

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!

II:00 a.m. Worship

March 2021- Newsletter

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS MARCH 14TH

PASTOR'S MESSAGE ~ Pastor Allegra Hoots ~



Dear Friends,

Here we are a mere sixty-six days after Advent, the festive time in the church calendar that culminates with the commemora-

tion of Jesus' birth, entering the second week of Lent, one of the most solemn times of the liturgical year.

In contrast to the hopeful spirit of Advent, Lent is a reflective time of repentance and spiritual renewal. The first day of the season, Ash Wednesday, intentionally calls attention to mortality, not optimism and joy. During the Lenten journey, with grateful hearts, Christians meditate on Jesus's teachings and sufferings that concluded with his crucifixion for the world's sins. Unlike the cheerfulness exhibited through Christmas plays and Christmas music that tells of the Savior's birth, during Lent, the stations of the cross retell the sad story of Jesus' unjust suffering and death.

Lent reminds us that the baby Jesus, whose birth we celebrated on December 25, is the mature young man, fully human and fully divine, who withstood ridicule, an unfair trial, and conviction, and who was executed without uttering a mumbling word against his attackers.

Advent is marked by joyfulness. Lent is characterized by an acute sadness stemming from an awareness of the agony Jesus suffered on humanity's behalf. That knowledge grieves us because we know and agree with the words of Isaiah 53:5, "He [Jesus] was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds, we are healed."

We shed tears mingled with sadness and gratefulness because we know Jesus' afflictions should have been ours. We know we can never repay God's compassion and limitless love shown through the Lord Jesus Christ, nor does God expect that of us. Instead, God calls us to righteous living that includes acknowledging God's grace and doing good deeds to help bring God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Good deeds involve practicing mercy by forgiving those who harm us, as Jesus forgave his tormentors. God also calls us to share our good fortune with those needier than we are and help those who cannot help themselves (Isaiah 58: 6-7).

So, as we journey through Lent, let us honor God by praying for God's Holy Spirit to empower us to live the words of Micah 6:6-8, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good and what does the Lord require of you? Love and practice compassion diligently and walk unassumingly with God." Also, let us remember the words of Ecclesiastes 12:13, the way to show gratitude to God is to reverence God and obey God's commandments.

Contd. On Page 3

Stay safe * Mask up * Spread out

Sunday Worship Pastor Allegra Hoots 11:00am Livestream on YouTube* ~~~~ Sunday Fellowship 2:00 - 3:00pm via ZOOM			p		J	anuar Week	ading & Discussion ry 21st for 13 weeks ly on Thursdays @ 0pm via ZOOM <i>The book</i> "In His Steps"	
COD CONN		N	OR TELEPHONE,	n Saturday TS ARE VIR GO TO THE	⁷ at 12:00] TUAL CHURCH'	ES—J pm	OIN US	
		Important Dates	<u>http://www.</u> Brief Ove	rview of Sign			2021 Date	
Season		Ash Wednesday			day of reflection and repent-			
		Palm Sunday					Sunday, March 28, 2021	
of		Holy Week	The week leading up	o to Easter			March 28 - April 3, 2021	
-			Commemorates the	foot washing a	and Last Supp	per of	Thursday, April 1, 2021	
of Len	t			foot washing a Apostles				
-	t	Maundy Thursday	Commemorates the Jesus Christ with the Commemorates the	foot washing a Apostles crucifixion of J	esus and his	death		
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Coronavirus/COVID-19 Resources for Congregations and Members or https://www.pcusa.org/covid19/



Pastor's Message

Contd. From Page 1

What are God's commandments? Jesus said the two greatest commandments love God and love our neighbors, encompass all the other commandments. Coupled with the mandates denoted in the Scriptures cited from Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, and Micah, we have a clear picture of how to observe Lent in ways that honor God and do not leave us guilt-ridden from knowing Jesus suffered in our place.

Brothers and sisters, may God bless us to keep a Holy Lent so that when the season is over, we are more Christ-centered than ever, and our Lenten journey will not have been in vain. Moreover, even as we travel through Lent, let us remember that the triumph of Resurrection Sunday eclipses Good Friday's sorrow.

