

# One Body, One Spirit

Connecting the Faithful

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

-Ephesians 4:4-6



Pastor  
Karen Crawford

Tracy Henchey,  
Editor

*First Presbyterian Church<sup>of</sup> Smithtown*

February 17, 2023

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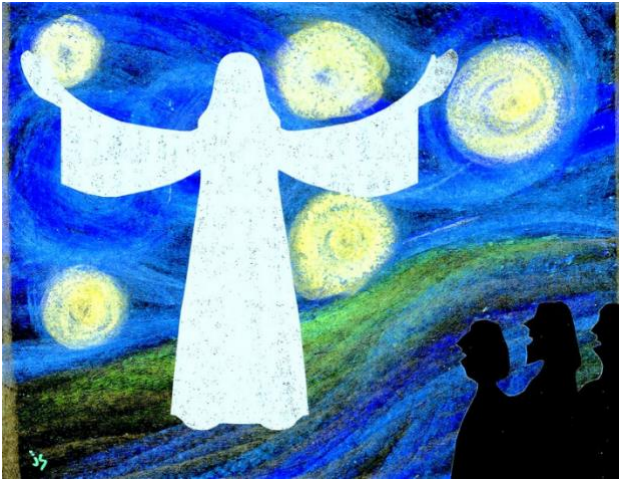
## Letter from the Pastor

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Dear friends,

Have you ever visited my blog? I have started adding an audio clip of my message with photos and text. You may read and listen to my message from Feb. 12 through this link:

<https://pastorkaren.org/2023/02/13/we-are-gods-coworkers-working-together/>



Art by Stushie

We remember in worship Christ's transfiguration this Sunday, Feb. 19. The change before their very eyes, a Holy Light shining from Christ's very being, is terrifying for the disciples invited to accompany him to the mountaintop—and perhaps to us, who are with them through the reading. We are engulfed in the sudden cloud that overtakes us as we listen for a voice that speaks of God's Beloved Son and the command, "Listen to him!"

The themes of watching and listening for God and opening our hearts to Wonder recur throughout the Holy Season of Lent, which begins Feb. 22 with Ash Wednesday worship at 8 p.m. We will journey

together, once again, with Christ and one another to the cross, and, ultimately, the mysterious empty tomb and joyful resurrection appearances.

On Ash Wednesday, the ashes humbly remind us of our earthly substance, being created from the dust, knowing that to dust we shall return. The ashes also reassure us that in life and in death, we belong to God. The imposition of ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads helps us remember the cost of our redemption in Jesus Christ, who suffered and gave his life for our sakes.

Our Ash Wednesday worship, like Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, **will not be livestreamed**. We don't have enough volunteers. How may I persuade more people to come for a quick training with Bill Russell and perhaps fill in once a month or occasionally to help us share the hope of Jesus Christ and God's love beyond our church walls? You don't have to be a pro with technology. You just need to be open to learning something new to serve God and your church family with all your gifts and talents.

On the evening that follows Ash Wednesday, I will lead our first gathering of the Lenten Study: *Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*. We will meet in the Narthex at 7 p.m. You may come for one week, more than one or all 5. We will not meet for the study during the first week in March. Even if you are not a "reader," you will be inspired by the intriguing discussion with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. The theme of the first lesson is Caregivers—and the important healing role they play. I look forward to hearing your voice in the conversation.

I pray that the Lenten study and worship throughout these 40 Days will lead us to the God of Wonder, more and more.

God bless you with joy and peace!

Pastor Karen

## Readings for Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 24:12-18

The glory of God settles on Sinai, where Moses spends forty days.

Psalms 2

God says: You are my son; the nations will serve the Lord.

