

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.

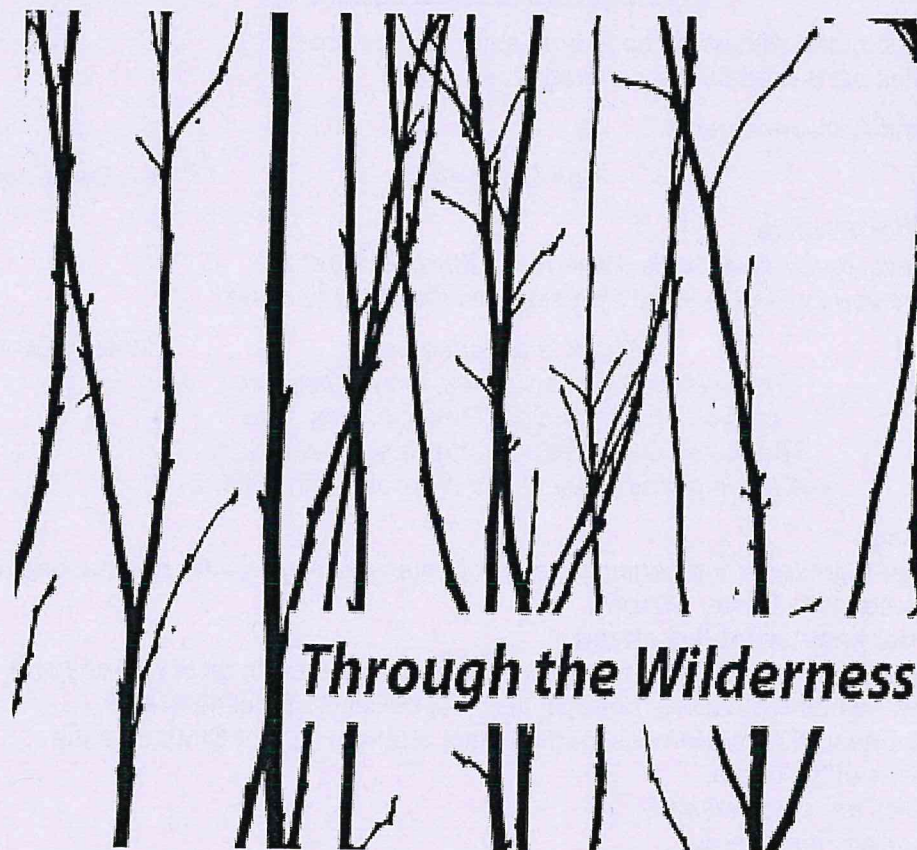
Sunday School - After the children's sermon, we have classes for children from preschool through high school. Younger children meet weekly, the classrooms are in our lower level; the stairs are immediately to your right when you leave the sanctuary. Middle school students meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday 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 8, 2020
Second 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 *And Can It Be* arr. Dan Forrest

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.

Two candles are extinguished.

Into the wilderness we go.

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

*Hymn of Praise #72 *To God Be the Glory* TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Call to Confession

God is good to us. God gathers us and blesses us.

God blesses us so that we can then be a blessing to others.

Let us reflect on our lives through this lens of blessing.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, We confess that we do not always see blessings for what they are.

We confess that we lack imagination and optimism because we have experienced pain in our lives and in our community.

Hold silence for personal prayer

or follow your breath as a way of being present

- 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.
- Harlingen Reformed Church - this week's Classis church we hold in prayer.

Birthday Blessings:

Mar 8 - Cameron Wieben

Mar 14 - Gina Borea

Mar 14 - Cindi Troegner

Mar 16 - Jean Feike

Mar 17 - Debbie Scheuermann

Mar 19 - Joe 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 - 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.

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:

- 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.

Life and love break our hearts, but we do not have to live in fear or anger.
God, we need you to teach us about our true selves, so we will recognize your presence and promises in ourselves and in each other. 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

His Voice as the Sound

J. Swain, arr. M. Price

His voice, as the sound of a dulcimer sweet, is heard through the shadow of death.

