



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 23, No.1

January 2023



2nd – Office Closed for New Year's

16th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Office Closed



29th – Annual Congregational Meeting



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
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BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME

January 2023



What a Year It Will Be!

FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

INDEX	Pg
Cover Page	1
Pastor's Page	2
Prayer Concerns	3
Church News	4
Session Update	5
Birthdays/Recipe	6
Information/Calendar	7-8

Happy New Year!

2023 looks to be an auspicious year for the church! Kay and I are still here until mid-February before retiring, but then Pastor Nancy Young will be filling the pulpit for about 3½ months. During that time the church will write up a job description for an Interim Pastor who we're looking to have onboard around June 1st. Then, over the next year one of the Interim's duties will be to help the church do a Mission Study that includes a number of factors: community description, missions undertaken and hoped for, duties of the incoming called pastor, and more.

So that means you'll have 3 pastors in your pulpit this year: first me, then Pastor Nancy, and then your Interim Pastor. Sometime next year (2024) the church should be ready to call your next full-time pastor. Whoever you'll call is out there somewhere, being prepared to take on the duties and responsibilities of being your pastor, just as I was being prepared to come to Branchville prior to 1990.

How was I prepared? I'd done a year's internship (1981-82) in Michigan under a wonderful mentor by the name of Bob Battles. He met with me every week to go over how to do ministry – like doing a baptism, wedding, or a funeral, leading committees, writing sermons. I worked full-time at the church, and got on-the-job-training as a student pastor.

Once I graduated in 1983, I began ordained ministry in West Chester, PA, at a large downtown church as an Associate Pastor under Head of Staff Bob Young (Pastor Nancy Young's father-in-law). Since I wasn't a student any longer, Bob treated me as a colleague, but he was still a mentor to me in many ways, as I observed him running his staff meetings, leading Session meetings, preaching (at which he truly excelled), and in pastoral care (visiting the sick, counseling the bereaved, etc.). After 7 fulfilling years as an Associate Pastor, Kay and I decided to look for a church where I would be its pastor.

And here it is that I'm in my 33rd year at Branchville! I was prepared to take on the role of pastor with the help of a couple of Bobs, a lot of wonderful parishioners, along with the welcome I received in Branchville. I believe God prepared me to minister here so that together we've been able to do some wonderful ministry over these decades.

So I suggest you begin now to offer prayers that God will be preparing your next pastor. She or he won't be here for about another year and half, so that's a good amount of time to be praying for her/him. Trust that it will happen in its own right time, that whomever you call will be the right person to lead you in both old and new directions, and that together you'll be an even greater witness to God's love in Branchville in the coming years. 2023 should be an auspicious year to begin preparing the soil for planting a new ministry here, in this wonderful church. Happy New Year! Your 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.

- Anyone for whom the holidays bring sadness
- Barbara Z.
- Danny
- Dave Marion
- David
- David Roberts
- Dennis
- The Baretto family on the passing of Kaleb
- Beth and her boys
- Betty Donahue
- Billy Allison
- Bonnie
- The Cabrera family
- Charlotte Lawson on the loss of her son Bill to cancer
- Chris
- The Chris Hague family
- Danny Kantewein
- Dave Marion
- David
- David Roberts
- Dennis
- Don Swanson and family
- Ed Adams and his family
- Eileen
- Esther Wheeler
- Fred Wheeler
- Gail Danko had a stroke and is in Overlook Hospital
- Geri & Paul Sutphen
- Greg
- Griffin Sandberg and his family, recovering from a serious car accident and in the hospital
- Harry
- Irene
- Isabelle Hansen
- Jim Clark
- John & Joanne Lawson
- Jolene
- Joyce O.
- Karen M.
- Kenny
- Kim Ferron
- The Kistle Family for the loss of Joseph Kistle
- Larry
- Laura, speedy recovery from hip surgery
- Linc Keur recovering from a heart attack
- Lynn
- Makenzi Decker
- Merry Christmas to all and peace on earth
- Michele
- Mr. Pipers
- Prayers to family and friends for the passing of Kaleb Baretto 17 yrs old
- Rev. Keyes
- Richard Westpy at Morristown hospital undergoing heart surgery
- Robert Burkhart
- SR
- Stanley Utter and family for the loss of his daughter Karen and husband Mark
- Stephanie
- Stephanie Pat
- The Swanson family on the loss of Don Swanson
- Swistack and Fenton family's with the passing of Don Swanson
- Sylvia
- Tracy Gibbins Okeson home recovering surgery
- The Witters family and the loss of Bud





STEWARDSHIP - Thank you to all those who have turned in their pledge card for 2023. If you have not turned in your pledge card yet, please drop it in the offering plate during our worship offering, or mail it in to the church office (PO Box 1, Branchville, NJ 07826). Additional pledge cards may be found in each pew or the office (973-948-3495) will send you one. Thank you!



