

Welcome to Stanton Reformed Church!
We're so glad you've joined us for worship today!

If you're visiting, we would like to extend a special welcome to you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask an usher - they're the folks who gave you this bulletin!

Restrooms - From the back of the sanctuary, head left, pass the coat closet and go through the double doors, they're straight ahead of you.

Nursery - We provide nursery care and our loving adults would enjoy meeting your littlest ones. To get to the nursery, head left from the back of the sanctuary, pass the coat closet and it is on your right. Feel free to stay with your little one if you'd like. But we also want you to enjoy worship so the nursery staff is happy to take your cell phone and can text you with updates. We want you to feel comfortable!

Children - About 15 minutes into the worship service, children are invited forward for a special message just for them. You're welcome to join your child up front if you prefer.

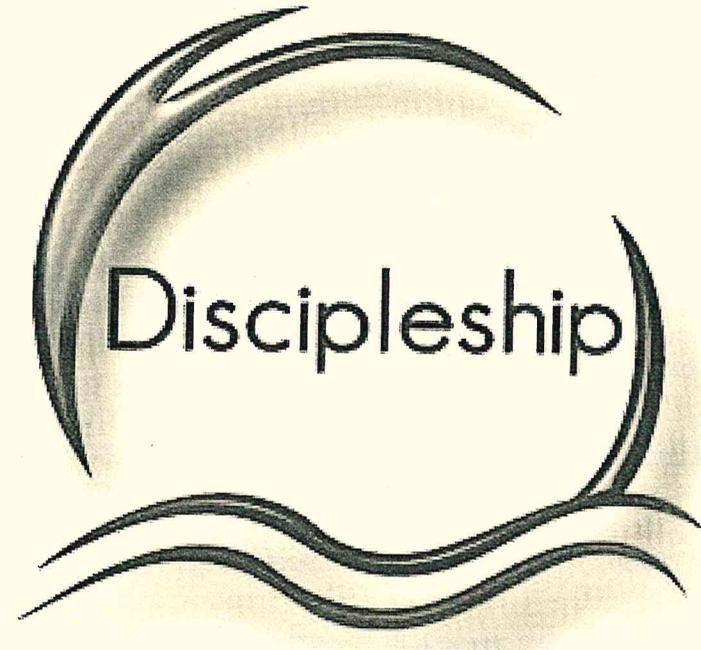
Sunday School - After the children's sermon, we have classes for children from preschool through high school. Younger children meet weekly, the classrooms are in our lower level; the stairs are immediately to your right when you leave the sanctuary. Middle school students meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, and high school students meet the 3rd Sunday of each month. There are loving adults in the foyer directing children to the right class. If you have questions, again don't hesitate to ask an usher. You can pick up your child after worship in their classroom.

Fellowship Time After Worship - After worship, we gather as a community for coffee, tea and snacks. If you're able, please join us.

Want to know more? There are cards in the back of the pews for you to provide your name and contact information if you would like more information about our community of faith. Again, welcome! We're so glad you're here!

Stanton Reformed Church
1 Stanton Mountain Road, PO Box 114, Stanton, NJ 08885
stantonchurch@gmail.com 908-236-2381

Rev. Beth Scibienski, Interim Pastor
Sara Haviland, Consistory Vice President
Carole Falar, Office Administrator
Peter Tueber, Interim Treasurer
Donna Morris, Financial Secretary
Megan Petrushun, Music Director
Philip Stevenson, Organist



Stanton Reformed Church
Founded 1833

A Congregation of the
Reformed Church in America

Sunday, January 26, 2019
Third Sunday after Epiphany

We Assemble in God's Name

* invites you to stand with us, in body or in spirit, as you are able.

Bold indicates parts read by the congregation.

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Melody Bober

Preparation for Worship

Discipleship: noun form of Disciple

Disciple: noun, a follower or a student of a teacher or leader or philosopher

Following God requires us to look at our lives differently than the rest of the world may want to see them. We are asked to give up what may be dear and act in ways that may be foolish to others.

Choral Introit *Will You Come and Follow Me* The Iona Community

Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

*Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you, and you in me?*

Call to Worship

God's invitation comes to us like the tide
rolling in and rolling out,
sometimes gentle,
sometimes thunderous,
but always calling us to follow.

