



Pompton Reformed Church  
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March 2020



WOW!!

Hello Friends!

I have an exciting announcement for you! We are starting a free monthly dinner for neighbors in our community and our first one will be on Thursday, April 23rd!!!

Over the last few months, our Missions Team, New Ministries Team and our consistory have been talking about new ways to serve our community. When we sent a team of people to serve lunch at Oasis in Paterson, the natural question came up: Can we do something like that here at Pompton Reformed? With the success of the pancake breakfast, we believe we can do a free dinner once a month for anyone who wants it or needs it.

We have invited businesses to be monthly sponsors and help support the meal. To be a sponsor, a business makes a financial contribution of \$300 and can have employees come and serve with us during their sponsorship month. We have gained a lot of interest and have already received commitments from Columbia Bank, The Rotary Club, The Chamber of Commerce, and The Windsor School.....and we are just getting started. Personally, I am really excited about these sponsorships because we are serving the community WITH the community. We are all in this together.

You will hear more about this in the next few weeks, but in the meantime, we have formed a core team of people who will be working on the logistics of the meal and coordinate volunteers. It will take 10-12 volunteers every month to make this meal happen.

As a church, we desire to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Throwing a dinner where everyone is invited is such a tangible way to live our mission in the world.

*Pastor John Burden*

## March Winds and Leprechauns

By Elaine Peacock

Well it has been a mild winter so far and when March arrives we start to let our guard down. But remember, those March winds can be tricky as the old -time rhyme says “when March winds blow we can have snow.” March also brings thoughts of St. Patrick’s Day – it puts a spring in our step and thoughts of warmer days to come, but watch out for those Leprechauns they always have a trick or two up their sleeve. God gives us March and our first taste of the spring that is to come so bundle up take a walk through the March winds and see if you can catch a Leprechaun and find his pot of gold. Spring is coming!

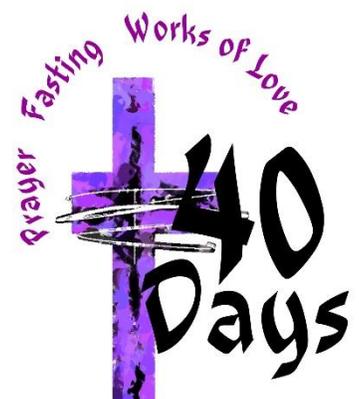


Do You Want to Fast for Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

(borrowed from Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine via Facebook)



## Education News

### Family Activity for Lent: Making Pretzels

Pretzels have an important meaning during Lent. Pretzels were made in the fifth century as a Lenten food in Austria, Germany, and Poland. People began to make them on Ash Wednesday, the very first day of Lent. The word “pretzel” is a German word meaning “little arms.” The dough was shaped in such a way to look like two arms, crossed in prayer.

Pretzels were made to take the place of bread, since milk, eggs, and fats were not used during Lent. On certain days during Lent it was the custom to give pretzels to the townspeople who were poor.

As a family, make some pretzels. Two variations for making pretzels are included at the bottom of this sheet. Enjoy the pretzels and let them remind you that Lent is a time of prayer. Before you eat the pretzels, say a prayer together.

Dear God, we ask you to bless these pretzels which we are about to eat. Each time we eat them may we be reminded that this is the season of Lent, a time of prayer. Help us to remember to pray for those who need our prayers each day. Keep your loving arms around us, O God, to protect us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Adapted from “Pretzel Prayer,” A Time of Hope: Family Celebrations and Activities for Lent and Easter, Morehouse-Barlow Co., Inc. 1979 (out of print).

#### BREAD PRETZELS

1 ¼ cups water (85 degrees)  
1 tablespoon dry yeast  
½ teaspoon sugar  
4 ½ cups flour

1 egg yolk  
1 to 2 teaspoons water or milk  
coarse salt



Let yeast and sugar dissolve in water for one hour. Add flour to yeast mixture and beat until smooth. Knead mixture for seven to eight minutes. Place in a greased, covered bowl and let the dough rise until double in size. Divide the dough in half; then divide each half into smaller pieces of equal size. Roll each piece in your hands to make pencil shapes, twelve (12) to fifteen (15) inches long. Shape each length of dough into pretzels. Place on a greased baking sheet. Brush with egg yolk and water or milk mixture. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 325 degrees until lightly browned on top.