Psalms 99

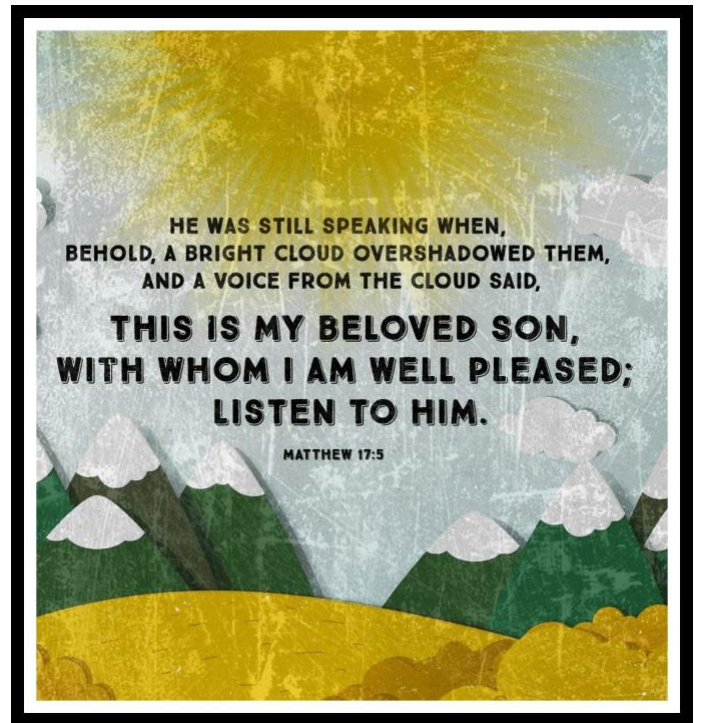
The Lord reigns; worship God on the holy mountain.

2 Peter 1:16-21

The apostle recounts Jesus' transfiguration, fulfilling prophecy.

Matthew 17:1-9

On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured.



### *O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair*

O wondrous sight! O vision fair  
of glory that the Church may share,  
which Christ upon the mountain shows,  
where brighter than the sun he glows!

With Moses and Elijah nigh  
th'incarnate Lord holds converse high,  
and from the cloud the Holy One  
bears record to the only Son.

With shining face and bright array  
Christ deigns to manifest today  
what glory shall be theirs above  
who joy in God with perfect love.

And faithful hearts are raised on high  
by this great vision's mystery,  
for which in joyful strains we raise  
the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

O Father, with th'eternal Son  
and Holy Spirit ever one,  
we pray you, bring us by your grace  
to see your glory face to face.

### *Question for Reflection for Transfiguration of Our Lord*

Why does Jesus instruct the disciples to keep quiet about what they had seen "until after the son of Man has been raised from the dead" (Matt. 17:9)?

### *Morning Prayer*

God, as this new day dawns, may your Spirit guide my feet and reveal you to me in new ways as I walk through your world today. Amen.

### *Evening Prayer*

Holy One, thank you for the gift of this day. Whatever has happened, whatever I've done and left undone, help me hear the voice of Jesus tonight, telling me to go to sleep as I am and not be afraid. Amen.



## Ash Wednesday Worship



### Readings for Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

The day of the Lord is coming; return to God with all your heart.

Isaiah 58:1-12

The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor.

Psalms 51:1-17

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me.

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Be reconciled to God in Christ; now is the day of salvation!

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Don't flaunt your fasting and prayer; store up treasure in heaven.

### Question for Reflection for Ash Wednesday

In some traditions, Christians are urged to “give up something for Lent.” Others decide to “take on” something for Lent—a new spiritual practice, a special form of service to others, or a goal of reading scripture daily. The readings from Isaiah and Matthew particularly invite us to “take on” something—justice, service to others, prayer, fasting, etc. What might you take on for Lent as a way of deepening your faithfulness before God?

### Morning Prayer

Loving God, I awaken this morning and raise up my mortal body from sleep. I know that one day you will raise me to everlasting life. Thank you for such an inexpressible gift! Thank you, too, for the gift of this day, of this life among family and friends, my home and the beautiful earth. Show me how I can serve you today by serving someone else. Help me to see evidence of your grace all around. Remove any obstacle that causes me to stumble in faithfulness or prevents me from receiving the joy and gladness you offer. In Christ's name, I pray. Amen.

### Evening Prayer

Long after Wednesday's ashes are wiped away, my perishable body is still perishable, O God of my salvation. I can feel it in these evening hours: the tiredness in my limbs, my eyes, my mind. Thank you for the activities that engaged me today, and for the rest that comes as the sun leaves my horizon for another shore. As I prepare to sleep, quiet my thoughts and all my strivings. Let me ponder the treasures of my heart, lifting up each one as a prayer for your safe keeping. When I awake, now and in the life to come, I am still with you. In Christ, Amen.

