

# 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!**

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

**March 2025 Newsletter**

## 1825 CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF SERVICE 2025

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the mighty and holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer. As always, I trust God this letter finds you basking in the joy of the Lord, which is our strength, and experiencing the peace of Christ that surpasses all human understanding.

As we embark on the sacred journey through the forty days of Lent, we are invited to reflect, repent, and renew our commitment to Christ. Lent offers a unique opportunity to cultivate our Christian character by committing daily to pray, read the Bible, engage in Christian fellowship, and fast.

Lent is a time to draw closer to God as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Resurrection or Easter Sunday. Lent commemorates the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness, overcoming temptation and strengthening His reliance on the Father (Matthew 4:1-11). During this period, we are called to emulate Christ's example by engaging in spiritual disciplines that deepen our faith and transform our lives.

Prayer is a vital discipline that connects us with God, allowing us to seek His guidance, express our gratitude, and intercede for others. As the Apostle Paul exhorts us, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Jesus emphasized the importance of persistent prayer in Luke 18:1. The verse states, "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." Let us dedicate time each day to commune with our Heavenly Father, bringing our joys, concerns, and desires before Him.

The study of Scripture is essential for spiritual growth, providing us with wisdom, encouragement, and instruction. The Psalmist declares, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). 2 Timothy 2:15 reads, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." These verses emphasize the importance of diligent study and accurately handling God's Word.

### MESSAGE

FROM OUR PASTOR

Allegra Hoots, MDIV

During Lent, let us immerse ourselves in God's Word, meditating on its truths and allowing His Word to shape our thoughts and actions. This year, we will use *Journey to the Cross: A 40-Day Lenten Devotional* by Paul David Tripp as our daily devotional guide. It will

help us focus our hearts and minds on the significance of Lent and strengthen our relationship with God.

Fellowship with other believers strengthens our faith and fosters a sense of community. The early Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers (Acts 2:42). As we journey through Lent, let us seek opportunities to gather with fellow believers, share our experiences, and support one another in our spiritual walk. Hebrews 10:25 further encourages believers to fellowship with each other. The passage reads, "Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." The Bible encourages believers to gather together regularly for fellowship and mutual encouragement.

Fasting is a powerful spiritual practice that helps us detach from worldly distractions and focus on God's presence. The prophet Daniel fasted from rich foods and drinks, consuming only vegetables and water to seek God's favor and understanding (Daniel 10:2-3). In Matthew 17:21, Jesus is reported to have said, "Some things come about only through fasting and prayer."

Fasting brings us closer to God and cultivates self-discipline and humility. Jesus teaches us, "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly, I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:16-18).

Cont'd on page 3

**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/3jyylpg>)

***Contemporary Worship Service***

Thursdays @ 7:30pm—Via YouTube\*

<https://bit.ly/3J7whly>



***Daily Devotional***

Mondays to Fridays @ 6:00am to 6:15am—Via Zoom

(<https://bit.ly/40BeoBK>)

***Sunday School  
Children & Adults***

Children: 1st & 3rd Sundays at 10am; 2nd Sunday at 11am

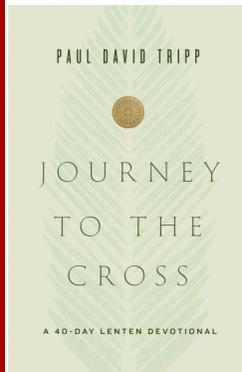
Middle School & High School: ] Rooms are on the  
Elementary School: ] Administration level



Adults meet each Sunday at 10am

Adults: Lind Room  
Theme: **'Claiming Identity: Struggle & Faith, How Identity is Formed, and Identity in Christ'**

- Call the Church Office for more info -
- Let us know if you need transportation -



Lenten Study begins on March 5th (Ash Wednesday). Our study will be from the book:

