

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.

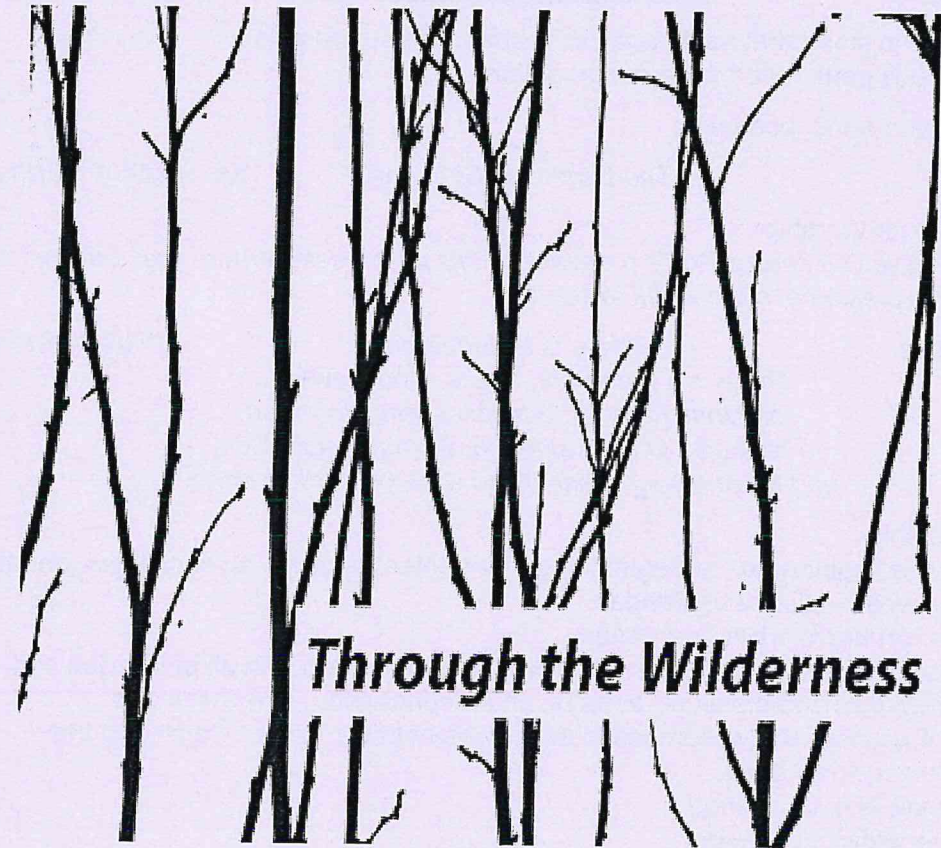
Sunday School - After the children's sermon, we have classes for children from preschool through high school. Younger children meet weekly, the classrooms are in our lower level; the stairs are immediately to your right when you leave the sanctuary. Middle school students meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday 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 1, 2020
First 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 *The Lord's My Shepherd* arr. Heather Sorenson

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?

Choral Introit *There Is a Redeemer* Melody Green

*There is a redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank you O my Father, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

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.

One candle is extinguished.

Into the wilderness we go.

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

*Hymn of Praise #45 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

Call to Confession

Like the psalmist, let us say to God,
**"Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my thoughts.**

**See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,**

by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Birthday Blessings:

Mar 3 - Lucas Teuber

Mar 4 - Josh Longo

Mar 14 - Gina Borea

Mar 4 - Anna Barton

Mar 8 - Cameron Wieben

Mar 14 - Cindi Troegner

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*

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.

Children and Communion - Sunday March 22, 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.

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:

- Lauren Huelsebusch's brother, Jeff Shiffrin, passed away after a head injury. Prayers for his loving wife, Eileen, their children and family.
- Janet and Doug, who were both hospitalized with the flu.
- David Lockart, was a Choral Director here in the 60s, passed away from pancreatic cancer on January 30, 2020 at age 64. Prayers for peace and comfort for his loving wife, Linda, and his family.
- The young girl from Voorhees who just passed away. Prayers for mental illness and suffering.
- Prayers for Josephine, who lost her husband of 74 years.
- 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.
- Addisville Reformed Church - this week's Classis church we hold in prayer.

Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving:

- Thanks for Becky's love and friendship of ten years.
- Thanks for Carl Koch's life.
- Thankful for caregivers.

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

In your mercy,
**forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. 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

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.**

Choral Anthem *Jesus in the Wilderness* Tyler Mabry
*Jesus in the wilderness forty days, forty nights, fasting and praying.
Jesus in the wilderness forty days, forty nights, then He heard the devil saying,
"Jesus, You're a hungry man. Do Yourself a favor.
Save Yourself if You're a Savior! Send forth Your power and turn the stones to bread!"
That's what the devil said!
Then Jesus answered, "We live by the Word of Heaven, we live by the Word of
Heaven, we live by the Word of Heaven, not by bread alone."
"Jesus, You're a holy man. Show the world Your power.
Throw Your body from this tower. Surely the angels will lift Your sacred head!"
That's what the devil said!
Then Jesus answered, "Believe in the pow'r of Heaven, believe in the pow'r of
Heaven, believe in the pow'r of Heaven; never test your God."*

"Jesus, You're a mighty man. You're beyond temptation. You deserve to rule the nations! Kneel down and serve me, and I will crown your head!"

