

The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Sunday, February 8, 2026

*If you are able, please stand.



10:00 a.m.

Please turn off cell phones.

WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

"Do not think that love in order to be genuine has to be extraordinary.
What we need is to love without getting tired. Be faithful in small things
because it is in them that your strength lies."

Mother Teresa



Prelude

Guiding Light

Alexis Ffrench

Anne Marie Juliano, piano

*Call to Worship

Lizzie Valle

One: People of God, come and worship the One who calls us out of darkness
and into marvelous light.

All: We come, trusting the light of Christ to guide our way.

Jesus says, "*You are the light of the world.*"

Not to hide, but to shine.

Give us courage to live our faith openly and faithfully.

Jesus says, "*You are the salt of the earth.*"

Not to blend in, but to bring life and hope.

Season our words and actions with grace, truth, and love.

The world longs for meaning, justice, and mercy.

Send us to reflect Christ in all we do.

Come, let us worship the God who lights our path and sends us into the world.

We rise to worship, ready to shine and serve. Amen.

*Opening Hymn 673

Jesus, Light of Joy

Lauda Anima

Paul Erickson, organ

Prayer of Preparation and Confession (unison)

**Merciful God, we confess today that we turn away from you more often
than we admit. Instead of trusting you for our peace, we cling to comfort
instead of compassion, silence instead of truth, and familiarity instead
of faithful risk.**

**We confess not only our personal failings, but our complicity in systems
of power, profit, and meanness that wound your beloved children and
distort your justice. We have benefited from what harms others, and
we have looked away when love required more of us.**

**Forgive us, Christ of grace. Turn us back toward you, reshape our hearts,
and lead us in the way of repair, courage, and life.**

We offer our silent prayers.

The 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.

Prayer Hymn 177 (seated) *I Will Come to You in the Silence*
(verses 1 & 3)

You Are Mine

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Pastor Greg Horn

*We Give God Glory (Hymn #582)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (sing 3 times)
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

Welcome & Life of the Church

Millie Tourtelot, Dir. of Christian Education

(Please fill out the Friendship Pad completely and pass it along.)

Time for Children

(All children are invited forward. Afterward, all children may attend Sunday School.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (p.841 of NT)

Isaiah 58:1-9b (NRSV)

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God.

³'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Solo

Up to the Mountain
Renae Baker

Patty Griffin

¹³You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ²⁰Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Gift of Showing Up”

Pastor Greg Horn

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn 833

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

St. Margaret

Prayer of the People

We Worship With Our Offerings

Offertory Anthem

Prayer of Mother Teresa

Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir

Lord, help me spread your fragrance where'er I go.

Flood my soul with your spirit and life.

Shine through me, and be so in me

that every soul I know will feel your presence in my soul.

Let them look up and see no longer me, but only you. Amen.

***We Give Praise to God** (Hymn #606)

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. Amen.

***Hymn 749**

Come, Live in the Light!

We Are Called

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

GO WITH GOD – TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

*The flowers decorating the chancel this morning are given
by the Hofmann family in honored memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy G. Sellew, founders of this church.*

WELCOME and thank you for your part in this service of worship. If you are a visitor at the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair (PCUM), you are especially welcome. May you sense in this place the presence and the love of God in Christ. After worship, you are invited for refreshments and conversation in Fellowship Hall.

PLEASE ASK AN USHER for anything you might need, and please help fellow worshipers by exiting and entering the sanctuary at times other than during prayers or scripture readings.

CHILDCARE for toddlers and a nursery for younger children are always available during worship in the North Wing, located off Fellowship Hall. Please ask an usher for directions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all children preschool through 7th grade are located in the North Wing. Ask the ushers for directions. If you are sending your kids to Sunday School for the first time, please step out briefly as your children are dismissed to fill out a registration form before returning to the sanctuary.

ADULT STUDY CLASS ON PCUM STAINED GLASS WINDOWS TODAY AFTER WORSHIP:

Today, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, you are invited to the latest in a monthly series of 1-hour long class led by Pastor Greg Horn studying the beautiful stained glass "aisle windows" in PCUM's sanctuary. This class's focus will be on the middle window on the sanctuary's west side (the window with the boy's face at the top) that depicts the Gospel of Luke's story of the young Jesus teaching in the Temple. See you there!

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BOARD GAME NIGHT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th @ 6:30 PM – Older children (grades 3-7) are warmly invited to come out for a fun night of pizza, dessert and board games! This is a FREE, drop-off event for the PCUM community, and children are welcome to bring friends. To RSVP, please use the QR Code to sign up through Sign-Up Genius. Thank you.



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS! What are you doing this Wednesday?!? PCUM'S vibrant Middle School Youth Group meets Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. throughout the year ahead—and YOU are invited! All teens and tweens 6th–8th grade are invited to come out to have fun and share dinner with friends. Contact youth directors Garrett Pahl (garrett@pcum.org) and/or Sierra Joy (sierra@pcum.org) for more information.