***Journey to the Cross:  
A 40-Day Lenten Devotional***  
Author—Paul David Tripp.

**LENT 2025 – WED, MAR 5 -THU, APR 17**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MAR 8**

**Upcoming Events**

See calendars for more activities and events

**March**

Date	Time	Event
2		Transfiguration of our Lord
4	6-10pm	Shrove Tuesday
5	7-8pm	<b>Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)</b> Lenten Season & Studies Begin
8		International Women's Day DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
17		St. Patrick's Day
19		Session Meeting

**April**

Date	Time	Event
11-17		Black Maternal Birthing Week
16	7:30pm	Session Meeting
17		<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
18	TBD	<b>Good Friday Service</b>
19		<b>Easter Egg Hunt</b>
20		<b>Easter Sunday</b>
		One Great Hour of Sharing
TBD	10:00am	Administration Meeting

**HOLY WEEK**

**FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS:**

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

*Pastor's Message*

Cont. from page 1

Fasting opens our hearts to spiritual renewal and transformation. It heightens our awareness of God's presence, increases our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, and aligns our will with His. By denying ourselves physical comforts, we create space for God to work in our lives, bringing healing, clarity, and strength.

As we journey through Lent, let us embrace these spiritual disciplines with fervor and dedication. May our hearts be purified, our faith be strengthened, and our love for God and one another be deepened.

I have included in this message a sample daily Lenten schedule to help us keep a holy Lent.

Peace, love, and blessings

*Pastor Allegra*

**A Sample Daily Lenten Schedule**

**Morning**

Prayer: Start the day with personal Prayer, seeking God's guidance and presence.  
Scripture Reading: Read a passage from the Bible to set a spiritual tone for the day.

**Noon**

Midday Prayer: Pause briefly, reflecting on the morning and asking for strength for the rest of the day.  
Partial Fast: Consider a simple meal or abstaining from certain foods as part of the fast.

**Evening:**

Prayer: Spend time in Prayer, giving thanks for the day and seeking God's blessings for the evening.  
Scripture Reading: Read another passage from the Bible, or reflect on a previously read Scripture, reflecting on its message and application.  
Corporate Bible Study: Commit to participating in a group Bible study session in person or online to deepen your understanding and fellowship with others.

**Throughout the Day**

Partial Fast: Maintain the practice of fasting, focusing on spiritual growth and discipline.  
Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, decide which consumables or meals to abstain from.



**Wednesday,  
March 5th  
7- to 8:00pm**

One thing we know for sure about spring is that April showers will bring May flowers. Though there are some important questions, like when exactly those flowers will bloom and when Easter and other important dates during Lent will fall. With all the festive family gatherings, Easter egg hunts, and Sunday feasts, each household finds its own way to commemorate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ during the beloved holiday of Easter.

But before the grand celebration, it's crucial to acknowledge another significant date: Ash Wednesday.

This sacred Wednesday marks the initiation of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter Sunday. Since the date varies each year, it's essential to be aware of its exact occurrence and how Christians spend the observance and why it's so special.

**What Is the Purpose of Ash Wednesday?**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Lent is a 40-day period of reflection and prayer leading up to Easter Sunday. It includes a 40-day fast with Sundays excluded (because they're already considered feast days). This day is for repentance of sins and reconciliation with God, as His followers are reminded of their human mortality and God's mercy towards them.

**Why Is It Called Ash Wednesday?**

Early Christians would begin a period of public penance for their sins on the first day of Lent. The practice originated with the ancient Jewish custom of penance and fasting, and writings from the 2nd-century church refer to ashes as a sign of penance and grief for sins committed. Penitents would wear ashes, symbolizing the dust from which God created humankind. This belief is represented in many Biblical passages such as Genesis 2:7, Genesis 3:19, Ecclesiastes 3:20. Ashes also remind Christians that God is merciful to those who ask forgiveness.

**How Do Christians Commemorate Ash Wednesday?**

Nowadays, Christians attend a religious service on Ash Wednesday to receive ashes on the forehead. The pastor applies the ashes, often in the sign of the cross, and usually says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes often are made from the palm branches of the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration and typically are worn all day as a reminder of the importance and solemnity of the occasion.

