



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 23, No. 2

February 2023

February

12th— Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday
(Pastor Jeff and Kay's
last Sunday)



14th – Valentine's Day



20th – Presidents' Day—Office Closed



Every Sunday—10am Live Streaming Worship on Facebook
and then available on YouTube for later viewing

CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER

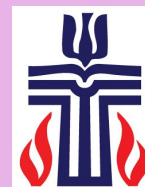


Our Mission Statement:

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
3-5 WANTAGE AVE.
BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME

January 2023



Backwards and Forward

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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As I look backward, what a memorable past month January was. It began quite sadly with doing the funeral of Joanne Lawson. She has been one of the pillars of our assembly, chairing Officer and Personnel, helping us find officers with the Nominating Committee, keeping track of our finances and reporting to the Session every month, singing in the choir, and faithfully attending and participating in the life of the church. She will be greatly missed not only for all she did, but for the person she was: funny, serious, supportive, and a dedicated Christian.

But on the last Sunday of this month I baptized six(!) children into our fellowship. I think some of it has to do with my/our retirement in just a few weeks, but it was so wonderful to walk those children up and down the aisles introducing them to their family of faith. It truly did my heart good to see the next generation of children refilling our ranks as led by their loving parents.

It has felt odd to not be leading a Youth Group these past two years, but I see our Sunday School filling back up and experiencing wonderful lessons each week that keeps them coming back for more, and I foresee a new Confirmation Class and then a Youth Group just a few more years down the line.

And as I look forward I'm heartened to see five new members who just joined our church who will be presented the first Sunday of February, and new officers who will be ordained and installed (or re-installed) the second Sunday. Both of our boards have a full complement of 9, which hasn't happened the past few years. Folks are stepping up to help lead, and that is the mark of a strong church. Pastor Nancy Young will be filling in after I retire, and Robin Van Dyk and other subs will be filling in on the organ after Kay retires, so we know the church will be in great hands for worship. Pastor Nancy will also be moderating our Session and is available for pastoral duties as well (visitations, funerals, weddings, baptisms, etc.) until an Interim is hired this coming Spring. The Session is hard at work writing the job description for the Interim, and it's hoped that a pastor will be found for that position by June 1st.

Kay and I are trying to see beyond February 14th, and the view is murky, but a few things loom on the horizon for us. The first is that we're going to move into a 55+ community in Manalapan, NJ (just west of Freehold in central NJ). It will be much closer to where our boys will live. That is important because we'll be grandparents in August, and can't wait to welcome our first! So this year sees both of us retiring, buying a house, selling a house, and moving close to where our sons' families and our first grandchild will be.

Lots of changes lie ahead for both us and the church in the months ahead, but it can be an exciting time, facing something new and challenging. Let's all head into this unknown future with our known God, who is watching over us and going with us through it all. Looking backwards reminds us that God has always been there for us, which gives us courage and hope as we face forward into the future. May God bless us all as we take these next steps of faith.

Your pastor,





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.

- Adams family
- All those with cancer, depression, dementia, and mental illness
- Annie June
- Audrey & Chick Krug
- Baby Owen & family – born with a cleft pallet & lip
- Barbara Z.
- Beth
- Bev Simon's daughter-in-law Barbara Simon
- Bob's family on the loss of his mother
- Bob Clark at Morristown Medical - out of ICU and doing better
- Bonnie
- The Cabrera family
- Chris
- Chris recovering from a work injury
- Cindy & Ron who lost their house in a fire
- Clara
- Claire Foster-Gilbert
- Connie Van Orden
- Dale Martin
- Dan, recovering from surgery
- Dana Stickler
- Danny Kantewein
- Dave Marion
- David
- The DeBue family
- Dee
- Dennis
- Eileen
- Ester
- Esther Wheeler
- Cindy McMahon's nephew Wesley Crowder who was burned at his work earlier in January. He has skin graft surgeries ahead of him.
- Fred Wheeler
- Gale Danko
- Geri and Paul
- Greg
- Greg Stetzel
- The Grimms
- Harry
- The Heller family with the loss of Donald Heller
- Irene
- Jeremy Willis - foot surgery
- Joyce O.
- Karen K.
- Karen M.
- Kenny
- Kim
- Kim Ferron
- Kip Cash
- Larry has lung surgery in February
- Larry T learning to use new artificial Leg
- Laura - recovering from rotator cuff surgery
- The Lawson family on the loss of Joanne
- Linc
- Lisa
- Lori Laux
- Lois Kinney who has covid again and is quarantined
- Marie Posnak
- Marilyn Adams
- Mary Beth Dean's sister-in-law Sylvia - suffering from Alzheimer's
- Mary Kinney
- Mia Thompson
- Michele
- Midge
- Molly with stomach flu
- Mr. Pipers
- Mrs. Fran Schnell - recovering from triple bypass
- Our joy for the birth of Silas Hayden Tyson to Stephanie Leenheer Tyson and her husband Hayden
- Pat Hayes (Cathy Bambrick's sister)
- Paul Sutphen who is out of ICU, but still in poor health
- Phillip Doland going through chemo
- Phyllis Garber
- Rev. Keyes
- Ruth Lozier
- Sadie
- Scott Williams
- Sean Moore
- Stephanie
- SR
- Sue Smith's family on the passing of her Father Gordon
- The family of Betty Donahoe
- The family of Harper Lindsay
- The Kenny family
- The Osbornes
- The Springer family on the death of their aunt Josie
- The Stroud family on the passing of Luke
- Tyler
- Sylvia
- Vach
- The victims of the shooting in Monterey, CA
- William Graham Jr with a stroke




