

# Oak Leaves

Vol. LXIV, Number 7

March 2022



## *Lenten Preparation*

*by Pastor John*

Ash Wednesday is March 2nd this year and begins a rather brief period of spiritual preparation for the celebration of Easter. In the early church it was seen as a time of fasting to prepare initiates into the church for baptism. We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 with in-person and online participation.

Beginning the following Wednesday, March 9, our weekly Wisdom Group will begin a study of *The Enneagram Guide to Waking Up* by Beatrice Chestnut. All are welcome to join in this study. Simply get a copy of the book and join on our Zoom meetings from 7:00 to 8:30.

I believe that the Enneagram focus, which we will begin but not end in Lent, is an appropriate Lenten discipline. The Enneagram is a tool of self-observation which enables us to see how we act from instinctual and habituated patterns which help us to function in the world, but also which get in the way of our movement toward rebirth into Christ. Baptism celebrates the Christian journey of dying to the old person we mistakenly believe ourselves to be and becoming a new person in Christ. There is so much Scriptural support for this vision of the Christian path—Jesus' focus on following his same path of death and resurrection, Paul's description of baptism in Romans 6 as being a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, and Paul's proclamation in 2 Corinthians 5: 17 that "if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

The biblical and theological evidence is clear—Christians are called to die to the surface and largely unconscious self of so-called human nature and to become a new, transformed self which is integrated into the Risen Christ. We are to become new and different people. Therefore, Lenten disciplines were established to help in this process of transformation.

Transformation is much more than the work of the ego or of a few sacrifices here and there.

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It requires an ability to see ourselves deeply and the courage to let go of self-attachment and habitual ways of being into a new self in Christ. It simply won't happen without help. Some of us will begin work on such seeing and letting go, beginning in Lent. Why not join us on the road with Christ to new life? See you in church!

## *Worshipping Together in March*



**Note:** Except where noted, both online and in-person worship options are available at this time. Check our website for updates.

**Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022 @ 7:30 PM**

Sermon: **"The Journey with Christ"** by **Rev. John W. Monroe III**

Scripture: **2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6,16-20**

**Communion Sunday, March 6, 2022 @ 9:45 AM**

Sermon: **"Addition by Subtraction"** by **Rev. John W. Monroe III**

Scripture: **Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus, like all humans, did battle with the self and its desire for preservation. He had the courage to let self go in order to find God within. Addition by subtraction.

**Sunday, March 13, 2022 @ 9:45 AM**

Sermon: **"Mindset"** by **Rev. John W. Monroe III**

Scripture: **Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35**

Even for people of faith there is a temptation to live by the mindset of the world. Our call is to transcend such an orientation and to develop a capacity to live with a very different mindset.

**Sunday, March 20, 2022 @ 9:45 AM**

Sermon: **"What Does God Expect"** by **Rev. John W. Monroe III**

Scripture: **Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9**

As Jesus looked around, he did not see the kind of fruit produced in people's lives that he

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expected. The religion of his day wasn't transforming hearts. What kind of fruit is God expecting from us?

**Sunday March 27, 2022 @ 9:45 AM**

Sermon: **"Our Part in God's Work"** by **Rev. John W. Monroe III**

Scripture: **2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Jesus and Paul make clear that the work of God is for reconciliation of all things and people. Are we to have a hand in this work? How are we doing?

For updates & more services, visit [rumsonpresbyterian.org/upcoming-services](http://rumsonpresbyterian.org/upcoming-services)

## *Church School*



Happy February!

Happy "Almost" Spring everyone!! Spring is the Season of New Beginnings, I can't wait to get back outside and watch nature do its thing. If anyone would be interested in a beach or park cleanup please reach out to me at [churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org](mailto:churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org) or (732) 768-9913.

### **March Church School Calendar**

- March 6th:** "Addition by Subtraction" : Nourishment Recipe Book
- March 13th:** "Mindset" : Setting Intentions : Nature Walk and Craft
- March 20th:** "What Does God Expect?" : Spring into God's Word Craft
- March 27th:** Family Worship

Please keep in mind that we are always looking for volunteers for the nursery! Please reach out if you are interested or know someone that may be. Pay is \$25 for the hour or volunteer hour credit.

