

# Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

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

## Expansion of Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

God our souls are "well" because you are our well of life.

When we are tired and weary...

**Hold us in the ocean of your love.**

When we are stuck and need direction...

**Direct us with the current of your Spirit.**

When we are discouraged and need a glimmer of hope...

**Sustain us with the fountain of your Word.**

When we feel far from wholeness...

**Spring up new life in us. You are our well of life that never runs dry.**

\*GATHERING SONG **"Holy Forever"** *(insert)*

*by Brian Johnson, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson, Phil Wickham  
Brooke Burgin, Song Leader; Martin Williams, Guitar*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God we want to be made new! We long for you and your presence. We hope for your Spirit's new life in our souls. We await your daily resurrection power to create new life in us.

**Yet we confess that even in your longing for you, we often also run after other things. Daily tasks, distractions, and human emotions like pride and greed have us chasing other things. We confess our distracted state. Too often we succumb to things other than you and suddenly the burning for you in our souls becomes a small flicker.**

*(Silence for Reflection)*

**Reorient us, God, completely. Stop our frantic striving. Slow us down. Guide us to your presence that there, by your life-giving Spirit, our parched souls will be satisfied and we will be made new.**

**Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC (10:00 a.m.) "My Lighthouse"

*by Chris Llewellyn & Gareth Gilkeson*

*Children's Choir; Brooke Burgin, Director*

*Hudson Bogert, Olivia Bogert, Laney Karcher, Reagan Karcher, Griffin Klutsarits, Soloists*

*Teagan Slufik & Martin Williams, Percussion*

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

*(10:00 a.m. only) Children in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade & under are invited to leave for their classes.*

*Older children & youth remain in worship.*

## 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 3: 1-21

*Angela Kohle, 8:30 Reader & Joann Warner, 10:00 Reader*

MESSAGE "New Life in the Spirit"

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

## Transformation of Our Lives

COMMUNION

Meaning of the Sacrament

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God our souls come today hungry and thirsty for you....

....So we come to you today with honest longing in our souls, confessing our need for you in the world of Psalm 42:

**Sing Blue # #548 Chorus:**

**As the deer panteth for the water**

**So my soul longeth after Thee**

**You alone are my heart's desire**

**And I long to worship Thee**

**You alone are my Strength, my Shield**

**To You alone may my spirit yield**

**You alone are my heart's desire**

**And I long to worship Thee.**

God of glory we lay our longings before you today, trusting you are good...

....we worship and glorify your holy name singing together:

**Sung: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**

**Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!**

**God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Words of Institution

Invitation

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING & OFFERTORY (10:00 a.m.)

*The communion offering will support FRC Youth Mission*

DOXOLOGY #815 (blue hymnal)

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## Compassion For the World

\*SENDING SONG #384 (blue hymnal) “**Spirit Song**”

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

\*POSTLUDE

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



*Hearing assist technology is available during worship services. To find out how to connect your hearing aids or to borrow a hearing assist device, please see a greeter.*

## “Holy Forever”

*by Brian Johnson, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram,  
Jenn Johnson & Phil Wickham*

### **Verse 1**

A thousand generations falling down in worship  
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb  
And all who've gone before us  
And all who will believe  
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

### **Pre-Chorus**

(Jesus) Your name is the highest  
Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions  
All powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all

### **Chorus 1**

And the angels cry Holy  
All creation cries Holy  
You are lifted high Holy  
Holy forever

### **Verse 2**

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
We'll sing the song forever and amen

### **Chorus 1**

And the angels cry Holy  
All creation cries Holy  
You are lifted high Holy  
Holy forever

### **Chorus 2**

Hear Your people sing Holy  
To the King of Kings Holy  
You will always be Holy  
Holy forever

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## TODAY & THIS WEEK – MAR. 1, 2026

**WELCOME TO FRC:** Join us for a “Heart Healthy” breakfast in Friendship Hall from 9:00 am-10:30 am. This morning, we will celebrate the sacrament of communion. In worship, we will hear the story of Nicodemus in John 3: 1-21. Pastor Stacey's sermon is entitled “New Life in the Spirit”. Glad you joined us!

### **COMMUNION OFFERING TODAY WILL SUPPORT FRC**

**YOUTH MISSION:** The youth of our church are a very faith-filled group, and they are our future. They look forward to a summer mission trip each year in order to share their gifts to serve others in the name of the Lord. Your Communion offering for March will support and deepen the impact of God's grace in the life of our youth. 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 “March Communion” in the memo line.

