



First Presbyterian Church

Confirmation Sunday
February 4, 10:00 AM

GATHERING

Bell Ringing & the Lighting of the Christ Candle - Topper Cheatham

Cherub Choir "The Day the Lord Has Made" by Mark Burrows

***Opening Sentences, The Confirmation Class**

One: Please join us in the opening sentences found in the bulletin.

All: The world is on fire!

Gavin: With the wars in Ukraine and Israel

Ansley: With the onset of global warming

Topper: With the deep divisions in our country

All: The world is on fire!

Chloe: When children are abandoned

Julian: When drug use and addiction destroys families

Leah: When the gap between rich and poor grows every day

Max: When we worry about keeping, instead of giving

All: but we can be the water that stops the fire!

Finnley: By speaking out for justice.

Austin: By confronting hate with love.

Emily: By listening and talking instead of yelling and arguing.

Jared: By focusing every day on god's path, not on our own.

All: Amen.

***Hymn #492** "Baptized in Water"

***Invitation to Experience God's Grace, Chloe Adkins**

One: Sin is like a fire, becoming bigger and bigger until it is out of control. When this fire grows, the only way to stop it is water. God is the water to our sin. Let us confess our sins to the Lord, so that they can be forgiven.

***Laying Down Our Burdens , Emily Cunningham**

One: Let us now share our burdens as printed in the Bulletin.

All: Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this World. We love the gifts more than the Giver. In Your Mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but You are substance; that they are quicksand, but You are the mountain; that they are stormy waters, but You are the anchor. We plead for Your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept His Worthiness for our unworthiness, His Sinlessness for our transgressions, His Fullness for our emptiness, His Glory for our shame, His Firey Righteousness for our self-centered works, His Death for our life. We pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Declaration of Forgiveness, Jared Adams**

One: There is good news! The flames of sin have been quenched by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Go forth knowing this gift has been given, and will be given, to all.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***We Celebrate God's Forgiveness, Hymn #579 Gloria Patri**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace that comes from knowing of Christ's sacrifice and all it encompasses be with you all...

All: And also, with you

One: Please show each other a sign of Christ's Peace.

The Bible Presentation and Time with the Children, Max Bushnell & Ansley Kazmarek

Celebrating the Life of the Church, Clair Blank, Lindsay Sommers & Lee Federline

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination, Leah Woyciechowski

One: Please join me in the Prayer for Illumination found in the Bulletin. Let us Pray.

All: Open us, Holy One, as we hear Your Word to bring us through the pain of our fires, to the relief of Your Water. Give us the ability to hear Your Word as it is meant to be heard. Fill us with holiness and shower us with forgiveness as You always stand by our side to guide us with these words and through our lives the way You see fit. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Exodus 14: 19-29, Topper Cheatham

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between

the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. ²⁵ He clogged^[a] their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

All: Thanks be to God

Second Scripture Reading: Mark 1: 1-8, Finnley Ritter

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,' "

⁴ so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

All: Thanks be to God

Meditations, Finnley Ritter, Gavin Tarditi, Ansley Kazmarek, Jared Adams & Emily Cunningham

We Affirm our Faith, Leah Woyciechowski

One: Please join me in affirming our faith as printed in the Bulletin. This affirmation has been created by taking sentences from each student's personal Statements of Faith. Let us affirm what we believe-

All: Faith is a personal experience - the amount you believe or don't, the amount of worship you attend or don't, are tied to your faith. (Jared)

I believe that it was part of God's plan to meet so many amazing people and bring me closer to Him. (Emily)

God is there when I need someone to talk to. God is there when I am scared. God is there even when I don't want Him. He is always present no matter where I am or how I am feeling. God is always there. (Chloe)

A saint and a thief are the same in God's eyes. God loves everyone. No matter who they are and what they do. (Ansley)

I acknowledge the importance of the Sacraments - Baptism and Communion, as a means of understanding God's Grace and as outward signs of inward spiritual realities. (Topper)

I believe without the privilege of the Bible being in my reach I would not be the same person, as the Bible has shaped my way of seeing the world. (Leah)

Reading the sacred text creates a sense of comfort and confidence for me in my faith. (Finnley)

I believe that as long as we are aligned with God our sins will be forgiven. (Gavin)

Because of the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us, we can also live with God in Heaven if we are faithful and good people. (Julian)

I pledge to serve others rightfully. I respect others' beliefs although I may not believe in them myself. (Austin).