Peace and blessings,

Allegra S. Hoots, Transitional Pastor



Not attending Church in a very long time or going to church for the first time, can be an anxiety provoking thing. So can talking about your faith, or inviting a friend. Jesus calls us to invite others into a relationship with Him. We have the ability to offer others the opportunity for others to grow in faith and have a relationship with Jesus.

It's possible that your friend, acquaintance, or colleague may not be ready for a Sunday morning experience. Consider inviting them to a Bible Study, Prayer meeting or a service opportunity.

Stretch your wings and invite your family and friends!

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March 28th, 2021 This begins Holy Week which leads up to Easter on April 4th

Palm Sunday is a Christian holiday that occurs on the Sunday before Easter each year. This celebration commemorates Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem for the Jewish holiday of Passover. Jesus entered the city knowing He would be tried and crucified and welcomed His fate

to rise from the grave and save us from sin! Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the remembrance of Jesus' last days to the cross. On Palm Sunday, Christian churches often give the congregation palm branches to re-create the celebration of Christ's final arrival.

Jesus rode a young donkey into the city of Jerusalem and was greeted by a large crowd with palm branches and people shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David," "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord," "Blessed is the king of Israel!" and other expressions of praise. The people put their coats and palm branches on the ground as Jesus passed by.

Why did people lay their coats and palm branches on the ground?

Laying their coats and palm branches on the ground was a symbolic way to treat Jesus as their king. When a king or conquering ruler entered a city, people would create a carpet by putting their coats and branches on the ground to welcome them. Even today we might use the expression, "rolling out the red carpet" to welcome a celebrity or an important guest.

What is the significance of Jesus riding on the donkey?

Conquering kings typically rode in chariots or on horseback, so it is significant that Jesus rode on a donkey. Jesus wasn't an ordinary King with a kingdom. Jesus rode on a donkey to fulfill a prophecy about the Messiah. The Gospel writers record Jesus' specific instructions to his disciples to go to a village where they would find a donkey with her colt beside her. They were told to untie both animals and bring them to Jesus.

What does Hosanna mean, especially during Palm Sunday?

Hosanna means "Please Save Us." Mark 11:9 records the people as saying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Why was Jesus called the Son of David?

Jesus was not the Son of David but a descendant of King David and a rightful ruler based on a promise God had made to David in Psalm 132:11-12.

The History of Palm Sunday: Historical celebration of Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday, as the Sunday before Easter was called in the Catholic, Episcopalian, and Anglican churches, can be traced back over 1600 years. "The observance of Palm Sunday in Jerusalem was witnessed by the pilgrim Egeria in about 381-384. During this observance there was a procession of people down the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem. The people waved branches of palms or olive trees as they walked."

Orthodox Church Traditions: In the Orthodox Church Palm Sunday is a continuation of the celebration of Lazarus' resurrection. Palm Sunday is one of the great feasts of the Orthodox Church. Russian Orthodox churches give out willow branches because palm branches were not historically available. **Catholic Church Traditions:** In a Catholic service, the palm branches are treated as holy because they were blessed by the priest. They are not to be thrown away but instead are collected and incinerated to make the ashes used in the Ash Wednesday service.

(https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/debbie-mcdaniel/5-things-about-palm-sunday-that-remind-us-christ-is-king.html)(https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-palm-sunday-bible-story-and-meaning-today.html)

