

Upcoming Events

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.

New Years Day Worship, 9:30 am

January 29, 9:30 a.m. Annual Congregation
Meeting

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 18th, 2016

THE **EXTRAORDINARY**
GOD'S MAJESTIC WORK OF
REUNIFICATION & ADOPTION

Genesis by looking at the tragic consequences of sin as seen in the story of Cain and Abel.



Call to Worship

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

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal" Isaiah 26:3

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

(Book of Common Worship)

God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not
welcomed the light, or trusted good
news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in
our midst, expecting little, and
hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, and renew our
hope, so that we may receive the
fullness of your grace, and live in
the truth of Christ the Lord.

Let us worship God! Today we celebrate the 4th 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



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

Psalms 119:17-32 (page 437)
Genesis 4 (page 3)
Luke 1: 57-80 (page 724)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Songs for Today

Opening Hymn
#240 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"
Hymn of Response
#273 "Good Christian Men, Rejoice"
Sending Hymn
#250 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

48 RIVER DRIVE | TITUSVILLE, NEW JERSEY | 08560
609 737 1385 | 609 737 2212 | office@titusvillechurch.org
www.titusvillechurch.org

facebook.com/titusvillechurch



Notes on Psalm 119 and Luke 1:57-80

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.

Gimel (119:17-24) “This stanza reminds us that peace and joy are never created by prosperous circumstances, neither can they be destroyed by circumstances of difficulty. The soul desiring, discovering, doing the will of God, is the soul finding true delight in life.” (Morgan, Notes on the Psalms, page 226)

Daleth (119:25-32) “To find God’s commandments, and to obey them is to pursue a pathway which leads ever toward light and liberty” (Morgan 228)

Zechariah’s Song is called the Benedictus, see 1:68

The Benedictus has two parts; Praise for God’s faithfulness to Israel (68-75), and his blessing for his son John (76-79a)

Web Links

<http://www.crivoice.org/cyadvent.html>
excellent explanation of Advent

<http://www.artbible.info/art/large/599.html>
painting of Cain and Abel

<http://biblehub.com/genesis/4-9.htm>
offers translations and references

<http://rediscover.archspm.org/belonging/what-does-john-the-baptist-teach-us-about-the-meaning-of-advent/>
from the Diocese in Minneapolis

<https://savevenice.org/publications/two-altarpieces-of-john-the-baptist-by-jacopo-tintoretto-2/>
preserving a wonderful painting of the Baptist’s birth

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2015/march/good-christian-girls-get-angry.html>

<http://www.familylife.com/articles/topics/life-issues/challenges/mental-and-emotional-issues/dealing-with-your-anger>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvxo_hvlwZs Michael Card’s song on Joseph

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 5 What else did God create?

Answer: God created all things by his powerful Word, and all his creation was very good; everything flourished under his loving rule.

To learn more about Question 5, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/q-parent/q5.php>

Editorial: My Brother’s Keeper?

Cain, in an audacious moment, answers God’s inquiry about his brother’s whereabouts with the famous question: Am I my brother’s keeper?

Well, yes; yes you are. And so are we.

Scripture repeatedly teaches us to look beyond just ourselves to our brother and sister. Our faith in God should shape how we live alongside our neighbor and our attempts to seek their welfare. As Christ’s body, we are to take care of one another, as a witness to the world of God’s love and grace. The Scripture is clear. Our minds go to famous passages like “Love your neighbor as yourself”, the story of the Good Samaritan, and the prophet’s call to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. Today, we will keep to three passages in I John. One of these passages includes reference to the Cain and Abel story.

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who lives their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them. I John 2:9-11

Being our brother’s (or sister’s) keeper grows us in Christ. We become stronger by this good responsibility. We avoid stumbling by focusing our feet toward helping others.

This is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. I John 3:11-15

Being our brother’s (or sister’s) keeper points to God’s redeeming work in us. Left to ourselves, we are distant from God, and belong to the evil one. In Christ, we have passed from death to life.

We love because God first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: anyone who loves God must also love their brother or sister. I John 4:19-21

Being our brother’s (or sister’s) keeper is the clear first step in a healthy relationship with God. You can’t love God and hate God’s people.

Being your brother’s keeper keeps the praise on God, the blessing on the community and the focus on Christ being the first and best keeper of his brother’s and the sisters.

Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life
(offered in 12/18 worship by the congregation)

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

Dear Tabby,

Last week, a co-worker made me really angry by a comment they directed at me. I tried to take the high road and didn’t respond. But each day that goes by I find my anger growing, as well as the distance between us. What should I do?

Weary in West Amwell

Dear Weary,

“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.” (Ephesians 4:25-27)

Sometimes we do need to be tolerant, patient and not embroil ourselves in controversy. It is unsustainable to react to every statement that is incorrect or unkind.

Anger is not necessarily a sinful emotion. Our behavior and reactions to anger can be sinful. But God does warn us: “human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires” (James 1:20)

In your case, it seems that you were trespassed, because, by not addressing it, strife and disconnect have grown, and this is not the will of God for relationships. The devil now has his foot in the door, and he can quickly overpower and destroy.

You might feel better if you sit your co-worker down in a private, respectful manner and deal with the problem. Possible outcomes include

- the person feels remorse, you clear the air, and grow
- they meant exactly what they said, and in review, there is a growth opportunity for you
- they meant exactly what they said, it is incorrect, and they do not have remorse. You now understand your relationship in a different way

While disagreements and anger should be resolved between any two parties experiencing conflict, Scripture demands believers to keep our relationships healthy with other believers, because the witness of the gospel is at stake. As our Lord taught his disciples, “by your love for one another, the world will know you are my disciples” (John 13:35).

Scripture is wise in calling for quick resolutions. There is little good that comes from fostering our anger internally. When talking with someone you feel has wronged you, keep the main objective in mind: healthy relationship. “love covers over a multitude of sins”. “Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you”. Remember Jesus is full of truth...and grace. Identifying anger is for the purpose of removing it from relationship, and moving on toward health. Be careful not to feed the monster, or as Scripture says, give the devil a foothold.