

# The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 70 NO. 9

Winter 2019

## Bill's Reflections

Those of you who read last month's Pipe Organ will know that our session is looking at how we can ensure that the growth we're seeing in our children's ministry can be sustainable.

At our last session meeting the elders agreed unanimously that the church will add a new member of staff to focus specifically on our ministry to youth and families.

We are really excited about this possibility and what the future holds for our church. But I've noticed that there is also anxiety, most of which comes from questions about technical challenges, the biggest of which is: **"How are we going to pay for this?"**

As a session we are working very hard to hold these technical questions in balance with the bigger adaptive questions of **what kind of church we want to be and what we want our ministry to children and families to look like.** The language leadership gurus use to describe this tension is change management. Whether or not you have heard this term before, we have all experience dealing with change (both good and bad) at home and at work.

For several years Hayley and I were the Co-Directors of a leadership program for young adults based in Washington DC. One of the books we would come back to again and again is called *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership* by two professors at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

It talks a lot about how people react to change, and lifts up some new ways of looking at the challenges change brings—the two biggest of which are anxiety and resistance.

One of their big insights is to divide challenges into two categories: **Technical and Adaptive.**

A technical challenge is one that can be solved with the knowledge of an expert. The problem is clear and the solution is easy (once you have someone with the right information). An example of this is the Internet goes out in your building. What do you do? Call the IT guy (your expert) who unplugs the router...plugs it back in...and fixes the problem.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Session Highlights .....	3-4
Christmas Dinner .....	5
Christmas Dinner .....	6
Seven for Supper .....	7
Baptisms.....	8
Ready Steady Christmas .....	9
Cookie Donations.....	10
Cemetery News .....	10
Calling All Singers.....	11
Let's Do Lunch Hosts Needed .....	11
Sanctuary Flower Dedications .....	11
Toddler Time .....	12
Speaker Series.....	13
Calendar of Events .....	14
Next Men's Breakfast.....	14
Let's Do Lunch.....	14
Mental Health Dinner.....	15
Chaplaincy Prog. Christmas Gifts .....	16
Book Club .....	17
December Calendar .....	18
December Worship Plans .....	19
Hymn of the Month .....	19

**FPCNV Staff**

Rev. William H. Stone, III  
*Pastor*

Dr. Martin Sedek  
*Music Director*

Jany Izaguirre  
*Accompanist*

Allie Fritsch  
*Office Administrator*

Tony Rodriguez  
*Church Custodian*

**Session**

Jonathan Shelby, *Clerk*

Carol Conger

Martha Coy

Tom Ewig

Roger Greenway

Jenn McCann

James Muchmore

Scott Noyes

Don Richardson

Eileen Urban

Christin Willis

Keith Wood

**Deacons**

Jane Coyle, *Moderator*

Ellie Burd

Lisa Chapman

Andrea Di Ruggiero

Sandy Finlayson

Susan Fischer

Beth Gibson

Barbara Gill

Margaret Greenway

Russ MacAusland

Karen Pennett

Ben Thompson

Faith Winow

Adaptive challenges are different. They can't simply be solved by a single leader or by pulling in an expert. Adaptive challenges require new learning, and they require everyone in the organization to participate in finding a solution.

An example of an adaptive challenge we see more and more of is merging two churches together. There is no easy or quick way to do that. The ministers of these two churches can't do it by themselves. You need everyone involved in the process. And unlike a technical challenge where the responsibility for finding a solution lies with the expert. In an adaptive challenge the burden of solving the problem lies with the people themselves.

The main thesis of the book is this: People and organizations fail to successfully handle challenges and change when they focus only on the technical at the expense of the adaptive issues. People get so caught up in problem solving and handling details that they aren't able to focus on the bigger questions of purpose and direction for their organization.

First discuss who you are and where you want to go, and then work out the details... That's a once sentence summary their advice.

And it echoes Jesus words to his disciples: "Do not forget who you are and whose you are!" Saint Paul says it another way in 2 Thessalonians: "Stand firm and hold fast!"

Here in the church we frequently face adaptive challenges and again its easy to get caught up in the technical, or to give into the anxiety that surrounds us in secular society.

Whatever the future holds for us—both as individuals and as a church—however uncertain it may seem to feel, the Bible reminds us again and again of God's prevenient grace. Any pathway, a pathway of joy, of confusion, of loss, or even of suffering leads not around but straight through God's grace.

