

Welcome to Cornerstone Church!

Epiphany/Master's Clown Sunday, January 5, 2014 10:00 a.m.

Welcome! We are so glad you chose to spend your Sunday with us.

Chiming of the Trinity

Word of Welcome! "God is Good! All the Time!" Reverend Cromie

Presentation of the Bible

Opening Prayer (based on Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12)

Anthony Maimone

Carol "We Three Kings" Director of Music, Susan Rovira

Ritual of Friendship (print your name in Friendship Pad) Lisa Capurso

Praise Song "Shout to the North"

Introduction to the Offertory Lisa Capurso

Offertory Anthem "Midnight Silence" Cornerstone Choir

Congregational Response "Morning Has Broken"

Prayer of Dedication Lisa Capurso

Announcements Reverend Cromie

Introduction to Clowns/Preparation

"Prepare Ye the Way," "God, Save the People"

Call to Worship "Come Now Is the Time to Worship"

Invocation "Come and Fill This Place"

Confession/Absolution "Just as I Am," "Amazing Grace"

Praise "Awesome God"

Sermon "Feeding the 5000"

Offering "Thy Word," & "Clowning Around"

Ordination of Minister "King of The Jews," "Rise Again," "Love of God"

Communion "Come to the Table," "The Heart of Worship"

Benediction "Celebrate Jesus"

The Master Clowns -The Master's Clowns Mission is to spread the Good News of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of a clown. Please welcome The Master's Clowns as worship leaders this morning. It is our prayer that this worship will speak God's message to every member of the family as we celebrate the love of Christ and share in His gifts.

Next Sunday, January 12th, is Mission Sunday, and we will also have a special time of appreciation for our intern, Kathy Genus, including a lunch of soup and bread after worship. Join us! All are welcome!

Our Thanks to our Elders as Members of our Session

Clerk of Session: Sharron A. Smith

2014: Dominique Robert, Todd Moyer, Kellie Pushko, Bruce Thompson

2015: Lisa Capurso/Barbara Dougherty, David LaCross, Gail Carlson, Wendy Barone

2016: Tina Kas, Rosanna Maimone, Sharron A. Smith

Our Board of Deacons – thank you for your service!

2014: David Carlson, Sueli Paes de Barros

2015: Laura Stone, Laurie Wegner

2016: Donna Rosato, Betty Thompson

Pastor: Courtney Cromie, 732-928-2424, or 561-703-2263

Director of Music: Susan Rovira, 609-371-1473

Pastoral Seminary Intern: Anthony Maimone, 732-722-8006

Part-time Youth Director: Mary Gardiner, 706-358-8128

Director of Christian Education: Kristen DiGirolamo, 732-657-7808

Treasurer: Tina Kas, 732-928-1778

Administrative Secretary: Elizabeth Hughes, 732-833-6857

Nursery Care: Courtney Miner

Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study is led by Pastor Courtney and meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM at the home of Elizabeth Hughes. The women are doing a Beth Moore DVD study called *David: Seeking a Heart Like His*. All women are welcome! **The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 7th!**

The Adult Book Study resumes this week on Tuesday January 7th at 6:30 PM at the home of Bob & Laurie Wegner. All adults welcome!

The Cornerstone Choir rehearses on Thursdays at DeBows Methodist Church at 7:15 PM. All are welcome to join this fantastic group of people! Feel free to stop by rehearsal, or contact Susan Rovira, srplus3@comcast.net, for more info.

Shop Rite Gift Cards are available for you to purchase each Sunday before worship, and 5% of the purchase price goes directly to the church. Thanks to all, we have raised \$9830 for the Foundation Fund. For more information, contact Vernice DaConceicao.

Children's Ministry Meets THIS Thursday 1/9 from 6-7:30 at DeBows Methodist Church. This group is for kids in K-6th grade, and meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, and is led by Pastor Courtney, Anthony Maimone, and Pastor Betty. Each meeting has a bible lesson, craft, snack, and games!

As we start a new year, we are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, greeting, and preparing communion. A sign-up sheet will be sent around today during worship – please sign up or see Elizabeth Hughes if you can help.