MISSION NEWS - Manna House in Newton and Harvest House in Sussex are the first quarter Local Mission outreaches for 2022. Both these kitchens are staffed by volunteers and serve an average of 50 people each weekday for lunch. They rely solely on donations and volunteers and receive no government support or grants. Please consider a contribution to keep these kitchens operating. Please help us support these well-established organizations with a check made out to FPCB with "1st Quarterly Mission" in the memo line. If you are in the sanctuary, you can use the special envelopes available. Your donations make a difference!



THE 2023 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - offering will be February 12th, the day of SUPER BOWL!! Donations this year will be added to our 1st Quarter Mission - Manna House and Harvest House. We will have "Soup Pots" in church that day where you can

drop your donation to help feed the hungry folks in our community. Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church of Branchville with "Souper Bowl" on the memo line. You can also give through e-giving by checking the fund list for Souper Bowl of Caring and checking the box next to it. As always, thank you for your support!!



OUR NEXT MEETING

DAISEY ROE – The next Daisey Roe meeting will be Wednesday, February 8th, in the Fellowship Hall. Join us with Trish for her craft project at 1pm. Bring your FPC canvas shopping bag. Meeting at 3pm. Agenda: Room 4, March 8th luncheon, and more. Light refreshments. Hope to see you there!

MANNA HOUSE \$5 SPAGETTI DINNER – Indoor dining or take-out , First Presbyterian Church, 54 High St., Newton (Church Street Entrance), February 14th 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 – There will be a Soup Supper held on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, hosted by the Deacons in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. Around 7:30pm there will be an activity, with communion by intinction and ashes. Pastor Nancy Young will be leading the service and all families are welcomed. Please bring your favorite dessert to share (dinner is on us).



Church News

I ♥ My
Church

In February we are encouraged to think more about the love in our lives. It's also a great time to remember that, as Christians, we have the privilege and power to share the great Love of Christ far beyond our own limited reach. The 2023 Per Capita is \$42.50 per person. Our Per Capita is used to pay administrative costs of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, and also goes toward denominational missions. It would help us meet our budget if you would use the Per Capita envelope, or note on a check "Per Capita," to help us offset what we have to pay out of our church budget. So please, in February, as you celebrate the many gifts of Love, remember to Love Your Church with your Per Capita gift.

OUR FOOD PANTRY is in need of coffee, paper towels, and toilet paper. Please consider picking up a few items while doing your own household food shopping. Thank you! –Jean Ransom & the Deacons

FOOD
pantry

JANUARY SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS of January 9, 2023

- The Session has approved the revised budget for 2023.
- Ordination and Installation of officers will take place on February 12.
- The Congregational Meeting and potluck luncheon will take place after worship on Sunday, January 29.
- Ash Wednesday Service will take place on February 22.
- Rev. Nancy Young and Robin Van Dyk are all set to begin on February 19 in place of Pastor Jeff and Kay Hatch.
- The Session approved job descriptions for Music Director and Organist.
- Many thanks go out to John Grau for six years of dedicated service as our Property Elder. Mike Opilla will assume that position beginning in February.
- 85 % of the people that have submitted their pledge cards have increased their pledge for 2023.
- We have received pledges in the amount of \$80,000 so far.
- Session is writing up a job description for an Interim Pastor.
- Session is responsible for Coffee Hour in March.
- Online viewing for Christmas Day and New Year's Day worship services was over 200. Online viewing for our Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service was 682.



