

JULY/AUGUST 2024



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.

INDEX	Pg.
Cover Page	1
Pastor Page	2
Prayer Concerns	3
Church News	4-6
BAPS Trip	7
Christian Education	8
Worship Notes/ Session Update	9
Stewardship	10
Birthdays/ Recipe	10
Information	11
Calendar	12 - 13



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



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



VOLUME 24, NO. 6

JUNE 2024

A NOTE FROM OUR CO-PASTORS: THE SAME BIRD

Like me, you too may check into social media (Facebook and the like) on a fairly regular basis. It's a great way to keep up with family members who are spread across the country. The pictures that are posted often go a long way toward bridging the gaps between the times we are physically in the same place.

It's also a good way to gauge the "temperature" across the country and the world with regard to breaking news and other events.

Of course, there's a lot of "other stuff" that makes its way into the social media outlets. Like me, you too may be reluctant to post things for fear of being misunderstood or yelled at or getting things wrong.

Although I rarely post anything, I appreciate those who do (well, most of the time).

Recently, however, someone posted something that I felt compelled to "share" on Facebook and likewise here in our newsletter. It was a picture of an elderly Native American man. Superimposed over his image were these words:

"What if I told you that the left wing and the right wing belong to the same bird?"

Although I am fairly certain that the intended target of the meme was the current political climate in our country, I think it also is an important cautionary note for friends, families, neighbors and church families.

There are lots of ways to build on this quote. Of course there's the obvious truth that the one-winged bird won't get very far very fast. Balance and equal strength are important so that the "bird" can soar. (Or, a somewhat different image: Just think about what happens when the rower is only pulling on one oar...)

Another way to interpret this quote is also obvious: There is always more that unites us than ought to divide us. We have much more in common than we usually are willing to admit. Often barriers and walls are broken down by the simple act of getting to know someone and realizing that we share many of the same worries, hopes and dreams.

Our ways of expressing ourselves may be vastly different, but if we ask enough questions and share enough of our life experiences and our "story" we often find that the amount of common ground between us only increases. It rarely decreases.

There's so much we still have to learn, so much to share, so much to do as Jesus' disciples here in this place. I pray that our "body" will remain strong and active and vital, even as we come into contact and conversation with others who may have vastly different ideas or approaches to our common life, but who share the hope and desire that, together, with God's help we will "soar"!

Pastor David & Pastor Nancy

JULY/AUGUST 2024	CH	HURCH KEY NEWSLETTER
 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 Annie All suffering from cancer Annie Vealey Anthur Brooks Audrey Kimble Bob Sandberg for health improvements Carol & George F. Charlie Cindy Jones Debbie Howell Donna Family of Joann Flecher for the loss of their Son. George O. 	 Grace Jane Obrien Janice Krondahl in the hospital Jelena Keys John & Connie Dudas Karen M. Kathleen Singh Kenny Linda Buehrer Lydia, 5 year old with pancreatic cancer. Matt May May Ellen Michele Paul Opilla Penny The Family of Joey Luchetti who passed suddenly. The Piper Family The Piper Family The Potts Family The Schumacher Family The Wheeler Family The Zuowski Family Tom Coulter 	JOY Source of the second secon



<u>**3RD QUARTER MISSIONS</u>** — It's hard to imagine but we are already starting our 3rd Quarter Mission project!! This is one we have supported for a number of years- because Presbyterians support public education! It is DonorsChoose, a website where teachers post requests for classroom resources. This helps offset the money that teachers spend out of pocket</u>



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER

each year to give their students the best classroom experience that they can. We will be collecting your donations to add to the budget and will select our educational projects at the end of September. We'll be sure to let you know where the money went!!



<u>THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE</u> would like to thank all of you who so generously donated to our first quarter local mission. We had received a total of \$906 which was divided between Harvest Home and Manna House as follows: Harvest Home, 1/2 Local Missions \$223.00, 1/2 Souper Bowl \$105.00, 1/2 Quarterly Budget \$125.00. Total: \$453.00. Manna House, 1/2 Local Missions \$223.00, 1/2 Souper Bowl \$105.00, 1/2 Quarterly Budget \$125.00. Total: \$453.00 The church

collected \$1245 in donations for One Great Hour of Sharing of which half was sent to Highlands Presbytery and half was donated to Camp Johnsonburg's "Marked for the Future" campaign.

JOYS & CONCERNS OF OUR CHURCH — The Deacons will begin a new program for reaching out to members of the congregation. A list of those who would benefit from a "Thinking of You" card will be compiled from the Joys and Concerns list. We will also try an additional method of identifying names. A "Thinking of You" box will be placed on the coffee hour counter where anyone can submit for our attention, a name, address (if not a mem-



ber 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?!



