

Grace Presbyterian Church

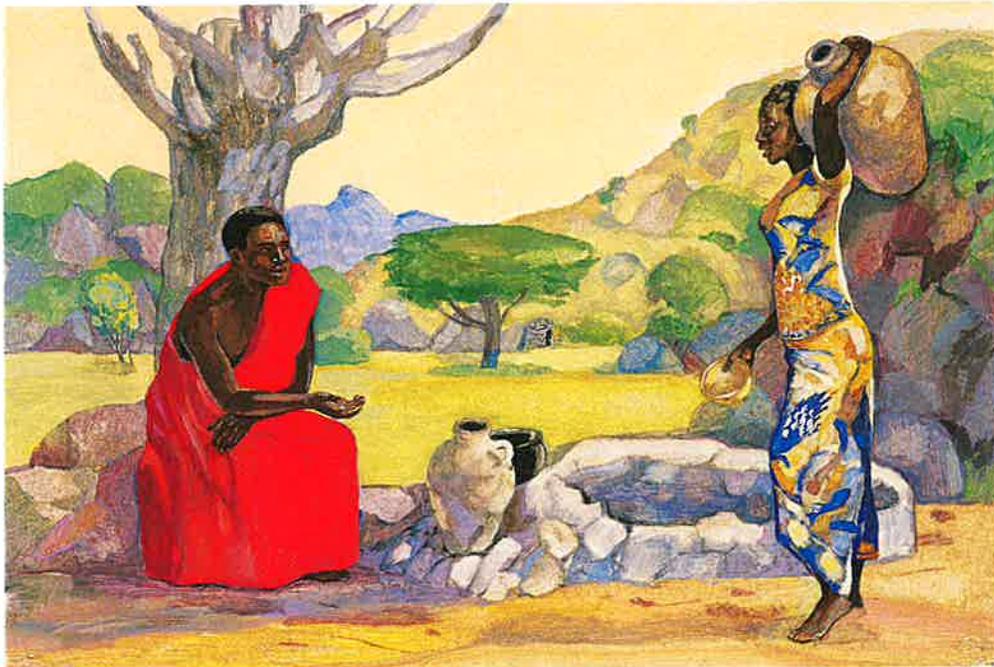
March 8, 2026

Lent 3

9:30 am

Welcome /VISION STATEMENT

We are an open and affirming congregation.
**We genuinely welcome people of all ages,
races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,
beliefs,
and those who are cognitively
and or physically challenged.**
Our vision is to be a community of love and purpose,
**each one engaged in ministry,
seeking to know Christ, growing in discipleship,
and embodying God's love for the world.**



"Give me a drink"

Prayer Candles

Before Worship, you may offer a prayer
and light a candle at the communion table.

We Gather

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Call to Worship

Come those who thirst for living water.

God is speaking to us.

Come to worship in spirit and truth

God is speaking to us.

Come and know what you have heard from others

God is speaking to us.

Posted on Liturgy Link by Christy Ramsey.

*Hymn #666 "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

Call to Confession

With humility and honesty let us pray..

Prayer of Confession

God of living water,

we confess the dryness of our lives:

the brittle words we have thought and spoken . . .

the relationships that are crumbling . . .

the arid perspective that centers on self . . .

the cracked and jagged edges of our world . . .

The lives and earth shattered by violence

Hear our confession, O Christ,

and rain down your mercy upon us.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Words of Assurance

Jesus says,

“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 living water.”

This is good news for us, thanks be to God

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her Spacious Faith blog.

Hymn #439 “O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer”

(Please stay seated and sing vs. 1 and 4)

We Reflect

Prayer of Illumination

We come to you just now

thirsting for your living water.

Guide us to the streams

of your wonder and glory,

your justice and righteousness,

your grace and mercy,

that we may drink and be satisfied,

renewed for our continuing journey with Jesus.

Amen.

Reading for the Gospel of John 4:4-26

A time for Children and the Young in heart

Reading from the Gospel of John 4:27-42

SERMON

*Hymn #684 "Faith Begins by Letting Go"

We Respond

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is **to Know, Love, and Serve God**

Offertory Invitation

Musical Meditation

Prayer of Dedication

(Many thanks to all who contribute to the mission and ministry of our church in offering plates during worship and by electronic giving throughout the month).

