

March 2020

# First Press

A publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Englewood, NJ



 From the Pastor

## Moving Forward

*“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed”*  
– Joshua 1:9

This year is the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our church. In 2010, at our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we had a slogan, "Moving Forward." We don't have a slogan for the 160<sup>th</sup>; we can't use "moving forward" again because if we did, we wouldn't be moving forward!

But it isn't as if we stopped moving forward. We are continuing to change. We are a larger church than we were 10 years ago. We have many more families with young children. We have two services on Sunday morning, one of which is contemporary. We're still moving forward.

None of this is easy. Progress requires hard, constant work. But should you expect any different? One of my favorite preachers, Craig Groeschel of Life.Church, recently put it this way (paraphrasing): "When God speaks to someone in the Bible, does God call them to something easy?" Of course not. When God calls us to do things, the task is hard. In fact, the task is usually so difficult that it would not be possible to succeed without God's help.

After Moses died, Joshua was commanded to take the people into the Promised Land. This was a daunting prospect. They were going into a strange land (they had been in Egypt and then the wilderness). But God said to Joshua, *"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)

As you think about the progress you hope to make in your life, understand that it won't be easy. It isn't supposed to be. I'm giving a five-part sermon series in March called "The Real Glow Up: Becoming Who God Knows You Can Be." In this series we'll explore the ways we might move forward toward being the person God created us to be. I hope you'll find it helpful. But you won't find it to be easy. Because doing what God asks of us is never easy.

However as people of faith we don't need it to be easy. We just need to know that God is with us.

Peace and blessings,

*Rich*

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## THE REAL GLOW UP

Much of our society has become obsessed with glow up culture. Glow ups are on the outside. What about the inside? We were created with a purpose. How do we move closer to finding that purpose and becoming the person God knows we can be? That's the Real Glow Up. Pastor Rich will be teaching a five-week sermon series that will help you think about the transformation that is possible in your life. Invite a friend! Postcards are available at the greeters' stations. Sundays March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at both services.



## LENTEN LUNCHEONS

Our LENTEN LUNCH services resume on Wednesday, March 4. Each Wednesday from March 4 through April 1 we will gather at noon in the Chapel for a brief service and a simple lunch of hearty soup and bread. Sign up to be a soupmaker (or to bring bread) at [fpce.us/lent2020](http://fpce.us/lent2020).

## THE LABYRINTH

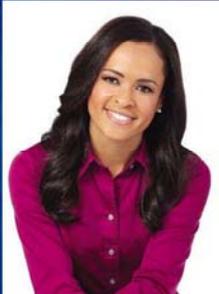


The indoor Labyrinth will be open for walking, meditation, and centering prayer in the Chapel on Friday, March 20, 4-7 pm and Saturday, March 21, 12-4 pm. Enter the Labyrinth through the East Room.

**BOOK READING AND SIGNING**

**LINSEY DAVIS**

**Sunday, March 15**  
**1 pm**





ABC News: Good Morning America  
20/20: Nightline

First Presbyterian Church of Englewood

**FREE** -Ticket reservation required - [fpce.us/LinseyDavis](http://fpce.us/LinseyDavis)

## FOOD TO FIRST ON THE FIRST



FPC collects food and non-perishable items each month to support the Center for Food Action. We ask that you bring items on the first Sunday of each month. Please deposit beside greeters table at entrance to Elmore Hall. If there are questions contact [mission@englewoodpres.org](mailto:mission@englewoodpres.org).

## CHILDREN AND COMMUNION

Last month we initiated what we hope to be an ongoing invitation to the table for our children in church school on communion Sundays. Several questions were brought up regarding the appropriateness and requirements needed for such an invitation. The Book of Order of the PC(USA) states that infants and children are baptized by the church and nurtured in the faith so that they can participate with the church in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Out of this belief congregations continue Christ's extension of open arms to children and welcome those growing in the faith. The "invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized. Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity" (W-2.4011). We understand that while the children are always welcome to receive, parents have the ultimate decision in determining when it is best for their family. Please email [Felicia@englewoodpres.org](mailto:Felicia@englewoodpres.org) if you have questions/comments.



## FPC Family Ministries *(cont.)*

*Grow in faith and play with heart. A place for families to build God's world through FPC Church School and Family Activities.*



### MINDFULNESS

Sunday, March 8 at 4 pm ART LOFT. Join us to learn how to practice mindfulness as a family and have fun as you discover some tools that can help you and your children

emotionally regulate. Miranda Thompson Lee, member of FPC, will be guiding us through the process. Caregivers with their K-5th graders welcome (\$20 per family). Please register at [fpce.us/mindful](http://fpce.us/mindful) - space is limited.



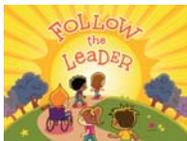
### TEEN FRIDAYS

More food adventures await

our teens this month! All high school teens are invited to meet us in the Elmore kitchen for food, fun, faith and fellowship! We meet the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month. Invite friends! Dates for March are the 3/13 and 3/27 from 7 - 9:30 pm. RSVP is very helpful. [events@englewoodpres.org](mailto:events@englewoodpres.org).