ICE CREAM SOCIAL! The discernment team continues it's work, leading us to the tasks that will be prepare us for the future. Many of you have viewed the Timeline in the Fellowship Hall and have added your own highlights. Our next task is to have conversations about what we imagine and desire about our future. How do you see God working in our congregation and community? What could we be

called to in the future? The discernment team decided the best way to have these conversations is with ICE CREAM! So you are invited to an Ice Creams Social on Thursday, July 18 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Put it on your calendar and plan on a relaxing evening with friends - and ice cream!







DAISEY ROE'S NEWS — Our members enjoy volunteering Saturday morning, some in the thrift shop and some in the gardens. Join us for a fun way to benefit the church and meet friends and new people. The Thrift Shop has been active and successful. Please continue to donate your CLEAN/

REUSABLE items to the shop. We can NOT accept electronics, text books or manuals. Daisey Roe Thrift Shop will be having a \$6.00 bag sale and Yard Sale Saturday July 20th 9am—12pm.

Our picnic meeting is August 14th, at Noon at Culver Lake, Trish Cherney and Marion Alden will be hostesses. Please bring your favorite covered dish or dessert to share. Meeting agenda will be September 14th Flea Market and Daisey Roe Thrift Shop. Food will be served at this event. Hope you will join us!





MANNA HOUSE \$5 SPAGETTI DINNER – Indoor dining or take-out, First Presbyterian Church, 54 High St., Newton (Church Street Entrance), July 9th & August 13th 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)!

THE FOOD PANTRY is in need of paper towels and toilet paper. Please consider donating to this continuous need in our community.





JOIN US FOR WALK N' TALK: 8AM–9AM Summer hours, June 1st to September 1st. Monday thru Saturday: 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 Woodbourne Park, we park and meet by the first parking lot. Any questions? Contact Bev Keur 973-670-7320.

<u>SPECIAL SUMMER MUSIC</u> — Our Bells of Branchville and Chancel Choirs will be taking a welldeserved break over the summer months. However...anyone who would like to sing a hymn or play an instrumental piece during a summer service would be greatly appreciated! Simply speak to Dawn, or our organist John and they will be glad to meet with you from 9:30 -9:45 am on a Sunday morning to go over your selection (or help you find one!). Thank you in advance!





Iris Kymer rejoined the congregation as an active member on June 30th. Iris has been a longtime member of the Branchville community. The Kymer Campground that she and her husband ran for many years kept her away from worship, especially in the summer, but she decided it was time to reactivate her membership in the congregation and we were delighted to celebrate this happy reunion.



Congratulations

Ben Hopper and Cathy Goldsworthy were united in marriage by Nancy and David Young at an outside ceremony in Lafayette on Thursday, June 27th. Congratulations and best wishes to Cathy and Ben as their life together continues to unfold!

Baptism

Lily Marie Williams, daughter of Chris and Becky Williams, Granddaughter of Mike Lutz and Grandniece of Debbie Anderson, was baptized by David and Nancy on Sunday, June 30th. Lily, who has been a child of God since before she was born, is now part of the family of faith and we rejoice in her baptism!











On 6/26 13 of us traveled 2 hours to Robbinsville, NJ to visit the Baps Swaminaran Akshardham Hindu temple. We were given a very informative tour of the massive campus. It is hard to explain the beauty of the temples both inside and out. The interior is very intricately hand carved of 3 different types of marble. The basic philosophies of this sect of Hinduism was explained to us. It is the only branch that worships someone both on earth as well as a spiritual God. (s) If you ever have the opportunity to visit, please do, as you will not be disappointed!





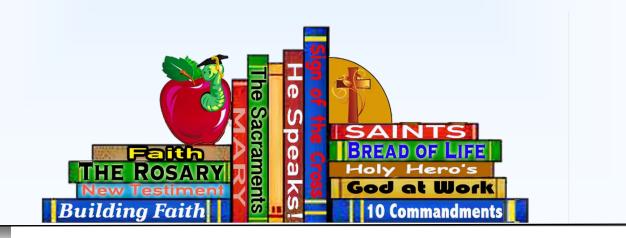
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

- We will be supporting Frankford Plains Methodist church in Augusta with their VBS program. They have a fun and dynamic VBS which has been going for 60+ years! This year it will be the week of August 12th to 16th. Please inquire at: frankfordplainschurch@gmail.com or call the church office at 973-702 -0334. We need VBS volunteers. Use the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall to let us know if you're interested. For those who are volunteering: this is a reminder to please attend the planning meeting at Frankford Plains church Tues, 6/25 at 6pm.
- Please mark your calendars for our Rally Day and Mission Fair on Sept 8th.
- We are in need of people to sign up both to teach and to aid in our classroom starting in September, as it is state mandated that there be 2 adults present in every classroom setting. On behalf of our children, thank you!
- The State of NJ, and all mainline churches, including the PC(USA) now mandate that any volunteers who work with children must complete a criminal background check every 3 years. The cost of this requirement will be provided by our church. No cost to the volunteer. It is part of the reality of our ultimate goal of keeping our children safe. This new policy will start in Sept.

ADULT EDUCATION

 Our Pastors will present the outcomes of the General Assembly meeting on Sunday July 7th during Coffee Hour.