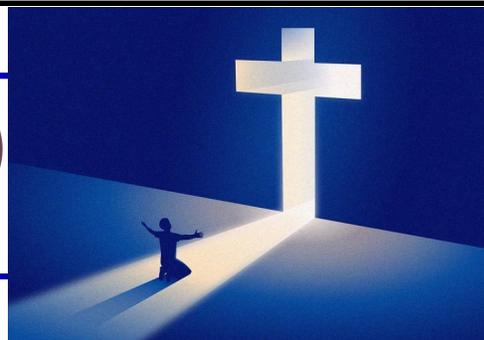
<https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/holidays-celebrations/a39179467/when-is-ash-wednesday/>

**Lenten Study:**

Following Ash Wednesday

**Daily at 7:30-8:30 pm except  
Wed. and Thurs 6:30-7:30 pm**

*Due to the diligence and hard work of Mr. George Hansen and Mr. Jim Plummer who researched, presented and archived our history, we are able to share with you, information about our Church's history. Thank you!*



## DID YOU KNOW?

A new *First Presbyterian Church* of Plainfield was built in 1855\* as a simple white church, near the site of the present city hall. On June 6, 1888, the Session decided to call a Parish meeting for the purpose of building a **third new church** at 241 E. Front Street. Through much of the first half of the Twentieth Century, this church was a landmark in downtown Plainfield, and is the direct predecessor of today's church.

In 1945, following the end of World War II, the lack of sufficient space and the accommodation of a large Bible School (near 1,000 attending) was a matter of great concern, and plans were prepared for the construction of additional classrooms, a new Chapel and for the redecoration of the sanctuary of the E. Front Street church. The sanctuary was remodeled, but for various reasons the construction phase was not immediately undertaken.

"A brand new, a truly adequate and beautiful temple, for the worship of God and for the instruction of our children has risen on a most attractive site for First Presbyterian Church" stated Rev. Krohn in 1952, of the new and present church on the former Meade estate at 525 E. Front St. It is a Church of Beauty; A Church of Worship; A Church of Fellowship; A Church of Instruction; A Church of Service; A Church of Opportunity. The Church, built in English Manor architectural style has the original bell from the first church, ornate stained glass from the third building, and unique features to meet the needs of the church and the Plainfield community, such as a large Sanctuary and Chapel, an auditorium with a stage, numerous classrooms and a commercial kitchen.

Grant Avenue's history began when First Presbyterian initiated the formation of three churches!

- Second Presbyterian (later became Crescent Avenue Presbyterian) in 1844.
- Warren Chapel (later became Watchung Avenue Presbyterian) in 1864.
- Hope Chapel (later became Grant Avenue Presbyterian Church).

In 1888 Hope Chapel is organized in the West End of Plainfield. These three important events led to the formation of Grant Avenue Presbyterian Church.

- 1893—Control of Hope Chapel is transferred to Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church.
- 1917—Land is purchased and on February 22, 1927, the cornerstone is laid for the Grant Ave. Presbyterian Church.
- First service at Grant Ave. Presbyterian Church is held on June 6, 1927 and on April 22, 1930, Grant Ave. was recognized as a Church within the Presbytery of Elizabeth, becoming independent of Crescent Ave.

On July 1, 1971, the merger of First Presbyterian Church and Grant Avenue Presbyterian Church becomes official and The United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield is BORN!!!

The United Presbyterian Church is a community of sisters and brothers from diverse backgrounds, that seek to provide a place where all are welcome and will find their setting at the table! Come, and you will find an atmosphere. *Where God is exalted, Everyone Matters, and YOU belong!*



\* See February 2025 newsletter for events from 1825-1855

Each time I read this, I hear the past chimes from the belfry



## Transfiguration of our Lord March 2, 2025



The word 'transfiguration' means **a change of form or appearance**. In this passage Jesus' appearance changes, so a glimpse is given of his full heavenly glory: "His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light". (Matthew 17:2 ESV)

This appearance was an affirmation of Jesus as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. The whole phenomenon of the transfiguration was an affirmation of Jesus as the Messiah.

