

LENT 2026

ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5320 Limestone Road
Wilmington, DE 19808
302-239-2100
www.stphilips.us

*"As an inclusive and caring congregation, our mission is to make disciples,
praise God, and serve the community."*

**March 8, 2026
Third Sunday in Lent**

How Good It Is to Worship the Lord!!....Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. WE pray that you would sense Christ's presence among us as we open our spirits to God.

If You Are Visiting with Us Today ...Welcome!! Please be so kind as to sign our guest book and introduce yourself to the Pastor as you leave. We ask **everyone** to sign the red fellowship pads as they are passed down the pew. Only visitors need to put their address and phone number. Additionally, in your pew rack, there is a bible. We believe we are called not only to proclaim God's Word, but to give it away. So, should you need a copy of God's Word, we invite you to take a bible as a gift from our congregation.

Nursery Care: Jesus said, "Let the little children come." So, living in our baptismal promises, we welcome and encourage children to worship with us. However, we understand that children often wiggle during the service, so if you so desire, parents are invited to go for a walk in the narthex or to take children (thru age 4 years) to the nursery, which is in the room just off the narthex.

Ministers

The People of St. Philip's

Senior Pastor

Rev. Patrick V. Downes

Associate Pastor

Rev. Amy Wright

Organist /Music Director

Dr. Stephen Benscoter, CAGO

Director of Choir Ministry

Dr. Lauren Conrad

Office Assistant

Lisa Kalinowski

Council Officers & Members:

President.....Amanda DeWeese

Vice President.....Mary Kay LaRue

TreasurerTeri Suddard

Secretary..... Rebecca Bardenhagen

Donna Daugherty

Tom Gustaitis

Michael Imgarten

David Kenney

Rebecca Litterst

Kate McGovern

Debbi Miller

Steve Nkurlu

Jim Stevens

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00 A.M. Worship Service in Sanctuary

9:15 A.M. Small Groups, Youth Group Breakfast Club in the Youth Room and
Christian Education for all ages.

10:30 A.M. Worship Service in Sanctuary

** Holy Communion Celebrated Each Week at Both Worship Services

Church Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

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The Order of Worship

Third Sunday in Lent - March 8, 2026

The Prelude *"Kingsfold" C. Callahan*

* The Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: **We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

* **The Gathering Hymn** *"Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"* *(Hymn is on the Next Page ►)*

*Indicates for all who are able to please stand

1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.
 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.

If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain

Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.

In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
 I would be your trusted friend.
 Come and seek the gift I offer,
 come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
 lonely ways no longer roam.
 Come and take the gift I offer,
 let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

* The Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

* Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray . . . Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Choir Anthem

"Ubi Caritas" Gieilo

St. Philip's Chancel Choir

The Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Mas-sah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Reading

Psalm 95

¹ O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

³ For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.**

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

**⁸ Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**

⁹ when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

**¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my
ways.'**

¹¹ Therefore in my anger I swore, 'They shall not enter my rest.'

The New Testament Lesson

Romans 5:1-11

¹ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

* Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

* The Gospel Lesson *John 4:5-42*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according John to the fourth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'

¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have

(The Lesson continues on the Next Page ☞)

said is true!’ ¹⁹The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ ²¹Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ ²⁵The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ ²⁶Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ ²⁸Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ ³²But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ ³³So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ ³⁴Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.’

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.’

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon and Growing in the Gospel (*Growing in the Gospel is at the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service and is for children through 3rd Grade.*)

The Sermon

Rev. Amy Wright



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

* The Prayers of the Church

*Congregation responds to each petition with: **Hear our Prayer.***

* Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

The congregation is invited to share a sign of God's peace with your neighbors in whatever way you are mutually comfortable with: handshakes, hugs, elbow bumps, "peace signs," or words of peace and grace.

Greetings and Announcements

At this time the pastors will lift up some of the relevant events/happenings in the congregation. Offering plates are no longer passed around. Instead the offering plate is near the baptismal font. At some point this morning you may deposit your offering in the offering plate or you may continue to mail, automatically deposit, or use the website to continue your generous giving. Thank you so much for all you do for the ministry we are all a part of here at St. Philip's.

* Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray together . . . Generous God,

C: **you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.**

* The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places . . . We praise your name and join their unending hymn of praise.

