



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 23, No. 9

September 2023



SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE:



4th Labor Day
(Office Closed)



9th Daisey Roe Flea Market/Thrift Shop



10th Rally Day



22nd 1st Day of Autumn



Every Saturday—Daisey Roe Thrift Shop is open from 9am-12pm

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 23, NO. 9

September 2023

Welcome Pastor Pete Hofstra

I am Rev. Peter Hofstra, Pastor Pete, and it will be my privilege to walk with you in this time of transition here in Branchville. I presently hail from Edison, New Jersey, where I live with my beautiful wife Lynn, my son Matthew, and our three dogs. Before coming here, I served the First Presbyterian Church of Perth Amboy for over twenty years as their called pastor. Prior to that, I served for a short time at the First Presbyterian Church of Bernardsville and actually began ministry as a chaplain at a nursing home/rehab center in Mountainside.

Accent-wise, occasionally the Canadian of my birth may slip through.

My family hails from Canada and lives there presently, most of them in the greater Toronto area (or 'Trono' if the Canadian slips out).

I received my Master of Divinity in the last century from Princeton Theological Seminary. I am not actually Presbyterian by birth but was raised in the Christian Reformed Church, a church of Dutch Reformed heritage over and against the Scottish Reformed heritage of the Presbyterian Church. Before the M.Div., I received in M.A. in Religion from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, with a focus in Biblical Studies. I am, rather proudly, a bible nerd.

In the coming year, the journey we will take together is one of renewal, re-discovery, and reimagining of the faith life of the Branchville Presbyterian Church. This is the time for the community to come together to explore who you are in the Lord. This is inclusive of processing the emotions of a long-time pastor leaving, the questions of 'what comes next', and the exciting possibilities of what lie before us.

In the meantime, our journey of faith goes forward. We will worship, we will serve, we will eat (maybe my biggest pastoral hazard outside of talking too much), and we will enjoy the love of the Lord together. I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you in the weeks to come. I ask for your prayers for myself and this church as we seek to step intentionally into the Lord's Plan.

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May the Peace of Christ Be With Us,
 Pastor Pete
 Rev. Peter Hofstra





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

- Anita
- All students heading back to school
- Amy Swansons Swistacks, Father in law, Jim
- The Ayers family with the passing of Janine
- Beth
- Bill - major heart attack
- Carolyn
- Carmen
- Casey
- Charlie Oross
- Claudia
- Danny
- David
- Dick Maston
- Dr. Sam
- Donna
- Edie
- Eileen
- Elizabeth
- Ethan
- The Emilio family
- Esther
- Evalyn
- The family of Case who is undergoing lung surgery

- The family of Case who is a newborn undergoing lung surgery
- The family of Dee Drake with her passing
- The family of Hop Cassidy
- The family of Joseph Spagnuolo
- Fred
- Garrett
- Grace Presbyterian in Montclair
- Glen
- Greg
- Hop Cassidy
- Irene
- Jack Newcomer
- Jean Ransom
- Jess Snyder
- Jim
- John F. he finds suitable housing
- John Phillips and family
- Jonathan
- Jolene
- Joyce
- Kathleen
- Karen
- Ken
- Kenneth Michael Brown
- Kim
- Larry
- Laura
- The Mallozzi family
- Mark
- Mary
- Mary Lou Willis
- Michael G.
- Michael W.
- Michelle healing from surgery
- Mika
- Mollie
- Monaco family for their loss.
- Mr. Pipers

- Mrs. DalCin with cancer
- Nancy Woodley
- Olivia Campbell
- Our Nation
- Pat
- Paul
- Paul Opilla
- People of Maui
- Phil
- Richard Parson and family
- Riley Faith
- Robert Griffiths family with his loss
- Ryan
- Sam
- Shantel's Mother
- Scott
- Scott & Debbie Williams
- Sliker family for passing of Vincent
- Steve Visaggio
- The Adler's
- The Tracy's
- Tom Coulter
- Tyler
- Vera Rumsey Knee surgery
- The Wright family



- Baptism of baby Maverick Doran Opilla
- Bob Clark's 90th Birthday
- David & Liz Yaden are Grandparents again. Dave & Mary had a little boy
- The birth of Pastor Jeff & Kay's Granddaughter Mary Grace Hatch



Church News

DAISEY ROE FLEA MARKET - Fall is just around the corner. The First Presbyterian Church of Branchville and the Daisey Roe Chain are planning their 26th Annual Fall Flea market including the thrift shop on Saturday September 9, 2023, from 9 am - 3 pm. Our group will be renting tables indoors or outdoors for \$20.00 each. Table space is limited to 30 tables. We do the advertising and provide tables for outdoors and sunshine only. Daisey Roe keeps spaces for our church members who are interested in renting a table. Please send in your check by September 4th 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.