You Are Cordially Invited to Attend
The Retirement Celebration of
THE REV. DR. JEFFERSON LEE HATCH
and **KAYL. HATCH**

Saturday, March 25, 2023

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville
In the Fellowship Hall

Dinner at 5 PM Followed by a Light & Lively Tribute!

COME JOIN US TO SAY,
“THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES”
TO JEFF AND KAY!!

Because Pastor Jeff Loves “Pot Luck,”
An Appetizer or Dessert Contribution Would be Appreciated
And BYOB if you wish

Please RSVP to Alycia in the Church Office
By March 10th - Email or Telephone
presbsec@ptd.net or 973-948-3495

Contributions to a Congregational Gift
May be Sent to FPCB
PO Box 1, Branchville NJ 07826
ATTN: Alycia MEMO: “Gift”
It Will Be a Memorable Evening of Fun and Fellowship

THANK YOU'S

Dear Members of the Church,

Thank you so much for all you did to make Joann's service and reception so lovely and memorable.

The Lawson Family



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Dear Friends,

We are so thankful for your generous donation from our 2022 Souper Bowl of \$311.00 to help feed our community.



With great appreciation,
The Manna House Board of Directors
Secretary, Beverly Simon

.....

Dear Pastor Hatch,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, volunteers, and clients of *Harvest House*, I want to thank you for your generous support of our efforts to feed the hungry in the Sussex community.

Sincerely,
Margaret G. Behnke
Secretary, *Harvest House*



GET TO KNOW SOME OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

Hi, my name is Dot Westpy. I live in Hackettstown. I was a former member of this church, I became a Deacon, and I belonged to the Daisey Roe Women's Organization. I have moved back to this area from Brick, NJ, after many years. I'm married to Richard Westpy. We have 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

.....

Hello, my name is Patrick Murphy, I was born in Lyndhurst, NJ and spent my teen years in Rockaway Twp. After sometime in the Navy I lived in California. I was raised in the Catholic Church and I have 2 daughters from a previous marriage (Erica 24, Alyssa 20). I have worked in construction as an electrician since H.S. but now work in code enforcement and education. I enjoy cooking and baking and I have a large collection of vinyl records (all genres).

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I am Michael Lutz, Debbie Anderson's youngest brother. I was raised in Branchville and was a member of the Branchville Presbyterian Church from about 1966 to about 1979. I was an Elder of the church when I was in High School. My career has taken me to Atlantic City, NJ to Memphis TN to Corning NY to Bernardsville NJ to Washington DC and I have joined PCUSA churches wherever I have lived, serving on Session in both Bernardsville and Washington. I am semi-retired and my wife and I chose to come back to Sussex County. We moved into a new home in Sparta in October. I visited both the Sparta and Newton churches and neither felt right to me. When I returned to Branchville Presbyterian, it felt like home. I would love to rejoin the church and complete the circle.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY

Elizabeth Bellush	2/1	Carly Swanson	2/19
Richard Martin	2/2	Erika Clausen	2/20
Alycia Gardner	2/3	Paul Sutphen	2/23
Mike Opilla	2/4	Aidan Becker	2/27
Jim Rawson	2/10	Bryant Hatch	2/27
Ember Morris	2/18		

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Banana Cake

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (15-1/4-ounce) package white cake mix
- 1 (4 serving size) package instant banana cream pudding and pie filling
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 very ripe bananas, mashed
- 1 cup mini chocolate chips
- 1 cup hazelnut spread with cocoa
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds (optional)



PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Coat a 9- x 13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl with an electric mixer, beat cake mix, pudding mix, milk, oil, and eggs until thoroughly combined. Add bananas and chocolate chips; mix well. Pour batter into baking dish.
3. Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean; let cool. Spread chocolate hazelnut spread evenly over top of cake and sprinkle with almonds if desired. Cut into squares and serve.



February

USHERS

Deacon of the Month - Aimee Nishimura

5th – Ann Bain/Bev Keur

12th – Krista McCallum/Lisa Hughes

19th – Ben Simons/Gail Burckes

26th – Nancy Clink/Deb Gardner

LAY READERS

5th – Linda Osborne

12th – Kristen Reinertsen

19th – Donna Havelin

26th – Sandy Carlisle

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>

(ask to be friends with "firstpresbyterian branchvillenj")

You may e-mail

the secretary at presbsec@ptd.net

or the pastor at pastorjh@ptd.net

View a daily devotion at:

<http://www.d365.org>



FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR

CHANCEL CHOIR

FEBRUARY FLOWER CHART:

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

Dates:

5th

12th

19th

26th

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





FEBURARY 2023



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																					
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