Sandi Van Cleve, Director of Christian Education

# Music Program



Dear friends,

Happy March! A great big thank you to all of our guests and soloists who shared their music with us this past month. We appreciate you!

Please note, Ash Wednesday falls on Wed March 2nd this year. Our service will be held at 7:30 pm.

As always, we are looking for guests to sing with us and the choir or offer their musical gifts somehow. If you are interested in joining us, please email me: [andreeafegan@gmail.com](mailto:andreeafegan@gmail.com)

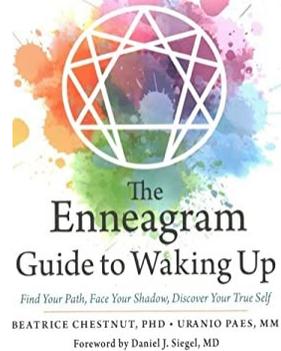
Blessings,

Andreea Fegan, Music Director

# Adult Nurture



a outstanding book that offers precise steps to take to rise up to the self-limiting habits of your personality  
out of your own way, and give yourself the gift of becoming more of your higher—more authentic—self!  
—IAN MORGAN CROW, author of The Road Back to You: A Step-by-Step Guide to Self-Discovery



**Wisdom Wednesdays:** Wisdom Wednesdays: Beginning Wednesday, March 9, our weekly Wisdom Group will begin a study of **The Enneagram Guide to Waking Up** by Beatrice Chestnut. All are welcome to join in this study. Simply get a copy of the book and join on our Zoom meetings from 7:00 to 8:30.

# *Mission News*



The Mission Commission met February 1st for the first time in 2022 and began the year by reviewing 2021 giving summary (as published in the Annual Statement) and identifying organizations that we supported in earlier years but did not fund in 2021. We discussed several important local organizations and approved donations to (a) Mental Health Association of Monmouth County, founded in 1950 with a mission to promote mental health as a critical component of overall wellness, including prevention services for all, early identification and intervention for those at risk, integrated care and treatment for those who need it, with recovery as the goal; (b) LADACIN – Lifetime Assistance for Developmental and Challenging Individual Needs which provides a continuum of care, including educational, therapeutic, social, residential and support services to infants, children, and adults with complex physical and developmental disabilities or delays; (c) The Kourtney Rose Foundation working in conjunction with Children's Brain Tumor Network (CBTN), a global consortium of hospitals and research institutions, and also supporting the growth of the pediatric Neuro-Oncology Program of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) to drive innovative discoveries, pioneer new treatments, and accelerate open science to improve the health of every child and young adult diagnosed with a brain tumor.

We responded to two recommendations from church members to consider donations first to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Trenton, celebrating 122 years of vital urban ministry under a welcoming banner as an intercultural, open and affirming, social justice congregation. The second to an Afghani family of five evacuated from Kabul in July striving to find stability and community in their new life in America. Though connected to services offered by the International Rescue Committee, One World One Love and RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, Mansour, Nahida and their three sons needed some more immediate assistance and we hope our donation can help them find hope and ease settlement into their new home in Virginia.

Mission member Jodi Sackett and Sue Bostic are leading the Peacemaking Scholarship process again this year and we agreed to expand our offering to six scholarships for local high school seniors this year. We can look forward to recipients coming with their stories of extraordinary service and community engagement later this year. We are also responding to

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the Covid-related changes in Family Promise's format for providing housing and meals and invite our congregation 'angels' to submit expenses directly to Mission for reimbursement of monies spent on purchasing dinners, grocery gift cards and other items for Family Promise guests.

Mission Commission meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30pm. We welcome anyone who is interested to join at any time.

Anita Waters, Mission Chair

## *Other Church News*



### Easter Lilies

Below is a form for those who wish to provide Easter Lilies as part of our Easter Sunday celebration. Please fill out the form and return it to the Church Office. Also, please send a check payable to the "Rumson Presbyterian Church". Those wishing to have a plant placed in our worship services and then to have it shared with someone who is homebound or hospitalized, should place a check in the appropriate box.

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#### EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Please order the following Easter Lily plant(s) to be used as part of the decorations for the Easter Sunday service:

\_\_\_\_\_ Plant(s) ( @ \$12.00 each )                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donor(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Presented in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please share my plant with someone homebound or hospitalized.

