



The Church Mouse

Newsletter

The First Presbyterian Church of Maywood
401 Maywood Ave, Maywood, NJ 07607

March 2020

March Message:

If you suffer from **FRIGGAT RISKAIDEK APHOBIA (a fear of Friday the 13th)** Cheer up! You only have 2 days to worry about in 2020. Those are Friday, March 13th and Friday, Nov. 13th. Also, FYI, every year has a least one Friday the 13th and no year has more than 3, and months that have a Friday the 13th begin on a Sunday. There, now you have it straight from the Farmer's Almanac. Don't worry anymore!

Sorcery, magic, fortune telling, foreboding predictions and the like are found in the Bible from Genesis to Revelations. So, all that "stuff" is not new and that's not we're about. **It's our belief in God, the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit that sets us apart from other religions and cults.** We live in an age of great mistrust, syncretism and yes, even heresy. Now is the time for us to renew our promises and commitment for our dedication to God.

We are reminded of this when Jesus says in Luke 9:23 "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me".

We are now in the period of Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. **Lent is a period of 40 weekdays and 6 Sundays during which the church remembers and responds to the atoning death of Christ.** Typically, people give up "something for Lent". I'm not suggesting that – unless you're giving up bad habits and attitudes and actions that would detract from the teachings of Christian beliefs.

Let's all resolve to do more for the **renewal of our Spirituality.** It is the ministry of God that we be guided by His Holy words and that our actions do speak louder than our words. In His name may our words and actions reflect His love for us. Let us rise to the occasion to be His true disciples and may God Bless Us All.

With love & prayers,

Betty



Isaiah 43:19

Upcoming Events:



This afternoon, **Sunday March 1st at 2:00pm**, there will be a showing of the Silent Movie "**HAPPY AT LAST**" at the **Maywood Library**. The movie was written, directed and filmed in Maywood, circa **1920**. The cast is made up of Maywood residents and the original project was created by, Reverend Wightman, the minister of **our** church at the time! So come out to the library and enjoy! The movie screening is made possible by **Betty Fetzer, town historian**.

Our Ash Wednesday **Fish and Chips Dinner** was a **great success!** Special thanks to **Bobbe Kutcha** who organized the event and special thanks to Adrienne Williams, Carol Dass and all of our dedicated members who volunteered to work in the kitchen and the dessert table and to all our dessert bakers! Special thanks to our **fellows** who **ran back and forth between kitchens** with the delicious fish and chips to be plated up! As always we had a nice group of dedicated **Girl Scouts** who served and bused the tables. Once again it went off without a hitch and is a great fundraiser for our church.



We have had a wonderful and generous response of new **Sock donations** for the **Don't Walk By project**. The outpouring of humility and caring is a testament to what we can accomplish when we think of those in need and how we can help. Our collection bin is filled to the top and all of the nice pairs of socks will be on their way to warm up someone's feet...and heart. Thanks to everyone who helped this worthy cause.

*We are pleased to welcome **Carl Pettengill** as a new **member** of our church this month.

Congratulations Carl! Additionally, we are pleased to reinstate **Adrienne Williams** and **Sheryl Heffernan-Winkler** as **Elders** of the Session.

* We are pleased that the **Giving Church** will be placing **Paper Towel Dispensers** in each of the **church rest rooms**. Thank you!

***Pastor Kevin Kwon** is working on a **game room** for the enjoyment of the **children** of our collective congregations! Anyone who would like to help or has any ideas please speak with him about this fun project!

***Pastor Kevin Kwon** is planning a **Fall 2020 Road Trip** to **Washington D.C.** to visit **The Museum of the Bible!** This is a museum in Washington D.C. which documents the narrative, history and impact of the Bible. We'll keep you posted as the plans unfold! The website for the Museum is **MuseumoftheBible.org**

March Preaching Schedule:

1st Pastor Betty Fetzer
8th Pastor Kevin Kwon
15th Pastor Kevin Kwon
22th Pastor Kevin Kwon
29th Pastor Kevin Kwon

*The next meeting of the Session will be on **March 16th at 10:00am.**

But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31





HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:
 *Nancy Gasper – March 3rd
 *Carl Pettengill - March 13th
 *Steve Alletti – March 30th

We wish you all a happy birthday and a wonderful year ahead!

March is the official **month** that all of our retail and food stores will **officially phase out the use of Plastic Shopping Bags**. It takes getting used to, but, let’s all try to remember to bring our own reusable shopping bags when out and about shopping in the stores. It is a **great achievement for the environment** so let’s all embrace it happily!

All communities are concerned about the **Coronavirus** and its spread across the globe and here in the United States. We’re told our risk right now is low, but it is best to be aware and to take precautions. It would seem that the basics would apply here. Don’t **shake too many hands**; don’t **kiss too many people**-difficult..I know ☺ **Don’t wipe your face or nose while out in public** or while **touching items in a store** or **pushing a shopping cart**. Do **sanitize your hands whenever possible** with public hand sanitizers and personal hand sanitizers and last but not least...**wash your hands with soap and hot water for 20 to 30 seconds frequently**. If using a public rest room wash your hands (when done!) and **turn the sink water on and off while holding a paper towel** and **open the door to exit while holding a paper towel**..Then throw the towel away (!) It would seem that the **surgical masks** people are clamoring to buy are **not too effective in preventing this virus from being contracted** and the surgical masks are best used by those that are already ill -- so they don’t spread flu germs or the **Coronavirus** germs to others. Oh yes...and prayer can help too...so let’s not only **pray for our safety during this epidemic**, but let’s **pray for those areas of the world that are already exposed and suffering**.



Happy Saint Patrick’s Day!