



# United Presbyterian Church

525 East Front Street • Plainfield, NJ 07060 • 908-756-2666 • <http://www.upcplainfield.org/>

**Where God is exalted, Everyone matters, and You belong!**

November 2019

11:00 a.m. Worship ~ 10:00 a.m. Adult Education

## *The Powerful Privilege of Position*

*By Elder Allegra Hoots*

**Great power** - the ability to improve or destroy people's lives - regardless of how attained, is a two-edged sword that unlocks privileges that can be used for good or evil. Nowhere is this theme more clearly delineated than in children's literature and politics.

On the one hand, those who possess great power illustrate how power increases one's capacity for doing good – the oppressed find relief, the poor have their needs met, and hope is restored. On the

***God's grace grants God's followers, through faith in Christ, the privilege of 24/7 access to God's infinite power (Romans 12: 3).***

other hand, influential people remind us that possessing significant influence can have a downside that results in self-absorption, paranoia, abuse, petty revenge, or the sad shame of publicly humiliating one's self by making foolish decisions and acting recklessly. Despite the possible adverse risks associated with the power to impact conditions, I suspect most of us would like to have the experience of tapping into that kind of influence, at least once.

Good news! Unlike the fictional characters in literature and elected officials whose powers are limited in time and scope, Christians have unlimited power because of their connection to the Almighty Living God. Scripture teaches - God's grace grants God's followers, through faith in Christ, the privilege of 24/7 access to God's infinite power (Romans 12: 3). Christians can use that power to effect positive change in themselves, their families, communities, nations, and the world (James 4: 2b – 3).

Do you want to witness sustainable positive change in your own life and for the common good? Get busy unleashing the power of faith to reach the heart of God. Then do your part to make things better, "faith without works is dead (James 2: 26b)" and watch the Lord change hearts, minds, and circumstances.

***To God, be the glory forever. Amen***

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" (Ephesians 1:7). "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:7-9).

**GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT**

## Gratitude

Dictionary Definition: the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.  
"she expressed her gratitude by saying a prayer of thanks for a blessed day "

### Timely Topic: Gratitude – What are you grateful for?



Gratitude, or the practice of acknowledging and reflecting on what one is thankful for, can be a wonderful way to engage in positive self-care. According to a recent article written by Derrick Carpenter, people who practice gratitude regularly have been found to “experience more positive emotions, feel more alive, sleep better, express more compassion and kindness, and even have stronger immune systems.” Carpenter also points out we don’t have to wait for big moments to practice gratitude, but even being grateful for smaller, everyday occurrences can be powerful too. Below are some tips he recommends to help begin cultivating and maintaining gratitude:

- **Practice Daily:** Make an effort to challenge yourself rather than always being thankful for the same, generic things. Being more specific about what you are grateful for and making efforts to go beyond what you might normally notice can make the practice more powerful.
- **Be Realistic:** Starting a new practice can be difficult. Start out slowly and be reasonable in planning. Carpenter suggests reminding yourself that practicing gratitude is hard work, but the benefits will be worth it.
- **Make it Fun:** If gratitude journaling isn’t for you or you have lost your steam for it, try another activity to practice gratitude. Have a gratitude jar to capture the moments you are grateful for to be opened and reviewed at a later date, write a thank you note to a co-worker, direct positive wishes/thoughts to someone, meditate on what you are grateful for, pray, identify three to five things you are grateful for each week.
- **Make it Social:** Carpenter suggests including others in your practice by sharing your gratitude with friends and loved ones or focusing your gratitude towards relationships.

Image <http://kimchilds.com/gratitude-is-a-life-changer/> Adapted from Carpenter, D., MAPP, *The Science Behind Gratitude (and How it Can Change Your Life)*.  
<https://www.happify.com/hd/the-science-behind-gratitude/>

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with **gratitude** in your hearts.