## ORANGE IN MARCH

### FIRST LOOK (PreK)



Our preschoolers are learning that they can follow Jesus because he is the best leader!

### 252 (K-5)

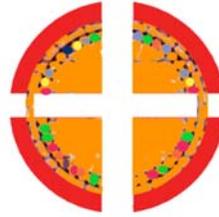


Our elementary group is learning that because of God's unfailing forgiveness of us, we can extend that forgiveness to others.

### XP3 (6-8 G)



None of Your Business - A 4-week series on sex - You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.



### JAN HUS

Our monthly service to the homeless at Jan Hus is on Tuesday, March 24. The dinner is hosted presently at Madison Ave Presbyterian Church in NYC. If you are interested in

meeting us to carpool into the city at 4 pm, please contact [mission@englewoodpres.org](mailto:mission@englewoodpres.org).



### CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Our children's chorus will be gathering once again to

prepare for Palm Sunday and Easter services. Practices are every Saturday until April 4. Please contact David at [music@englewoodpres.org](mailto:music@englewoodpres.org) to let him know your child will be participating.

*registration*  
IS NOW  
*Open!*

## VACATION BIBLE CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN

Even though spring has not yet started, we are thinking SUMMER! As many of you are planning your child's summer schedule now, be sure to save August 17-21 for VBC! We are planning a very special week! Pre-K 3 - 5th grade are invited to register. Older students are encouraged to serve as counselors! Register at [fpce.us/VBC2020](http://fpce.us/VBC2020).



## VACATION BIBLE CAMP PLANNING

We are planning so many great ideas for VBC - be a part of the team! We are meeting Wednesday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 18 at 7 pm. For more information contact [families@englewoodpres.org](mailto:families@englewoodpres.org).



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ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

# MARCH 2020 CALENDAR

March 1	<b>Sunday</b>	Food to First on the First	<b>Sunday Services</b>	Lobby of Elmore Hall
March 4	<b>Wednesday</b>	Lenten Lunch	<b>12:00 PM</b>	Chapel
March 4	<b>Wednesday</b>	VBC Meeting	<b>7:00 PM</b>	Art Loft
March 4	<b>Wednesday</b>	Women's Connect Group	<b>10:30 AM + 7:00 PM</b>	East Room
March 7	<b>Saturday</b>	Children's Chorus	<b>3:30 PM</b>	Choir Room
March 8	<b>Sunday</b>	Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>2:00 AM</b>	
March 10	<b>Tuesday</b>	Stewardship Committee Meeting	<b>7:00 PM</b>	Meeting Room
March 11	<b>Wednesday</b>	Women's Connect Group	<b>10:30 AM + 7:00 PM</b>	East Room
March 11	<b>Wednesday</b>	Lenten Lunch	<b>12:00 PM</b>	Chapel
March 13	<b>Friday</b>	Teen Fridays	<b>7:00 PM</b>	Kitchen
March 14	<b>Saturday</b>	Children's Chorus	<b>3:30 PM</b>	Choir Room
March 15	<b>Sunday</b>	Linsey Davis Book Signing and Reading	<b>1:00 PM</b>	Elmore Hall
March 18	<b>Wednesday</b>	Women's Connect Group	<b>10:30 AM + 7:00 PM</b>	East Room
March 18	<b>Wednesday</b>	Lenten Lunch	<b>12:00 PM</b>	Chapel
March 18	<b>Wednesday</b>	VBC Meeting	<b>7:00 PM</b>	Art Loft
March 18	<b>Wednesday</b>	Session Meeting	<b>7:30 PM</b>	Meeting Room
March 20	<b>Friday</b>	Labyrinth	<b>4:00 PM</b>	Chapel
March 20	<b>Friday</b>	Game Night	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Art Loft
March 21	<b>Saturday</b>	Labyrinth	<b>12:00 PM</b>	Chapel
March 21	<b>Saturday</b>	Children's Chorus	<b>3:30 PM</b>	Choir Room
March 24	<b>Tuesday</b>	Jan Hus	<b>4:00 PM</b>	Madison Ave Presb Church
March 25	<b>Wednesday</b>	Women's Connect Group	<b>10:30 AM + 7:00 PM</b>	East Room
March 25	<b>Wednesday</b>	Lenten Lunch	<b>12:00 PM</b>	Chapel
March 27	<b>Friday</b>	Teen Fridays	<b>7:00 PM</b>	Kitchen
March 28	<b>Saturday</b>	Children's Chorus	<b>3:30 PM</b>	Choir Room

Every Sunday

9:00 am: Crossroads Contemporary Service & Church School  
11:00 am: Traditional Choral | Service & Church School  
Nursery / child care available from 8:30 am-12:30 pm  
Coffee & Conversation: 10:00 am and 12 noon