

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

Gathering

PRELUDE

Lori Yost, Keyboard

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

INTROIT (10:00 a.m.) "Christ Is Alive" arr. by Jason Krug

Karen Milligan, Brenna Tesauro, Lori Yost, Kim Lampe, Small Handbell Group

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

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

Expansion of Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Great is the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

*GATHERING SONG #153 (green book) "Come to Us, Beloved Stranger"

Brooke Burgin, Song Leader

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, your Word teaches us that whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. Forgive us for forgetting your gracious promise of life. We live in fear, thinking death has the final say.

We follow our own ways rather than your life-giving path in Jesus Christ. Help us put our trust in you, our God who has the power of life over death. We believe, Lord; help our unbelief. In the name of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead never to die again, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The scriptures teach: "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

We confess that Jesus is Lord and we believe and celebrate the good news that God raised him from the dead.

Trust in this promise: In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

*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 "Christ, My Help in Life and Death"

by Getty, Boswell, Kauflin, Merker, Papa; arr. by Langley Campbell

Shell McKay, Vocal Solo; Martin Williams, Guitar

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 20: 19-31 (NIV)

Frank Chara, 8:30 Reader & Donna Lajterman, 10:00 Reader

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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

MESSAGE "What Has Changed?"

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

Transformation of Our Lives

SONG OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE #349 *(blue hymnal)*

“O How He Loves You and Me”

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

DOXOLOGY #815 *(blue hymnal)*

Compassion For the World

*SENDING SONG #365 *(blue hymnal)* **“Alleluia! Alleluia!”**

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

*POSTLUDE

** Indicates to please stand, if able.*

The chancel flowers today are offered in memory of Arline Friedrich, given by Jan Friedrich.



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.



TODAY & THIS WEEK – APRIL 12, 2026

WELCOME TO FRC: Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Join us Sunday as we continue to live into our resurrection life. Pastor Dave will preach from John 20:19-31. Christ appears to his disciples and has a life-changing conversation with Thomas. We sometimes call him Doubting Thomas - but is that really his legacy? As we worship our Savior and as we study God's Word, we are being changed. Cast off your label, and live into your legacy. The sermon is entitled, "What Has Changed?"

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

"CHURCHES OF WELCOME" The "Churches of Welcome" program is an opportunity to learn more about refugees and displacement around the world. It is a discipleship opportunity that may result in action steps and service opportunities. For now, we are asking for a small group of people to commit to one thing...listening. Are you interested in learning more? Are you open to listening to the voices of individuals currently living as refugees? Join the "Church of Welcome" study group. Contact Pastor Dave for more information (office phone 973-835-1144 x28 or email dave@frc-pp.org) There are two more opportunities to join us on April 20th and May 18th in the Jr. High Room.

THINGS TO KNOW

PASTA DINNER & BOOK READING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 AT 6:30 P.M: The youth group is partnering with the Congregational Life Team at this event to raise funds towards a replacement church van. Come enjoy dinner, which the youth are helping to prepare, and then take part in listening and discussing what it was like to grow up in Pompton Plains during the 60s. Mark Convoy will share a reading of a few chapters of his book *A Funny Place* and follow it with reactions, discussion and questions. He'll be happy to sign your copy of the book if you bring it and better yet, he will have copies available for \$10. (20% off the Amazon price) All proceeds from the dinner, and the book sales will go towards the purchase of a church van. The dinner will include salad, pasta, garlic bread and dessert. \$15 for ages 10 to adults and children under 10 will be \$5.

SPRING TEA FOR 75+ MEMBERS – APRIL 19 IN GRACE CHAPEL: The Pastoral Care Team cordially invites our 75 years young and older members to the Spring Tea on April 19 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in Grace Chapel. Please RSVP to the number on your invitation or by calling the church office at [973-835-1144 x11](tel:973-835-1144). Join us for a fun filled afternoon as we gather with friends to celebrate Spring!

