First Presbyterian Church with OGHS in the Memo.

Thank you,

The Stewardship Committee

First Presbyterian Church
Phone 908-689-2547 Fax 908-689-7911
Web site: www.washingtonfpc.org

Pastor, James Scovell;
Directors of Music, Peter & Julie Stevenson;
Administrative Assistants Kerri Caldaro
Church School Coordinator, Jean Bowers.
Worship: 10:30 a m





Our Thoughts and Prayers are With you



Prayer: Loving God, We can see all the needs around us are many. We know you are a God who provides, heals, and blesses. As we pray for our loved ones and friends, help us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to bring healing and comfort to all those in need.

Those ill or recuperating at home: Barbara Miller, Joan Miller, Vince Smith, Stan Kubbishun, Peggy Westlake, Jim Vlossak, Nancy Vlossak, Vicki Morgan, Eleanore Jensen, Doug Foley. Charlene Jones, Linda Walsh, Joyce Parsons, Ronald & Joan Weber, Michael Housman, DJ Pesaniello, Tempe Schramm, Grace Murphy.

Relatives of church members: Callie & Mark Kresser, Linda Darwin's sister-in-law Jenny, Lynn Alleger friends of the Ours, Lee Ann Kubbishun's brother in-law Harvey Hendershot, Penny Atkinson's brother David Jayne, Pauline Albrecht's cousins Kathy & Bill, Harold Teabo, Judy Ours cousin Aurelius Newbold, Jim Morgan, Joe Kresser's brother John, Charlie Kugelmeier, John & Elaine Boreman's daughter & son in law Jill & Ross Duncan, Joe Caldaro, Peggy Westlake's son-in-law Travis Jablonski, Barbara Miller's daughter in-law Julie, Patricia Handlos's great nephew Bear Shaw, Robert Stacie Ullrich's dad, Dorothy Thoms son Don, Bob Pesaniello, Pauline Albrecht's cousin Pete Lekousis, Laura Housman's mother Betty Machauer, Fred Kulick's brother in-law Jon, Tami Phelps cousin Jimmy, Joan Miller's sister in-law, Nancy Vlossak's niece, Vicki Tensfeldt's mother & niece; Kerri Caldaro's mom & dad Gail & Fred Mosher.

Those in care centers: Connie Allen, Joan Vasko, Bob Pesaniello.

Friends of the church: Kerri Caldaro's friend Jason Leonard, Pat Hawkins sister Susan and her husband John, Stuart Ours friend Don Walker, Diane Van Dongen and family, Grace Sweet, Fred & Karen Graf's friend Renee Wise, Carol Kain's friend John Vybihal. Joe Groff friend of Doug & Jolene Foley, Melinda Velez friend of Don Johnson, Gale Soler & Ellen Gulick friends of Joan Miller, Barbara Miller's friend Patrick O'Malley, Carol Novak, and Vlossak family's friend Hallie.

Also, pray for our servicemen and women and their families: Albrecht's nephew Captain Kyle Mogensen, Vimp Smith's grandson Cory, Stephanie Farley's nephew John, Kathy Perry's nephew Jimmy, Linda Darwin's friend Sean Devine.



well hello,
march

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH



March 3

Jenn Lawson
Kerry Webb

March 11

Andrew Scovell

March 14

Fred Graf
Kathy Perry

March 15

Joan Weber

March 16

George Van Veldhuisen

March 19

Alex Fazzari

March 20

Amy Andersen

March 24

Chelsae Dell Elba

March 26

Stephanie Cole

March 30

Peter Stevenson



MUSIC NOTES

Sometimes in the midst of the chaos of our country and our world, we can sink into a depression and feel at a loss. What can we do? The stress of constant exposure to violence and cruelty is unhealthy both physically and emotionally. It is hard to maintain a level of optimism when inundated by bad news and the very real life responsibilities we may find ourselves in. Caring for aging parents and other loved ones, worrying about finances and how to make ends meet, concern for our children growing up in such a violent and confusing time...the list goes on and on. Jesus tells us not to worry (see Luke 12:22-34 and Matthew 6:25-34) Easier said than done, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't TRY.

I think the message Jesus is trying to convey is that we should live in the moment (not worry about the future) and appreciate nature and all the beauty around us. Finding JOY in the everyday experiences of life can do wonders for our mental, emotional and physical state. Look around at all the animals flitting about even in the cold of this New Jersey winter. Somehow, God is managing to care for them. We should learn to trust in God more and, as the song says *seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you, Allelu, alleluia!*

One of the ways to seek the kingdom of God is to follow his commandment to *LOVE your neighbor as yourself*. If we truly do follow through on this commandment, it means being present for the people all around us and sharing God's love with every person we meet. In this era of high tech, what this translates to me is that we should avoid social media at all costs and instead engage with real people! "Social media" is anything but **social**. It is the most anti-social form of connection. It is, in fact, a lack of connection.

Jesus is a wonderful example of how we are to live our lives. Jesus put it all out there. He was not afraid of what people thought, he just did and said what he knew was right and good and honest. He was following God's commandment to love. We too often care more about what others will think of us than we do about being true to ourselves and true to God's mission for us. The African American Spiritual "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" reflects on how Jesus had to walk his lonesome valley to fulfill the prophecy laid out for him. We each have our own journey to traverse and it is sometimes very lonely. We each have a unique mission in this life and we are called to walk our personal journey with confidence, knowing that God is walking right there beside us every step of the way. The poem FOOTPRINTS comes to mind (this is not the full poem)

*I looked back at the footprints in the sand,
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.
This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."*



**The Chancel Choir & Carillonaires invite you to join
them for their Spaghetti Dinner**

Saturday March 21, 2026

5:00 pm and 6:30 pm
Great Food and Entertainment

Take Out Available

First Presbyterian Church
40 E. Church St., Washington, NJ

Advanced Sales

Adults \$15

Children (5-12) \$8

At the Door

Adults \$17

Children (5-12) \$9

Snow Date March 28, 2026

<https://spaghetti-dinner-45460.cheddarup.com>





Needles & Pins Group

**Knitters, Crocheters, Embroiderers
All Needle Crafters**

Pack up your current project or dig out that half-finished one in your closet and join us at our next monthly meeting

First Saturday of each month!

