



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 24, No. 5

May 2024

MAY AT A GLANCE:

12th – Mother’s Day



18th – Daisey Roe Flea Market



19th – Pentecost Sunday
(Wear Red)



26th – Trinity Sunday



27th – Memorial Day
(Office Closed)

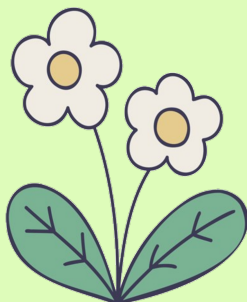




Our Mission Statement:

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	4-5
Christian Education	6
Worship Notes/ Session Update	7
Stewardship	8
Birthdays/ Recipe	12
Information/ Calendar	13-14



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME 24, NO. 5

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A NOTE FROM OUR PASTORS

Dear Friends:

The late April freeze slowed down our gardening a bit, and for that we were grateful. They say “the early bird catches the worm” and “Carpe Diem” and “he (sic) who hesitates is lost” but in this case, there’s a lot to be said for planting procrastination!

Of course, “the days are coming” when we will no longer be able to put off the planting. But that is not this day. Even so, there is much to be done with preparing the garden for the new plants. Loosening the soil, enriching the mix, sharpening the tools, clearing out the leftover debris from last season...yes, there’s plenty to do.

We live in hope and expectation of warmer days (and nights) to come. In the meantime, we need the energy and the will to do the things we can right now. What is keeping us back? Habits? More pressing needs? Stubbornness and pride and not wanting anyone to “tell us what to do?” Memories of failures or events in the past?

The same questions might be asked regarding our involvement in our church family. There’s lots going on in our congregation. This newsletter will give you a taste of all that is happening.

One of the byproducts of the COVID lockdown was we got used to worshipping online from the comfort and convenience of our living room. Yes, we all understand the gravitational “pull” of the sofa(!)

For those of us with mobility and/or health issues, the way COVID made livestream and distance worship a necessity was a “godsend.” Our commitment to providing online worship will continue because we know how important it is to connect with as many of us as possible.

But, now that the pandemic is over maybe it is time for us to reassess our Sunday morning worship and Christian education routines. (Yes, this is a thinly veiled attempt by your Interim Co-Pastors to invite you back to in-person worship!)

Now is the time to stop our procrastination and get back into the habit of in-person worship. It is important to re-establish these patterns now, because “the days are coming” when pastoral candidates will be assessing the health and vitality of our wonderful congregation and deciding whether Branchville is the place to which God is calling them.

How will they get to know you and how will you get to know them? Zoom and livestream technology is great, but it cannot replace being in the same room with one another.

Give it some thought. What is keeping you from attending in person? (Surely the sound quality is better in person!)

See you in church!

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
- Anita
- Anita Kenny
- Annie
- Annie Vealey
- Audry Kimble chemo
- Baby Holly Mae
- Barbara
- Beth
- Bev
- Bill Smith
- Bill, Charles, Davie, Johanna
- Bob
- Bob Fedder
- Bob K.
- Bob Price Sr.
- Charles, Fred, Chris
- Chicago shootings
- Cindy Jones
- Cory T.
- Darla & Rich
- Dave Webley battling cancer
- Deb Seo
- Don Bale
- Donna
- Esther, Kim, Suzi, Jenny
- Friends facing employment issues
- Gaza, Israel, Ukraine
- Gary Hockings spine surgery
- Healing for all
- Jackson
- James Strakey recovering from surgery
- Joey Greene
- John & Connie Dubas
- John Newcomer
- Joyce
- Karen
- Karrie Barlett
- Ken
- Kory
- Larry
- Linda
- Mike Blackburn
- Mike Kallimanus
- Molly
- Pastor for Stillwater Church
- Patrick Burdick & Family
- Paul Opilla
- Paula & family on death of sister in law
- Penny
- People of Baltimore
- Prayers for Hostages
- Robyn
- Rodger
- Ron Gibbins Family
- Sal LaGreca Family
- Sam Castimore
- Susan & Gary Burlew
- The Family of Gary Paporello
- The Jones Family as they mourn the loss of their Brother Dwayne.
- The Malmstrom Family on the death of Daughter
- The Webley Family
- The Wheeler Family
- Tom Coulter
- Tornadoes
- Wayne Card
- World Peace



Church News

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/>



PENTECOST is Sunday, May 19th, so to honor the day when the Spirit came down on the disciples in tongues of fire, we ask that you please wear red to the worship service.

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



THE FOOD PANTRY is in need of eggs and coffee. Please consider donating to this continuous need in our community.

THE DAISEY ROE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

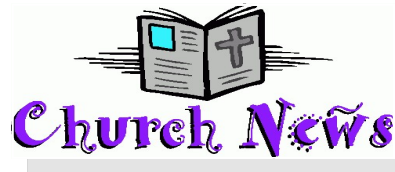


The Spring Flea Market is here, and the First Presbyterian Church of Branchville and the Daisey Roe Chain are planning our 27th Annual Indoor/ Outdoor Spring Flea Market including the Thrift Shop on Saturday May 18, 2024, from 9 am to 2 pm. Our group will be renting tables indoors / outdoors for \$20.00 each. Please stop by to shop and support our efforts. Contact First Presbyterian Church of Branchville at 973-948-3495.

The Thrift Shop is requesting items for sale as well as volunteers for the Spring Flea Market event, coffee, bagels, and lunch will be served. Please plan to attend and volunteer!

The Spring fundraiser is C & C Growers and is scheduled 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.





Painters Wanted!!!

