

WELCOME GUEST PREACHER

The Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer is an *emeritus* professor of Biblical Studies at Fordham University in New York City and also the *emeritus* Pastor of the Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York City. He taught full-time at Fordham from 1968 to 1996 and part-time from 1996 to the present, while serving the Rutgers Church as full-time pastor from 1996 to 2006.

In retirement, from 2007 through 2010 Byron spent four academic terms serving as a Visiting Professor of Old and New Testaments at the United Theological College in Bangalore, India.

Byron has been active in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on many levels. He was a member of the Committee of 15 that reviewed and edited that denomination's "Brief Statement of Faith," part of its *Book of Confessions*. In 1993, he served as Moderator of the Presbytery of New York City.

Between 1985 and 2003, Byron served as the Protestant host of "Religion on the Line," a three-hour Sunday-morning interfaith call-in program on WABC Radio in New York City.

Byron is a resident of Meadow Lakes Retirement Community.

He received his B.A. in History from the College of Wooster in Ohio (1960), his M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago (1963), and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in the History, Religion, and Literature of Ancient Israel (1968).

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's ushers: Carol Duryea and Jane Silverman

Today's greeter: Karen Klimpl

Ushers & Liturgists -- Summer is upon us and although many of us will be away for some or all of it, worship must go on! We are in need of ushers and liturgists! If you can help us out please notify me at twalvis@comcast.net, including the dates you would be available. Thanks, Tom Walton.

Coffee Hour — Thank you to Maggie Rider for hosting coffee hour this morning!

Short Term Choir Opportunity -- Have you ever wanted to be a part of the church choir for a short commitment? Now is your time!

- A men's choir will gather to sing during worship on July 29. Rehearsals will be held Sundays July 8, 22, and July 29 at 9:00 a.m., before worship, in the sanctuary. You are welcome to join us if you can make at least two of these dates.
- A women's choir will gather to sing during worship on August 5. Rehearsals will be Sundays July 22 and 29, after worship in the choir room and August 5, before worship at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. You are welcome to join us if you can make at least two of these dates.

You are welcome to join us if you can make at least two of the dates. If you have any question, please call Debbie Tarby at (732) 407-2233.

The 64th annual Ocean Grove Choir Festival -- will be held on July 8, 2018 at 7pm in the Great Auditorium of Ocean Grove. This year's theme is Love Divine, All Loves Excelling. The festival is directed by Dr. Jason Tramm and features hundreds of singers, exciting guest conductors, a brass ensemble and Dr. Gordon Turk on the magnificent Great Auditorium pipe organ. Four members of the sanctuary choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown are participating this year. We hope you will be able attend this amazing concert. You won't be disappointed!

Trenton Thunder Baseball Game – Join us on our 14th annual Trenton Thunder excursion against the Portland Sea Dogs. Thursday, July 26, 7pm. Gates open at 6pm, game starts at 7pm, fireworks immediately after. Tickets are limited, \$10, see Teri Mier, Joanne Bini, or call the church office.

The Walk to Remember -- Sunday, July 29, Marcia Alig will be participating in the 19th Walk to Remember of The Compassionate Friends, which will be held at the annual TCF conference in St. Louis, Missouri. She will be walking in memory of her son, Daniel, and all those gone too soon. More than 1,000 are expected to walk. Each walker wears a "racing bib" on which is inscribed the names of the ones remembered. If you would like to add a name to her bib or contribute to The Compassionate Friends to further its support of families who have suffered the tragedy of the death of a child, see her during coffee hour. Checks should be made out to "The Compassionate Friends." You may also use the website (tcfwalktoremember.com) and click on Alig under the Individuals heading. Thank you.

Scrip/Gift Cards – are available for over 700 stores, including local supermarkets, restaurants and on-line retailers beginning at \$5 for gift giving or personal use. Proceeds benefit adult mission trips. See Carol Duryea in coffee hour or call her at 609-448-5316.

Office Hours -- The office is currently open Monday & Wednesday 10-4, Tuesday & Thursday 8-10 & 3-6, and Friday 3-6.

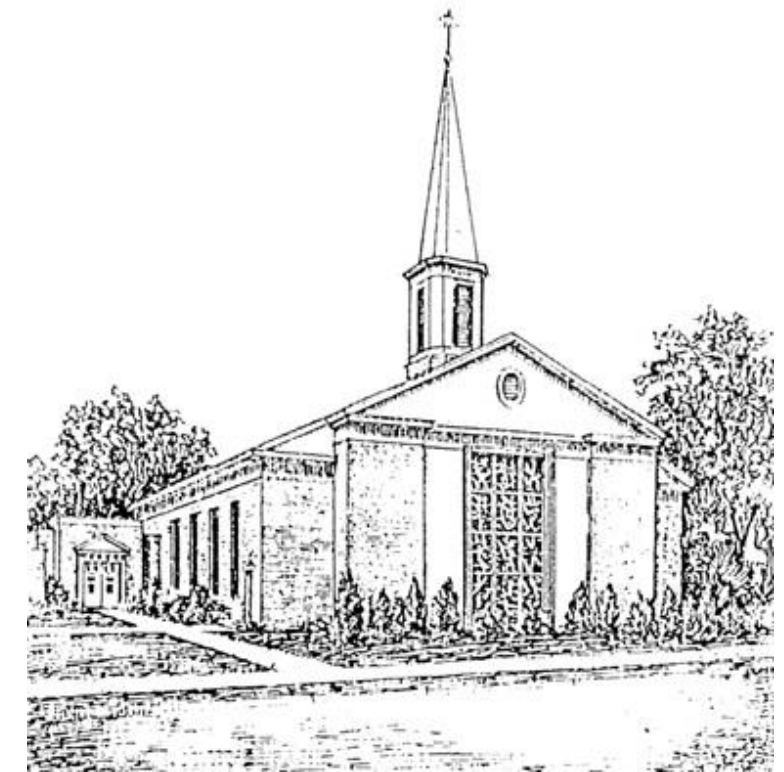
***Pastor Lisa will be away on study leave from June 23 - July 1. If you have a pastoral care emergency during that time, please be in touch with on call Elder, Cathy Anzuini, at 609-516-8210.*

