

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.

LAY READER for today is Heather Barrett.

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY this week are Quentin Currie and Jack Kauderer.

CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY this week are Lena and Joe Wasylyk.

THE FLOWERS this week are given by Linda Schaller in honor of granddaughter, Emily’s, birthday.

GREETER for today is Debbie Prince.

Church Elders

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

Church Staff

Nicole Vogel	Pastor
Jen Carmella	Secretary
Linda Schaller	Music Director
Sami Carmella	Nursery Attendant
Keith Karkut	Technology/Sexton

THIS WEEK AT E.S.P.C.

<u>Today</u>	~ Adult Ed. Class, 9:00 a.m. ~ Bell rehearsal. 9:00 a.m. ~ Worship, 10:00 a.m. ~ Fellowship Hour, following worship ~ Youth Group gathering, 2:00 p.m. at Christ Pres. Church of the Slate Belt
<u>Monday</u>	~ Nexus deadline
<u>Wednesday</u>	~ Lenten Study Meal, 6:00 p.m. at Christ Pres. Church of the Slate Belt

ALL MUSIC COPIED IN CHURCH BULLETIN IS COPIED UNDER C.C.L.I. LICENSE #1758142

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

55 Smith Street East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 570-421-5821
(*Indicates to stand, in body or spirit)

March 26, 2023
5th Sunday in Lent
Service for the Lord’s Day
All Services are Live-Streamed

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE	“Into the Woods My Master Went” (Bell Choir)	ARR. FRANCES CALLAHAN
---------	---	-----------------------

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: You know how they’ve been slain. They’ve been laid waste by hate and violence.
They are fallen by need in an abundant world.
P: Deep wounds have been inflicted by the angry tongue, others by the lying tongue, and others still by spiteful speech.
L: Spirit, can these bones live? Forgiveness will be their cure.
P: It will be our Lenten journey: to be led by the Spirit, wherever the Spirit chooses, to see where the dry bones still lay, to know where the soul’s thirst may be quenched, to learn whether mercy can heal the spiritual wound.
ALL: It will be our Lenten journey: To see where new life might yet begin.

*HYMN NO. 686 “God of Our Life”

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, we turn to You when times of fear and uncertainty arise. Please be our rock and our refuge and help us to trust in Your goodness and love. Give us the strength and courage we need to face the fears so that we can share Your goodness and love with others. Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we come before You today scared. Scared for our health, scared for our jobs, scared for our loved ones. Help us Lord, not to dwell in our fears, but rather to turn to faith in Your promises. You sent your Son, not simply to send us to heaven, but to help us live as new creations, not living in fear, but free to love and serve as You love and serve us. Help us Lord not to cower from listening to the Spirit’s call on our lives. Help us to reflect the life and love of Your Son Jesus Christ, that those who do not know You will see something different in us. Help us have the courage to live out Your ways for the world to see. Amen.

☞ Moment for Silent Reflection ☞

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI (Pg. 581 in red hymnal)
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!

HYMN NO. 684 “Faith Begins by Letting Go”

MINUTE FOR MISSION One Great Hour of Sharing Linda Schaller

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 34:4 (Pg. 508)

NEW TESTAMENT John 9:1-33 (Pg. 102)

EPISTLE 1 Peter 5:6-7 (Pg. 235)

L: Word of God for the people of God
P: Thanks be to God

SERMON “Where New Life Might Begin: Faith Trumps Fear” Pastor Nicki

HYMN NO. 39 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

SENDING

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

* 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.

PASTORAL PRAYER
LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

HYMN NO. 215 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

POSTLUDE “In The Cross of Christ, I Glory” ARR. JAN SANBORN
(*Indicates to stand, in body or spirit)