



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 24, No. 4

April 2024

APRIL AT A GLANCE:

7th – 2nd Sunday of Easter

14th – 3rd Sunday of Easter

21st – 4th Sunday of Easter

28th – 5th Sunday of Easter



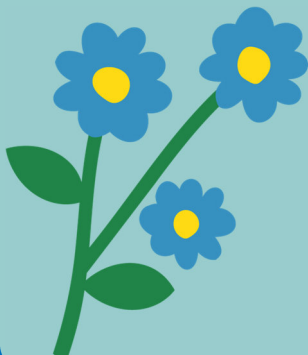
Every Saturday - Daisey Roe Thrift Shop open from
9am - Noon



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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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME 24, NO. 4

APRIL 2024

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTORS

Dear Friends:

Here we are, once again, basking in the warmth and joy of the Easter story. We are reminded, once again, that we are Easter People. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central affirmation of our faith. It reminds us, once again, that anything is possible with God!

Why restate the obvious? Why repeat “once again,” again and again? Because we need to be reminded of the goodness of God, especially in the midst of the bad news of our world. Be it news from Ukraine, or Gaza, or our borders, or inner cities, or dining room tables - - look as far away or as close to home as you want, there is plenty to leave us shaking our heads or our fists, to ask “why?” or to ponder “what can I do that can make a difference?”

As I am writing this letter I am hearing the tragic news of the collapse of the Francis Scott Key bridge in Baltimore after being struck by a container ship. The pictures and the video are horrific and leave one stunned.

With the on-going search and rescue efforts, the mind quickly reaches out to the families that have been torn apart by this horrible accident. We think of all our friends in that immediate area or how often we ourselves have traveled south over that bridge. We wonder whether anyone we know just happened to be heading across its span at that particular moment.

There is a verb tense in the Greek language (the language of the New Testament) called the “Aorist tense.” While it has different shades of meaning and usage, the one I remember is how it is used to describe a completed past event that has continuing impact into the present. One obvious use would be in John 3:16: “For God so loved the world...” Another would be in talking about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a completed event, but it has a continuing impact on you and me and on the world.

Of course, the aorist tense could also be used to describe last night’s tragedy: “The Francis Scott Key bridge collapsed last night.” It is a completed event, but the effects and impact of it will be ongoing and far-reaching.

So “once again” we are reminded that we live in a world of great beauty and deep pain, of joyful ecstasy over the reality of Christ’s resurrection and its power to transform lives, and of tragedies whether caused by accident or on purpose that tear apart the fabric of families and our confidence in God’s loving care and power to redeem and to save.

We repeat the Easter story again and again because we need to cling to the promises that come with the story. None of us get through the human journey without loss, pain or grief. The cross is there – empty – to remind us God in Christ is ultimately triumphant over death. In the meantime, our comfort and reassurance rests on our God of love and compassion. Thanks be to God!

In faith, hope and love ,
Pastor David & Nancy



Prayer Requests

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

- Amy D.
- Amy L.
- Anita
- Baby Matt
- Ben starting chemo.
- Beth
- Bev
- Bob
- Bob Price Sr.
- Bobby
- Brian with eye problems
- Carmen
- Cindy Jones
- Cindy Rispoli
- Donna recovering from heart surgery.
- Esther
- Ethan
- Faye
- Fred & Charlie
- Gary & Bruce's family
- Greg Kruger in hospice care.
- James Starkey
- Jim & Hazel Horn
- Joan
- Joan Bentley Reynolds Lemke
- John & Connie Dubas
- John Newcomer and for Jolene's friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
- John Piazza
- Joy
- Karen M.
- Karrie Bartlette
- Kenny
- Kim
- Kris Krueger needing surgery.
- Larry Turner
- Laura Magnuson
- Lorri Ochs
- Lynn
- Michele
- Mike Blackburn
- Molly
- Paul Opilla
- Paul recovering from ACL surgery.
- Penny
- Prayers for peace
- Ray
- Richard Brown
- Robyn
- Ron Gibbins
- Roy
- Skye Bak
- Sue
- The family of Greg Krueger
- The family of Irene Little
- The family of Daniel McCain
- The Orr & Mattos families on the 10th anniversary of Aunt Carrie's passing
- Tom Coulter

JOY

- The wedding of Autumn Smith & Alex Lawhun.
- Jean Smith's 93rd birthday



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/>



MANNA HOUSE \$5 SPAGETTI DINNER – Indoor dining or take-out , First Presbyterian Church, 54 High St., Newton (Church Street Entrance), April 9th 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 – We are always looking for help with providing a meal for a sick church member or for a person or family in need. If you would be willing to take part in this ministry of care and concern (on an occasional basis), please let Linda Osbourne know. Thanks!