Prayers of God's People (sharing of Joys and Concerns)

Lord, in your mercy/with thanksgiving,

Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

We Are Sent

*Hymn #475 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

*Charge and Benediction

Go now from this service of worship
to the service of God's people near and far,
refreshed by the living water that Jesus offers to you.
Listen for the parched voices of the least of these;

search out the dry places and the arid souls,
and become for them a spring of living water.

And as you go,
may the blessings of the God of life,
the Christ of love,
and the Spirit of grace
be upon you this day and forevermore. Amen

Now go with the Spirit, from the comfort of this place,
So may we go to bring hope to the world.
Now carry the Light of Christ with you,
we go into the shadows with this gift.
Now trust in God who is always with you,
we follow the one who offers us life eternal.

(c) 2017 Thom M. Shuman modified by Debbie

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you!

And also with you.

(We invite you to offer a sign of peace to those around you and as you gather for fellowship. We remind you to ask what folks feel comfortable with...a verbal greeting, a handshake or fist bump, etc. Do not assume.)

POSTLUDE

***Indicates, please stand in body or spirit.**

All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594

The Week Ahead at Grace Presbyterian Church: Mar. 8 - Mar. 15

For additional information, call the church office or ask an usher!

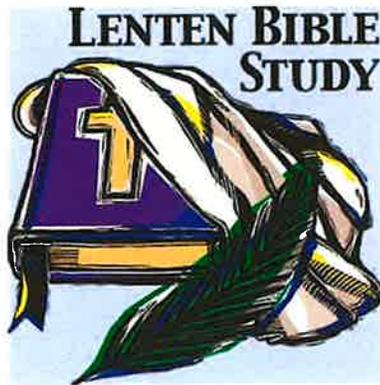
Sun. March 8	9:30 am Sunday Service 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Bible Study - Room 3
Mon. March 9	9:00 am Jazzercise 7:00 pm Yoga
Tues. March 10	9:30 am Iyengar Yoga 6:00 pm Jazzercise
Wed. March 11	9:00 am Jazzercise 6:30 pm Soup, Bread & Prayers at Abiding Love Church 7:00 pm Essentrics
Thur. March 12	9:30 am Iyengar Yoga 10:30 am Aging Gracefully Group
Fri. March 13	9:30 am Restorative Yoga
Sat. March 14	8:30 am Jazzercise 8:45 am Iyengar Yoga 4:30 pm Grace for Dinner
Sun. March 15	9:30 am Sunday Service 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Bible Study - Room 3

Vision Statement

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LENT

Palm Sunday - March 29 Easter Sunday - April 5



Pastor Debbie will lead our Lenten Bible Study based on the book: “Turning the Tables: A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power” by Kathy Escobar: “With keen insight and unwavering conviction, visionary pastor Kathy Escobar guides readers on a Lenten journey inspired by the ways of Jesus to dismantle the systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice. From flipping the money changers’ tables in the temple to uplifting the poor and marginalized, Jesus’ actions and words turn the world’s idea of power on its head.”

Purchasing the book is not required to participate in the Lenten Study.

We will meet in Room 3 from 11:00-12:30 on the Sundays during Lent (February 22nd through March 29th). A Zoom link will be available.

Please contact Nancy Varga at 732-543-9479 or nmvarga2011@comcast.net for more information regarding the Bible Study and/or Christian Ed.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 PM Tenebrae Worship Service which will include Communion -Story Telling - Reflection and it will move us into Good Friday.

Abiding Love Lutheran Church Lenten Invitation

Rev. Adrian Deepak of Abiding Love Lutheran Church has invited us to take part in their Bread & Soup Lenten Meditations Wednesday evenings. 6:30pm Soup & Bread - it is an evening of prayer and reflection.

Women's Bible Study

Mark Your Calendar: April 1, 2026 - 12:00 pm

We will be studying and discussing:

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Pick up a book from Pastor Debbie

Spiritual & Mental Wellness Team

The Aging Gracefully “and all that comes with it “ group will meet weekly on Thursday 10:30-11:30 am in room 3.

A Fundraising Concert for the church

Save the Date - Saturday, April 25

Led by our own world renown artist Vince DiMura

Memorable and meaningful music of Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder

Keep your ears and minds open for how you can help.

