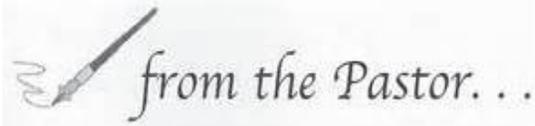


FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PO BOX 114, FOURTH STREET
FRENCHTOWN, NJ 08825
908-996-2227, WWW.FRENCHTOWNPRES.ORG



“Resurrection. The reversal of what was thought to be absolute. The turning of midnight into dawn, hatred into love, dying into living anew.”

It is the first of April, the sun is shining, the crocuses and daffodils are in bloom, and I would like to write about Easter. I know that by the time the next newsletter comes out Easter will be well past, and we will be onto the next thing. As your pastor I know I should write an Easter message, yet I find it difficult to bring myself to write about Easter when we are still in Lent. I cannot bring myself to write messages of Easter when we have not yet waved the palms and called out our Hallelujahs, nor sat at table with Jesus and his disciples on the night he was betrayed, when we have not found ourselves struggling to stay awake in the garden with Jesus as he wrestled with his conscience and his call. I am not sure I can truly experience the joy of empty tomb when I have not stood brokenhearted at the foot of the cross. It is not because I have compulsive loyalty to the lectionary or because I am some Easter version of Ebenezer Scrooge. It is certainly not because I do not trust or hope in God’s gracious promise of new life. It is because I believe that we cannot really know what Easter is unless we experience the wilderness of Lent and the depths of Holy Week. How can we name the dawn when we have known the darkness? Can we understand the power of love if we have not also felt its absence? How can we experience the miracle that new life is if we have not realized that we were dead?

So my “Easter” message to you this day is a message of invitation to spend the next few weeks with us in Lent and Holy Week. Come, share in the journey through the wilderness on the way to Jerusalem at the Wednesday morning communion and Wednesday supper and devotion. Come sit at table on Maundy Thursday. Stand at the foot of the cross on Good Friday. Bring your hunger, your fear, your brokenness; come keep company with death that by God’s grace, you may sing your alleluias and realize the full impact of the miracle of the new life that is ours through Christ’s resurrection.

Alleluia! Amen.
Pastor Nancy

“After death something new begins, over which all powers of the world of death have no more might.”



APRIL 2019

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- April 14, Palm Sunday – regular service times, 8AM and 10AM.
- April 18, Maundy Thursday – 7:00 PM, Communion will be served.
- April 19, Good Friday – 7:00 PM

April 21, Easter Sunday Services

- 8:00 AM - Communion Service
- 9:30 AM - Family service with Easter Egg hunt to follow (no communion)
- 11:00 AM - Family service, Choir Music (no communion)

What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is another name for Holy Thursday. This evening service is the first of the three days of solemn remembrance. These three days recall events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment."

Good Friday—Tenebrae

The word "tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning "darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial.

This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. A loud noise may also sound symbolizing the clos-



EASTER FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

If you would like to order flowers to be placed in the sanctuary for Easter as a way to honor a loved one or in memory of a loved one, or to the Glory of God, please contact Margaret Pfisterer at 610-295-9412 or the church office at 908-996-2227. Flowers available are tulips at \$6.00 per plant, or daffodils, lilies or daisy mums at \$8.00 per plant. Orders are due by April 7th.



MUSIC MINISTRY

As we pass through Lent and head towards Easter, the music ministries at Frenchtown are hard at work. Throughout history, some of the most heartfelt and moving choral pieces and hymns have been written around Lenten and Holy week themes. The Chancel Choir will be expressing these ideas through Spirituals, folks songs, and classical Motets. Also, don't miss the FPC Children's Choir as they lead Jesus procession surrounded by beautiful waving palms!

I am very excited to announce that we will have two more performances in the Frenchtown Presbyterian Concert series. The first concert will feature The Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble on April 28th at 4:00 p.m. They will perform their spring concert "The Storm Shall Pass" featuring music of turmoil and solace.