MISSION NEWS - It's a new year – with an age-old challenge: hunger! Our first quarterly Local Mission once again focuses on helping to feed the hungry in two local “soup kitchens”: Manna House and Harvest House. Although there have been some changes in their programs, these places continue to provide a solid meal to those

in need. Your donations will ensure food, along with the containers and accessories needed to serve the meal, can be delivered to our local population in need. 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!



ANNUAL REPORTS ARE OVERDUE - The deadline to submit your 2022 Annual report was December 30th. Please email it to the church office ASAP at: presbsec@ptd.net or drop it off. Thank you!

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES - For those who use offering envelopes, your new box may be found on the table just inside the Fellowship Hall - organized in alphabetical order. For those who chose to be assigned a “giving number” rather than using the boxed envelopes, you may continue to use the envelope number that was assigned to you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the church office.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR - Our Annual Potluck Luncheon and Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th immediately following worship. Please bring a dish to share during what would normally be Coffee Hour, and at dessert time we'll begin our meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to review our Annual Report and elect any final officers for elder or deacon. We hope to see you here!



DECEMBER SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (12/12)

- The Fellowship Committee sent letters to those that have not participated in church over the past two year. In September eight names came off the roll by the member's request. By the end of December possibly 36 more names will come off the roll (we're waiting to hear if any responded to our 2nd letter inviting them to remain active).
- Pastor Jeff is meeting with our Administrative Assistant and videographer so that his retirement will be as smooth a hand-off as possible.
- The baptism of Joni Laurel Clawson and Mavis Jane Clawson was approved for January 29, 2023 for the daughters of Julie Anderson Clawson and Benjamin Clawson.
- The church received a \$25,000 gift from an anonymous donor.
- The Sunday School Christmas Pageant will take place on December 18th.
- The Sunday School students earned "Daisey Roe" dollars by relating acts of kindness and service they performed. They then took the Daisey Dollars to the Daisey Roe Pop Up Store (in the Nursery) where they chose gifts from the display that members of Daisey Roe set. It was a huge success! Many thanks to Nancy Clink who was the liaison for this project.
- The Fellowship Committee sponsored the Graham Cracker Village project in the Fellowship Hall on December 4th.
- The Fellowship Committee plans to hold a Cake-Walk fundraiser on Friday, February 10th. The proceeds from this will go to the quarterly mission.
- There will be carol singing on Christmas Eve at 7:15 pm followed by our candle-lighting service with Lessons & Carols at 7:30 pm.
- We will hold a Christmas Carol Sing on January 1st led by Mike Opilla, with Robin Van Dyk on organ.
- January 29th will be a Congregational Meeting preceded by a Potluck Lunch.
- February 12th will be the "Souper Bowl of Caring" mission, and Installation and Ordination of officers. It will also be Pastor Jeff's last Sunday with us.
- Tiger loops have been installed on the sanctuary boilers to remove air in the lines.
- A lot of the replaced lights from Room 4 have been re-used in other rooms in the Fellowship Hall.
- Our Stewardship Committee reports that so far 29 pledge cards have been returned. Over 50% of them have increased their pledge from last year, but we're hoping many more will be returned soon.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JANUARY

James Bellush	1/4	Kathleen Katzenstein	1/16
Debbie Gardner	1/4	Sam Decker	1/18
Virginia Fitch	1/4	Cully Opilla	1/24
Judy Casey	1/8	Trish Cherny	1/29
Billy Leenheer	1/11		
Corine Barton	1/12		

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Ham and Potato Soup

INGREDIENTS

- 3 1/2 cups peeled and diced potatoes
- 3 1/4 cups water
- 3/4 cup diced cooked ham
- 1/3 cup diced celery
- 1/3 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons chicken bouillon granules
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 5 tablespoons butter
- 5 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups milk



PREPARATION

1. Combine potatoes, water, ham, celery, and onion in a stockpot. Bring to a boil; simmer over medium heat until potatoes are tender, 10 to 15 minutes. Stir in chicken bouillon, pepper, and salt.
2. Melt butter in a separate saucepan over medium-low heat. Add flour; cook and stir until thick, about 1 minute. Whisk in milk; cook and stir until thick, 4 to 5 minutes.
3. Pour milk mixture into the stockpot; cook and stir until warmed through.



January

USHERS

Deacon of the Month - Aimee Nishimura

- 1st – Linda Osborne /Aimee Nishimura
- 8th – Judyth Casey/Wende Clausen
- 15th – Marion Alden/Linda Osbourne
- 22nd – Aimee Nishimura/Open
- 29th – Aimee Nishimura/Open

LAY READERS

- 1st – Hymn Sing/No Lay Reader
- 8th – Vicky Martin
- 15th – Judy Casey
- 22nd – Marion Alden
- 29th – Bill Haggerty

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

and Facebook at:
<http://www.facebook.com>
 (ask to be friends with "pastorjh@ptd.net")

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>



JANUARY COFFEE HOUR

DEACONS

JANUARY 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

