



United Presbyterian

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

Worship Services: Sunday 11:00 am & Thursdays 7:30

February 2024 Newsletter

"Then, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins, and restore their land."

(2 Chronicles 7:14, NLT)

*Pastor's Message
Allegra Hoots, MDiv*



Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the holy and mighty name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer. As always, I trust that you are in good health, in high spirits, and continuing to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

As we prepare to enter the reflective Lenten Season, focusing on human mortality and God's great sacrificial love, it might be helpful to concentrate beforehand on a Scripture that helps prepare our hearts to enter the Season intentionally striving for spiritual growth. To that end, 2 Chronicles 7:14, a familiar passage cited above, seems an excellent place to begin.

2 Chronicles 7:14 reminds believers to seek an audience with God. Ecclesiastes 1:9 reminds readers that life is a cycle and that what has always been and will continue includes the need for God to intervene in human affairs. Therefore, I invite you to join me daily from the time you receive this letter until Ash Wednesday, February 14, in contemplating and applying 2 Chronicles 7:14 to our daily lives.

One way to get started is outlined below. Break the verse into steps for easy personal application. Ask, "How can I apply this Scripture to my life?"

Step 1 – Humble yourself - Acknowledge that God alone is your help, ask God to intervene in your life and on your behalf, and trust God to respond to your request. (Psalm 121: 1-2)

Step 2 – Pray - Constantly pray and meditate on the word. Asking, "How does 2 Chronicles 7:14 apply to my life - the condition of my heart and my circumstances?" (Philippians 4: 6-7)

Step 3- Seek God's face - Ache for and strive to have an audience with the only authentic, wise, and living God (Jeremiah 29:13). Call on God, voice your deepest concerns, and believe that God hears and will help because God cares about you. (1 Peter 5:7).

Step 4 – Stop intentionally violating God's will - Yearn to know and do God's will. Love your neighbor as yourself. Seek to embrace the Beatitudes. Pray fervently to be led by the Holy Spirit and for spiritual strength to reject evil and do good. Hunger and thirst for righteousness. (Matthew 5:6)

Step 5 – Believe that you have what you ask for when what you ask for is in accordance with God's will, as revealed in Scripture. (2 Thessalonians 1: 11)

In addition to meditating daily on 2 Chronicles 7:14, you are welcome to observe a holy Lent with the United Presbyterian Church Plainfield. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14 (Valentine's Day). However, the UPC Lenten study starts on Sunday, February 11, three days before Ash Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom and will end on Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday). Give Up Something Bad for Lent, by James W. Moore, is the devotional book we will use to guide our study.

In whatever way you observe Lent, may the Holy Spirit lead you into all truth and grant you the grace to reach the heart of God. I pray in the mighty and holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace, love, and blessings,

Pastor Allegra

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON & ONLINE
Church Office: Tele: 908-756-2666

Sunday Worship Service

Pastor Allegra Hoots
11:00am

In the Sanctuary & Via YouTube
(<https://bit.ly/3jyypg>)

Contemporary Worship Service

Thursdays @ 7:30pm—Via YouTube*
<https://bit.ly/3J7whly>



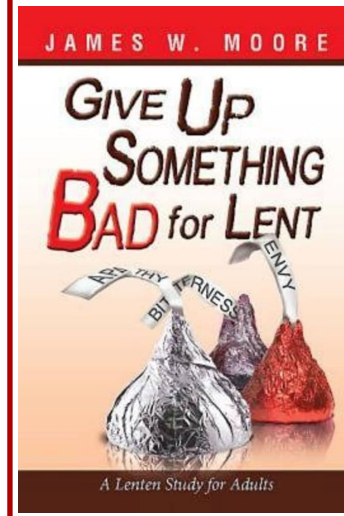
Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 14th @ 5:00pm in the Sanctuary

LENT: Feb 14, 2024 – Mar 28, 2024

Daily Devotional

Daily @ 6:00am to 6:15am—Via Zoom
(<https://bit.ly/40BeoBK>)



Give Up Something Bad for Lent: A Lenten Study for Adults

Author:
James W. Moore

Join Our Lenten Study

When: Sundays
Time: 7:30pm
Starting: February 11th
Via: Zoom
(<https://bit.ly/40BeoBK>)



Sundays @ 10:00 am

Children and Young Adults —The Hansen Room
(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Adults (weekly) —The Lind Room

Parents, consider dropping your children off and then joining the adult group for interesting studies and conversations.