STAFF EMAILS

Pastor, Lisa M. Day -- Lisa.day@hightstownpres.org
Christian Ed, Mary Maleski -- mmaleski@hightstownpres.org
Music Director, Debbie Tarby -- music@hightstownpres.org
Office Manager, Sheri Devlin - sdevlin@hightstownpres.org
Communications, Dave Teich - communications@hightstownpres.org

WEEK OF JUNE 25

Mon., June 25	4:00 PM	Community Dinner
	7:00 PM	Art Ministry
Tues., June 26	7:00 PM	Deacons
Sunday, July 1	10:00 AM	Community Worship Service, at the First Baptist Church of Hightstown (<i>no service here</i>)



First Presbyterian Church

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, June 24, 2018

10:00 AM

320 North Main Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520
609-448-0055 (phone) -- 609-448-8634 (fax)
Website: www.hightstownpres.org
Email: info@hightstownpres.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship is a word derived from two words which mean to ascribe worth to God. The main body of the service moves broadly from hearing to doing, from proclamation to thanksgiving.

GATHERING

The people gather in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the declaration of God's forgiveness.

Prelude *Prelude on "Diademata"* D.C. Isele
The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to silence your conversations and prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

Welcome & Announcements

↑ Call to Worship

L: In the name of God—wondrous, mysterious, marvelous--

P: in the name of Jesus—among us, beyond us, with us--

L: in the name of the Spirit—strange, startling, shaking--

P: we gather for worship.

All: We come to lift our hearts and minds, to open our lives, to celebrate God.

↑ Hymn 687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

↑ Call to Confession

↑ Prayer of Confession (*together*)

Loving God, however much we profess our desire to journey in faith and to follow the course of discipleship, we must confess an incompleteness in our devotion and a waywardness in our spirits.

In fear, we have turned back from reaching the other shore, where reconciliation with those who differ from us can be found.

In timidity, we have turned aside from charting through the storms of life a steadfast course, along which Your love and grace can guide and sustain us.

In stubbornness, we have turned down adventuring to new destinations in the company of Jesus, passing up chances to grow in Your Spirit.

O God, forgive us, and guide us anew. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

(Silence is kept for individual prayers of confession.)

↑ Assurance of Pardon

L: The risen Christ appeared to the disciples and breathed on them saying, "Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit. Your sins are forgiven."

P: Our sins are forgiven, and we forgive one another.

All: Thanks be to God!

↑ The Passing of Peace

L: Let us now share signs of Christ's peace with one another, saying, the peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you.

You are invited share signs of Christ's peace with those around you.

↑ Response to Peace

Hymn 288 *Spirit of the Living God* LIVING GOD
***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

THE WORD

Scriptures are read and their message is proclaimed.

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading (PEW BIBLE – OT – PG 528) Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

L: Here ends the First Lesson. This is the living word of God!

P: Thanks be to God!

Time for Children

Following the Time for Children, children of every age are always welcome to remain in worship. Families may also choose...

- *Loving care for infants and toddlers in our nursery.*
- *Children pre-K (potty-trained) through 1st grade are invited to the narthex to be escorted by the leaders to Children & Worship in the Multi-Purpose Room where parents can meet them after worship.*
- *Children 2nd grade and higher are welcome to remain in worship. There are worship bags in the narthex with activities for them.*

The Lord's Prayer (*together*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Special Music *Where'er You Walk* G.F. Handel

Gospel Reading (PEW BIBLE – NT – PG 36) Mark 4:35-41

L: Here ends the Second Lesson. This is the living word of God!

P: Thanks be to God!

Sermon *Difficult Passage*

↑ Hymn 185 *Lonely the Boat* BAI

THE RESPONSE

Responses to the proclamation of God's Word include expressions of faith and commitment.

Prayers of the People

Offering/Offertory *Trust and Obey* arr. C. Callahan

↑ **Doxology 607** OLD HUNDRETH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

↑ Prayer of Thanksgiving (*responsive*)

L: Good and giving God, we thank You for the privilege of receiving Your gifts,

P: and for the privilege of being Your gifts—to each other and to many beyond this community.

L: Receive our offering, we pray.

All: Through it and through us, bless Your world. Amen.

SENDING

The people are sent forth with God's blessing to serve.

↑ Hymn 463 *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION

↑ Blessing and Charge

↑ Benediction Response

Hymn 291 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* SPIRIT
(Refrain) ***Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.***

Postlude *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*
S. Mitchell-Wallace

Please feel free to depart in silence during the postlude, mindful of those who remain to listen.

↑ **If you are able, please stand in praise**
Large print bulletins, hymnals and assisted listening devices are available.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Byron Shafer

Music Director, Debbie Tarby

Children & Worship Leaders, Christine Vincent and Jane Zanat

Liturgist, Jackie Hart

Special Music: Diane Fisher, Flute

Time for Children, Mary Maleski