WORSHIP NOTES

Every time we worship, we hear the Word of God that comes to us through the scriptures. We are prepared to hear it through our confession, hearing of the assurance of God's forgiveness and sharing peace with one another. The Prayer for Illumination is our plea for the Spirit to guide the reading and hearing of scripture. We ask that our hearts as well as our ears are open to whatever God has to say to us.

JUNE SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Opening balance this month was \$93,181.64.
- Per Capita fifth payment of \$626.88 was made on 5/23/24.
- Short \$678 this month in income/giving
- Gas line for stove hook up completed.
- Accident health policy for children is now in force.
- Volunteers are needed for Sunday School & Vacation Bible School.
- While Pastor David is away in Africa, Rev. Stefan Heilakka will preach on September 15, 2024.
- Shepherd's Watch has been approved to do background checks. These checks will be good for 3 years.
- It was approved to make an in-house photo directory. John Newcomer will do the photography.
- It was approved to hire painter Chris Macken to paint the window frames of the Sanctuary.
- Our new website has been approved by the session and will launched by an estimated date of August 13, 2024.
- Worship Service will be at the Opilla Farm on August 25, 2024 followed by a pot luck lunch.
- Third quarter mission will be Donors Choose.
- The session is considering additional special offerings, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness, and Christmas Joy
- STATT bags will be collected in September for Manna House.
- Miner's Baseball game outing planned followed by fireworks on June 29, 2024.
- Considering having a movie night on the front lawn.
- General Assembly discussions will be held on June 23rd and July 14th.



Step Up and Out for Stewardship

"This is my story. This is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long."

From Hymn "This is My Song"

By Heath Balltzglier, Mac Powell and North Point Worship

Summer is Here!!

Let us not forget that church continues to be open and Sunday services continue to happen. Please use your stewardship of time, talent, and creativity in church, in the community and in your personal life. Spread the love while your rest, relax and recharge. Please include in your prayers to see, understand Christian kindness and a guidance for stewardship to be beneficial for the Summer.

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

JULY/AUGUST 2024

CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



Anne McAuliffe
Bob Clark
Harrison Cardinale
Casey Cannon
Cassidy Preste
John Preste
Maureen Block
Kelly Katzenstein
Corbin Opilla
Art Buehrer
Lauren Cardinale
Alexis Legon
Mark Clark

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Summer Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 5 medium plum tomatoes
- 1/4 red onion
- 1 Kirby cucumber
- A generous drizzle of olive oil, about 2 tablespoons
- 2 splashes red wine vinegar
- Coarse salt and black pepper

PREPARATION

- 1. Dress the tomatoes, onions, and cucumber with olive oil, red wine vinegar, salt, and pepper.
- 2. Let stand while you prepare dinner, about 20 minutes. Re-toss and serve salad with crusty bread for mopping up juices and oil.

JULY/AUGUST 2024



Deacon of the Month - John Newcomer/ Linda Osborne

JULY 7th – John N./Kathleen K. 14th – Lisa Hughes/Wende Clausen 21st – OPEN/OPEN 28th – OPEN/OPEN

AUGUST

4th – OPEN/OPEN 11th – OPEN/OPEN 18th – OPEN/OPEN 25th – OPEN (Opillas' Farm)

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville PO Box 1



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



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

and Facebook at: <u>http://www.facebook.com</u>

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

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

CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



JULY/AUGUST COFFEE HOUR

Volunteer's Needed/Sign-up Sheet in Fellowship Hall

JULY/AUGUST FLOWER CHART:

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

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AUGUST 4th 11th 18th 25th

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



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	I 3:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting Mark Your Calendar	2	3 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty	4 Office Closed	5	6 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop
7 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM General Ass embly Outcome Meeting	8 NO Session Meeting	9	10 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty	11	12	13 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop
14 10:00 AM Worship Let us WORSHIP Together	15	16 6:30 PM Discemment Team Meeting No Deacons Meeting	17 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty	18 6:30 PM Ice Cream Social/Storytelling	19	20 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop
21 10:00 AM Worship WORSHIP	22	23	24 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty	25	26	27 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop
28 10:00 AM Worship Norship & Praise	29	30	31 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty	Jun 2024 S M T W T 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 30 30 30 30 30	1 4 5 3 14 15 11 12 0 21 22 18 19	Aug 2024 F S T W T F S 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30 31

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First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ						
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4 10:00 AM Worship R vàise and Worship	5 3:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting	6	7 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty	8	9	<i>10</i> 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop
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<i>]]]</i> 10:00 AM Worship	12 7:00 PM Session Meeting	13	<i>14</i> 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty 12:00 PM Daisey Roe	15	16	17 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop
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10	10	20	21	22	22	24
18 10:00 AM Worship	19	20 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	21 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty	22	23	24 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop
WORSHIP		Deacons Called To Serve				Thefft shop
25 10:00 AM Worship Worship	26	27	28 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty	29	30	<i>31</i> 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop
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