UPDATING OUR 2024 CHURCH DIRECTORY – We are currently working on updating the Church directory. If you or your family have any contact updates, please contact Alycia in the office at 973-948-3495 or at presbsec@ptd.net.

DISCERNMENT TEAM BEGINS - The discernment study is required by the Presbytery of the Highlands for any congregation that wants to call a new pastor. It is a very thorough process that looks at the life of the congregation, the history, the finances, the theology and certainly at the qualities the congregation will seek in a new pastor. This process is especially helpful for congregations who have had a long pastorate. 1st Presbyterian of Branchville is fortunate to have had over 30 years with Rev. Dr. Jeff Hatch as our pastor. The process will be helpful and hopefully enjoyable. The estimated length of this process is 4-6 months and includes several events for congregational and session involvement. Please keep this team in your prayers. The members of the team are Aimee Nishamura, Corbin Opilla, Linda Osborne, Michael Lutz and Gay Plog. Nancy Young is the facilitator for the team.





SPRING IS HERE — The First Presbyterian Church of Branchville and the Daisey Roe Chain are planning their 27th Annual Spring Flea Market including the thrift shop on Saturday May 18, 2024, from 9 am to 2 pm. Our group will be renting tables indoors / outdoors for \$20.00 each. Table space is limited to 30 tables. 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 May 1st, 2024, to reserve your space.



Co-Chairwomen: Marion Alden and Beverly Keur
 Marion Alden, 170 Culver View Lane, Branchville NJ 07826.
 Contact Branchville Presbyterian Church # 973-948-3495



SPRING GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN HIGHLANDS PRESBYTERY

— Parish House of Morristown Church 65 South St, Morristown (plenty of parking in the Parish House lot, and the building is accessible) April 13, 2024 9:30 - Registration 10:00 - Introduction of Speaker/program 12:00 - Lunch 1:30 - Worship 2:00pm - Blessings for safe travel home Our guest speaker is Marianne Montero, who went to the border with the U S A Mission Experience last Fall. She will tell the story of what they saw, experienced, and learned about this region of the country and the issues surrounding immigration. Women from other Presbyteries are welcome! Please register with Doris Christians at dorischristians64@gmail.com via e-mail. \$5.00 will be collected as the door for lunch. There will be lots of information on the Churchwide Gathering, Justice and Peace resources, the Bible Study at Stony Point, making blankets.

DAISEY ROE CHAIN'S SPRING FUNDRAISER — Our C & C Growers Fund Raiser is scheduled April 1 through May 25, 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 MEETING will be Wednesday, April 10th, 3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served. Agenda will be Spring Flea Market on Saturday, May 18th 9am - 2pm. Members had a great time at our February meeting making Easter Crafts for The Bentley residents.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Spring Flea Market event, The Thrift Shop and serving coffee , bagels and lunch. Please plan to attend and volunteer!





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

- ◇ A big "thank you" goes to Linda Osborne, for being our SS volunteer teacher in March along with Liz Dietz who is always willing to help our kids! Next month Karen Opilla and Liz will be our teachers. We hope to see all our beautiful children in Sunday School and church! We will continue to hold SS the first 3 weeks of April with the 28th reserved for family worship.



- ◇ **VBS:** Frankford Plains UMC is looking to hire a VBS Director for the week of August 12th to 16th, 2024. Please inquire at: frankfordplainschurch@gmail.com or call the church office at 973-702-0334. We are excited to announce that this year we will be supporting Frankford Plains Methodist church in Augusta. They have a very fun and dynamic VBS which has been going for 60+ years! As part of our joint efforts for VBS this year, with Frankford Plains Methodist church, we are in need of some volunteers to help support the program. It will be held Mon - Fri, 9:30-12:30, 8/12 - 8/16. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you are interested .

ADULT EDUCATION

- ◇ The next segment of our Adult Bible Study group will be on the topic of "How the Bible Came to Be". We will continue to meet on Thursdays at 5:30, Soup and Study. This will prove to be another interesting topic for all to enjoy. Please join us!



- ◇ As part of Adult Education, we are assessing interest in traveling to the Baps Hindu Temple in Robbinsville, NJ? It is 2 hours away (outside of Trenton). It is the 2nd largest temple of its kind in the world. Please check out the link below and see if you would be interested in visiting. Most likely we will carpool down to keep things easier. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir - <https://www.baps.org>
- ◇ Pastor Nancy is leading a Women's book study on "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. If you are interested, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.



