

**JANUARY 24, 2016**  
**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**



*First Presbyterian Church of West Chester*

**Welcome** to First Presbyterian Church. As a community of faith, we strive to “above all, love.” As we worship God together, we pray that you will experience Christ’s presence in our midst, and that he will sustain you in the week ahead. A special welcome goes out to you if you are visiting. If you are with us for the first time, stop by the Welcome Center in the foyer to find out about the many opportunities available to you in the life of our congregation. We hope you will worship with us again next Sunday.

**We** invite you to sign the Friendship Register, which you will find at the center aisle of each pew. As you pass it to others in your pew, note who is sitting near you, so you may greet them by name. Please note that hearing aids and large print bulletins are available from the ushers. Maps showing available parking are in the racks in the Fellowship Hall.

**C**hildren are always welcome, and encouraged to participate in worship. Children’s Worship Activity Bags are available from the ushers.

**The Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church**

Called to love God and one another, First Presbyterian Church responds to God’s grace by following Christ with ministries of hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity.



Leading Us in Worship Today:

Greg Stovell, *Pastor*  
 Caroline Cupp, *Associate Pastor*  
 Marcia Sommers, *Director of Music and Fine Arts*  
 Joyce Chen, *Organist*  
 Jane Waddington, *Assistant Organist*

*ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME*

**CHIMES** – A call to stillness

*Use these moments prior to the Prelude to greet one another briefly. At the ringing of the chimes, please seek the presence of God in stillness and quiet. Please silence cell phones.*

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

Introduction & Allegro  
 from *Suite Gothique*

Leon Boellmann

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

We have come to worship God, the living God,  
**Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.**

We have come to praise God, the Almighty God,  
**Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.**

We have come to worship God, the all-gracious God,  
**Who chooses even you and me,  
 to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.  
 All glory to God!**

**\*HYMN #35** “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Lobe Den Herren

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

We confess to you, Gracious God,  
 that too often we look on your law as a burden, not a gift;  
 an inconvenience, not a blessing.  
 Rather than seeing your love revealed,  
 we feel our own guilt magnified.  
 Instead of rejoicing in your good news,  
 we focus on our own shortcomings.  
 Turn us around, Redeemer,  
 and do not let our fears have dominion over us.  
 Enlighten us, so that our words and deeds may be acceptable to you.  
 Amen.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*RESPONSE**

Meineke

“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.”

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.  
 Amen.

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

**GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

THE OFFERING

Offertory "Be Still, My Soul" Finlandia; Jean Sibelius  
 Marcia Sommers, flute rr. Craig Courtney

\*Offertory Response Old Hundredth

"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

**PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE READING Nehemiah 8:1-12 Old Testament, Page 436

SERMON "Words That Make Us Cry" Dr. Greg Stovell

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\*HYMN #459 "O Word of God Incarnate" Munich

\*CHARGE

\*BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE A Festal Fanfare J.S. Bach  
 from *The Fourth Concerto*

\* Let all who are able, please stand. \*\*\* The Ushers will seat those waiting.



**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

CHIMES – A call to stillness

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ORGAN PRELUDE Improvisation on *Romanesca* Joyce Chen

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

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**Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.**

We have come to praise God, the Almighty God,  
**Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.**

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 Instead of rejoicing in your good news,  
 we focus on our own shortcomings.  
 Turn us around, Redeemer,  
 and do not let our fears have dominion over us.  
 Enlighten us, so that our words and deeds may be acceptable to you.  
 Amen.

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*RESPONSE Meineke

"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."

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison) The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.  
 Amen.

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## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*As the children are going to their classes, we will sing Hymn #664, v.1, "Bunessan":*

"Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them spring fresh from the Word!"

*After worship, parents may pick up children at their classroom.*

*Lower level: Nursery rm 5, Pre-K rm 6, K-1 rm 10, Gr 2-3 rm 14, JAM in Social Hall.*

*Upper level: Gr 4-5 room 214B, Confirmation 209, Middle Sch 210, Sr High 216.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 19 Old Testament, Page 498

**ANTHEM** "Almighty and Everlasting God" Orlando Gibbons  
England, 1583-1625

*"Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities,  
And in all our dangers and necessities, stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us.  
Through Christ, our Lord, Amen."*

The Chancel Choir

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION** 10:30 a.m

The Sacrament of Adult Baptism is given to:

Brandon Michael Rowan

In addition, we welcome new members:

Brandon Rowan, Priscilla Jaramillo, Owen Blakemore and Anne Blakemore

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

### GIVE THANKS TO GOD

## THE OFFERING

Offertory "Be Still, My Soul" Finlandia; Jean Sibelius  
arr. Craig Courtney

*"Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide; in every change, God faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly Friend, through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul: your God will undertake to guide the future as in ages past.  
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know the Christ who ruled them while He dwelt below.*