### **PASTOR DAVE & YOUTH RETURN FROM RETREAT**

**TODAY:** Please pray for safe travel and a meaningful encounter with God. Trip participants are: Ian and Char Milligan, Sam and Lilah Hudson, Ben Santana, Emily Bliss, Lila Finigan, Rileigh Slufik, Dave Sippel, Hayley Bundz, Jessie Bundz, Skippy Moguillanes and Derek McGrogan.

**\*SIGN UP TODAY\* GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY - MARCH 8:** Girl Scout Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, March 8th. Current or former Girl Scouts are invited to wear their uniforms or sashes to church, and also serve as greeters, or coffee hour helpers. Contact Janet to volunteer [janet@frc-pp.org](mailto:janet@frc-pp.org).

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

**THANK YOU FROM WOMEN'S MINISTRY:** Thanks to all who made soup and bought soup on “SOUPer Bowl” Sunday. This was a fantastic hit! Proceeds will go towards projects here at FRC.

### **ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER & MUSIC - SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH @ 6:00 PM IN FRIENDSHIP HALL:**

Traditional corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots and dessert will be on the menu. A Chicken option is also available. The Skylands Dulcimer String Band will delight us with their music. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$5 ages 5-12, under 5 is free. A limit of 100 tickets will be sold. Tickets will be available through March 11th after each service or from the church office during the week and on our website. Advance ticket sales only and you must purchase by March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**CAN YOU HELP WITH DINNER?:** Congregational Life Team is asking for donations of either homemade Irish soda bread, or purchased. This is helping to keep the ticket price at \$20 for the third year! Volunteers needed to assist with preparing, cooking, serving or cleaning up

after the dinner would be greatly appreciated. There will be a sign-up sheet on the welcome center in the Friendship Hall lobby.

**RCA RETREAT:** Registration is now open for the fifth annual “She Is Called” Sabbath Rest Retreat, happening April 10-12, at Grove Hall Christian Retreat Center in Ocean Grove, New Jersey. This invitation is open to women in any type of leadership in a church or faith-based organization, clergy and laity. More information can be found [https://reformedchurch.my.salesforce-sites.com/eventlisting/CnP\\_PaaS\\_EVT\\_ExternalRegistrationPage?event\\_id=a36Vm0000070IH3IAM](https://reformedchurch.my.salesforce-sites.com/eventlisting/CnP_PaaS_EVT_ExternalRegistrationPage?event_id=a36Vm0000070IH3IAM)

## THINGS TO KNOW

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>:**

Daylight savings will begin in New Jersey at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 8th and continue through Sunday, November 1st. Spring your clock forward 1 hour as we get ready to enjoy more hours of sunlight in our day!

**IT'S TIME TO ORDER EASTER PLANTS!** If you would like to honor your loved ones and friends, living or deceased, fill out the green form in the back of both worship spaces and return it to the office with your payment. Final orders are due *no later than March 9th*. Due to the rising cost of lilies, they will be \$15 each while tulips and daffodils will remain \$12 each. You can also pick up your flowers after the last service on Easter.

## MISSION/OUTREACH

**GRAINS OF HOPE 2026 REGISTRATION OPEN:** This year's Grains of Hope food packaging event will be held on March 14th & 15th at the Pequannock Middle School. Volunteers are needed on Saturday the 14th (set up day) as well as Sunday the 15th (pack meals and clean up). Plan to join us for this meaningful event! Last year, we got over the two million meals mark! Go to [gohnj.org](http://gohnj.org) to register.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM FRC MISSION TEAM & THE FOOD PANTRY:** FRC is NOT accepting any clothing or household goods at this time. PLEASE do not leave bags of these items on the property.

## HOLY WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

### **VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS:**

**Palm Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>** – Breakfast (free of charge) at 9:00 am in Friendship Hall & One Service at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

**Maundy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - 6:30 pm Dinner in Friendship Hall & 7:30 pm Worship in Friendship Hall. Please sign up if you are planning to attend the meal so enough food can be prepared. (no live stream)

**Good Friday- Joint Service with Local Reformed Churches** - Friday, April 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary (live streamed)

**Good Friday Passion Walk** - Friday, April 3rd, from 7:00-9:00 am and 12:00-4:00 pm in Grace Chapel  
*Self-Guided Prayer Walk through the Story of Jesus' Passion*

**Easter Sunday Services April 5th** - 8:30 am & 10:00 am in the Sanctuary (live streamed)

**Office Hours During Holy Week**

The church office will close at noon on Good Friday and will be closed for Easter Monday.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**EASTER THEMED ART EVENT FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH:**

The Health and Wellness Team and Art Educator Susan DeBell are announcing an Easter art activity, "It's All About the Cross" on Saturday March 14th from 10:00am to 11:30am. Wooden Crosses will be decorated and put on display in the FRC-PP Art Gallery. Parents should sign up their 5-14 year olds by March 10th. Look for the sign up sheet in Friendship Hall or on the Spark Kidz webpage.