10 AM to Noon

12/6, 1/3, 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 6/6

First Presbyterian Church's parlor
40 East Church St. Washington, NJ
908-689-2547

Through the year the group supports local charities with warm hats, blankets, prayer shawls, & soap sacks.

All skill levels welcome

We are happy to help you learn, too!



You're invited to our
activities for ladies!

Ladies' Fellowship

Following the Weds. noon brown bag lunch & devotions

OR

Come at 1pm for our activity

March 4: Trivia

March 18: Bingo

April 1: Book reviews: bring a book you either like or dislike.

Tell us a little bit about it & if we should read or pass

April 15: UNO

April 29: Uzzle- an easy, newer board game

**LOOKIN FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON MARCH 4!
BRING A FRIEND!**

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN A **BOOK CLUB?**

If you would be interested in joining a NEW book club at church,
date & time to be determined, please see or email Jean Bowers
at corkydale@comcast.net

Books would be recommended by book club members.



Easter Flowers

We are selling Easter Flowers this year. All proceeds will go to the Choir fund to help support their portion of the church budget. We will do our best to accommodate you. Thank you for your continued support.

E	RED	YELLOW	PURPLE	PINK	WHITE	PRICE PER ITEM	X	NUMBER ORDERED	=	TOTAL PRICE
THUS	---	---	---	---	---	\$8.00	#	---	\$	---
Y	---	---	---	---	---	\$12.00	#	---	\$	---
DILLS	---	---	---	---	---	\$8.00	#	---	\$	---
E	---	---	---	---	---	\$12.00	#	---	\$	---
TALLY SHEET										
E	---	---	---	---	---	\$8.00	#	---	\$	---
E	---	---	---	---	---	\$12.00	#	---	\$	---
E	---	---	---	---	---	\$13.00	#	---	\$	---
CROSSES										
E	---	---	---	---	---	\$15.00	#	---	\$	---

- Tulips \$ _____
- Hyacinthus \$ _____
- Daffodils \$ _____
- Lillies \$ _____
- Palm Cross \$ _____
- TOTAL COST** \$ _____

THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING



APRIL 12

There is no regular worship service.
Instead, join us that morning as we live what we
believe...that we should love one another.

BREAKFAST 8:30-9:30AM
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES 9AM-12:30PM
LUNCH 12:45 FOLLOWED BY REFLECTION

Sign up to join us. A list of activities is on the table in the Coffee Room



Lent Word Find



K R K Z Y B F M D P O F P A Y A K B
 N E P G O P M J L Y R T J E P G L R
 D S O U N Y A D R U T A S Y L O H J
 F U I N R I S L S B X X Y E U G J L
 V R N B C P T Y M A E C A E I J D G
 I R T U P U L S A A C I U F R R P B
 X E F O R E H E A D Z R T M Z D P J
 H C Z P O R X R S F Y Y I S F Z J Y
 M T Q O E Z E O H N J T A F O X I K
 H I Y M V B L T E J E P R D I D A H
 C O B W M G T L S T Y S R O N C Y K
 K N L M H Z Q H E A O E I P F U E B
 M L J Y D I P P T N E L O R T T S D
 Y W U X T A T Q K D F Q Z U R I T G
 Q R Z M C I L E G M Q D J E S U S M

Purple
 Prayer
 Sunday
 Forty Days
 Resurrection

Lent	Ashes
Holy	Risen
Palm	Priest
White	Jesus

Easter
 Fasting
 Sacrifice
 Forehead
 Holy Saturday

<p>Church School/ Adult Bible Study 9:00am Worship/ Communion 10:30 am Facebook Live</p>		<p>Facebook Devotions 8:30 am Deacon's Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Facebook Devotions 8:30 am 11:30 am Lenten Brown Bag Devotions 11:30am/ Trivia 1pm Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm</p>	<p>Facebook Devotions 8:30 am</p>	<p>Facebook Devotions 8:30 am</p>	<p>Needles & Pins 10:00am</p>
<p>8 Church School/ Adult Bible Study 9:00am Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live Men's outing Visit Vince Smith time TBA</p>	9	<p>10 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am</p>	<p>11 Facebook Devotions 11:30 am Lenten Brown Bag Devotions 11:30am Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm</p>	<p>12 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am</p>	<p>13 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am</p>	14
<p>15 Church School/ Adult Bible Study 9:00am Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live</p>	16	<p>17 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am</p>	<p>18 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am 11:30 am Lenten Brown Bag lunch to follow Bingo 1pm Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm</p>	<p>19 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am</p>	<p>20 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am</p>	<p>21 SPAGHETTI DINNER 5:00PM & 6:30 PM</p>
<p>22 Church School/ Adult Bible Study or Confirmation Class 9:00am Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live</p>	23	<p>24 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am</p>	<p>25 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am 11:30 am Len- ten Brown Bag Devotions 11:30am Carillonnaires 7:00-7:45 pm Chancel 7:45-8:45 pm</p>	<p>26 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am Session 7:00 pm</p>	<p>27 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am</p>	28
<p>29 Church School/ Adult Bible Study or</p>	30	<p>31 Facebook Devotions 8:30 am</p>				