* Sanctus

("Holy, Holy, Holy")



P: You are holy, Lord of hosts, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into the world, calling us to repent and to welcome the kingdom you bring. Tempted in every way as we are, he never sinned. Instead, he turned away from violence, teaching us the way of peace. He rejected power that corrupts, choosing instead to live as a servant among us. He did not turn stones into easy bread but instead offered us the bread of life - justice, freedom, health, unconditional love - so that we might never be hungry again. And showing the depth of your love, he offered us the cup of the new covenant, sealed in his blood.

We give thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In this Lenten season, we rejoice that we share in his baptism, in his dying and rising again, and we look with hope for the kingdom of God in its fullness. Great is the mystery of the faith we confess together:

**C: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

P: Gracious God, as your Spirit hovered over creation, as your Spirit descended like a dove on Jesus, your beloved Son, may your Spirit now hover over us, and descend on us and these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, and one with all who share this feast. Bind us in covenantal love to you and to one another in the church, that we may reach out to the world with justice, freedom, health, and unconditional love in Christ's name, until the promised day of your kingdom. For all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*** The Lord's Prayer** *(Sung By the People of God)*

P: In confident hope of God's love and saving grace, let us sing in the words as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, which 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.

P: God feeds the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Agnus Dei

("Lamb of God")



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Reception of Communion

The pastors will give direction on how communion will proceed this morning. Remain seated until directions are given.

Communion Distribution Hymn

As you are waiting to come forward to receive the bread and the wine and/or after you are seated again, we ask you to join us in singing together the following hymns during the distribution of the Eucharist.

Communion Hymn

"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"

ELW 658

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims
 2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
 3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den

giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
 stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
 splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,

with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
 now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
 let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in

plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
 flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
 heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

* Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray . . . Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

* Blessing

P: May God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, + bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

C: Amen

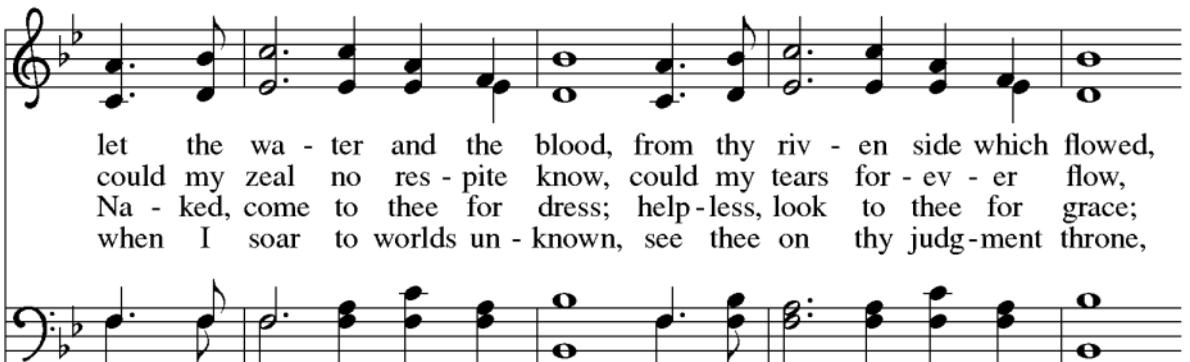
* Closing Hymn

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

ELW 623



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

(The Hymn continues on the Next Page ►)

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

*** Sending**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"A New Commandment" D. Blackwell

Remember Us When You Pray

We believe in the power of prayer, so please remember to keep the following persons and their families in your prayers. Even if you do not know them it means so much to them to know that they are remembered in our daily prayer lives. Also, it would be a wonderful gift for them to hear from their church family:

We Pray for the Members of St. Philip's:

John and Barb Williams, Charles and Ruth Bowles, Carol Ruckle, Sharon Smith, Louise James, Helga Kissell, Sherry Thompson, Dave Frampton, Amy Papili, Donna Hokanson, Lynn Pouser, Elizabeth Stirk, Jeff Stirk, Charlie Boss, Ellen Lenker, Phyllis Bolgiano, Yvonne Cilento, Danny Mason, Kim Longo, Mark Davis, David Nevins, John Frink, Kelly Krapf, Trudy Gilgenast, Carol Goodman, Tony Calvarese, David Kenney, Cathy Snyder, Lisa Kenney and Family

