



# Fairfield Good News

WORSHIPPING THE LORD FOR OVER 300 YEARS!

March 2022

## March

March 3  
Ash Wednesday  
Dinner/Service

Monday, March 7  
Consistory  
Meeting

Sunday, March 13  
Daylight Savings  
Time begins

Thurs., March 17  
St. Patrick's Day

Sunday, March 20  
Welcome  
SPRING

Fairfield Reformed  
Church

360 Fairfield Rd.  
Fairfield, NJ 07004  
973-227-5428

Fairfieldreformed  
@gmail.com

www.fairfieldreformed  
church.com

https://  
www.facebook.com/  
oldchurchnewsong/

Pastor Scott Nichols in March, 2017:

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:14-15) With these words, Jesus begins his three-year ministry that will lead him to the cross and the empty Tomb. With these words, we begin the season of Lent. Where will they lead us?

Just a few short months ago, we were in the season of Advent. In that season, which prepared us for the birth of Jesus, we were governed by the words "Watch and Wait." These were passive words. Words that drew us to the wonder of the One who had come into our world from above. Now as we begin the season of Lent we are to be led by two different words: "Repent and Believe." These two words are quite different from the words of Advent. For these words are not passive and reflective. They are active and call forth a response.

Now the first question that should come to our minds is this: "To what are we called to respond?" Jesus exclaims that we are to respond to the good news that God's kingdom has come near to us. When we talk about the kingdom of God, we are not referring to some place, some location where God has now set up a physical throne. Rather Jesus is calling us to respond to the rule of God over the whole created order and specifically to his desire to reign in the human heart. In our hearts. "How then are we to respond to this offer of God?" Jesus exhorts us with those two key Lenten words: Repent and Believe. It is important for us to first note the order of the words. Repentance comes first. What does it mean to repent? It does not mean to feel guilty or sorry for your sins and shortcomings. While it is important to feel sorrow for your sins, mere sentiment is not enough. The word repentance means to "turn around, to seek a new direction." It is to admit that all my life I have been going the wrong way and I now know I need to turn around and return to God. To repent means to change your actions.

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The second half of our response to the good news is to Believe. Once we have begun to change our actions, we will find that our attitudes and thoughts begin to change. Our emotions, our feelings, and our spirits get in line with the will of God. We find we no longer have to work so hard at the daily acts of repentance. We find ourselves wanting and desiring the things of God.

Someone has captured the heart of this Lenten season with this modern analogy: "In a crowded airport terminal, hundreds of people are scurrying in dozens of directions. Above the steady buzz of noise, a voice booms through the loud speaker, "Flight 362 is now arriving at gate 23. Will passengers holding tickets for New York please check in at gate 23; you will be boarding soon." Some people, of course, never hear the announcement and continue on their way. Others hear it, but having reservations on another flight, pay no attention. Some, however, want to go to New York and who have been nervously awaiting such an announcement, look up expectantly, check their ticket for the flight number, gather their baggage, turn around and set out with some urgency for gate 23." In this Lenten season, as our world rushes here and there at break-neck speed, are you listening for the good news that God's Kingdom has arrived? If so, then above the noise of society hear the voice of Jesus calling out to you. Then be willing to change your direction and rush to him. Lent is a time for action!



- 2 Jody Boling**
- 3 Jim Gwinn**
- 4 Scott Nichols**
- 6 Wilma Oliphant**

### Ash Wednesday. March 2

6:30 PM Dinner  
7:30 PM Service  
Fellowship Hall



Consistory Meeting—Monday, March 7

*Saturday night, March 12  
(OR Sunday morning, March 13)  
Set your clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour.  
Also, check your smoke detectors  
and change the batteries.*



*Classis Assessment for 2022 is \$91.50 per person. If you are able, please reimburse the church for this expense.*

Sanctity  
OF HUMAN  
LIFE SUNDAY  
2022



Our plastic baby bottles for Baby Bottle Boomerang in conjunction with First Choice Women's Resource Ctr. have been returned to the church.

A total of \$395 was donated (\$148.18 cash plus a \$25 member check converted into a \$175 church check and \$220 in individual members' checks made out to First Choice).

*Thank you to all who participated in this important mission program.*



*Thank you to all who participated in this special mission endeavor.*

This year we were participating in Souper Bowl of Caring again by taking a special offering on Super Bowl Sunday to be given to the Good Shepherd Mission in Paterson. AND, again this year, inclement winter weather made it unsafe to have in-person worship and the special offering was postponed. Finally, we were able to send GSM \$250 (\$130 in monetary donations converted into a church check and \$120 in members' checks made out to GSM).



*March 20 First Day of Spring*



*A kind word  
is like a  
spring day!*

- Half an hour in a spring evening is worth a thousand gold pieces. – Japanese Proverb
- No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow. – Proverb
- Many a sudden change takes place on a spring day. – Irish Proverb
- One swallow does not make a spring. – French proverb

Name:

## ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash Wednesday

Holy Thursday

Forty Days

Sacrifice

Good Friday

Jesus

Almsgiving

Holy Saturday

Passover

Prayer

Easter

Foot Washing

Fasting

Palm Sunday

Resurrection

Lent

Purple

Holy Week

Palm Branch

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"Nearness to God brings likeness to God.  
The more you see God the more of God will  
be seen in you." ~ Charles Spurgeon

"Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible,  
the other 99 will read the Christian." ~  
Dwight L. Moody