



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 23, No. 4

April 2023

APRIL AT A GLANCE

2nd—Palm Sunday



6th—Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm



7th—Good Friday 7:00pm



9th—Easter Sunday – 10:00am

Every Sunday - 10am - In-person and Live Streaming
Worship on Facebook/YouTube

Every Saturday - Daisey Roe Thrift Shop open from
9am - Noon

CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



Our Mission Statement:

Our mission is to gather as a church family for worship and spiritual fellowship, to nurture and educate, and to proclaim the gospel to the world.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1
5 WANTAGE AVE.
BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME

APRIL 2023



Thank you

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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I have not hidden your saving help within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation. -Psalm 40:10

I was watching a Star Trek episode of "Picard" the other day, and he concluded a mission with his intrepid team by saying, "You're only as good as the people around you." And that's the story of my ministry with you over the years. I believe it has been successful because of the people in this church. You are a kind, open-hearted group of faithful followers who have made this church the welcoming and warm presence it is.

I want to thank you all for the wonderful retirement dinner for me and Kay you put on Saturday night. The hall was decorated beautifully, the food was excellent (especially the desserts), and the program was wonderful! We loved the speakers, the song, and the many hugs received throughout the evening. We appreciate the thought and heart that went into the evening. Having so many friends and family there was a true joy to us both.

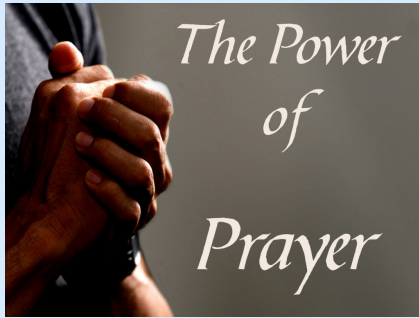
And we appreciate the monetary gift too. We know we want to put it towards something at our new location so that we think of you every time we see it, but aren't sure yet just what. One idea came from my brother (who was there for the evening) when he suggested electric bikes to ride around our new development. You can pedal them for good exercise, but they also give a boost so it's a bit easier on the knees, and we would also know that we'll continue to be carried by your love every time we go for a ride.

Well, off we go into the wild blue yonder (aka Manalapan) with many new adventures ahead of us. We hope to travel some, and get our new house in order, but the biggest adventure will be welcoming our granddaughter into this world in August. Yes, God is good, and we look back and see that so clearly in retrospect. You've been a wonderful church to raise our family in, to grow in faith with, and to share the support needed through both difficult and joyful times. I believe God has truly blessed us to be in ministry with you, and I wish you continued blessings with Pastor Nancy now, your Interim Pastor soon, and your called pastor after that. Thank you friends.

Your former pastor,

Jefferson L. Hatch





Please offer prayers for these concerns that have been brought to our attention. They are collected each Sunday morning during the past month from the prayer concerns list used in worship and from concerns listed on our Facebook page.

- Anita Ahrens
- Ashely
- Beth
- Bill Haggerty who just had a heart procedure and is home resting with pneumonia
- Bob
- Bonnie
- Bonnie Dean
- The Buyer family
- The Cabrera family
- Charlotte Lawson, that infusion will be her answer
- The Dachisen family
- Dana Strickler
- Danny Kantewein
- Dennis
- Greg
- Gregory A. Stetzel
- Eileen
- Ester
- Fred
- Harry, for the loss of his wife Silvia
- Irene
- Jody recovering from a stroke
- Joyce O.
- Jolene Newcomer recovering from having a pacemaker implanted
- Karen
- Karen M.
- Kim
- Kipp
- Mia Thompson
- Mamma Mia who recently crossed over the Rainbow Bridge
- Marie
- Michele
- Midge
- Harry
- Pat
- For peace & love
- People of Syria, Turkey, & Ukraine
- Rich Lyzenga
- Ryan Early and family
- Skye
- Trish—recovering
- Xenia



2ND QUARTER MISSION - ShelterBox USA is a top-rated charity that helps families affected by natural disaster around the world. With a score of 93% by Charity Navigator, this organization believes that all families require shelter - and that all families deserve to feel like their shelter is a home. Shelter Box delivers disaster relief by providing emergency shelters and the tools needed to help rebuild and recover after the event of a natural disaster. These tools include family-sized tents, solar lights, temporary shelter build kits, blankets, mosquito nets, water filters and carriers, and sturdy, portable kitchen sets. Their disaster relief projects have positively impacted families dealing with situations including flooding, earthquakes, storms, and war in places such as Syria, Turkey, India, the Caribbean, and Ukraine. As Presbyterians, we are dedicated to providing relief to those in need and the Mission Committee is excited to support this new cause. Please consider donating to the 2nd Quarter Mission over the next three months to make a difference in the lives of those families facing unthinkable situations.

