

The Beacon

FEBRUARY 2024

Community Soup Lunch for Souper Bowl of Caring 2024

The youth group is once again hosting a Community Soup Lunch on February 11th from 11:30-1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Eat In or Take-Out!

Soup is \$7.00 a bowl and includes a slice of bread, beverage and a small dessert. All proceeds will be donated to Manna House Soup Kitchen. The Community Soup Lunch is being held in conjunction with the Souper Bowl of Caring. The Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with this simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." This youth-led movement has raised more than \$100 million dollars for soup kitchens, food pantries and other charities in communities across the country. Your donation will help alleviate hunger in our community!

SOUP NEEDED!!! The youth group is looking for soup makers to make pots of soup for the Souper Bowl of Caring Soup Sale taking place on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th! If you can provide a pot of soup for the sale, please call Colleen at 973-383-4420, or by email at colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org. Proceeds from the sale benefit Manna House.



Photo by [Victoria Shes](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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February Reminders...

- 2/4 Communion
- 2/11 Annual Congregational Meeting
Community Soup Lunch
- 2/13 Manna House Dinner
- 2/14 Ash Wednesday Service @
First United Methodist Church
- 2/25 Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop

Interim Pastor Message

Perhaps you think of February as that short month of cold and grey amid the winter. Or maybe you think of it as the month that holds St. Valentine's Day and look forward to the warmth of loving cards, and those little candy hearts and cut out paper hearts. You might think of February as the month when the Super Bowl happens, or the month when the Souper Bowl Day of Caring shares with those who struggle with hunger. Maybe you revel in the fact that there is a three-day weekend to enjoy. But I am guessing you were not looking forward to the season of Lent.



This year Ash Wednesday is February 14th, and it has me thinking about how God really loves us - just as we are. But God does not stop there - God loves us into wholeness, and toward a deeper love that we can share with others. We are to grow and change and deepen our ability to love. Christian writer C. S. Lewis pointed out, even when we don't particularly like someone, acting lovingly can change our feelings towards them. C. S. Lewis wrote:

“The rule for all of us is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you “love” your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less.”

I am reminded of those paper valentines we sent in grade school - whether we wanted to or not, we were to send them to all the class. **Each individual was to receive the love of the class, even if it were just for that one day. Maybe that can be your Lenten discipline this year - to find tangible ways to love others.** A smile given to a passing stranger, a wave of acknowledgement to a neighbor, a gesture that shows you truly see that co-worker or even an encouraging email to that acquaintance who differs from you. Maybe you can make a casserole or a container of soup for someone who needs it.



We have many chances to grow in faith this Lent - worshipping, serving, praying, learning. We have many chances to love others this Lent - making soup for Souper Bowl Community Lunch, serving a meal at Manna House or Bread of Life, sending a card to those who are homebound and cannot attend in-person worship (see the list of those who we pray for each week)

How will you grow in love this Lent? What can you offer? How will it help you to grow and see them differently? How will you share the love of Christ with another person? What will it mean for you?

Pastor Heather

Youth
Group



Lenten Devotionals Available...

This Lenten season we are offering two Lenten devotionals. Choose one or both, whatever works for you and your family.

PSALMS – ANATOMY OF THE SOUL

John Calvin called the Psalms “an anatomy of all parts of the soul.” It’s an apt description. The Psalms contain the whole range of human emotion – from grief to joy, from hatred to compassion, from doubt to praise. Meditating on the Psalms is a fitting way to move through Lent, a season when we ponder our humanity, grieve our sinfulness, and give thanks for Christ’s gift. These devotions that reflect on the Psalms are written by Reformed Church in America chaplains.

40-DAY “LOVE BUILDS UP” FAMILY CHALLENGE



Askesis (pronounced “uh-SKEE-sis”). That’s an ancient Greek word for “training” or exercise,” the strengthening and beautifying of the human body. It comes down to modern English hidden in the word “asceticism,” which probably doesn’t get you very excited, since it means giving up physical pleasures or comforts for the sake of spiritual benefit.

Lent is the period of 40 days (plus Sundays) leading up to Easter, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his promise to bring the world to fulfillment. If you know anything about Lent, you probably know about its historically ascetic character: people give stuff up for it.

But this Lent, we’d like to invite you into a different kind of “asceticism,” one designed to train your family’s spiritual muscles, not to get you ready for the Olympics but to get you ready for the realm of God. See, we believe that when Easter fills the world to overflowing, we will all finally see and treat each other – and ourselves – as God sees and treats us. Meanwhile though, it’s hard down here and we could all use a little practice. So to get our spiritual muscles and emotional health good and strong, beautiful and ready to participate in the Easter that’s already creeping through the land, we’re going to do a little training using 40-DAY “LOVE BUILDS UP” Lenten Devotional.

Choose the devotional that works best for your family. Pick up a copy in the parlor on Sunday mornings or whenever you are at the church or call Colleen at 973-383-4420 or by email at colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org, and she will email or mail you one.



Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop

Sunday, February 25th, 11:30 am. Start with a light lunch and learn about the history of Pysanka. Then, try your hand at this ancient art. All supplies will be provided. Pre-registration is requested to ensure we have sufficient supplies. Look for the sign-up in the parlor or call the church office at 973-383-4420.

Thoughts for the Prayer Corner.

Vision for our church:
Ephesians 2:19,21

“__ fellow citizens with saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”

I love the picture of how we, as the body of Christ, are joined together into a holy temple in the Lord. - Harriet Muir



Youth Group News!



