



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BORDENTOWN

CHURCH ADDRESS: 420 FARNSWORTH AVENUE

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NOVEMBER 2017

From the Pastor

Thanksgiving and Repentance

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. (Excerpts from Psalm 32)

Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving?

The story we tell ourselves, the image we have in our heads, is of "Pilgrims and Indians"—that is, recent immigrants from the European continent and native residents of the North American continent—coming together for a meal, sharing a time of fellowship, committing to live alongside each other and work towards a promising future together.

If only that was how it happened. The story we tell ourselves looks very different from the story that has played out over the course of history. From European settlement in the 17th century to the Standing Rock controversy in the 21st century, the relationship between Euro-Americans and Native Americans has been defined by racist violence more so than by mutual respect. Many Euro-Americans saw themselves as part of an inherently superior race, and by spreading this lie they sought to justify their theft of Native American land and their attacks on Native American ways of life.

Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving in the way that we do—that is, with pleasant images of fellowship between settlers and natives? Because we don't want to think about the guilt of our ancestors. Because we don't want to reckon with the injustices that are bleeding into the present.

In Psalm 32, we see that thanksgiving follows repentance. Only when we acknowledge our shortcomings and strive to live better can we experience the gratitude and joy that God intends for us. So long as we keep silence about our sins (and the sins of our ancestors), we are missing out on true thanksgiving.

God invites us to be honest about our mistakes in the past. God invites us to make choices that help us move towards more justice, more peace, and more love in the future. As we celebrate this holiday, let's commit to working towards the story of fellowship that we tell ourselves.

Peace,
William



November 3— **Emily DelVecchio**
Amanda Kemmerer

November 4— **Christine Bolinger**
Maggie Hetman

November 12— **Marc Ratkovic**

November 17— **Kristen Lukach**
Erica Rice

November 19 — **Donna Hill Krupa**

November 20— **Patrick Terry**

November 24— **Emily Lukach**
Haley Russell

November 28— **Luke Pell**



November 1
Earl & Nancy Grim

November 2
Joseph & Tricia Campo



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Marie Katona; Vincene Palmonari; Evelyn Seyebe; Edith Van Arsdale; Paul Sootkoos; Mae Hamilton; Jean Allegretti; Shawna (Kochie) Catarinicchia; Ann McFate.; Donald Elliott.

Please contact the office or the Deacon on call if you wish to add someone to this long term prayer list.

Sunday School

Nov. 5th: Christmas Pageant Practice

Nov. 12th: Regular Class

Nov. 19th: Christmas Pageant Practice

Nov. 26th: No Sunday School - *Happy Thanksgiving!*

****All Sundays in December are Christmas Pageant Practice - Please make every effort to get your little actors or actresses there so that they can practice!! Christmas Pageant Sunday is December 17th.**

Youth Group

Nov. 5th: Regular Meeting - Meet in Fellowship Hall!

Nov. 12th: Regular Meeting

Nov. 19th: No YG - Dana is singing

Nov. 26th: No YG - *Happy Thanksgiving!*

Broadway Revue: CJCS Presents A Broadway Revue (Dana's Community Choir)

What: An evening of Broadway songs and show tunes, with dinner to follow, \$35 per ticket

When: Sunday, November 19th at 3:30 pm

Where: Our Lady of Good Council Church, 137 West Upper Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ

DEACONS' CORNER

Deacons' Meeting November 5, 2017
(following Worship)

FALL SENIOR LUNCHEON was well attended. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal. Pastor William introduced the program with a few remarks on how new technology has changed the way people find a church to visit and possibly join. It also creates a connection for those who are homebound or away from our community. Karen Chamberlin presented an interesting program explaining the church web site, Facebook page, and You Tube channel.

SILVER TEA is scheduled for Sunday, December 10th following Worship.

FOOD PANTRY: Ongoing donations of non-perishable food are collected in baskets at the rear of the sanctuary. A deacon delivers these to St. Mary's Church Food Pantry. **Current needs of the Food Pantry include: canned corn; cereal; tea bags; toilet paper; shampoo.**

MEDICAL SUPPLY CLOSET: Please contact the Deacon on Call if you are in need of medical supplies (i.e. walkers, canes, portable toilets). We are not collecting additional supplies at this time.