In return for what Jesus has done for me, becoming a Member, I can practice my fellowship to better my faith in Presbyterianism. (Max)

GIVE THANKS

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession, Austin Crutchfield & Chloe Adkins

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



Practicing Abundant Generosity, Gavin Tarditi

<https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri11244/give/now>

Offertory: "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" by Carolyn Jennings, sung by the Carol, Chapel, Thomas Sherrerd Memorial, and Chancel Choirs

*** Doxology Hymn #592 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

*** Prayer of Dedication, Julian Lentine**

Rite of Confirmation

LEAVE TO SERVE

*Hymn #525 "Here I Am, Lord"

Charge and Benediction, Topper Cheatham

Sending Music Grand Choeur from "Joshua" - George Frederic Handel Lucas Brown, organ

Please use the Postlude time and music to reflect on today's worship experience and how it will support you in the week to come.

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WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH! It is good to have you here in person or online. Please be in touch if you have news to share or would like more information or to talk to a pastor. Staff contact information is below. Read full announcements in our weekly [email newsletter](#), available on the church website. Subscribe on the [Contact Us](#) tab.

FLOWERS: The flowers this morning are given in memory of Jeffrey Blank's birthday on February 4th given by Clair and Judy Blank and in memory of Toy Karppinen by his daughter, Pat Lund.

NURSERY care is available during worship (9:30 - 11:15) for those with young children. The nursery is located in the Preschool (level 1R) in the Red Balloon Room near the Preschool office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Parents, please register your preK-5th graders for Children's Church using the QR Code. PreK-Kindergarten must be signed out from the Sunday School room. First-fifth graders will reunite with their families in the Bean Parlor after worship.

WORSHIP NOTES

The Jellybean Video referred to in the Service can be found here:



"Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" by Carolyn Jennings.

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news:
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will ever keep them safe from harm.
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He who made the stars in the heaven,
He who fashioned the earth and the sea,
From time eternal he was God,

The Alpha and Omega, He.

He will come in power and glory,
He will rule with mercy and truth,
Hope of all the nations,
Light of the world.

He will love the little children,
He will hold them in his arms.
Love him and trust him as a child,
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Prayer Group will meet on the second Sunday of every month after worship in the hospitality center. Drop in any time – no need to register. Contact Pastor Nikki (npassante@haddonfieldpres.org) if you have any questions.

NEW Bible Study: Letter to the Romans begins February 1st at 6:30pm on Zoom. After the first two sessions, Rev. Passante will provide a syllabus that will serve as a weekly guide including content, chapter and verse. Literally. Please plan on NO CLASS on February 15th. After that we are off and running through Holy Week and beyond! Zoom link and passcode for all meetings can be found at <http://www.haddonfieldpres.org/adult-education>. Email npassante@haddonfieldpres.org for questions or more info.

Lenten small groups are forming now. This year we will study Meeting God in Paul, by Rowan Williams. Sign-up sheets will be in the Bean Parlor beginning Jan. 21. Not available to meet in person? You can sign up for our FB discussion group or for a group that will meet on Zoom. Details coming soon.

Did You Personalize Your Hymnals Yet? As you may know, our denomination adopted the new *Glory to God* hymnal back in 2013, and our church is excited to join the movement this year! *Glory to God* is a remarkably thoughtful collection of spiritual songs and hymns that was created with an eye towards both diversity and tradition. In it, you will find all of the old standards like "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" and you will also find new standards like "Lift Every Voice and Sing". Moreover, *Glory to God* includes roughly 250 more songs than our old hymnal even though it is also lighter and thinner. Session is asking that each family purchase two hymnals at \$25 a piece. (If we do that, we'll have enough hymnals to fill our entire sanctuary.) You may also include a short memorial or dedication that will be affixed to the inside cover of your hymnals. Please use the QR code below to purchase and personalize your hymnals today!

