



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.

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CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH P.O. BOX 1 3-5 WANTAGE AVE. BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME 24, NO. 9

September 2024

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTORS

Summer is fading. I always watch for the green to begin to look worn and tired; and then the warm colors of fall take over.

This is also time to look ahead and make sure we are ready for new programs, familiar schedules and events. **One of the changes that is coming involves the children of the congregation.** The children will be in worship on communion Sundays and will be welcomed to participate in the sacrament. Jesus welcomed children:

People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them, and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. ¹⁶ But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." Luke 18:15-17

In addition, our Book of Order 9W-2.02) states: W-2.02

... Children and youth bring special gifts and grow in their faith through their regular participation in worship. Those who plan and lead worship should provide for their full participation in the Service for the Lord's Day.

We will provide worship activity bags for the children who will attend worship and then go to Sunday School after the children's story, which will be included every Sunday. Our children are part of the whole people of God. Be sure to welcome them and let them know how important they are to this congregation.

My second focus for this letter **is the MISSION FAIR** to be held after worship in the Fellowship Hall. On September 8. And yes, there will be coffee and goodies! There will also be displays around the hall celebrating all our ministries and offering you opportunities to discern where you could serve. Have you thought about being a lay reader for worship? Or singing in the choir or playing in the bell choir? Perhaps you would like to volunteer to help with some of the building upkeep, or to provide help for coffee hour. The possibilities are endless. Don't miss this fun event!

Check some of the articles in this newsletter for more information. 1st Presbyterian is a wonderfully faithful and hope filled place!

Pastor Nancy & Pastor David

| SEPTEMBER 2024 | CI | HURCH KEY NEWSLETTER |
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| Prayer provession of the second state of the second state. Bob Price Bob Second State of the second | David Douglas on hospice Deb Donna Eppie Admas Etta – Cancer Fair week George Hannah Rock — Cancer Harriet Joanne John & Connie Dudas Joyce Gibbins Joyce O. Karen Karen M. Karrie Bartlett Kailyn Kenny Lindsey Barton — Mental Illness Michele Nancy Paul Opilla Prayers for strength for those you have lost loved one and must go on alone. Prayers of peace to all affected by storms. Prayers that family will be reunited. Ray Price Rita | Robin Robyn Rueben with Parkinson's Sara Sara on Hospice The College Students returning the family of Brandon Cunningham The family of Cindy Jones The Langley's — Joshua & Amy Valerie VBS students Wanda with cancer Young Family |



VISIT OUR MISSION FAIR -

Loaves and Fishes: God Multiplies Our Gifts for Ministry! September 8th @ 11am in the Fellowship Hall (Following 10am Worship).

Come to the Fair! You will receive a passport that will be marked off by each exhibitor you visit. There are prizes, coffee, goodies and great fellowship. Don't miss this Fair!





DAISEY ROE FALL FLEA MARKET – Fall is just around the corner. The First Presbyterian Church of Branchville and the Daisey Roe Chain are planning their 27th Annual Fall Flea Market including the thrift shop on Saturday September 14th, 2024, from 9 am to 3 pm. Our group will be renting tables indoors / outdoors for \$20.00 each. Table space is limited to 30 ta-

bles. We do the advertising and provide tables for indoor / outdoor rain or shine. Daisey Roe keeps spaces for our church members who are interested in renting a table. Please send in your check by August 30th, to reserve your space.

Co-Chairwomen: Marion Alden, Beverly Keur Checks payable to: Daisey Roe Chain and mail to: Marion Alden, 170 Culver View Lane, Branchville NJ 07826. 973-948-3663.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES – Now through September 22nd our Food Pantry will be collecting back-to-school supplies for our clients and their children heading back to school very soon! We are looking for donations of backpacks, notebooks, crayons, pencils, folders, glue sticks, highlighters, etc. Donations may be left on the cart in the Fellowship Hall (by the Food Pantry) marked back-to-school donations.





MANNA HOUSE \$5 SPAGHETTI DINNER – Outdoor dining or take-out (weather permitting), First Presbyterian Church, 54 High St., Newton (Church Street Entrance), September 10th 5:00 to 6:30pm. Adults \$5.00, Children 5-12 \$3.00, and under 5 Free. (Included are Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Cookies)

PER CAPITA REMINDER – Just a friendly reminder for those who have not yet paid their Per Capita this year. It is \$42.50/person and helps our church a great deal when we don't have to take such a large sum from our already tight budget. Thank you for your anticipated generosity!