Deacon on call: Karen Chamberlin 291-0603

Your Deacons,
Pat Andrus, Megan Arnold, Karen Chamberlin,
Amy Dallas, Jane Erickson, Marlene Lyszczak,
Bobbi Maiuro, Lisa Van Pelt

Youth Deacon: Celia Bolinger

WHO'S IN CHARGE FOR NOVEMBER

Pastoral Care—Rev. William Stell, Pastor
PastorWiliam@bordentownpresbyterian.org

Church Office: (609) 298-1243

Cell: (609) 316-7165

Deacon-on-Call or the Deacon moderator (Pat Andrus, 499-1038)

Director of Music — Gwendolyn Huber

Accompanist — Dr. Bob Lowden

Office Manager — Donna Valeri, 298-1243

Office Hours: Wed, Thurs, Fri 10-2

bordentownpresbyterian@gmail.com

Sunday Mornings

To volunteer:

- ◆ *to be a Worship Reader, please contact*
Donna Potts.
- ◆ *for Fellowship Hour, please contact*
Kathie Ackerman.

Worship Readers

11/05— Bobbi Maiuro

11/12 — Pat Terry

11/19 —

11/26 — Cathy Elliott-Shaw

Fellowship Hour

11/05— Bobbi Maiuro

11/12 — *Stewardship Soup Luncheon*

11/19 — The Burkes

11/26 — Cathy Elliott-Shaw

Communion Servers — November 5

Jodi Hawryluk, Cindy Chidley,

Blake Bolinger, Celia Bolinger

Communion Servers — December 24

Amy & Ed Dallas, John Burke, Elke McAteer

MISSION IN ACTION!

Our next Bread of Life Mission Meal: Sunday, November 26, 2017 (immediately following worship)

If you would like to donate to this worthwhile mission in our church, please write a check to The First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown and write "Mission" or "Bread of Life Meals" in the memo section.

Grocery Bag Mission Due Date: Ongoing. We deliver items to the First Baptist Church in Bordentown.

Our church provides microwaveable meals for the homeless each month. Our donation is combined with donations from other churches to provide 20-30 grocery bags to homeless families living in local area motels. Some examples are pop-top soup cans, Chef-Boyardee pasta meals, or cans of stew. We have a basket in the back of the church, labeled "**Grocery Bag Mission**". If you can donate some items for this monthly collection, please place them in this basket. Thank you for your generosity!

Ready to Distribute Mission Meals

The Mission Team has been making up paper bags containing non-perishable food that can be stored and is ready to be distributed. The bags consist of bottles of water, juice, cereal, soups, microwaveable meals, fruit cups, puddings and anything else that stores well and doesn't need refrigeration. Please help us continue this important mission in our church by making up a bag now and then that can be stored at the church. Give your donated bag to anyone on the Mission Team and we will put it in storage.

Grace and Peace to all!

The Mission Team,

Blake Bolinger, Karen Chamberlin, Jane Erickson, Bobbi Maiuro, Karin Venezia



The Wanderers (our 55 and over group) will meet at the Julian House on **Thursday, November 9th at 11:00 am**. We will be going to Titusville for lunch at **It's Nutts**. After lunch, we will travel to **Howell Living Farm** in Hopewell, where we will tour and learn about the farm's activities. We invite all church members and their friends to join us. Sign up sheet is on the back counter.

December 2nd we will be going to the **Kelsey Theater** to see **White Christmas**. Tickets are \$16 each....please see Gail Fouse to purchase.

HIKING GROUP

Saturday November 4th, 10:30 am

Delaware and Raritan Canal Path - Washington's Crossing - meet at the parking area just north of the Washington Crossing Bridge. If you are not in the email group, ask Amy for directions - aedallas@verizon.net

Sunday, November 19th 3:00 pm

Northern Community Park, Groveville Road, Bordentown Township





November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
** Remember to turn your clocks back on Sunday, Nov. 5 			1	2 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm AA 8:15 pm Bells	3	4 Hike 10:30 am
5** 10:30 Worship Deacons' mtg 11:45 Percussion 6 pm YG	6 7:30 pm Women's AA	7 7 pm Session	8 7 pm B&G	9 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm AA 8:15 pm Bells	10	11
12 10:30 Worship Stewardship and Lunch 11:45 Percussion 6 pm YG	13 7 pm WBS 7:30 pm Women's AA	14	15	16 8 am Men's Breakfast 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm AA 8:15 pm Bells	17	18
19 10:30 Worship 11:45 Percussion Confirmation Hike 3 pm	20 7:30 pm Women's AA	21	22	23 7:30 pm AA	24	25
26 10:30 Worship Mission Meal 11:45 Percussion No YG	27 7 pm WBS 7:30 pm Women's AA	28	29	30 7:30 pm AA		

