

# THE GOOD NEWS



Formerly Princeton Presbyterian Church \* A PC (USA) Congregation  
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### Walking in the Light

We are in the season of the church year called Epiphany. In the world around us, it is cold and gloomy, but in worship it is the season of the coming of the Light, when we see all things shining and illumined by the light of Christ. It is also a season when we focus on discipleship, both on what it means to be called by Jesus and what it takes to follow him. One way to think about following Jesus is to talk about walking in the light. Imagine walking through the woods on a dark night, with only the light of your flashlight to help you see. Jesus is that light for our lives in a dark and complicated world.

It's not always easy to see absolutely clearly even in Jesus' light. Sometimes we put our foot wrong and make a mistake. Sometimes we go down the wrong path for a while. It's helpful to have a guide along the way. Over the next month in worship at Tree of Life, we'll be taking a look at a part of that guide – the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount is the largest collection we have of things Jesus taught. It's found in Matthew's gospel, chapters 5-7. Through these words, we learn what Jesus thought was important to teach his followers about how to follow God and walk in God's light. They aren't easy teachings. They include some things we'd rather not hear, like the direction to love our enemies. But they are as close as we get to Jesus' own teachings about how to love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. It's worth paying attention. And remember – they begin with words, not of finger-wagging or judgment, but of blessing. Through these words, Jesus guides us on the way as we try to walk in the Light day by day.

May Christ's Light and Peace be with you!  
Pam



# W o r s h i p

## FEBRUARY SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

### Sunday, February 2

10 a.m. Worship and Mission Possible  
Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12 Micah 6:1-8  
Sermon: "Walking in the Light: Beginning With Blessing"  
Choir – Communion – Souperbowl of Caring

### Sunday, February 9

10 a.m. Worship and Mission Possible  
Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20  
Sermon: "Walking in the Light: Let Your Light Shine!"  
11:15 a.m. – Annual Meeting of Congregation and Corporation in Boggs Hall

### Sunday, February 16

10 a.m. Worship and Mission Possible  
Scripture: Matthew 5: 21-37, Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Sermon: "Walking in the Light: What Is God's Law?"  
Hymn Sing – Choir  
11:15 a.m. – "Just the Basics"

### Sunday, February 23

10 a.m. Worship and Mission Possible  
Scripture: Matthew 5:38-48  
Sermon: "Walking in the Light: Going the Extra Mile"  
Change for Change Offering  
11:15 a.m. – Pizza Lunch and Research Sharing with Dr. Erin Rafferty

## Looking Ahead Toward Lent –



### A LENTEN SABBATH

"How's life?" one person asks another. "I'm so busy!" the other answers, with a groan but also maybe with a sense of accomplishment. Busyness is a cultural hazard of our time. We experience it in our personal lives, but also at church where a small congregation accomplishes an enormous amount. What is the result of all this busy-ness? We get tired, both physically and spiritually. So, this Lent at Tree of Life we are inviting you into a season of Sabbath, of rest and time with God. It will be our focus in worship and study. We are also planning a Lenten retreat where we will rest, not work. There will be a lot more about that in next month's newsletter, but this is a heads-up – one of the things we are doing is encouraging teams to not meet during Lent, so if you have a team meeting planned in February, make sure you cover items up through Easter in your conversations! May we rest, and breathe, and be renewed.



### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday this year is on Wednesday, February 26. It is the beginning of our season of reflection and renewal as we turn toward the cross and the resurrection. First Presbyterian Church in Springfield (356 Summit Road, Springfield) has invited us to join them for worship at 7 p.m. Watch for more information as details are developed!

## JUST THE BASICS- BAPTISM



Just the Basics, our monthly intergenerational learning opportunity on the basics of the Christian faith, resumes in Boggs Hall on Sunday, February 16 following worship. For the next two months, we'll be learning about the two sacraments of our church, baptism and communion. This month, we start where all of our faith journeys begin, at the baptismal font. What is baptism? What does it mean? Why is it important? We'll learn about all of those questions through interactive stations that let us learn in different ways. Come if you know nothing about baptism, if you know something but want to know more, or even if you think you have all the answers! You'll be glad you did.