JOYS & CONCERNS OF OUR CHURCH — The Deacons began a new program for reaching out to members of the congregation earlier this year. A list of those who would benefit from a "Thinking of You" card is being compiled from the Joys and Concerns list. We are also trying an additional method of identifying names. There is also a "Thinking of You" box on the coffee hour counter where anyone can

submit for our attention, a name, address (if not a member in the directory), and perhaps a reason (if appropriate.) You can also send information to Alycia who will relay it to the Deacons. We look forward to connecting with more of you because who doesn't enjoy getting a card in the mail?!

DISCERNMENT TEAM — The team has been working even through the summer. We have several meetings ahead to finish the required report that will go to the Development Committee of the presbytery. When that committee approves the report, it will be sent to the Committee on Ministry, who will then contact the session and give us permission to call a congregational meeting and elect the Pastor Nominating Committee. Whew! The work of the team has been excellent and will help the PNC in their work. Continue to



keep the team in your prayers. Many thanks to Corbin Opilla, Gay Plog, Linda Osborne, Aimee Nishimura and Mike Lutz.



<u>WALK N' TALK</u> – Join us 9 AM - 10:00 AM: Monday thru Saturday, all fall, winter, and spring. On Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday we walk around the circle by Selective Insurance, (the old fairgrounds), or through town. We park and meet by the tennis courts. Tuesday at Frankford Park, we park and meet by the basketball court. Thursday at Wood-

bourne Park, we park and meet by the first parking lot. Any questions – please direct to Beverly Keur. Hope to see you there.

<u>E-GIVING INFORMATION</u> – Our church pays a flat fee of \$104.24 a month to use E-Giving services. You can easily set up a 1 time gift, reoccurring payments or even give to our PVR, Food Pantry or Deacons through this platform. Just text the word "GIVE" to 973-874-1277 and follow the link that will be texted back to you. You may make a donation using your credit card, your checking account, or your savings account. Please consider using this platform to give!







COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES— With college students returning to campus, the Fellowship Committee is asking all members to provide the names and addresses for any college students who we can reach out to with a College Care Package this fall. Please contact Alycia in the Church office to provide the information so that we can update our list of college students this year.

FALL FELLOWSHIP OUTING — What better way to enjoy the fall than an afternoon of apple picking! The Fellowship Committee is planning an outing to Hillcrest Orchard in Newton after our Fellowship Hour on September 22nd. We will be provided with a hayride up to the orchard with various options of bag sizes for apple picking. There are also treats (cider, donuts, ice cream) available for purchase. We are hoping that you will be able to join us for an afternoon of fresh air, fun, and fellowship.



A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAVID



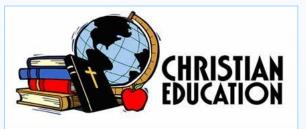
I am part of a mission network of our denomination. It is called ZZMUSA, which stands for "Zambia Zimbabwe Mozambique USA Mission Network." The network has particular interests in education and health concerns as well as fostering a greater understanding of what it means to be part of a global Christian community.

This year the African partners are hosting an INSAKA (a common term in Southern African cultures that stands for friendly, open discussion). The theme of this 2 week event is *One in Christ.* I, along with a delegation of PC(USA) mission partners, will be attending this major event. I had no plans on visiting Africa(!) but when this opportunity arose I jumped at the chance. We will be flying from Newark to Johannesburg on September 5th. From there we will fly to the capital of Zambia, Lusaka. We will spend around 10 days in Zambia before spending around the same amount of time in Zimbabwe. We will be participating in the Insaka by seeing various schools and health clinics and other places where our mission goals intersect, meeting mission partners in person (finally!), and getting a better understanding of what ministry is like in these countries and local communities.

After our time in Zimbabwe we will fly back to Johannesburg and return home on Sept. 23rd.

Please keep me and the travelers in your prayers. I will look forward to sharing the highlights of the trip when we return. Blessings all Around, David





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

- Rally day will take place on Sunday, Sept 8th! We will start off in church followed by fun activities in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a friend! We hope to see all of our children return for this fun start to our SS year!
- Volunteers Needed! We need teachers for Nov and Dec. The State of NJ along with our Presbytery requires 2 adults in the classroom. WE NEED ANOTHER PERSON FOR EACH WEEK! You will just be another pair of hands to help where needed. Please consider helping with this for any week (s) that you are available. A signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Please note that another mandatory requirement is a Background Check for all volunteers before you go to the classroom. This will be of no cost to you.
- Starting in September we will have "Busy Bags" for children to use when they are in church for the entire service and they need activities to keep them occupied.

