

Offering Schedule

The mission boxes will be for FRMI-Free Reformed Missions International.

03/18	1 st	General Fund	2 nd	Synod Assessment
03/25	1 st	General Fund	2 nd	NRCS
03/30 (Fri)	1 st	General Fund	2 nd	Banner of Truth Radio Broadcast
04/01	1 st	General Fund	2 nd	Pulpit Supply
04/08	1 st	General Fund	2 nd	NRCS

Nursery Schedule

				Alternate
03/18	a.m.	Karen Diehl	Hannah Diehl	Kayt Naves
	p.m.	Rebecca Laman	Natalie Koeber	Cathy DeJong
03/25	a.m.	Mary Rogers	Amber Willekes	Jessica Diehl
	p.m.	Meg Johnstone	Katelyn VanWingerden	Abby Cooper
04/01	a.m.	Katy Prol	Sophia Prol	Olivia Nieuwenhuis
	p.m.	Helen Rogers	Selah Rogers	Joanne VanWingerden

Greeters

03/18	a.m.	Paul Sullivan	p.m.	John Touw
03/25	a.m.	Don VanDeMoere, Jr	p.m.	Matt Van Wyck
03/30	Good Friday		p.m.	Kevin Willekes
04/01	a.m.	Dan F. Bivona	p.m.	Dan P. Bivona
04/08	a.m.	Bill Devroe	p.m.	David Elshout

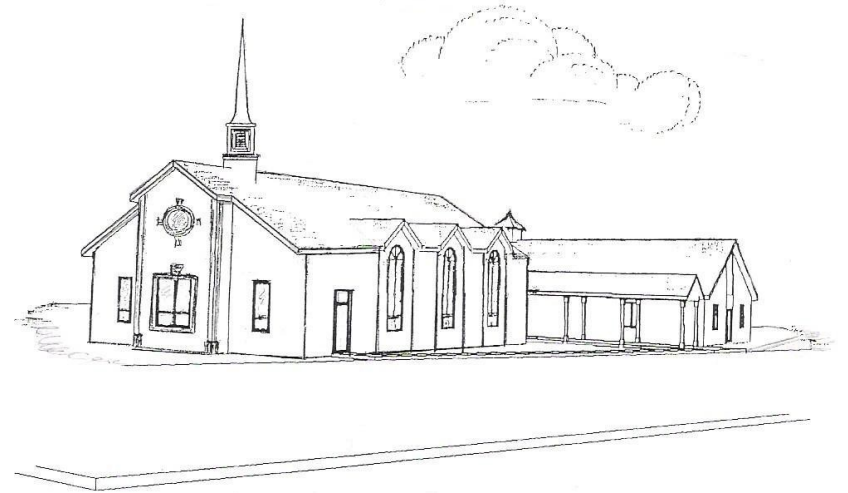
Calendar of Activities, D.V.

03/20-23	Tues-Fri	Synodical Committee Meetings-Brantford, Ontario
03/22	Thurs	VBS Planning Meeting 8 p.m.
03/25	Sun	Atrium Ministry 2 p.m.- JP, JT, BT
03/25	Sun	YPS meet after the evening service
03/28	Wed	Women's Bible Study 9:45 a.m.
03/30	Fri	Good Friday Service 7:45 a.m.
04/01	Sun	Bethel Ranch 2:30 p.m.- MD, GK
04/04	Wed	Canons of Dordt Study 8 p.m.
04/05	Thurs	Market Street Mission 4:45 p.m.- DVG
04/08	Sun	YPS meet after the evening service
04/09	Mon	Consistory Meeting 8 p.m.
04/11	Wed	Women's Bible Study 9:45 a.m.
04/11	Wed	Prayer Meeting 8 p.m.
04/12	Thurs	Ladies Society Meeting 7:45 p.m.

Please visit www.frcpp.org and look under the "Events" tab for additional important missions, denomination, and congregational news and activities. Services via the Web: You can search for our church on SermonAudio.com or the church's website.