## Per Capita Update



The Per Capita envelope in your Stewardship booklet (February 6th) is used in a special way. Each year every member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is assessed a certain amount that is paid by the local congregation to the National Church. In turn, that money is divided among the General Assembly, the Synod of the Northeast and our local Presbytery of Central New Jersey according to a set formula. Per Capita money is used by those governing bodies to pay for administrative costs such as salaries of staff persons, office expenses, program materials, etc. In 2022, the Per Capita amount for the Rumson Presbyterian Church remains \$40.00 per person. By using this special envelope and including an amount equal to three and a half weeks of your regular pledge, we can avoid using scarce operating dollars. We thank you in advance for your support.

## Giving



Rumson Presbyterian Church is excited to partner with the Presbyterian Foundation and Vanco Payment Solutions to bring you our GivePlus Online Giving page (<https://rumsonpresbyterian.org/giving/>).

We are also listed in the GivePlus Mobile App, which can be downloaded to your smartphone, making Online Giving even easier. This YouTube video explains how to get and use the App. In addition, here are links to two more documents about the service and the App: “Vanco GivePlus Church FAQs for Donors” and “Vanco GivePlus Church How it Works”.

Note: 2% of your GivePlus donation will be retained as an administrative fee by the Presbyterian Foundation.

# *Presbyterian Church News*



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

March 2 - April 17, 2022

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

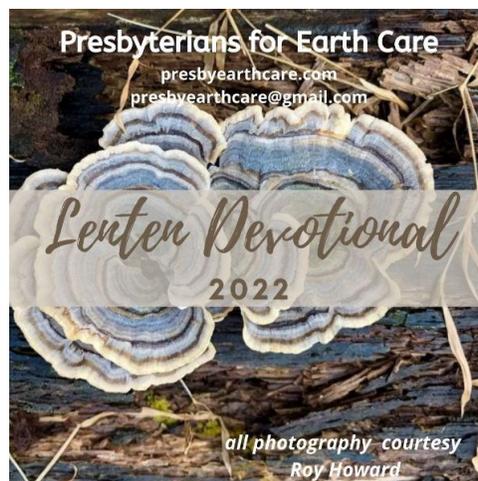
In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by our church - One Great Hour of Sharing, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

To learn more, pick up a brochure from the literature shelf in the narthex (just outside the sanctuary) or visit: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/give>

To give, there is an envelope in your Stewardship booklet (March 13th), you can pick up an envelope from the literature shelf in the narthex, or you can visit: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/oghs/>

## Lenten Devotional



### **PEC Lenten Sunday Devotional is Here (and Free)!**

New Lenten Devotions based on Sundays' Revised Common Lectionary texts from Creation Care Perspectives: We hope this resource will help preachers, lectionary Bible study groups,

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families and individuals with new insights on these beloved texts during this special season. We hope the devotions will inspire more people to help care for God's creation in these challenging times.

Please consider sharing a link to the devotional in an email to your church members, family and (nearby and online) friends. You can also ask your Presbytery to share the links with churches and pastors. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/mtj5ydx7> to download the PEC Lenten Devotional.

THANK YOU to all the contributors to this devotional and especially to PEC Coordinator Mindy Hidenfelter whose work made it all possible.

This Lent Devotional was made possible by the volunteers contributing their devotions as well as financial donations that covered the cost of recruiting contributors, editing, laying out, web posting and promotion online, by email and Facebook. Your donation towards our ongoing work is needed and appreciated. You can give online through our secure website [presbyearthcare.org/giving](http://presbyearthcare.org/giving) or by mail to P.O. Box 3851, Allentown, PA 18106 (please note new mailing address for donations).

