

## Upcoming Events

March 8, 6 p.m. **Deacons**

### Capital Campaign:

Goal: \$75,400  
Received: \$28,855  
Pledged: \$15,500  
Still Needed: \$31,045

### Gloria patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be  
— world without end.  
Amen, amen.

### Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

### Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!

## Lenten Series

Each Wednesday during Lent a service will be held at 7pm. The schedule is:

- Ash Wednesday, March 1 at Lambertville
- Wednesday, March 8 at Lambertville
- Wednesday, March 15 at Titusville
- Wednesday, March 22 at Kirkpatrick
- Wednesday, March 29 at Titusville
- Wednesday, April 5 at Larson's Corner
- Maundy Thursday, April 13 at Mt. Airy
- Good Friday, April 14 at Mt. Airy at Noon and at Kirkpatrick at 7 pm



When famine came to the land, Abram and Sarai went to Egypt. This picture reminds us of the fertile land nurtured by the Nile River. Abram would have traveled some 500 miles from the Negev, the land just south of the clouds and west of the sea of Galilee.

### Session:

**Class of 2017**  
Barbara Matlack  
Randy Niederer

**Class of 2018**  
Patti Manz  
Tim Shaub

**Class of 2019**  
Mark Niederer  
Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

### Deacons:

**Class of 2017**  
Judy Niederer, Secretary

**Class of 2018**  
Gail Butterfoss  
Lettie Ritner, Vice-Moderator

**Class of 2019**  
Chris Manz, Moderator

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good  
Worship Assistant: Randy Niederer  
Ministers: All members of Titusville Church

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Barbara Matlack, *Office Administrator*  
Jon and Helen Eastburn, *Music Directors*

February 26, 2017

THE **EXTRAORDINARY**

GOD'S MAJESTIC WORK of  
REUNIFICATION & ADOPTION

Let us worship God!  
Peter writes "Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us" (1 Peter 2:11-2). In today's Genesis reading, Abram enters the land of Egypt, but it is

fear that shapes him. Today, we also learn of Jesus calling his disciples to go and announce the kingdom of God. This includes loving our neighbor in a way modeled by the Samaritan. Like Abraham, like Jesus' first followers, we are but simply foreigners and exiles in this world. We congregate today to remember that God will visit us!



### Call to Worship

(Psalm 137:1-6)

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.

### Prayer of Confession

O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross. Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. Feed us lavishly with the bread of life, that we may feed others. Give us to drink deeply of your love, that our parched voices may be strengthened to speak freely of your grace. Have mercy on us, Lord, and nourish us.

Victoria Cok, from reformedworship.org



### Order of Liturgy

Prelude  
Call to Worship (page 1)  
Opening Hymn/ Prayer (page 1)  
Confession (page 1)  
—call, prayer, assurance  
Gloria patri (page 4)  
Scripture (page 1)  
Message  
Hymn of Response (page 1)  
Apostles Creed  
New City Catechism (page 2)  
Announcements  
Prayers of the People  
Offering  
Offertory  
Doxology (page 4)  
Sending Hymn (page 1)  
Benediction

### Scripture

Psalm 119:113-128 (page 439)  
Genesis 12:10-20 (page 8)  
Luke 10 (page 734)

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### Songs for Today

Opening Hymns  
#33 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"  
Hymn of Response  
Insert "Praise, I will Praise You, Lord"  
Sending Hymn  
Insert "The Lord Is God"

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## Notes on Morning Scripture

Abraham is mentioned 76 times in the New Testament

In the Gospel of Luke, we have 1:55, 1:73, 3:8, 3:34, 13:16, 13:28, 16:22, (also 23, 24, 25, 29, 30), 19:9, 20:37

There is some scholarly disagreement, but about 15 different Pharaohs are referenced in the Bible.

The idea of names written in heaven (Luke 10:20) is also found in Hebrews 12:23. The “names written in the book of life” is mentioned 3 times in Revelation (13:8, 17:8, 21:27)

The command to love the Lord with all your heart is in Deuteronomy 6:5, and the command to love your neighbor is in Leviticus 19:18

A Denarius was equivalent to a day’s wage.

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## Web Link

<http://www.thebiblejourney.org/biblejourney2/23-the-journeys-of-adam-enoch-noah-abraham/abrams-journey-to-canaan/interactive-map-#38> with background of the places Abram traveled, including the journey to Egypt

<http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/02/23/516642447/who-declares-a-famine-and-what-does-that-actually-mean> a famine in the South Sudan has been declared. Long ago, a famine influenced Abraham’s actions.

<http://www.ancient-egypt-online.com/ancient-egyptian-pharaohs.html> overview of the customs and responsibilities of the Pharaoh

<http://factsanddetails.com/world/cat56/sub365/item1925.html> scroll down to find information about livestock in the ancient world

<http://www.reshafim.org.il/ad/egypt/trade/travel.htm> interesting research on travel in ancient Egypt.