Black History Month

Upcoming Events

See calendars for more activities and events

February			March		
Date	Time	Event	Date	Time	Event
4	11:00am	Communion Service & Agape Meal	8		International Women's Day
11	7:30pm	Lenten Studies Begin	9	10:00am	Administration Committee Meeting
		Transfiguration of our Lord	17		St. Patrick's Day
13		Shrove Tuesday	19		First day of Spring
14	5:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)	20		Session Meeting
19		Presidents Day	24		Palm Sunday
21	7:30pm	Session Meeting	28		Maudy Thursday
			29		Good Friday
			31		Easter Sunday

FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS: TO CONNECT BY COMPUTER OR TELEPHONE, GO TO THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION:
<http://www.upcplainfield.org/>

ASH WEDNESDAY—Feb. 14th

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. This presents an interesting opportunity for Christians to reflect on God's love during this somber day of reflection.



Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days (or 40 days excluding Sundays) before Easter Sunday. Lent is a time of preparation for Easter marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration.

The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection. The Lenten season culminates with Holy Week, which includes Palm Sunday and the joyous celebration of Easter.

Meaning of Ash Wednesday

The name "Ash Wednesday" is derived from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of believers in the shape of a cross. The ashes are typically obtained by burning the palms blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday. The imposition of ashes is often accompanied by the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," emphasizing mortality and the need for repentance.

Ash Wednesday serves as a time for Christians to reflect on their lives, confess their sins, seek repentance, and prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter. It is a solemn day that signifies humility, mortality, and the acknowledgment of human frailty. Many Christians also engage in fasting and self-denial during the Lenten season as a way of drawing closer to God.

Also called the Day of Ashes, Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession. This usually happens during a unique Ash Wednesday service.

What Happens on Ash Wednesday?

During worship service, the priest or pastor usually shares a penitential and reflective sermon. The mood is solemn - many services will have long periods of silence, and worshipers will often leave the service in silence.

Usually, there is a responsive passage of Scripture, usually centered around confession, read aloud about the leader and congregation. Attendees will experience communal confession and moments where they are prompted to confess sins silently and pray.

After all of this, the congregation will be invited to receive the ashes on their foreheads. Usually, the priest or pastor will dip his finger into the ashes, spread them in a cross pattern on the forehead, and say, "From dust you came and to dust you will return."

The ashes of this holiday symbolize two main things: death and repentance. "Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash."

"When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy".

With this focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy to the message of Easter and Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-ash-wednesday-why-do-christians-celebrate-it.html#catholics_protestants



Feb. 13th

Shrove Tuesday, also called Pancake Day, Pancake Tuesday, Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras (which is French for "Fat Tuesday"), is the last day of feasting before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), observed in many Christian countries through participating in confession and absolution, the ritual burning of the previous year's Holy Week palms, finalizing one's Lenten sacrifice, as well as eating pancakes and other sweets.

Shrove Tuesday is celebrated exactly 47 days before Easter Sunday and in many Christian countries through participating in confession and absolution who "make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they especially need to ask God's help in dealing with." The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word shrive, meaning "absolve".

As this is the last day of the Christian liturgical season historically known as Shrovetide, before the penitential season of Lent, related popular practices, such as indulging in food that one might give up as their Lenten sacrifice for the upcoming forty days, are associated with Shrove Tuesday celebrations. Many Christian congregations observe the day through eating pancakes or, more specifically, the holding of pancake breakfasts, as well as the ringing of church bells to remind people to repent of their sins before the start of Lent. On Shrove Tuesday, churches also burn the palms distributed during the previous year's Palm Sunday liturgies to make the ashes used during the services held on the very next day, Ash Wednesday.