WORSHIP NOTES

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We offer this prayer after we have been called to worship. It is often called the Prayer of Adoration or the Collect. Collect is an older term found in many Christian liturgical traditions. The Collects comprise a set form of prayer which bring together or “collect” our thoughts on a matter; for the Reformed tradition, it collects our thoughts and points us to worship. The language is that of adoration and thanksgiving to God and for the work of Christ and the Spirit in the life of the church.



FEBRUARY SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (3/04)

- Opening balance for February 2024 is \$101,543.
- 2nd Payment of \$626 for Per Capita has been made.
- New line item on the budget for copyright license for music.
- “Souper” bowl fundraiser raised \$210.
- Volunteers needed for the discernment process. Please sign up.
- The Christian Ed Committee is looking into a group activity to visit the Bap Hindu Temple in Robbinsville NJ.
- New 2024 Committee Report book created and available in the office.





Step Up and Out for Stewardship

Our faith tells us that God's grace is free and unmerited and that our call is to respond with gratitude that overflows with generosity. Generosity that doesn't keep score.

Reverend Dr. Rose Niles Minister Relations Offices Northeast Region, Presbyterian Foundation 2/12/24

Stewardship

For many among us, giving is a regular part of what we do. For others, making a pledge might be a new idea. If that's the case, I hope you'll consider how God has blessed you and how you might faithfully respond to those blessings through our church.

By now you have received a letter from the Stewardship Committee advising that after a bit of work, we now have a VIRTUAL PLEDGE CARD.

It is our hope and wish that it will encourage some of our more technical savvy congregants or those that cannot make it to church in person, to pledge. You can type the below URL, complete the google form & click on submit at the bottom of the form, it will be sent directly to the church office.

<https://forms.gle/HY7TxdhogzxZb7mq9>

Our budget reveals a lot about what we believe. I know there are other ways to contribute to the life of this church. The time, talent, creativity and energy that you all give is tremendous. That matters too. Jesus asks us to give him our whole lives. I pray you will be generous to support our church's work and mission. Also, by now, you have received a copy of the narrative budget that was available at the January Congregational meeting. This will help you see and understand how our mission: Gather. Nurture. Proclaim is met.

If you have any questions with the virtual pledge card, you may reach out to the church office or me.

Please include in your prayers to see, understand Christian kindness and a guidance for giving to the church for our community and mission. Remember that when you give a pledge, please honor it.

Yours In Peace, Faith & Fellowship –

Susan Parson

Stewardship Chair

sepki@icloud.com

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	Susan Martin	4/26
Lauren Seeger	4/09	Aaron Kurland	4/27
Leo Clawson	4/14	Chris Williams	4/28
MaryBeth Dean	4/14	Joshua Langley	4/28
Elizabeth Dietz	4/21	Debbie Anderson	4/30
Michael Goldsworthy	4/23		

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Spring Lemon Tart

INGREDIENTS

- 3 large eggs
- 1-1/4 cups sugar
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon grated orange zest
- 1/4 cup butter, melted

CRUST

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 cup ground almonds
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon grated orange zest
- 1/2 cup cold butter, cubed



PREPARATION

1. Let eggs stand at room temperature for 30 minutes.
2. Preheat oven to 350°. Whisk together eggs, sugar, lemon juice and orange zest. Whisk in butter until smooth. Set aside.
3. For crust, pulse first 6 ingredients in a food processor until mixture forms a ball. Press dough onto the bottom and up the sides of an ungreased 9-in. fluted tart pan with removable bottom.
4. Pour lemon mixture into crust. Bake until center is almost set, 25-30 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. Just before serving, sprinkle with confectioners' sugar and, if desired, fresh raspberries.



APRIL VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

Deacon of the Month—Nancy Clink

- 7th – Aimee Nishimura/Trish Cherney
- 14th – Nancy Clink/OPEN
- 21st – Lisa Hughes/Judy Casey
- 28th – Lois Kinney/Linda Wistermayer

LAY READERS

- 7th – Judy Casey
- 14th – Nancy Swanson
- 21st – Marion Alden
- 28th – Mike Lutz

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville
 PO Box 1
 3-5 Wantage Avenue
 Branchville, NJ 07826
 Phone 973-948-3495

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

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

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:

- 7th –
- 14th –
- 21st –
- 28th –

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





APRIL 2024



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																															
	<p>1</p> <p>3:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Panty</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>5:30 PM - 6:45 PM Adult Soup & Study</p> <p>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir</p> 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Daisy Roe Thrift Shop</p> 																																																																																																															
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