For a moment the glass, through which only half-truth could be seen, was removed, and the ultimate truth was revealed. It is true that Jesus is the Son of God; it is true that Jesus is the anointed one, the Messiah; and it is true that whoever believes in Jesus shall not perish but have eternal life.

Transfiguration is observed on the last Sunday of Epiphany. In the Three-Year Lectionary, Transfiguration is on March 2, 2025, which is only three days before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

On this day, the church recalls the event of Christ's Transfiguration on the mountain, revealing His divine nature to Peter, James and John before He set His face toward Jerusalem, where He would accomplish the world's salvation by His death and resurrection for us.

Where Transfiguration is the last service before Ash Wednesday, many congregations say farewell to the word "Alleluia." As Judah would not sing their songs in the land of exile (Psalm 137), so the church sets aside our simplest word of joy and praise — until we take it up again in triumph on Easter: "Alleluia! Christ is risen; He is risen indeed, Alleluia!"

### Liturgical color for Transfiguration

White, the color of light, purity and completeness, adorns the altar to commemorate the Transfiguration of Our Lord. On the mountain, Christ's face and clothes shone white as light (Matt. 17:2). In His light we see light and by Him, "though our sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's incarnation and His resurrection, His Gospel and its message to all nations are cause for our rejoicing. His purity before His Father becomes our purity. White reinforces this message of joy.

<https://bit.ly/4gWKnUA> / <https://bit.ly/4h1Bd9n>

*Lord, create in me a clean heart. Life is so complicated, busy and chaotic. But amid the mess, please give me the strength and courage to see people, places, things and events through Your lens. Please guide me and change me, oh God. Please give me Your heart for others and the world around me. Each and every day, help me to see, through Your eyes, the truth of what is, what has been and what will one day come. In the name of Your son Jesus I pray, Amen.*

<https://bit.ly/4km0C0b>

**Shrove Tuesday**—also known as Fat Tuesday or Pancake Day—is the day before Ash Wednesday and the official countdown to Lent. It’s the last day before the season of fasting and reflection begins, so traditionally, Christians have used it as a time to confess sins, seek absolution, and prepare their hearts for Lent. Some churches also burn the previous year’s Palm Sunday branches to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

But let’s be real—what most people associate with Shrove Tuesday is food, and for good reason! Historically, this was the last chance to use up rich ingredients like eggs, butter, and sugar before fasting, which is why pancakes became the star of the day. Even today, many cultures celebrate with indulgent meals before stepping into the Lenten season.

Because Easter moves each year, so does Shrove Tuesday—it always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday. In 2025, it will be on March 4, but depending on the year, it can land anywhere between February 3 and March 9. Whether you observe it with pancakes, confession, or both, Shrove Tuesday is a meaningful (and delicious) way to prepare for Lent!

**Let's dive into the history and traditions of Shrove Tuesday.**

The roots of Fat Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras, trace back to ancient pagan celebrations focused on fertility and the arrival of spring. These festivities were characterized by unrestrained indulgences in various pleasures. As Christianity gained influence in Rome, there was a concerted effort to Christianize existing pagan traditions, including the incorporation of Fat Tuesday into Christian practices. This transition aimed to channel the exuberance of the pagan festivals towards preparing for the solemn period of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday and entails fasting and spiritual reflection.