As we gather, let us answer God's call to follow.

As we gather, let us be present with one another;

These are companions on our journey.

As we gather, let us find our footing as one body,

Responding to God's invitation to follow.

Let us worship God together.

*Hymn of Praise #59 *Let Us, with a Gladsome Mind* MONKLAND

Call to Confession

Jesus called out to fishermen by the sea: "Come and follow me."
They laid aside their nets and followed him.
Sisters and brothers, Jesus still calls to us: "Come and follow me."
How shall we respond?

**As we approach God in prayer,
let us lay aside all that stands in the way
of us following Jesus in our daily lives.**

Consistory Members - Our Church is governed by a board of Elders and Deacons, together they make up our "Consistory." The Consistory oversees the worship and work of the church. If you have questions or comments, one of these folks will be happy to serve you.

Diane Clapp, *Personnel and Finance & Stewardship Committees*

Scott Clarke, *Learning Center and Personnel committee*

Michele D'Amico, *All Are Welcome committee*

Sara Haviland Jackson, *VP of Consistory and Communications Committee*

Lauren Huelsebusch, *Worship committee*

Melody Landon Simerson, *Congregational Nurture Committee*

JP Magron, *member at large*

Erik Petrushun, *Nominating Committee*

Ed Scheuermann, *Interim Liaison Buildings and Grounds*

Tanya Tuccillo, *Mission Committee*

Bud Tunison, *Finance & Stewardship Committee*

Michele White, *Christian Education Committee*

Prayers and Birthdays - If you would like to have a prayer request in the bulletin, please contact Pastor Beth, or Carole at the church office. If you would like to send cards or notes to anyone on our prayer list, please contact the church office for an address.

Please remember in your prayers:

- Susie Emery is recovering from having stomach surgery. Painful, but healing well.
- Adele asked for patience, joy, peace and love for the coming year.
- A friend of Tanya's, Michael, is struggling with drug addiction.
- Scott Barton's mom, Karen, is recovering from surgery after a fall which broke both wrists. Prayers for a speedy recovery, and for her caretaker also.
- Jay Kitchener is having a hard time dealing with complications of leukemia.
- Melody Landon's friend, Rob Kalesse, is no longer able to receive treatment for his cancer and is at home with his wife, Cristina, preparing for his journey into God's arms. Please keep them in your prayers as this young couple goes through this difficult time.
- JP Magron is grateful for visits from his families and requested prayers for comfort for his godmother who recently lost her husband.
- Donna Harding - prayers for friend Mike who is battling sepsis.
- Beryl Gandolfo - prayers for friend Susie who is in her third year of treatment for non-hodgkin's lymphoma
- Carol Hrubesh - prayers for friend Johnny who is in the hospital after a brain bleed.
- Mary Schwenkler - prayers for nephew Morgan who struggles with mental illness.
- Adele Wittenberg - prayers for her friend Lew whose sister passed away recently.
- Prayers for Alfred Dentale - may he know he is loved.
- Megan Petrushun's aunt, Luci Houx, is in the hospital with an infection.

Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving:

- Cheryl Reed - Thankful to Andrea who quickly created a prayer shawl especially for Jay.
- Joyful for a sunny day and just to be alive.
- Britt's electrical issue has been resolved.
- The White triplets (Austin, Matthew, and Tyler) turned 21.
- Beth enjoyed bubble tea with her grandchildren.
- Melody Landon's granddaughter, Madison, turned 2.

Birthday Blessings:

Jan 27 - Fred Lehibach Jan 29 - Corinne Leibowitz Feb 1 - Wendy Haynes
Feb 8 - Paul Brembt Feb 8 - Declan LeBaron

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, you create us, you provide for us, you seek us out – then you call us to follow.

Such a simple command – follow me – but one that requires that we turn to you, listen to you, trust you and put you first, ahead of our personal goals and preoccupations.

For times when we shy away from such a commitment, pretend not to hear you, ignore your invitation, and turn away from your light. Forgive us.

*Hold silence for personal prayer
or follow your breath as a way of being present*

See past our self-centredness and accept our feeble response.

We are your beloved.

Encourage our faith, as we seek to trust you more and more. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon and Summary of the Law

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel:

There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God. Nothing.

God's river of love flows deep and wide, and is always and forever washing us clean.

