



HEART

292 West Main Street, Newark, Delaware 19711
(302) 731-5644 fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org

MARCH 2024

BEAT

*A nurturing community in Jesus Christ reflecting God's love for the world as we
Worship, Grow and Serve.*



Worship Schedule for Holy Week



Palm Sunday Service

March 24th
10:00 am in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday

March 28th
TBD

Good Friday Service

March 29th
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday

March 31st
Sunrise Service
7:00 am in the Remembrance Garden
Festival Service of Worship
10:00 am in the Sanctuary

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday Worship

10:00 am
Worship Service

Sunday School

Begins in Worship
at 10:00 am

You Tube Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCMgrr0yHvgO-
iUPphSOFgxxA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMgrr0yHvgO-iUPphSOFgxxA)

Website

www.firstpresnewark.org

Church Calendar

[click here](#)

Online giving through



[https://firstpresnewark.org/
giving-at-fpc-n/](https://firstpresnewark.org/giving-at-fpc-n/)

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9:00 am—1:00 pm

Lent and the whole “Repentance Thing”

For most modern-day Christians, Lent is considered a solemn time involving prayer, reflection, scripture reading and repentance. Having gotten all of our vices (including pancakes) out of our system the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, we enter the period before Easter in solemn contemplation, perhaps helped along by a dose of physical deprivation. There is no question that taking the time to come candidly before our creator in confessional prayer and worship is a wonderfully cleansing experience and can serve as a needed “reset” to our relationship with our Lord.

But if we go back and look closely at the word “repentance” we find a history and tradition that might offer more and expansive opportunities to enrich our relationship with our Lord and with each other as well.

The Hebrew word for repentance is “*teshuva*” and the Greek word is “*metanoia*.”

Our theological forefather, John Calvin, pointed to the double derivation of the Hebrew and Greek words for “repentance”: the Hebrew derives from conversion, or turning again, and the Greek means a change of mind and purpose.

I love the idea of “turning again” or “turning around” and a “change of mind and purpose” carries more meaning for me than does mere lamentation and self-reproach.

If we take the Hebrew and the Greek meanings to heart, we see “repentance” as an opportunity to grow in our faith and explore new and different ways of knowing Jesus, new and different ways of living our discipleship and new and different ways of living together as the body of Christ.

Lent need not be limited to atonement for things past but can and should provide an opportunity to explore new faith frontiers. With open hearts and minds we can use this Lenten time to stretch our faith lives by listening to different voices, discovering new methods of prayer, or reading texts we might not ordinarily read. Perhaps we tackle a book of the Bible we have not read before or that we find difficult or confusing. I have embarked on a Lenten study of the book of Job.

I have always held the belief that faith is a muscle which needs a little poking, prodding and exercise lest it atrophy and become useless. And, while there is nothing wrong with travelling the straight and narrow path, “turning around” every so often can yield delightful and surprising results and might just give us all a new sense of purpose.

Lenten blessings to you all,

Pastor Dan



Clerk's Corner

Nancy Lewis, Clerk

Our Session joyously welcomes our new Pastor Dan McKenty.

We met with him in person for our February Session meeting, and are very pleased to be able to benefit from his insight and wisdom.

Session also joyously gave Pastor Eric Markman a wonderful send off as he left us for another assignment.

Come worship with us as we celebrate the Season of Lent and look forward to Easter.



Refugee News

Nancy Lewis

Waqif started his STAR foundation, and we are working to help him receive an IGNITE grant from the Presbytery. His foundation provides assistance and support for all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers through legal representation, advocacy, social services and counseling services.

Please contact any member of our Circle of Care, if you are interested in helping.





We are grateful for the continued support of our PW Sisters as well as our generous congregation to help us fulfill a purpose of PW:
“to support the mission of the church worldwide.”

Matthew 25:40 “... 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'...” (NIV)

We encourage you to join us with our ongoing mission projects. It's easy to help with any one or all of the following projects. It takes very little time or money.



1. **“Thinking of you” cards** are being collected for residents in local skilled nursing communities. **How does it work?**

Using free, handmade or purchased note cards, write a simple note such as “thinking of you” or “I said a prayer for you today”.