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## SOUPERBOWL OF CARING FEBRUARY 1



The Eagles are out of the Superbowl this year, but the communities of Springfield, Rutledge, Morton and a few other corners of Delco are ready to play – in the Souperbowl of Caring, that is! Souperbowl Saturday is February 1. All houses in Springfield, Rutledge and Morton are encouraged to leave a bag of food on their front step by 9:30 a.m. that morning. Food will be picked up, rain, snow or shine! At Tree of Life, we're getting ready to receive the food donations which will be dropped off and delivered to Chester Eastside. Volunteers are needed at the church from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on February 1 to check expiration dates, sort and pack food as it comes in. All ability levels are needed and welcome! Then, starting at 1 p.m., we'll load trucks and vans to deliver food to Chester Eastside. Muscles and drivers are needed to help load and deliver! This is one of the days of the year when we see our whole community working together. Come on out, so you too can say you played in the Souperbowl – of Caring!

## Share the Love Fest



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Share the Love Fest will be held on Saturday, February 15 from 12:30 -8:30 p.m. This music festival and fundraiser for Our Community Cup Coffeehouse is a fun day for music lovers, supporters of the coffeehouse and all your friends and neighbors. Performers include gifted musicians in a variety of styles, some of whom are old coffeehouse favorites, some of whom are new. There will also be fun activities to do as we listen to the music. Come out for a few minutes or a few hours, enjoy the music and community and support Our Community Cup! Tree of Life Church is responsible for the food for this event. Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen and to provide hospitality for this event. We are asking people to sign up in 2 hour blocks. We also need soup and goodies to serve! Please sign up on the Our Community Cup bulletin board in the hallway outside the church library or on the table in the narthex. For more information, see the flyer included with this newsletter.

## CELEBRATION OF RESEARCH

Since Spring of last year, Tree of Life Church and families associated with it have been part of a study being conducted by folks from Princeton Theological Seminary. On Sunday, February 23 Dr. Erin Rafferty and Ph.D. student Kevin Vollrath will be with us for worship and to share their research findings over lunch. Kevin writes, " Since June 2019, our team has been working to learn from families with persons with disabilities about how the Church can improve pastoral care and ministry with people with disabilities. We've gotten to know 10 churches in the Philly/ NYC/ central NJ area from a variety of denominations who seek to serve people with disabilities, and spent time with people with disabilities and their families both inside and outside of their church. We're excited to share what we've learned from you and other congregations!"

This is a great chance to hear what others have experienced at our church and to learn from what others in ministry with folks with disabilities and their families are doing and saying. It may spark some ideas about what we can do better. We hope you are able to stay for lunch on February 23!



## ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Tree of Life Church PCUSA will be held following worship on Sunday, February 9 in Boggs Hall. In this meeting, we will receive reports of the teams of the church, review financial reports, approve the pastor's terms of call for the coming year and elect officers of the corporation. Attending the meeting is a great way to understand the details of our church life and to participate in decision making as a member. Annual Reports will be available for review on Sunday, February 2.

## Session Notes – January

Following are highlights of the January 8 Session meeting.

**Report of the Clerk:** Minutes of the Session meeting of Wednesday, December 6 were reviewed and received as presented.

**Report of the Treasurer:** December income totaled \$15,774 while expense totaled \$17,930 for a net current month deficit of \$2,155. Total income for 2019 totaled \$172, 972 while total expense totaled \$170,530 for a net surplus of \$2,5442.

**Team Reports:** Most teams did not meet in December.

- **Building Community** is planning for the Souper Bowl of Caring, which will take place on Saturday, February 1. They will soon begin to plan for Our Community Cup's "Share the Love Fest" which is scheduled for Saturday, February 15.

**Nurture Faith** team received positive response to Advent and Christmas programs. It was decided that providing for fellowship hour should no longer be a function of this team.

**Report of the Pastor:** Plans were finalized for coverage during the Pastor's study leave.

**Report from the Larger Church:** Carolyn Jeffrey will represent Tree of Life at the next general meeting of Presbytery on January 21 at Wayne Presbyterian Church.

**Other Business:** It was suggested that we reach out in an attempt to find other churches that might be willing to partner with us in supporting the coffee house. The need for additional volunteers continues to grow along with the growth of attendance on Friday evenings.

SESSIONS

**The Deacons would like to say thank you.**

Our Manger Gifts were delivered to the Village in early January. Your gifts were greatly appreciated and will help to support the children and families in the foster care system.

The Deacons were also able to make monetary donations to several local organizations – The Springfield Ministerium, The Center for Pastoral Counseling and the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County.

The Deacons Fund is used to support many projects. To name a few, the turkey certificates for the Christmas baskets, flowers to the shut-ins during the holidays, and gift cards (gas, food, etc) for families in crisis. Our funds are supported by the contributions you make when using the white envelope, in your church envelope box, marked Deacon and Pastor’s Fund. Our work could not be done without your support and generosity – thank you.