**Colossians 3:16**

#### Editors of the UPC Newsletter

Avril Lecky  
James Plummer  
George Hansen  
Pat Perry  
Hugh Lecky

#### Contributors:

Jeremy Campbell  
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#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Newsletter info: [upcnews525@gmail.com](mailto:upcnews525@gmail.com)

Church website: <http://upcplainfield.org>  
Telephone No.: (908) 756-2666

### Ministry

We have been blessed to have the Word delivered to us by a group of awesome ministers of God!  
Pastors for the months of November and December will be as follows:-

#### November

- 3 Rev. Jennie Salas
- 10 Chaplain Michelle Wildridge
- 17 Elder Allegra Hoots
- 24 Elder Allegra Hoots

#### December

- 1 Rev. Jennie Salas
- 6 Elder Allegra Hoots
- 15 Nancy Rivera-Laboy
- 22 Chaplain Michelle Wildridge
- 29 Pastor Michael Leach  
(Cathedral International)

#### Sundays 10am Adult Education

Topic:

***“Responding to God’s Grace”***

Topic runs through November 24

NOTE: No Adult class on Dec. 1st



#### Summer Worship

Sunday Service was held in the air conditioned Lind Room. Many members enjoyed the intimate setting and the sermons brought by our ministers.



#### Presbyterian Youth Triennium (Below) Theme “Here’s My Heart” July 16-20, 2019

UPC’s youth: Neekah Hinds, Oladimeji Falowo and Mobalaji Falowo with Mrs. Patricia Dawson, their adult chaperone, joined others across the country at Purdue University for a life changing, life giving, faith growing experience! The picture below features some of the participants during an Elizabeth Presbytery presentation sharing their experience.



Above: With great gratitude and thanksgiving, Marcia Marsh Hinds presented **Elder Allegra Hoots** with a basket on behalf of UPC, the Worship Ministry team and the Board of Session. The basket was prepared by Liz Mangan.

*Thank you Elder Hoots  
for going above and beyond!*

### The Summer Cottage Meetings August 2019

were again held in the Chapel Lounge. Elder Al Tate led two Bible Study sessions which continued topics from the Summer Vacation Bible School. Mrs. Talena Hurst, a community activist, presented a thoroughly interesting information session on Autism. The final Cottage Meeting was a Session led update of the Pastor Search.

Subject matters are unlimited (community, spiritual, Christian, relationships, etc.)



### Masaya Shipment

PeaceWorks is a grassroots community organizations that work to overcome a history of poverty, violence against women and environmental destruction in Masaya, Nicaragua.

On October 12th Joanne Edwards, Ginni Hansen, Pat Perry, Gail Stokes and Sue Terry (listed alphabetically) joined the Peace Works team to prepare for the biannual shipment to Masaya Nicaragua.

The group started with prayer as they always do. There were presenters who shared and reminded others about the mission and its importance and impact of the efforts to aid Masaya, Nicaragua.

PeaceWorks is a N. J. Non-Profit Corporation and a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization and is registered with the New Jersey Office of Charities Registration.

### Church Administrators

**Director of Music:** Ronn Daniels  
**Executive Assistant:** Pat Perry  
**Sexton:** Sue Terry

### Session Members (Elders)

Al Tate (Clerk)  
Emory Dawson  
Patricia Dawson  
Avril Lecky  
Marcia Marsh-Hinds

Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-3pm



*For future meetings  
Do you have  
topic(s) or ideas  
that you would like  
discussed or  
shared?*

Share your thoughts with  
Pat Perry or Avril Lecky

### HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING October 2019

- Signage for the 525 campus has now been finalized with all occupants on the campus. The final package will now be prepared and presented to the signage company. Once the final proofs are received, installation will take place shortly thereafter
- A new Facebook page will be developed and should be available shortly.
- The search for a pastor to lead the pastoral search is underway and the names of candidates have been submitted to the Presbytery.



### BINGO NIGHT PRIZES

Boy Scout Troop 5 is running bingo night at **Arista Care at Norwood Terrace** the first Monday night of the month. They are looking for prizes for the residents. They can use toiletries, jewelry, lotions, shampoo, razors. Leave your donation in the church office.

### Board of Deacons

Helen Foerster - Moderator  
Maggie Anglin  
Daniel Bofah  
Thelma Fleming  
Kayode Falowo  
Virginia Hansen  
Neekah Hinds (in training)  
Desirae Hemans (in training)  
Tania Hemans (in training)

To contact the deacons for assistance  
Call the church office at 908-756-2666

Welcome to  
**Sydney Marie Valinski,**

daughter of Stephen and Regina Valinski. Sydney presented herself on September 6, 2019 at 9:32 a.m. She was 9 lbs and 21.75 inches long at birth.

