PRAYER REQUESTS: Please use the blue prayer request cards in the pews for your prayer requests. Place them in the offering plate so Pastor can include them in the Pastoral Prayer.

LAYREADER for this week is Linda Schaller.

GREETER today is Amanda Denny.

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY this week are Tom Long and Lena Wasylyk.

THE FLOWERS this week are sponsored by Linda Schaller in honor of her niece, Kayla's, birthday.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

55 Smith Street East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 (*Indicates to stand, in body or spirit)

570-421-5821

March 5, 2023 Service for the Lord's Day 2nd Sunday in Lent **Communion Sunday** All Services are Live-Streamed

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

BY MICHAEL COX

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: Jesus said to a man walking in darkness: "No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from above. You must be born of water and Spirit."
- P: The wind blows where it chooses. You hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with us, who are born of the Spirit.
- L: It will be our Lenten journey: To be led by the Spirit, wherever the Spirit chooses, to see where the dry bones still lay.

ALL: It will be our Lenten journey: To see where new life might yet begin.

"Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days" *HYMN NO. 166

Church Elders

Sharon Laverdure Ellie Buff Judy Schreck Jim Hall Sandra Rydell Phil Lawrence Debbie Prince Lisa Swanson

Church Staff

Nicole Vogel Jen Carmella Linda Schaller Keith Karkut Sam Carmella

Pastor Secretary Music Director Technology/Sexton Nursery Attendant

THIS WEEK AT E.S.P.C.

Today

- ~ Choir rehearsal, 9:00 a.m.
- ~ Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- ~ Fellowship, after worship in the lounge
- ~ Men's Lunch, noon Wednesday

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*PRAYER OF THE DAY

We praise You for the shocking miraculous truth, God, that we can always be - that we need to always be born again; that daily, You welcome us into a surprising new life, the wonderful, creative, unpredictable world of Your Spirit, and that all we can do is allow ourselves to be pushed -birthed, by Your grace, into new experiences of Your reign. Here we are, O God; Let us be, once more, in this moment, in this place, born yet again so that new life might begin. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM	"Communion Song"	J. PAUL WILLIAMS & JAMES STEVENS

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Why do we settle, O God, for only being born once, or even twice, as if the world never changes, as if everything is just fine the way it is and we have no need for new life, new encounters with You, new promptings of Your Spirit, and new awakenings in our souls? We turn Your invitation into a mark of our own achievement, as if Your life is anything other than an extravagant gift, as if the glimpses of Your reign that we receive are earned, or deserved, or make us somehow 'better' than others. Forgive us and help us to see the shocking miraculous truth, that we need to always be born again; that daily, You welcome us into a surprising new life when we boldly takes risks even when it makes no sense to us to do so. Amen.

~Moment for Silent Reflection~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end, amen. Amen.

THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you! **P: And also with you!**

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT	Exodus 4:1-5 (Pg. 51)			
NEW TESTAMENT	John 3:1-8 (Pg. 93)			
EPISTLE	Hebrews 13:5-8 (Pg. 227)			
L: Word of God for the people of God P: Thanks be to God				
SERMON	"Where New Life Might Yet Begin: Risks Taken"	Pastor Nicki		
HYMN NO. 494	"Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"			
RESPONSE TO THE WORD				
DEDICATION OF OFFERING *DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.				
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)				
SENDING				
CHARGE & BENEDICTION				
HYMN NO. 610	"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"			
POSTLUDE	"Be Thou My Vision"	ARR. JEFF BENNETT		

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