## *Community News*



### Early Risers



If you want to stop drinking call: 1-908-687-8566  
or (toll free from NJ area codes): 1-800-245-1377  
24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

For a list of other local A.A. meetings, visit [www.nnjaa.org/#](http://www.nnjaa.org/#)  
For information about A.A. visit [www.nnjaa.org](http://www.nnjaa.org)

Meetings: Fri. from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM at Rumson Presbyterian Church

# Waterspirit Event Calendar



**Meditation for Earth** Every Tues. from 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM

Please join Waterspirit for a "Meditation for Earth" . We read a short blessing, followed by an excerpt from Hal Borland's 12 Moons of the Year. Then we lead a simple meditation followed with silence, for a flourishing Earth. The meditation and silence last approximately 30 minutes. There are two ways to meditate for Earth with us: 1) In-person in the Sanctuary at Rumson Presbyterian Church; 2) Online on our YouTube channel. All of our meditation videos are filmed by our Programs and Communications Consultant, Abbey Koshak, with loving care.

**Spring Equinox Celebration** Sun., Mar. 20 from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE! Come join WATERSPIRIT to celebrate and reflect on the freshness and excitement of the rebirth of nature. Enjoy this evening of reflection and ritual in celebration of Spring, a season of new vitality and energy for Mother Earth and the human spirit. During this time of prayer and gratitude we pray also that we may transform and awaken to new energy and life within ourselves. Donations according to means. Reservations preferred. For more information, please call WATERSPIRIT at 732-923-9788. Email: [water@waterspirit.org](mailto:water@waterspirit.org). Register for this online informational meeting that will outline what this 10-step support group entails, explain the course's suggested donation, and answer any questions you might have prior to committing.

All are welcome. Please visit their website ([waterspirit.org](http://waterspirit.org)) for more information about these events.

## *Caring for God's Earth*



Submitted by **Diane Burke** and **Sue Smith**

Did you know that the section in the OAK LEAVES titled "Caring for God's Earth" is an activity we do each month as an Earth Care Congregation? Our church, Rumson Presbyterian Church

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has been an Earth Care Congregation, a nationwide Presbyterian USA Mission for over 5 years. Our church pledges to a five-part resolution as a model for mobilizing congregations to respond to the General Assembly's "CALL TO RESTORE THE CREATION." Generally, the pledge says that peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

Our faith urges us to strive for eco-justice: defending and healing creation while working to assure justice for all of creation and the human beings who live in it. This call is rooted in the human vocation of "tilling and keeping" the garden from Genesis 2:15, as well as Christ's charge to work with and for the most vulnerable. Because of their love for Christ who is firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15), churches are challenged to live in a manner consistent with God's call to not only care for creation, but commune with creation.

In order to stay current each year we need points in 4 areas; Worship, Education, Outreach and Facilities. To recertify we need a total of 50 points with at least 5 in each category. If we recertify we will receive recognition from the denomination.

As of today, Sue Smith and Diane Burke have been the only 2 members of the Earth Care Team. We are reaching out this month to invite others to would help us! The church's Earth Care Congregation Certification needs new environmental projects each year in all four of the categories to maintain its certification from the national Presbyterian church. We are excited to be planning a rain garden on our property and collaborate with Rumson Environmental Commission. We would love more ideas and new energy, please email us if you would like to join!

## *A Meditation*



Center for  
Action and  
Contemplation

### **Intimacy : Responsive Vulnerability**

by [Richard Rohr, OFM](#)

**February 21, 2022**

*Father Richard believes that we can only experience true intimacy when we are willing to be vulnerable ourselves:*

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The big and hidden secret is this: an infinite God seeks and desires intimacy with the human soul. Once we experience such intimacy, only the intimate language of lovers describes what is going on for us: mystery, tenderness, singularity, specialness, nakedness, risk, ecstasy, incessant longing, and also, of course, suffering. This is the mystical vocabulary of the saints.

Our biggest secrets and desires are often revealed to others, and even discovered by ourselves, in the presence of sorrow, failure, or need—when we are very vulnerable, and when we feel entirely safe in the arms of love. When that happens, there is always a broadening of being on both sides. We are larger people afterwards.

And it is only when we are in such a tender place that God can safely reveal the “inside” of God to us. All self-sufficient people remain outsiders to the mystery of divine love because they will always misuse it. Only the need of a beloved knows how to receive the need and gift of the lover, and only the need of a lover knows how to receive the need and gift of the beloved without misusing such love. It is a kind of deliberate “poverty” on both sides. A mutually admitted emptiness is the ultimate safety net for love.

“Fullness” in a person cannot permit love because it leaves no openings, offers no handles, no give and take, nor is there any deep hunger. Human vulnerability gives the soul an immense head start on its travels.

