



Sunday School
3 yrs. to 99 yrs.

Morning Prayer

A time of prayer for all, every Wednesday morning at 10 am.



Discretionary Fund

By giving to this fund, we are able to help those in our community who are in need.

Thank you for your generosity.



Food Pantry

We are in need of everything! Personal Care, Meals, tuna, soup, cereals, canned fruits, and oatmeal.



Little Beavers Pre School

Little Beavers, our state licensed preschool, has open enrollment. Children from the ages of 3 to 5 are welcomed to attend. If you are interested in learning more, contact Judy DiCecco at 609-448-0041. Sibling discounts and financial help are also available.

Under Construction Sunday School runs each Sunday from 9 am to 10 am. We have classes for 3 to 99 year olds. Join us! For more information see Sara Woodhead.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- March 10 - Trip to Washington DC Congregation is invited
- March 11 - Patti Dahl and Heartsong will be joining us for both services
- March 25 - Palm Sunday
- March 29 - Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Service 6:30 pm
- March 30 - Good Friday
- April 1 - Easter and Confirmation Sunday
- April 13 - 14 Waves of Grace Women's Retreat
- May 12 - Barnes & Noble Day



Check in Please! Take a moment and check in! We are asking everyone with a smart phone to check in at the church. You can just check in or invite your friends to join you. This is a great way to get the word out about the great things going on at First United! Take a selfie and show your friends where you are spending your Sunday morning!

**THIS WEEK AT
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

February 19 – February 25

<i>Monday 2/19</i>	President's Day Trustee's Meeting	6:00 pm
<i>Tuesday 2/20</i>	Bell Choir Men's AA meeting	7:00 pm 7:30 pm
<i>Wednesday 2/21</i>	Prayer Group	10:00 am
<i>Thursday 2/22</i>	Rise To the Task Dinner Senior Choir	4 - 6 pm 7:00 pm
<i>Friday 2/23</i>	Men's AA meeting	7:00 pm
<i>Saturday 2/24</i>	Men's AA meeting	8:00 pm
<i>Sunday 2/25</i>	Sunday School Rise and Shine Service Traditional Service Confirmation Class	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am After Service



At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert,"

Mark 1:9-12



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609-448-0041 Fax 609-443-1579
www.hightstownmethodist.org

Psalm 78:7 "Each generation can set its hope ANEW on God"

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Sammy Arroyo cell phone: 616-610-5884
pastorfunch@verizon.net pastorsammy07@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am—1pm
Office Administrator: Maureen McCleish
office@hightstownmethodist.org
Music Director: Sandy Anzuini music@hightstownmethodist.org
Sexton: William Parker
Nursery Attendant: Dawn Jones-Emery

Purpose: Ignite a love of God to change lives in all people through our prayers, words and actions.

Mission: First United Methodist of Hightstown is a thriving, spirit-filled church family that shares Christ's love and changes lives by: worshiping diversely, connecting through our gifts, serving beyond our walls and growing disciples.

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Rise & Shine Reflective Service 9:00 am

Traditional Service 10:30 am
Confirmation Class ~ After Service

Pastor Sammy Arroyo

(We live stream our service)

SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 18, 2018

1st Sunday in Lent

(‡ indicates congregation standing if able)

WELCOME, PRAYER AND PRESENCE

Welcome to Worship. First time visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor's card (located in the pews) and the guest book (located at the back of the church).

PRELUDE

Sandy Anzuini

The beginning of the prelude is an invitation to silence your conversations and prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

WELCOME

HYMN OF MEDITATION

"Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"

UMH 359

‡CALL TO WORSHIP *

All: "Bless the Lord"

TFWS 2013

Leader: There are some journeys for which we long.

All: **But the journey to the cross looks as though it will be difficult.**

Leader: The way of discipleship and faith is difficult.

All: **We would prefer something easier. We are not ready for this trip.**

Leader: Put your hearts at ease. You are not traveling alone. God will guide you on your journey. But you have to take the first step. Confess your sins and learn about God's love for you. This first step is forgiveness. Forgiveness will give you hope.

All: **Perhaps we can accomplish this trip. At least we will try the first step.**

All: "Bless the Lord"

TFWS 2013

‡OPENING PRAYER *

All: **The season of Lent is here again and, as with so many times before, we find that we are not really ready for this journey of discipleship. So many things claim our lives and prevent us from being ready to take the steps in faith. As we look at our barrier of readiness, help us to remember that Christ is with us, every step of the way. We are not alone. Christ will help lift our hearts and spirits and direct our paths. Enable us, loving Savior, to take this journey of faith to new life with you. AMEN.**

‡OPENING HYMN "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" TFWS 2088

‡GREETING OF PEACE AND WELCOME

Leader: Look around you, these are your companions in this journey.

They will walk with you the road to the cross. Greet them with love.