Sydney is the second grandchild for George and Ginni Hansen and their first granddaughter. Connor welcomed his new cousin.



**Give to the Flower Ministry**

Thank you for your generous support of UPC's Flower Ministry.



With your donation of \$25 or more to the Flower Fund the Deacons will provide a beautiful floral arrangement for the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. After worship, the arrangement will also brighten the day of a member or friend of UPC who is unable to join us for worship.

Flowers may be made in honor or memory of a loved one. Honoree names will be listed in the church bulletin.

*You may complete the form below or add your information to the flower chart in the Narthex.*

*Blessings,  
Zorina Bowers, Deacon*

*Lift up your Prayers for*

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Carl Foerster  | Gail Stokes        |
| Helen Foerster | Izaiyah Stokes     |
| Barbara Hyney  | Jamie Sweeney      |
| BJ Klikus      | Osquit Vanderstoop |
| Frank Klikus   |                    |



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Call or visit our members**

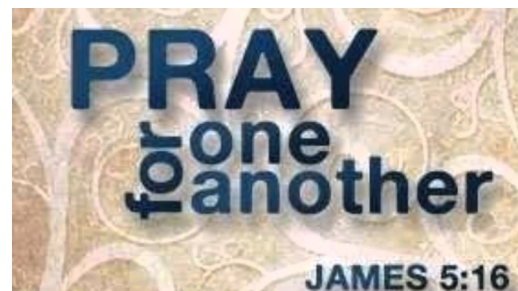


**November**

- 1 NNeoma Awobue
- 3 Sheila Neil
- 11 Michael Church
- 13 James Plummer
- 15 Dorothy Farmer
- 20 Kiwana Semambya
- 27 Carl Foerster

**December**

- 10 Macy Robinson
- 13 Javin Scott
- 16 Jonathan Williams
- Yetunde Falowo
- 17 Michelle Wildridge
- 18 Avril Lecky
- 22 Patricia Dawson
- 24 Pat Perry
- 26 Crystal Awobue
- 28 Ginni Hansen
- 29 Jennifer Youngsam



## Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

### Multiple Choice

## Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. Luke 19:5-6 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- \_\_\_ 1. Not tall  
A. fat B. short C. big D. loud
- \_\_\_ 2. A large plant with a trunk, branches, and leaves  
A. tree B. weed C. flower D. bush
- \_\_\_ 3. To move upward, especially by using the hands and feet  
A. climb B. run C. sit D. walk
- \_\_\_ 4. A person who disobeys God's laws; one who does wrong  
A. poor B. banker C. climb D. sinner
- \_\_\_ 5. A building in which people, usually a family, live  
A. tent B. house C. barn D. tree
- \_\_\_ 6. To get something for yourself in a dishonest way  
A. save B. buy C. climb D. cheat
- \_\_\_ 7. To have very little money  
A. rich B. cheat C. poor D. sinner
- \_\_\_ 8. To search for something or someone  
A. cheat B. climb C. seek D. lost
- \_\_\_ 9. To set free from sin; to rescue  
A. save B. lost C. poor D. cheat
- \_\_\_ 10. To be unable to find your way  
A. poor B. climb C. lost D. cheat

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### **Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man** (Song Lyrics)

"Zacchaeus was a wee little man,  
And a wee little man was he.  
He climbed up in a sycamore tree  
For the Lord he wanted to see.

And as the Savior passed that way  
He looked up in the tree and he said,  
'Zacchaeus you come down,  
For I'm going to your house today!  
For I'm going to your house today!

Zacchaeus was a wee little man,  
But a happy man was he,  
For he had seen the Lord that day  
And a happy man was he;  
And a very happy man was he."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zacchaeus\\_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zacchaeus_(song))

### *A Tree, A Tax Collector, and a Change of Heart*

Jesus loved all kinds of people, and often associated with those that others did not like so much. He changed lives by this love, and transformed how people felt and behaved. Jesus offered mercy and forgiveness, and because of that we should demonstrate unconditional love to one another.

