

Upcoming Events

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

February 19, 4 p.m. **Food Concession. 6pm Bluegrass Concert**

Capital Campaign:

Goal: \$75,400
Received: \$21,705
Pledged: \$15,500
Still Needed: \$38,195

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: Andrew 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

January 29, 2017

THE **EXTRAORDINARY**

GOD'S MAJESTIC WORK of REUNIFICATION & ADOPTION

In today's gospel reading, Jesus begins his public ministry by teaching in the synagogues of Galilee. In one of the towns, a sick man beckons Jesus: "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean". Jesus then shared that he was indeed willing. The same Lord who offered a promise to Noah comes in human flesh to announce that

he is indeed willing. He is willing to forgive, to rescue, and to heal. Jesus modeled God's closeness: eating with sinners, teaching the truth, calling out to follow him. Today, we weave together God's promise to Noah, and Christ's call to follow. An important question to ask yourself is this: Are you willing?



Call to Worship

(Psalm 104:1, 5-9)

Praise the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great;
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.
**He set the earth on its foundations;
it can never be moved.**
You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
**But at your rebuke the waters fled,
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;**
they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them.
**You set a boundary they cannot cross;
never again will they cover the earth.**

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God,
Increase our doubt that armaments
and wars bring peace;
that science and intelligence alone
can cure the ills of the world;
that human beings are the controllers
of all things.
Give us grace to blush for our
mistakes and arrogance,
forgiveness for our foolishness
and power to live as stewards of
creation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord**

--from the Mission & Discipleship Council of the Church of Scotland



Order of Liturgy

Prelude
Call to Worship (page 1)
Opening Hymns (page 1)
Prayer of Confession
Gloria patri (page 4)
Scripture (page 1)
Message
Hymn of Response (page 1)
Announcements
Prayers of the People
Offering
Offertory "In the Bulb There is a Flower"
Doxology (page 4)
Annual Meeting
Sending Hymn (page 1)
Benediction
Choral Benediction

Scripture

Genesis 9
Luke 4:14-5:39

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Songs for Today

Opening Hymn
#56 "To God Be the Glory"
Hymn of Response
#139 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"
Sending Hymn
#428 "In Christ There is No East or West"

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

facebook.com/titusvillechurch



Notes on Morning Scripture

Noah is mentioned in the genealogy of Christ (Luke 3:36), and is mentioned in the New Testament seven additional times: Luke 17:26 and 27 (this same teaching is recorded in Matthew 24:37 and 38), Hebrews 11:7, I Peter 3:20, II Peter 2:5

Jesus quotes from Isaiah regarding the Lord's work he fulfills (Isaiah 61:1-2)

Jesus references the prophets Elijah and Elisha's work of healing for Gentile individuals, those outside the covenant (I Kings 17, II Kings 5)

In addition to Luke 5:16; Mark 1:29, Luke 3:21, Luke 6:12, Luke 9:18, Luke 11:1, John 17:1, John 18:1 mention Jesus praying. Other passages talk of Jesus withdrawing away from the crowds for quiet time or rest.

Web Links

<http://reasonabletheology.org/5covenants/> nice overview of the covenants found in Scripture

<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/noahic-covenant/> a devotional about God's covenant with the earth after Noah emerges from the Ark.

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/covenant/> extensive background and Scriptural analysis

<http://www.theopedia.com/covenant-theology> overview of a theological system that uses covenants to explain the message of Scripture

<http://www.kidsplayandcreate.com/rainbow-facts-for-kids/>

<http://www.bible-archaeology.info/nazareth.htm> excellent historical pictures

<http://www.womeninthebible.net/women-bible-old-new-testaments/peters-wifes-mother-gospel-story/> background and history of artwork

<http://ancientroadpublications.com/Studies/BiblicalStudies/TaxCollectors.html> historical background on tax collection in the Roman Empire

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/fasting-for-beginners> summary of the spiritual discipline of fasting

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 7 What does the law of God require?

Answer: *Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; and love our neighbors as ourselves.*

To learn more about Question 7, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/q-parent/q7.php>

Editorial: Healing

The Spirit of the Lord was on Jesus because he had been anointed to proclaim good news to the poor, sent to proclaim freedom to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, and to set the oppressed free. He proclaimed the year of the Lord's favor. We see him doing this immediately after he announces that the prophet Isaiah was really speaking about him. Think of the types of people found in the morning gospel reading that Jesus touched and healed.