ADULT EDUCATION

- Our Bible study, "Soup and Study", will resume on Thurs. Sept 12th Nov 14th from 5:30.pm —7:00pm. The topic will be "The Parables of Jesus". If you participated in the last studies, you know the soup is always wonderful and the fellowship is great! We will be looking at THE PARABLES OF JESUS. How many parables do you know or recognize? These are the stories Jesus told to get a point across or to help his listeners understand his teachings. SIGN UP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – OR AT THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TABLE AT THE MISSION FAIR!
- The Woman's Book Study will meet on Weds. Sept 25th at 4:30pm. Our book will be "An Invisible Thread" by Laura Schroff.



WORSHIP NOTES

Our confession and God's forgiveness prepares us for several important parts of worship. First, we have the opportunity to greet one another with the peace of Christ. This often moves into conversations about where to go for lunch, what we have planned for the week, etc. The important part is that we can shake hands and say, "The peace of Christ be with you." Most of the time we have special music at this point. This congregation often applaud; which is another way of saying "AMEN!" after we hear the music. Most of us cannot play



the organ or piano, or sing in the choir, or play the guitar or bells. This is all being offered to God on our behalf. It is appropriate to show our appreciation for the musicians in our midst.

AUGUST SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (8/12)

- Opening balance for June was \$86,665.08
- Per Capita payment number six was made on 6/20/24
- Sound System dollars transferred from PVR account in the amount of \$2,578.79
- 80% of memorial sent to New Covenant for \$480 on 6/18/24
- Opening balance for July was \$80,061.62
- Per Capita number seven was made on 6/20/24
- Water/Sewer paid for 2nd and 3rd quarter. \$260 and \$1,736.16
- Taxes paid for 2nd quarter 2024
- New Covenant distribution \$4,519.09
- Our roll count is now 166
- Session approved a motion to allow children to participate in communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians.
- Session approved the women's book study, "An Invisible Thread"
- Session approved the soup & study theme "The Parables of Jesus"
- Collecting STATT bags in September
- Stefan Heilakka will preach on September 22, 2024
- Joe Martinoni will preach on November 10, 2024
- Painting on the side of the Sanctuary is complete at a cost of \$5,600
- Session approved a pancake breakfast/Cold Nose Warm Heart on a Saturday in October. Date to be determined. Will accept a free will offering with the proceeds going to Cold Nose Warm Heart
- Possible harvest dinner (lunch) after worship on November 17th, 2024
- Our Pastors will look into having an ecumenical Thanksgiving service at Frankford Plains
- Gearing up for Rally Day/Mission Fair on September 8th, 2024
- VBS is meeting at Frankford Plains Church
- The new Church website will be completed around the end of August
- Our new sound system is up and running
- Pastor David will make a trip to Africa from September 5th 22nd. The trip is under the auspices of the Global Mission network of the PC(USA) called ZZMUSA, which stand for Zambia Zimbabwe Mozambique USA Mission Network.





Step Up and Out for Stewardship

The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The world and all it's people belong to him.

Psalm 24:1

Stewardship

Ah, school is starting. Don't many of us love the Staples commercial: "The most wonderful time of the year."? There is so much for our youngsters to learn aside from the 3 R's. It is our responsibility to help children to learn to give from the heart. At a young age they first learn to share their toys. This can be a step in their journey toward stewardship. Hopefully they will not learn from us, "Mine. Mine. Mine." As they grow and begin Sunday School, they may say, "But God own's everything. I don't own anything." We all will need explain that God does own everything and everything we have comes from him. (that includes all that STUFF that we have). It is then that it is important for families and congregations to be intentional about giving. This is especially true as generational patterns have shifted. For those children raised in a culture of giving and caring it comes naturally to give freely. It is essential that children learn at an early age the lesson to give and that all size gifts matter.

You can further teach this lesson by reading the book "Three Cups "by Tony Townley and Mark St. Germain. It teaches children how to save, spend and be charitable.

You can also see the "The Stewardship Pyramid" at my table in fellowship hall on Sunday, Sept 8 at the mission fair.

As school and Sunday School begin for the 2024-2025 year, please include in your prayers to see, understand Christian kindness and a guidance for stewardship to be beneficial for our children.

Yours In Peace, Faith & Fellowship – *Susan Parson* Stewardship Chair sepk@icloud.com 551.358.1266

3RD QUARTER MISSION



School is BACK in the swing of things!! Once again the Mission Committee would like to repeat our 3rd Quarter Mission effort with the charity called DonorsChoose.org which empowers public school teachers across the country to request much needed materials and experiences for their students. It's like crowd funding for educational

Navigator, as well as other charity assessment organizations. We all know that classroom teachers' budgets do not give them much room for extras and that they often spend their own money to enhance their students' experiences. This fund allows teachers to put out requests for an amount of money that will purchase a specific list of supplies, books, etc. Depending on how much we are able to collect, the committee will tell you what we actually helped the teachers purchase for their classroom. We are in the final month for collection and hope that you'll be able to contribute!!