Sign the card from “Friends at First Presbyterian Church – Newark”.

Place the card in the envelope. Do NOT seal. Place the unsealed envelope in the basket in the Narthex or MH lobby.

Questions? Please contact Carolyn, pw@firstpresnewark.org

2. **Stamps** for the **Alliance Stamp Ministry**. Based in FL, the proceeds from the sale of the canceled stamps are sent to a publisher in Argentina. They publish Sunday School materials in Spanish to reach children and youth in churches in 8 Latin America countries, Spain and the US. It's simple and free! Tear the canceled postage stamp off any envelope leaving about ¼ inch of the envelope around the stamp. Place stamp(s) in the basket in the Narthex or MH lobby. It's really that easy! Since 1972, more than \$1 million dollars has been raised to spread God's word in Spanish. Questions? Please contact Rosemarie, pw@firstpresnewark.org



3. **Can tabs** for **Ronald McDonald House** collection continues! Yes, all the tabs on the top of soda cans are a source of funding for Ronald McDonald House.

Large bins of tabs (1267 in a pound) are sold to recycle aluminum. The proceeds offset the cost of family stays at the Ronald McDonald House while a child is receiving treatment at Nemours. Although our church families are close enough to commute for treatments, many families come from out of state or overseas and need a cost effective place to stay. Place your can tab(s) in the bins in the Narthex or MH lobby. Questions? Please contact Rosemarie, pw@firstpresnewark.org

4. **PW Little Free Food Pantry** is based on the premise: **“Take what you need, Give what you can.”** Please support this worthwhile ministry by donating non-perishable items such as canned food, boxed food, toiletries etc. Please **NO** expired items. All members of our community are welcome to use it- neighbors, college students, recovery community, and church members.

Questions? Please contact PW, pw@firstpresnewark.org



Deacons

The Board of Deacons organizes funeral receptions for church members who have lost a loved one. Every effort is made to honor the wishes of the family. Suggestions are made according to the size of the reception. The church provides beverages and cookies; the family orders any other food desired. The receptions are held in Memorial Hall West or the parlor. The coordinator oversees preparations needed before the reception and enlists deacon and volunteers to set up, serve and clean up before and after the reception. Families have been very appreciative of this care.

Sunday School News

EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be an Easter egg hunt after church and Sunday school on Palm Sunday, March 24.

There will be two areas filled with lots of Easter eggs.

One area will be for toddlers and children not yet in kindergarten.

The second area will be for children in kindergarten through 6th grade.

Children are encouraged to bring friends and neighbors.

Bags will be provided for the collection of eggs.

This is usually a fun event that children look forward to and enjoy.

Please note that there will not be Sunday school on Easter Sunday, March 31st.



Adult Discipleship

Adult discipleship class meets after church service in the parlor, and we want to share the joy of what we are learning and how we're growing in faith and knowledge.

Please join us! We start a four week Lenten study on March 3rd.

Mission and Outreach Committee

This is a report of some recent gifts we will soon make using the monies (**\$11,000** total) set aside late last year for local agencies. This resulted in an increase of our “Outreach 2023” from less than 6% of the total budget to about 8%. Our 2024 budget plans are to “Outreach” 8.6% of the total budget with a goal of reaching 10% in 2026 of that total FPCN budget.

The local agencies that each will receive **\$2,200** are:

Newark Empowerment Center via the Wilmington based Friendship House - This organization among other activities is responsible for the homeless community’s Code Purple (Cold Night) program and is housed in the Newark’s Main Street United Methodist Church and interacts with the folks in that community daily.

Newark Area Welfare Committee – They are predominantly known for the Christmas food distributions from FPC-N’s Memorial Hall-West.

Meeting Ground – An Elkton Maryland based agency helping those in need their area.

Habitat for Humanity – Is a well-known agency based in New Castle County Delaware.

Support. Transformation. for Advancement. of Refugees. [S.T.A.R.] – This relatively new non-profit organization provides assistance and support for all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers through legal representation, advocacy, social services, and counseling services.



In addition to supporting our local neighbors we plan to send \$4,000 of budget 2024 funds to our sister church in Dinanga in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The school currently has school tuition and state test financial needs. The general church has also has needs related to heavy rains and erosion in the area. This year will be the 35th anniversary of the Dinanga parish and the 11th anniversary of the parish school FPC-N helped build.

