

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.

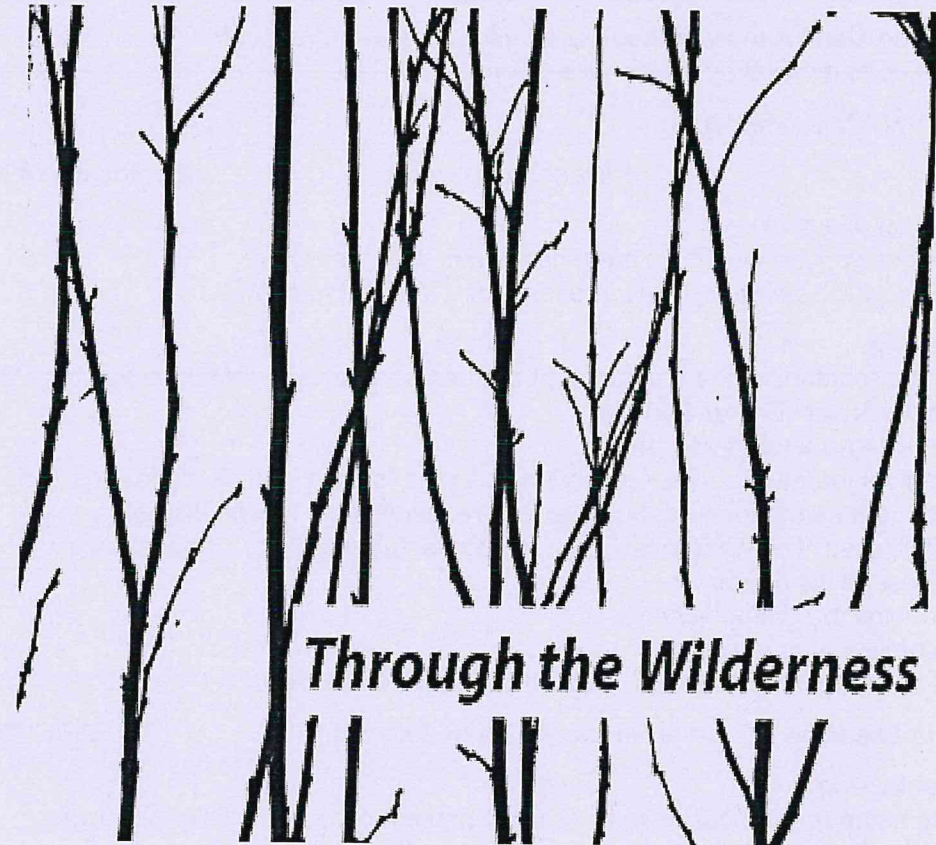
Sunday School - After the children's sermon, we have classes for children from preschool through high school. Younger children meet weekly, the classrooms are in our lower level; the stairs are immediately to your right when you leave the sanctuary. Middle school students meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday 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
Beryl Gandolfo, Treasurer
Donna Morris, Financial Secretary
Megan Petrushun, Music Director
Philip Stevenson, Organist



Through the Wilderness

Stanton Reformed Church
Founded 1833

A Congregation of the
Reformed Church in America

March 15, 2020
Third Sunday of Lent

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 *Wayfaring Stranger* arr. Joseph Martin

Preparation for Worship

Where have you known God's presence in this past week?

Where are you looking for God's presence in the week to come?

Call to Worship

We gather together at the beginning of our Lenten journey - six lit candles, one for each week until Easter Sunday.

We do not know what lies ahead.

The spiritual journey is one of reflection, the path is filled with all of life - joy and sorrow, pain and pleasure, betrayal and reconciliation, loneliness and togetherness. The wilderness journey sees both the light of Christ and the darkness of his death.

Three candles are extinguished.

Into the wilderness we go.

Let us worship with courage, hope and gratitude. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise #558 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* BEECHER

Time of Confession

God, sometimes, we hold on to things that make it hard for us to listen to you.

We hold onto resentment when things do not go our way.

We hold onto hurt when forgiveness is hard to find.

We hold onto partial truths when the whole truth is something we would rather not admit.