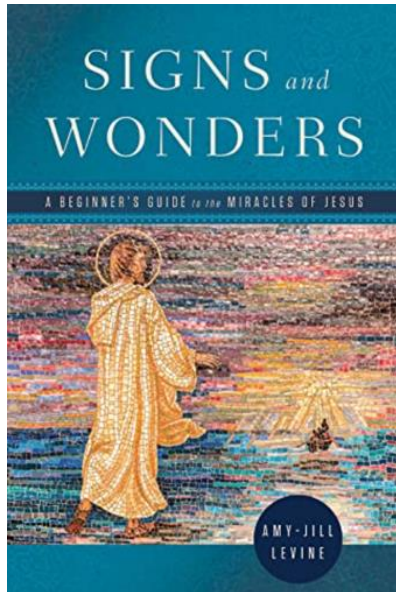


**We will have Ash Wednesday Worship on February 22 at 8:00 p.m.**

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## Lenten Study!

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Please join us for a Lenten study of the book and DVD series by Dr. Amy Jill Levine, *Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*.

Books are available on Amazon or let Dawn Agostini know you are interested in purchasing one for \$15, and we can put in an order for the church.

Lori Scarlatos, Isabel Buse, and Pastor Karen will be leading this hour-long study **on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the Narthex, beginning Thursday, Feb. 23.**

Here are the dates and topics for our study of miracles—and, most importantly, what they mean for our faith **today**:

1. 2/23: *Take Up Your Pallet and Walk: On the Role of Caregivers*
2. 3/9: *Stilling the Storm: Attending to Nature*
3. 3/16: *The Feeding of the Five Thousand (or More): the Centrality of Bread*
4. 3/23: *A Bleeding Woman and a Dead Girl: the Importance of Women's Bodies*
5. 3/30: *A Two-Stage Miracle: Seeing Again*

Please sign up to let us know of your interest in the study and if you need a book. You are welcome to join us for all 5 weeks or just one. Come and be blessed!

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## FPCS Book Club

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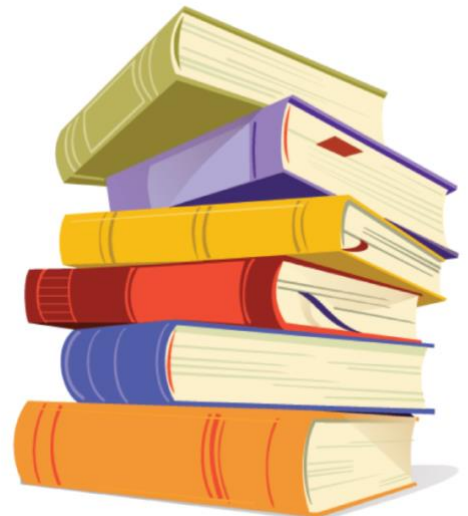
### Attention BOOK LOVERS:

Our Presbyterian Book Club will meet again on Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 pm in the Narthex.

Please write SUGGESTIONS for our next book on the bulletin board outside the Narthex.

A book will be selected by March 1, 2023

Thank you!  
Isabel Buse,  
Adult Education Committee





## Support for the Syria-Turkey Earthquake

Send your support directly to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to the address below.

Go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website and donate there.

Write a check out to First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown with PDA on the memo line.

Go to our website: [fpcssmithtown.net](http://fpcssmithtown.net) and contribute on-line. Put PDA in notes.

### Syria-Turkey Earthquake



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in the aftermath of the 7.8- magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks in Syria and Turkey. Thousands are reported dead and injured, numbers that will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.

PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the “GAP” for the people affected by this catastrophic earthquake?

**GIVE:** PDA’s emergency response and specialization in long-term recovery is fueled by your generous gifts. Gifts can be made online at [pcusa.org/give-STearthquake](http://pcusa.org/give-STearthquake), by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “DR999999-ST earthquake” written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



**PRAY:** *God of mercy, we join in prayer for our siblings in Syria and Turkey, and all other regions affected. In the face of the terrible images that come to us, we ask that your Spirit, O God, once again move in the midst of chaos and destruction. May you provide protection, energy and strength through your presence.*

☐ \$500   ☐ \$125   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$25   ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation/PIN \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**  
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

TSE23-BI

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## *Tidbits from the Food Pantry*

*January/February 2023*

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### **PRAYER FOR FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS**

*Lord Jesus, who multiplied the loaves and fishes and called us to feed the hungry, be with us today, as we serve those you send to us. Open our hearts to see the gift of you in each person who comes to the pantry. Open our ears to hear their joys and struggles. Open our mouths to speak words of caring and respect. Give strength to our arms when we are tired, patience to our spirits when lines are long and things are confusing, and joy to our hearts for the privilege of serving you. Today and every day may we glorify you with our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

*Source: St. Leo the Great Roman Catholic Parish, Cincinnati, OH*

This week we would like to start by thanking all the volunteers from First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown who helped to staff the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry for the month of December, 2022. We were there during an unprecedented surge in demand that saw us providing food for 748 individuals (528 Adults, 170 children ages 5-18, and 50 infants - 4 years). for a total 15,708 meals provided. This meant an average of 15 clients were served during each of the twelve days we were open. (Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon). We were closed on Saturday, Christmas Eve.

