



TODAY & THIS WEEK – JAN. 19, 2025

WELCOME! Today we will hear the story of Jesus turning water into wine from John 2:1-11. This unusual story, at the start of Jesus' ministry, reminds us of God's ability to create miracles. Pastor Stacey's sermon is entitled "God of Abundance".

A MESSAGE FROM HEALTH & WELLNESS TEAM: The Health and Wellness Team is requesting that due to a surge of Flu, Covid, and RSV, that you refrain from any hugging and kissing when passing the peace to fellow congregants. Also use the hand sanitizers that are available as you enter the worship spaces. Thank you and STAY HEALTHY

IN RESPONSE TO THE CALIFORNIA FIRES: Below are two trusted options for donations for the fire victims. These were recommended by leaders of the RCA Far West Region. Please donate directly to whichever site you choose.

1. World Renew prioritizes assisting homeowners who are uninsured, elderly, low income, or otherwise unable to recover from a disaster on their own. These efforts will begin once the fires are under control and access to affected areas is granted. <https://worldrenew.net/>
2. A more local organization would be Food Finders. They have responded in providing the immediate needs for food, clothing and personal items. <https://foodfinders.org/>

CALENDAR CHANGES THIS WEEK:

Mon. Jan. 20 – Martin Luther King Day/Office Closed

COMING UP THIS WEEK

LOADED BAKED POTATO NIGHT & CHILI COOK-OFF JANUARY 24 AT 6:00 P.M. IN FRIENDSHIP HALL:

Loaded Baked Potato Night and Chili Cook-off is being offered by the Congregational Life Team on Friday, January 24th at 6:00 p.m. The cost will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 10. Do you think you have the best chili? Well bring it on! Chili makers and a guest will eat for free. Make a big batch of it and we will offer it along with the loaded baked potatoes. You could win a prize! There will be a variety of toppings for your potato, and we will even have sweet potatoes. See posting in Friendship Hall for more details. *We want to be able to serve all who are coming so please be kind enough to sign up on the sheet on the Welcome Center or call the church office **by Tuesday, January 21st.***

**CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING - JANUARY 26,
AT 9:30 A.M.:** Please join us for the annual

Congregational Meeting to approve the 2025 FRC budget on January 26th. The meeting will be held between services at 9:30 a.m. in Friendship Hall. During this meeting, the congregation will receive information on FRC's 2025 budget and vote in affirmation of Consistory's approval of the budget. Please join us!

OH BOY! LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN! Join us for a baby shower honoring parents to be - Pastor Stacey and Pastor Zach. All are welcome to attend on Sunday, January 26th at 2:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall. The parents are registered at <https://my.babylist.com/stacey-pearce> We ask that you not wrap your gifts, just a card or gift tag will do just fine. The Congregational Life and Women's Ministry are hosting and would love it if you would bring a sweet treat or healthy appetizer to share. There's a sign-up sheet in Friendship Hall to let us know how many will be gathering at this special event.

CONSISTORY MEMBER INSTALLATION: On Sunday, January 26th in the 8:30 service, Karen Borduin will be installed to the office of deacon for a partial term. She will be fulfilling the term for a deacon on Consistory who had to step away from their role. Please join us in giving thanks for Karen's willingness to serve and praying for her!

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

GRIEF GROUP STARTING IN FEBRUARY: Chilton Medical Center is offering this in person support group with experienced and compassionate facilitators. Group will meet for 6 weeks every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. starting in February. Pre-registration is required. Call 973-831-5001 any weekday morning for information or registration. Group size is limited. Meeting will be in Pompton Plains.

