

## Upcoming Events

January 3, 6:30 pm, **Unhanging the Greens**

January 11, 6 pm, **Deacons meeting**

January 22, 9:30 am, **Youth Christian Education**

January 25, 6:45 pm, **Session meeting**

January 28, 8 to 10 am, **WTCC Pantry**

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

## Communion Liturgy

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

**Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.**

...who forever sing to the glory of your name.

**CHOIR: (Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.)**

Great is the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread

The Sharing of the Cup

*(You are invited forward to receive the elements.)*

Prayer

## 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: Patti Manz**

**Ministers: All members of Titusville Church**

**The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, Pastor Emeritus**

**Barbara Matlack, Office Administrator**

**Jon and Helen Eastburn, Music Directors**

January 1, 2017

**THE EXTRAORDINARY**

**GOD'S MAJESTIC WORK of REUNIFICATION & ADOPTION**

Let us worship God! Merry Christmas! No, we do not have our holidays mixed up. Today, is the 8<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, and on Friday, we will celebrate Epiphany: God's revelation of Jesus Christ as the light to the Gentiles (the nations), as well as his people Israel. In Christ, God's light has made its way to you and I, some nine thousand miles and two thousand years

from Christ's birth. We continue in Genesis by looking at the generations of Adam, and read this text alongside the Gospel story of Simeon.



## Call to Worship

Lord Jesus

may your light shine our way,  
as once it guided the steps of the magi:

**that we too may be led into your presence and worship you,**  
the Child of Mary,  
**the Word of the Father,**  
the King of nations,  
**the Saviour of mankind;**  
**to whom be glory for ever.**

*originally directed to God by Frank Colquhoun*

## Prayer of Confession

*(taken from New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal)*

**Father of light,  
unchanging God,  
today you reveal to people of faith  
the resplendent fact of the Word  
made flesh.  
Your light is strong,  
Your love is near;  
draw us beyond the limits  
which this world imposes,  
to the life where Your Spirit  
makes all life complete.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**



## Order of Liturgy

Prelude

Call to Worship (page 1)

Opening Hymns/ Prayer (page 1)

Confession (page 1)

—call, prayer, assurance

Gloria patri

Scripture (page 1)

Message

Hymn of Response (page 1)

Apostles Creed

New City Catechism (page 2)

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Offering

Offertory: "Joy Has Dawned"

Doxology

Communion (page 4)

Sending Hymn (page 1)

Benediction

Choral Benediction: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

## Scripture

Psalms 119:33-48 (page 437)

Genesis 5-6:8 (page 4)

Luke 2:21-40 (page 725)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Songs for Today

Opening Hymns

**#282 "O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful"**

Insert "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Hymn of Response

**#264 "Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light"**

Sending Hymn

**#648 "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling"**

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## Notes on Psalm 119 and Luke 2:21-40

\*Psalm 119 has 176 verses divided into 22 stanzas. Each stanza represents a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and each verse within that stanza starts with the same letter. Today's reading is from the Hebrew letters He and Waw.

\*The explanation of purification and sacrifices are found in Leviticus 12.

\*The pair of doves was an alternative for those who could not afford the proper sacrifice.

\*The background for consecration to the Lord is found in Exodus 13:1-2, and specific instruction in Numbers 18:8-16

\*Galatians 4:4 teaches that Jesus was "born under the law". We see his fulfillment of God's law even from his time as a baby, and through his parent's observance and devotion.

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### Web Links

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/real-twelve-days-of-christmas.html> historical and theological overview of Christmas season

<http://www.whychristmas.com/> fun and helpful guide for parents, includes games, conversation starters and background on Christmas traditions

<http://www.crivoice.org/cyepiph.html> explanation of Epiphany

<http://www.frick.org/exhibitions/mauritshuis/145> Rembrandt's Simeon painting, with commentary

<https://womenfromthebook.com/2012/07/26/anna-the-prophetess-a-life-in-three-verses/> a blog that focuses on the stories of women in the Bible

<http://www.bibleplaces.com/nazareth/> background on where Jesus grew up

<https://bible.org/seriespage/6-coming-grips-genealogies-genesis-51-32> nicely done sermon on the genealogies

[http://shammai.org/genesis\\_5\\_commentaries.pdf](http://shammai.org/genesis_5_commentaries.pdf) a collection of several Jewish scholars' teachings and interpretations of Genesis 5

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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 6** How Can We Glorify God?