<https://bible.org/article/seven-laws-harvest> a very extensive look at the Bible’s teaching on sowing and reaping. If you don’t have time for the entire article, the 7 laws the author identifies are worth pondering

<http://steadfastlutherans.org/2013/03/the-joy-of-names-written-in-heaven-sermon-on-luke-101-20-by-pr-charles-henrickson/> sermon on Luke 10:20

<http://www.artbible.info/art/large/595.html> Van Gogh’s Good Samaritan

<http://www.womeninthebible.net/women-bible-old-new-testaments/martha-mary/>

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## New City Catechism

*A 52 question catechism developed by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. For an introduction to this catechism, visit: <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/intro.php>*

### Part 1: God, Creation and Fall, Law

**Week 11** What does God require in the sixth, seventh and eighth commandments?

**Answer: Sixth, that we do not hurt, or hate, or be hostile to our neighbor, but be patient and peaceful, pursuing even our enemies with love. Seventh, that we abstain from sexual immorality and live purely and faithfully, whether in marriage or in single life, avoiding all impure actions, looks, words, thoughts, or desires, and whatever might lead to them. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else, nor withhold any good from someone we might benefit.**

*To learn more about Question 11, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/q-parent/q11.php>*

## Editorial: Going

In Luke 9, Jesus sends out the 12 disciples for various work: driving out demons, curing diseases and proclaiming the kingdom of God. In Luke 10, Jesus expands the mission, sending forth 72 followers, two by two, into the places that Jesus was about to go.

The 72 are sent because of the magnitude of the harvest. The harvest is plentiful! More workers were needed. Lord, send your workers into the harvest fields!

They went. They went simply, without purse or bag. They went with their head down, focused on their task. They went with God’s peace upon their lips, and experienced hospitality along their way.

Sometimes, they even went away. Not everyone accepted the Lord’s message. Followers were to wipe the dust of their feet to those who did not welcome their message. To reject the King would bring woe, for it also meant rejecting the One who sent Jesus.

As the followers went, they experienced joy. And the true joy that their names were written in heaven would guide them on their way.

These seventy-two were followers on the go. Kings and prophets had longed to be in their shoes. We too, should have their joy, as we go out into the harvest field, on behalf of the Lord of the harvest.

We should seek to go where God is at work, including people and places that surprise us. The Good Samaritan shamed the religious by going to the person who needed him to help. Care went to his neighbor.

Mary and Martha go to work, though they each have different work. Martha worked on the immediate. Mary took time for devotion.

Abram was a man of great faith. But this story of going to Egypt was not built on the right foundation. He deceives, and barely escapes trouble. He put God’s promise in harm’s way.

We too, go into this world to announce the Lord’s kingdom. We go with the Lord’s blessing, his joy in our hearts, with the care of a Samaritan and the devotion that is born from sitting at the feet of our Lord and Teacher.

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**Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life**  
(offered in 2/26 worship by the congregation)

## Dear Tabby, Raising Life (issues) Acts 9:36

Dear Tabby,

My sister (I’ll call her Mary) is a very devoted Christian. She prays, spends time reading the Bible, and always seems to be conversing about faith. This is all fine and good, but I am more of a practical person. I see a job that needs to be done and I do it. What do I do about my sister?

Eager in East Amwell

Dear Eager,

This is a good problem to have. Both you and your sister are showing your faith in different ways, and both can bring glory to God.

Your name isn’t Martha by any chance? In Scripture, Martha opened her home to Jesus and his disciples. This was a very gracious offer. She expected her sister Mary to help out with hospitality duties. But when Jesus arrived, Mary was not in the kitchen, or the dining room, or wherever else she was needed, but at the feet of the Messiah, taking in his teachings.

Scripture says that Martha was distracted by all the preparations. It’s not that her heart wasn’t in the right place, or that her work was not important, but that her work became disconnected from her original purpose: the offer of hospitality. The Lord identifies in Martha how her good intentions had gotten off track: “you are worried and upset about many things”.

In some sense, all of us are like Martha. Opening our home, taking on responsibility, being a leader in God’s work, organizing for efficiency: these are all good things. But these should bring us closer to the Lord, not further. Taking on a job that needs to be done is very commendable! But the job should never lose focus of its best audience: the Lord.

It is also true that all of us should be like Mary. Taking time to listen to the Lord, to learn of his teachings, to contemplate deep meaning and purpose in our living: these are all good things. The Lord commends Mary for choosing what was best: to be with the Lord. May your work be a place that is called “the Lord is there”. And may you also intentionally foster your devotion to the Lord. Devotion informs our work, and work grounds our devotion.