IHOC Mall Walk will take place Sunday, February 25th at Voorhees Town Center at 2:30pm. You can register online at www.ihocsj.org. For additional information call 856-424-3820 or email info@ihocsj.org.

Volunteers Needed for Prison Ministry: The thought of going into a jail and meeting with female inmates can seem overwhelming. However, those who participate in this ministry will tell you that the ministry is very rewarding and sorely needed. The ladies we see every other Friday at the Camden County Jail (directly behind the Camden County Courthouse) greet us enthusiastically and are sincerely seeking to follow God. Our hope is that we can be a vehicle to reflect God's forgiveness and love and offer them an alternative path going forward. We feel very safe and secure entering the jail. We desperately need more volunteers so we can have a group able to go into the jail on a weekly basis and see more ladies. Every time we go in the officers have to turn inmates away because we are only able to meet with 10 ladies at a time. If we had more volunteers, we could go in every Friday and see more inmates. The time investment is minimal once you go through the approval process. If you are interested in volunteering or finding out more information, please email Judy Blank (jmblank451@verizon.net).

THE PORCH BIBLE STUDY The Porchers will meet in person on Tuesday, Feb. 27, in the Bean Parlor at the church, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bring your own beverage and Bible...we provide snacks. All are welcome. If you need information or would like to give the Porchers a prayer request, see Jill Mascena or Deb Nussbaum at church or email Deb at debranussbaum1987@gmail.com.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY: Need a ride to and from worship? We have a new procedure to ask for a ride, beginning in November. To request transportation to worship, call the church at 856-429-1960. When you hear the auto attendant message, press 103 and you will go directly to the deacon voice mailbox. Leave a message and a deacon will call you back regarding your request.

Transportation requests must be received no later than the Tuesday prior to the Sunday when the ride is needed. Make sure to leave your phone number and a convenient time to call. Please take note: if you call later than Tuesday at 4 p.m., there may not be a deacon or church member available to drive you. This procedure will efficiently simplify the needs of our members. We look forward to seeing you in worship! Questions? Call the church office, or Joan Fiorella at 856 889-9185.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: CHERISHED women of First Presbyterian! If you're looking for a Bible study, a walking group, a quilting group, or any number of things, click her to check out the fall activities that Presbyterian Women are offering: at www.haddonfieldpres.org/presbyterian-women.

All women of the church are invited to join Presbyterian Women for "**Finding God in Ordinary Time**" **Women's Retreat** on Saturday, March 9th from 9:00am to noon, led by Christine Marie Eberle. Tentative schedule and presenter info is available on the Presbyterian Women's page on the website and flyers can be found in the parlor. Pre-register by contacting Judy Grantham at judygrantham@comcast.net. Retreat fee is \$20.

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CLASS February 4. [COMMUNION SUNDAY] The Sons of Thunder (part 1) : St. James

February 11. The Sons of Thunder (part 2) : St. John. Among the 12 Apostles are "James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name *Boanerges*, which means Sons of Thunder)" (Mark 3:17). This is the only place in Scripture that mentions the designation of the sons of Zebedee as the Sons of Thunder, and there is no stated explanation as to why Jesus named them this. However, Jesus has a purpose for everything He does, so He must have had a good reason. In one incident of inhospitality in Samaria they suggested calling down fire from heaven to destroy (Luke 9:54) only to be rebuked by the Master. James and John were among Jesus' closest friends, being two of the "inner three" disciples (see Matthew 17:1). As the Church Age began, James (feast day July 25) was the first apostle to be killed (Acts 12:2), while John (feast day Dec. 27) was the last to die, although of old age (100 !) John's epistles, written late in his life, hint that he still possessed a fervency of spirit.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these individuals and situations throughout the week. If you would like to add a personal prayer request, please contact one of the pastors. In making requests on behalf of others, please obtain the permission of the person needing prayer. The requestor will have their name printed as the originator of the request. Pastors will revisit these requests every 30 days.