## FROZEN BREAD DOUGH PRETZELS

Thaw one loaf of frozen bread dough. Let the dough rise according to directions on the package. Divide the dough in half and place on a floured board. Cut each half into eight (8) equal pieces. Roll small pieces into strips about eighteen (18) inches long. Shape into pretzels. Place on a greased baking sheet. Brush the tops of the pretzels with beaten egg yolk mixed with one (1) tablespoon of water. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 350 degrees for twenty (20) to thirty (30) minutes or until lightly browned to top.



### **Fellowship News**

#### Social Opportunity

Are interested in making new friends and keeping the old? Please join us for lunch and a variety of stress-free activities at the Pompton Lakes Reformed Church on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from noon until 3:00 p.m. Bring your own lunch with coffee and tea available. After lunch there will be a variety of activities to choose from including adult coloring, all types of puzzles including jigsaw puzzles, paint by number, and games. All of the mentioned materials will be available for you. If you have a special game or activity such as knitting, please feel free to bring those materials with you. Adults of all ages are invited to attend! Please feel free to ask your friends and family. This is a relaxing time to be with others while enjoying your favorite activities.

Our first meeting will be on March 12- to get to know each other and perhaps plan other activities. Starting in April we will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. You do not have to stay the entire time. If you would just like to have lunch with us that is fine. Come for lunch at noon or come at 1 pm for activities. But feel free to come whenever you are able and stay as long as you are able.

If you plan to attend on March 12, please reply to Joanniant@optimum.net that you are attending so we plan accordingly. Need more info? Please email your questions. The goal of this club is to enjoy fellowship with others in a relaxing atmosphere. We hope to see you on March 12. Thank You! Jo-Ann

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**Raymour and Flanagan** along with the Fellowship Committee are hosting an Easter Egg hunt and bake sale to benefit PRC. Raymour and Flanagan did this last year to aid our Capital Campaign. The egg hunt is from 8am-10am and the bake sale is from 9am-1pm. Come out and support PRC!

From My Name Is Asher Lev by Chaim Potok  
Submitted by Jack Tice

And I drew, too, the way my father once looked at a bird lying on its side against the curb near our house. It was Shabbos and we were on our way back from synagogue.

“Is it dead, Papa?” I was six and could not bring myself to look at it.

“Yes,” I heard him say in a sad distant way.

“Why did it die?”

“Everything that lives must die.”

“Everything?”

“Yes.”

“You, too Papa? And Mama?”

“Yes.”

“And me?”

“Yes,” he said. Then he added in Yiddish, “But may it be only after you live a long and good life, my Asher.”

I couldn't grasp it. I forced myself to look at the bird.

Everything alive would one day be as still as that bird?

“Why?” I asked.

“That's the way the Ribbono Shel Olom made his world, Asher.”

“Why?”

“So life would be precious, Asher. Something that is yours forever is never precious.

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**Eleanor Haling** sends good wishes to her friends at P.R.C.

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#### Dates to Remember

March 28-Free Community Breakfast 9am-12pm.

April 4- Raymour and Flanagan Easter Egg hunt and bake sale to benefit PRC

April 10- Good Friday service at PRC

April 12- Easter Celebration 10 AM at PRC





### BAKERS NEEDED!

Breads, cakes, cookies, pies, anything (except cupcakes!) needed for the Raymour and Flanagan Bake Sale. Sign up in fellowship hall. Baked goods should be brought to the kitchen Friday, April 3 from 4-7pm.

### Volunteers Needed!

The 2020 PRC Pancake Breakfast will take place on Saturday, March 28th! Each Sunday from February 9th-March 8th, there will be a table in Fellowship Hall to sign up to volunteer and/or donate! Your support for this event has been tremendous over the years! Let's continue to serve our community and make this year the best one yet! Please contact Tina Thompson at (973)-513-2490 or [tinairaggi@gmail.com](mailto:tinairaggi@gmail.com) if you'd like to get involved or have any questions!

### OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Do you have some time to spare? Oasis, "a haven for women and children" is a mission we support in Paterson, NJ. Oasis provides meals and child care so women can grow through education and work skills to better provide for their families. There are many opportunities to serve at Oasis and Oasis is very happy to have new volunteers. If you are interested and able, please speak to Pat Gordon who will coordinate and assist new volunteers.



April Newsletter  
Submissions due  
March 29 to  
[khuysers@msn.com](mailto:khuysers@msn.com)