In some Christian countries, especially those where the day is called Mardi Gras or a translation thereof, it is a carnival day, the last day of "fat eating" or "gorging" before the fasting period of Lent.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrove_Tuesday

The Transfiguration of the Lord



Mark 9:2-8 : After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

The Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday is an appropriate time to celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, because this event marked a transition in Jesus’ ministry in which he “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51), where he would die. In Jesus’ transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages. Jesus is the One who fulfilled the Law given through Moses, the one dreamed of by the prophets, of whom Elijah is the greatest.

In celebrating this event, we rejoice in the divine majesty of Christ, whose glory shone even when confronted with the cross. ***It is given us for our journey through Lent toward the agony of the cross and the victory of the empty tomb. We celebrate this mystery in order that our faith may be renewed. We are transformed into the new being in Christ as we join Christ in his death and resurrection in Lent and Easter.***

Transfiguration Sunday celebrates the glorious revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ’s manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Jesus’ radiant appearance on the mountaintop evokes the devouring fire of the glory of the LORD at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24.17). Here, as at Jesus’ baptism, God claims him as a beloved child, in whom God is well pleased.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/transfiguration-lord/>



THE LOVE FEAST or AGAPE MEAL Feb. 4th - The Lind Room

The simple act of sitting together to share a common meal recalls the Agape meal of the early church, with its emphasis on hospitality to all who gather.

The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowship) enjoyed by the family of Christ.

While many denominations recognize the benefits to the community of church suppers and other opportunities for food and fellowship, the Moravians demonstrate with their practice of Lovefeast a way to integrate meal and liturgy in a service of worship engag-

ing all the senses. The Love Feast, precisely because it is not sacramental in nature, has the added advantage of being a liturgical meal in which

*****all may participate freely.*****

The Psalmist invites us to “taste and see that the Lord is good.” (Psalm 34:8) In the Lovefeast hymns, participants taste sweet words of praise and thanksgiving, and in the Lovefeast meal itself they taste the sweet buns and pungent coffee, filling mouths and hearts with gratefulness for the Lord’s bounty. The table of fellowship invites all to delight in God’s graciousness.

Although its origins in the early church are closely interconnected with the origins of the Lord’s Supper, the two services became quite distinct and should not be confused with each other. While the Lord’s Supper has been practically universal among Christians throughout church history, the Love Feast has appeared only at certain times and among certain denominations.

https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/moravian-pres-cov.pdf / <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/book-of-worship/the-love-feast>



"Language shapes our behavior and each word we use is imbued with multitudes of personal meaning. The right words spoken in the right way can bring us love, money and respect. While the wrong words—or even the right words spoken in the wrong way—can lead a country to war.

Tony Robbins



FEBRUARY 19, 2024

Presidents' Day, is celebrated to honor all those who served as presidents of the United States and, since 1879, has been the federal holiday honoring Founding Father George Washington, who led the Continental Army to victory in the American Revolutionary War, presided at the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and was the first U.S. president.

The day is an official state holiday in most states, Depending upon the specific law, the state holiday may officially celebrate Washington alone, Washington and Abraham Lincoln, or some other combination of U.S. presidents (such as Washington and Thomas Jefferson, who was born in April).

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732 (N.S.). Washington's Birthday was celebrated on this date from 1879 until 1970. To give federal employees a three-day weekend, in 1968 the Uniform Monday Holiday Act moved it to the third Monday in February. The day soon be-

came known as Presidents(') Day (the presence and placement of the apostrophe varies) and provides an occasion to remember all the U.S. presidents, to honor Abraham Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays together, or any single president of choice.

As many states and cities followed suit, some states that had been celebrating Lincoln's birthday on February 12 combined the two into Presidents Day. Lincoln led the nation through the American Civil War, preserved the Union, abolished slavery, bolstered the federal government, and modernized the U.S. economy.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidents%27_Day

Prayer is communicating with God. That can mean thanking Him, praising Him, confessing something you've done wrong or expressing a need you have. It can mean talking to Him as you would to a friend.

And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret.

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.