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord.  
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed, we shall meet at last."*

The Chancel Choir

\*Offertory Response Old Hundredth

"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

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN #451 "Open My Eyes, That I May See" Open My Eyes

SCRIPTURE READING Nehemiah 8:1-12 Old Testament, Page 436

SERMON "Words That Make Us Cry" Dr. Greg Stovell

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*HYMN #459 "O Word of God Incarnate" Munich

\*CHARGE

\*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE "An Old English Prayer" James Gossler

*"God be in my head, and in my understanding.  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking.  
God be at mine end, and at my departing."*

ORGAN POSTLUDE Allegro maestoso from Sonata II Felix Mendelssohn

\* Let all who are able, please stand. \*\*\* The Ushers will seat those waiting.

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*In Memoriam*

John E. Preston, member of First Presbyterian Church  
February 26, 2006 to January 18, 2016

Our sympathy and prayers are with:  
the family of John Preston; and with  
Cathy Oles and family, in the death of her father.

The Chancel Flowers are to the Glory of God and are given by:

His Loving Family, in memory of Bob Thompson; and by  
David and Judy Stone, in honor of daughter Sarah Lauer's birthday.

## Ushers

8:00 a.m. – Bill Benson, *Head Usher*; Charles Haverstraw

9:00 a.m. – Dennis Westhafer, *Head Usher*

10:30 a.m. – George Zumbano, *Head Usher*; Scott and Becky Gamble,  
Gwyn and Phil Heaver, and Marilyn Buckler

**Congregational Meeting TODAY at 10:00 a.m. (immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service), for the purpose of electing officers (trustees, deacons, elders) for 2016.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADMINISTRATION

• **2016 Stewardship:** The last 30-35 pledges are vitally important to the mission of the church. They will determine who and what First Pres can support over the course of 2016. At present, our proposed expense budget is short of matching our income. Your pledge will help these numbers to match. With matching income and expense numbers, our church can continue to provide the same level and quality of ministry we have experienced in past years as well as offer new options to meet needs that arise. Please take a moment now to complete a pledge card if you have not already done so. Seal your pledge in the envelope and put it into the offering plate. Your pledge is important. Thank you!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Anderson Porter’s Collected Sermons and Devotions:** There is a table in Fellowship Hall this morning with printed booklets of Anderson’s writings. Written in his inimitable style, it will surely make you think, and quite possibly smile. Check that, *you will definitely smile!* Proceeds from donations will go towards roof repairs at Anderson’s home church in Philadelphia. Stop by and get your copy.

• **Sunday, February 28 – The Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church, West Chester, PA are called to meet for the annual meeting, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.**

### YOUTH

• **Spaghetti Supper - Next Sunday, January 31:** It’s almost here. The Youth Spaghetti Supper! There will be a 4:30 and 6:30 seating option with entertainment by improv troupe Better Than Bacon at 5:30. The dinner cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 4-8 years old. You can purchase tickets in the Fellowship Hall between services today. Come out to support the Youth! All proceeds go to youth retreats and mission trips!

Please bring pasta and/or spaghetti for donation to the West Chester Food Cupboard.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

• **Stewards of Children Training: TODAY Sunday January 24:** If you volunteer for any activities within the church that involve children or youth, and did not attend the Stewards of Children training last summer, please join us today for our next training session from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Stewards of Children is a program that creates a culture of awareness – teaching adults to prevent and recognize signs of sexual abuse and react responsibly when abuse is disclosed, discovered, or suspected. First Pres requires all volunteers who participate in the children’s or youth ministries to attend.

• **“CALLED”** is a faith formation opportunity for adults this Lent, led by Pastor Steve Clark. You’ll have **three opportunities** to be part of this series:

**6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays (beginning February 17),** as part of the “Bridge” study,  
**9:45-11:00 a.m. Thursdays (beginning February 18)** and  
**9:00-10:00 a.m. Sundays (beginning February 14).**

In this six-week series we’ll explore what it means to be people of Christ, people who live in the world with meaning and purpose. *What are our lives in this world about? What are we to make of being human, and how can we live fully?* To guide our conversations, we’ll use Mark Labberton’s book, *Called: The Crisis and Promise of Following Jesus Today*. Each participant will need a copy of the book (\$15). **Sign up** in Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings, at Bridge gatherings, or at the First Pres web site. For details on the Sunday morning sessions, contact Bob Atchinson ([batchinson@aol.com](mailto:batchinson@aol.com)).

### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MEMBERSHIP

*Please note: parent/responsible adult presence required at all family friendly events.*

• **The Bridge Dinner** – Menu & Team TBD. Salad bar and dessert will be available as well. Vegetarian option also available. For reservations, contact Nakeya Hovington at [nhovington@firstpreswc.com](mailto:nhovington@firstpreswc.com), or call the church office to be connected to her voicemail by 12:00 noon on Monday.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Bridge Adult Study:** January 27, 6:30 p.m. room 209 — “*Luther: How to deal with Spiritual Crisis*” Pastor Greg Stovell closes out this three-week look at the life and theology of Martin Luther. In the early 1500s, this Roman Catholic monk lived in absolute torture trying to reconcile sin and grace. His struggle gave birth to a world-wide movement known as the Protestant Reformation and eventually the birth of the Presbyterian Church. Streaming live on the web and on-demand at [www.firstpreswc.com/bridge/programs/](http://www.firstpreswc.com/bridge/programs/)

• **Moms’ Evening Group in January:** The Moms’ Evening Group will have our January gathering on Wednesday, January 27 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Make a dinner reservation and enjoy some Bridge fellowship before we get together. Nursery care is available and Bridge Kids meets then too - so bring your kids and join us! Questions? Contact Mary Hambleton at [mhambleton@firstpreswc.com](mailto:mhambleton@firstpreswc.com).

### SERVICE AND OUTREACH

• **Need a break from the kitchen TOMORROW?** Support Stop Hunger Now! by visiting Landmark Americana restaurant in West Chester for lunch and/or dinner on Monday, January 25. Landmark will donate 25% of your bill to our upcoming 24 hour, joint Stop Hunger Now! event with Westminster Pres. You need to present a coupon to your server in order for First Pres to get the contribution. Information and coupons available in Fellowship Hall and online at <http://goo.gl/rjFM2r> Please print and bring along with you. Bring your friend(s)!

The packaging event is scheduled from 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 29 through 4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 30. In 24 hours, we will pack 120,000 meals. In order to do this we need to raise a total of \$34,800!

Other dining fundraising dates to mark on your calendar include:

- Tuesday, February 9, lunch, dinner and take-out, at Iron Hill Brewery in West Chester (will donate 20% of your bill) coupon required, and

- Thursday, March 10 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., at PJ Whelians in West Chester (will donate 15% of your bill). No coupon required.

• **Religious Council of Greater West Chester Book Study:** You’re invited to read and discuss the book *Not In God’s Name* by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. The group will meet four times in the coming months: January 25, February 22, April 25, June 20. All are welcome at 7:00 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church – 730 South New Street West Chester, PA 19382. For more information contact one of the co-facilitators: Rabbi Elyse Siedner-Joseph ([esiednerjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:esiednerjoseph@gmail.com)) and Pastor Dan Krewson ([dkrewson@clcwc.org](mailto:dkrewson@clcwc.org)).

### WORSHIP AND MUSIC

• **Our Wednesday evening Bridge choirs** have resumed their rehearsals for the winter season. It’s a great time to get involved. Here’s what’s going on:

*Youth Singers and Ringers* are preparing music for Ash Wednesday worship (February 10) and the season of Lent. They will present a Candle Chant service of evening prayer on Sunday evening, March 20. All Middle School and Senior High youth are invited!

*The Celebration Singers* have embarked on Noah’s Ark, preparing the musical 100% Chance of Rain on March 6, as a part of our upcoming *Weekend with the Arts*, March 4-6. The choir is for children in grades 2-5.

*The Cherub Choir* continues learning how to be tuneful, beatful and artful in great songs based on American folk music, Wednesdays from 4:30-5:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. All children ages 4,5 and 6 are invited to come be a part.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### • Inclement Weather Reminders:

**SUNDAYS:** In case of snow or ice this winter, we try our best to always offer at least the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Be safe in your decisions to attend worship services. Dave and Willy do a great job keeping our sidewalks cleared and salted, but the surrounding sidewalks and parking spots can be slippery or snow-covered. Remember you can always listen to the 9:00 a.m. service on the radio at 1520AM, online at [www.wche1520.com](http://www.wche1520.com), or watch the live HD stream at [www.firstpreswc.com](http://www.firstpreswc.com) (link on our home page).

**PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES:** The Church follows the West Chester Area School District's decision to cancel classes or start late. If the schools are closed, all of First Pres programs and activities are cancelled for that day, including Bridge and groups that meet weekly. If the schools are closed, the church building will be closed after 4:30 p.m. If the schools have a late start, contact the church office or consult your group's leader to find out if your specific meeting, program or activity has been canceled.

