

FIRST PRESS NEWSLETTER



We are a welcoming community formed in Christ, committed to sharing his love with others – with feet that carry us out into the world, with hands that serve, and with hearts in fellowship and faith.

Dear Friends,

As we turn the page of the calendar from February to March, we will soon enter the season of Lent – the period of 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of spiritual preparation for the Season of Easter. Lent is a season of self-examination, repentance and renewal, often characterized by the spiritual practices of prayer, meditation upon the scriptures, and fasting. Last year at First Pres, we created the opportunity to experience an additional spiritual practice – namely a midweek worship service combined with a simple meal. Because the Lenten Supper Series met a need by providing food for body and soul, we will once again offer this mid-week opportunity to gather as God’s people. This year, members of Trinity Presbyterian Church will join us. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar, and be a part of what God is doing in our midst.

Grace and peace,
Bruce

2019 Lenten Supper Series



Journeys of Faith

Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in the church dining room for a simple supper followed by a brief worship service. During worship, a member of the First Pres or Trinity Presbyterian faith community will share a portion of his or her faith journey. The evening will conclude promptly at 7:00. MaryEllen Castaldo will provide a Lenten children’s activity during worship. Sign up each Sunday or call the office by 1:00 p.m. Monday (201.652.2504) to let us know you’re coming.

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Speaker</i></u>	<u><i>Preparing the Meal</i></u>
3/13	Anita Hutton, First Pres Elder	First Pres Board of Deacons
3/20	MaryEllen Castaldo First Pres Director of Children & Family Ministries	First Pres Growth Committee
3/27	Sam Stone, Pastor Trinity	First Pres Session
4/03	Tom Ott, Trinity Elder	First Pres CE Committee
4/10	Tom Carozza, First Pres Sexton	Trinity Presbyterian

Come and receive food for body and soul.
One more thing: Bring a friend!

Souper Bowl Sunday



A super turnout for Souper Bowl Sunday!

Special thanks to Mary Ellen Castaldo and Sandy Santangelo teaming up the Christian Education and Growth Committees for a Souper Bowl Sunday success! They scored a touchdown (more than the Rams could do) and topped their goal raising over \$800.00 for Eva's Kitchen in Paterson.

Many thanks to all who contributed either by making soup or donating money!



On February 2nd, Isabel Jacoby and her Girl Scout troop, #132 from Glen Rock High School, took over the dinner at St. Paul's! Seven girls cooked and served a pre-Super Bowl dinner, including baked ziti, meatballs, mac and cheese, and chicken teriyaki with vegetables and rice, plus green salad and fruit salad. This is the third year the troop has served at St. Paul's, and it is one of their favorite service projects. Special thanks to the First Pres family for "sharing" this outreach project with the troop!

On March 3rd, the High School group is scheduled to cook the meal for St Paul.

We will be looking for volunteer cooks for April 7th.

Please look for the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board across from the restrooms.

Please contact Laura Di Iorio at lauradiiorio6@gmail.com for any questions regarding the First Pres Mission at St Paul's.

Endowment Corner



With spring arriving this month our thoughts turn to our Tree of Life.

Our wish is to see it continue to sprout new leaves.

Do you have a special anniversary that you would like to commemorate in a permanent way? Or maybe you would like to honor a loved one, past or present as a gift of love. Our "Tree" is forever and holds many engraved memories of our church family and friends. Brochures can be found on the table opposite the Bulletin Board in the Hallway. Engraved leaves are \$500. Rocks are \$2000. The "Tree" holds our church history and tells our stories.

And don't forget our Green Umbrella Note Cards. For just \$25 you can make a donation in someone's name as a way of showing appreciation for our many volunteers. Each card has a

different message and you can choose an appropriate card for someone you would like to express thanks to or maybe wish a Happy Birthday or anniversary to. Check out nine different messages. Instructions come with the cards. This project is to encourage us to be more interactive with and supportive of each other. All Endowment donations help build our ability to reach out and help others in need and to help support our church with unbudgeted projects. In the last month two Thank You note cards were sent to members. Please help us grow this project. Who would you like to do something special for?