**Answer:** *We glorify God by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands and law.*

*To learn more about Question 6, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/q-parent/q6.php>*

### Editorial: The Generations

In Genesis chapter four, we see the story of how unrighteousness continues in the world, passing from one generation to the next. Cain, Adam's son, will not be the one who continues the line that produces the Messiah. Cain's generations follow his ways, culminating with Lamech justifying murder by referencing Cain.

In chapter five, we see the beginnings of the family tree of the Messiah. God preserves his plan through the generations starting with Adam's son Seth. The timeless God is faithful to his will and story throughout the long lives of the pre-flood generations. In this line, there is another Lamech, who gives great thought to naming his son Noah. There is also reference to Enoch, who walked faithfully with God, to the point where God rescues him from death. It is in remembering Enoch that the author of Hebrews instructs us that "without faith, it is impossible to please God" (11:6).

Regarding the long years referenced in Genesis 5, there is one thing for readers to consider. Scripture teaches that our bodies were created to live forever. Death comes from the sin of the first humans, disobeying God, knowing evil as well as good. God's intent as defined in Genesis was to live with him in paradise, including all the necessary sustenance from the tree of life. This idea of God's original design for the human body is affirmed in the New Testament. For example, in I Corinthians 15:42, God will raise us in Christ, and our bodies will be raised imperishable.

It will be delightful over the years to see how Scriptures come alongside each other in our liturgy and pursuit of the extraordinary Lord. On the same day we read the Genesis passage about the generations, we also encounter Simeon in the Gospel of Luke. Simeon also experiences long life, and had been promised that he would see the Messiah before his death. Looking at the newborn Jesus, his eyes see salvation.

It is what the generations from old had hoped for. Looking back, it is their greatest gift, that they were part of the line that brought forth Jesus. Simeon gave witness to that through song: the Messiah had come, and he is light for the nations, and the glory of Israel. Simeon bears witness that God is indeed faithful to his plan and his promise. God will accomplish salvation for the generations. Christ becomes all that Adam could not be. And any son or daughter of Adam, in Christ, can be restored to all we were meant to be. You don't believe it? Look to the generations. "This is what the ancients were commended for" (Hebrews 11:2)

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**Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life**  
(offered in 1/1 worship by the congregation)

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

Dear Tabby,  
I consider myself spiritual, but I don't have time for religion or public expression of my faith. My life is too busy, and I want to protect myself from too many demands on my time. Am I a bad person for thinking this?

Troubled in Titusville

Dear Troubled,  
I don't know you, so I can't comment if you are a bad person or not. But I can tell you that you aren't thinking clearly about this subject.

Life does not originate, nor end with you. Our breath is on loan from God. We are but stewards of the life God gives us. Therefore, all of our time should seek to be used to experience God. This includes our work, chores and errands as well as our commitment to community, and public expression of our faith in the living God.

We have the stories of the generations that did not serve God. At one point, people had forgotten God in such obvious ways that God grieves that he had made humans. It is his promise to bring about the Messiah that guides God through a time when only Noah found favor.

But we also have stories of devotion, which speak to us about how we display our devotion to God today. Mary and Joseph are too poor to purchase a lamb for the sacrifices required in their day. But they still follow the law as best they can, which allowed the poor to offer two pigeons for an acceptable sacrifice within Jewish Temple worship.

We see that time is not our own in the story of Simeon. He relied on God's promise that he would be able to see the Messiah in his lifetime. While he waited for God's promise, he acted. Scripture calls him righteous and devout. His faith was evident to the people around him. The Holy Spirit was on him.

We see that our worship should be public in the story of Anna. She is someone who remains physically close to the temple throughout her days. She worshipped day and night (public expression) in addition to her fasting and praying (personal expressions). Anna thanks God when she sees Jesus, and speaks about Jesus to all who were ready to listen.

Jesus grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's grace was on him. He is our pattern. Being inwardly spiritual needs to be in concert with outward expression. That is how we grow and become strong, find wisdom, and experience God's grace.