God will always be with us – so that any ending is always and ultimately God's new beginning. May we always have the eyes to see and the ears to hear God already at work in our world!

### Meet new members: Renee and Ron Joelson



Ron and Renee Joelson are returning to New Jersey after seven years in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Ron works for Northwestern Mutual. They are building a new home in Harding and are living near two of their seven children (including 3 spouses!) and one of their six grandchildren! Two of their children, Shane and Michelle Vince are members of the Church and you may have also met their son, Wade, who was recently baptized. After many years of raising their family, Renee is looking forward to restarting her artistic endeavors, including painting and sculpting, in a brand new studio. All of their children and grandchildren live in New Jersey, New York and Virginia so you can probably find them on the road visiting when they're not at home on Sand Spring Road.

**OCTOBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

October 15th Meeting



The meeting began with Rev. Stone leading devotions.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Allie Fritsch began work today as our new Office Administrator.
- Officiated at two weddings for the Rangers and the Shelby's.
- Four baptisms coming up.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Youth Education (Don Richardson)**

- Looking to hire a Youth and Family Coordinator. It will be part time, about 24 hours a week. We would look for this person to network young families and coordinate the youth curriculum. Made a motion to explore the hiring of such a Coordinator part time and more details to be presented by the next Session meeting. This idea fits into the long term needs of our church to bring in young families and grow the congregation. *MSC*

**Finance (Keith Wood):**

- Moved to have a Congregational meeting on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> for presentation of NQ Deferred Compensation Plan for Bill Stone.
- Difficult to keep track of the numbers in recent months due to turnover in the church office. Cash seems a little low so Keith will move \$25k from savings to checking to be safe. Also available if necessary is up to \$50k loan from Crossroads. Balance sheet is in good shape.
- Announced the hiring of Brand K to be our bookkeeper going forward.
- Showed the cost savings from 2018 to 2019 of about \$16k from the office changes.
- Discussed budget process for 2020 and to alert committee chairs to prepare and submit their budget information for next year.

**Buildings & Grounds (Tom Ewig):**

- 2019 plans approximate \$15k, excluding HVAC for Sanctuary. Financing available from CIF (\$85k).
- Renovation of Sanctuary basement postponed.
- Presbytery nearing completion of those churches interested in pooling energy costs. Looks like about 16% savings may be possible. No other cost to us.
- We have been given the go ahead to the welding company to rebuild the back stairs for \$8,700. Will warranty their work for 25 years if we let them paint it properly every 5 years at about 10% of the price.
- Will have a meeting with Ludlow Co. to attend to air conditioning, humidifier in the sanctuary basement and heating there. Might be \$5,000 for the basement work.
- Paying Western \$1,000 to get rid of termites in the Sanctuary.

**Membership (Scott Noyes):**

- Ron and Renee Joelson are looking to join as they live nearby and their children are members. Moved to have them as new members. *MSC*
- Will organize another new members' get together.

**Stewardship (Christin Willis):**

- Has a new flyer to enclose in the church mailing.
- The speakers on Stewardship will begin this Sunday (with Christin herself).

**New Business:**

- A member is looking to organize another blood drive. Okay to allow them to proceed.

Adjourned with prayer by Bill Stone.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jonathan Shelby, Clerk of Session



## NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

November 19th Meeting



### NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 7:00 pm

**Devotions** were led by Rev. Stone

#### **Pastor's report:**

- Celebrated the baptism of Eleanor Pierson on November 3
- Celebrated the baptism of Benjamin Corrado on November 10
- Officiating at the memorial service of Bobbi Phillips on November 22
- Encouraged Session to attend and recruit for Ready Steady Christmas Event

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Youth Education (Don Richardson):**

Presented a draft for the new job of Associate Minister who would focus on children and family ministry. This was put together by the Youth Ed Committee and opened for discussion. Session discussed several possible staffing solutions without coming to a clear consensus.

Motion was made to add an additional member of staff to lead the church's ministry to youth and families. *MSC.*

##### **Finance (Keith Wood):**

Presented preliminary budget review for 2020.

Reviewed the cost of the new personnel, Allie Fritsch and Brank K, versus our administrative costs in 2018 and estimated personnel expenses for 2019.

##### **Building & Grounds (Tom Ewig):**

Back stairs are being redone. New steps should be done tomorrow.