REGIONAL CONNECTION BREAKFAST FOR FELLOWSHIP & PRAYER HOSTED BY NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – SATURDAY FEB. 1 FROM 9:00 A.M. – 12 NOON IN FRIENDSHIP HALL:

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming Fellowship Breakfast for Clergy and Lay leaders, a special time for connection, reflection, and engaging dialogue. This year's program will feature a thought-provoking community conversation titled: "Preaching and Teaching to Strengthen Communities in Polarized Times." This free event provides a welcoming space to connect with peers, share insights, and reflect on the thoughts and concerns that arise in the course of ministry. While the event is free, registration is required to ensure we can accommodate everyone. Visit this address to register <https://forms.office.com/r/OXjsp696XU>

THE PRICE OF SILENCE: THE FORGOTTEN STORY OF NEW JERSEY'S ENSLAVED PEOPLE – FEB. 2, 2-4 PM IN FRIENDSHIP HALL:

You're invited to attend this documentary screening (NJ PBS documentary) and discussion of the community history project Acknowledging the History of Enslavement and Liberation of African Americans in Pequannock. All are welcome to participate in a conversation about these important local histories. The Acknowledging the History of Enslavement and Liberation of African Americans in Pequannock Project is a collaborative, community-engaged effort to rebury the displaced remains of at least four Black unfree people in Pequannock Township in the 19th century and to honor the lives and histories of enslaved people in New Jersey. Learn more about the Pequannock Community History Project here: <https://aahistpeq.org>

This event is hosted by the project advisory council, PPFRC & Pequannock Historical Society.

REV. DR. MICAH MCCREARY, PRESIDENT OF NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY PREACHING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND:

Join us for one worship service at 10 AM on Sunday, February 2nd, as we welcome Rev. Dr. Micah McCreary, President of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, as a guest preacher. Join us after worship for fellowship time in Friendship Hall to join a continued conversation on Dr. McCreary's sermon.



HEART HEALTHY BREAKFAST - FEBRUARY 23 FROM 9:00-10:30 A.M. IN GRACE CHAPEL: Save the date for our annual Heart Healthy Breakfast on

February 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. You can join us either before 2nd service or after 1st service in Grace Chapel. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12. Remember February is Heart Month. A time to eat healthy, start exercising, and meditate to relieve stress. BE KIND TO YOUR HEART!

CHILDREN & YOUTH

SPARK KIDZ PAJAMA DAY - FEBRUARY 2 : In honor of Groundhog Day, Spark Kidz will have a pajama party on Sunday, February 2nd during our class time. Wear your pajamas or comfy clothes to church, bring your favorite stuffed animal, and celebrate with us. Will the groundhog see his shadow?

FUEL YOUTH GROUP: Middle school and high school youth gather weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Please reach out to Pastor Dave if you need any assistance or support. dave@frc-pp.org

FINANCIALS

COMMUNION OFFERING FOR JANUARY WILL SUPPORT NEWBRIDGE SERVICES:

NewBridge Services Inc., a nonprofit 501c(3) organization, helps approximately 8,000 people of every age and background overcome challenges and live better. They provide adult and family counseling, substance abuse treatment and addiction recovery, play therapy for young children, school-based prevention programs, youth employment and education services, adult day treatment programs, and outreach to seniors. To donate, you can mail in a check, place it in the collection during worship, or

donate online securely through our website on the line item: "Mission of the Month." Make checks payable to FRC and note "January Communion" in the memo line.

HOW TO DONATE TO FRC:

Give Electronically: Do you know you can have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church account safely and electronically? Visit our website www.firstreformedchurch.com and choose the blue "Donate" button. You can also scan the QR code to donate. **In Person:** Drop your check at the office or place it in kiosk or the offering during worship.



PRAYERS & CONCERNS

FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE:

Don Spellman, son of Ruth & brother of Kim Quigley, died unexpectedly last Sunday. Burial arrangements will be private. Cards to Kim, Jim, Dylan & Liam Quigley at 11 Lincoln Ave, Pompton Plains 07444

Patty Hill from Spectrum passed away on 1/1.

Steve, Deb Graham's brother, passed away at the end of December. Cards to Gary & Deb Graham, 6 Lake losco Rd., Bloomingdale 07403

CONCERNS:

Prayers for our nation and for peace in our world

Prayers for all those affected by the fires in California

Anita Yeats, hospitalized.