CONGRATS!

George and Ginni Hansen have become grandparents for the fifth time. Their granddaughter, **Celeste Virginia Valinski**, was born on Tuesday, January 23rd at 1:02 AM to their son Stephen and daughter-in-law Regina.



L-R: Granddaughter Sydney, Stephen, Regina & grandson Robert

James 1:22-27

²² Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice.

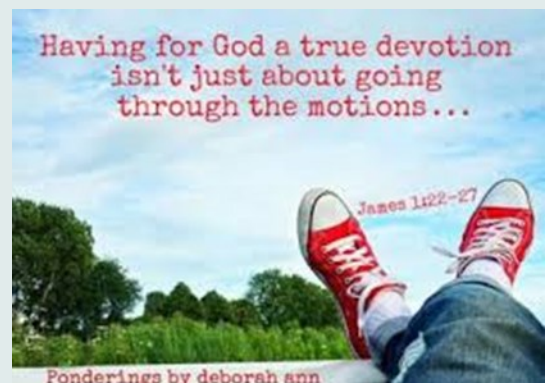
²³ If you listen to the word, but do not put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves as they are.

²⁴ They take a good look at themselves and then go away and at once forget what they look like.

²⁵ But if you look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, and keep on paying attention to it and do not simply listen and then forget it, but put it into practice—you will be blessed by God in what you do.

²⁶ Do any of you think you are religious? If you do not control your tongue, your religion is worthless and you deceive yourself.

²⁷ What God the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world.



MAKING CONNECTIONS

Social connections are essential for physical & mental health by ANJALI RAMESHBABU

According to a growing number of studies, loneliness is becoming a global concern, impacting up to a third of the world's population. The feeling of loneliness comes from wanting social connection in one's life but not having it. Feeling socially connected means having relationships in our life we can rely on to give us a sense of belonging, share the good times and bad, and feel secure, loved, accepted and valued. We need human connection like we need clean air, running water and shelter.

While we live in a hyperconnected world, studies report that many people feel less connected on a personal level. So, what can we do to become more meaningfully connected with the people in our lives? The following steps may seem simple, but they can have a significant positive impact.

Swap phones for people

We tend to spend too much time on our phones. So, put it down and look up and around you. Pay attention to things outside your device. Take a moment and think. Is there at least one person in your life you haven't talked to in a while? Pick up your phone only if that person is not within walking distance, and use it to either make a plan to get together or have a proper conversation with that person.



Do mundane things together

Running errands can feel like a drag, but getting groceries, cooking, doing the dishes, picking up mail or cleaning the house can feel quicker when you're chatting with someone. If you live with family or roommates, make mundane activities more fun by doing them together. Make it a priority to have meals together, at least once a day. (If you live in a busy environment and doing errands is your chance to get a break from a chaotic day, that's OK too.)

Plan a daily walk with a companion

Research consistently shows that people who walk regularly are more likely to be healthy, feel well emotionally and even experience more creativity. Walking with a companion means sharing these positive effects with another person. New to the area or living alone? Make plans for a daily walk with a neighbor.



Get involved in your community

Getting involved in your community doesn't have to mean organizing a fundraiser or neighborhood meetings. You can engage in simple yet practical ways to stay connected. For example, when you're outside, make eye contact with a passerby and say hello. Take a minute to check in with your neighbor if you are both in your front yards or driveways. Getting to know people in your area will help you stay connected in your neighborhood and develop a greater sense of belonging.

Work is your community too

We spend many of our waking hours working, so why not build relationships with co-workers who share your hobbies and interests? Stay connected



in healthy ways by making plans to hike, visit the farmers market or share a meal together.

