

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF GREENLAWN**



**Celebration of Worship
March 23, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.
The Third Sunday in Lent**

**Meeting ID: 813 0261 1379
Passcode: 039859**

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<http://greenlawnpresbyterian.com/>

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The Third Sunday in Lent

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL Dan Charnews /Tyler Hago/ Glenn Jahier

CALL TO WORSHIP

Everyone who is thirsty

Come to the wellspring of life!

Everyone who has nothing to eat,

Come and enjoy the feast!

For God is setting a banquet table.

Christ is offering the well of eternal life!

Come, for all things are ready.

Accept the invitation, for you are welcome here!

*HYMN # 84

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time.

All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy.

Never shall the cross forsake me. Lo! It glows with peace and joy.

*When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.*

*Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified.
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

*Those who are willing and able are invited to stand

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

What shall we do, O God? We can never do enough to deserve Your love. We confess that we are not always truthful. We have defaced the purity of Your love for us. We have embraced ugliness and oppression, rather than loveliness and grace. We have distorted Your cries for justice in order to benefit ourselves. We have given less than our best to others and to You. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI

*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, Amen.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elder Betty Chatfield

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Congregational Response:

*Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace. Amen.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we have received from You more than our share of blessings. We thank You. Now, increase and multiply our gifts, we pray, that others may experience Your goodness through our witness. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef

“Bad Things Can Happen to Unsuspecting People”

*HYMN # 371

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

REFRAIN: *Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world – adore – His sacred name.*

*Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod.
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. REFRAIN*

*Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. REFRAIN*

*O, Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. REFRAIN*

*So shall our song of triumph ever be
Praise to the Crucified for victory. REFRAIN*

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:
EDELWEISS

TUNE:

*May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, perfect peace, faith in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see His face, and His grace forever!
May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever.*

POSTLUDE

JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Thank you to everyone who assisted with and attended our St. Patrick's Day dinner last night. It was a great success.

A big thank you goes to Co-Chairs Priscilla "McJahier" and Debbie "McEitel," and of course, our chef Gary "O'Prentiss."

Our Thrift Store Is Now Open

Some very nice things have been donated to us, and more will be added each week. Church members and friends are invited to visit our Thrift Store on Sundays after church. We're operating on the honor system; take what you would like and pay Pastor Ann. All

the money goes into our Special Events Fund, which pays for things like tablecloths and plumbers who hook up refrigerators and dish washers!

Lenten Challenge

Earlier this month, Pastor Ann challenged our congregation to a "40 Days, 40 (or more) Items" project for Lent. Each day in Lent, remove one or more items from your house, which you don't use or don't wear any more. Toss them, give them to someone, or donate them to our Thrift Shop. "Stuff" that clutters up our surroundings tends to distract us and even add stress to our lives. Without that "stuff," we can make more room in our lives for God. I will be posting my own progress each day on FaceBook.

Ann will be posting her own progress on her Facebook page, and invites you to "friend" her if you have not already done so. Her Facebook name is Ann Abbate Van Cleef.

Lay Worship Assistants

Starting in April, we will be using Lay Assistants to lead the Call to Worship, the Call to Confession, and the Assurance of Forgiveness. We will do this each Communion Sunday. Arlissa Dean will be coordinating this: please see her if you are interested.

Session to Meet Tuesday, March 25, 7:15 p.m. via Zoom

Session members are asked to submit their written reports for the Session Docket by tonight. Thank you.

Our Annual Theatre Outing

Our annual outing to see the Harborfields High School Spring Musical will take place this Wednesday, March 26. There is a dessert and coffee reception at 5:00 p.m., and the show, "*Mean Girls*," starts at 6:00. Pastor Ann will have your tickets; she will meet you in the lobby of the high school at 5:00.

The Little Food Pantry

Please remember our Little Food Pantry when you go shopping. We are encouraging folks to donate packaged foods, as canned food tends to explode in the freezing weather. We are especially in need of breakfast cereal; if you go to Aldi or Lidl, you will find they have cereal at an extremely reasonable price. Thank you.

You May Now Donate On Line

Simply put your cell phone into camera mode, hold it up to the funny little square thing (no need to take a photo), and the link to our church website will pop up. The "Donate" button is on the opening page.



Seven of Debbie Eitel's Ideas for Lent

1 - Single use plastics - use Lent as a time to try new reusable swaps to cut down on single use waste that you generate.

2 - Criticizing your appearance - God made you PERFECTLY - even if there are things you want to change, embrace self-love by cutting out negative self-talk and focusing on gratitude for all the amazing things your body CAN do for you!

3 - Ignoring the homeless - Make an effort NOT to look away when you see someone experiencing homelessness or asking for money. If you don't feel comfortable giving cash, try carrying small food items like granola bars to share.

4 - Give up a weekend or two during Lent to volunteer at a local soup kitchen, food pantry or church. It's a great way to help others, and you will feel good getting to see your positive impact.

5 - It's good to be engaged with current events, but staying informed can cross the line into being harmful when you constantly take in an influx of negative news. Focus more on positive news or with active ways that you can help through charity or service.

6 - Focus on supporting local businesses instead of shopping with major retailers. Yes, it's a little more expensive, but it supports your local community, workers and the environment at the same time.

7 - Hot Showers - You don't have to take cold showers, but try lukewarm instead of hot. It will help you remember those who don't have access to the same everyday luxuries that you do.

STAFF

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Susan Perrotta

Webmaster

Irene Lang

Building Use Manager

Larry Foray

THE SESSION

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2025

Marian Adams
Bill Becker
Gary Prentiss

Class of 2026

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach

Class of 2027

Debbie Eitel

Easter Flowers Order Form

Please enclose a check for \$12 per plant, payable to FPC Greenlawn, and give the check and order form to Betty Chatfield. Please print clearly.

I would like to order the following:

Number of plants

Name of Plants

Easter Lilies



Daffodils

Tulips



Hyacinths

Total number of plants _____ X \$12 per plant = \$ _____

Please list my plant dedication as follows:

In Loving Memory of:

In Honor of:

Your name: _____

Your e-mail address: _____

Your phone number: _____