Still pending is the a/c and dehumidifying the sanctuary. Waiting for an estimate.

Tom is recommending increasing funding or a sinking fund for capital improvement.

##### **Membership (Scott Noves):**

Presented a list of members who are no longer active, now Friends of the Church. They will be receiving a letter asking them if they wish to remain on the church rolls.

We have 15 new members to the church and just had a class of five members who may join soon. Gave charts showing the demographics are looking very positive for our church.

##### **Nominating (Carol Conger)**

Need two people from Session for the Nominating Committee. Martha and Christin volunteered.

Five from Session are rolling off the rolls: Jenn McCann, Eileen McDonald, Don Richardson, Jonathan, and Tom Ewig.

##### **Stewardship (Christin Willis):**

Have received 41 pledges so far which is 20% participation of the mailing. So far \$142k has been pledged, 41% to goal. Additional emails will be sent to those not yet pledged and a telephone effort in December.

Adjourned with prayer by Bill Stone at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Shelby  
Clerk of Session





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

*All are welcome: Friends, Neighbors, Young and Old*



## THE LONGEST NIGHT DECEMBER 22 @ 7PM

There is a lot of darkness in our world today: from natural disasters, to the continued polarization of our politics. You may also be in a moment of darkness in your personal life. On the darkest week of the year, we invite all people to come together seeking light and hope. The Longest Night is a contemplative service offering prayer, music and time for reflection. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24 @ 5 AND 11PM

**Family Service 5:00 pm:** Join us for a fun and festive evening as we celebrate Christmas together. This service will be engaging for people of all ages. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Candlelight Service at 11:00 pm:** Our quieter and more formal Christmas Celebration. Join us for carols, a reflection and (of course) music by candlelight as we celebrate the arrival of Christmas Day.





### **Singing in the Choir at Christmas**

The choir welcomes members from the congregation to join us for our Christmas worship services. This year we will be joined by strings and horns for our Christmas Eve celebrations, and we would love to have anyone who is otherwise unable to sing throughout the year to feel welcome to join us for this extra-special music!

Email Marty at  
[martinasedek@gmail.com](mailto:martinasedek@gmail.com)



## Seven for Supper: A New Initiative at FPCNV

Congregational Life is excited to launch a new dinner group initiative, *Seven for Supper*, in 2020! This will be an opportunity to deepen relationships with both new and longtime members of the congregation as you share a meal in groups of approximately 7 people. Simply sign up and we'll divide participants into groups.

Groups will meet either in a group member's home or at a restaurant. The host can serve the entrée and group members can bring a side dish, dessert, or drink. On the sign-up sheet we'll ask for your particular interests (e.g. if you'd like to serve as a host, meet on a weekday or weekend, etc.). Once all groups have met once we'll form new configurations so that everyone has a chance to meet.

**Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets in January!**





## Baptisms

In November we celebrated the baptism of Benjamin Roy Corrado and Eleanor Pierson.

Benjamin is the son of Anne-Marie and Michael Corrado and the grandson of Cheryl Christensen.

Eleanor is the daughter of Meredith and Ben Pierson, and the granddaughter of Susie Morris.

We were delighted that both families chose to celebrate this sacrament with us here in a church that helped to nurture their faith and which they continue to regard as a spiritual home.






## READY STEADY CHRISTMAS

On December 1st we hosted our second Annual Ready Steady Christmas event. We had a fantastic afternoon making wreaths, tasting French chocolate, and making crafts in our Christmas Camp. We hope to see everyone again next year!



A huge thank you to our partners:  
Deep Roots Preschool \* David Mitchell Events  
Laurent Carratie, Executive Pastry Chef



# COOKIE donation

The PCNV Children's Sunday School has committed to provide 500 cookies as part of the Morris County Prison Ministry program. We are seeking donations of homemade cookies from the church family. Donations should be dropped off Saturday, Dec. 7 or Sunday morning, Dec. 8. If you are providing containers, please label them with your name if return is needed!

## Cemetery News

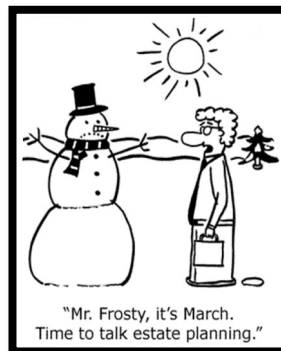
There are currently two burial plots in the cemetery that are for sale by the owner.

