

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.

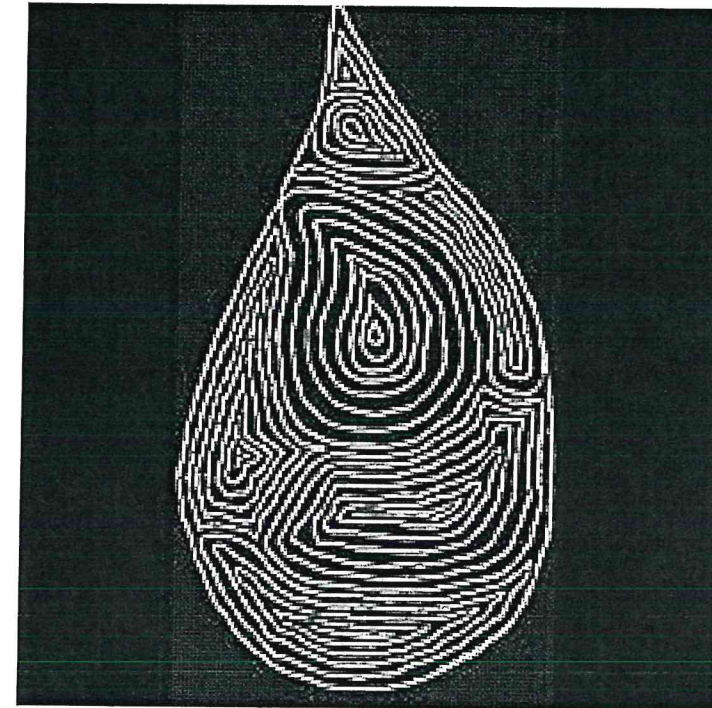
Sunday School - After the children's sermon, we have classes for children from preschool through high school. Younger children meet weekly, the classrooms are in our lower level; the stairs are immediately to your right when you leave the sanctuary. Middle school students meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday 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 19, 2019
Baptism of Christ Sunday

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 *Deep River* arr. Brad Nix

Preparation for Worship

The texts for this week offer insight not only into Jesus' identity and calling but also into our own. Jesus emerges from the waters of baptism and hears the truth of his identity: Beloved Child of God.

The same can be said of each one of us. While baptism might mark a beginning in the Christian journey, we are beloved children of God from our first breath. This is not a passive identity, but an active calling to God's work of justice in the world.

Where do you get your identity? Is it from God's love for you? Or is from something else?

Choral Introit *O Jesus, Blest Redeemer* Cleland B. McAfee
*O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before you
near to the heart of God.*

Call to Worship

We come as your children, from our native lands far and wide, from different families and lives.

We come to the Living Waters and find a home.

We come across oceans of loneliness, sailing seas of anxiety.

We come to the Living Waters and find peace.

We come through fearful storms, through deep lakes of loss.

We come to the Living Waters and find love.

Come let us worship God.

*Hymn of Praise #187 *Jesus, Come! for We Invite You* SICILIAN MAINERS
(Verses 1 and 2)

Call to Confession

Within the Jewish tradition, there is a practice of immersion in living water for renewal. Living water can be a natural body of water or a specific type of bath called a mikvah.

As part of this practice, one would remove not only his or her clothing but makeup and nail polish. One would wash body and hair, scrubbing themselves clean as to remove anything that would separate them from the Living Waters of God.

- 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-hodgkins 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 families in Iran who have lost loved ones in recent events.

Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving:

- Cheryl Reed - Thankful to Andrea who quickly created a prayer shawl especially for Jay.

Birthday Blessings:

Jan 22 - Ann Sauerland Jan 24 - Sandy Adam Jan 24 - Kathy Bernhardt
Jan 27 - Fred Lehlbach Jan 29 - Corinne Leibowitz Feb 1 - Wendy Haynes

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 Petrushen, *Nominating Committee*

Ed Scheuermann, *Interim Liaison Buildings and Grounds*

Tanya Tuccillo, *Mission Committee*

Bud Tunison, *Finance & Stewardship Committee*

Michele White, *Christian Education Committee*

Progressive Dinner - Saturday, February 8th

The Annual Stanton Reformed Church Progressive Dinner will be on Saturday, February 8, 2020. The evening starts with appetizers at the church at 6:00 PM, travels for soup and salad at 7:00, shuffles again for dinner and dessert at 8:30.

Please RSVP 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!

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!!

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.

As we approach the prayer of confession, let's take a moment to consider things in our lives, attachments, broken relationships, habits or other obstacles that keep us from being immersed in God's love and grace. In this silence, consider what we may need to let go of, in order to live the life God intends for us.

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we come to you as broken people.

**We are mired in our own selfishness,
stuck in resentment,
caked with the mud of pride.**

And yet you see past the muck and call us Beloved.

Help us to be vulnerable now to the waters of your grace.

Hold silence for personal prayer

or follow your breath as a way of being present

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 you clean.**

We come to the river of God's love and find grace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

With God's love around us and within us, let us pass the peace of Christ to one another. 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

Call You By Name

Heather Sorenson

*I called you by name, long before you knew Me.
Long before you heard Me, I had claimed you as Mine.
You are My beloved child of grace. And I call you Mine.*

*You call Me by name, "Father, can You hear me?
Jesus, can You see me stumbling in the dark?"*

And then I reply, "Dear child, I have never left you.

