

## Upcoming Events

December 11, 5 to 6 pm, **Come O Lord, Prayers for Advent**

December 13, Noon, **Womens Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon** at the home of Debbie Niederer

December 18, 6 pm, **Caroling and hot chocolate**

**Christmas Eve Worship, 6pm**

**Christmas Day Worship, 10 am.** Noon to 4 pm, Dinner and fellowship at the West Trenton Community Center.

## 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!

## Titusville Presbyterian Mission Statement

*The multifaceted mission of the First Presbyterian Church, Titusville, NJ is:*

- (1) as worshippers, to grow in our love for, and express our love to, our Trine God, in worship, prayer, devotion, music stewardship, and Sabbath-keeping (observance of the LORD's Day);*
- (2) as servants with Christ, to show God's love to our neighbors through intentional works of love and deliberate acts of kindness;*
- (3) as heralds of the gospel, to proclaim the good news concerning forgiveness, reconciliation, salvation, and eternal life in Christ to those in need of hope and the new spiritual birth;*
- (4) as living stones, to build up the church of Jesus Christ by building honest, caring, and encouraging relationships with one another as members of his united body, which we treat with tenderness and compassion;*
- (5) as disciples, to preserve and pass on the revelation of the divine truth of God in Christ as revealed by the Holy Spirit through the holy scriptures to people of all ages and from generation to generation, and to build one another up in this truth that we may be identified by perseverance and by our discovering our competence in the LORD;*  
*- all this we aim to do with hope in the spirit of truth and love, so as to show the world what life under the lordship of Christ looks like, and, in so doing, to glorify the one true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Session:

**Class of 2016**  
Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

**Class of 2017**  
Barbara Matlack  
Randy Niederer

**Class of 2018**  
Patti Manz  
Tim Shaub

### Deacons:

**Class of 2016**  
Tom Kennedy, Moderator  
Chris Manz, Vice-Moderator

**Class of 2017**  
Judy Niederer, Secretary

**Class of 2018**  
Gail Butterfoss  
Lettie Ritner

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good  
Worship Assistant: Barbara Matlack  
Ministers: All members of Titusville Church

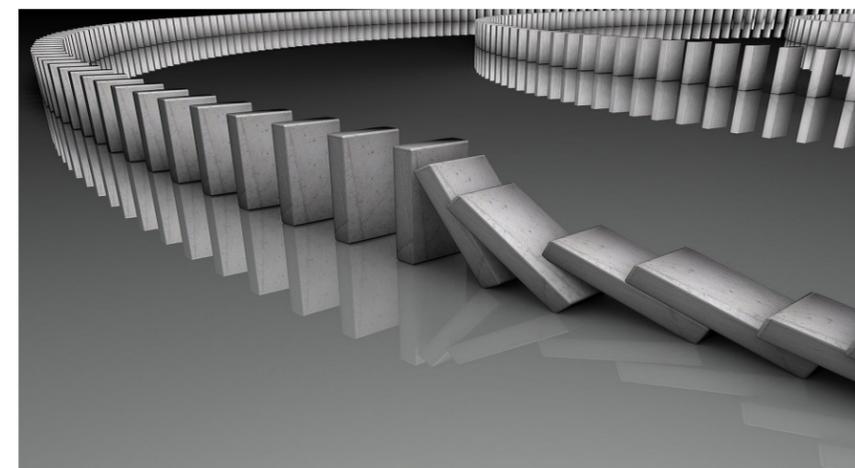
The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Barbara Matlack, *Office Administrator*  
Jon and Helen Eastburn, *Music Directors*

December 11th, 2016

THE **EXTRAORDINARY**

GOD'S MAJESTIC WORK of  
REUNIFICATION & ADOPTION

Let us worship God! Today we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Advent means 'coming'. There are two advents described in Scripture. The first was when Jesus Christ came to earth through the virgin birth. We look back in remembrance of this advent. The second advent will come when Jesus Christ returns in glory, as he promised he would. We continue in Genesis by looking at Humankind's disobedience in the Garden of Eden.



## Call to Worship

We are invited to come close, to gather around the Advent Wreath to light the third candle, the Candle of joy. The candles of hope and love greet us with their light as we gather together as a church family.

"My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" --Mary

*it is a wonderful blessing to be able to anticipate as a Church - instead of just on our own - the coming of our King. --anonymous*

## Prayer of Confession

(taken from Presbyterian Church of Canada)

Gracious Judge,  
we have sinned against you, through ingratitude, because of disobedience, and as a result of the hardness of our hearts.  
We have not attended to the words of the prophets.  
We have not looked for the signs of your realm of justice and light.  
We have not lived with expectation or hope.

Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.



## Order of Liturgy

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

## Scripture

Psalm 119 (page 436)  
Genesis 3 (page 2)  
Luke 1: 39-56 (page 724)

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Songs for Today

Opening Hymns  
#270 "Joy to the World"  
#86 "Jesus, Name Above All Names"  
Hymn of Response  
Insert "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"  
Sending Hymn  
#251 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

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## Notes on Psalm 119 and Luke 1:39-56

Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm in Scripture, 176 verses divided into 22 stanzas,

Each stanza is represented by a letter of the Hebrew alphabet (in order)

Each stanza has 8 verses with each verse starting with the letter of that stanza.