Our desire for intimacy or communion first creates the very hunger that God, with a little help from God’s friends, can then satisfy (though never totally) in this world. In fact, the bit of satisfied desire only increases the desire for more and again! The mystics (those who personally know the inner space of God) are aware that they have been let in on a big and wondrous secret. Anyone not privy to this inner dialogue would call such people presumptuous, foolish, or even arrogant. This is without a doubt “God’s secret, in which all the jewels of wisdom and knowledge are hidden” (Colossians 2:3).

The secret becomes unhidden when people stop hiding—from God, from themselves, and from at least one other person. Such risky self-disclosure is what I mean by intimacy and it is the way that love is transmitted. Some say the word comes from the Latin *intimus*, which is interior or inside. Some say its older meaning is found by *in timor*, “into fear.” In either case, the point is clear. Intimacy happens when we expose our insides and this is always scary. We never really know if the other can receive what is exposed, will respect it, or will run fast in the other direction. We must be prepared to be rejected. It is always a risk.

◦ **Reference:**

Adapted from Richard Rohr, [\*Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self\*](#) (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2013), 164–165, 166, 167, 168–169.

# *Pastor John's Weekly E-Mail "Blasts"*

## **Groundhog Day Report (Feb. 2)**

I hear that Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow this morning and that winter is here for six more weeks. More thoughts on this. First, a reminder that this Sunday, February 6, is Communion Sunday. The Scripture readings are Isaiah 6: 1 – 8 and Luke 5: 1 – 11. The sermon title is "When God Calls." The popular hymn after the sermon is "Wonder" by Natalie Merchant.

What is the significance of Groundhog Day? Is it a bit of midwinter magic for children to enjoy? For adults, is it a welcome break from logical and mechanical seriousness, to some playful wonder and connection with creation? Is it an excuse to watch, once again, Bill Murray in a movie which helped to make Groundhog Day a global concern?

Groundhog Day was brought to America by German settlers who originally adopted it from a European Christian holiday called Candlemas Day. Christians on February 2 would have their candles blessed to bring protection to their homes for the rest of the winter. Hedgehogs were part of the day in Europe, which got changed to groundhogs here in western Pennsylvania.

It turns out that Punxsutawney Phil has less than a fifty percent accuracy rate of prediction, so don't despair about the prediction of six more wintery weeks. The deeper invitation in this day is to remember our connection with the natural world and to work to deepen our communion with nature. In some small way, Groundhog Day helps to move our relationship with creation from an I – It relationship to an I – Thou relationship. This shift of consciousness carries great importance and hope, if we can make it.

We are not separate from creation. We are part of it. The world is not a lifeless canvass on which to play out our lives. It is a living presence and in a true sense our Mother. Francis of Assisi was right to call creatures and the elements sister and brother. Our lives and souls will be greatly enriched if we could learn to be in a living relationship with creation and receptive to its communication with us. Meditate on Psalm 19 which assures us that "the heavens are telling the glory of God." Better yet, be in nature and have its presence enliven the part of nature that you are.

Six more weeks of winter? Bring it on! The days are getting longer, and spring is coming. Be present and know how God is present in all. Blessings!

## **Image and Reality (Feb. 9)**

This Sunday, February 13, the Scripture readings are Jeremiah 17: 5 – 10 and Luke 6: 17 – 26. The sermon title is "Forgotten Sermons" and the "hymn" after the sermon is "Blowin' in the

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Wind.”

I am trying to make time each week to get rid of my possessions. My thinking is that if I do a little bit each week, then when retirement arrives in the fall, I will not be overwhelmed with the task. The intention is to let go with awareness. At home, Rosanne and I have started getting rid of various things including clothes. In my office at the church, I have started throwing away old sermons, papers, and files.

I carry, as part of my self-image, a picture of myself as frugal, present to the moment, and unencumbered by lots of stuff. I pat myself on the back for these qualities, which I consider I possess to a greater degree than most. As I am engaging in my weekly intention of letting go of things, however, I am beginning to wonder at my ability to self-deceive.