Jesus, in speaking to his hometown worshippers, reminds them that the Heavenly Father has a long history of healing people. Jesus reminds them of two great prophets; Elijah and his successor Elisha. These men, when they knew of fellow Israelites in need, nonetheless extended care to the widow of Zarephath, and to Naaman the Syrian. Jesus continues this tradition of healings that surprise with grace and hope.

Jesus healed the demon possessed. The cultural Jesus we often hear of is a gentle teacher. But Jesus was also known for speaking with authority and having powerful words. He spoke sternly when needed. Demons, possessing a man, encounter Jesus' rebuke, and they follow his word, leaving the man without injuring him.

Jesus heals families. Simon Peter's mother in law was respected in the home, as was common in that time. When she falls sick, Jesus enters Peter's home (this is before he calls Peter to follow him), and rebukes the fever that weighed her down. She was immediately restored to do her work (it has been suggested Simon's house acted as home base whenever the disciples were in Galilee).

Jesus heals those who must do God's work. The fisherman is invited to fish for people. The tired and rough Peter, humbled by the miracle Jesus performs, tries to deflect his call because he is a sinful man. But Jesus has work for him to do. He was rescued for this work.

Jesus heals the Lepers. A man with leprosy approaches Jesus with a desire to be healed and asks Jesus to heal him if he is willing. Jesus was. Lepers were physical outcasts in ancient society. But Jesus is not afraid to draw near to those who hurt. He is willing to come and rescue.

Jesus heals caregivers and those they care for. Jesus heals a paralyzed man, and he comes to know this man through the impressive faith of his friends, who literally make a whole in the roof to lower their friend to Jesus when they are unable to bring him through the door. Jesus had come to heal, and to forgive sins. The people praise God when Jesus announced healing of body and of soul.

Jesus heals the tax Collectors and sinners. Jesus infuriates the religious leaders of his time by eating with the tax collectors and sinners. Tax collectors had essentially forsaken their Jewish heritage upon giving allegiance to Rome. Sinners were a social class of people with questionable character, outcast from society (as opposed to the general term that describes all of us apart from Christ). Jesus breaks bread and reminds us all that the sick need a doctor, and sinners need to repent.

Jesus heals his disciples. Rather than make his disciples live to the expectations of John or the Pharisees, Jesus invites his followers to know his presence, and the goodness this causes in their lives. There will be time to fast, but when the Lord of life was in their midst, it was time to partake and celebrate.

God so loved the world that he sent his one and only son, that whoever would believe in him might not perish, but have everlasting life. That is the best healing

Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life
(offered in 1/29 worship by the congregation)

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

Dear Tabby,

I made a promise to my friend. But it is turning out to be more difficult than I thought it would be to keep my promise. What should I do?

Tepid in Trenton

Dear Tepid,

A promise is a promise. You should do everything in your power to keep a promise. Your character is closely connected to your ability to keep your promise.

One of the lessons from this difficult time is to be more careful in offering promises in the first place. In regards to promises to God, the Teacher counsels "do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven, and you are on earth, so let your words be few" (Ecclesiastes 5:2). This verse can also be used as a principle for the promises we make to other people.

Your promises are also best, if there is any action required, to be fulfilled sooner rather than later. The teacher then says "When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it" (5:4) It is good advice for our human relationships, in addition to the counsel for our relationship to God.

If your promises are more relational (promising something you will be), there will certainly be times of challenge, and seasons when things are not smooth. But it is those times that our practices of living simply, communicating clearly, dealing with differences, and keeping our word that provide strength to keep on track.

Jesus invited us to live simply: even more simply than making promises. He taught "And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'yes' or 'no': anything beyond this comes from the evil one." (Matthew 5:36-37).

Covenant is a biblical idea where two parties make agreements. One type of covenant is conditional (also called bi-lateral). They are agreements made between two parties that consider the other party an equal. They both make agreements to what they will do, so that both parties benefit from healthy relationship. The second type are unconditional: They are made between two unequal parties where a promise made by the greater party will endure regardless of the other's presence or ability (in the ancient near east, these were known as suzerain/vassal treaties). God has given us his unconditional promises: they aren't reliant on our ability, but on his. One example of an unconditional promise is God's covenant with Noah.

Since our lives are to be lived for God, if we make promises, we must be aware that our ability to keep them will speak to our witness for God. The greatest promises are those that God makes, for his power will see them through.