In addition to the regular food provided, the Pantry also distributed 171 holiday meal boxes; and 130 \$20 grocery gift cards were given out. We also shared holiday meal boxes with Mastic Episcopal (30 boxes) and 25 bags containing Holiday Meals were given to Restoration and Revival of Patchogue for a total of 226 Holiday Meals. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, a total of 494 Holiday meals were distributed.

The Pantry also served as a collection and distribution site for the St. James Fire Department's Annual Toy Drive. Toys were handed out to 111 children in 51 families during December during regular Pantry hours.

Although need increased substantially, the Pantry was blessed with an increase of donations of both food (from individuals and organized food drives by various schools, businesses, and service organizations) and monetary donations, and we continue to receive support from local supermarkets, which donate bread and discounts on frozen chopped meat and chicken parts. With the money we receive, we are able to purchase milk and eggs, meat and chicken, and personal items, and to fill in on non-perishable food items (canned fruits, vegetables, cereals, pasta and sauces) as needed.

As the need continues, for the time being, we are asking that donations be limited to paper goods, (paper towels, toilet paper) personal care items (shampoos and conditioners, bath soap, toothpaste, feminine care products, diapers {both infant and adult} and wipes), and household items (laundry detergent, and dish washing liquid) pet food, and of course, monetary donations are always welcome. This will allow us to utilize our cash resources to purchase perishables (meats, milk and eggs) and to buy canned and packaged items in bulk at reduced prices.



## NEXT UP

We are excited to report that work on the planned renovations in the Pantry is scheduled to begin the middle of February. These renovations will enable us to work and serve our clients in an environment that is safer, more convenient and more comfortable for volunteers and clients alike. As renovation work takes place at the Pantry there may be volunteer opportunities for assisting with painting the spaces and reorganizing and restocking shelves and storage areas.

**\*\*\*MAY is our next month to staff the Pantry. \*\*\***

A sign-up sheet will be available in the corridor outside the Narthex in the near future. Please check your calendars and plan to join us. Whether you can serve for one day or several, we welcome you and look forward to having you share in this important outreach and mission of the church in our community. Thank you to everyone for your continued commitment and support of the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry.

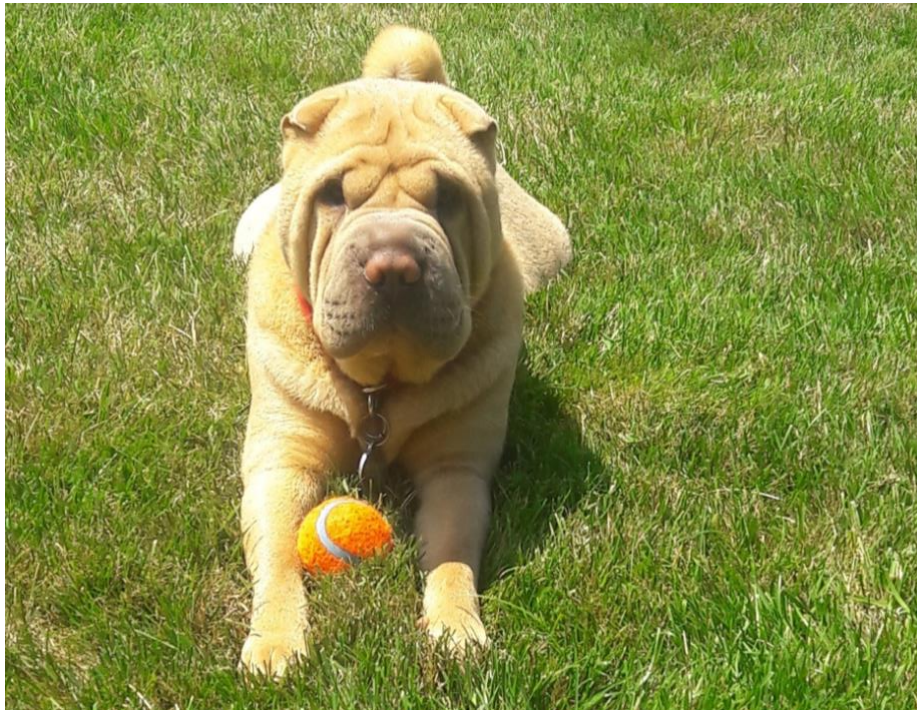
Peace,  
Marci and Tom Deakins  
Co-Coordinator for the First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown

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## *Presbyterian Pet Corner* *featuring Theo Kenney*

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*Would you like to share your pet with your church family?  
Email your photo and story to Tracy Henchey at [fpccommunications@gmail.com](mailto:fpccommunications@gmail.com).*



This is Theo Kenney, a Chinese Shar Pei born 12/31/2020. We rescued him from a shelter in 2/2022. Theo loves people, kids, and dogs; not sure if he likes cats. He enjoys taking car rides and behaves in stores. He has not broken anything, yet. He is a really good boy, but not the best listener. We are working on that. His favorite thing is a tennis ball and loves anyone who will play with him.



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## Stewardship Thought for February

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A very big heartfelt belated thank you to those who have pledged this year. This year 51 pledging families pledged a total of \$161,548. Pledging helps our guide our Stewardship Ministry in develop our yearly budget which will be reviewed during our annual meeting.

A big thank you also goes out to those that do not pledge, but continue to contribute. Your contributions are very important to the life of this congregation.

Our congregation is full of people volunteering their time and talents. First, we have our board of Session, Deacons and Trustees who are all elected by the congregation and meet at least once a month or more often. We have a church treasurer who covers the day-to-day financial operations of the church and the audit committee who audits our books and our counters who count our treasures.

We have our music ministry. Our choir, bell choir and violinist provide beautiful music on Sundays. We also have our beloved Sunday School teachers and helpers who teach our children every Sunday.

We can't forget about our Nominating committee which asks volunteers to serve on Session, Trustees, Deacons, and Audit Committee. The flower guild buys and arranges beautiful flowers that enhance our sanctuary during worship on Sundays. We have our adopt an angel program, Smithtown food pantry, prayer shawl ministry, Presbyterian Women, and so many other individuals that give their time to our church and its congregation.

All that we have is not ours but entrusted to us by God. God expects us to be good stewards. Thank you each and every one that gives their time and talents that God has entrusted in you.



***Gracious God, thank you for the gifts of time, talents and treasures you have provided to our congregation. Continue to help us recognize what those talents are and what they are for. Help us to encourage one another and support one another to use our treasures, time and talents for your glory in Jesus' name AMEN!!***

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## *In Our Hearts and Prayers*

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- Susan Huebner Kay, a former member, who has cancer
- Pastor Karen, recovering from thyroid surgery
- Greg Yates, recovering from brain surgery
- Rachael Schinella, recovering from knee surgery
- Jim Miller, Janet Vollkommer's brother
- Harriet Yost
- Marlene Hayes
- Debbie Canning
- Trudy Engel
- Vivienne Grizzle-Jaber, recovering from back surgery
- Tom Deakins
- Harold "Scotty" Scott
- Marie Blaszkiewicz
- Sue Nunziata
- Tom Sartain
- Bente Schmidt
- Caroline Kelleher
- Richard Heath, continuing recovery in a rehab facility after brain trauma
- Virginia Newcomb
- June Carlson, Majestic Oaks Nursing Home, 901 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Orange City, FL 32763
- Eleanor Schwinn, Luxor Nursing and Rehab at Mills Pond, Room 106, 273 Moriches Rd, St James, NY 11780
- Mary Charlene Harris, Whisper Woods, 71 St. Johnland Rd., Apt. 207, Smithtown
- Harriet McMahon, The Arbors, 1065 Smithtown Ave., Bohemia
- Evelyn Saddlemire, Water's Edge Nursing Facility, 150 Dark Hollow Rd. Port Jefferson
- Jean Lown, The Bristol Assisted Living, 2995 Middle Country Rd., Lake Grove
- Ethel and Karl Kraft
- Andrea Mohabeer

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## *February Birthdays*

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Please contact the church office if you have a February birthday but are not on this list.