Our motto..."Scattering Kindness As We Go"

*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops;
- Proverbs 3:9*



**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead
March 10th!**

Do you drive to church services and activities? Do you have extra room in your car? Would you like to fill that seat with a fellow church member? We are looking for volunteers to join the new **Good Samaritan Transportation Team**. Based on members' needs and your availability, you will be paired with a member who has requested a ride to a church sponsored event. Please contact Sue Sofka (sksofka@aol.com or (201)341-8640) if you would be interested in volunteering or if you have questions. Details of the program are in development - just looking for interested volunteers to get the program started! Thank you!



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Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM on March 6th!

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Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat @campjburg

Where all may gather, all are welcomed, and all are invited to share: gracious hospitality, joyful Christian community, and the wonder of God's creation. Registration is happening now!

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Congratulations to Larry and Joanne Bonwick who will be celebrating their 55th Wedding Anniversary on March 28th!

President's week children's program

We held our Annual Presidents week children's morning program on Tuesday February 19th! We had 35 + were in attendance.... 20 children and their families.

The children learned Superhero moves as superheroes in training and danced with Spiderman, Iron Man and Capt. America! Then they all enjoyed taking a photo with their super heroes, decorating a frame and eating delicious snacks! Many families signed up for our VBS program August 5 thru the 9thyou can too!

A heartfelt thank you to: Carola, Laura and Christine Dilorio, Sue Fischer, Linda and Shane Strickland and Gianna Torielli and her friend Emily and my friend Christine M. and her son Zach for all your help in making this program a success!!



Sunday School news:

Our rotation for February was **Jesus calms a storm**. The children were shown pictures of storms that people face and they had to identify what the storm was and the challenge in the picture. We discussed how we cope with difficult situations. What would Jesus do? What would the students do in response to these situations? We focused on how Jesus is with us through the storms of life. We shouldn't be afraid because Jesus will always be with us to guide us and protect us.

They learned through Drama Science & Art / watercolor painting ...which are hung on the bulletin board in the auditorium for your viewing!



Sign-up sheets are in the Auditorium for Habitat for Humanity build dates.

The next one is Saturday, March 9th!

 **BINGO**

Come one, come all! First Pres Family BINGO!!

SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH

11:30-1 (after worship)

First Presbyterian Church Auditorium

PIZZA, POPCORN AND PRIZES!!

No charge, please just RSVP

so we have enough pizza.

SANDY SANTANGELO gssantangelo6@gmail.com

**May your troubles be less and your
blessings be more**

**And nothing but happiness
come through your door.**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS CONCERT SERIES 2019



SUNDAY, APRIL 7 - 3:00 P.M.

Susan Heerema, Violin and David Maiullo, Piano IN CONCERT - Works by Corelli, Bruch, Vivaldi, Monti, Rachmaninoff and Godard. Free.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 - 3:00 P.M.

Duo Caprice: NEW HORIZONS - Innovative music by European and North American Composers. Luka Marcoux, Oboe and Emma Schmiedecke, Cello. Free.



SATURDAY, MAY 11 - 7:00 P.M.

The Leonis Trio: TRIOS TIMES THREE - Works by Beethoven, Fauré and Rachmaninoff. Alvaro Larez, Violin, Emma Schmiedecke, Cello and Chris Au, Piano. Free.

MONDAY, MAY 20 - 7:00 P.M.

The Ridgewood High School Maroon Men, Acabellas, Trebles and East 627: ROCKIN' A'CAPPELLA! Free.



SATURDAY, JUNE 1 - 7:00 P.M.

The Brian Princing Trio: JAZZ NITE AT FIRST PRES. Tickets at the door. Adults \$10. Students \$5. Under 12 Free. Includes refreshments.

722 East Ridgewood Ave. Ridgewood NJ
201-652-2504



Interim Minister	Pastor Bruce Ballantine
Director of Children & Families	MaryEllen Castaldo
Director of Music	Dr. Ed Schmiedecke
Organist	Linda Sweetman Waters
Director Cherub Choir and Bells	Carol Schmiedecke
Administrative Manager	Dana Feeney
Treasurer	Carolyn Reitz
Youth Leader	Jessica Strader
Tom Carozza	Sexton
Custodian	George Wood
Director Nursery School	Julia Bolt
Newsletter Editor	Joan Davies

Church Phone (201) 652-2504

Pastor Bruce: (215) 337-5623 please contact him directly for Pastoral Care
www.firstpresridgewood.org

*"And hope does not disappoint us for the love of God has been poured out
into our hearts." (Rom. 5:5)*