



CONCORD LIBERTY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Come as Visitors - Leave as Friends - Return as Family"

To talk to someone about a particular area of ministry, please call the church office, (610) 358-2105 and Mary Ann, our church secretary, will direct your call to one of the Leaders, Directors, or Pastor below.

Rev. John King, Pulpit Supply
Marcia Bickley, Clerk of Session
David Steel, Service Leader

Charlie Jones, Dir., Community
Outreach & Congregational Care
Dino Firmani, Sexton
Mary Ann Emely, Office Secretary

Office Phone: 610-358-2105

Web Site: www.concordliberty.org

E-Mail: office@concordliberty.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/concordliberty>

If you have any concerns or questions about our church please feel free to contact any of our session elders listed below.

CLPC Session

Marcia Bickley, Clerk of Session
Beth Berstecher
Tom Long
Judy McCleary
Tom McGrail
Frank Sangster
Marian Spor
Brenda Wilson

CLPC Deacons

Gary Cannon
Betty Culver

Denise Jingoian
Dave Lengel

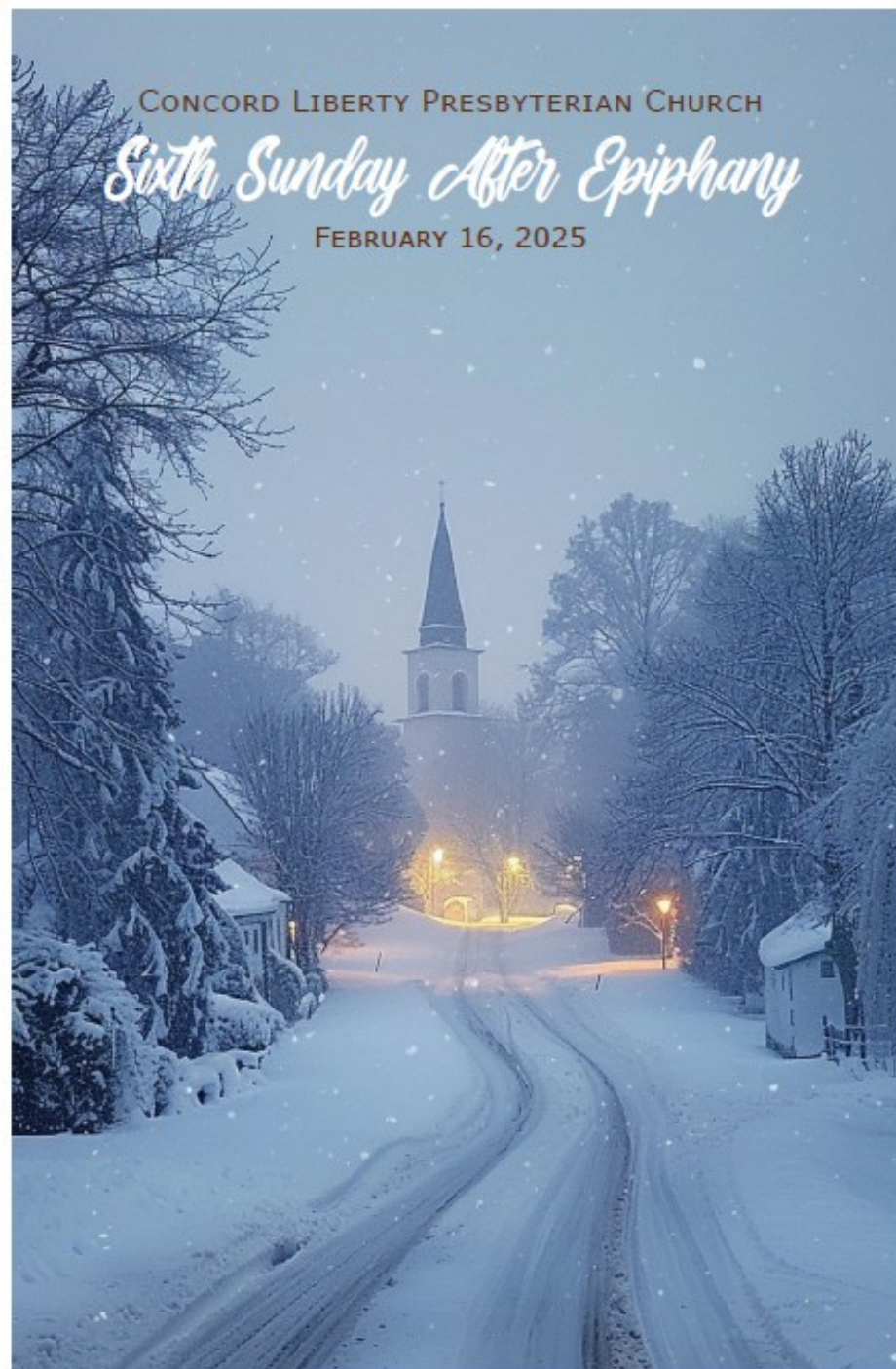
Kim Lengel
Connie O'Donnell

Pray for our missionaries:

Nate & Jenny Bacon
InnerChange
Skip and Carol Tobin, VMM
Chester Eastside Inc.
Carolyn & Dan Hennings,
Chop Point

Michele Rickett — She is Safe
David & Bethany Wilkinson,
World Impact

Ray Garcia, Philadelphia Project
Jacob & Hosanna Thomas, VMM
City Team - Chester
Cornerstone Christian Academy
Young Life of Delaware County
Greenhouse Project
Delaware County Pregnancy Center
Doug Dicks, PCUSA's Regional Mission
in Israel-Palestine



CONCORD LIBERTY WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

February 16th

9:15 am Prayer Time. *All are welcome.*
 10:00 am Worship Service
 10:00 am Nursery Care — Laurie Cannon, Betsy Saggese
 10:00 am KOTM Pre-school and Elementary

MONDAY

February 17th

NO SCHOOL FOR LOVE AND LEARN PRESIDENTS' WEEKEND

2:00 pm Red Cross Bloodmobile (Getz Room)
 7:00 pm Joint Session/Deacons Meeting (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY

February 18th

11:00 am Love and Learn Bible Class, Sanctuary until 1 pm
 7:00 pm Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

February 19th

9:00 am Love and Learn Grandparents Day, Sanctuary
 1:00 pm Wednesday Afternoon Prayer Time, Sanctuary