DAISEY ROE NEWS – Daisey Roe members and guest, Joni Drake enjoyed a beautiful day at the lake for their annual picnic. Special thanks to our hostesses Marion and Trish. Thanks to the grill master; delicious cheeseburgers. Plans were discussed and finalized for the fall Flea Market, September 9th and includes thrift shop shopping 9am - 3pm. Come shop, have coffee and bagel's and stay for lunch. Remember September 9th is also Branchville Garage Sale Day.

Our C & C Growers fundraiser for Missions will benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbytery of the Pacific response to deadly fires on Maui. Presbyterian Mission Presbyterian Church (USA), 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville. Ky. 40202. Thanks for your support!



MANNA HOUSE \$5 SPAGHETTI DINNER - Outdoor dining or take-out (weather permitting), First Presbyterian Church, 54 High St., Newton (Church Street Entrance), September 12th 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!



RALLY DAY is on Sunday, September 10th and will be a fun filled adventure with a welcome craft, a song, a prayer, and playing on the playground (hopefully!) Please join us for a fun day to kick off our Sunday School year.



FOOD PANTRY NEWS - Beginning in September, our food pantry will only be open on WEDNESDAYS from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Any questions, please see Linda Osborne. Now through September 24th 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.

AUGUST SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Session approved the purchase of a new stove at \$1700.
- All bills for June are paid up.
- Rally Day will be held on September 10, 2023.
- Jeff and Kay Hatch have repaid the \$50,000 loan from the church to purchase their house and included an extra \$10,000 to the church. Many thanks go out to the Hatches for their many years of excellent service and for the donation.
- Communion in September will be by intinction.
- Elder Mark Hontz will be back to preach on September 10, 2023.
- Worship will be on the Opilla Farm on August 28, 2023 followed by a pot luck luncheon.
- There is a new policy for new hires. Once this is approved by Session, it will be a digital document, available for all to see.
- Pastor Pete will begin as interim Pastor on September 17, 2023.
- A dead tree in the back yard will be removed by Midhurst soon.
- Poison ivy will be sprayed.
- Pastor's office has been painted, New ceiling tile and lights will be done soon. This was funded by the Daisey Roe Group.
- Daisey Roe wants to paint Alycia's office at a future date.
- The front door of the church needs to be replaced. Shopping around for a good price.
- The old stove in Fellowship Hall will be removed and a new stove will be installed.
- The sign out front of the Sanctuary needs to be updated. The words "Christian Counseling" needs to be removed as we no longer have a counselor.
- Will be selling some office furniture and an extra refrigerator. Also need to dispose of an upright freezer.
- There was some discussion on whether or not to remove the rainbow symbol on the sign out front. It was decided by Session to keep the rainbow symbol as a confirmation that "All are welcome".
- Beginning September 1, 2023, the Food Pantry will be open Wednesdays only.



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 needs and is well vetted by Charity 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 7th 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

THE BELLS OF BRANCHVILLE will have a meeting in Room #2 on Sunday, September 10th at 11:30 to make plans for the upcoming year. If you were in this handbell group last year and are not able to attend the meeting, please see Dawn Latincsics. Interested in playing handbells and would like to join the group? Also see Dawn Latincsics.





Step up and out for Stewardship

Exodus 16:11-16, 31 (God provides manna to the Israelites in the wilderness)

The provision of manna to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness is a reminder that God provides abundantly for all of us. The details in this story of “meat at night and bread in the morning” and the delicious description of the manna offer a unique perspective that God doesn’t just give us the bare minimum, but provides abundantly. In turn, we are called to share abundantly in our response to God, not just offering the bare minimum, but offering our best.

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett is Pastor and Head of Staff of First Presbyterian Church in Hastings, Nebraska. He is a native of Flagstaff, Arizona, where he was an active member of Federated Community Church. Greg is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, and he also holds a Master of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Greg has worked in small, medium, and large churches and also worked at the PC (USA) denominational offices in Louisville as the general manager of Presbyterian World Mission.

What is Stewardship: Service

Service is one of the 4 pillars of stewardship. It is love in action.