We Pray for our Loved Ones: *(Though we do not explicitly name these beloved ones in worship during our prayer time, please lift up their names in prayer aloud or silently during the time set aside for other intercessions):* **Our soldiers serving overseas and their families;**

Ruth DiDonato, family of Linda Burkum; **Emily Ruckle & Tina Davis**, family of Carol Ruckle; **John & Carly Hoeni**, family of Lynn Muller; **Beckie McNelly**, sister of Bob Gibble & Barb Williams; **Louise Cookson**, grandmother & **Beth Cookson**, mother of Nick Cookson; **Dorothy Owens**, sister of Ruth Henry; **Stuart Emerson & Family**, friends of the Swift Family; **Linda Allen**, friend of Faith Simpers; **Joe Cilento, Jr.**, son of Yvonne Cilento; **Paul Budd, Sr.**, father of Scott, & **Lee Craig**, friend of The Budds; **Diane Balinski & Debra Jennings**, family of Donna Hokanson; **Molly Wagner**, granddaughter of Margaret Wagner; **Norman Richards & Phyllis Mensinger**, family & **Myron Davis**, brother of Mark Davis; **Mildred Marine**, grandmother of Heather Stirk; **John, Sr. & Anna Longo**, parents of John Longo; **Craig Shechter**, father of Amanda DeWeese; **Alistair Black**, grandson of Bob & Delores Wardwell; **Carol Henzy**, sister of Beth Molnar; **Doris S. & Kathleen K.**, friends, & **Caleb Houtmann**, grandson of Anne Hamilton; **Frank Kulick**, brother of Ruth Bowles; **Christopher Longo**, son of John & Kim Longo; **Lisa Santak**, daughter of Marion Santak; **The Family of Maddy G.**, friends of Angela Klemens; **Rick Ricciardi**, brother of Nancy Warner; **Mark & Jeanne Favreau**, family of Rev. Arlene Favreau-Pyshner; **Chuck Stirk**, son of Elizabeth Stirk, **John Stachowski & Family**, friends of Tom Krapf, **Lael Zinnato**, granddaughter of Nancy Zinnato; **George Rice**, son of Vicky Rice; **Mark Fawzi**, son of Judy Fawzi; **Bob Gilmour**, friend of John and Jodi Newcomer; **Kevin Hewitt**, brother of Rebecca Litterst; **Rory Manhard**, granddaughter of Suzanne Bradley; **Paul Throne**, brother of Pam Brenneman

What's Happening At St. Philip's

Today's Altar Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of our 54th Wedding Anniversary, by John and Ginny Lion.

Making Disciples

Koinonia: If you're looking for a small group that has fellowship, food and support for one another a koinonia group (Greek for fellowship) might be right for you! The **first Koinonia Group** meets at church on the **second Wednesday** of the month from **Noon - 1:30 p.m.** The next gathering date is **March 11th in Room #031.** New people are welcome!! Contact Sharon Kittle. A **second group** is meeting Sundays after church. **The next meeting will be Sunday, April 26th,** after the **10:30 service.** New people are welcome. Bring a lunch and come to the Muellers home. We will start our discussion on prayer around **12-12:15 p.m.** Any questions, contact Gigi.

Young at Heart - This is a gathering of women (70 yrs and up) to provide fellowship and to gather with each other around our mutual joyful place in life. Our next gathering will be on Saturday, March 28, 2026 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Gigi Mueller's Home.

Women, Wine and Whine - We will meet at **Harvest Ridge Winery** on **Saturday, March 14th** from **1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** All women are welcome!!! Any question, contact Mary Kay LaRue or Gigi Mueller!

O.W.L.S. (older, wiser, Lutheran seniors) will gather on **Tuesday, March 10th.** This group is geared towards retirees in the congregation that would like to engage in a time of food, fellowship, and light learning. The next meeting will be held **March 10th from 11:30 am to 1 pm.** We'll be joined that day by Cecilia Cronk from St. Marks Lutheran Church and she'll be talking about Griefshare, which ministers to those who have lost loved ones. Bring a lunch and join us.