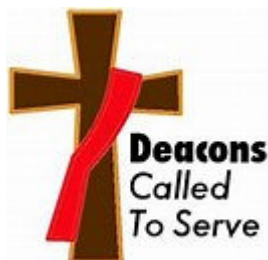


For more information about ShelterBox, go to <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/>



THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING collection happens in Lent. This event lasts until Easter Sunday and the money we collect will go to help people in need around the globe as well as support the Johnsonburg Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center. You can expect the congregational OGHS letter to arrive in your inbox or mailbox shortly where we have shared more details regarding the donation and how to contribute. As always, giving to a good cause is good for the soul, so we hope you will take the time to support this annual Presbyterian Church USA effort!

MANNA HOUSE \$5 SPAGETTI DINNER – Indoor dining or take-out, First Presbyterian Church, 54 High St., Newton (Church Street Entrance), April 11th from 5:00 to 6:30pm. Adults \$5.00, Children 5-12 \$3.00, and under 5 Free (included are spaghetti, salad, bread, and cookies or ice-cream)!



DEACONS NEWS — Just a reminder if you know someone in the hospital and would like a visitation, please let Alycia in the office know and she will pass along the message to our Deacons. If anyone would like to make a donation to our Deacon fund (not the food pantry) please send a check with Deacon fund on the memo line. It would be greatly appreciated!!!



SPRING IS FINALLY HERE — The First Presbyterian Church of Branchville and the Daisy Roe Chain are planning their 26th Annual Spring Flea Market including the Thrift Shop on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 9 am to 2 pm. Our group will have tables to rent outdoors for \$20.00 each (table space is limited to 25 tables). We do the advertising and provide tables for outdoors and sunshine only. Daisy Roe reserves spaces for our church members who are interested in renting a table, so please send in your check by April 28th, 2023, to reserve your space.



Co-Chairs: Marion Alden and Beverly Keur

Checks payable to: Daisy Roe Chain, and mail to: Marion Alden, 170 Culver View Lane, Branchville NJ 07826 (or call her at) 973-948-3663.



THE DAISEY ROE THRIFT SHOP - DAISEY ROE Members, Church Family, Friends, and Neighbors -- Spring is just around the corner. A few Daisy Roe members and friends are volunteering at the Thrift Shop. We have a new look and are ready to accept CLEAN, REUSABLE items for the shop. Remember please, NO electronics, text books, or manuals. Call the church office at 973 948-3495 to make arrangements to bring donations, or once we are open you may bring items Saturday mornings from

9-11:30am. Please DO NOT leave items on the breezeway. Contact Gay Plog to volunteer on Saturdays - it's a fun way to spend the morning and meet new people!

DAISEY ROE CHAIN'S SPRING FUNDRAISER — Our C & C Growers Fund Raiser is scheduled April 1 through May 27, and flyers will be available for pick up for your friends and neighbors. C & C Growers are located on Route 206 across from Tractor Supply. Hostesses are Gay Plog and Nancy Clink. Please plan to join us, but note that a pink flyer is needed to receive the 10% discount.



DAISEY ROE CHAIN meeting Wednesday April 12th at 3pm Fellowship Hall, Room 4. Agenda will be our spring Flea Market and Thrift Shop May 20th 9am – 2pm. Please plan to volunteer; it's a fun day to see and visit friends.



OFFICE COVERAGE - If you are interested in being on our list for office coverage, please let Alycia in the office know. We are looking to put together a list for emergency coverage for sick days, as well as planned vacations. Tasks consist of basic office duties of answering the phone, taking messages, and assisting the pastor with any duties (once we have a permanent new pastor in place). Please contact Alycia at 973-948-3495 or presbsec@ptd.net to be added to the list.

HELP NEEDED - Kay has a rug in Room 2 that is too big to be moved in a regular truck bed to their home. Does anyone have an idea of how to get it to her? If so, please call Kay (973-459-1238) and offer your suggested solution. Thanks!





