

DATES TO NOTE:

January 29-30
Officer Retreat
at Holmes

Friday, Jan 29
Midnight Run

Sunday, Feb 7
Annual Meeting &
Vegetarian Brunch

Tuesday, Feb 9
Pancake Supper
5:30pm

Wednesday Feb 10
Ash Wednesday
12:00pm & 7:30pm

Saturday, Feb 13
Concert 7:30pm

The Disciple

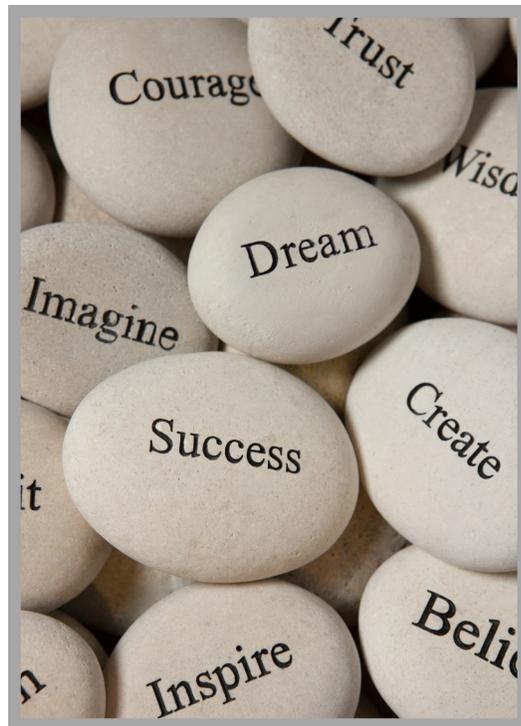
What's Your Word?

Happy New Year! 2016 is here, whether we are ready for it or not. What are your hopes and dreams for this new year? Have you made any New Year's resolutions? Have you broken them yet?

In our Disciple Bible Study last week, one of the participants shared a devotional idea she read about in *Guideposts* magazine. Instead of making resolutions, the author begins the new year by finding a word to be her focus for the coming year. She doesn't pick just any word, but she spends time in prayer and meditation, asking God to show her the word that will guide and direct her life in the coming months. This word becomes a touchstone throughout the year, providing inspiration and perspective and helping her to determine priorities and make decisions about her time, her resources, her relationships and commitments.

What a great idea! What if we all skipped the resolutions and spent the next few days or weeks in prayer and discernment, seeking a word to be our guide throughout this new year? What if we did the same thing for our church? What might God reveal to us about God's plans for 2016?

Looking back over 2015, the word or phrase that defined our life together was "shared ministry." January 2015 marked the



beginning of the co-pastorate, and we've been living into what this model of shared leadership means, not just for the pastors, but for the whole congregation as well. As Presbyterians, we affirm that **every member is minister**, and the co-pastor model of leadership helps us all reflect on and claim our calling to be ministers of the gospel together. At our church officers' retreat at the end of January, we will be reflecting further on our shared ministry and how to build on that in the coming year.

So what will your word be? What do you think our word or phrase should be for our church's ministry and mission in 2016? We welcome your feedback and input in this process. Let us all join together in prayer and immerse ourselves in the Living Word who is Jesus Christ, that we may discern and discover God's hopes and dreams for our lives and our church in this new year.

See you in church,
Tami & Chip



Operations Commission

Looking back on 2015 we have much to be thankful for. Dick Seymour's contributions are of course a highlight, but as he steps down from a leadership role in Operations, several others have volunteered their services to help share the load. Our physical plant remains in good shape, especially considering the age of the facility, and we will continue to anticipate needed work to the best of our ability in an effort not to be caught flat-footed by a major event.



At our last meeting to wrap up the year, it was reported that our expenses through 11 months continued to track favorably to budget, even including the sanctuary painting project. One major undertaking that we will be promoting in 2016 is replacement of the tiled floor in Fellowship Hall. There are funds available for this work, likely a summer project, and Session is on board with the concept. A few of the tasks to close out the year included cutting down the tall grasses, reconstructing part of the rock wall along Route 132 and repairing sanctuary pews. We continue to add tasks to the 2016 job jar and welcome input from anyone about work that needs to be done.