If you would like, during the silence, write something you wish to let go of onto the small piece of water-soluble paper you received. After the silence, you are invited forward to place the paper into the water.

There is nothing that God's living water cannot dissolve as it flows through our lives.

Hold Silence for writing down that which we wish to let go or

Follow your breath as a way of being present.

God, thank you for giving us life even in the midst of death.

May your Spirit gush up within us, washing away everything that keeps us from loving you and your creation. Amen.

You are invited forward with your paper to the font, if you would like.

Birthday Blessings:

Mar 16 - Jean Feike

Mar 19 - Joe Troegner

Mar 25 - Kristin Bourquin

Mar 27 - Vic Burns

Mar 28 - Camille Cerciello

Mar 28 - Kate Morris

Mar 17 - Debbie Scheuermann

Mar 24 - Donna Morris

Mar 26 - Scott Barton

Mar 27 - Haley Whitlock

Mar 28 - Martha Lehlbach

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. Please don't hesitate to speak with any of these folks about your questions or concerns*

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*

We will be using Zoom for committee meetings and small group gatherings. If you are part of a committee or small group, you will receive an email with information about your “zoom” call. Click on the link and your browser will follow the instructions to place you in a video conference with others in your group.

A more comprehensive explanation of the changes and strategies we have implemented was in last week’s newsletter. There are hard copies in the narthex.

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:

- Friend of Jake Hendershot who lost his life to suicide. Prayers for his parents, family and friends. And extra prayers for our teenagers.
- Prayers for Jayne Koch and family, as they grieve the loss of Carl.
- Susan Miller is in the hospital.
- Melody Landon's son-in-law's family, as they grieve over the loss of their precious Aunt Mimi.
- The Maxwell family, grieving the loss of Uncle Tim.
- Pastor Bethany Popkes of Highbridge Reformed - Please uphold Bethany and her family with your prayers as they mourn the loss of her grandmother.
- The Kolbeck family is grieving the loss of their son Justin, 24 years old, to addiction. Prayers for his family, and all who are struggling with addiction.
- Lisa Sutherland (age 45) passed away on February 26th after a long battle with cancer. Her children attended Stanton Learning Center and her husband is a Raritan police officer. Prayers for Brian, Ian and Conner.
- Greg Pardo (friends of the Bozzi's, and Benny is very good friends with his son Bo) – started the stem cell transfer process this week. Greg will undergo 5 days of aggressive chemo and then the transplant. Prayers for him, his wife Amy, and their two kids Bo and Haley.
- Barbara Tannahill's grandson, Michael, was hospitalized at HMC briefly and is recuperating well at home.
- A cure and end to the spread of the coronavirus.
- Classis president, Robert Mettler, passed away. Robert was as committed to Christ as they come and an exemplary church leader. Please hold his widow, Aruna, in prayer.
- Blawenburg Reformed Church - this week’s Classis church we hold in prayer.

Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving:

- Camille Kille’s niece gave birth to a girl, born at home last week. All healthy!

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

The scriptures say, “Can a woman forget her nursing child,
Or show no compassion for the child of her womb?

Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

As a mother comforts her child,

So will I comfort you, says the Lord.”

As God’s forgiven people, how are we to live?

Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you,

That you love one another just as I have loved you.”

Beloved, as God has loved us, let us love 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.

Special Music

Jesus’ Prayer

Proclamation of the Word

Children’s Moment

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons: Psalm 95 *sung*

Hymn #320 - *Come, Let Us Praise the Lord*

(verses 1, 3 and 4)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 4:5-42

Page 89, regular print

Page 115, large print

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Our Response to God's Word and Spirit*Hymn of Response #506 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

VOX DILECTI

*Affirmation of Faith¹**I believe in the wilderness.****I believe in the interdependence of all living things.****I believe in the grandeur of the great and tiny, in the scorched and fresh earth.****I believe in the space that allows our hearts to soar, the room to move and breathe.****I believe that the wilderness reminds us to live in freedom, revealing the mysteries of death and rebirth.****I believe that the wilderness is a great sanctuary of playfulness, creativity, and celebration.****I believe that the wilderness surprises us when we have reached the end of our possibilities.****I believe in the power of the wilderness to transform itself after destruction, providing us with an example of renewal and hope.**

Prayers of the People with Our Gifts of Thanksgiving

God's grace connects us one to another.