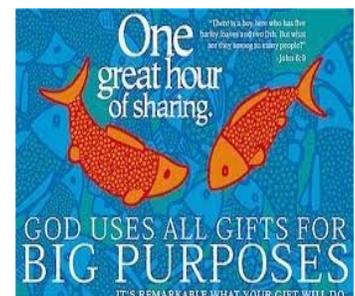
Then, on May 26th at 2:00 we will feature the Mother Jones Brass Quintet. The Mother Jones Brass Quintet is an all-female brass quintet based out of the Lehigh Valley, PA. They perform a variety of both sacred and secular music, and for this concert will feature many patriotic favorites in honor of Memorial Day.

These are both incredible ensembles and we are very excited to have them come here to FPC! As always, the concerts are free with a suggested donation that will benefit the ensembles and our music ministries here at Frenchtown!

-Josh Wilson, Director

MY GIFT MATTERS - One Great Hour of Sharing

Our church will collect for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), a special offering of PC(USA), on Palm Sunday and Easter. Fish banks were distributed last Sunday, for the kids to collect loose change over the next few weeks as part of the OGHS offering. There are also OGHS envelopes in the pews at the church if you would like to make a donation that way. A gift to OGHS enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. **Donations and fish banks need to be to the church on Palm Sunday or Easter.** Thank you!





April Newsletter

April Happenings

Sunday April 7th -Kids Communities Crafts @ 10am Worship
Sunday, April 14th – Palm Sunday – Kids Choir Singing
Thursday, April 18th – Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 19th – Good Friday Kids Communities @ 10am
Sunday April 21st – Easter Sunday – Kids Choir Singing – Easter Egg Hunt following 9:30am Service.



EGG DONATIONS

WE NEED YOU, FPC families...we need **pre-filled EGGS** for our Easter Egg Hunt that will be held after the 930am Easter Service. All donations can be left in the kitchen. Thank you in advance!



Kids Communities is in need of PEANUT & EGG FREE Snacks. Some of the kids’ favorites, are goldfish, pretzels, pirate booty, popcorn, graham crackers, etc...

Donations can be left downstairs. Thank you!

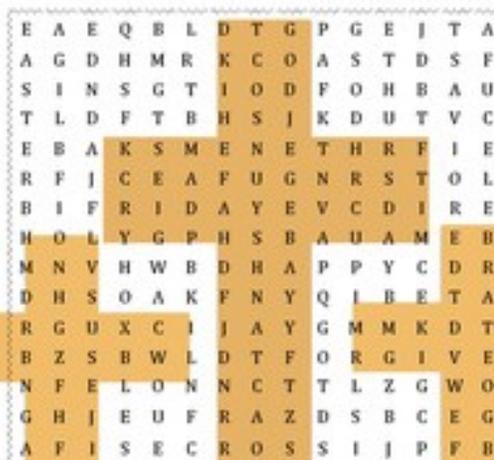
MY GIFT MATTERS

“Church of Small Change” Offering

Each classroom has a wooden church where the children can put any spare change they would like into it. All money collected will go towards supporting our youth programs and the community. **“Small Change Helps in a Big Way!”**

Happy Easter!

Name: _____ Date: _____



CELEBRATE	GOD	SAVOR
CROSS	HAPPY	SINS
EASTER	HOLY	SUNDAY
FORGIVE	JESUS	THURSDAY
FRIDAY	RISEN	TOMB



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FAMILY PROMISE OF HUNTERDON COUNTY

What is Family Promise? It is a partnership of congregations within a community, helping families who are facing homelessness. It offers an opportunity for volunteers of all faiths to reduce homelessness and transform lives." <http://familypromisehc.org/>

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church has been involved with Family Promise as a supporting congregation to Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Pittstown (BPC) since early 2012. Members of our church community volunteer to spend time at BPC during host weeks when families stay there. Except for overnight shifts, most are only 2-3 hours, standing by to help if families need assistance during their stay. We have a core group of folks who volunteer and we would really like to expand that group. Won't you please look in your heart and see if you can find a few hours to spare helping a potentially homeless family trying to find a way to stay afloat? If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact Angela at Angela@familypromisehc.org or call 908.782.2490

Upcoming events:

Box City

Please register your youth group and families. Box City is a one-of-a-kind event that raises awareness about homelessness. Our goal this year is to raise \$30,000. We're hoping that you will commit to helping us continue this critically important work by participating in Box City.