The next **Daytime Book Group** will be **March 17th at 12:30 p.m. in Room #127,** we will be discussing the book, *A Piece of the World*, and in April our book discussion is on the novel, *Having our Say*. For more details contact Gigi Mueller. Always happy to have new participants. All are welcome.

The Women's Evening Book Club meets on the second Friday of the month at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall or individual homes. Our time together is much like a happy hour with good friends! Feel free to bring a snack or beverage to share. **March 13th** - *First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray (This is also the New Castle County Reads book, so we will have a limited number of these books available for free. The group wanted a night to discuss the book and not just attend the author talk.) **Wednesday, April 8th** - New Castle County Reads Evening with the Author event for *First Ladies* at 7:00 p.m. at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. We usually have dinner before the talk at 5:00 PM. This evening takes the place of the regular 2nd Friday gathering of our group. There will NOT be a meeting on April 10th. Liz Stirk is coordinating the dinner. **May 8th** - *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah (NOTE: This book is a bit longer than the books that we typically read - 576 pages, so plan ahead! You'll have two months to read this book.), **June 12th** - *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Downes or Donna Daugherty. Mark your calendars and plan to come . . . We hope you will join us. Everyone is welcome!

Pub Theology - Martin Luther once said: "Whoever drinks beer, they are quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer! **Our next Pub Theology will be Thursday, March 19th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at Chuck Lagers! Let us ring in the New Year together with beer and each other at Pub Theology! See you then! Cheers!

Praising God

Worship and Music Team has had a lot of changes lately due to members of the team having life changes that has required them to retire from their jobs. If you are interested in helping out with this team which helps plan worship services through the year, we can use your help. You don't need to know anything about worship. Pastor Patrick is currently chairing the team—let him know if you can help.

Worship Assistants Are Needed!!! In particular we are in need of Assisting Ministers. This is an easy job because the pastor helps you during the entire service. Assisting with communion and the prayers. Let Pastor Patrick know if you are interested.

Lenten Soup and Bread Dinners Continue Through the Season!! As part of our Lenten observance we continue to gather at 6:30 pm on Wednesday evenings, **March 11th, March 18th and March 25th** for Soup and Bread dinner followed by Evening Vespers in the Sanctuary. Our Vespers this year is the service entitled, "Evening Prayer Vespers". If you'd like to provide soup/bread on any of the nights you can sign up in the narthex.

Praising God (continued...)

Spring Healing Service – Spring is the season of new life and new beginnings for the planet as the dark and cold of winter subside and plants and animals (and even people to a degree) come out of hibernation and inactivity. Those themes are the same themes of the healing we seek from God. So, on **Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30 p.m.**, we'll gather in the sanctuary for a time of prayer and healing. All are welcome. If you have questions, see Pastor Patrick or Pastor Amy.

Volunteers Needed – Offering Counting Team - We're looking for volunteers to help count weekly offerings. Two-person teams work together, with one person counting and the other recording totals and preparing the bank deposit. Training is provided, and you're welcome to observe before committing. Teams typically serve once every 4–6 weeks, and most counting sessions take about one hour. Scheduling during your assigned week is flexible and coordinated with your partner. Interested or have questions? Please contact Pam or Tom Brenneman.

Passion/Palm Sunday is March 29, 2026. A long standing tradition at St. Philip's has been to read the Passion of Jesus, from the Last Supper through the Crucifixion as we enter into Holy Week. We do this through a narrative reading. This year we'll be reading the Passion of Jesus according to the Gospel of Matthew. We are in need of five volunteers for each service to read the parts . . . there are big parts (Jesus/Narrator) and there are small parts (Pilate/Peter/etc.). We'll give you all the support you need. Don't worry, it is very, very easy!! I promise!! If you are interested in volunteering, please signup by clicking the link below!!!!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-62604721-palmpassion>

MillCreek Ministerium Soup and Bread Lunches are being hosted at Limestone Presbyterian Church this year. Each Wednesday during Lent, we are gathering at Limestone Presbyterian Church along with our brothers in sisters in Christ throughout the MillCreek area for Worship and Lunch. Each week a different church takes a turn providing soup, bread, worship, and preaching. You are invited to join us for this wonderful Ecumenical experience each week. Services start at **noon - March 11th, March 18th and March 25th.** Please join us!!