**FUEL YOUTH GROUP:** Middle school and high school youth are invited for snacks, activities and a lesson to get growing. FUEL meets in Friendship Hall on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friends are always welcome!

**PRAYERS & CONCERNS**

**WITH SYMPATHY:**

The family of **Betty**, (Sister-in-law of Sharon Hollick and Aunt to Christine Hudson) who passed away. Prayers for comfort for the family. Cards to Sharon 42 Elston Court, Unit 104, Haskell, 07420 and to Christine & Rob 21 Van Riper Ave, Pompton Plains, 07444

**CONCERNS:**

**Susan Breznak**, injured her back. Prayers as she recovers. Cards to 4 Benjamin Place, Pequannock 07440

**Griffin Klutsarits**, has a fracture in his hand. Prayers for healing

Prayers for **Kathy Hudson** (mother of Rob Hudson) as she had hip replacement surgery February 25th.

**Toni**, Pat Cunningham's sister, prayers for physical & emotional healing.

**Karen Mazur**, undergoing testing. Prayers for a clear diagnosis

**Barbara Ball**, in JDT for rehab. Prayers for restored health. Cards 19 Cooper Rd. PP

Prayers for **Adam, friend of Christine Hudson**, for peace.

**Barbara Livingstone**, home after a brief hospitalization. Cards to 735 Cannella Way, Riverdale, 07457

**LONG TERM CONCERNS:**

**Jim Quigley, Jamie Spillane** (college classmate of Karen & Tom Kamp), **Jennifer Carpentieri, Cindy, Joe** (brother-in-law of Debbie Priestner), **Katie Wilson** (daughter of Linda & Ed) cancer treatment, **Anna Miller** (future daughter-in-law of Kathy & John Shea and future niece of Judy Shivy) **Joyce Gruzdis, Michael Clark** (Sharon Hollick's son-in-law), **Peggy Biondi** (friend of Amy Muller) receiving chemo, **Beverly Adams** (Jennifer Adams' mother) blood cancer, **Carol** (friend of LEEANNE

Leck) pancreatic cancer, **Sue Rayner**, lung cancer, **Kristen**, vision issues, **Christopher Martin** (Pat Lento's relative) myocarditis, **Steven Janowicz** (son of former members Joyce and George), **Colleen Erickson** (niece of Rose & Frank Chara), cancer issues, **Lorraine Nichols, Judy Napoli, Karen Milligan, Heather** (Tony's daughter-in-law), **Nancy Crefeld** (Pete's mom), **Kathryn Dontje** (Barbara Ball's daughter), **Brenda** (Barbara Ball's daughter), **Judy Lento** (Pat Lento's sister in law), **Charles Cunningham, Dee Patrick, Jim**, (Lynn Rayner's brother), **Candace** (Jane Young's sister), **Amy Griffith, Adele Ebert** (Shell's mom), **Paul** (Susan De Bell's brother), **Johanna Clark** (sister of Michael Clark)

**FINANCIALS**

<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		
	Week Ending	
	2/22/2026	2/23/2025
Sunday Collection	\$ 426.00	\$ 2,202.00
Electronic Giving	\$ 6,579.40	\$ 5,958.10
Total Weekly Contributions	\$ 7,005.40	\$ 8,160.10
Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)*	\$ 711,863.84	\$ 665,510.00
Weekly Goal*	\$ 13,689.69	\$ 12,798.27
Weekly Collection Surplus/Deficit	\$ (6,684.29)	\$ (4,638.17)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (38,493.81)	\$ (32,730.55)

**HOW TO DONATE TO FRC:**

**In Person:** Drop your check at the office or place it in kiosk or the offering plate during worship.

**Give Electronically:** 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](http://www.firstreformedchurch.com) and choose the blue "Donate" button. You can also scan the QR code to donate.



**RCA DENOMINATIONAL COVENANT SHARE - \$125 PER MEMBER:**

Every year, RCA churches contribute a set percentage of the church's income to the denomination. These were called assessments but are now Covenant Shares. It is, as the name suggests, a way to be in covenant and to be on mission together. Being part of the denomination makes you part of a gospel-focused, multicultural denomination intent on making disciples and sharing God's love locally and around the world. Your contribution of any amount towards FRC's Covenant Share is greatly appreciated. To donate, use one of the Denominational Assessment envelopes in the back of each worship space and place donation in the kiosk, mail your check to the office in care of Ann Marie Ziffer, Finance Manager, pay online through our secure website [www.firstreformedchurch.com](http://www.firstreformedchurch.com) Thank you.