Therefore, let us be kind and compassionate to one another.

Let us forgive each other, just as God has forgiven us.

Let us follow God's example.

As God's beloved, let us walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us.

May we know the love and peace of Christ this day. Peace be with you.

And also with you.

***Gloria Patri (#807)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Choral Anthem

We All Are One in the Lord

D. Besig & N. Price

*When we gather together in worship and praise,
we are brothers and sisters in search of God's grace.*

*Seeking guidance and comfort,
we have come to this place where we all are one in the Lord.*

*When we look all around us at faces we know,
we see friends who have taught us and helped us to grow.
There are those who inspire us, there are those who console,
and we all are one in the Lord.*

*Nourished and blessed by the fruit of the Spirit:
patience and kindness, goodness and love.*

*We will be grateful, joyful and faithful,
sharing a vision and serving together as one.*

*When we follow our Savior wherever He leads,
we confirm our commitment to serve those in need.
For our faith will sustain us, it will help us succeed.
Yes, we all are one in the Lord.*

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17
Page 155, regular print
Page 201, large print

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 4:12-23
Page 3, regular print
Page 4, large print

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Amoeba Races

Our Response to God's Word and Spirit

*Hymn of Response #654

Two Fishermen
(verses 1 and 2)

LEAVE ALL THINGS

A Prayer for Our Star Words

If you haven't gotten your 2020 Star Word, there are plenty of stars left to pick. You can find them in the narthex in a basket. There are also words specifically for children, also in the narthex in a different basket. Pick one for a family member even! Some folks have asked "what do I do with this?" or "What is this about?"

Just as the Magi were guided by a star that led them to find the Christ child, we can imagine our "Star word" as a guide for this upcoming year. The Holy Spirit is always guiding us, teaching us, challenging us. God wants to be with us in our every day life. This "Star word" can be one way for God to be with us and to grow us.

Here are a couple simple steps to get you started. Opening Star Word Prayer:
God, we acknowledge that we are not always ready to receive your best gifts for us. You have given us an epiphany word in order that our searching will bring us to you. It is often our habit to turn aside, stumble over, or even reject experiences and encounters that we later understand to have been precious gifts. Help us to be open to the gift that you offer us now through our star words. We acknowledge that we do not fully understand what this word might mean for our faith, but we receive it from you with gratitude and pray that your Spirit will enable us to live into our word with intention and faithfulness. Amen.

Ideas and Questions for reflection:

- Look up the word in the dictionary or on Wikipedia.
- What does this word mean to you today? What has it meant in the past?
- In what way does this word challenge you? Why?
- Turn the word around - if you were thinking it meant something for you to do for others, what would it mean if it were for others to do for you? Or vice versa.
- Tell a trusted friend about your word and what you are thinking so far.
- Put the star somewhere you can see it regularly. From time to time throughout the year, go through this exercise again and see how your "Star Word" is guiding you.

SEEKING ACOLYTE LIGHTERS!

Ever wonder how those adorable kids get chosen to light our candles in church every week? Well wonder no more! ALL ARE WELCOME to volunteer to be our Acolyte candle lighters each week. If your child would love a chance to participate in our service, we would love to have you! Parents we ask that you use the sign up sheet posted on our bulletin board to sign your sons or daughters up to light as a volunteer. We would love to see some new faces lighting our candles in the new year and bringing smiles to our congregation each week. Parents will be asked to stay with your child in the narthex until the candles are lit. Directions will be posted in the narthex. THANK YOU!!

Progressive Dinner - Saturday, February 8th

It's time for our annual progressive dinner! This dinner is open to all adults in the community, and is a great way to connect with friends old and new (and friends that you haven't met yet!). Each course is at a different location and with a different set of diners - it's like three dinner parties in one! The evening starts with appetizers at the church at 6:00 PM, travels for soup and salad at 7:00, and shuffles again for dinner and dessert at 8:30.

Please RSVP ASAP at this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/SRC-Progressive-Dinner>

Or, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can email anna-barton@hotmail.com or text 908-797-8438. Please indicate how many adults are in your party and if you are willing to host or bring an appetizer/dessert. This dinner is open to all adults in the community, so feel free to bring your friends!