[https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-shrove-tuesday-meaning-and-holiday-date.html?gad\\_source=1&gclid=EAlaIqobChMImdj2z43iivMVMmBHAR3zKQOBEAMYASAAEgI\\_e\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-shrove-tuesday-meaning-and-holiday-date.html?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIqobChMImdj2z43iivMVMmBHAR3zKQOBEAMYASAAEgI_e_D_BwE)



**Shrove Tuesday Prayer**

*God Our Father, As we prepare to begin Lent, help us to remember what today, Shrove Tuesday, is truly about.*

*Thank you that you Love all of us as your children and that through the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus, we can receive forgiveness for our sins. Help us to celebrate and live that message of forgiveness today by forgiving those who have sinned against you.*

*Lord, we know that you created the world and you created us. You created pancakes and you created our taste-buds too! Enable us to enjoy ‘pancake day’ in a spirit of celebration of the goodness of your creation. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March/April**

**Easter Celebration and Lenten Study**  
See page 2.

**Mothers Day—May 11th**

**Annual Flea Market—June 7th**

**Father’s Day —June 15th**

**Cottage Meetings- 4 Wednesdays in July**

Meetings and topics will depend on requests/ responses.

**UPC Anniversary Celebration—September 21st**

Special worship service and lunch.

**Health Fair—October 5th**

**Sight & Sound (TBD)**



## St. Patrick's Day

The feast day of the patron saint of Ireland,  
March 17, 2025



### Who was Saint Patrick?

Saint Patrick wasn't Irish – he was born in Britain near the end of the fourth century and was taken prisoner by Irish raiders when he was 16. He spent six years in captivity in Ireland, according to the History Channel, where he eventually became a devout Christian.

According to Patrick's writing, he believed God's voice spoke to him in a dream and told him to leave Ireland – and he escaped. Later, in another dream, he wrote that an angel had told him to return to Ireland as a missionary, and he became a priest after 15 years of study.

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While many believe St. Patrick was responsible for bringing Christianity to Ireland, it is reported that his mission was to minister to existing Irish Christians as well as convert non-Christians. He became a significant figure in Ireland in part because he chose to incorporate traditional Irish culture and ritual into his practice, like **merging the sun (an existing Irish symbol) with the traditional cross to create the famed Celtic cross.**

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### Why do we celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

Ireland and neighbors across the pond have commemorated Saint Patrick since the ninth or 10th century. St. Patrick was never canonized by the Catholic Church but has enjoyed longstanding historical popularity.

**Saint Patrick died on March 17, 461, which later became the day we celebrate him and the Irish.**

America's first St. Patrick's Day celebration was in 1600 in the Spanish colony of present-day St. Augustine, Florida.

The tale of Saint Patrick likely traveled from Ireland to the Americas in the 16th century by way of Richard Arthur, a priest in St. Augustine and an Irish soldier. Decades of growing Irish patriotism resulted in Irish Aid societies and annual parades of bagpipes and drums. They united to form one official New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1848.



Patrick's legacy continued in the U.S., particularly in areas with large groups of Irish immigrants. St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City is one of the most recognizable churches in the country and was "created to affirm the ascendance of religious freedom and tolerance," according to the Cathedral's site.

<https://bit.ly/3D9ITsd>

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## 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](http://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**



## History of Women's Day March 8th

*Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge gender equality. Collectively for #IWD2025 we can all **#AccelerateAction**.*

International Women's Day (IWD) has been around for over a hundred years, as have many of the issues still impacting women's advancement. Since 1911, IWD belongs to all who care about women's equality. Celebrate women's achievement. Raise awareness about discrimination. Take action to forge gender parity. All IWD activity is valid. That's what makes IWD so inclusive.

International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political.

Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike. The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point to build support for women's rights and participation in the political and economic arenas.

**We invite you to learn about the history of women's rights and the UN's contribution to the cause.**

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/womens-day/background>

### **STAY ALERT!**

*But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, Not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Watch out! Stay alert! You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all.:*

**Stay alert!**

Heaven and Earth by Will Willimon p.27

## **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.



***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>

**O Lord the oil of your healing flows through me like a living stream. I choose to bathe in these clear waters each day. I will keep my eyes on you, and trust in you that I will fully recover. I give you all that I am, and rest in your peace.**



**NOTE:**

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

- Emory Dawson
- Helen Foerster
- Amy Grier
- Laura Hady
- O'Harold Hoots
- Frank Klikus
- Liz Mangan
- 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.