LAST CHANCE TO REPLY FOR DINNER - STEVEN CLARK'S ORDINATION: Six Mile Run Reformed Church invites you to the Ordination and Installation of Steven on Sunday May 3 at 4:00 p.m. Dinner reception to follow at 5:45

p.m. Please RSVP for the dinner to admin@sixmilerun.org **by April 15**. Address is 3037 State Route 27, Franklin Park, NJ

GRIEF & LOSS SUPPORT GROUP: Recognizing that coping with the loss of a loved one can be very difficult, Chilton Medical Center is offering a forum to meet with others in a supportive environment with an experienced facilitator. Group begins April 30. Pre-registration is required. Call 973-831-5001 or email rolandpetit@atlantichealth.org

MISSION/OUTREACH/SUPPORT

CURRENT PEGUANNOCK FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: Below are our current food pantry needs. If you can, pick up and item or two. We appreciate all that you do. *Indicates most needed

*Ketchup, *Packaged milk, especially 1% and 2%, *Hair Conditioner, *Salad dressing, not Italian please, *Pickles *Tissues, *Dish detergent, *Coffee – regular, decaf, and instant, *Rice in microwavable cups, *Instant potatoes in pouch or microwavable cups, *Canned or pkg fruit especially mandarin oranges, apricots & pears, Pasta Sauce, Paper towels, Toilet paper, Spam and Vienna sausages, Rice Sides, Jelly other than grape, Cleaning Products, Snacks, especially chips and crackers, Nuts and dried fruits, Beverages of all kinds, esp. juice, sugar in 1-2 lb bag or box and cookie or muffin mix

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL WILL SUPPORT

BESSIE GREEN: Bessie Green Community Inc. has been serving the underprivileged of Newark, New Jersey since 1978. They provide hot meals, offer a clothing barn, bags of food and support services to the community at large. Their food pantry is open daily Monday-Friday. All are welcome to the table, at no charge. 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 "April Communion" in the memo line.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EMPTY BOWLS BAKE EVENT:

Join the Empty Bowls Team on Saturday May 2 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm in Friendship Hall to "Bake the World a Better Place". Volunteers can sign up for 1.5 hour shifts to help bake, decorate and wrap cookie platters that will be donated to the Pequannock Food Pantry clients. Register at <https://www.cpfhemptypansies.org>

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EMPTY BOWLS COOKIE SALE:

Purchase sweet treats for Mother's Day on May 9 from 9:00-11:00 am in Grace Chapel.

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.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

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!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MYSTERY MISSION RETREAT – MAY 1ST-3RD: Our popular middle school mission weekend is back with a fun, new twist. We'll visit a brand-new mystery location, and have fun together as we serve the community and enjoy some springtime recreation. Cost is \$150. Parents are welcome to ask for more details as long as they can keep a secret! Registration is open on the church website.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE:

For the family of **Joe Testa**, who passed away on March 27. Cards to his wife, Jane Young, 5103 Tudor Drive, Pompton Plains 07444

CONCERNS:

Prayers for peace in the Middle East, especially between the United States, Iran, Israel and Lebanon. Prayers of protection for US service members who are deployed. Prayers for **Rev. Linda** serving the hungry and homeless in Lebanon who are displaced due to war. Linda is connected in mission to us through our Classis and Ponds Reformed Church. Pray for her ministry that God will supply resources in great need, and for peace and strength for her spirit.

Katie Wilson, the family is asking for extra prayers as she prepares for surgery to remove her ovaries since the cancer there has grown.

Debbie Priestner, in hospital after a procedure.

Mark Struble, hospitalized.

Bruce Drake, hospitalized. Cards to 17 Roland Rd., Pequannock 07440

Linda, stepmom of Traci Bopp, fell and broke her wrist. She had surgery Monday and is recovering.

Michele Brauman, sister-in-law of Joanna Minassian & Meg Sturm, ongoing struggle with ALS

Karen Mazur, was diagnosed with Interstitial Lung Disease, a progressive disease that impacts lung function. Doctors are determining the best treatment regimen for her. She will keep the congregation informed as more information is available. No cards at this time please.

Dee Patrick, in a rehab facility. Cards to 31F Lancaster Court, Wayne, 07470

Lois Wickham, in a rehab facility recovering from hip surgery. Cards to 105 Park View, Pompton Plains 07444

Susan Breznak, recovering from an injury to her back. Cards to 4 Benjamin Place, Pequannock 07440

Kathy Hudson, mother of Rob Hudson, recovering from hip replacement. At home now

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

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

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

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	
	4/5/2026*	4/6/2025
Sunday Collection	\$ 7,014.00	\$ 2,664.00
Electronic Giving	\$ 7,497.96	\$ 7,026.63
Total Weekly Contributions	\$ 14,511.96	\$ 9,690.63
Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)*	\$ 717,863.84	\$ 665,510.00
Weekly Goal*	\$ 13,805.07	\$ 12,798.27
Weekly Collection Surplus/Deficit	\$ 706.89	\$ (3,107.64)
Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (61,727.37)	\$ (57,374.86)
*Easter Sunday 2026		

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 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. 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 Thank you.