I may not have lots of gadgets, but I have held onto copies of every sermon I have ever preached, going back to seminary days in the early 1980s. As of today, those old sermons are gone, with the exception of a small file with my most recent sermons. I have files with programs and information going back to the beginning of my ministry, and also papers from college and seminary. Slowly but surely, I am throwing these away. I will leave behind only a few items which I think that any future pastor might find helpful. And, of course, there are books and books and books. Some have and will make their way with me to upstate New York, but the majority will not.

For a frugal guy, I have saved a lot of stuff, more than I have needed. I think that there is a law of the universe that our stuff will tend to expand to fill the amount of room that we have. No doubt, this has been true for me. My office is spacious with lots of room for files and books. But I can also see that I have had a tendency to hoard resources for ministry, to hold onto them much longer than necessary. How can something new truly emerge if we are encumbered by the relics of our past?

It strikes me that this discipline of letting go might not only be good for retiring pastors, but also for congregations in a period of transition. In the journey of discipleship to Jesus Christ, what needs letting go, in order to prepare ourselves to receive the new thing that God is doing among us? Blessings all!

## **Knowing with All of Us (Feb. 16)**

This Sunday, February 20, the Scripture readings are Genesis 45: 3 – 11, 15 and Luke 6: 27 – 38. The sermon title is, “Lord, Have Mercy” and the “hymn” after the sermon is “The Heart of the Matter” by Don Henley.

As I reflect about living faithfully as Jesus followers in a time like ours, the more I find myself concluding that spiritual work is essential to bringing us to a place of real hope and possibility for something new. Our familiar ways of seeing and being will not bring about something

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among us, which is healing, whole, and genuinely new.

What I am beginning to see is how partial our point of view is and how constricted our seeing. As I deepen my spiritual practice, I am beginning to taste into another kind of seeing and being. The practice is a quietening of the mind and the emotional attachments and stories which come with our inner conversations. In a place of inner stillness and heightened awareness, it is possible to be aware of the life of the body and the more refined and less personal quality of our heart. In this different state of awareness, we begin to see differently and experience a different quality of being. This is what I mean by a different kind of seeing and being. When we are in this state of awareness more wisdom and freedom become available to us. Moving here is simple, but not always easy.

When we are in this more open and aware state, our minds don't dominate, but rather open to receiving new impressions and new ways of thinking. We can still experience ourselves as individuals with individual needs and concerns, but we can also begin to understand and to see that we are an expression of a cosmic evolutionary journey which is about much more than ourselves. We can begin to participate consciously in a much bigger story of ourselves and find the capacity to deal with the challenges of our lives from this greater self.

But, of course, the irony of this move to something higher and more, requires a detachment from and letting go of the little self of reactive personality which dominates so much of our waking hours. I think that this basic frame helps us to make sense of what Jesus said in Luke's Gospel reading for this Sunday. We can cling to that which is lower, or we can let go into something much greater. The choice is always ours. Blessings all!

## **Can We Be More? (Feb. 23)**

This Sunday, February 27, is Transfiguration Sunday. The Scripture readings are 2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 2 and Luke 9: 28 – 36. The sermon title is "The Future of Humanity" and the "hymn" after the sermon is "Here Comes the Sun."

This Sunday when we celebrate Jesus' transfiguration before three of his disciples and the appearance of Moses and Elijah is one which always has fascinated me. The Gospel accounts record that Jesus' appearance became transparent and glowing with an unnatural light. When we read biblical stories like this it is easy to get caught up in the so-called miraculous and supernatural elements. We are attracted to events or stories which take us out of the mundane and the ordinary into something magical and transcendent.

My only criticism of this fascination of ours with the miraculous is that we tend to look for the extraordinary somewhere out there, outside of ourselves—in Jesus, or some saint, or some event which took place long ago. The spiritual journey, however, always points us to the here and now. It points us to ourselves as the source of what we long to find. That