### CHURCH OFFICE DURING THE DAY, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY:

The church office follows the West Chester Area School District's decision for their office staff. For example, if the School District cancels classes but asks their staff to report 2 hours late, our church office will open two hours late; if the School District cancels classes and offices, the Church Office will also be closed for the day. Information about the church closures can be found on our website, facebook, and our voice mail outgoing message. If it is possible, we may also communicate using email. Remember, the safety of our members and staff is paramount- good judgement is required. The borough has limited places to pile snow and many roads are labeled snow emergency routes – parking is even tougher during inclement weather. Pay attention to states of emergency declared by the state or borough too. *Be safe. Make good decisions.*

# Connection Card



I would like more information about:

- Becoming a Christian
- Becoming a member of First Presbyterian
- Connecting with a group
- Offering Envelopes
- Children's Ministries (Birth - Grade 5)
- Youth Ministries (Grades 6-12)
- Adult Ministries
- I would like a call from a pastor
- Other:

Prayer Request or other information you'd like to share with the pastoral and church staff:

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### SUNDAY – January 24

##### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00am Worship
- 8:30am Sunday Social ('til 10:30am)
- 9:00am Worship; Nursery to age 2; Sunday School for all ages; Radio Broadcast on 1520AM; Live web stream
- 10:00am Congregational Meeting to elect officers
- 10:30am Worship; New Member Recognition; Baptism; Nursery to age 2; JAM age 3-Grade 5
- 11:30am Stewards of Children Training
- ~~3:00pm Nursery Open House Play Party~~ **CANCELED**
- 4:00pm Senior High & Middle School Youth Group

#### MONDAY – January 25

##### STOP HUNGER NOW! FUNDRAISER AT LANDMARK AMERICANA GRILL

- 6:30pm Session chairs mtg.
- 7:30pm Session mtg.

#### TUESDAY – January 26

- 10:00am Faith Community Nurse Office Hours
- 5:30pm Men's Ministry Studies - Mars Group
- 7:30pm Men's Ministry Studies

#### WEDNESDAY – January 27

##### BRIDGE

- 9:00am Sew Many Blessings; Sermon Talk
- 10:00am Bulletin deadline
- 4:30pm Cherub Choir
- 5:00pm Celebration Singers; Cherub Club
- 5:30pm Bridge Dinner
- 6:15pm Youth Singers
- 6:30pm Bridge Bible Study; BridgeKidz; Youth Bible Study; Moms' Evening Group
- 7:00pm Youth Ringers
- 7:30pm Chancel Ringers
- 7:40pm Stephen Ministry Supervision

#### THURSDAY – January 28

- 6:30pm JuBellation Ringers
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir; Middle School Bible Study (off site)

#### FRIDAY – January 29

- 6:00am Men's Study Groups
- 1:00pm Sweet Dreams

#### SATURDAY – January 30

- 10:00am Youth Spaghetti Dinner Setup

#### SUNDAY – January 31

##### FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00am Worship
- 8:30am Sunday Social ('til 10:30am)
- 9:00am Worship; Nursery to age 2; Sunday School for all ages; Radio Broadcast on 1520AM; Live web stream
- 10:30am Worship; Nursery to age 2; JAM age 3-Grade 5
- 11:30am Stop Hunger Now! mtg.
- 4:30pm Youth Spaghetti Dinner 1st seating
- 6:30pm Youth Spaghetti Dinner 2nd seating

#### Office Hours:

Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*First Pres on Facebook*

*Keep up with your church family at [www.facebook.com/firstpreswc](http://www.facebook.com/firstpreswc)*

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

*By the eighth grade, Kimo had stopped showing up for school. He preferred the beaches of western Oahu or the island bus system that took him away from the frustrations of the classroom. It wasn't long before alcohol and drugs replaced surfing and bus riding as distractions, followed by a career of petty theft and assault. When he was 20, Kimo was shipped off to a private prison in the Arizona desert, contracted by the state of Hawaii to house its prisoners.*

*Distance and prohibitive phone fees kept family contact to a minimum. Kimo's mother managed a trip there, only to be told after hours of waiting that visiting hours had been changed. She was forced to leave without their seeing each other.*

*By order of the state Supreme Court, Hawaii's contract with Kimo's prison required that native Hawaiians have access to their traditional spiritual practices, but the program was inconsistently implemented; distance made enforcement of contract details nearly impossible. As a result, Kimo had limited access to his community rituals of repentance and restoration. Despite this, his behavior was exemplary, and he was optimistic about being paroled with time off for good behavior. However, the prison did not offer the anger management course included in his sentence, and so his request for parole was denied. His reaction to the injustice of this denial landed him in solitary confinement.*

*Psalm 19 tells us that "the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." Even so, without Jesus Christ, it condemns us all. How much more difficult is it for someone to obey imperfect human law, especially when it is capriciously and unfairly administered? As people whose own lives are given back to them over and over again by God's grace, it is fitting that we not only proclaim Jesus' good news to the captive, but also advocate for the fair treatment of our nation's incarcerated people.*

Rev. Trina Zelle  
Executive Director and National Organizer,  
Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association

The Presbyterian Criminal Justice Network is a grassroots network of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association.

Visit [pcusa.org/pcjn](http://pcusa.org/pcjn) for more information.

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please text your support to 610-347-5509 ( \$\$\$ FPC )