STRIKE OUT HUNGER SOFTBALL GAME

This year's annual softball game between the Milford Mayhem and the Frenchtown Frenzy to benefit the food pantries of Frenchtown and Milford has been expanded to a tournament this year! Mark your calendars for Strike Out Hunger NJ Softball Tournament on May 4th at Riegel Ridge Community Center in Holland Township. Teams from Holland, Clinton, Flemington and Alexandria will join in with the Mayhem and the Frenzy -and all to benefit the food pantries. We need players and we need volunteers to help collect the food donations! Please see the website for more details: www.StrikeOutHungerNJ.org or contact

Presbyterian Church of Milford

70 Bridge St, Milford, NJ 08848

(908) 995-2481 or StrikeOutHungerNJ@gmail.com

SUPER SENIOR PROGRAM

Frenchtown Community Service and Outreach - Senior Lunch and Learn program.

11:30 -12:30pm - NIA class Moving to Healing (no impact aerobics)

12:30pm-1 pm - Brown Bag lunch option

1:00pm-2pm - speaker or craft

Schedule:

4-9 Jenn Salt with SNAP-ED “Cooking Healthy!” Lunch provided!

4-16 Embodied Wisdom Circle for Women with Autumn! (description on back!)

4-23 Jenn Salt from SNAP-ED “Cooking Healthy”- Lunch provided!

4-30 Craft Time and “How to be a Good Role Model” with Penni!

5-7 Spring Plantings with Penni and The Value of Positive Grand parenting!

5-14 Jenn Salt from SNAP-ED “Cooking Healthy!”- Lunch provided!

5-21 Embodied Wisdom Circle for Women with Autumn! - meditation

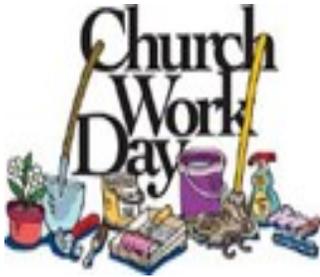
5-28 Jenn Salt from SNAP-ED “Cooking Healthy”- lunch provided

6-4 Jewelry Making and “The Family Dinner Table” with Penni!

6-11 Jenn Salt from SNAP-ED “Cooking Healthy”- Lunch provided!

If you have any questions please call the church office at 908-996-2227 or Penni at Harvest Family Success Center at 908-237-0465.





SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

Save the Date! The church will be having a spring clean up day April 13th from 8a-12pm. Most of the work will be outside cleaning up the gardens and spreading mulch, but there will be clean up inside too! The more the merrier, even if you can only come for part of the time. Contact Paul Pfisterer at 610-294-9412 if you have any questions

MISSION POSSIBLE SUMMER TRIP



This year's mission trip will be in support of the Cumberland Neighborhood Housing Services in Cumberland, Maryland. The trip will run from July 28 - August 3, 2019. We will be volunteers with their NAILS program. From their website:

"NAILS" is not an acronym. It is the name of a Mission Program that utilizes donations of supplies and funds, as well as volunteer labor to repair and improve local homes so that homeowners can live comfortably and safely in their home for as long as possible. The program specifically emphasizes assisting those with mobility impairments and health and safety concerns, as well as those in financial or dire need."

Volunteers are requested to commit by the end of April. All questions can be directed to Peter Gordon at pmg012469@yahoo.com or 908-229-6835.



MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISING DINNER

We will be hosting a fundraiser dinner at the church all to support the Mission Trip this year. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 19th for a delicious smoked pork/pulled pork dinner! More details to follow, but please come and bring your friends - it promises to be a meal you won't quickly forget. Anyone who would like to help, please be in touch with the Mission & Outreach elders, Maureen Breiner, Bill Penyak or Barbara Huey.