Aleph (verses 1-8): introduces 7 words for God's revelation: law (torah), testimonies, ways, statutes, precepts, judgments, commandments

Beth (verses 9-16): "The deepest and highest aspiration of the soul of youth is that for purity" (G. Campbell Morgan, Notes on the Psalms, page 226)

Mary's song has deep connection to the prayer of Hannah in Samuel 2

Her song is known as the Magnificat, latin for My soul magnifies

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### Web Links

<http://www.crivoice.org/cyadvent.html>

excellent explanation of Advent

[www.paradiselost.org](http://www.paradiselost.org)

an overview of John Milton's classic Epic poem

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/meditation-on-the-magnificat>

lifts up the similarity between Hannah's prayer and Mary (I Samuel 2)

<http://enemylove.com/subversive-magnificat-mary-expected-messiah-to-be-like/>

brings us closer to a young Mary singing praise in an uncertain world

<http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/Collection/art-object-page.95659.html>

review of a famous Dutch painting

<http://www.westminsterconfession.org/introduction-to-the-christian-faith/the-consequences-of-the-fall-of-man.php>

former Princeton and Westminster Seminary Professor's sermon on the fall

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2013/september/blame-shifting-and-brian-holloway.html> on

taking responsibility and not blaming

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

synopsis of the Bible story of Elizabeth, accompanied by artwork.

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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 4** How and why did God create us?

**Answer:** *God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.*

*To learn more about Question 4, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/q-parent/q4.php>*

### Editorial: Banished

Before sin enters the world, man and women were able to face each other. There was no shame. The story of the Fall tells of a very different way of life when good and evil are known by the man and woman. Like dominoes, this decision to eat from the tree forbidden by God produces a chain of separation and conflict, which still exists today.

Genesis 3 is a stunning passage, for a variety of reasons. Let's focus on the conduct and sayings of the LORD God.

The first thing in this passage is a wonderful, delightful thought: the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day. What sounds did the Lord make? Did he sing? Whistle? Command? Break twigs with his feet or brush through ferns while walking? Did he talk to the creation? What a beautiful image of God, as he walked in the cool of the day. It seems that God enjoyed walking in his creation, since it was good, and God is good.

We read of the Lord engaging the man and woman with questions after he hears of their disobedience. Where are you? Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree? What is this that you have done? God is truth, and truthful in his speech. This includes allowing finite creatures to arrive at the truth by way of questions that intentionally move us toward truth. God does this throughout Scripture.

The Lord judges. The serpent, the woman, the man; each with their own punishment. Sin must be punished. The first humans chose to know; they became familiar with good...and evil. Humans know these still: enmity, crushing blows, pain, desire, toil, dust.

The Lord makes garments. There seems to be an element of sacrifice, and covering of sin very early in the story.

The Lord banishes the man and woman from the garden. The rationale for this is God does not want humans to live forever in a sinful state. Eating from the tree of life would do just this: cause sin to live forever. It was the most loving, as well as just, act of the Creator. He will make another way, but in the immediacy of the story, God essentially guards against the serious of the situation: don't let them become eternally sinful. God drives them out. Through the lens of Christ, we are grateful that God did this.

It is Christ that ultimately crushes the head of the serpent. And it is Christ that ultimately becomes the one whom we clothe ourselves with; wearing the righteousness of the Son before Almighty God. It is Christ who ultimately brings us back into paradise. It is Christ who at the center of the new heavens and new earth, where the tree of life will be on both sides of that river which runs through the city, and bears fruit every month, and whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.

Banished is bad if it is the end of the story. But it is good, if it leads to righteousness.

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**Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life**  
(offered in 12/11 worship by the congregation)

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

Dear Tabby,

Lately, I have felt frustrated at several people in my life. My boyfriend has been spending most of his free time with his friends. My father always seems to be adding a social engagement to his schedule and my mother is spending every waking moment growing her business. My boss is constantly yelling at me, and I don't sleep well because the couple in the apartment above me fight well into the night. I can't seem to overcome these feelings of anger. I don't like living like this. What should I do?

Tired in Titusville

Dear Tired,

You should find out what pleases the Lord.

The most fulfilling relationships are ones that have put the Lord at the start, the center and the goal. Christians relate to one another by and through Jesus Christ. If we look at the people in our lives with Christ's grace and truth, we can start to relate to people the way God intended for us to relate. If we do not, then we are in a never-ending maze of either placing too much importance upon the people in our lives (a form of idolatry), or too much importance regarding ourselves, and thus destroy relationships and push others down or away.

The Apostle Paul commands us as children of light (that is what we are in Christ) to live lives of goodness, righteousness and truth (he speaks about this in Ephesians 4 and 5). And so, you are able to speak truthfully to your boyfriend and work out a balance of time together and with friends. You are able to initiate time with your parents and be in right relationship together, and let that righteousness simmer a recipe that brings nourishment to your family life. You are able to display character at work and with neighbors in an effort to live in peace.

When sin enters the world in the Garden, blame is right there, ready to force itself into the story. We continue to blame today. In fact, it is the easiest thing to do: everyone else is the problem. But this, on a very basic level, is the problem. We, despite having the log sticking in our eye, can see the very small splinter in our neighbor. Blame should not be the template by which Christians live.

Our job is to find out what pleases the Lord. Paul suggests that living lives of goodness, righteousness and truth are pleasing to our God. This is a lifetime of good work, if you are willing to get it.