Why discuss service now?

- * Maybe because it starts with an S as in September.
- * Maybe because in September, in the world as we know it, school starts, activities and calendars change, and in our case, a new interim minister will join us.

Love is a core of stewardship. If love is in action, how can you serve? Think not just of how to serve in our church. How do you serve your community? How do you love or serve spiritually? Do you serve with time, talent or treasures?

Time: Sharing our time is a truly wondrous part of stewardship. As we take time from our daily busy schedules to do good works for God, we receive a lesson in caring, loving, and kindness. It is through those lessons that we get a fuller understanding; it truly is better to give than it is to receive.

Talents: God entrust each of us with multiple talents and abilities to be used for God's purposes. Talents may be natural or developed interest. As we come to understand stewardship, we are challenged to look inward, to acknowledge our own skills and talents, and apply those things to our daily life for the glory of God.

The above scripture from Exodus reminds us that our God is to be celebrated. We celebrate all year the abundance He and our church gives us.

We show our gratitude in the action of serving. As we receive the Word of God through worship, scriptures, and witness, stewardship becomes an issue of faith development expressed through generosity and commitment toward continuing Christ’s work in the world.

Yours In fellowship –
Susan Parson
Stewardship Chair

MANNA HOUSE

We celebrate our 35 years of love and service
with grateful hearts

We joyously celebrate and gratefully thank
our 26 dedicated Congregations,
our Board Members, and Volunteers.

It is because of your tireless and faithful spirit that Manna House
continues to thrive and provide meals each day
to any and all who enter.

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.' ^{NIV}

Let us be reminded of the power of the human connection
and the coming together.

It is because of our ecumenical efforts and the coming together
that we have been able to open the door
and give the gift of an abundant meal,
as we offer God's love through our human connection.

May the journey that we travel together
bring light, and life,
and God's enormous and unending love
into your hearts and the hearts of those we serve.

Thank you

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SEPTEMBER

John Lawson	9/1	Mike Osborne	9/22
Regina Snyder	9/1	Nancy Price	9/23
Cathy Goldsworthy	9/8	Stephanie Block	9/24
James Van Houten	9/9	Rachel McAuliffe	9/25
Corinne Coulter	9/12	Gavin Leenheer	9/26
Pat Leenheer	9/13	Cooper Cannon	9/27
Donna Havelin	9/16	Becky Goldsworthy	9/30
Nancy Swanson	9/21		



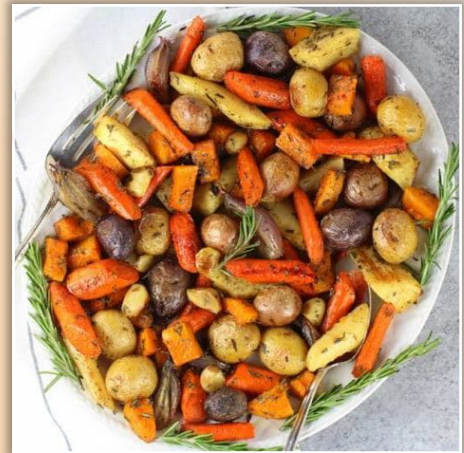
RECIPE OF THE MONTH



Roasted Fall Vegetables

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound peeled carrots & parsnips
- 1 1/2 baby potatoes
- 1 package of cut butternut squash
- 5 shallots, cut lengthwise
- 1 head of garlic, cloves separated
- 3 Tablespoons olive oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pepper
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 Tablespoons chopped rosemary or thyme



PREPARATION

1. Preheat the oven to 425°. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Place all the vegetables in a large mixing bowl, add the oil, salt, pepper, rosemary and give them a good toss. Arrange the mixture in a single layer on the baking sheet. If they don't all fit use two baking sheets.
3. Bake at 425° for 30-40 minutes or until all vegetables are tender and lightly browned.
4. Transfer roasted vegetables to a large serving platter and serve warm.



SEPTEMBER
USHERS

Deacon of the Month—Marion Alden
3rd – Gail Burkes/Gay Plog
10th – Bev Keur/Ann Bain
17th – Marion/Buzz Alden
24th – Aimee Nishimura/Wende Clausen

LAY READERS

3rd – Lois Kinney
10th – Trish Cherney
17th – Open
24th – Open

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>



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:

- 3rd -
- 10th -
- 17th -
- 24th -

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

Flowers By Lisa 862-268-3123





SEPTEMBER 2023



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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