A Word from Your Stewardship Commission - *Powered by the Holy Spirit and YOU!*

Most people don't like to be asked for money. And honestly, most people don't like to do the asking. Right? But asking for money is not truly what Stewardship is about. Stewardship is about putting our resources to use in the manner God would have us use them – the manner in which they were meant to be used and will do the most good. Stewardship is about asking ourselves why we're doing what we're doing and committing to doing what God is calling us to do.

In the letter we sent out late last year asking for your 2019 pledge, we said: "We believe God is calling us [FPC] to do and be more financially, and through service, through prayer and worship, through outreach and Christian education." Each Sunday over the last few months, Pastor Nancy has taken a moment before the offering to give examples of how your offerings and gifts are making a difference. There are so many ways that your gifts make a difference: supporting our mission trips, sustaining our building for worship and the many people who use the facility during the week, funding Christen Education so our youth can learn that God loves them, providing a food pantry that serves the whole community, Monday "Lunch and Learn" session, our wonderful music program, just to name a few. It is through the grace of God, the power of the Holy Spirit and YOU that Frenchtown Presbyterian Church is able to be all of these things for our congregants and the community.

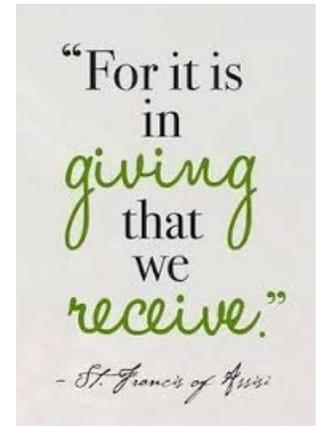
Please remember that it's never too late to make your pledge for 2019. Pledging helps us to know what dollars to expect during the year and allows us to make our working budget more accurate. Pledging is also between you and the Lord – making a commitment to His good works that are happening right here in Frenchtown.

Again, we thank you for your faithful support.

Sincerely and with God's grace,
Your Stewardship Commission,
Leslie Callanan, Pete Gordon, & Diane Reed

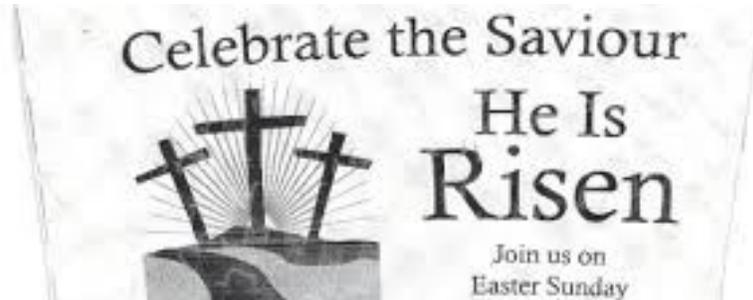
Per Capita for 2019

Each year, every church in every Presbytery around the country is asked to pay a Per Capita amount for each member listed on their roles. These funds are passed through from the local church to the local Presbytery – in our case that is the New Brunswick Presbytery. Some of the funds remain at the Presbytery while a portion is forwarded from there to the Synod and The General Assembly, the governing bodies of The Presbyterian Church. These funds are very important to the ministry and mission work of the Presbytery. The Per Capita amount for 2019 is \$34.50 per member, in total approximately \$8000 for FPC. For 2019, as in past years, we are asking each member to contribute their Per Capita amount so that the full Per Capita due to Presbytery remains outside of our working budget. Please make a note with your payment that the funds are designated as your Per Capita payment. Thank you, and thank you to those who have already made their payment for the current year!!



Frenchtown Presbyterian Church
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Frenchtown, NJ 08825

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FRENCHTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Regular Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. with Communion & 10:00 am with Kid's Communities

Easter Services

8am with Communion, 9:30am Family Service,

11am Celebration Service