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10 am-2 pm

SUNDAY MORNINGS: Chimes 8:55 ~ Church School, All Ages 9:15 ~ Worship 10:30 ~ Percussion 11:45

Pastor William's Ordination

September 30th was a perfect autumn day, and thirty eight members of the congregation stood anxiously in the sun outside the church ready to board the bus to New York City. They had waited fifteen months for the chance to attend Pastor William's Ordination at Judson Memorial Church in New York's Greenwich Village. They had arrived more than half an hour ahead of the departure time. They were ready! Baked desserts of all kinds were safely stowed in the bus's luggage compartment—our contribution to the brunch following the service. Finally, we were ready to get on the road.

Our numbers grew and the mood was festive as more church families joined us in the city. In a few hours, Pastor William would become Reverend Stell and be eligible for installation as our minister. Finally!

Judson is a grand old church, built in the late 19th century. Both its exterior and interior architecture are beautiful. As the FAQs on the Judson website say, Judson is “a good ol' fashioned protestant congregation. Judson is tri-affiliated with the United Church of Christ, American Baptist Church, and the Alliance of Baptists. The result is one heck of a denominational fruitcake ;)”. Because William is a member of Judson and had pursued ordination in the UCC, Judson served as the setting for this joyous occasion.

It's impossible to capture the spirit of the day in just a few words. The setting was stunningly beautiful, but warm and welcoming. The congregation was composed of William's family, friends and congregants from Judson and Bordentown. The service was meaningful and perfectly suited for William. Dr. Bob Lowden supplied the music, which filled the vastness of the space and added a dimension to the worship service.

The simplest way to convey the feelings of the day would be to say that before the service ended, several boxes of tissues had met their demise. Before the last cookie or piece of cheese was devoured, people who had just met were hugging and searching for ways to come together again. William, in his own special way, had done what he does best, brought people together.

September 30th was, of course, a milestone in William's life. But it is also a day which, I am sure, will long be remembered as the beginning of a new and wonderful chapter in the life of the Bordentown Presbyterian Church.

Deb Branson
Pastor Selection Committee

Stewardship Sunday Service

November 12, 2017

Please join us for Stewardship and Fellowship on Sunday, November 12 at 10:30am.

Pledge cards will be collected and consecrated during worship and you are invited to join us afterward for a soup luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you!



Stewardship Season

Each year as autumn turns the days cool and the colors bright, we kick off our annual Stewardship campaign. This year, members of the congregation and the pastor will be sharing their thoughts on Stewardship each week. Watch the church's Facebook page every Thursday for short videos and join us in church on Sundays to hear your friends present a minute for stewardship, sharing their own feelings and experiences.

We hope you will consider *"honoring the Lord with the first fruits of all your crops"*. Please consider participating in the ministry of your church by making a commitment to the 2018 Stewardship Campaign.

Stewardship is not just one season. It is a year round response to God's love and faithfulness where we return to God a portion of the time, talents and financial resources he has given us. Proverbs 3:9 reminds us to *"Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce"*. Please prayerfully consider sharing your first fruits proportionally and with joy in response to God's love. Every single gift (no matter the amount) is vital to our church. Every task you take on (no matter the size), every hour you volunteer, makes our church community stronger.

If you have never made a pledge before, we ask that you commit to support the life of the church in 2018. If you currently pledge, we thank you, and ask that you renew your pledge and consider increasing it for 2018.

Yours in Christ,
Stewardship Commission

"We endeavor in all things to nurture the fruit of the Spirit within the family of God."

From FPCB Mission Statement

NOVEMBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS!

*Bring canned/package meals for Bordentown Motel Ministry
On the **THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (November 19)**
EVERY WEEK — Bring non-perishables for the Food Pantry*

November 5 - Daylight Savings Time ends...remember to set your clocks back!

November 12 - Stewardship Sunday; soup luncheon following Worship

November 19 - Bring food for Grocery Bag Ministry; Hike

November 26- Mission Meal following Worship



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