If you're a manager or business owner, allow time for your employees to connect with their co-workers every day and maybe even join in, but without monitoring or micromanaging. This will help your employees feel less stressed, more connected and engaged at work, and more productive. No matter who we are, where we come from or what our daily experiences are, we all benefit from positive human connection. Find small yet meaningful ways to stay connected.

https://www.costcoconnection.com/january_2024/page5.html

~ VOLUNTEERING AT YOUR CHURCH IS A GREAT THING ~
IN DOING THIS, YOU ARE WORKING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Ronn Daniels - You Will be Missed

With humble acceptance of God's will, we announce the passing of Mr. Ronn Daniels, He served as the Music Director here at United Presbyterian Church for many years. The funeral service will be held here at:

United Presbyterian Church
525 East Front St.
Plainfield, NJ

February 10th, 2024
10:00am - Viewing
10:30am - Service

Reception immediately follows.
Graveside service (burial) will be on Monday, February 12th,, 10:00am at Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains, NJ.

REMEMBER ME

*Don't remember me with sadness,
Don't remember me with tears,
Remember all the laughter,
We've shared throughout the years.*

*Now I am contented
That my life it was worthwhile,
Knowing as I passed along the way
I made somebody smile.*

*When you are walking down the street
And you've got me on your mind,
I'm walking in your footsteps
Only half a step behind.
So please don't be unhappy
Just because I'm out of sight,
Remember that I'm with you
Each morning, noon and night.*



In Memory of Stanton White

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Stanton White, which occurred at sunrise on January 28th. He was the beloved husband of Morena and father to Rena, William and Juliana and friend to many here at United. Stanton and Morena were members of their local Presbyterian Church in Guyana before joining United Presbyterian Church. They later moved to Pennsylvania. The Church Office will be provided the funeral arrangements when it becomes available.



Father God, Your Word says the prayer of faith shall heal the sick. We come to You today in faith asking that you heal us from every sickness, disease, and illness. We receive our healing by faith. In Jesus name amen.

NOTE

Remember our brothers and sisters listed below. Call or visit them if you are able to.

Leroy Anglin
Ronn Daniels
Emory Dawson
Helen Foerster
O'Harold Hoots
BJ Klikus
Frank Klikus
Liz Mangan
Vilvurn Marsh
Winnie Neal

Errol Neil
Bobett Neil
Sheila Neil
Yvonne Neil
Marianna Perry
Pat Perry
Brenda Rodgers
Gail Stokes
Izaiyah Stokes

Send your Prayer requests to the Church Office
You will be placed on our prayer list



May God fulfill your dreams and keep you happy

February

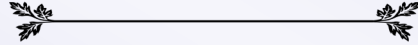
5 Tania Hemans
7 BJ Klikus
27 Kayode Falowo

March

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

Excerpts from worship services

James 2:28: Just as the body is dead without breath, faith is also dead without good works.



Walk away; walk with God and he will fight our battles.



Don't dwell on the negative. Focus on the positive.

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: _____

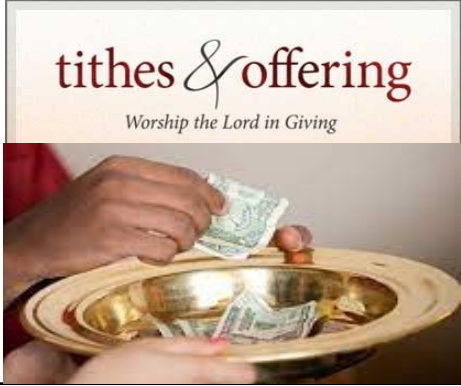
Address: _____

Amount: _____

In Memory of: _____

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

Board of Deacons



THIS IS STEWARDSHIP!
Our gift, no matter how small, goes a very long way to support the church and the community.

- 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/3oyj1J6> or
 4. Go to the UPC website homepage and click on the "Give Now" button
- ~ Thank you ~

2024 UPC's Liturgists

A liturgist assists the pastor in leading worship. They may lead congregational participation such as the Call to Worship and the Opening Prayer. Their role is outlined by the Pastor.