Prayers for the Church

- Pray for the people, government, and country of **Ukraine** as war continues.
- Pray for **Gaza** and the **people of Israel and Palestine** as war continues.
- Please keep a dear friend, **Dorothy**, in your prayers as she navigates through several cancer diagnoses (**1/31-C. Carty**)
- Continue to pray for **Mark** as he recovers from gallbladder surgery (**1/30-S. Oswald**)
- Please pray for **Patricia, Hannah, Selena, Rasheen, and Emani** who are incarcerated. Pray for the ladies who are being released from jail (**1/26-G. Ladies**)
- Pray for the lives and families of **Tamara and Kristy**, and that each will get to go home to their families (**1/26-G. Ladies**)
- Pray for the **restoration of June's life** (**1/26-G. Ladies**)
- Pray that **Afi** and her girls would be reunited (**1/26-G. Ladies**)
- Pray for **Christina's peace of mind** and her parents' health (**1/26-G. Ladies**)
- Pray for **Enza, her children, and her husband** (**1/26-G. Ladies**)
- Pray for **Krystle's health and safety**, and that of her family; pray also for her prosperity following her impending release (**1/26-G. Ladies**)

- Pray that the **truth comes to light in Morgan's case**, that there will be justice for her two daughters, and pray for her sister's release from addiction (1/26-G. Ladies)
- Please pray for **Malea**- specifically her relationships with significant others (1/26-G. Ladies)
- Pray for **Julia, and her daughter Nava**. Pray also for **Julia's mother Sophia**. May the Lord care and deliver this family (1/26-G. Ladies)
- Pray for **Chanel's release** and that she would be reunited with her husband (1/26-G. Ladies)
- Please pray for **Jessica Devietro** who is living with cancer (1/22-L. Sommers)
- Pray the God's Spirit would be with **Heather and the rest of the McCall family**, following her dad's sudden passing after falling on ice (1/22-L. Sommers)
- Please pray for God's blessing and provision on and over **Phillip's upcoming trip home** (1/20-P. Chang)
- Keep **Randi** in your prayers as she waits patiently for a diagnosis (1/17-C. Carty)
- Continue in prayer for **Vivian**, who has been diagnosed with lymphoma (1/16-J. Grantham).
- Prayers for **4-year-old Ellie and her parents** as she begins treatment for lymphoma(1/15-L.Carpenter)
- Continue in prayer for **Tom Rowe** and wife **Suzanne**, as Tom receives experimental cancer treatments (1/15-J. Blank).
- Continue prayers for **Jake** who is battling childhood cancer (1/11-L. Kirsch)
- Pray for courage and faith for **Savannah**, a mother of two undergoing chemotherapy. (1/11-L. Kirsch).
- Please pray for **Jo-Ann's** recovery after going through a very serious operation (1/10- J. Russell).
- Pray for **Jenn**, her husband, and her three children. Jenn is now in hospice care six months after being diagnosed with liver cancer (1-10 C. Crumley).
- Pray for the family and friends of **Ken Young**, a former minister at FPCH, who died on Wednesday, January 10 (1/10-J. Mascena)
- Continue to lift up prayers for **Patrick and his family** (1/8-pastors)
- Prayers for **Branson** as he studies abroad this semester (1/6-M. Wilson)
- Pray for **infant Ivy Hope**, that as she enters the world her many operations are successful (1/4-R. Woodland)
- Hold in prayer our **Stephen Ministers and their Care Receivers**; also pray for our **new Stephen Ministers** who are being trained over the next several months (1/4-pastors)
- Pray for **Bob Wells** that he would experience relief from pain and a variety of ailments (1/3-K. Bell)
- Please pray for **Pat** who is living with liver and pancreatic cancer (1/3-K. Bell)

CHURCH STAFF

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OF HADDONFIELD

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STEPHEN
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