Free Reformed Church of Pompton Plains

160 West Parkway
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444
(973) 248-8500
www.frcpp.org



*"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord."
Psalm 122: 1*

Rev. Jerrold H. Lewis, Pastor
LORD's Day Worship
9:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

The LORD's Day

March 18, 2018

A.M.

Law of God

Scripture Reading: **John 18: 1-18**

Sermon: **"Jesus Forsaken"**

P.M.

Scripture Reading : **Matthew 26: 36-56**

Confession of Faith

Sermon: **"Jesus' Choice to Suffer Voluntarily"**

1 Corinthians 1:23

Jesus Alone

"And they all forsook him, and fled." Mark 14: 50

Upon the arrest of Jesus, He is deserted. All His disciples run away from Him. The last one who comes is a young man with a linen garment. He finally chooses to run away as well. Reader, have you run away from the Savior? We run away from the Lord Jesus because of our self-love. We run away from Him because of our sins. We choose that which is evil in His sight. Have you seen yourself as one who has forsaken Christ? Do you have sorrow in your heart because you run away from Him? If that is the case, then your sins become wounds that hurt and you learn to loathe yourself.

There is comfort in our text for such people. The comfort is that Christ, the Surety, continues His work in spite of His people. The Surety does all His work all alone. There is no one with Him. That is why salvation is possible for the chief of sinners.

When you understand these things, then sin becomes dreadful to you. You are humbled. You become small and your sins become very costly. Your sins cost the Surety such suffering. Then you see that nothing can be expected of you, for He did it all. You could never do anything to earn your own salvation and all you did you spoiled with your own clumsy hands. Now Jesus is a Surety for such people.

Jesus continues His way alone on the path of suffering. He continues that path for such runaway people. They can run away as far as they want but they can never run away from His heart. The disciples let go of Jesus, but He did not

let go of them and that is why they are saved. Later on, John understood this and said, "We love him because he first loved us." (1 John 4: 19). The disciples thought they had to do much for Jesus, but later they understood that Jesus had to do everything for them. They thought they could die for Jesus but later on they understood that Jesus had to die for them. We also let go of Jesus. But He does not let go of us!

Here the Surety is alone because the church does not want to go along. What an uncovering truth this is: the church does not want to travel the road of sorrow with Christ. But in reality, the church cannot come along for then His work would not be perfect. Finally, the church is not allowed to come along because God pours out His wrath on the Surety and He must suffer alone in outer darkness. That is how God's justice must be satisfied.

When the disciples flee and the young man in the linen cloth flees, it is God's plan. The Surety has to suffer alone. He must be alone and forsaken so that there can be an everlasting communion with God and with all the saints. By His death on the cross, communion is restored. The church can now sing, "God is with me, whom shall I fear?" God's people can sing forever, "My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation" (Psalm 22: 25). Will we be a part of that great congregation for whom the Surety suffered? Seek for that now, while it is the day of grace!

Frans Bakker, *The Everlasting Word*

Announcements

The **Elders** will be conducting reading services today. **Pastor Lewis** is serving the congregation of **St. Thomas** and will remain in Canada for the committee meetings.

Psalter memory work for Sunday School Classes **Grades 2-4** for next Lord's Day will be **Psalter 1 vs 1**. Parents, please review this work with your children.

There are many of our congregation and our loved ones going through trying times right now, physically, emotionally and spiritually. We pray the Lord to be their strength, their help and their comfort through these many varied difficulties.

Our church plans to hold our annual **Vacation Bible School** on **July 16 through July 20**, the Lord willing. If you wish to volunteer to help with this effort, please attend our **planning meeting** this **Thursday, at 8 pm**.

House Visitation Schedule

Week of March 19 th	Don VanGrouw
Week of March 26 th	Don Densel
Week of April 2 nd	Dan P. Bivona
Week of April 9 th	Pete Sloomaker