**March**

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

**April**

- 5 Zorina Bowers
- 18 Jean Scott
- 20 Kevin Scott

***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  
*The Board of Deacons*

## tithes & offering

Worship the Lord in Giving



### 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 ~

### 2025 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	Al Tate
March	Daniel Bofah
April	Jean Scott
May	Tania Hemans
June	Avril Lecky
July	
August	
September	JoAnn Edwards
October	Marcia Marsh Hinds
November	Yetunde Falowo
December	

## United Presbyterian Church BUILDING FUND

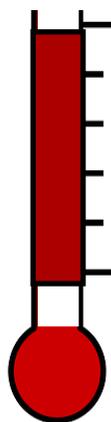
As of 3/1/2025 the total collected is \$14,128.82



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.

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 of our members and friends have provided the funds for our maintenance.

14,128



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](http://www.upcplainfield.org) Enter your contribution to the "General Fund Regular Offering". In the notes section indicate "Building Fund".

Administration Committee

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

### Into the Wilderness with Jesus

**Theme:** Preparing ourselves for following Christ

**Object:** No object is needed

**Scripture:** Children's Sermon: Into the Wilderness with Jesus  
(Mark 1:9-13)



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Do you remember the baptism of Jesus? Let's see how much we can remember about the baptism of Jesus.

Who baptized Jesus? (John)

Where was Jesus baptized? (Jordan River)

As Jesus came out of the water, what happened? (The Spirit descended like a dove and settled on him).

A voice was heard from heaven. What did it say? ("You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.")

Do you know what happened next? (Wait for an answer. They probably don't know.)

You know, a lot of people don't know what happened next, but our Bible lesson today tells us what happened next. The Bible tells us that immediately after Jesus was baptized, the Spirit led him out into the wilderness. What does that mean? A wilderness area is an area where there are no towns, no people, no roads, few trees or plants, and, in this particular case, it was very hot and dry. That doesn't sound like a very good place to be, does it? Well, it wasn't, but that's not all! The Bible tells us that Jesus was there for forty days and while he was there, he was tempted by Satan and was surrounded by wild animals but angels took care of him.

Why do you think Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan? He was led there by the Spirit so that He could be alone with God to think about his work and pray over his future plans. Through fasting and prayer, he prepared himself to travel the hard road that lay ahead. This was a time that Jesus had to endure before he could call his followers and begin his earthly ministry by calling his disciples to come and follow him.

March 9th 2025 is the first Sunday in the season of Lent. What is Lent? Lent is the forty days (not counting Sundays) leading up the celebration of Easter. It is a time when we pray and think about all that Jesus has done for us. Some people observe lent by giving up something that they like very much such as eating candy, playing video games, watching TV, or going to the movies. Others observe Lent by trying to concentrate on doing good for other people such as giving to the poor, visiting the sick, collecting canned goods for the Church food pantry, or doing chores for a neighbor. These are good things to do, but most of all, Lent is a time when we focus on the call of Jesus when he said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23) Just as Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry. Lent is a good time for us to draw closer to God and dedicate ourselves to following Jesus.



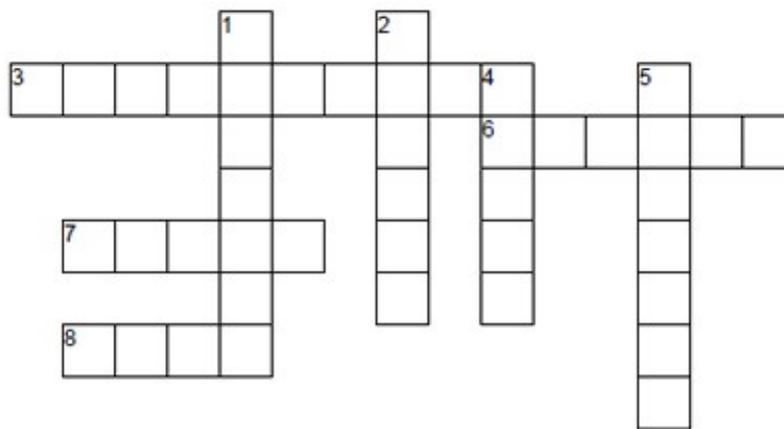
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*Heavenly Father, just as Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness to prepare for doing your work on earth, help us to use this special time of the year to prepare our hearts for serving you in our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