Even if we are not physically together, we belong to one another.

Let us then enter into a time of sharing - sharing our resources and our prayers.

What of our resources will we give as an offering this week? Is it time? Is it money?

Is it a specific skill or a task that needs to be done?

Rather than passing the offering plates, we've placed them in the narthex.

Whatever we give, let us give with grateful hearts.

And what prayers shall we share with one another?

You are invited to share joys and concerns with one another; they will be added to the list in our bulletin.

Let us gather all of this together - our resources, our gifts, our skills, our joys and our concerns. Let us dedicate them to God with thankful hearts.

Dear God, these gifts represent our desire to love through sharing. We belong to one another.

Hear our prayers; use us and our resources to lavish your love on the whole family of God. Amen.¹ *The Wilderness Creed*, Trisha Watts and Gabrielle Lord, Sanctuary: Where Heaven Touches Earth**SRC Ladies Group**

The SRC Ladies Group will be meeting on March 24th. We will meet at the home of Candice Teuber (15 Pleasant View Rd, Lebanon) at 7:30 p.m. and will be reading and discussing the book, "What is the Bible?" by Rob Bell. Please contact Candice with any questions at candice.teuber@gmail.com or 908-268-2645.

Readington Reformed Church Women's Annual Breakfast - Sat, April 4, 9am

You are invited for breakfast, special music and an interactive, inspiring conversation on "Life Together." This year the keynote speaker is our own Pastor Beth. She will be using her book, "Who Is God when We Hurt?" as fodder for conversation around the theme "Life Together." Books will be available to purchase (\$15) and to sign for those who wish.

Starfish Easter Basket Food Collection

Food and monetary donations are requested for The Readington Starfish Easter food baskets. Volunteers are also needed to help this at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Sunday, 4/5 - 6:00 PM - Set-Up Hall

Tuesday, 4/7 - 9:00 AM - Sort donations

Wednesday, 4/8 - 9:00 AM - Pack non perishables

4:30 PM - Pack perishables

5:30 PM - Distribution

All food & monetary donations are due by Sunday, April 5th.

Easter Flowers - If you would like to purchase flowers to decorate the altar for Easter Sunday, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. We will be ordering 8" tulips in assorted colors for \$10. Checks can be made payable to Stanton Reformed Church and placed in the offering plate, or given to Jean Feike or Barbara Tannahill. Deadline for orders is Sun, April 5th. You may pick up your flowers after the Easter Sunday service. Please contact Jean Feike or Barbara Tannahill with questions.

Staying Connected while Staying Healthy

We have made several changes to our worship service to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. However, not all of us feel comfortable gathering and in fact, some experts have suggested gathering, such as those of faith communities, consider alternative ways to gather. Here is what we have in place:

Today, **our worship service is being live streamed on our YouTube channel.** Using any internet connection and an internet browser or the YouTube app, search for Stanton Reformed Church and you will find a live stream for worship on Sundays.

Stanton Learning Center - Kids Night Out - Friday, March 20th

SLC is hosting a Kids Night Out on Friday, March 20th, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM for kids aged 2-1/2 to 11 years. Chicken Nuggets and French Fries will be served! Along with drinks, dessert and popcorn. A movie, musical games and a craft are also included!

For Ages 2.5 - 11 The cost is as follows:

Registered families: \$20 for the first child & \$15 for each additional child

Non-registered families: \$25 for the first child & \$20 for each additional child

Please tell your friends and RSVP to Andrea at (908) 236-0917

Stanton Learning Center - Open House - Saturday, March 21st

SLC will be having an OPEN HOUSE for all interested families on Sat, March 21st from 10-12. There will be crafts, snacks, tours and time to meet our teachers.



Youth Group News - March 2020

Our Youth Group leaders are planning a fun March event – save the date! On Sunday, March 29, we will be playing a Bigger and Better game. The kids will be broken into teams, and will be given a small object (e.g. a pencil) and sent out on a mission: to turn that item into something bigger and better, without spending any money. Please visit the SRC Facebook page to RSVP so we can plan our cars and teams.

