

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent



*Knowing that all community is a gift of God,
we affirm there can be no exclusiveness about the body of Christ.
We welcome into our community and membership all people of God,
regardless of ethnic heritage, national origin, age, gender,
marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing;
and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.
Adopted by the session, March 9, 1995*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

*“The Church of the Open Door”, where
All Are Welcome*

- *We seek to live out the truth of God’s love*
- *Worship is inclusive and inventive*
- *Joy is found in nurturing one another*
- *We seek to bring comfort to all people*

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ekama Eni

CHORAL INTROIT

“In These Days of Lenten Journey”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Richard Charney

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

All: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to God all my life long.

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord:

All: Who made heaven and earth, and all that is in them. Who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

One: The Lord sets the prisoner free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

All: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow,

One: But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

All: The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN 413 *All Who Love and Serve Your City*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Confident of God’s character, let us confess our sins together so that we might receive healing and peace.

CONFESSION

Almighty and merciful God, we continue to want more, blind to the blessings we already possess. We want everything now, blind to the value of patience and hard work. We take so much delight in our own accomplishments that we are blind to people in need. Forgive us! Cleanse us of our entitlement, anxiousness and pride. Help us see the world with your eyes so that we can be people of gratitude, courage and compassion, because of what we see in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“The days are surely coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. I will put my law within them; I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.”

We believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and our sins are remembered no more.

*RESPONSIVE HYMN Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me
**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all **All: And also with you!**

ANTHEM

“The Lord is My Shepherd”

WE HEAR THE WORD PROCLAIMED

*WE LIMIT NOT THE TRUTH OF GOD Anglo-German Psalter 1556

**We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
by notions of our day and sect, crude, partial, and confined.
No, let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred,
the Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from the word.**

YOUTH SERMON

QUARTER COLLECTION

Every Sunday, our children collect quarters from the congregation and place them in a tube. When full, it equals the amount necessary to purchase a goat for a needy family through Heifer International.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (Pgs. 259-60) Richard Charney

GOSPEL John 9 (Pgs. 102-3)

SERMON

Rev. Ekama Eni

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*HYMN 280 *Amazing Grace*

ANNOINTING RITUAL

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERING

*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OVER GOD’S GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN 172 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ekama Eni

POSTLUDE

“The Church of the Open Door” makes every effort to use inclusive language. Realizing that words have power, we encourage substitution of words/images that are most comfortable for you during this time of worship.

Please note our new QR Code: a direct way to donate to the church, pay your pledge, or make any other church-related payments. Thank you for contributing to our church and surrounding community!

THIS WEEK:

Monday, March 16 *Greg Smith Music Lessons 2:15 - 6:00 pm*
Inner Work of Age Book Group, 4:00 - 5:30 pm, library
Joining Forces Group Meeting, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, library

Tuesday, March 17 *Greg Smith Music Lessons 2:15 - 4:00 pm*
Tom McCoy Music Lessons 3:00 - 6:00 pm
AA Women's Group Meeting, 7:30 pm, library

Wednesday, March 18 *Prayer Group, 7:00 am, on zoom*
Tom McCoy Music Lessons 3:00 - 6:00 pm
Lenten Practice Group, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, library
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 pm, back classroom

Thursday, March 19 *Bereavement Group, 4:00 - 5:30 pm, library*

Friday, March 20 *Food Pantry Setup 12:30 - 2:00 pm*
Book Club, 7:00 pm, library

Saturday, March 21 *Food Pantry 8:30 - 10:00 am*

WANT TO DONATE FLOWERS FOR A SUNDAY SERVICE? *Please email or call the church.*

PRAYER CHAIN for 2026 - Email prayerchain1presbyterian@gmail.com with a prayer request or to be part of the prayer chain to receive prayer requests.