MARCH SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS of MARCH 13, 2023

- There will be a memorial service for Duncan Caldwell on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 1:00 pm.
- There will be a Maundy Thursday Service on April 6, 2023 at 7 pm.
- There will be a Good Friday Service on April 7, 2023 at 7 pm.
- Daisey Roe's Flea Markets will be held on Saturday May 20, 2023 and Saturday September 9, 2023.
- An annual meeting of Deacons and Elders will take place after an Interim Pastor has been found.
- The congregation will be kept up-to-date on the Interim Pastor search on a monthly basis.
- Treasurer Alycia advises us that there is about \$4500 in the checking account and about \$5000 of bills to be paid. The Congregation is asked to please keep up with their pledges.
- An Easter Egg Hunt is being planned by the Deacons.
- Thinking about starting up the Nursery. This will require 2 adults over the age of 18 and background checks. It will be for children from age 0 thru 3.
- The quilting project will be ready soon for any members who would like to help work on it.
- There will be no Music Sunday or Jeans Sunday this year.
- The Officer & Personnel Committee will be reaching out to people who have not been in church for a while. The Congregation is asked to help with this.
- The trellis outside of the pastor's office window has been removed. The key will be re-hung.
- The Property Committee would like to provide people an opportunity to help clean up the yard even though there will not be a Jeans Sunday.
- Our plan for the installation of a lift is still viable. The quote we have is too old. Need to get a new one.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL

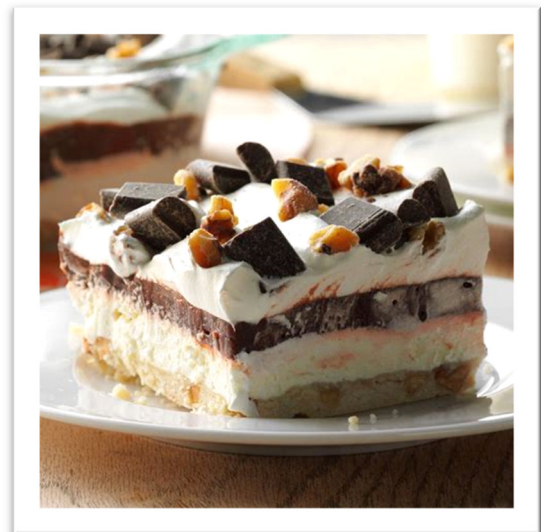
Julie Anderson Clawson	4/06	Marion Alden	4/25
Kelly Decker	4/06	Ethan Billings	4/25
Liam Reinertsen	4/06	Alec Hughes	4/26
David Yaden	4/08	Charlotte Lawson	4/26
Lauren Seeger	4/09	Susan Martin	4/26
Leo Clawson	4/14	Aaron Kurland	4/27
MaryBeth Dean	4/14	Joshua Langley	4/28
Elizabeth Dietz	4/21	Debbie Anderson	4/30
Michael Goldsworthy	4/23		

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Four-Layer Chocolate Dessert

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cold butter
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 8 ounces cream cheese (softened)
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 carton of frozen whipped topping, divided
8 oz each (thawed)
- 2 1/2 cups 2% milk
- 2 packages of instant pudding mix
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chunks
- Chocolate syrup



PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Place flour in a small bowl; cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in 1/2 cup walnuts. Press onto bottom of an ungreased 13x9-in. baking dish. Bake until light golden brown, 12-15 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack.
2. In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until smooth; fold in 1 carton whipped topping. Spread over crust. In a large bowl, whisk milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Gently spread over cream cheese layer. Top with remaining whipped topping. Sprinkle with chocolate chunks and remaining walnuts. Refrigerate until cold.
3. Cut into bars. Just before serving, drizzle with chocolate syrup



April

USHERS

2nd – Bev Keur/Kathleen K.
 6th – Linda Osborne/Aimee N.
 7th – Judy Casey/Linda Osborne
 9th – Judy Casey/Gay Plog
 16th – Bev Keur/Ann Bain
 23rd – Debbie Gardner/Judy Casey
 30th – Lois Kinney/Karen Opilla

LAY READERS

2nd – Judy Casey
 6th – Nancy Swanson
 7th – Sandy Carlisle
 9th – Trish Cherny
 16th – Debbie Anderson
 23rd – Cathy Bambrick
 30th – Aimee Nishimura

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville
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 Branchville, NJ 07826
 Phone 973-948-3495

View our website at:
<http://www.fpcbranchville.org>

and Facebook at:
<http://www.facebook.com>
 (ask to be friends with “firstpresbyterian
 branchvillenj”)

You may e-mail
 the secretary at presbsec@ptd.net

View a daily devotion at:
<http://www.d365.org>



APRIL COFFEE HOUR

HANDBELL CHOIR

APRIL FLOWER CHART:

If you would like to provide flowers for any of the dates, please see instructions below:

Dates:

2nd –
 6th –
 7th –
 9th –
 16th –
 23rd –
 30th –

Call Lisa the week before your signup to have flowers delivered. Gail Burckes will contact you for your dedication or memorial.





APRIL 2023



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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