 6:00 pm Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study (Zoom)

THURSDAY

February 20th

9:00 am Love and Learn Grandparents Day, Sanctuary
 12:30 pm Women's Thursday Afternoon Bible Study, Library
 Women's Thursday Evening Bible Study
 7:00 pm (members' homes)

FRIDAY

February 21st

SATURDAY

February 22nd

WEATHER ALERT

In the event that predicted storms are going to possibly interfere with the Sunday morning service, the office will contact all of us through e-mail no later than Saturday evening by 7:00 PM. If you are not accustomed to driving in winter weather, please stay home and stay safe. You will always be able to watch the service live (or recorded) on Facebook or watch just the sermon on YouTube later on Sunday evening. Service will be canceled when the roads are not safe, or the parking lot cannot be cleared in time for service or power/heat are out. Service could be delayed for a period of up to 2 hours if more time is needed to prepare the parking lot for service.

CONCORD LIBERTY HIGHLIGHTS

WORSHIP

To view recent worship services, go to our website, concordliberty.org. Choose "Worship", then "Sermons". Select the sermon title you wish to view. Click the Facebook link to view the full service or the YouTube link to view the sermon only. Video links are normally available by Sunday afternoon.

Nursery service will be offered during Worship. If you need nursery service on Sunday morning, please let a Greeter know and they will assist you.

STEPHEN MINISTERS - If you are going through a difficult time, or you know of someone who is facing difficulties, consider a caring relationship of a Stephen Minister. To learn more contact, Sylvia Schaffer or Joann Smith.

PRAYER CHAIN — Prayer requests for the emailed prayer chain should be sent to office@concordliberty.org.

DEACONS AND SESSION MAILBOXES are located in the Berstecher Library.

WORSHIP DETAILS — Any schedule changes to worship service roles (KOTM, communion, tellers, etc.) should be sent to office@concordliberty.org at least a week in advance of the respective service date.



NEHEMIAH 1:1-11; 2:1-5

FEBRUARY 23

"BACK IN BUSINESS"

NEHEMIAH 6:15-16; 8:1-10

MARCH 2

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, "AGLOW"

LUKE 9:28-36

REMINDER: LOVE AND LEARN IS IN SESSION!

THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO:

- Not "drop in" to the Worship Center during school hours M-F 9-3! (Call the office in advance to schedule your visit if 9-3 hours are essential.)
- When you are in the Worship Center during school hours, **NOT** parking in the lot closest to the school/narthex doors! (Parents line-up there, and children have recess there.)

Sermon Notes

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

I. Good Grief

Nehemiah 1:1-11; 2:1-5

A. "In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year" (1:1).

1. The twentieth year of King Artaxerxes I. This would have been about seventy years after the temple work was completed, thirteen years after Ezra had begun his work in Jerusalem.
2. It is clear from the beginning that Nehemiah has a deep concern for the surviving exiles in Jerusalem ("the Jewish remnant" – 1:2).
3. After two generations, the temple is intact, but both the temple and the holy city are highly vulnerable. "The wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates have been burned with fire" (1:3).

B. "I sat down and wept" (1:4).

1. Nehemiah's despair is an indication of two qualities in his life that make his grief "good grief".
 - a. His love for God. His prayer ("First, you pray!") reveals the depth of his love and adoration of God. It could serve as a primer on prayer including praise, confession (personal and corporate), intercession, petition and an understanding of God's sovereignty and efficacious will.
 - b. His love for God's people. "those who love him" "your servants whom you redeemed" "who delight in revering your name."

C. "I was cupbearer to the king" (1:11).

1. A powerful and strategic position.
2. He was not the palace butler!
3. He had more direct contact and influence on the king than anyone in the empire.
 - a. This often included bearing the signet (seal) of the king and serving as chief financial officer.
4. The citadel of Susa was the king's winter palace where Nehemiah was serving when he first received the Jerusalem report from his brother.

D. The bold request (2:1-5).

1. Nehemiah would have been in a state of mourning. He probably was trying to hide this, but the king detects his sadness.
2. He goes for broke. He speaks candidly and directly and requests a commission to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the city and its wall.
3. Notice that before he makes his request, he "prayed to the God of heaven" (2:4). "First, you pray!"

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

CONCORD LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

February 16, 2025

10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. John King, Pulpit Supply
Jim Bradenburg, Worship Leader
David Steel, Service Leader



Silent Preparation

Let us learn this lesson from Nehemiah: you never lighten the load unless first you have felt the pressure in your own soul. You are never used of God to bring blessing until God has opened your eyes and made you see things as they are.

Allen Redpath in *Victorious Christian Service*

*Congregation is requested to stand if able.
Please adjust all electronic devices so as to not interrupt the service.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"
Civilla D. Martin

LEADER: Let us join in worshipping the Lord our God.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 138)

LEADER: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law, they meditate day and night.

PEOPLE: **They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all they do, they prosper.**

LEADER: For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Come, let us worship our God!

***THE HYMN OF ADORATION**
"Gentle Shepherd"
No. 458

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Hebrews 12:1-3 – NIV, Phillips)**

LEADER: Surrounded then as we are by these successive great clouds of witnesses, let us strip off everything that hinders us, as well as the sin which entangles our feet, and let us run the race that we have to run with patience, our eyes fixed on Jesus, the source and the goal of our faith.

PEOPLE: **For He Himself endured a cross and thought nothing of its shame because of the joy He knew would follow His suffering; and He is now seated at the right hand of God's throne.**

LEADER: Think constantly of Him, enduring all that sinful people could say against Him and you will not lose your purpose or your courage. **Amen.**

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

***HYMN**
"This Is the Day" (2X)
No. 590

***THE DEDICATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS (responsively)**

LEADER: Only You, O Lord, are holy.

PEOPLE: **As we commit these gifts, our eyes are only able to glimpse a touch of Your glory.**

LEADER: Through Your perfect power, love and purity, magnify these gifts for Your holy work in our midst, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY**
"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
No. 625

SCRIPTURE
Nehemiah 1:1-11; 2:1-5

THE MESSAGE
"Good Grief"
Pastor John King

***HYMN**
"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"
No. 374

BLESSING AND SENDING

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**
"O, How He Loves You and Me"
*O, how He loves you and me. O, how He loves you and me;
He gave His life, what more could He give?
O, how He loves you; O, how He loves me;
O, how He loves you and me!*

POSTLUDE
"His Eye Is on the Sparrow" (reprise)