Serving the Community

Habitat Restoration Crew - The Crew is always looking for additional members. The only requirements are a heart for the land and a couple of hours on one Saturday or Wednesday each month. We meet in the morning (10:00 a.m. to Noon. currently) on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Wednesday of each month *throughout the year*, weather permitting. Contact Mary or Phil Duncan for more information.

Serving the Community (continued...)

Attention Widows, Widowers, and Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones!! If you have lost a spouse, partner, or close loved one and would like to have some fellowship and support, there is now a support group meeting for fellowship and to provide comfort and support through this life transition. The next gathering is **March 12th at 12:30 p.m. lunch/1 p.m. meeting** in Room #031 here at church. If you are interested in being a part or learning more, contact Sally Krapf.

Food Insecurity continues to be a problem in our community! Can you help? Food demand still continues to be very high. If you are at the grocery store or if someone goes for you, you can pick up needed items and drop them in the box in the narthex. We are especially in need of: **Pasta, Pasta Sauce** (cans are best and Dollar Store has good prices), **Shelf Milk (2%, Almond Breeze, Whole, or Soy** – Again, the Dollar Store is a good source), **Cereal, Canned Vegetables, Toilet Paper, Salt & Pepper, Crackers, Coffee, Tea Bags, Cake Mix/Frosting.** Thank you so much for your generosity!!

PET FOOD DONATIONS - We are asking for pet food donations for the individuals and families in Grocery Club. It can be a one-time donation, a monthly donation or however many times you would like to donate. If you don't want to shop for the food yourself, you can donate a gift card from Petco, PetSmart or Concord Pet and I will shop for you! As an owner of 20 pets over the last 40 years, taking care of animals is very important to me. If you are interested in helping, please email me, and I will send you a list of pet food that is needed. Thank you, Nancy Zinnato.

Pinner and Knotters meets on the third Wednesdays of each month. This month we'll be meeting on **March 18th in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM.** We have a number for projects ready to get underway. Consider joining us for this important ministry. No special skill is required.

Homeless Care Kits - In recent months approximately 55 Care Kits have been distributed by members of St. Philip's to those experiencing homelessness or unstable housing. It is important that individuals who spend much of their time in transition never become invisible to those around them. I have had some thought-provoking interactions sharing a kit and I hope others have found it to be a meaningful experience as well. It is time to replenish kits for the summer. The following items are needed and may be left in the bin in the Narthex: **Socks, Small bottles of fruit juice, Tooth-brushes (single wrapped), Bar of soap (small and per-fume), Toothpaste (small size), Sun screen (travel size), Deodorant (men's), Chapstick. Fruit or granola bars (chewy).**

Serving the Community (continued...)

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group Continues to Meet at St. Philip's - The Alzheimer's Assn. of the Delaware Valley is sponsoring a monthly support group for anyone who has a loved one with any form of dementia, including Alzheimer's. Living with or caring for a person with dementia can be extremely challenging, overwhelming and exhausting. The group offers education, support, and the opportunity to connect with others in a similar situation. Free and open to the public, the group will meet on the **second Tuesday of the month**. The next meeting will be on **March 10th at 1 p.m.** in Room #129. For more information, contact Erica Holmes.

Family Promise - Family promise is a ministry we participate in along with many other churches to provide shelter and meals to homeless children and families. Our Host week is March 15th to March 21st - To sign up to provide a meal check out the poster in the narthex. To help provide Shelf Stable items for families use the Sign up Genius: **<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050949A9A62CA3FC1-62341560-family>**
Please drop off items on or before March 15th under the Family Promise Sign-Up board in the narthex. In addition, Family Promise has a wish list on their website which can be found at **<https://www.familypromisede.org/wish-list>**. If you would like to donate any of the items they are requesting, you can place these items under the Family Promise Sign-Up board and we will make sure they are delivered.



Join Us for “Voices of Faith” Large Group Adult Learning

This year we have switched up what we are doing for adult learning. We are working from a large group format on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. Each component focuses on different areas of faith and scripture and will be taught by a different Pastor here at St. Philip's.