February 2 - Stephanie Castlen  
February 3 - Emily Toterò  
February 4 - Mark Medina  
February 5 - Dayna McCauley  
February 5 - Jacob Muller (Pastor's Son)  
February 7 - Jim Crawford  
February 7 - Joseph Prianti  
February 8 - Ryan Mohabeer  
February 10 - Janice Zingale  
February 11 - Carol McNally  
February 13 - Timmi Nalepa

February 14 - Stella Scanna  
February 18 - Virginia Newcomb  
February 19 - Gabriella Dreschler  
February 21 - Bronx Bassani  
February 24 - Rosalie Bonczyk  
February 24 - Tracy Henchey  
February 25 - Shawn Graham  
February 26 - Sue Dalba  
February 27 - Janice McCullough  
February 29 - Joan Jones

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## *Trustee of the Week*

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February 17 - 23 - Tom Deakins  
February 24 - March 2 - Lynne Leftenant  
March 3 - 9 - Rob Hubbs  
March 10 - 16 - Rick Booth  
March 17 - 23 - Rob Springer  
March 24 - 30 - John Agostini

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## *Deacons of the Week*

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February 19 - Lisa Hubbs and Marilyn Garupa  
February 22 (Ash Wednesday) - Suzanne Perri and Barbara Ruoff  
February 26 - Beth Davidsen and Joyce Brozyna



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## How to Contact the Pastor or Church Staff

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### Church Office

Hours:  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10 am - 12 noon  
Phone: 631-265-5151  
Email: [fpcs@optonline.net](mailto:fpcs@optonline.net)  
Website: [www.fpcsmithtown.net](http://www.fpcsmithtown.net)

### Pastor

Rev. Karen Crawford  
Email: [karenpts@gmail.com](mailto:karenpts@gmail.com)  
Phone: 631-813-9172  
Blog: <http://pastorkaren.org>

### Communications Manager

Tracy Henchey  
[fpcscommunications@gmail.com](mailto:fpcscommunications@gmail.com)

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## The Transfiguration

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 17:1-9



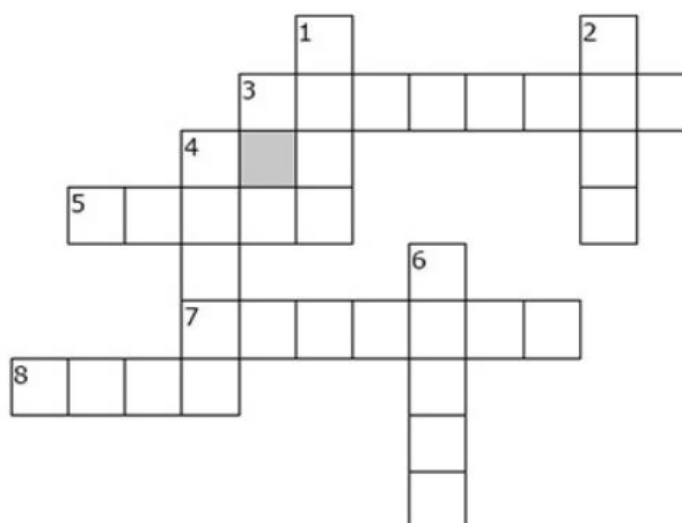
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T S V G W A W J U O C Y U C R  
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G X L A O M O T Y U S A W O Z  
S E S L Y X E V E N E U D F D  
Q M Y G J S Z S O T S I I R M  
A P P E A R E D D A S G E X S  
Q Q Q Z V O R S G I K T X C C  
B R V W H T Q V L N E D B X H  
R O S I X K D L Q P I G R K V  
N U L W I T P G C L O T H E S

SIX	PETER	CLOTHES	VOICE	JOHN
LOVE	MOSES	GOOD	WHITE	ELIJAH
JAMES	DAYS	APPEARED	MOUNTAIN	HIGH

# The Transfiguration

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Based on Matthew 17:1-9



## ACROSS

3. A raised part of the earth's surface, larger than a hill
5. A white or gray mass of very small drops of water that floats in the sky
7. Articles of apparel such as pants, shirts, dresses, etc.
8. To have a strong feeling of affection for someone

## DOWN

1. Something that is pleasing, enjoyable, or of high quality
2. Having a great distance from top to bottom
4. The sound produced by the vocal organs; what we use to speak
6. The color of snow or milk

HIGH	CLOUD	WHITE	MOUNTAIN
VOICE	GOOD	LOVE	CLOTHES



Create  
in me  
a clean  
heart,  
O Lord.

Psalms 51





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The Transfiguration (Mark 9:2)