May you and your families enjoy God's peace in the New Year.

- Dave Ramage, Operations Co-Chairman

Keeping Our Property Safe and Beautiful

Visitors to our church are always impressed by the beauty of our property –but that beauty doesn't come easily. Those of us who participate in our regular spring and fall cleanup days know about some of the work that's involved. Much more goes on behind the scenes.

Until recently, Dick Seymour served us all as our volunteer building coordinator and head of the Operations Commission, the church committee that manages our property. So I sat down with him to find out what's involved in maintaining our facility. He told me that the work breaks down into six main categories:

1. Everyday cleaning and regular maintenance, performed by our custodian, Jose Sandoval.
2. Emergency repairs of our heating, lighting, and plumbing as needed, typically by skilled hired technicians.
3. Regularly scheduled work by contractors, such as snow plowing and lawn cutting.
4. Smaller tasks that are scheduled as needed. Typically, these are done by a combination of Jose and volunteer church members. Recent examples include straightening and reinforcing the fence along the rear driveway, replacing the steel doors that lead to our basement, and cleaning and replanting the Routes 132 and 202 corner.
5. Major projects that require significant planning and effort but can be done in-house. Dick said he first got involved in church work many years ago when he repaired the church pews, which were separating between the seat and the backs. That required 300 three-inch screws. Other examples include designing, building, and installing the audio console at the rear of the sanctuary; installing the sanctuary projector and screen; and sanding and painting the entire front wall of the Christian Education building.
6. Once-in-a-generation projects such as straightening and reinforcing the church steeple; installing insulation in the attic and crawl spaces; paving the rear driveway; patching and painting the sanctuary ceiling; and restoration of the north parking lot. These involve months of planning, hiring and supervision of outside contractors, and significant financial outlay.

For Dick, a major focus is not just fixing things that break, but anticipating problems. That requires looking closely at our facilities, thinking about what could go wrong, and intentionally addressing concerns before they turn into emergencies. It also involves a lot of budgeting work to make sure we have the funds needed to do the larger repairs and improvements. Given the age and the heavy use of our buildings, we know that we have to plan for major maintenance. Our Church does that by regularly putting aside money in a Maintenance Reserve Fund that can be drawn upon for those once-in-a-generation projects.

That planning, and much of the work, is done by the Operations Commission, a group of a dozen or so members who meet monthly year-round. Now that Dick has retired from his volunteer job, the Commission is led by Dave Ramage, Ian Spence, and Kirk Larsen. They'll have a tough act to follow.

- by Mark Linehan, 11/22/2015

Congregational Meeting and All-Vegetarian Potluck Brunch



On February 7 we will gather for our annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck Brunch. This is always a popular event as we get updated on all the activity that has gone on in 2015 and share good food.

As part of our GreenFaith initiative, we're doing something a little different this year. We are having a Vegetarian Potluck! This is also an introduction to our Lenten activity of encouraging "Meatless Mondays" for all members of our congregation.

You may ask, "What does vegetarian food have to do with the environment?" Actually, it has a great deal to do with the environment. From www.chooseveg.com:

- ⇒ Raising animals for food (including land used for grazing and growing feed crops) now uses a staggering 30% of the Earth's land mass.
- ⇒ To produce one pound of animal protein vs. one pound of soy protein, it takes about 12 times as much land, 13 times as much fossil fuel, and 15 times as much water.
- ⇒ In the United States, 70% of the grain grown is fed to farmed animals. Imagine how many people we could feed with that food.
- ⇒ Nearly 80% of land deforested in the Amazon is now used as cattle pasture.