Debbie Sackmann, recovering from ankle surgery (this past Tuesday). This is the 2nd surgery on this ankle. Prayers for full recovery. Cards to 67 Mandeville Ave., Pequannock 07440

Elsie, Kim Lampe's mother, hospitalized after a fall. Fractured shoulder. Has moved to a rehab facility.

Shell Ebert, prayers for a friend's dad

Bill DeBell, Susan's husband, recovering after a fall. Cards to 3 Kent Pl., Pompton Plains 07444

John, Rob Hudson's brother-in-law, was hospitalized. He is now recovering at home

Kim, Sue Hellyer's daughter, health concerns and has been hospitalized. Prayers for her recovery

Jim Sippel, recovering from knee replacement surgery. Cards to 2380 W. Lake Brantley Dr., Longwood, Florida 32779-4632

Whitney Brewer hip surgery went well and she is recovering. Cards to 17 Poplar Ave., PP 07444

Barbara Livingstone, experiencing pain in both legs and having trouble walking. Prayers for pain relief.

Chris Woods, is having spinal pain and ongoing testing and has cataract surgery scheduled for January 14th.

John Woods, Chris' husband, in hospital and has had a surgery for a growth that was found near his lung. Cards to 209 Comly Rd., Apt. K20, Lincoln Park 07035

Kristen, close friend to Ann's daughter Carolyn, vision issues are improving after special medication and eye drop regimen. Prayers for a full recovery of her vision

Lori Osborne, starting a new treatment plan for her MS. Prayers for its effectiveness

William (Bill) Erickson (brother-in-law of Frank and Rose Chara), starting another round of chemotherapy

Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 19, 2025

Gathering

PRELUDE

Traci Bopp, Musician

During the prelude, please take a quiet moment to prepare your hearts and minds for worship

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Rev. Dave Sippel, Pastor of Discipleship, Mission, and Outreach Leadership

Expansion of Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

God of the feast, God of abundance,

you are always turning water into fine wine.

Though the wine has run out,

you work miracles among us.

Though the work feels impossible,

you accomplish wonders through us.

Though many fail to perceive it,

you reveal your glory among us.

Help us to receive your good gifts this day,

that we might learn to put our faith in you.

*GATHERING SONG #13 *(Green book)* “**He Has Made Me Glad**” *(twice through)*

Kim Lampe, Song Leader

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE *(responsive)*

Lord, we need a miracle today. Like Jesus changing water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana, we need a miracle today. We are tired, Lord, of the hurts of this world. We are discouraged in the face of injustice, war, poverty, and indifference. We need a miracle today, Lord. Your steadfast love, like a mighty mountain, will not be moved.

...silence...

Your gifts, as many as the mighty winds, cannot be counted. Your glory, like a mighty torch, will not be put out.

Lord, crown us with your love. Show us your glory, that in you we may be moved to acts of kindness, love, justice, and mercy. Lord, we need a miracle today. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE May the peace of Christ be with you all! **And also with you!**

(10:00 a.m. only) Children and youth are invited to leave for their classes.

SPECIAL MUSIC *(10:00 a.m.)* “Peace is Our Prayer” *by Linda Shackley*

Chancel Choir; Kim Lampe, Director

Reception of God’s Word

PREPARATION FOR READING

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scriptures. **Our hearts and minds are open.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 2:1-11 (NIV)

(8:30 a.m.) Susan DeBell (10:00 a.m.) Bethany Duane Dacles, Readers

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”

4 “Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.”

5 His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

7 Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.

8 Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God**

MESSAGE “God of Abundance”

Rev. Stacey Duensing Pearce, Pastor of Worship, Care and Strategic Leadership

Transformation of Our Lives

SONG OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE **#575** (*Blue book*)

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING & OFFERTORY (*10 a.m. only*)

DOXOLOGY **#815** (*Blue book*)

Compassion For the World

*SENDING SONG **#237** (*Blue book*) **“Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”**

*BENEDICTION This time of worship has ended. **Let the service begin.**

*POSTLUDE

** Indicates to please, stand, if able.*



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