Encourage them and remind them of the hope that we have in God. Share the peace of Christ that is in your hearts.

May the peace of Christ be with all of you.

All: **And also with you.**

MINISTRY MOMENT

PRAYOR OF CONFESSION *

All: **We have lists of things to do, for all the areas of our lives. Our lives are so time bound and duty bound that we feel imprisoned in them. Now we are challenged by Christ to take a journey of discipleship.**

We don't feel ready for this journey. We need more time. And we complain and cry about how much we have to do. Forgive us, Lord, when we place so many "duties" in the path to serving you. Reset our priorities so that we will be ready to commit our lives in your service. Lord, help us to be ready when you call us. Help us to courageously answer the summons you bring. Let us place our trust in you in all things. AMEN.

PASTORAL PRAYER *

Leader: Loving, Creating God, you are in covenant with your people. You have pledged to be our God and ask us to be your people, trusting in you in all our ways. But we find many excuses to prevent us from really trusting you. We erect barriers before our faith journey even begins. Our time, obligations, energy, all become part of the bricks and mortar which fashion this barrier. We can give lip service to the journey; we can daydream about what it would be like to truly place our hands in yours and follow you. But when it comes to actually making the journey, our time constraints and weak commitments loom largely before us. Help us to tear down this barrier. Make us ready for the journey by replacing the fear in our hearts with a sense of joy and challenge of self-discovery and discipleship. Remind us that in service to you, helping others, we will also find ourselves made more fully whole. As we have spoken the names of our friends, and family members, and others situations in which healing and comfort are needed, let us remember that we, too, stand in need of prayer and healing. Make us ready to receive your good news and then to be witnesses to your love to all your people. Amen.

‡HYMN OF PREPERATION "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" UMH 140

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 3 : 18 - 22 p. 858
Mark 1 : 9 - 15 p. 707

SERMON "First Step of the Journey - Forgiveness & Hope"

Pastor Sammy Arroyo

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Doxology

‡OFFERING PRAYER

All: **God of heaven and earth, we praise you for your tremendous wisdom and love. You have been patient with us when we have been slow to follow your way. Through the obedience of Jesus Christ, you have forgiven us and renewed our life. Give us grace to extend your kindness beyond our family and congregation to strangers in need. We present our offerings and gifts as a sign of our gratitude. We pray through Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. AMEN.**

SENDING FORTH

Leader: The first step on the journey, that of forgiveness, is one of the hardest. We keep thinking that we have forgotten something, but we don't realize that we are actually bringing more baggage than what we need for our journey. God has called you by name, to this journey. Hold on to your hope in God, you will have all that you need for this journey. Go in peace, and know that God is going with you. Amen.

All: AMEN.

‡CLOSING HYMN "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" UMH 526

Prayer Requests

Those ill or recovering : John Balliett, Brenda Kahley, Louise Woodhead, Devon Sneed, Helen Jemison, Joyce Daley, Vaughn Urstadt, Bob Scott, Jennifer Williams, Corena Van Liew, Carrie Stump, Helen Bailey, Richie Uzzi, Michael Uzzi, Brenda Clark, Judy Allam, Amanda Jones, Carole Nelson, Kane Roberts, Frank Mc Bee, Keta Burrowes, Jeannie Bourjolly

Those who mourn a loss : Faye Fisher Family

For our church and our country. **The people affected by the recent disasters.**

Special Prayer Requests:

Please notify the Pastor or the Church office if you or a loved one is in the hospital or if you would like a prayer request added to our bulletin.



The flowers on the altar are given by
Donna Merritt and Family
in loving memory of her mother
Ida A. Greene
and daughter Kristy Kale Merritt

The special arrangement on the alter is given by
James Babcock
in loving memory of
Thelma Babcock

Open dates for flowers: April 22 & 29, July 29, September 16,
October 21, November 18.

See Mr. B or Judy DiCecco if you would like one of the dates.

Collection Information for February 11, 2018

Current Expense Money
(Plate, Envelopes & Adopt a Bill) \$ 2,101.00
Trustee Money
(Building/Grounds & Capital Improvement) \$ 504.00
Thank you for your offerings each and every week.
We are helping our neighbors with food for them and their families.

Counter Schedule

February 18	D. Forer, W. McLaughlin, D. Merritt
February 25	W. McLaughlin, D. Merritt, A. Merritt
March 4	D. Merritt, A. Merritt, G. Hopkins
March 11	A. Merritt, G. Hopkins, D. Brown
March 18	G. Hopkins, D. Brown, Open

2018 Church Attendance

Average Attendance - January 86	February
February 4 - 78	Sunday School - 21
February 11 - 108	Sunday School - 20
February 18 -	Sunday School -
February 25 -	Sunday School -

* Indicates text taken from "Ministry Matters".