Many of your favorite items to bring to brunch may already be vegetarian (deviled eggs, macaroni and cheese, salads, etc.). And if you'd like some recipes to try, check out the cookbooks in the church office or you can go to www.meatlessmondays.com for ideas. We hope this will be a fun and educational event for all of us!

It's Cold Outside! Do a Home Energy Audit

Now that the weather is turning cold, we once again start noticing those heating and electricity bills! Saving energy in our home is good for both our wallets and our environment. A home energy audit, also known as a home energy assessment, is the first step to assess how much energy your home consumes and to evaluate what measures you can take to make your home more energy efficient. An assessment will show you problems that may, when corrected, save you significant amounts of money over time.

A great first step is to do the self-audit at <http://hes.lbl.gov>. It asks you to enter information about your home such as its size, windows, insulation, and heating system. This tool will give then you an estimate of where you should look first for energy savings.

For the best advice, you may want to consider hiring a professional energy auditor. He or she has the expertise and tools to really pinpoint where you may be losing money.

I just learned that New York has a program that provides for a free or greatly-reduced-cost audit for home owners, depending on your income. I think you will be surprised at how much of the cost can be covered by NY state. I just signed up for an audit myself! Check it out!



- Donna Gresh, GreenFaith team

Sunday Brunch Shifts

You may have already noticed that we no longer have monthly brunches but have shifted our focus to host them around periodic special church events. Our previous brunch was back in November when the Congregation Life commission hosted the Honoring of our Long Term Members of our church.

Your contributions of food & support were outstanding and we thank all who contributed and supported that event to make it so special. Likewise we encourage and reach out to you to continue to bring in your goodies to support our weekly Sunday coffee hour(s).

So next time we reach out to you to support a brunch submission know that it is a special event coming up that you are actively supporting.

Thank you all in advance for your continued support to our congregation and community.

- Tim Chin for Congregational Life

Deacons' Corner*The Servant's Song:**"Make me a servant, humble and meek.**Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.**And may the prayer of my heart always be:**Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today."*

~Kelly Willard (based on John 13:14b)

The topic of our Deacon's Transportation Ministry has been coming up of late at our monthly meetings. I looked up the words "transportation" and "ministry" in the dictionary and on-line. Transportation was defined several ways but the one I focused on was "a means or system of conveyance; the work or business of conveying passengers or goods." There were also numerous meanings for Ministry but the one that spoke to me was "the act of serving or ministering."

How many times do we see "a means or system of conveyance" used to serve or minister? Look at Mary who rode a donkey led by Joseph all those miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem while heavy with child. Think about all the times in the Bible that Jesus used a fishing boat to travel from one side of the Sea to the other to teach and preach to large crowds. Jesus rode in on a small colt - the foal of an ass - into Jerusalem that last Monday before giving himself up for us.

**Food Pantry
Item-of-the-Month**

Rice

Next Dates:
January 23, February 13, 27
9 to 11am

I thought of the story in Mark chapter 2 when Jesus was healing the sick in Capernum and there were so many crowds gathered in and around where Jesus was staying that there wasn't room for any single person more - not inside or outside of the house!!

Do you remember what happened next? Four friends of a paralyzed man wanted to bring him to Jesus so much that they climbed on the roof, dug a hole through the clay and lowered their paralyzed friend on his stretcher right down in front of where Jesus stood.

On seeing how fervently the four friends and the paralytic believed, Jesus was moved to say, "Your sins are forgiven." This absolutely incensed the religious leaders who were not only horrified that Jesus should say this at all but that he should say this on the Sabbath - their legally required day of rest! The Jewish leaders considered this blasphemy - and, who did Jesus think he was, anyway??

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts not only asked the leaders why this bothered them but went on to say he had authority to forgive sins. But talk is cheap he told them. Let me show

you one better. Jesus looked at the paralytic and commanded, "Pick up your stretcher and go home." The man jumped up, took his stretcher and pushed his way out through the stunned onlookers.

I wonder if the man thought, "Thank God for friends! Thank God for their "Transportation Ministry!" I think so? Do you?