I am right beside you whisp'ring in your heart, and I call you Mine."

I have formed ev'ry part, fashioned your heart like Mine.

The image of God in a perfect miracle design.

There will be times of doubt. There will be times of fear.

There will be times you wonder if I'm ever near.

Just remember, that I call you Mine.

I call you by name. You are My creation.

I am your salvation, I am always working for your good.

I call you by name, you are My beloved child of grace. And I call you Mine.

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart - Lord, let my heart - Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 42:1-9

Page 638, regular print

Page 830, large print

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 3:13-17

Page 86, regular print

Page 112, large print

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Drenched in Love

A SOUPER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Sunday, January 26th

On Sunday, 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 11:05am. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Review 2019 finances
- Review the 2020 Budget
- Receive reports Elders and Deacons, including 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. The Youth encourage everyone to wear a jersey or other fan gear to support their favorite team! PLEASE RSVP ASAP so we know how much food to make - you can follow this link: Stanton Souper Bowl RSVP or email the church office directly (stantonchurch@gmail.com).

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.

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.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

- Leading us in worship today:
 - Preaching: Pastor Beth Scibienski
 - Liturgist: Erik Petrushun
 - Organist: Philip Stevenson
 - Music Director: Megan Petrushun
- Sara and Delia Haviland Jackson for ushering.
- Thank you to Betty Berner and Irma Holtz for hosting today's fellowship.
- The flowers on our altar are given in the glory of God by the Borea-Cerciello Family.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

<u>Acolytes</u>	Jan 26	Please sign up!
	Feb 2	Please sign up!
<u>Fellowship Hour</u>	Jan 26	Souper Bowl of Caring
	Feb 2	Please sign up!
<u>Flowers</u>	Jan 26	Jean Martinetti
	Feb 2	Angel Longo
<u>Ushers</u>	Jan 26	Please sign up!
	Feb 2	Please sign up!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan 19	High School Sunday School	10:20 AM
	Confirmation Class	11:30 AM
Monday, Jan 20	Consistory Meeting	7:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan 22	Bible Reading Group	10:00 AM
	Bible Reading Group	7:00 PM
Sunday, Jan 26	Souper Bowl of Caring	10:45 AM
	Congregational Meeting	11:05 AM

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Martin Luther King, Jr Still Speaks"

January 20, 2020, 7:00 PM at the Rockaway Reformed Church
115 Mainstreet, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

Join area churches for readings from portions of his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

Various churches will provide musical selections.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." Letter from a Birmingham Jail, 1963.

Our Response to God's Word and Spirit

*Hymn of Response #187 *Jesus, Come! for We Invite You* SICILIAN MAINERS
(Verses 3 and 4)

Prayers of the People

Gracious God, from the moment your spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life, you have been journeying with your people.

**Tossed by the waters of the flood,
delivered from bondage through the parting of the seas,
you sustained your people
and blessed them with freedom and new life.**

Share prayers for places in our world in need of God's intervening peace and love.

With our ancestors who led the way, with our communities throughout the world, with all those who have yet to come, we come to the waters of faith.

We come to you.

Our journeys are not easy.

**Sickness, loss, despair, loneliness, and fear
are our constant companions.**

Share prayers for those who are hurting, in need of healing or comfort.

God, our journeys are not easy.

When the ways of sin and death seem overpowering, we remember how Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan and anointed with your spirit.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection,

Christ set us free,

giving us hope that love will always overcome.

Share joys with one another.

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of water.

Water washes us clean from the muck of our lives.

Water relieves our parched spirits.

Water sustains us on the long journey.

Water bears us up in times of joy and gives us strength in times of sorrow.

Send your Spirit on us and on this water –

that all who pass through it may be filled with grace, love, and new life.

Hold Silence for those joys and concerns that have not been shared.

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.**

Come to the Water

*If you wish, you are invited forward to interact with the water.
Dip your hands in,
Take a glass bead from the bottom.
If you've been baptized, this moment might remind you of your Baptism.
If you have not been baptized, or even if you have, may this moment remind you of
God's unconditional love for you.*

*You are loved.
You are called.
With you, God is well-pleased.*

Our Gifts of Thanksgiving

Invitation to Giving

Just as people approached the waters of Baptism,
let us bring not only our gifts but our lives,
ready for the Spirit of God to make us new.
The ushers may come forward to receive today's offering.

Offertory *Winter Nocturne* Robert Vandall

*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

Mighty God, as people made new by waters of your spirit, we come to you as
children. Accept these gifts, the humble yet holy work of our hands, the humble
yet holy value of our lives, the humble yet holy truth of our hearts.
**Fill us to the brim as you would an earthen vessel, and then keep pouring, so
that our lives would overflow with your love. Amen.**

*Hymn of Sending #758 *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction *Lord, Let Us Now Depart in Peace* George Whelpton
*Lord, let us now depart in peace, who in your name are gathered here;
disclose the brightness of your face, and be forever near. Amen.*

Postlude *Fantasia in A Major* G.F. Handel