There are currently 14 crematorial vaults available in the Memorial Garden.

Please contact Carol Conger for further information:

973-769-6904 or  
[carolconger75@gmail.com](mailto:carolconger75@gmail.com)

Remember: Mr. Frosty?



Remember: Planned Giving  
Remember: FPCNV

## CALLING ALL SINGERS!

Have you always wanted to sing with the Choir on Sundays? We are happy to announce that the Choir has changed the day and time of rehearsals to Sunday mornings at 8:30 am. Now's your chance to lend your voice during worship service. You do not need to make a long-term commitment—drop in as you are able—we will be so happy to welcome you!



## let's do lunch

Hosts for *Let's Do Lunch* are needed to provide a meal once a month on the fourth Wednesday. At least one Deacon will be present to help. For more details, speak to any of the following Deacons:

Ellie Burd  
Jane Coyle  
Lisa Chapman  
Andrea DiRuggiero  
Sandy Finlayson  
Susan Fischer  
Beth Gibson

Barbara Gill  
Margaret Greenway  
Russ MacAusland  
Karen Pennett  
Ben Thompson  
Faith Winow

## Sanctuary Flower Dedications

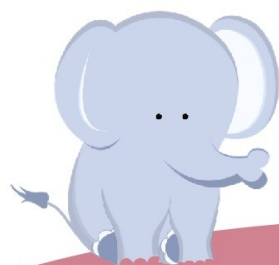
A special thank you to all who have so generously provided the flower arrangements that grace the sanctuary for our Sunday worship services. Following the service, the flowers are taken by the Deacons to those who are ill, shut-in, or celebrating a special event.

If you wish to give flowers, please sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. Call the Office on the Friday a week before you will be giving them to indicate how the dedication should read. At your earliest convenience, please send a check for \$60 to the Church Office and designate that it is for flowers on the date you have reserved.

We have been pleased to work with Jardiniere Florist in Bedminster for several years. They have always been pleasant and responsive to our needs and requests.







# toddler time

ARE YOU AT HOME WITH LITTLE ONES?

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO CONNECT WITH OTHER PARENTS OR CAREGIVERS?

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON IS EXCITED TO HOST TODDLER TIME: A PLAY GROUP FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5


TODDLER TIME IS FREE AND NO CHURCH CONNECTION IS NEEDED



wednesdays at fpcnv  
4 Lee's hill rd  
9:30 am - 11:30 am (drop-in)



For more information contact Hayley O'Connor | 908-809-9210 | oconnorhe@gmail.com

**WE** 

*"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."*

Elizabeth Andrew

**VOLUNTEERS** Please consider volunteering to be a Liturgist, an Usher, and/or to host Coffee Hour!

To volunteer to serve, please contact the Church Office:

973-538-8394 or officeadmin@pcnv.org

## Sunday Speaker Series 2019-2020

11:15 am—12:15pm

**Joel Farkas: *Remembering the Revolutionary War: Our Collective Historical Memory* November 10**



Mark Twain once said, “Never let the truth get in the way of a good story.” In this talk, we will look at iconic moments, events, and people from the American Revolution and see if our collective memory is: “the truth,” “a good story,” or “don’t remember much at all.” Some iconic moments we might “remember” are the Stamp Act, George Washington depicted Crossing the Delaware, the Declaration of Independence, and the Story of George and the Cherry Tree. Joel Farkas, a graduate of Ohio State University lectures widely on the Revolutionary War. A collector of historical autographs, he is a National Park Service volunteer docent at Washington’s Headquarters in Morristown.

**Dr. Douglas Simon: *Climate Change and National Security***

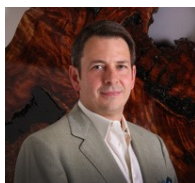
**January 19**

Climate change is an issue of national security not only for the United States but worldwide. We will discuss the issue from two perspectives: the first, how the U.S. military is engaged in significant planning for the impact of climate change; and second, a more global focus on climate “epicenters” as identified by the Center for Climate and Security. Dr. Simon is the only two-time recipient of Drew’s Distinguished Teaching Award. He is the co-author of “The Challenge of Politics,” now in its sixth edition, and of “New Thinking and Developments in International Politics.” He has contributed to The Harvard Journal of World Affairs, East Asian Survey, Comparative Political Studies, Perspectives on the Holocaust, and International Studies Notes.



