



CONCORD LIBERTY

P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

"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 Worship
Tom Long Property
Judy McCleary Discipleship
Tom McGrail Outreach, Communications, Missions
Frank Sangster Finance
Marian Spor Congregational Care
Brenda Wilson Discipleship

CLPC Deacons

Gary Cannon	Denise Jingozian	Kim Lengel
Betty Culver	Dave Lengel	Connie O'Donnell

Pray for our missionaries:

Nate & Jenny Bacon InnerChange	Ray Garcia, Philadelphia Project
Skip and Carol Tobin, VMM Chester Eastside Inc.	Jacob & Hosanna Thomas, VMM City Team - Chester
Carolyn & Dan Hennings, World Impact	Cornerstone Christian Academy
Michele Rickett — She is Safe David & Bethany Wilkinson, Chop Point	Young Life of Delaware County Greenhouse Project Delaware County Pregnancy Center Doug Dicks, PCUSA's Regional Mission in Israel-Palestine

CONCORD LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Sunday in Lent

MARCH 9, 2025



CONCORD LIBERTY WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

March 9th

9:15 am Prayer Time. *All are welcome.*
10:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Nursery Care — Laurie Cannon, Sandy Mueller
10:00 am KOTM Pre-school and Elementary
11:00 am Deacons Meeting, Library

MONDAY

March 10th

TUESDAY

March 11th

10:00 am Women's Ministry Team Meeting, Sanctuary
11:00 am Love and Learn Bible Class, Sanctuary until 1 pm
7:00 pm Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

March 12th

11:00 am Love and Learn Bible Class, Sanctuary until 1 pm
1:00 pm Wednesday Afternoon Prayer Time, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study (Zoom)

THURSDAY

March 13th

12:30 pm Women's Thursday Afternoon Bible Study,
Sanctuary
7:15 pm Women's Thursday Evening Bible Study,
Members' Homes

FRIDAY

March 14th

**Love and Learn MOM AND ME NIGHT
NO SCHOOL
SANCTUARY IN USE ALL DAY**

SATURDAY

March 15th

CONCORD LIBERTY HIGHLIGHTS

WORSHIP

To view live or recent worship services, please go to the Concord Liberty YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@concordlibertychurch19342streams>

To view a recent sermons only, go to the CLPC website — under Worship, select Services and Sermons. Then choose the date/sermon you wish to view and click on the link provided.

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.



DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY OUTREACH & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Do you have questions or suggestions for Charlie Jones? Just want to discuss something?

Please call or email Charlie at:
267-231-0824
charlie.concordliberty@gmail.com

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! (Please line-up there, and children have recess there.)

Page 2

2 of 2

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.

Sermon Notes

MARCH 9, 2025

I. Forsaking Our First Love

Revelation 2:1-7

The Church at Ephesus

A. Known as the greatest and wealthiest city in the province of Asia (think NYC).

1. Largest harbor – the marketplace of the world – everything came through Ephesus from all directions. Because of its strategic location, it was known as the Highway to Rome.
2. A free city – no Roman troops stationed there; self-governing.
3. The center for the worship of Artemis (Diana), the temple for which was one of the seven wonders of the world. It was also the home of many other pagan temples.
4. A reputation for being a wild and evil place.
5. Despite all of these factors, it was probably the strongest and most influential church in the ancient world.
 - a. Paul had a special affection for the Ephesians.
 - b. The apostle John spent his later days there and the tradition is that Mary, the mother of Jesus, lived with him there.

B. The message to the church of Ephesus.

1. The source – it is established in chapter 1 that these messages to the 7 churches come from the risen Christ.
2. Begins with a list of attributes regarding the church at Ephesus.
 - a. A hard-working church (v. 2).
 - b. A persistent church (v. 2).
 - c. A faithful, pure and holy church – "cannot tolerate wicked people" (v. 2), weeds out false teachers/apostles (v.2).
 - d. Longsuffering, remaining vibrant (v.3).
3. "Yet, I hold this against you" (v. 4).
 - a. "You have forsaken the love you had at first" (v. 4).
 - b. Love, for Christ, love for others or both?
 - c. The apostolic teaching and Christ's teaching is that the two are entwined. You can't/don't have one without the other.
4. The commanded response and consequences.
 - a. Remember and repent! Turn around and "do the things you did at first" (v. 3).
 - b. If you refuse, I will remove "your lampstand from its place" (v. 5). Your church will either be destroyed or lose its life.
 - c. Attaboy! Keep hating the practices of the Nicolaitans which I also hate (v. 6).
 - d. Reward – Life itself ... beginning now and in the heavenly kingdom.

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

CONCORD LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. John King, Pulpit Supply
Susan Sangster, Worship Leader
David Steel, Service Leader
Sophia Marchese, Soloist



Silent Preparation

Faith is the daily bread which God gives us. You know the manna narrative: while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they received it every day, but as soon as they tried to store it up for the next day, it spoiled. So it is with God's gifts. So it is with faith too. Either we receive it anew every day or it decays. One day is long enough to keep faith. Every morning brings a new struggle to push through all the unbelief, through all the littleness of faith, through all the vagueness and confusion, through all the faintheartedness and uncertainty, to reach faith and wrest it from God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Goodness of God"
Jenn Johnson
Sophia Marchese, Soloist

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 91)

LEADER: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "You are my refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

PEOPLE: For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

LEADER: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know My name. When they call to Me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble and will rescue them and honor them. I will show them My salvation. Come, let us worship our God!

***THE HYMN OF ADORATION**

"The Family of God"
No. 282

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***HYMN**

"I Surrender All"
No. 366

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

LEADER: Risen Lord, You have given new life to all who place their trust in You;

PEOPLE: Receive these offerings which we bring and dedicate to You in the hope that Your life will be perfected in Your people through them.

LEADER: May we find in serving You our deepest joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE
Revelation 2:1-7

THE MESSAGE
"Forsaking Our First Love"
Pastor John King

***HYMN**
"O, How I Love Jesus"
No. 529

BLESSING AND SENDING

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**
"Lift High the Cross"
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
'Til all the world adore His sacred name.*

POSTLUDE
"O, How I Love Jesus" (reprise)

We invite you, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.