SAVE THE DATE! PROGRESSIVE DINNER 2026 –PCUM's popular Progressive Dinner is back and scheduled for the evening of Saturday, April 11th (note the date change!) from 6:00 to 10:30 pm. The evening starts with everyone gathering at one home for appetizers and conversation, followed by groups of 6-8 being hosted for dinner in separate homes, with the evening concluding with everyone gathered together again for dessert. The Progressive Dinner is a lot of fun and a great way to get to know your PCUM family even better. So mark your calendar and book your babysitter! If you're new to PCUM, you are especially welcome! More details coming soon!

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE HUNGRY NEIGHBORS – Twice each month, you are invited to join fellow PCUM volunteers serving hungry and food-insecure neighbors. **Sign up at** www.pcum.org/serve-others.

DEDICATE FLOWERS – You can honor/memorialize loved ones by dedicating flowers for any Sunday morning worship service throughout the year. The suggested donation for two bouquets is \$80. Sign up on the Flower Calendar in the Deacons' Corner.

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PCUM's Core Values:

Thoughtful, Nourishing Worship ✢ *Vibrant Ministry to Children & Youth* ✢
Relationships ✢ *Participation* ✢ *Service to Others and to the World* ✢ *Relevance and Authenticity*

The Presbyterian Church
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Pastor & Head of Staff: The Rev. Gregory A. Horn
Director of Music Ministries: Anne Marie Juliano
Director of Christian Education: Millie Tourtelot
Children's Programs/Co-Youth Leader: Sierra Joy
Co-Youth Leader: Garrett Pahl
Church Administrator: Denise Silecchia
Nursery/Toddler Room Attendant: Taryn Ellis
Livestream Techs: Tres Williams, Jerome Nelson
Custodian: Jimmy Abad

Journey Through Lent

The season of Lent begins Wednesday, February 18.

PCUM's ANNUAL FIRESIDE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE FOR CHILDREN: On Wednesday, February 18th at 6:00 p.m., All children in the PCUM family are invited to a special Fireside Ash Wednesday service designed especially for them at the home of Millie Tourtelot, the church's Dir. of Christian Education. This child-focused experience will present the meaning of this important day that starts the Christian season leading to Easter. The children and Millie will be joined by Pastor Greg and Ms. Anne Marie, PCUM's Dir. of Music Ministries, for a brief, interactive worship service, where they will have the opportunity to receive ashes, if they wish. Please RSVP to Millie at millie@pcum.org.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES – On Wednesday, February 18th, at 7:30pm, you are invited to an experience-based service of worship for the whole family. PCUM's Ash Wednesday service starts the season of Lent in a way that will deepen the meaning—and your appreciation—of Easter six weeks later! Led by youth and the Chancel Choir, we will focus on our shared humanness and need for God/. The 60-minute service concludes with the imposition of ashes on foreheads or the back of hands, as the PCUM family sets off together to follow Jesus through and beyond death—and then to resurrection joy!

READING GENESIS – LENTEN THURSDAY LUNCHTIME ADULT STUDY STARTS THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19TH AT NOON – Starting Thursday, February 19th from 12 noon to 1:30 pm throughout the Season of Lent, you are invited to join an Adult Study of popular author Marilynne Robinson's New York Times bestseller *Reading Genesis*.

From the classic creation-narratives describing the human relationship to God to the stories of God's covenant with humanity and the first women and men to struggle with God's call to faithful living, the Book of Genesis contains many voices from our ancestors in faith. Classes will be held through Thursday, April 2nd, and will be in-person at the church, with a remote option.



MIDNIGHT RUN! The popular youth service activity *The Midnight Run* is back! – and YOU can take part in several important ways: Teens (confirmation age & older) can volunteer to go on the Run, and everyone in the PCUM family can help by donating jackets. PCUM's next Run will be **Saturday evening, February 28!** Volunteer adult drivers/chaperones are also needed! If you would like to take part and/or go on the Midnight Run, contact Youth Director Garrett Pahl as soon as you can at garrett@pcum.org.

The Midnight Run is a late-Saturday night trip into New York City to meet and serve homeless men and women living on the streets. Volunteers make preparations earlier that Saturday, and then at 8:15 pm several cars will depart the church to take food, hot soup, personal items, and clothing to homeless women and men at several predetermined meeting places in Midtown and Lower Manhattan.

For the February 28th Midnight Run, **PCUM is holding a JACKET DRIVE** with the goal of 70 jackets. To help, just follow these simple steps:

- 1) **SCAN THE QR CODE** to purchase ONE JACKET (or more!) online available on sale on Amazon for just \$32.99--and then have it/them shipped directly to the church.
- 2) **Select size Large.** For color, select Navy Blue.
- 3) **Ship the hoodie(s) directly to PCUM** c/o Garrett Pahl, 53 Norwood Ave., Montclair, 07043.