Equipping the Saints: Leadership Training Day for Church Elders, Deacons, Clerks, and other Leaders

A Cooperative Effort by the Educational Ministries of Elizabeth, Monmouth and New Brunswick Presbyteries and of Princeton Theological Seminary as a ministry of the Synod of the Northeast.

Saturday, January 11, 2014

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Stuart Hall

Princeton Theological Seminary

Snow Date (if needed): Saturday, January 24, 2013 at Princeton Theological Seminary

A day of workshops, worship, resources and fellowship planned especially to support and equip new and ongoing church officers, pastors, worship leaders and interested others in their ministries, organized by the educational ministries of Elizabeth, Monmouth and New Brunswick Presbyteries, in partnership with Princeton Theological Seminary, and as a ministry of the Synod of the Northeast. This program is free and open to the public.

For more information and registration forms, visit:
<http://ptsem.edu/offices/coned/index.aspx?id=5613>

Volunteers scheduled for Sunday, January 12th:

- **Set-up:** *Volunteers Needed*
- **Greeters:** Laurie Wenger, *volunteer needed*

Cornerstone Meets at McAuliffe Middle School

35 South Hope Chapel Road, Jackson

www.cornerstonechurchofjackson.org

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 140, Jackson, NJ 08527

732-928-2424. E-mail: pastor@cornerstonechurchofjackson.org

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

A place where you can be who you are.

“Building Community on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ”

Mission Statement:

We the people of Cornerstone
Are a part of God’s Grand Adventure to:
Ground our lives on the solid rock of Jesus Christ,
Build up each other in love through prayer, words and deeds,
And to create God’s community in Jackson and beyond.



Sunday January 5, 2014 10:00 a.m.

Faith, Hope, Love and Clowns

Clowning is a powerful and visual way to communicate the essence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The clown's ministry message is based on the Faith that we are indeed forgiven. We give up our pretensions of human power and wisdom. Our ministry is founded on the Hope of resurrection from death and Love as the essential element for life. Personifying these Gifts of the Spirit, the clown enacts the message of God's love for human beings. The clown is a vulnerable lover.

The word, Clown, is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word, clod. A clod was a lowly, down to earth person, like a lump of dirt from the earth. Read the opening chapters of Genesis. It always comes out the same way-God loved a clod! God breathed life into a handful of dirt and said it was good!

The nearest equivalent of clod in the New Testament Greek, is the word, doulos, which means servant. Of all the words for servant, doulos describes the lowest form of person, with no power. Doulos is the word Jesus used on the night before His crucifixion, when He spoke of the life-style he wanted for his followers. Our clown embodies this role for us.

The make-up for our clown face has religious significance. The white face, in every race and culture, is a symbol of death. When we put on our white face, we stop speaking. Communication depends on our acting out the message we bring. Color applied on top of the white face, symbolizes life in a new form. Our clowns are on a journey from death to life. Awareness of where we have been, where we are going and the reality of the present moment is important to the clown. The clown, being dead to the past, cannot be killed and responds to the present without fear!

We believe that revealing the clown within us is a process of transformation. Clowns do not use the concept of "change." Change, for us, is associated with magic and power over the physical world. Our clowns work with the concept of transformation, using the common for an uncommon use. Jesus used common things in uncommon ways. He used spit and mud for healing. He used children as keys to heaven. He turned bread and wine into Communion.

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Grace and the Love of Christ

Clowns have not been viewed historically as performers. Their antics, costumes and staging might cause some to question this. The clown's primary task has been to create an environment for something to happen. In the circus, clowns move between the great performances. They release tensions with their antics and prepare the arena for the next performance. Their appearance reminds us of the limits of skill and daring.

The clown, with a sense of fun and forgiveness, can help us make transitions that are painful or fearful. At the edge of each serious role that we undertake, there is a down called Grace. God's Grace can assist us to be open to transformation. The clown may be the unexpected source of Grace.

We clown in remembrance of Christ, who was thought a fool by many. Jesus Christ through the foolishness of the Cross revealed the wisdom of God. Our challenge is to remain childlike and open to His Grace rather than allowing ourselves to become childish. We do that because Jesus invited us to experience the Kingdom as children. *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength...You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (Mark 12:30,31)

We challenge you to become childlike with us.



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