# Into the Wilderness with Jesus

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. Mark 1:12-13 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 1:12-15 (NIV)



## HORIZONTAL

3. A deserted area
6. Heavenly beings that protected Jesus in the wilderness.
7. The number that is ten more than thirty.
8. The opposite of bad.

## VERTICAL

1. Encouraged someone to do something even though it was wrong.
2. To turn away from sin.
4. The fallen angel who tempts someone to do wrong.
5. To accept something to be true.

WILDERNESS

REPENT

GOOD

BELIEVE

FORTY

SATAN

ANGELS

TEMPTED

## Temptation of Christ - Coloring Page



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Jesus is Tested in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11)



Courtesy of Star Fish Food Pantry and Plainfield Action Services – 908-753-3519



## PLAINFIELD COALITION OF EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS

### SOUP KITCHENS/ PREPARED FOOD

**St. Mary Church** – 516 West Sixth Street: Sundays 3:00 to 4:00 PM

**Grace's Kitchen** – 600 Cleveland Ave: Last 5 days of the month 11:30 to 1:00 PM

**Salvation Army** 615 Watchung Avenue: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 12:00-1:00 PM

**The Lord's Kitchen** 515 West 4th Street: Wednesday & Thursday 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

**Muslim Community Soup Kitchen** 321 Grant Avenue: Saturday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**Mt. Olive Baptist Church** 216 Liberty Street: 3rd Saturday 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**Crescent Ave Presbyterian Church** 716 Watchung Avenue: Tuesday at 11:30 AM

### FOOD PANTRIES

(non-perishable food- may include meat, bread & fresh vegetables)

**Covenant United Methodist Church** 631 East Front Street: Monday 3:00 - 5:00 PM

**The Salvation Army** 615 Watchung Avenue: Tuesday thru Thursday 9:30- 11:30AM

**SHEELD/Shiloh Food Pantry** 515 West 4th Street: 3rd & 4th Saturday 9:00AM - 12:00PM

**New Covenant Church** 225 East 7th Street: 1st & 3rd Saturday 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

& Farmers Market 1st Wednesday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Joanne Hollis Gardens** Community Center - 543 W. Third St:

3rd Thursday (10:00 - 4:00 PM) (lunch break 12 PM to 1 PM)

**Church of the Living God** 434 E. 4th Street: 3rd Saturday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Community Church of God** 417 West 6th Street: 3rd Saturday 8:30 - 10:30 AM

**El Centro Hispano Americano** 525 East Front Street: Tuesday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Bianca Flowers, Inc.** 145 Park Avenue: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10:00 AM - 12 Noon

**Greater Refuge Church of Christ** 600 Grant Avenue: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00 PM

**Plainfield YMCA Food Security Project** Lot 7 near Scott Drugs:

Second and Fourth Thursday - 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

**Crescent Ave Presbyterian Church** - Bag lunches every weekday, except Tuesdays  
from 10am - 10:30am

### Meals on Wheels

If you are in need of a home delivered meal and reside in Union County, you may be eligible if you meet the following criteria:

- 60 years or older -
- Unable to shop for yourself
- Unable to prepare a meal for yourself

Please call Meals on Wheels at 908-486-5100. You must provide your name, address, phone number and date of birth in order to process your request.