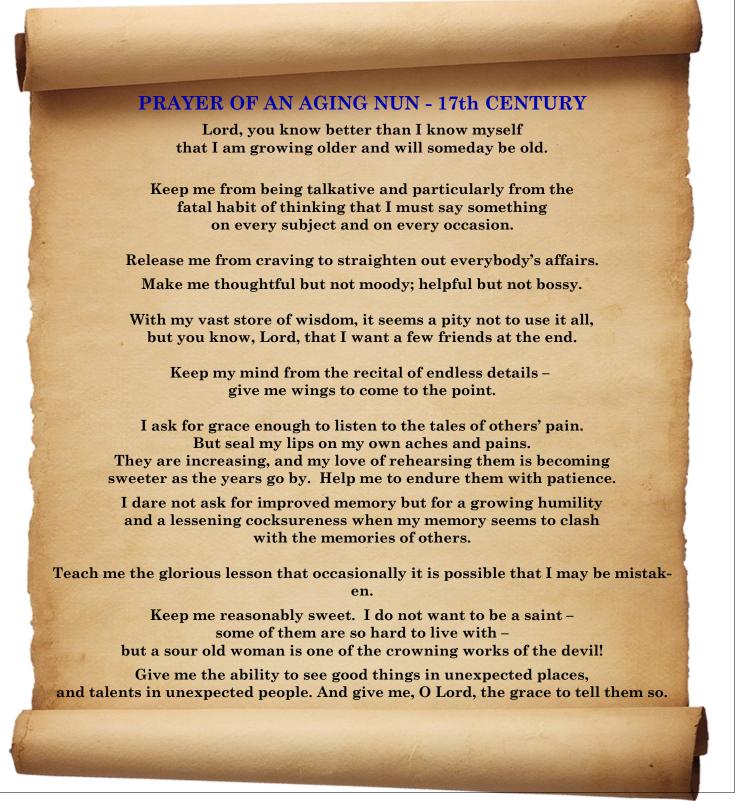


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NOTE: The prayer below "Prayer of an Aging Nun," are inspirational words meant to be read over and over again and definitely shared. My cousin found this handwritten poem among my aunt's possessions. My aunt, who was a 'treasure' herself, recently passed away at the age of 97. I also believe she modeled herself after this prayer.

We searched the internet which she didn't use, and found the poem. The author is unknown.





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To my dear Church Family,

Chuck and I want to thank *vou for vour love, pravers,* phone calls, flowers, get well and sympathy cards, and the

wonderful meals. We felt very loved and cared for. *My family appreciates everything you have done.*

We might be a small congregation but mighty in our faith, hope, and love. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart.

> Yours in Christ, Helen Foerster and Family



~ March 5 ~

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration • observed on the first Friday in March to which all people are welcome.
- It brings women of different races, cultures and • traditions together in fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.
- Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm • that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world.
- The motto of World Day of Prayer is "Informed . Prayer and Prayerful Action."





To bless the Church with your tithes and offering you may:

- 1. Drop it off at the church office
- 2. Mail your check (not cash) to the church
- 3. Log in to https://bit.ly/30yj1J6 or
- 4. Go to the UPC website homepage and click on the "Give Now" button

~ Thank you ~

International Women's Day (IWD)

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

IWD has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people. Today, IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. IWD is not country, group or organization specific.

The campaign theme for 2021 is 'Choose To Challenge'. A challenged world is an alert world. And from challenge comes change.

International Women's Day (IWD) is one of the most important days of the year to:

- celebrate women's achievements
- raise awareness about women's equality

lobby for accelerated gender parity fundraise for female-focused charities

Purple, green and white are the colors of International Women's Day. Purple signifies justice and dignity. Green symbolizes hope. White represents purity, albeit a controversial concept. The colors originated from the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in the UK in 1908.

https://wdp-usa.org/

https://www.internationalwomensday.com/About

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Winter 2021



TIMELESS TREASURES

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Winter is a starkly beautiful season.With frosty mornings, bright, crisp days and powdery snow.



A Winter's portrait, so bountiful, Nature's gift indeed... Though lurking are the lifeless flowers Returned to earth as seed. All sacred gifts sent unto us Are made by God's own hands -And always, they are precious ones To love just as He plans! While lilies in the valley rest, And clad are crystal trees... A lifeless day revives the soul Through snowflakes on a breeze. These heavenly troves to come our way, So beautiful, big or small... Will touch our lives through each new day -God's gifts... they're best of all! Dianne Cogar

"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again."

- Lewis Carroll-

The fruitfulness of spring often depends on the preparation of *winter*, so don't despise the spiritual winters God brings you through.