The cedars of Lebanon bow at His feet. The air is perfumed with His breath.

His lips as a fountain of righteousness flow that waters the garden of grace.

From which their salvation the Gentiles shall know and bask in the smile of His face.

Thou, in whose presence my soul takes delight, on whom in affliction I call.

My comfort by day and my song in the night, my hope, my salvation, my all.

He looks, and ten thousands of angels rejoice, and myriads wait for His word.

He speaks, and eternity, filled with His voice, reechoes the praise of her Lord.

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons: Psalm 121 - *with a sung response* - see page 4

Psalm 121 | A Responsorial Setting **1211**

Refrain Dm C/E E^b7#11 D7#9 Gm

My help comes on - ly from the Lord. The mak - er of

G/B B^b/C B^b7 F/A B^b/C

heav - en and earth. My help comes on - ly from the

E^b7 D7#9 Gm7 G7/B B^b/C *To Vamp or Tone* *Final ending*
D^b/E^b F

Lord. The mak - er of heav - en and earth. earth.

Refrain

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth. *Refrain*
- 3 The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- 6 the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night. *Refrain*
- 7 The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
- 8 The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore. *Refrain*

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SRC Ladies Group

The SRC Ladies Group will be meeting on the following Tuesdays in March: March 10th and 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.

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.

We still need volunteers to bring the following:

- 5 people to make soup, bringing 3 quarts in a crock pot
- 2 people bringing drinks (soda, water, coffee)
- 2 people bringing cookies or finger food desserts
- 2 people for table and chair set up
- The Congregational Nurture Committee is 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.

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 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

John 3:1-17

Page 88, regular print

Page 114, large print

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Labor and the Spirit

Our Response to God’s Word and Spirit

*Hymn of Response #73 *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*

DUNDEE

*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.

Our Gifts of Thanksgiving

Invitation to Giving

We connect to one another because of grace. We belong to one another.

Even strangers or enemies are like family to us because we are all part of God’s plan and promises. We belong to one another.

Let us then share with one another because we have everything we need. We belong to one another.

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

Offertory

Adagio in G minor

Giovanni Battista Martini

*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.

¹ *The Wilderness Creed*, Trisha Watts and Gabrielle Lord, [Sanctuary: Where Heaven Touches Earth](#)

Prayer of Dedication

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

Use these gifts and this sacrifice of our time and talent to lavish your love on the whole family of God. Amen.

Prayers of the People with the Lord's Prayer

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.

*Hymn of Sending #297 *Spirit of the Living God* SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction *Be at Peace* David Angerman

As you go from the shadows, let your hearts be at peace.

May God's promise surround you, let all worry cease.

For morning is coming, the end of all night.

Soon dawn will waken with miracle light.

Go from the shadows. Go from the shadows. Be at peace.

Postlude *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus* arr. Mary McDonald

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

- Leading us in worship today:
 - Preaching: Pastor Beth Scibienski
 - Liturgist: Dan Erlandson
 - Organist: Philip Stevenson
 - Music Director: Megan Petrushun
- Thank you to Lucas Teuber and Nick White for ushering today.
- Thank you to the White family for hosting Fellowship today.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

<u>Acolytes</u>	Mar 15	Please sign up!
	Mar 22	Please sign up!
<u>Fellowship Hour</u>	Mar 15	Please sign up!
	Mar 22	Please sign up!
<u>Flowers</u>	No flowers during Lent	
<u>Ushers</u>	Mar 15	Deb & Ed Scheuermann
	Mar 22	Please sign up!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun, 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
Mon, Mar 9	Finance Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
Tues, Mar 10	Prayer Shawl	2:00 PM
	SRC Ladies Group @ Candice Teuber's house	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 11	Bible Reading Group	10:00 AM
	No Evening Bible Reading Group-NOTE: to resume after Easter	
	Christian Education Meeting	5:45 PM
	Lenten Wednesday Soup & Study	6:30 PM
	@ Stanton Reformed Church	
Sun, Mar 15	Worship Service	10:00 AM
	High School Sunday School	10:20 AM