January	George Hansen
February	Bola Falowo
March	Al Tate
April	Jean Scott
May	Pat Dawson
June	Avril Lecky
July	Daniel Bofah
August	JoAnn Edwards
September	Marcia Marsh Hinds
October	Sue Terry
November	Liz Mangan
December	Yetunde Falowo

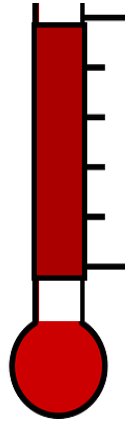
United Presbyterian Church BUILDING FUND

As of 2/1/2024 the total collected is \$13,543



The UPC administration committee wants to be certain all UPC members and friends are aware of the establishment of the Building Fund at UPC to which contributions can be made to help defray the cost of the maintenance of the facility which ensures the health and safety of the occupants of our facility.

13,543



This building fund originated in 2021. Our facility was built in 1952 and, despite our faithful maintenance efforts, the facility is showing the signs of 71 years of wear and tear. The performance of our investment accounts, collection of rental fees and the faithful and generous giving our members and friends have provided the funds for our maintenance.

Our maintenance costs, however, are mounting to a point where we need to continue our appeal to the generosity of our church community and friends. Whether a UPC member or a friend of United, we ask that you prayerfully consider contributing to the Building Fund, where 100% of your contribution will be dedicated to defraying the cost of accomplishing United's goal of ensuring a healthy and safe facility.

Contributions to the Building Fund are welcome anytime and may be accomplished in the following ways:

1. Sending a check, made out to the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield, to Treasurer, 525 East Front Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060 with "Building Fund" written in the memo section of the check.

OR

2. Contributions can be made through the "Give Now" button located at the UPC website at www.upcplainfield.org Enter your contribution to the "General Fund Regular Offering". In the notes section indicate "Building Fund".

Wanda Breitenbach
 Administration Committee, Acting Chair

Have you considered a bequest to United Presbyterian Church?

Over 60% of U.S. adults have no estate planning documents in place. It has been reported that every week about \$100 million is left by people who die without a will.

Your greatest gift is often your legacy gift. People who have been blessed by the United Presbyterian Church have left legacy gifts through their estate. A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. As you create or update your will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance, you can specify that a gift goes to United Presbyterian Church.



What is a religious bequest?

A bequest is a gift of part of your estate made in your Will. Your estate is the total of all your assets and possessions when you pass away. By making a bequest, you will provide support for many ministries provided by the Church. Your gift may be for general Church use or for a specific purpose within the Church.



Benefits of a charitable bequest

- A bequest gift can lower your taxable estate
- Based on your net worth, you may be able to **reduce the amount of taxes** that your family is obligated to pay

Leave a lasting legacy gift to Focus on the Family, yielding eternal impact

Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of many individuals.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/11/67percent-of-americans-have-no-estate-plan-heres-how-to-get-started-on-one.html>

City of Plainfield—Recreation Events

For More information and activities go to: <https://bit.ly/3yvXfxK>



Mon/Wed/Fri	9am	Walk with Ease Hub Stine Sports Complex, 1410 Randolph Road
Saturday, Feb. 3rd	12-2:00pm	Celebrating Black Family: Past, Present & Future Plainfield Public Library—800 Park Ave, ALD Room Dr. Tawanda Hubbard. Dr Monique Swift & Prof Bill Davis
Saturday, Feb 10th	12:00pm	Story Time with Former Councilman Barry Goode Plainfield Public Library—800 Park Ave, ALD Room
Registration Deadline March 15th		Baseball—Tee-Ball & Minor Leaguers: Sign-up NOW https://register.commjnitypass.net/plainfield ; Info 908-753-3097
Saturdays	9-9:45am	Yoga For Adults Performing Arts Center—724 Park Ave.—For more info: Plfld Rec Dept @ 908-753-3097
Tues & Thurs	11am-12pm	Seniors on the Move FREE Performing Arts Center—724 Park Ave.—For more info: Plfld Rec Dept @ 908-753-3097
Tuesdays	6-7pm	Adult Zumba Performing Arts Center—724 Park Ave.—For more info: Plfld Rec Dept @ 908-753-3097

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Parents, please read this to your younger child(ren)

We Pray to God



Theme: Jesus spent time in prayer and so should we.