Author, Unknown



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Prayers for Healing

Remember our sisters and brothers listed below and call them if you are able to. Let us know if there are members who are not on this list.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that You would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Emory Dawson Helen Foerster O'Harold Hoots BJ Klikus Frank Klikus Jack Perry Marianna Perry Pat Perry Gail Stokes Izaiyah Stokes

Jamie Sweeney



March

- 1 Desirae Hemans
- 6 George Hansen
- 14 Helena Pfeifer
- 16 Wanda Breitenbach
- 17 Rev. Dottie Morris
- 21 Tom Robinson
- 24 Alaric Tate

April

- 4 Karen Edmonds
- 5 Ebere Awobue Zorina Bowers
- 18 Jean Scott Mark Mettle
- 20 Kevin Scott Ronn Daniels

NOTE

Because we are not able to meet in the Church building, donations received for flowers will be used when we are able to congregate again.

Give to the 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

Name:_____

Email:_____

Telephone: _____

Amount:

In Memory of: _____

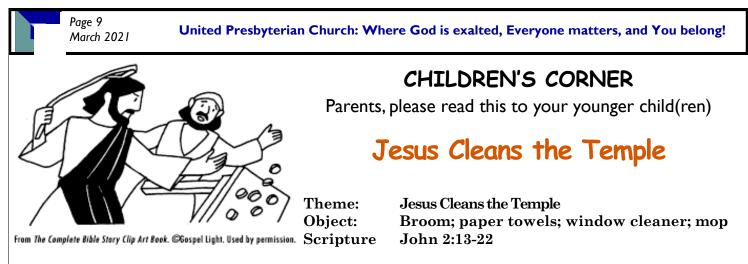
Thank you for your generous support of UPC's Flower Ministry

Board of Deacons

Address: _____



Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer. Hebrews 10:24-25 GNB



Mops, brooms, and window cleaner...what do we use these things for? (Pause.) We use them when we clean houses. Do you ever help your parents clean your house? (Pause.)

Let's see how good you are at pretending to clean. When I hold up the broom, stand up and pretend to be sweeping the floor. (Demonstrate the motion.) When I hold up the paper towels and window spray, pretend to spray and scrub a window. (Demonstrate the motion.) When I hold up the mop, stay seated and pretend to use a mop in circles to clean the floor. (Demonstrate the motion.)

Hold up each item several times, sometimes repeating the same item twice in a row. Play until kids get tired.

How do you know it's time to clean house? Here are some signs that will let you know.

It's time to clean house when your feet stick to the floor when you walk through the kitchen.

- It's time to clean house when your mother can't find you when she comes into your room to wake you up in the morning.
- It's time to clean house when the kids in the neighborhood use their fingers to write "wash me" in the dirt on your windows.

It's time to clean house when there are more dishes in the kitchen sink than there are in the cabinets.

It's time to clean house when you have enough dust bunnies under your bed to start a bunny farm.

I think you get the idea! Today we're going to learn about a time Jesus did some house cleaning. It was time for the annual Passover celebration, so Jesus traveled to Jerusalem. When He went to the temple, He couldn't believe what He saw. People were selling cattle, sheep, and doves to be used as sacrifices in the temple. Some men were even charging people to change their money so they could pay their temple taxes. It looked more like a flea market than a place to worship God.

Jesus was so angry that He made a whip from rope, and drove the cattle, sheep, and those who were selling them out of the temple. He also turned over the money changers' tables. To the ones who were selling the doves, He said, "Get out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!." Jesus did some serious house cleaning that day!

As we think about Jesus cleansing the temple, we can also be reminded that there is some other cleaning that needs to be done. The Bible tells us that we are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in us (1 Corinthians. 3:16). This season of Lent is a good time for us to think about how our hearts might need cleansing.

God, help us to remember that we are Your temple and that Your Spirit lives in us. Help us to keep our lives clean and useful for service to You. In Jesus' name, amen.



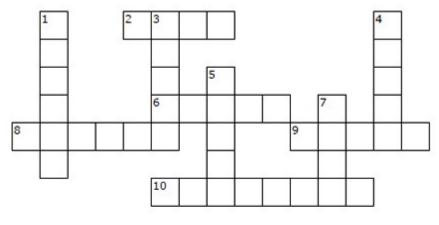
CHILDREN'S CORNER

Cleaning House

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)

Based on John 2:13-16 (NIV)





ACROSS

- 2. A strip of leather or cord fastened to a handle
- 6. An animal raised for its wool
- A building dedicated to the worship of God
- Coins or bills used to pay for something
- A Jewish holiday celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt

DOWN

- 1. A place where people gather to buy and sell things
- 3. A building where a family lives
- A piece of furniture with a smooth, flat surface and four legs
- 5 The Son of God
- 7. A small, wild pigeon

WHIP	MARKET	PASSOVER	SHEEP	TEMPLE
HOUSE	TABLE	MONEY	JESUS	DOVE

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

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March 2021

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2021 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT Never too Late!