This is the same Jesus who rode in on a lowly donkey on Palm Sunday and on Thursday of that week washed all of his Disciples feet. In John 13:14b it is written that this same Jesus commanded his Disciples to do likewise - to become servants - he meant that we are all to serve in any way possible - our Lord and Master as well as all our brothers and sisters in The Kingdom. And I'm thinking that this would be why we have Deacons and their many Ministries today!

Charles (Chuck) Radke is the coordinator of our Transportation Ministry. I asked him to tell me about this Ministry and fill me in on the particular needs that he sees for the members of our church family. This is what Chuck told me.

"What does the Transportation Ministry do? We attempt to fulfill transportation needs for the members of First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown. These needs would be short term transportation of persons to therapy sessions, for medical treatment or to church functions if they are otherwise unable to drive. Often it is more convenient for the individuals to arrange for transportation with neighbors, relatives, or other friends. But when that cannot be done, we will attempt to drive or arrange with others from the church to drive the individual. In the past we also had transported Clients of The Guiding Eyes to church and they showed much appreciation for that.

To carry out this ministry we need a list of persons who are willing to do the transportation. In February the Deacons will be enclosing a sign-up sheet in one of the Sunday Church Bulletins to help with a number of Deacon Ministries including Transportation. Or you can directly let me know (c.radke@computer.org or 914-962-4370). The mission of the Deacons is to help others so feel free to help us do our Mission. Thank you."

Thank you all for your prayers, gifts and support. May you feeling God Bless you and all your family this New Year!

-Carol Thorne-Gaetani for the Deacons.

Jan Peek Meal

Thank you to Andy Mavian and Family and to Stephanie Hare and her family for giving up part of their holidays to prepare and serve a meal to the clients of the Jan Peek House, on December 26th. On January 23rd, John and Judy Chessa and Lynda Spring will prepare and serve the meal, Thank You!

If you would like to be part of this important ministry, please contact Pat Prauda.

A meal is served by our Church the 4th Saturday of the month.



Breaking Mission Trip News: Mark your Calendars for a Mission trip to Atlanta, GA, July 31 - August 5!

The Mission Commission is excited to announce that we are working with DOOR, a faith-based organization that works in 6 cities across the US to connect volunteers with a wide variety of inner-city social service agencies. We will be traveling to DOOR's Atlanta project site. One of the unique opportunities of the Atlanta location will be a visit to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

Our daily project work may include any or all of the following: working on an urban farm that is combating the lack of access to nutritious food in the inner-city; assisting clients in a furniture "store" that helps people transitioning from shelter living to independent living by providing furniture for their new homes; serving as wait-staff at a soup kitchen. In addition to the service projects during the work day, DOOR provides speakers and education/ reflection activities in the evenings that help deepen and enrich the volunteer experience. <http://www.doornetwork.org/about-us>

This trip is open to adults and youth currently in the 9th grade* on up. No specific skills are required other than a positive and enthusiastic attitude. **We have two informational meetings coming up: Sundays, January 31st and February 14th at noon in the library. Join us and find out more about DOOR Atlanta on either one of these dates.**

If you are already sooooo ready to get your name on the list or you have burning questions that just can't wait until a meeting, please feel free to contact Steph Hare or any member of the Mission Commission.

*6th through 8th graders: stay tuned! A mission project for you is in the works!

More about mission trips! Don't miss church on Sunday January 24. Of course, don't miss church any Sunday but on that Sunday Christina Bailant and Jorge Montero, co-directors of Bridges to Community's projects in the Dominican Republic, will be joining us in worship. We will start fund-raising in the new year to support future international trips.

Knitting Groups

Prayer Shawl Group will meet next on January 20 at 10:30am and again on February 3rd at 9:30 am. Anyone who would like to join us in knitting is most welcome. In addition to the regular knitters who come on Wednesdays, we have at least seven off-site knitters. Contacts: Marianna Sherman (914-737-8294) or Fran Schiel (914-245-5396).