South Brunswick Food Bank Items Needed:

Ground coffee - Jelly - Chef Boyardee, or any canned pasta
Crushed tomatoes - Pancake mix - Syrup Spaghetti, and any boxed pasta
Paper goods: toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins, Boxed milk such as Parmalat -
Canned tuna. Please bring the item(s) to the church and put it in the cart by the front door. If you have any questions contact Lee - mrsp52@comcast.net

TRAIN THE PRESENTER

Sand Hills Community Wellness Center



Sponsored by the South Brunswick Health Department

“TAKE GOOD CARE” A WORKSHOP FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 | 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

This workshop will discuss the essentialness of self-care, particularly after loss, and practical ways of caring for ourselves in mind, body and spirit.

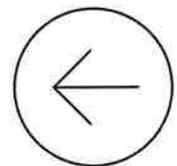
Presented by Kevin J. Keelen, MA

With over 30 years of experience as a Bereavement Minister, Kevin Keelen, M.A., is an author, and a Peer Support Group Facilitator at Stephy's Place Center for Grief and Loss in Red Bank, where he facilitates 14 support groups. Stephy's Place offers free peer support groups for adults who have lost partners, children, siblings, parents or a loss to someone from suicide. Kevin is also a Funeral Celebrant for several funeral homes. As a former Roman Catholic priest, Kevin has walked with countless people who are grieving. It is, however, Kevin's own personal losses that bring him to his current ministry: at age 20, he suddenly lost his father, and over the years he lost his sister and nephew to suicide, a niece to an overdose, and many other family and friends along the way, as he puts it, "too many to count."

Although this workshop serves as Part II of Kevin's last workshop entitled, "The ThresHold of Grief," which is the name of Kevin's book, one does not have to have attended the first as they both stand on their own.

Take Good Care dives much deeper into many of the topics presented in Kevin's last workshop, examining effective tools for self-care in mind, body, and spirit, as well as the movement from loneliness to solitude, and the importance of self-compassion and gratitude work. There will be opportunities for sharing and discussion. Kevin will also recommend resources and other authors that people find most helpful.

REGISTER AND LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



Sand Hills Community Wellness Center
57 SAND HILLS ROAD, KENDALL PARK, NJ 08824

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MARYANN

732-419-3551 OR SANDHILLSWELLNESS@GMAIL.COM



Beyond the Silence: A Guide to Youth Suicide Prevention *at Sand Hills Community Wellness Center*

We often worry about the mental health of the young people in our lives, but the fear of "saying the wrong thing" can keep us silent. It's time to break that silence.

MARCH 28
9:30 AM - 12 PM

This workshop is designed to move us from a place of uncertainty to a place of action. You don't need to be a doctor or a psychic to make a difference; you just need the right tools and the courage to start a conversation. In this session, we strip away the stigma and focus on practical, life-saving skills.

Susan Tellone is a highly accomplished Registered Nurse, Certified School Nurse, and health educator, holding a Master's degree in Nursing and a Bachelor's degree in Mental Health and Rehabilitation. With nearly 40 years of experience as a psychiatric nurse, she has dedicated her career to the critical field of suicide prevention.



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HOW SWEET IT IS

Music of Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder

FEATURING VINCE DI MURA, TY STEVENS, ANTHONY NELSON JR

SEAN AND JARED DECKER

Date: April 25, 2026 at 7pm

Vendors and Silent Auction 5:30 pm

Free Dessert

Ticket: \$30, 732-297-9182



PayPal

BENEFIT CONCERT
AT GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

57 Sand Hills Rd, Kendall Park

www.gracepcsb.org





Qigong with Elizabeth Walters at Sand Hills Community Wellness Center

Qigong means *energy work* or *energy cultivation*. It is an ancient Chinese healing practice that combines simple body movements, meditation, visualization, and breathing techniques to activate and cultivate Qi. Join us to learn about and practice Qigong.