Your annual Per Capita is \$45.00 and is shared as follows: General Assembly \$8.98, The Synod of the Northeast \$4.10, The Presbytery of Elizabeth \$31.92. Per Capita is a member assessment used to fund the operating expenses of governing bodies. (Book of Order; G-9.0404 d).

Consider paying more than your share to help cover the cost of others who are unable to pay

Important: Deadline is the 20th of each month for the Newsletter. Leave your news in the Church Office or email it to upcnews525@gmail.com Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-3pm **Church Administrators Schedule of Pastor's Office Hours** Monday 12:00 – 4:00 pm **Pastor Allegra Hoots** Wednesday 8: 30 - 3:30 Director of Music: Mr. Ronn Daniels Sunday: 10:00 am-3:00 pm **Executive Assistant**: Ms. Pat Perry & Mr. DaVaughn Hoots (Temporary) Please call the Church Office for an Appointment Sexton: Ms. Sue Terry or to contact the Pastor **Session Members (Elders) Board of Deacons** Al Tate (Clerk) Helen Foerster - Moderator Emory Dawson Daniel Bofah Patricia Dawson Thelma Fleming Avril Lecky Virginia Hansen Marcia Marsh-Hinds Desirae Hemans (in training) Tania Hemans (in training) "Love each other with genuine affec-Maggie Anglin (Volunteer) Zorina Bowers (Volunteer) tion, and take delight in honoring each other." - Romans 12:10 To contact the deacons for assistance Call the church office at 908-756-2666 CONTACT INFORMATION Church Email: upcplainfield525@gmail.com Newsletter: upcnews525@gmail.com Church website: http://upcplainfield.org Telephone No.: (908) 756-2666 **Newsletter Editors Contributors**

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If you have information that you would like to share, send them to upcnews525@gmail.com

United Presbyterian Church

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The Season of March 2021 Lent							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	L THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies 7:00pm Book Read-	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	
				ing & Discussion— Zoom	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
11am Livestream Worship Service	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	
Communion Service	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY			7:00pm Book Read- ing & Discussion— Zoom		10:00am Administra- tion Meeting	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
11am Livestream Worship Service	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	
YOUTH SUNDAY DAYLIGNT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS			7:00pm Session Mtg	7:00pm Book Read- ing & Discussion— Zoom			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
11am Livestream Worship Service BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	
28	29	30	31				
11am Livestream Worship Service PALM SUNDAY HOLY WEEK BEGINS Annual Congregation- al Meeting	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies WEEK OF PRAYER ENDS	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies 7:00pm Bible Study —Zoom				
The calendar reflects regula	arly occurring events and	subject to change. Chec	k with the Church Offic	e for changes			
NOTE: CALENDAR EVENTS MAY CHANGE BASED ON THE STATES POLICY ON GROUP MEETING. CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.							

Communion & Deacon Sunday — Ist Sunday Monthly Youth Sunday—2nd Sunday monthly Dedication Sunday—4th Sunday Monthly Committee Meetings (unless stated otherwise):2nd Saturday @ 10:00am:Administration Meeting2nd Sunday following Worship:Deacons Meeting3rd Wednesday @ 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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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	k 1.
				1	2	3
				Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies	Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Studies
				MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	
1	5	6	7	8	9	10
11am Livestream Worship Service EASTER SUNDAY ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	Noon Day Prayer Christ Risen	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer	10:00am Administra- tion Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
11am Livestream Worship Service	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer 7:00pm Book Read- ing & Discussion— Zoom	Noon Day Prayer	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
I1am Livestream Norship Service	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer 7:00pm Session Mtg	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
11am Livestream Worship Service	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day Prayer	Noon Day	teluiA

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