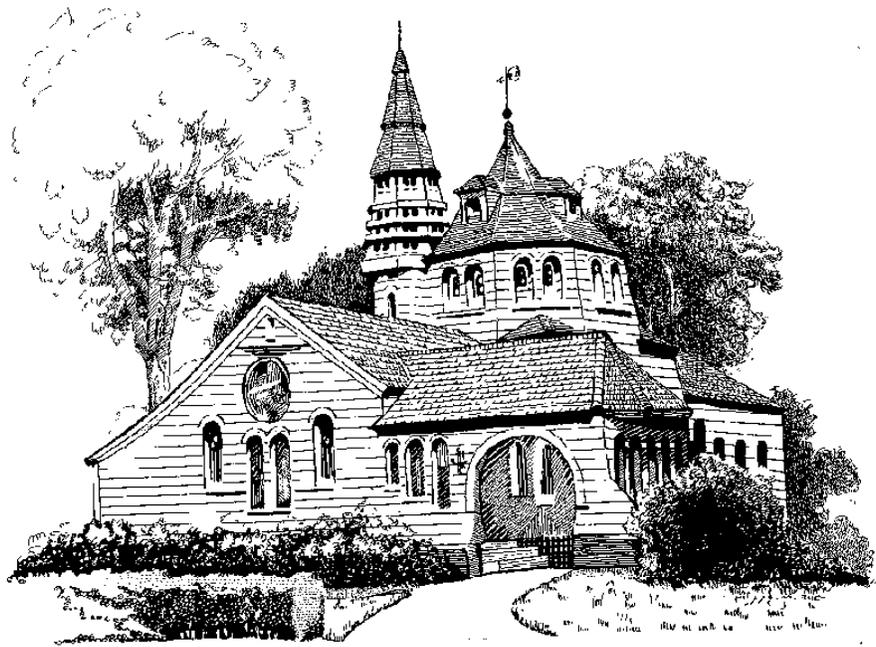
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sounds sacrilegious, doesn't it, to say that what we long for is inside? We are too modest to think this.

If we approach this on an ego level, of course, such a sentiment is ridiculous and even harmful. An inflated ego becomes delusional and will not lead us to what we are searching for. What we are searching for is an experience of the divine. And the divine is not only outside of us, but also inside of us. We can taste the divine as we learn how to let go of our attachment to our ego identity and find again our true essence. Genesis tells us that we are made in the Image of God. That's our essence. But our self of personality blocks us from perceiving this. The great mystic, Meister Eckhart, said that if we can ever get to the true ground of ourselves, we will find that our ground and God's ground are the same ground.

The transfiguration reminds us of what we can become when we travel with Christ into deep letting go of small self and discover our ground, our essence, our union with God. Such a human being shines like the sun and that's the whole point of this Sunday. We can become more. It's not easy, but it is why we are here. Blessings all!



**First Presbyterian Church of Rumson NJ**  
**P.O. Box 399**  
**East River Road at Park Avenue**  
**Rumson, NJ 07760**

**Nonprofit Organization**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED**

~Please check our website at [www.rumsonpresbyterian.org](http://www.rumsonpresbyterian.org) for calendar updates~

**MARCH 2022**

**APRIL 2022**

Mar 1	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM	Apr 5	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Mar 2	Wed	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>		Apr 6	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00 PM
Mar 2	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00 PM	Apr 10	Sun	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	9:45 AM
Mar 4	Fri	<b>World Day of Prayer</b>		Apr 12	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Mar 8	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM	Apr 13	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00 PM
Mar 9	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00 PM	Apr 14	Sun	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	7:30 PM
Mar 13	Sun	<b>Daylight-Savings Time begins</b>		Apr 15	Sun	<b>Good Friday</b>	12:00 PM
Mar 15	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM	Apr 17	Sun	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	9:45 AM
Mar 15	Tue	Session	7:00 PM	Apr 19	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Mar 16	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00 PM	Apr 19	Tue	Session	7:00 PM
Mar 17	Thu	<b>St. Patrick's Day</b>		Apr 20	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00 PM
Mar 20	Sun	<b>First Day of Spring</b>		Apr 22	Fri	<b>Earth Day</b>	
Mar 22	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM	Apr 25	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30 PM
Mar 23	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00 PM	Apr 26	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Mar 28	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30 PM	Apr 27	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00 PM
Mar 29	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM				
Mar 30	Wed	Wisdom Group	7:00 PM				

*\*Waterspirit sponsored event. All are welcome.*

*Please visit their website ([waterspirit.org](http://waterspirit.org)) for more information about their events.*



[www.rumsonprebyterian.org](http://www.rumsonprebyterian.org)