The Knit Togethers will meet next on January 11 & 25, 2016 and February 8 & 22, 2016. **FAITH IN ACTION:** In December, we gave 216 knitted items to the Dominican Sisters Family Health Services, the Field Home, the Deacon's Mitten Tree at the Food Pantry, and the YWCA in White Plains (with help from Ann Timmons.) Many thanks to all the Knit Togethers for their many hours of knitting and sharing their talents. All have agreed to continue for another year the mission of knitting and giving to the community. All who knit or crochet are welcome to join us. Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10:00am to 11:30 am in the Lounge, Room 15. For information: Norean Radke (962-4370) or Lois Ostling (962-2809).

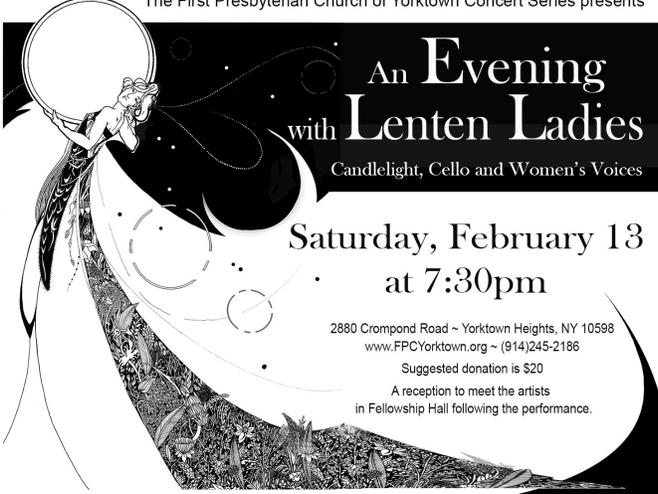


The Lunch Bunch will meet in the Fellowship Hall Wednesday January 20th at Noon for a Pot Luck Luncheon. All are invited.

February 17th will feature soup and sandwich while March 16th will be our St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Mark your calendars and watch for more details as time gets nearer!

I would like to thank the Hunters for the new Refrigerator in the Kitchen. It was like getting a Christmas present! I had been at the church on a Monday morning in December checking the kitchen and I looked in the old refrigerator and thought, this is pretty old looking and no matter how much I cleaned it out it never looked clean. I mentioned it to Jose that I would speak to someone and see if we could get another one. Well that Saturday when I took my granddaughters to the pageant rehearsal, I was met by Dave Ramage who told me to go look in the kitchen and lo and behold there was the new refrigerator. Thank You!

The First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown Concert Series presents



An Evening
with Lenten Ladies
Candlelight, Cello and Women's Voices

Saturday, February 13
at 7:30pm

2880 Crompond Road ~ Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
www.FPCYorktown.org ~ (914)245-2186
Suggested donation is \$20
A reception to meet the artists
in Fellowship Hall following the performance.

Save the Date for our Next Concert

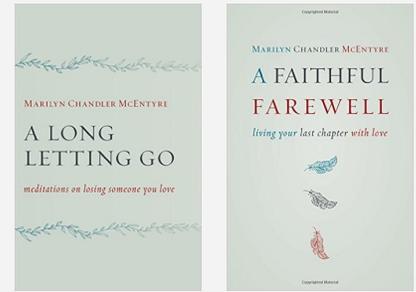
On Saturday February 13th at 7:30 p.m. the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown's 2016 Concert Series will present a concert of women's music featuring the virtuoso international artists Andre Tchekmazov, cellist, and Simona Fenkel, pianist.

The concert will feature well-beloved selections including the Andrew Lloyd Weber Pie Jesu, Sergei Rachmaninoff's Vocalise and Franz Schubert's Psalm 23, as well as less-familiar classical and modern works by Brahms, Bach-Gounod, Chilcott and Walker.