Object: An item that must be recharged with use, such as a tablet or phone

Scripture: Mark 1:29-39

Do you have a/an [name of item]? I have a/an [name of item] here. It seems like a lot of people have these. As you probably know, it has a built-in battery, and it has to be recharged. You can't do much with it if the battery runs out. What do you have that needs to be recharged? Pause for answers.

People need to recharge their batteries, too. We work and play hard, and if we don't get enough rest, pretty soon we just don't have enough energy to do the things we need to do. (Pretend to "power down" and need to be recharged.)

Even Jesus had to recharge. Today we'll learn how He did that. As you listen to what happened, use your arm to tell how "charged" you think Jesus' "battery" is. Have kids reach their hand up as high as they can, to show a full battery. They'll move it up or down, depending on if the battery is being used or recharged. Lowering it all the way to the floor indicates the battery life is completely out. Remind kids to continue indicating the battery charge throughout.

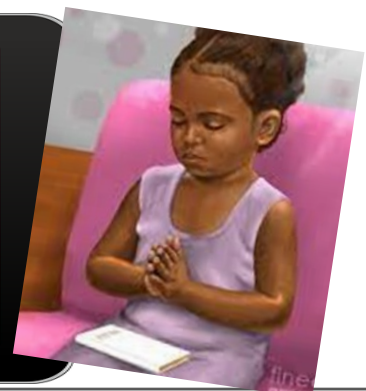
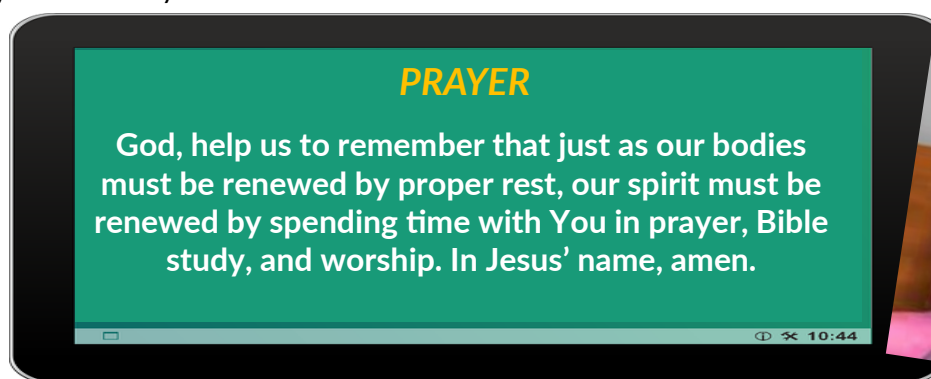
Jesus traveled all around Galilee preaching, driving out demons, and healing people. One day, Jesus and some of His disciples went to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was there in bed with a fever. Jesus took her by the hand and helped her up. All at once, the fever left her and she began to prepare a meal for everyone.

That evening many people came to Jesus to be healed of all sorts of diseases. The whole town gathered at the door to watch. That must've been a long day.

Jesus got up before sunrise the next morning and found a quiet place to pray and recharge His spirit. When Simon and the others woke up, they found Him and said, "Everyone is looking for You."

Jesus had recharged His batteries and was ready to go. He said to them, "Let's go to other towns and villages so that I can preach to them, too. That's what I came to do." So they traveled throughout the region of Galilee, and Jesus preached in the synagogues and healed people and cast out demons. Comment on where kids are showing Jesus' battery to be.

If Jesus thought it was important for Him to recharge His spiritual battery, it's important for us to do that, too. That's why we should spend time in prayer every day and come to church each week. Invite kids to show where they feel their spiritual battery is right now, and invite them to briefly tell a person beside them why their battery is where it is.