January Mission of the Month

Anderson House for Women, located in Whitehouse Station, is a residential program for women in recovery from substance abuse and co-occurring disorders. Services include individual, group and family counseling. They utilize a holistic approach, focusing on all aspects of addiction; the physical, psychological, emotional & spiritual.

A SOUPER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!

Today, January 26, we have a double header - the Stanton Youth Group is hosting a brunch fundraiser for Starfish and CHOP, and the Consistory is hosting a Congregational Meeting. How's this going to work?

Our usual worship service will be abbreviated to 45 minutes, so that everyone can move down to the Fellowship Hall to grab a plate and settle in. Adults will sit in the Fellowship Hall and children in the nursery, where our older youth will make sure they are well-fed and cared for.

We will begin our congregational meeting at the usual time, about 11:05. We will discuss our budget and church business, including committee updates and how to get involved. It is very important for all of our members and regular attendees to attend so you can stay informed - this is YOUR church!

A freewill donation will be collected, with all proceeds benefiting Starfish and CHOP - we suggest \$10 per plate or \$30 per family.

Prayers of the People

What joys and concerns would we like to add to our list of prayers?

Let's pause in silence for those prayers that have not been mentioned but remain in our hearts and on our minds.

We seal these prayers with the prayer Jesus taught us,
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith¹

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for his Church by his Word and his Spirit

**God has done this since the beginning of the world
and will continue to do so to the end.**

We believe in one holy, universal Christian Church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest
in the Church, a community of believers**

who have been reconciled with God and with one another

Therefore, we believe that unity is a gift to the Church of Jesus Christ

**Therefore we believe that unity is an obligation for the Church of Jesus
Christ.**

Our Gifts of Thanksgiving

Invitation to Giving

In this time of giving, we answer God's invitation to follow.

**Some of us come with pockets full of money and with the will to share our
treasure;**

Some come with pockets empty but with the will to share our lives in service.

However we come today, let us give with grateful hearts.

The ushers may come forward to receive today's offering.

Offertory

How Can I Keep From Singing

arr. Christopher Ruck

¹ From the "Song of Hope," A Confession of the Reformed Church of America

*Doxology (#809 in unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication

With these offerings of our money and our lives, we answer your call to be your disciples.

Bless our offerings.

May they be used to help others in need as we seek to follow you and to do your will. Amen.

*Hymn of Sending #654

Two Fishermen
(verses 3 and 4)

LEAVE ALL THINGS

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

Take My Life, Lead Me, Lord

LANGLEY

*Take my life, lead me, Lord, take my life, lead me, Lord, make my life useful to thee;
take my life, lead me, Lord, take my life, lead me, Lord, make my life useful to thee.*

Postlude

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

H. Purcell, arr. Pethel

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

- Leading us in worship today:
 - Preaching: Pastor Beth Scibienski
 - Liturgist: Michele White
 - Organist: Philip Stevenson
 - Music Director: Megan Petrushun
 - Soloist: Dick Billings
- Thank you to Penny Gallagher and Camille Kille for ushering today.
- Thank you to Deb and Ed Scheuermann, the youth group, and all who helped with today's Souper Bowl of Caring.
- The flowers on our altar are given in the glory of God by Jean Martinetti.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

<u>Acolytes</u>	Feb 2	Please sign up!
	Feb 9	Please sign up!
<u>Fellowship Hour</u>	Feb 2	Please sign up!
	Feb 9	Please sign up!
<u>Flowers</u>	Feb 2	Angel Longo
	Feb 9	Please sign up!
<u>Ushers</u>	Feb 2	Please sign up!
	Feb 9	Please sign up!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan 26	Souper Bowl of Caring	10:45 AM
	Congregational Meeting	11:05 AM
Monday, Jan 27	Worship Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
Tuesday, Jan 28	Prayer Shawl	2:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan 22	Bible Reading Group	10:00 AM
	Bible Reading Group	7:00 PM
Saturday, Feb 1	Stanton Men's Breakfast	8:30 AM

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling all Handbell Ringers!

The Stanton Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday February 2nd, roughly 15 minutes after Worship Service ends. Rehearsals continue every Sunday until the day we play during the Lent Worship Service on Sunday March 29th.

If you are interested in playing with the Handbell Choir this Spring, please contact Donna Herb **by January 26th** by either calling or texting: 609-203-9938.