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## November 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						7pm A/A
2	4	5	6	7	8	9
10am Adult Education 11am Worship - Communion Sunday School  7:30pm A/A	7:30pm Boy Scouts	11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	7pm A/A	10:00am Senior Exercise Class		7pm A/A
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10am Adult Education 11am Worship - Youth Sunday 12:30 Deacons Mtg  7:30pm A/A	7:30pm Boy Scouts	11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	7pm A/A	10am Senior Exercise Class		7pm A/A
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10am Adult Education 11am Worship  7:30pm A/A	7:30pm Boy Scouts	11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	7pm A/A	10am Senior Exercise Class 7:30pm Session Mtg		7pm A/A
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10am Adult Education 11am Worship Sunday School 7:30pm A/A	7:30pm Boy Scouts	11:30am Seniors Exercise Class 7pm Cottage Mtg	7pm A/A	10am Senior Exercise Class		7pm A/A

The calendar reflects regularly occurring events and subject to change. Check with the Church Office for changes

### Committee Meetings (unless stated otherwise):

Communion & Deacon Sunday — 1st Sunday Monthly

Youth Sunday — 2nd Sunday monthly

Dedication Sunday — 4th Sunday Monthly

2nd Sunday following Worship: Deacons Meeting

3rd Thursday: 7:30pm Session Meeting

**If you would like to be a member on any committee or help with any project, call the Church Office at 908-756-2666.**

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## December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 11am Worship - Communion Sunday	2	3 11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	4 7pm A/A	5 10:00am Seniors Exercise Class	6 Dreamhouse Theater play	7 7pm A/A  Dreamhouse Theater play
8 10am Adult Education 11am Worship - Youth Sunday 12:30 Deacons Mtg	9	10 11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	11 7pm A/A	12 10:00am Seniors Exercise Class	13	1421 7pm A/A
15 10am Adult Education 11am Worship  7:30pm A/A	16	17 11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	18 7pm A/A	19 10:00am Seniors Exercise Class 7:30pm Session Mtg	20	7pm A/A
22 10am Adult Education 11am Worship  7:30pm A/A	23	24 11:30am Seniors Exercise Class	25 7pm A/A	26 10:00am Seniors Exercise Class	27	28 7pm A/A
29 10am Adult Education 11am Worship  7:30pm A/A	30	31				

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*We learn and grow together as a Church, as a people.*



Have you considered working with United Presbyterian Church in its efforts?

Do you see areas in our communities where we may become beacons of light? How can you help to shed light to a dark area—Learn about our ministries

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We are a community of people called into being and empowered by the Holy Spirit to study, share and serve together. We believe the Scriptures to be the witness of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ. We are aided in our understanding of the Scriptures by the book of Confession. We are a dynamic group of Christians, seeking to expand our fellowship through nurture and outreach.

**Administration Ministry**

The Administration ministry consists of various teams to include stewardship, finance, building and grounds and personnel. This team works together to manage the operation of the building and its congregants.

**Adult Education**

facilitate the spiritual growth or discipleship of believers into Christ-likeness. Reading and learning from scriptures; discuss it's place in today's world and our communities.

**Board of Deacons**

Deacons are ministers elected and installed by the Session who ministers to those in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any in distress in accordance with the scriptural duties of the office and assumes this responsibility through the nomination and election by the Session.

**Board of Session**

The body of the Church consisting of ruling elders duly installed by the Moderator or Pastor. Full administrative responsibility, spiritual and corporate is vested in the Session who may also be Trustees. The board of session nominates members to each of the ministries. Typically, meetings of the Session is closed to the congregation but United has opened its meetings to the congregation.

**Children/Youth Ministry**

Working with your children and youth to build spiritual foundations and meaningful relationships with others.

**Choir Ministry**

Harmonizing and sharing your voice and talents with the Church team on Sundays and when needed for special events. No experience necessary.

**Fellowship Ministry**

sharing of what we have in common, relating with one another in fellowship – unity – love based on who we are in Christ.

**Outreach Ministry**

Supports local programs for children, youth, senior citizens and other groups as needed; supports local, national and foreign missions.

**Worship Ministry**

Lead and assist the Pastor and congregation in structured corporate worship on Sundays and other events, and to encourage the Church towards and model for them a lifestyle of sincere worship that is consistent every day of the week.

Fold here to mail

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