The Remaining Schedule is:

March 8 - Pastor Dave Mueller - Two Kingdoms

March 15 - 29 - Pastor Amy - Dead Sea Scrolls

April 5-12 - Easter Break

April 19 - Pastor Patrick - Last Module of Last Words of Christ

April 26-May3 - Pastor Wayne Moritz - Creation Care

May 10 - Pastor Dave Mueller - Evangelical/Mainline Split

May 17th - Together in Faith - Summer of Service Presentation

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 22

****Note this is NOT on Palm Sunday this year!****

11:30am-1pm

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Lunch is provided
Please RSVP by
March 8th

MISSION KIDS

GET MESSY

APRIL 18TH
4PM - 7PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL
DINNER IS PROVIDED

Jesus
LOVES
Me



2026 EASTER BREAKFAST



Plan on joining us! Our youth will be serving breakfast on Easter morning from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Cost will be:
\$7.00 for adults
\$5.00 for children
\$15.00 for family

Tickets will go on sale Sunday, March 8th!

The Youth are raising money for their trip this summer.

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM



Let's Fill Our Sanctuary with Easter Lilies
on Easter Morning!

If you wish to order Easter Lilies this Year,
please fill out the form below by
Sunday, March 22, 2026
and return to the church office or
drop it in the offering plate.
The cost per plant will be \$23.

Please make your check payable to St. Philip's.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Number of Lilies @ \$23 Each _____

Dedication:

In honor of: _____

In loving memory of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

Or submit form to: <https://forms.gle/6m6oMNV6X3DzsbqZ9>

You can pick your lily up after any service on Easter Sunday.



Wednesday Evenings at St. Philip's:

Each of the following Wednesday Evenings here at St. Philip's, we'll have Soup and Bread at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Lenten Vespers Service

March 11 * March 18 * March 25

Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services & Community Lunches

Theme: "The People Jesus Meets"

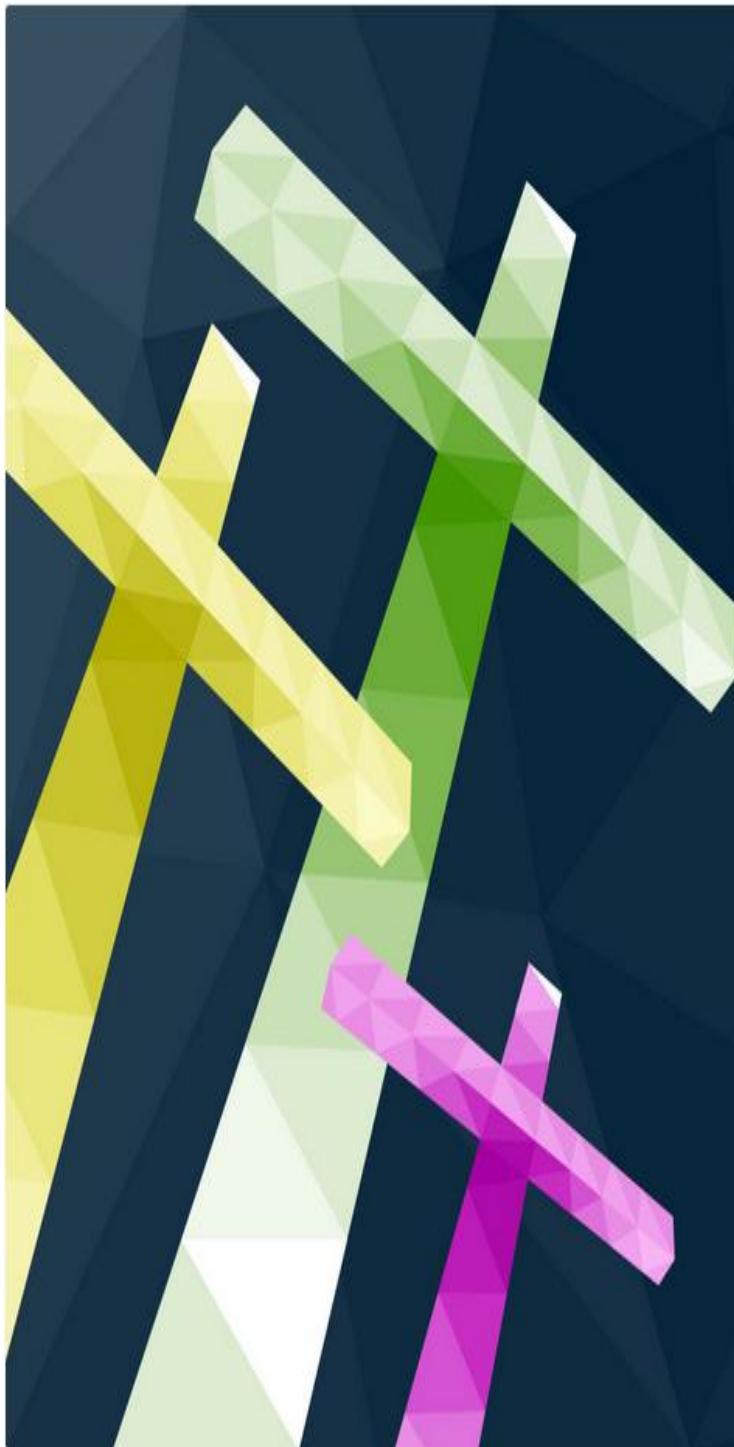
Wednesdays at Noon:

March 11

March 18 * March 25

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

This year hosted by: Limestone Presbyterian Church
3201 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

Passion/Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

Holy Communion Worship Service

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026

Upper Room Worship Service

With Stripping of the Altar

7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3, 2026

Tenebrae Service of Darkness

7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

Easter Celebration **7:45 a.m.**

Easter Celebration **9:00 a.m.**

Easter Celebration **10:30 a.m.**

*(Easter Breakfast will be
served continuously
from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.)*

There will be no Christian
Education Today

THOSE WHO SERVE

PRESIDING MINISTER	Rev. Amy Wright	
PREACHER	Rev. Amy Wright	
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Dr. Stephen Bencoter	CAGO
CHOIR DIRECTOR/VOCALIST	Dr. Lauren Conrad	
ASSISTING MINISTER	John Newcomer	(8:00 a.m.)
	Gigi Mueller	(10:30 a.m.)
LAY READER	Bob Warner	(8:00 a.m.)
	Donna Daugherty	(10:30 a.m.)
USHERS	Marty Budd and Bob Warner	(8:00 a.m.)
	Diana Longhenry and Pam Sheffer	(10:30 a.m.)
GREETERS	Marty Budd and Bob Warner	(8:00 a.m.)
	Diana Longhenry and Pam Sheffer	(10:30 a.m.)
ACOLYTE	Luke DeWeese	(10:30 a.m.)
GROWING IN THE GOSPEL	Amanda DeWeese	

THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

<p>Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i> Large Group Forum in the Fellowship Hall Kids Club in the Christian Ed Wing Breakfast Club in the Youth Room Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i> Fellowship Hall being used by a Church Member YG Scavenger Hunt</p>
<p>Monday, March 9</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Outside Group in Fellowship Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 10</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Staff Meeting OWLS in the Fellowship Hall Alzheimer/Dementia Group in Room #129 Congregation Council Meeting in Room #031</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 11</p>	<p>Noon Noon 1:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Ecumenical Lenten Service at Limestone Presbyterian Koinonia in Room #031 Grocery Club in the Fellowship Hall Soup and Bread Dinner in the Fellowship Hall Lenten Vespers Service in the Sanctuary</p>
<p>Thursday, March 12</p>	<p>12:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Grief Group in Room #031 Hewlett/Baldwin Wedding Rehearsal at Kings Mill</p>
<p>Friday, March 13</p>	<p>5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Hewlett/Baldwin Wedding at Kings Mill Women's Book Group at TBD</p>
<p>Saturday, March 14</p>	<p>1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Women, Wine, and Whine at Harvest Ridge Winery</p>
<p>Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>6:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><i>Guidepost Articles are due today!</i> Family Promise Host Week Begins Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i> Large Group Forum in the Fellowship Hall Kids Club in the Christian Ed Wing Breakfast Club in the Youth Room Worship Service at St. Philip's <i>(Also, Livestreams on YouTube (Available All Day))</i></p>