**Frank Pollaro: *How Did a 12th Century Italian Mathematician Inspire a 21st Century Piano?***

**February 9**



Learn the fascinating story of how The Fibonacci Piano, commissioned by Steinway & Sons, became, in their words, “feat of artistry, engineering, and precision.” Frank Pollaro, President and CEO of Pollaro Custom Furniture in Hillside, will discuss his journey through the design and construction of this unique piano. Requiring over 6,000 man hours to complete, the Fibonacci was crafted from six different trees, inlaid in a complex and visually stunning pattern. Frank’s passion for wood collection has continued for more than 30 years; he also actively preserves his craft

through teaching at leading furniture-making programs. In his personal time, he enjoys fishing, wine collecting, and spending time in their New Vernon garden with his family.

**Matt Myers: *The Art and Pleasures of Bee Keeping***

**March 22**

Bees and their declining numbers worldwide have been very much in the news. This introduction to beekeeping covers the essentials to get involved in a lively hobby that has kept Matt Myers fascinated for 45 years. He will review how to purchase equipment and consider the components of a hive, followed by a look at the challenges of beekeeping in the northeast. When not tending hives, Matt has practiced as a criminal defense attorney for the last 30 years. He is confident no one will get stung but rather that some of us may get hooked!

**Kevin Woyce: *New Jersey State Parks***

**April 19**



From Revolutionary War battlefields to abandoned forges and vanished canals, NJ’s 28 state parks are filled with history. Discover the stories of our parks—who called them home, what happened in and around them, and how they have been preserved for generations of visitors. Kevin Woyce—author, photographer, and lecturer—specializes in NJ and NY regional history. He speaks frequently throughout the Garden State and has written and illustrated books on lighthouses, the Jersey Shore, bridges, and the Statue of Liberty.

## Calendar of Events 2019/2020

### NOVEMBER

**TUES 11/05** Committee Night @ 7:00 pm  
**WED 11/06** Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
**TUES 11/12** Deacons' Meeting  
**WED 11/13** Men's Breakfast 7:30 am  
 Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
**MON 11/18** Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm  
**TUES 11/19** Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm  
**WED 11/20** Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
 Let's Do Lunch! 12:00 pm  
**WED 11/27** Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
**THUR 11/28** Thanksgiving—Office Closed

### DECEMBER

**WED 12/04** Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
**TUES 12/10** Deacons' Meeting @ 7:00 pm  
**WED 12/11** Men's Breakfast 7:30 am  
 Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
**MON 12/16** Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm  
**TUES 12/17** Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm  
**WED 12/18** Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
 Let's Do Lunch! 12:00 pm  
**TUES 12/24** Christmas Eve Services @ 5 & 11 pm

### JANUARY

**WED 1/8** Men's Breakfast 7:30 am  
 Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
**TUES 1/14** Deacons' Meeting @ 7:00 pm  
**WED 1/15** Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
**MON 1/20** Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm  
**TUES 1/21** Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm  
**WED 1/22** Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
 Let's Do Lunch! 12:00 pm

### FEBRUARY

**WED 2/5** Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
**TUES 2/11** Deacons' Meeting @ 7:00 pm  
**WED 2/12** Men's Breakfast 7:30 am  
 Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
**MON 2/17** Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm  
**TUES 2/18** Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm  
**WED 2/19** Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
**WED 2/26** Toddler Time 9:30 am - 11 am  
 Let's Do Lunch! 12:00 pm



**Men's Breakfast**  
**Wednesday, December 11th, 7:30 am**  
**Country Fox Café**  
 12 Village Road, New Vernon  
*All men of the Church and their guests  
 are welcome.*

**let's do  
 lunch**  
**Monthly Luncheon**  
**Wednesday,**  
**December 18th at 12 pm**

Let's Do Lunch! will be held in Fellowship Hall  
 on Wednesday, December 18th at 12:00 pm.  
 All are welcome. Please RSVP by December  
 11th to the Church Office at:  
 officeadmin@pcnv.org or  
 973-538-8394.



# Mental Health Association Dinner



Our Sunday School class packed gift bags for each guest to take home.



Nicole Izaguirre offered beautiful music during dinner.