That's what the devil said!

Then Jesus answered, "My Lord is the God of Heaven, My Lord is the God of Heaven, My Lord is the God of Heaven, I serve God alone!"

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Moment - Burying the "Alleluias"

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons: Psalm 32
Page 479, regular print
Page 623, large print

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 4:1-11

Page 3, regular print

Page 3, large print

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon **From Water to the Wilderness**

Our Response to God's Word and Spirit

*Hymn of Response #107

Christ Be My Leader

SLANE

*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.

¹ *The Wilderness Creed*, Trisha Watts and Gabrielle Lord, Sanctuary: Where Heaven Touches Earth

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SRC to Host Ecumenical Lenten Soup/Service - Wed, Mar 11 - Volunteers Needed

Stanton Church is hosting the Ecumenical Lenten Soup and Service on Wednesday, March 11th. We will gather at 6:30 pm for a Soup Supper, to be followed by a time of Learning at 7:15 PM. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

For this service we need volunteers to bring the following:

- 10 people to make soup, bringing 3 quarts in a crock pot
- 4 people bringing bread to serve 20 people each (total 80 people)
- 4 people bringing drinks (soda, water, coffee)
- 5 people bringing cookies or finger food desserts
- 2 people for table and chair set up
- Congregational nurture committee responsible for clean-up

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 operation 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.

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

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 4 @ Round Valley United Methodist Church

“Community” w/ Rev. Jeff May
30 Main Street, Lebanon, NJ 08833

Wednesday, March 11 @ Stanton Reformed Church

“The Day with Others” w/ Rev. Sarah Borgstom Lee
1 Stanton Mountain Road, Stanton, NJ 08885

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

Celebration of the Lord’s Table

The Invitation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, good and joyful, to give thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Therefore we join our voices with all of creation in this great prayer of thanksgiving.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy is your name, O Lord God. Our hearts adore you.

You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

We pause to offer prayers for those in our community who are hurting and healing. In their pain, may they hold to your promises.

Hold Silence to pray for those on the prayer list, printed in the bulletin.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us,

and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you.

You delivered us from slavery,

sustained us in the wilderness,

and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.

Giving himself freely to death on the cross,

he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this to remember me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering this life, death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world, praying just as 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.

Sharing the Meal and the Prayer after the Meal

Our Gifts of Thanksgiving

Invitation to Giving

In our search for love and safety, we are tempted to give in to our selfish desires and ignore the needs of the people and planet that God has provided.

But God calls us to generosity.

We belong to you. We belong to one another.

As God gives to us in abundance, let us give from our true selves.

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

Offertory *Moonlight Memories* Victor Labenske

*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

O God, with these gifts and our lives, we pursue you in the mystery of faith.

Use us and these gifts to bring life to others. Amen.

*Hymn of Sending #635 *He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought* HE LEADETH ME

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction *In the Shadow of the Cross* David Angerman

Here in the shadow of the cross we remember love.

Here in the shadow of the cross we remember peace.

Here in the shadow of the cross we remember hope.

Go in peace and remember.

Postlude *Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days* arr. Joseph Martin

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

- Leading us in worship today:
 - Preaching: Pastor Beth Scibienski
 - Liturgist: Tanya Tuccillo
 - Organist: Philip Stevenson
 - Music Director: Megan Petrushun
- Thank you to Russell Serriani and Pierce Jackson for ushering today.
- Thank you to Caden and Declan LeBaron for being acolytes today.
- Thank you to Nancy and Hector Arbelo for hosting Fellowship today.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

<u>Acolytes</u>	Mar 8	Please sign up!
	Mar 15	Please sign up!
<u>Fellowship Hour</u>	Mar 8	The White Family
	Mar 15	Please sign up!
<u>Flowers</u>	No flowers during Lent	
<u>Ushers</u>	Mar 8	High School students
	Mar 15	Deb & Ed Scheuermann

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, Mar 1	Worship Service	10:00 AM
	Buildings & Grounds Committee Mtg	11:15 AM
Monday, Mar 2	Worship Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
	All Are Welcome Committee Meeting	7:30 PM
Wednesday, Mar 4	Bible Reading Group	10:00 AM
	No Evening Bible Reading Group-NOTE: to resume after Easter	
	Lenten Wednesday Soup & Study	6:30 PM
	@ Round Valley United Methodist Church	
Saturday, Mar 7	Stanton Men's Breakfast	8:00 AM
	RCRA (Readington Citizens for Roundabout Alternatives)	10:00 AM
	Info sharing session re: County's proposed roundabout be built at the intersection of Rt 523 and Rt 629	
Sunday, Mar 8	Worship Service	10:00 AM
	Middle School Sunday School	10:20 AM
	Second Cup with Pastor Beth	11:30 AM
	Memorial Service for Carl Koch	2:00 PM