Dear friends,

Thank you so much for all the cards and well wishes you sent me during my stay in the hospital and my recuperation. I felt your love and I am so grateful to you for wrapping me in your prayers. They are working as I am getting stronger every day.

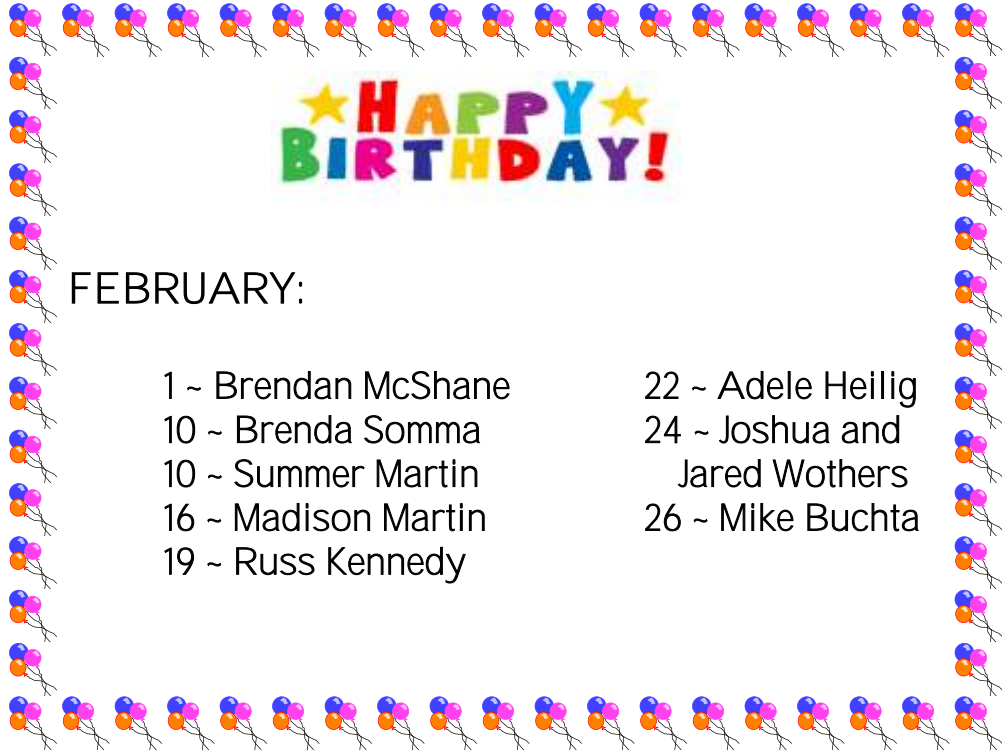
Blessings,  
Kay DeSio

To My Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and the many prayers you sent me again and again. I’m so happy to be back to church and hope my health hold up again!

Sincerely yours,  
Donna Koziol





# LOVE & SERVE

Those Serving for the Month of October				
Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Counters	Fellowship Hour
2/2	Kathy Morrell	Ken Hawthorne Annette Donnelly	Lin Buchta	
2/9	Leslie Kirsch	JoAnne Petrovitch Ginny Warmerdam	Amy Wothers Kathy Morrell	Nurture Faith
2/16	Brian McShane	Lin Buchta Rich Koziol	Carolyn Jeffrey Bobbie Morrison	
2/23	Stephen Richardson	Amy Wothers Kathy Morrell	Debbie W. Leslie Kirsch	Pizza Lunch

**Please remember to sign up for Fellowship Hour and Flowers**

**Reverend Mrs. Pamela McShane, Pastor**  
**Christine Laquintano, Director of Music**

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

Our Community Cup welcomes:  
2020 5th Annual  
**Share the Love Fest**  
Saturday, February 15th  
12:30 — 8:30 PM

12:30 Danielle and Jennifer  
1:30 John Byrne  
2:30 Pennise Family Band  
3:30 Katie Barbato  
4:30 Julia Levitina  
5:30 Paul Kurrey & Frank Porter  
6:30 Shakey and the Gang  
7:30 Julia Zane

**BE KIND  
AND THEN...  
BE KINDER!**

a PAY WHAT YOU CAN festival supporting solidarity and love  
and the programs of New Avenue Foundation  
Sponsored by ???

food music fun crafts

Tree of Life Presbyterian Church  
933 Baltimore Pike \* Springfield, PA 19064  
610-246-8939 \* sharethelovefest.us

LOVE PEACE

Tree of Life Church  
933 Baltimore Pike  
Springfield, PA 19064