This dinner is always one of our best Mission and Outreach events of the year, and 2019 was no exception. We had a great turnout of both volunteers and guests for the dinner. Our intergenerational team offered warm food, entertainment and conversation to our guests from the Mental Health Association of Morris and Essex Counties.

## **The Chaplaincy Program Invites You to Participate In the 2019 Christmas Gift Program**



**Dear Partners in Hope,**

I have the privilege of being the chaplain at the Morris County Correctional Facility. We would like to invite you and your church to assist in giving those who are incarcerated a sense of hope. As we prepare for our Christmas Celebration Program, your warmth is welcomed. The Christmas Gift Program has an overwhelming impact at the jail, and we would like to ask your church to join us in this program. Over the years, I have received many responses from the recipients who have expressed their sincere thanks to those who have made it happen. Providing these miraculous gifts is the result of the work of so many of you. The holidays are an especially busy time for staff and a difficult time for inmates and their families. All of us who serve this ministry know from experience that your generosity will truly touch the hearts of the men and women who are incarcerated at the Morris County Correctional Facility.

This year we will provide 250 inmates with gift bags made up of the following items (Please donate ONLY items on this list because jail security has approved only these items.) On some items, we like to provide two units for each inmate, which would mean, for example, 500 units of shampoo. This is no small undertaking. I believe that together we can provide the resources needed.

**Men's white crew neck t-shirts, in Large, XL, 2X and 3X (no V-neck)**

**Men's white briefs**

**Men's white crew socks**

**Women's white sports bras (no wires or metal rings or hooks)**

**Women's white briefs**

**Toothpaste**

**Shampoo (medium to large sizes, no giant size, neutral fragrance)**

**Body Lotion (neutral fragrance)**

**Deodorant (neutral fragrance)**

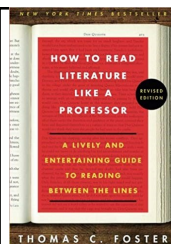
**Bars of Soap, individually wrapped, regular or bath size**

**All items should be fragrance free or neutral fragrances, as the inmate population is approximately 90% male. Also, no pumps are allowed by the correctional facility.**

**We need all of the donations no later than Sunday, December 15, 2019. They can be delivered to the Morristown United Methodist Church. Please call the church a couple of days in advance to arrange for your delivery.**



## FPCNV Book Club Schedule



### ***How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster**

A thoroughly revised and updated edition of Thomas C. Foster's classic guide—a lively and entertaining introduction to literature and literary basics, including

symbols, themes and contexts, that shows you how to make your everyday reading experience more rewarding and enjoyable.

While many books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary meanings interwoven in these texts. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the eyes—and the literary codes—of the ultimate professional reader, the college professor.

What does it mean when a literary hero is traveling along a dusty road? When he hands a drink to his companion? When he's drenched in a sudden rain shower?

Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices and form, Thomas C. Foster provides us with a broad overview of literature—a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower—and shows us how to make our reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun.

### **About the Author**

**Thomas C. Foster:** Thomas C. Foster, author of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* and *Reading the Silver Screen*, is professor emeritus of English at the University of Michigan, Flint, where he taught classes in contemporary fiction, drama, and poetry, as well as creative writing and freelance writing. He is also the author of several books on 20th-century British and Irish literature and poetry.

### **Meeting Dates and Book Selections**

**Where:** Library      **When:** 7:30 pm

**NOV 12** *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*  
by Thomas C. Foster

**DEC 10** Dinner at the Grain House, Olde Mill Inn

**JAN 14** *The Uninhabitable Earth* by David Wallace-Wells

**FEB 11** *The Gift of Rain* by Tan Twan Eng

**MAR 10** *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones

## **Did you know...**

We have large print bulletins and large print hymnals for individuals with visual impairment and headphones for those with difficulty hearing. Be sure to ask an usher if you would like to use any of these devices.

**We currently stream all of our worship services live over YouTube. You can view them on your computer, tablet, or even a smartphone.**

We would be happy to help you join us digitally! Contact the Church Office for help setting up your device. We can also provide you with a hymnal, so that you can follow along with the music.



# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>Communion</b> <b>Worship Service</b> 10 am	2	3 <b>Women's AA</b> <b>Step Meeting</b> Noon	4 <b>Toddler Time!</b> 9:30-11:30 am	5	6 <b>AA Meeting</b> noon	7
8 <b>Choir</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship Service</b> 10 am	9	10 <b>Women's AA</b> <b>Step Meeting</b> Noon  <b>Deacons' Mtg</b> 7:00 pm  <b>Book Club</b> Dinner at Grain House	11 <b>Toddler Time!</b> 9:30-11:30 am	12	13 <b>AA Meeting</b> noon	14
15 <b>Choir</b> 8:30 am <b>All Age Christmas</b> <b>Pageant</b> 10 am	16  <b>Finance Comm.</b> 7:00 pm	17 <b>Women's AA</b> <b>Step Meeting</b> Noon  <b>Session Mtg</b> 7:00 pm	18 <b>Men's Breakfast</b> 7:30 am  <b>Toddler Time!</b> 9:30-11:30 am  <b>Let's Do Lunch!</b> 12 pm	19	20 <b>AA Meeting</b> noon	21
22 <b>Choir</b> 8:30 am <b>Lessons and Carols</b> <b>Service</b> 10 am  <b>Longest Night</b> <b>Service</b> 7:00 pm	23	24 <b>Women's AA</b> <b>Step Meeting</b> noon  <b>Family Service</b> 5 pm  <b>Candlelight</b> <b>Service</b> 11 pm	25	26	27 <b>AA Meeting</b> noon	28
29 <b>Choir</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship Service</b> 10 am	30	31 <b>Women's AA</b> <b>Step Meeting</b> noon	27	28	29 <b>AA Meeting</b> noon	30

## DECEMBER WORSHIP PLANS

### Sunday, December 1

1st Sunday of Advent

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

### Sunday, December 8

2nd Sunday of Advent

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

### Sunday, December 15

3rd Sunday of Advent

All Church Christmas Pageant

### Sunday, December 22

4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Lessons and Carols Service

7:00 pm Longest Night Service

### Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Family Service

11:00 pm Candlelight Service

### Sunday, December 29

1st Sunday of Christmas

Preacher: Rev. Joanne Miller

## Hymn of the Month

### *Who Would Think*

Author: John Bell and Graham Maul

First Published: *Heaven Shall Not Wait* 1987 Glasgow

This thought-provoking text comes from the first volume of the Iona Community's "Wild Goose Songs" (a term based on a Celtic image for the Holy Spirit). It appears here without changes.

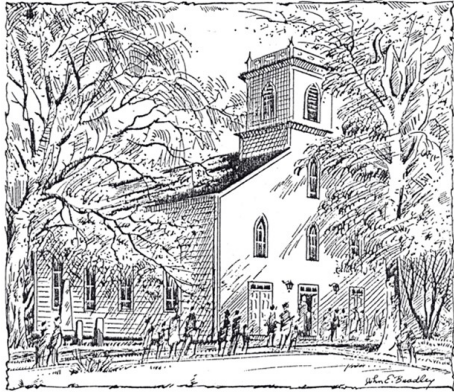
Unlike most carols and hymns for Christmas, this text is not so interested in that narrative itself as in its meaning. In many ways the key phrase is in the refrain: "God surprises." The inadequacy of human comprehension is signaled through many related words: "Who would think," "watch...wonder," ... to confound all our human conjectures and anticipations.

When we recognize that we cannot find out God's ways on our own, then we can begin to appreciate the gracious transformation God offers us: "God surprises earth with heaven."

Who would think that what was needed  
To transform and save the earth  
Might not be a plan or army,  
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?  
Who would think, despite derision,  
That a child should lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,  
Monarchs scorn and angels sing;  
Such a place as none would reckon  
Hosts a holy helpless thing;  
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers  
Watch a baby laid in hay:  
God surprises earth with heaven  
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science  
Span the past from which we move,  
Yet experience questions whether,  
With such progress, we improve.  
While the human lot we ponder,  
Lest our hopes and humor fray,  
God surprises earth with heaven  
Coming here on Christmas Day.



## December HIGHLIGHTS

### Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, December 11, 7:30 am

### Let's Do Lunch!

Wednesday, December 18, 12 pm

### Toddler Time!

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18  
9:30—11:30 am

### Longest Night Service

Sunday December 22, 7:00 pm

### Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm Family Service  
11:00 pm Candlelight Service

### E-mail Addresses

Do we have your updated email address? If you would like to be included in various mailings, please contact [officeadmin@pcnv.org](mailto:officeadmin@pcnv.org) or call 973-538-8394.

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