Jesus Ministers in Galilee

So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. Mark 1:39

Based on Mark 1:29-39



V S H Z X U C N P N O D N J S
I I Z J C R R T Q E M K K J I
L M V J E H D B E D O C G F C
L O I O X P N E Q B S P I C V
A N P P S I C K R L Y D L Z Y
G L R J Z W E W K R N X J E N
E V E N I N G H O A A A G O G
S C A V D Z X O H R G N H Y U
X Q C O X A D E L Q O D E W J
H T H R Q T O W N C G R L S A
U E R J K Q T I E O U E P U M
T J A H E R Y U P T E W E N E
F O D L L S D E M O N S D S S
M H H B E I U H S M I U F E J
R N Z E A D P S F E V E R T A

FEVER
SUNSET
JOHN
HEALED

SIMON
VILLAGES
SYNAGOGUE
TOWN

HAND
PREACH
PEOPLE
EVENING

DOOR
BED
JESUS
JAMES

ANDREW
DEMONS
HELPED
SICK

Jesus Praying in the Garden – Coloring Page



Crawford/Walton Memorial Fund

The Board of Deacons of the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield is accepting donations for the Crawford/Walton Memorial Fund for higher Education.

This fund is dedicated to scholarships for any member pursuing an undergraduate degree or working in an undergraduate program which will lead to a specific degree. It may also be used by anyone pursuing a seminary degree.

Donations are accepted and welcomed to this fund at any time and may be accomplished in the following ways:

1. Sending a check, made out to the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield, to Treasurer, 525 East Front Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060 with "Crawford/Walton Memorial Fund" written in the memo section of the check.

~ OR ~

2. Contributions can be made through the "Give Now" button located at the UPC website at www.upcplainfield.org Enter your contribution to the "General Fund Regular Offering". In the notes section indicate "Crawford/Walton Memorial Fund".

Invest in our children's future

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

Have information that you would like to share? A poem? A prayer request? A new child/grandchild?
SEE BELOW

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

Church Administrators

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday to Friday
9:00am to 1:00pm

Please call the Church Office for an Appointment or to contact the Pastor

Pastor Allegra Hoots

Treasurer: Ms. Wanda Breitenbach
Operations Coordinator: Davaughn Hoots
Custodian: Mr. Charles Rivers

Session Members

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

Board of Deacons

Helen Foerster - Moderator	Desirae Hemans
Daniel Bofah	Tania Hemans
Thelma Fleming	Maggie Anglin
Virginia Hansen	Zorina Bowers

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

Newsletter

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United Presbyterian Church

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

February 2024

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024
The African Diaspora and the Arts

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Computer Logon Info — Sunday Worship: https://bit.ly/3jyylpg Daily Devotion: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK Noonday Prayer: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK Contemporary Service: https://bit.ly/3J7whly				1	2	3
				6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream 10am Sunday Sch/Adult Ed Communion Sunday AGAPE MEAL	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream 10am Sunday Sch/Adult Ed YOUTH SUNDAY LENTEN STUDY BEGINS TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion SHROVE TUESDAY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion ASH WEDNESDAY 5:00pm (Sanctuary)	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream 10am Sunday Sch/Adult Ed Dedication Sunday	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion PRESIDENTS DAY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Session Mtg	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
25	26	27	28	29		
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship		

NOTE:

CALENDAR EVENTS MAY CHANGE BASED ON THE STATES POLICY ON GROUP MEETING. THE CALENDAR REFLECTS REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE. **CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.**

Communion & Deacon Sunday — 1st Sunday Monthly

Youth Sunday — 2nd Sunday monthly

Dedication Sunday — 4th Sunday Monthly

Committee Meetings (unless stated otherwise):

2nd Saturday @ 10:00am: Administration Meeting

3rd 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.

United Presbyterian Church

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

March 2024

		TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Computer Logon Info — Sunday Worship: https://bit.ly/3jyylpg Daily Devotion: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK Noonday Prayer: https://bit.ly/40BeoBK Contemporary Service: https://bit.ly/3J7whly			1	2
					6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Communion Service	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 10:00am Admin. Meeting
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Youth Sunday	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Joint Session & Deacon Mtg	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Dedication Sunday PALM SUNDAY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion
31 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Dedication Sunday EASTER SUNDAY	 HOLY WEEK			MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	EASTER EGG HUNT
Sun, Mar 24, 2024 – Sat, Mar 30, 2024						

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 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30pm: Session Meeting

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Fold here to mail



United Presbyterian Church
525 East Front Street
Plainfield, NJ 07060

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