A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall, and a \$20 donation is suggested to help support the series.

from the Church Library:

A Long Letting Go; Meditations on Losing Someone You Love (155.9 M), by spiritual writer and hospice volunteer Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, is a collection of reflections for the caregivers and family members of a loved one facing death. Each consists of a short opening quote, a brief reflection, and a prayer, inviting caregivers to slow down during this difficult time and prepare for saying good-bye and experiencing grief.



Its companion volume, **A Faithful Farewell; Living your Last Chapter with Love** (155.9 M) is also a series of reflections, written in the first person, for the individual facing death. There are reflections on denial, losing control, pain, anger, boredom, forgiving, memories, doubt, and many other topics.

Since both volumes consist of independent chapters, they are flexible enough to apply to many different approaches and situations.

-Carol Jensen, Church Librarian



Adult Ed Study
Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

Faith AND Science

All are welcome
to join the discussion

Adult Ed Kicks Off the Year Looking at the Relationship Between Faith and Science

Join us on Sunday, January 10th as we begin a six week series on faith and science. We'll be using a book written by Ronald-Cole Turner. The Rev. Dr. Ronald Cole-Turner is the H. Parker Sharp Professor of Theology and Ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The website describes it as "a position

relating theology and ethics to developments in science and technology." The book is part of the Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding series. From the description of the book: "For Reformed Christians, science is both promising and provocative. It raises tough questions about how God creates, what it means to be human, and where technology will take us next. This study invites participants to rejoice in the wonder of creation seen through science and to grapple honestly with new challenges it presents to our faith."

Church School “Chalkboard”

After practicing our Christmas Carols throughout December, the children put on their costumes and sang them at our wonderful Christmas Eve Family service! The children did a fabulous job! The children joyfully told the Christmas Story and we welcomed the arrival of our Savior! Advent has come to an end and Jesus is born!



Re:form: The 7th & 8th grade will be finishing up their Advent study, learning that it is a season of preparation and watchful hope for the coming of Jesus Christ. They explored the example of Paul, Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary. They will then return to their Old Testament study learning about Ruth, David and Solomon.



In **Connect**, the 5th/6th graders have been learning about Jesus’ Ministry. The topics include Baptism, the 12 Disciples, the Parables, Healings and Teachings. In January, they will focus on our Savior, which will include his death and resurrection.



Our **Spark** classroom (Pre-K — 4th Grade) has completed the "Jesus is Born" unit. The children learned about Advent, they sang songs to welcome baby Jesus, and they celebrated his long-awaited arrival on Christmas Eve.

We will begin our "A Storm" unit, from Matthew 8:23-27. Conversation sparks include:

1. What do you experience with your five senses during a storm?
2. What does it feel like to be afraid? Describe how feeling afraid is like being in a storm.
3. Why did Jesus tell the disciples they had little faith? What does faith have to do with fear?
4. Take turns telling a short story about your family as a group of disciples who become frightened by an experience that is resolved by Jesus.

Family activity:

During the next warm rainstorm, run out into the yard together and let the raindrops pour down on you. Go ahead and sing, dance, spin. Find some safe puddles to jump in. God is with us in all weather.

Welcome back to church school and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year! We have a wonderful Year ahead, filled with learning, music, art, science and cooking!

Peace,
Liza Placido and Michele Mosca
Church School Superintendents

FPCY YOUTH

Before we jump head first into 2016, I'd like to take a moment to

give a sincere and hearty Thank You to everyone who has helped to make our Youth Ministry program possible in 2015. Thanks to all who have prayed for us; who have volunteered to be a driver, a chaperone, or a cook; who have planned activities, given a presentation at a Youth Group meeting, or have already started thinking up ideas for the new year!

And of course, big thanks to our amazing youth who have been enthusiastically gardening, baking, singing, acting, laughing, listening and learning.

Coming up in January we'll be meeting on the second and fourth Sunday evenings January 10th and 24th at our regularly scheduled times: 6 - 8th graders from 4:30 - 6 pm; 9 - 12th graders from 6 - 7:30 pm. Our theme for the next several meeting sessions is Identity. Come join us and see what it's all about.