Lastly we decided to provide \$280 to support the Presbyterian Women’s - Little Food Pantry that has been established; detail on this pantry is provided in a preceding page of this Heartbeat. These monies were donated by our church membership at Christmas time, in lieu of Christmas Flowers – Poinsettias. This **Local Mission** purpose was selected in our most recent meeting.

Upcoming Musical Events

First Presbyterian church regularly offers a number of community and regional concerts in our spacious sanctuary. Please join us to enjoy a wide array of wonderful vocal and instrumental music coming your way over the next months!

Mar 10th - 3:00 pm Newark Community Band 41st Anniversary Concert

Mar 16th - 2:00 pm Graduation Conducting Recital

Apr 27th - 7:00 pm Chesapeake Brass Band Concert (donation)



EASTER 2024

Once again flowers will adorn our sanctuary on Easter morning, Sunday, March 31st.
You may wish to donate an Easter flower *in memory of* or *in honor of* a special person (s).

This year, we will be selling lilies, tulips, and hyacinths.

Orders will be accepted through Monday , March 11th
to be recognized in the Easter bulletins.

Please make your checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and indicate
“Easter Flower” on the memo line. Please place your order form and check
in the offering plate using a pew envelope or church-offering envelope.

If you prefer, the order form and check may be mailed to:
292 West Main Street, Newark, DE 19711 or returned to the church office.
If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 731-5644.

Tulips are \$10.00 each
Easter Lilies are \$13.50 each
Hyacinths are \$11.00 each



Flower	In loving memory of	In honor of	qty	Unit price	Total Amount
Tulip				\$10.00	
Lily				\$13.50	
Hyacinth				\$11.00	
*Please write one dedication per flower				Total Amount	

(please choose one)

_____ I will pick-up my flower after the worship service.

_____ I will not pick-up my flower but would like it to be given to the sick, shut-ins or bereaved.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 24th

Palm Sunday

10:00 am -Worship Service

Thursday , March 28th

Maundy Thursday

Information TBD

Friday, March 29th

Good Friday Worship Service

7:00 pm -in the Sanctuary

**Good Friday Service will feature scripture readings and monologues by witnesses to our Lord's passion and hymns from the Taizé community.*

Sunday, March 31st

Easter Sunday Worship Services

7:00 am -Sunrise Service in the Remembrance Garden

10:00 am- Festival Service of Worship in the Sanctuary



4 Choi Wayne
5 Kim Brady
6 Gwen Angalet
6 Marilyn Kincaid
8 Conner Dube
11 Ted Koser
11 LeeAnn Powell
11 Mark Sisk
14 Jane Nickel
18 Jim Annett
18 Elizabeth Joyce
18 Laura Tuttle
23 Liam Opoku
23 Charlean Ruiter
24 Joe Huggins
25 Bob Wunder
26 Marian Leibried
28 Myles Thompson
31 Dick Putscher

Barry and Judy Baker
March, 7

Joesph and Mallory Kowalski
March 29

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE
APRIL
HEART BEAT IS
MARCH 15**

Prayer Concerns or Needs?

You can use the prayer card in the pews, contact the church office or use our prayer email:

prayers@firstpresnewark.org

Please let us know if you would like them kept confidential.

If we are missing you from the birthday or anniversary list, please let us know!

Contact Grace in the church office

officemanager@firstpresnewark.org

The image features three black crosses of varying heights standing on a dark, rounded hill. The background is a vibrant sunset sky with a gradient from deep purple at the top to bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The text 'Join Us' is written in a large, white, elegant script font, positioned above the crosses. Below it, the words 'THIS EASTER' are written in a smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font, centered across the middle cross.

Join Us
THIS EASTER

First Presbyterian Church—Newark
292 West Main Street
Newark, DE 19711
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



***A nurturing
community in
Jesus Christ
reflecting God's love
for the world as we
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Email: fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org
Website: firstpresnewark.org

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School
Begins in worship at 10:00 am

**We seek to be vibrantly active messengers of hope, bringing the caring presence
of Jesus Christ and love of God into our community and the wider world.**