This involves some coordination, so we need your help! Students will be sent out into the community to visit SRC members (who will be expecting them) and will ask to trade their item for something bigger and better. We need: 1) Two drivers to help ferry the teams around town, and 2) Adults who are ready to answer the door and trade something with the youth when they arrive. It could be anything in your house you are willing to part with – if you have a yard sale pile, this is a great way to clear something out! If you can help out with either of the above, please contact Michele White or Carole in the Stanton Church office (stantonchurch@gmail.com). Thanks for your support of the youth program!!

*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.**

*Hymn of Sending #608

As Water to the Thirsty

OASIS

*Benediction

Postlude

Allegro in C Major

J. S. Bach

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

- Leading us in worship today:
 - Preaching: Pastor Beth Scibienski
 - Liturgist: Angel Longo
 - Organist: Philip Stevenson
 - Music Director: Megan Petrushun
 - Soloist: Donna Herb
- Thank you to Debbie and Ed Scheuermann for ushering today.
- Thank you to Penny Gallagher, Debbie Scheuermann, and company for hosting Fellowship today.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

<u>Acolytes</u>	Mar 22	Please sign up!
	Mar 29	Please sign up!
<u>Fellowship Hour</u>	Mar 22	Please sign up!
	Mar 29	Please sign up!
<u>Flowers</u>	No flowers during Lent	
<u>Ushers</u>	Mar 22	Please sign up!
	Mar 29	Please sign up!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun, Mar 15	High School Sunday School	10:20 AM
Mon, Mar 16	Elders Meeting	5:45 PM
	Consistory Meeting	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 18	Bible Reading Group	10:00 AM
	No Evening Bible Reading Group-NOTE: to resume after Easter	
	Lenten Wednesday Soup & Study	6:30 PM
	@ Whitehouse United Methodist Church	
Fri, Mar 20	SLC Kids' Night Out	6:00 PM
Sat, Mar 21	SLC Open House	10:00 AM
Sun, Mar 22	Worship Service	10:00 AM
	Middle School Sunday School	10:20 AM
	Children and Communion Lesson	11:15 AM

Lent and Holy Week Announcements

Have you adopted a Lenten practice? It is tradition for followers of Jesus to “give up something” or “practice something” during the five weeks of Lent. Need a hint? What was your star word from Epiphany and how might you do something during Lent that would help that word grow you to be more like Jesus?

Our theme for Lent - Each week of Lent, we will be reflecting on various characters in the gospel of John “through the lens of Wilderness”.

Dinner and Discussion - On Wednesdays during Lent, our ecumenical community of churches is facilitating a discussion of “Life Together” by Dietric Bonhoeffer. No need to read the book to participate in the discussion. Here is the rotation of churches.

~ 6:30 p.m. Soup ~ 7:15 p.m. Study ~

Wednesday, March 18 @ Whitehouse United Methodist Church

“The Day Alone” w/ Rev. Lynn Mears
73 Old Highway 28, Whitehouse, NJ 08889

Wednesday, March 25 @ Cokesbury United Methodist Church

“Ministry” w/ Rev. David Edwards
230 Cokesbury Road, Lebanon, NJ 08833

Wednesday, April 1 @ Califon United Methodist Church

“Confession and Communion” w/ Rev. Thomas E. Jones
15 River Road, Califon, NJ 07830

Palm Sunday - April 5 - Make sure to join us and invite your families for a reflective service of Holy Week.

Good Friday - April 10- The Worship committee has prepared a creative service for us to enter into the darkness of Jesus’ death as we anticipate the light of Easter.

Easter Sunday, April 1

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service - @ Round Valley Boat Launch, County Road 629, Lebanon, NJ 08833, Rev. Beth Scibienski, preaching - Music by Mr. Ed & the Revs

10 a.m. Easter Sunday Service here at Stanton

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children and Communion - Next week, the worship committee and Pastor Beth will hold a special learning session for children (young and old) to explore the meaning of communion. Save the date and meet us at the communion table after worship.