And please **SAVE THE DATE** for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday evening, **February 9th**. Everyone is invited to dine on pancakes made and served by our youth and proceeds from the evening will help support our congregation's team headed to the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium this summer.

Questions? You can reach me (Steph Hare) at 914-826-1227 or youth@fpcyorktown.org.

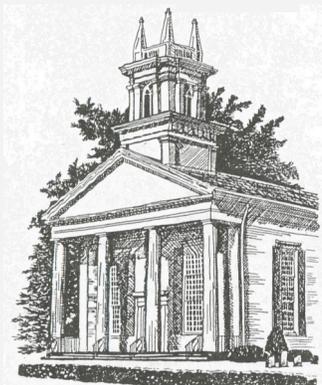
Highlights of Church History

- Organized weekly church meetings began in 1730
- A 28'x44' building was erected on a 3 acre lot in 1738. It had a gallery on 3 sides and a canopy over pulpit,
- No full-time minister until 1761
- After three expansions to the Christian Ed building in 1950, 1955 and 1961, the church purchased the O'Connell house next to the manse with thoughts of building a new larger sanctuary (membership had swelled to over 1,000).
- In the 1980's, 6 of our members became ordained ministers — an example of the strong influence of our Christian education program.

While some programs have ceased over time (Ladies' Missionary Society, Men's Fellowship, Saturday Evening Service), others have been created (Midnight Run, Food Pantry, Concert Series, etc.).

Through changing times our focus has remained on worshipping God and serving others.

~ Dick Hunter



First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown
 2880 Crompond Road
 Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

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The Disciple

January 2016

www.FPCYorktown.org

914-245-2186

office@fpcyorktown.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00

Co-Pastors

Rev. Chip Low

Rev. Tami Seidel



Facebook.com/fpcyorktown
 @fpcyorktown
 @fpcyorktown
 office@fpcyorktown.org

January/February		13	14	15	16	
17 8:30 & 10:45am Worship Services 9:30am Church School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 12:00pm Youth Bells 4:00pm MLK, Jr. Ecumenical Service at Antioch Baptist Church	18	19 9:30am Disciple Study Group 7:30pm Mission/Operations	20 9:30am Prayer Shawl 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 7:00pm Disciple Study Group	24 6:45pm Bells 7:00pm Covenant Study Group 8:00pm Choir	25 6:45pm Bells 7:00pm Covenant Study Group 8:00pm Choir	23 9am Food Pantry 10:00am Budget & Finance 6pm Jan Peek Meal
24 8:30 & 10:45am Worship Services 9:30am Church School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 12:00pm Congregational Life Youth Bells 4:30pm MS Youth 6:00pm HS Youth	25 10am Knit Togethers	26 7:30pm Education Communications	27 9:00am Stewardship 7:00pm Disciple Study Group	28 6:45pm Bells 7:00pm Covenant Study Group 8:00pm Choir	29 7pm Midnight Run Prep	30 Officer Retreat at Holmes
31 8:30 & 10:45am Worship Services 9:30am Church School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 11:45am Mission Trip Info Meeting 12:00pm Youth Bells	1	2 9:30am Disciple Study Group 7:30pm Commission Chairs	3 9:30am Prayer Shawl 10:30am Women's Circle 7:00pm Disciple	4 6:45pm Bells 7:00pm Covenant Study Group 8:00pm Choir	5	6
7 8:30 & 10:45am Worship Services 9:30am Church School, Adult Ed, & Confirmation 11:45am Annual Meeting & Vegetarian Brunch 12:00pm Youth Bells	8 10am Knit Togethers 7pm Church School	9 9:30am Disciple Study Group 5:30pm Pancake Supper	10 Ash Wednesday 12:00pm & 7:30pm worship services	11 6:45pm Bells 7:00pm Covenant Study Group 8:00pm Choir	12	13 9am Food Pantry 7:30pm Concert