Classes offered on the 1st
and 3rd Thursday of every
month
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

\$12.00 per class
\$40.00 for a package of 4 classes

Register by emailing
walters.ej@gmail.com

*Let your energy move like water –
fluid, strong, and effortless.
Qigong reminds us to release what is heavy
and welcome what is light. Each movement
is a quiet celebration of life,
each breath a return to harmony.”
Qigong Master Robert Peng*



Sand Hills Community Wellness Center
57 SAND HILLS ROAD, KENDALL PARK, NJ 08824

Grace Presbyterian Church

presents



GRACE FOR DINNER

A **FREE MEAL** for anyone facing food insecurity. If you are a neighbor in need, please come to our table. All are welcome. Guests can also **choose 2 bags of groceries.** *Doors open at 4:00pm*

Saturday, March 14, from 4:00-5:30pm

57 Sand Hills Road, Kendall Park, NJ

732-297-9182

Email: office@gracepcsb.org Website: gracepcsb.org

Order meals by Mon March 9th

Call or email with name, phone number, number of meals needed and number of children under 18.

One meal per person- Choice of:

1: Chicken Coconut Curry (mild)

2: Vegetable Pad Thai (veggies, tofu and noodles)

Meals prepared by **Maricel's Kitchen, East Brunswick**

Let us know if you have transportation limits; we may be able to arrange delivery. If you are unable to pre-order, any remaining meals will be given out starting at ~5:15pm.

Look Who's Serving

	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Liturgist	Lee Piotrowski	Christie Chow	Janice Royer	Laura Taff
Usher	Judianne Brown	Sandy Chmielewski	Mike Royer	Janice Royer
Zoom	Janice Royer	Peter Godinez	Peter Godinez	Brian Boccardi
Worship Leader	Rev. Debbie Paton	Rev. Debbie Paton	Rev. Debbie Paton	Rev. Debbie Paton
Coffee Hour	Vee Casey	Sandy Chmielewski	Janice Royer	Amy Miller Evelyn Savage
Counters	Mike Royer Dottie Pickell	Fran Trischetta Carol Thomson	Laura Taff Lee Piotrowski	Mike Royer Dottie Pickell
Musician	Vince DiMura	Vince DiMura	Vince DiMura	Vince DiMura
Open/Close	Carol Thomson Mike Royer	Carol Thomson Mike Royer	Carol Thomson Mike Royer	Carol Thomson Mike Royer

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Pastor Debbie - Debbie is in the office Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. Works off site on Friday. She can best be reached by email pastordebpaton@gmail.com or cell phone 630-886-6785. Please honor Monday as her sabbath by only calling if it is an emergency.

Vince Di Mura - Music Director

Church Office - This Week - Maryann Rappa will be in the office Monday, Tuesday & Thursday. She can be reached at office@gracepcsb.org or 732-297-9182.

NOT SURE WHO TO CONTACT?

- ❖ Questions about donations - Contact **Al Goddard**
- ❖ Questions about the children's ministry - contact **Nancy Varga**
nmvarga2011@comcast.net
- ❖ Questions about the Deacons - contact **Kathie Scott**
kathiemscott@icloud.com
- ❖ Have a prayer request? - contact **Tami Aug** tamaraaug@gmail.com
- ❖ Put an announcement in the bulletin? tell the **church office by Wednesday.**
office@gracepcsb.org
- ❖ Put an article in the newsletter? Maryann Rappa office@gracepcsb.org
- ❖ Want to get involved? **Contact an elder.**

Questions about **Finance or Personnel** - Rob Aug; **Hospitality** - Janice Royer, **Outreach** - Donna Keller; **Preschool** - Nancy Varga, Carol Thomson; **Property** - Jim Elieff, Mike Royer; **Worship** -Dottie Pickell; **Stewardship** - Rob Aug; **Christian Ed.** - Nancy Varga; **Wellness** Irene Carman; **Clerk of Session** - Peter Godinez

Elders - Rob Aug, Irene Carman, Jim Elieff, Peter Godinez, Donna Keller, Dottie Pickell, Janice Royer, Mike Royer, Nancy Varga

Deacons - Tami Aug, Gloria Bernard, Judianne Brown, Vilija Casey, Barbara Elieff, Amy Miller, Gabi Quaelly, Kathie Scott

USERS' GUIDE

- **Welcome!** If you are visiting, please sign our guest book on the table in the hall before entering the worship space.
- If you have a **prayer request**, fill out a blue *prayer request card* (the other side of the welcome card) and put it on the offering plate.
- **Restrooms** are on the fellowship hall side of the sanctuary.

More information?

Grace Presbyterian Church- 57 Sand Hills Road, Kendall Pk, NJ 08824 Phone number- 732-297-9182 email us at - office@gracepcsb.org - Visit our website: www.gracepcsb.org - Or check us out on Facebook!