MUSIC NEWS

CHANCEL CHOIR will have their first rehearsal on Thursday, September 5th, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. EVERYONE is welcome to be a member of the Chancel Choir. No previous choir experience is necessary to join! Come join us! –Dawn Latincsics, Music Director

THE BELLS OF BRANCHVILLE will have a table at the "Mission Fair" if Interested in playing handbells and would like to join the group stop by and see Dawn Latincsics.

SEPTEMBER 2024

CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SEPTEMBER

| 9/1 | Nancy Swanson | 9/21 |
|------|------------------------------------|--|
| 9/8 | Mike Osborne | 9/22 |
| 9/9 | Nancy Price | 9/23 |
| 9/11 | Rachel McAuliffe | 9/25 |
| 9/13 | Gavin Leenheer | 9/26 |
| 9/16 | Cooper Cannon | 9/27 |
| 9/20 | Becky Goldsworthy | 9/30 |
| | 9/8 9/9 9/11 9/13 9/16 | 9/8Mike Osborne9/9Nancy Price9/11Rachel McAuliffe9/13Gavin Leenheer9/16Cooper Cannon |



Rustic Fall Vegetable Soup

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon butter or olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 medium winter squash, peeled and diced
- 1 medium zucchini, diced
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 1/2 cup orzo
- 1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 4 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

PREPARATION

- 1. In a large heavy-bottomed pot, heat the butter or oil over medium-high heat. Add the onion and sauté until fragrant and translucent. Add the garlic and sauté until golden brown.
- 2. Add the winter squash, zucchini, sweet potato, orzo, canned tomatoes, thyme, rosemary, and broth. Simmer until the vegetables are soft and cooked through, about 30 minutes.
- 3. Season the soup with salt, and black pepper, to taste. Serve with sliced bread.



SEPTEMBER 2024

VOLUNTEER

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

Deacon of the Month— Aimee Nishimura 1st – OPEN/OPEN 8th – Aimee Nishimura/OPEN 15th – OPEN/OPEN 22nd – Buzz & Marion Alden 29th – Wende Clausen/OPEN

LAY READERS

1st – Linda Wistermayer 8th – Patrick Murphy 15th – OPEN 22nd – OPEN 29th – Marion Alden

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville PO Box 1



3-5 Wantage Avenue Branchville, NJ 07826 Phone 973-948-3495



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER COFFEE HOUR

CHANCEL CHOIR

SEPTEMBER FLOWER CHART:

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

Dates:

1st – 8th – 15th – 22nd – 29th –

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

Flowers By Lisa 862-268-3123

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

and Facebook at: http://www.facebook.com

You may e-mail the secretary at <u>presbsec@ptd.net</u>

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



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| ***** SEPTEMBER 2024 ***** | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | |
|] 10:00 AM Worship | 2 Office Closed | 3 | 4 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty | 5 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir | 6 | 7 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop | | |
| WORSHIP | HAPPY LABOR DAY | | | | | THRIFT' SHOPS | | |
| 8 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Rally Day 11:00 AM Mission Fair | 9 3:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting 7:00 PM Session Meeting | 10 | 11 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty | <i>12</i> 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Soup & Study 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir | 13 | <i>14</i> 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Daisey Roe Fall Flea Market/Thrift Shop | | |
| | CHURCH | | | Bible Study | | FLEA MARKET | | |
| 15 10:00 AM Worship Revise and Worship | 16 | 17 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting Deacons | 18 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty | 19 5:30 PM- 7:00 PM Soup & Study 7:00 PM- 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Bible Study | 20 | 21 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop | | |
| 22 10:00 AM Worship 11:45 PM Fall Fellowship Outing/Apple Picking Uting/Apple Picking | 23 | 24 | 25 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty 4:30 PM Woman's Book Study | 26 5:30 PM- 7:00 PM Soup & Study 7:00 PM- 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Bible Study | 27 | SHOPS 28 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop THRIFT SHOPS | | |
| 29 10:00 AM Worship WORSHIP Together | 30 | | Aug 2024 S M T W T 4 5 6 7 8 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 21 22 25 26 27 28 29 | 2 3 9 10 6 7 5 16 23 24 20 21 | Oct 2024 T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30 31 | | | |