Looking for a fun activity for your teen? Encourage them to join us for Youth Group. The group meets most Sundays from 5-7 pm, at the church for dinner, games, service opportunities, devotions, and FUN! Open to youth in grades 6-12. Friends are always welcome! Contact Mrs. Duffy with any questions at 973-383-4420 or by email at colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org.

Below is our schedule of gatherings and events for February:

- Sunday, February 4th** Meeting at the church from 5-7. Pizza dinner will be served!
- Sunday, February 11th** Community Soup Lunch, 11:30-1:30 pm. This annual event, sponsored by the youth group, is a fundraiser for Manna House Soup Kitchen. Taking place on Super Bowl Sunday, it is a reminder that later in the day most of us will be gathering with family and friends watching the football game and eating lots of delicious food, while others don't even have a bowl of soup to eat.
- Sunday, February 18th** No youth group gathering today, President's Weekend.
- Sunday, February 25th** Photo Scavenger Hunt and Ice Cream at Friendly's from 4-7 pm.

Manna House Spaghetti Dinner

Dine In or Take Out

Tuesday February 13th, 5:00-6:30 pm.

\$5 for adults, \$3 for children 5-12, kids under 5 free!

Spaghetti, salad, bread and cookies!

February



Dear Members of the First Presbyterian Church of Newton,

On behalf of the division of Social Services, I would like to personally thank you for your food donation to benefit our food pantry.

Social Service provides food to hundreds of families and individuals who would go hungry without this assistance. We are so grateful to receive this. Every donation brings a little sunshine to each day.

Thank you once again for your contribution toward our mission to end hunger.

Sincerely

Joan M. Bruseo

Division Director

**Letter of Thanks
from the
Division of
Social Services**

Birthdays

- 2/3 Pete Kronen
- 2/5 Madeleine Rutan
- 2/6 Caitlin Bailey
Jeffrey Phlegar
- 2/9 Michael Cleary
Janice Major
- 2/14 Madeline Crowell
- 2/15 Luke Phlegar
- 2/17 Caitlyn Ruitenber
- 2/18 Amanda Cleary
- 2/20 John Tonking
- 2/21 Kelly Clark
- 2/22 Abigail Carson
Raelynn Douglas
- 2/23 Julianne Jay
- 2/24 Helen Kronen
- 2/27 Trevor Zummo

Deacons' Food of the Month:

Granola Bars, Fruit Bars
or Bottled Juice



ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14:

Supper and Service will be at the First United Methodist Church of Newton beginning at 5:30 with soup supper (and then joint choir rehearsal), followed by 7 p.m. worship.

February

Regular Fall Sunday Schedule
9:00 am Sunday School
9:00 am Worship in Chapel
10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary
Recording of service available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/>

S U N M O N T U E W E D T H U F R I S A T

				1 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm Bells	2 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 1 pm Hearts & Hands	3 10-1 BOL
4 Communion 9:30 am Choir 5-7 pm YG	5 10 am Wired Word 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH	6 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH	7 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 4:30 - 6:30 pm FP Yoga 8pm Vespers via Zoom	8 10 am FPCN serves at MH 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm Bells	9 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 1 pm Hearts & Hands	10 10-1 BOL
11 Bucket Brigade 9:45 am Choir 11:30 - 1:30 Soup Sale 11:30 Annual Congr. Mtg.	12 10 am Wired Word 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH	13 11:30-12:30 pm MH 5-6:30 pm MH Spaghetti dinner 7 pm Deacons	14 11:30 - 12:30 MH 5:30 pm Ash Wed Supper / 7pm Worship @ Methodist Church 8pm Vespers via Zoom	15 Beacon Deadline 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 1:30-3:00 pm Reader's INK Book Club	16 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 1 pm Hearts & Hands	17 10-1 BOL
18 9:30 am Choir	19 Office Closed 10 am Wired Word 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH	20 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH	21 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 8pm Vespers via Zoom	22 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm Bells	23 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 1 pm Hearts & Hands	24 10-1 BOL
25 9:45 am Choir 11:30 am Ukrainian Egg Decorating 1-2:30 pm Girl Scouts 4-7pm YG	26 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH	27 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm Jubilee Women	28 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 8pm Vespers via Zoom	29 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm Bells	Leap Day 	

Abbreviations Legend:
 BOL - Bread of Life

LVNJ - Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey
 Fin. & Fac. - Finance and Facilities Team

MH - Manna House
 YG - Youth Group

Items in *Italics* are outside organizations using the church facilities.



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 Web site — www.fpcnewtonnj.org
 YouTube.com - Search for: "fpcnewtonnj"



RULING ELDERS & DEACONS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ruling Elders	Class 2024	Class 2025	Class 2026
	Ed Caffrey	Judy Prendergast (2)	Jennifer Smalley
	Scott Hoffman (2)	Alice Sharick (2)	Cindy Fogg (2)
	Jerry Chandler	Tim Voss	Tom McNulty

Stated Clerk: Terry VanAuken

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|---------|--------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Deacons | April Fisher | Susanne Gerdes                  | Donna Kronen (2) |
|         |              | Susan Hermes (2)<br>(Moderator) | Janice Fisher    |
|         |              | Jody McNulty (2)<br>(Secretary) | Sue Hough        |



*Newsletter Deadline: Please submit articles to the church office via email at: [admin@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org) by the 15th of each month for the following month's publication.*