### Important:

**Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 20th of each month.** Leave your news in the Church Office or email it to [upcnews525@gmail.com](mailto:upcnews525@gmail.com). **Have information that you would like to share? A poem? A prayer request? A new child/grandchild? Send it!**

## Isaiah 35:4

King James Version

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

### Church Administrators

#### Pastor Allegra Hoots

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

#### Pastor's Office Hours

By Appointment

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

Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-12pm

### Newsletter

#### Editors

Avril Lecky  
Donna Garzinsky  
George Hansen  
Hugh Lecky

#### Contributors

Pastor Allegra Hoots  
Ginni Hansen

### BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS

#### Elders

Alaric Tate (Clerk)  
Emory Dawson  
Bola Falowo  
Tania Hemans  
Avril Lecky  
Marcia Marsh-Hinds

#### Board of Deacons

Virginia Hansen - Moderator  
Daniel Bofah  
Zorina Bowers  
Yetunde Falowo  
Thelma Fleming  
Michael Robinson  
Osquit Vanderstoop  
Helen Foerster (Emeritus)

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Email: [upcchurch@aol.com](mailto:upcchurch@aol.com)  
Stewardship: [upcplainfield525@gmail.com](mailto:upcplainfield525@gmail.com)  
Newsletter: [upcnews525@gmail.com](mailto:upcnews525@gmail.com)  
Church website: <http://upcplainfield.org>  
Telephone No.: (908) 756-2666



# United Presbyterian Church

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

## March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Communion Service TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 7:30pm Book Club	3 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	4 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  SHROVE TUESDAY 6-10PM	5 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7-8PM	6 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  6:30-7:30PM LENTE STUDY	7 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	1 / 8 TBD - Admin. Mtg 7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY INT'L WOMEN'S DAY
9 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream YOUTH SUNDAY 7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY DAYLIGHT SAVING	10 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	11 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	12 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  6:30-7:30PM LENTE STUDY	13 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  6:30-7:30PM LENTE STUDY 7:30pm Contempo- rary Worship	14 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	15 7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY
16 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	17 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	19 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  6:30-7:30PM LENTE STUDY 7:30pm Session Mtg	20 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  6:30-7:30PM LENTE STUDY 7:30pm Contempo- rary Worship	21 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	22 7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY
23 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream DEDICATION SUNDAY 7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	24 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	25 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	26 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  6:30-7:30PM LENTE STUDY	27 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  6:30-7:30PM LENTE STUDY 7:30pm Contempo- rary Worship	28 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	19 7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY
30 11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY	31 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion  7:30-8:30PM LENTE STUDY					

Computer Logon Info —  
 Sunday Worship: <https://bit.ly/3jyylpg>  
 Daily Devotion: <https://bit.ly/40BeoBK>  
 Contemporary Serv: <https://bit.ly/3j7whly>  
 Advent Studies: <https://bit.ly/40BeoBK>  
 Book Club: <https://bit.ly/40BeoBK>

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>

## April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Communion Service 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 6:30-7:30PM LENTEN STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 6:30-7:30PM LENTEN STUDY 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY	7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Youth Sunday 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY 7:30pm Session Mtg	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship MAUNDY THURSDAY	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	EASTER EGG HUNT 7:30-8:30PM LENTEN STUDY
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
11am EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE In-person / Livestream ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion 7:30pm Contemporary Worship	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	
27	28	29	30		Computer Logon Info — Sunday Worship: <a href="https://bit.ly/3jyy1pg">https://bit.ly/3jyy1pg</a> Daily Devotion: <a href="https://bit.ly/40BeoBK">https://bit.ly/40BeoBK</a> Contemporary Serv: <a href="https://bit.ly/3J7whly">https://bit.ly/3J7whly</a> Advent Studies: <a href="https://bit.ly/40BeoBK">https://bit.ly/40BeoBK</a> Book Club: <a href="https://bit.ly/40BeoBK">https://bit.ly/40BeoBK</a>	
11am Worship Service In-person / Livestream Dedication Sunday	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion	6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion			

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Fold here to mail

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Church**  
525 East Front Street  
Plainfield, NJ 07060

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