Among the many clean-up and maintenance activities around our church and grounds, getting a fresh coat of paint on our church stairs, ramps and railings is a priority for this year. And, it is not only for the "curb appeal" but certainly to help preserve the integrity wood and the safety of our congregation and visitors. Because outdoor painting is completely at the mercy of weather conditions, it is not possible to set a date very far in advance. SO, I am looking for volunteers (name and phone number) who would be willing to let me know that, whenever the weather is prepared to cooperate, they might also be available to sling some paint! I would call – or text – as far in advance as possible when I think we would be able to break out the paint trays, rollers and brushes. Please send me a note at willobrkfarm@ptd.net or catch me at coffee hour! Besides painting, there are lots of general clean-up of the grounds, shrubs, flower beds, Fellowship Hall, etc. All are "on the list" for attention as we are able to organize the work. When possible, we will use the Sunday Bulletin "Announcements" to advise about projects coming up.



"One small step for man (sic), one giant swig for coffee"

If you've been in the Fellowship Hall lately you may have noticed the rack for coffee mugs on the wall by the door. Our choir director, Dawn's, "day job" is working for renewable resources and recycling. A few weeks ago she remarked on the number of throw away coffee cups we were using during coffee hour and asked whether we could invite folks to bring mugs from home to cut down on needless waste.

Thus the coffee mug rack was born. It is slowly being filled and, as the TV potato chip ad goes, "if we run out (of space), we'll make more."

We encourage you to bring a mug from home to use during Coffee Hour. We'll even wash it for you!

Bring one that has a story behind it. That will make for some interesting conversations after worship!

Thank you for doing this small thing for God's good creation.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

- ◇ A great big thank you goes to our SS volunteers this month, Karen Opilla and Liz Dietz! They did such a wonderful job with the amazing crafts that they have been sharing with us. Next month our volunteers will be Lisa Hughes and Liz Dietz. The theme will be Noah's Art. Our last day of SS will be June 2nd, which will be our celebration day. The children will participate in the worship service that day. The Rehearsal will be after church on May 19th.
- ◇ We are excited to announce 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 on 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.

ADULT EDUCATION

- ◆ The Women's book study will be "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. We will meet once a month on a Wednesday 4:30-6:00 pm Room 4.
 - May 15 - My Story pp. 75-210
 - June 19 - Egypt pp.213 - the end. If you need a copy of the book, please contact Trish Cherney (973-600-3918) as she is ordering used ones (\$4) online.
We hope you come and join us!
- ◆ The Soup and Study continues, Thursday's at 5:30 with the new series "How the Bible Came to Be." Please join us!
- ◆ The trip to Bap's Hindu Temple in Robbinsville, NJ will be Wednesday, June 26th. We will meet at 8:30am to carpool down. The visit will include a tour, followed by lunch in their cafeteria. This will be a very educational and memorable trip. Please view their website to become familiar before the visit at <https://www.baps.org>. See the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

WORSHIP NOTES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

I once had a colleague who wanted to remove the Prayer of Confession from our worship service. "It makes me uncomfortable. I mean, I don't think I did anything wrong this week."

We confess our sinfulness in the Prayer of Confession. Our confession is that we are human; finite, frail and prone to making mistakes. We are not confessing to our individual mistakes or sins - that is for our own prayers. We are the body of Christ together, and we are confident in God's grace and mercy through Jesus Christ. So we can admit our limits, our failings, all with the hope and expectation that we will hear a word of grace. That Assurance of Pardon is a moment of reconciliation and forgiveness. We sing Glory to God with joy and hope. We are ready to hear a word from God!

APRIL SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (3/04)



- Opening balance this month is \$99,060.
- Per Capita third payment of \$626.88 was made on March 20th.
- OGHS raised \$745.
- \$2000 grant came in from Presbytery to cover the cost of new mics totaling \$1198.
- 1st quarter taxes paid Federal \$1741 and State \$188.
- Electrical work completed \$768.
- Coffee has been re-stocked at \$166. \$90 came in from the coffee jar donations.
- Website renewed this year at \$192.
- Our roll count is now 180.
- Cold Nose Warm Heart will hold a pet adoption day in the Fall of 2024.
- Motion was approved to upgrade the sound system in the sanctuary at a cost of \$3402.
- The swing set in the back yard will be taken down and re-furbished.
- Per Capita is coming in slowly. Have received \$963 so far.
- Stove installation has been finalized.
- Music & Worship Committee will purchase two new white banners for the Sanctuary.
- Name tags have been purchased and provided for members and visitors in the narthex to be worn during worship and coffee hour. Baskets are for returning name tags.
- Women's book study will begin on April 17th with the Red Tent being the first book to be discussed.
- The Discernment team will beginning their meetings this week.
- New adult study group began on April 11th. Topic: "How the Bible Came to Be."
- The Pastors' have provided pinwheels on the front lawn to support Ginnies House to promote child abuse awareness.



Step Up and Out for Stewardship

A man stood before God, his heart breaking from the pain and injustice in the world. "Dear God," he cried out, "look at all the suffering, the anguish and distress in your world. Why don't you send help?" God responded, "I did send help. I sent you."

A parable from "Teaching Your Child About God" by David J. Wolpe 1993

Stewardship

The month of May has many important dates. To list a few: May 4th: Star Wars Day, 5th: Cinco de Mayo, 14th: Mother's Day, 19th: NASCAR Day, 29th: Memorial Day. It is also Mental Health Awareness Month, Arthritis Awareness Month, Women's HealthCare Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. For many of us it is the beginning of Spring. Lily of the Valley which symbolizes sweetness and return of happiness is the flower of the month. And emerald, the birthstone of the month, symbolizes love and success. For Presbyterians May 19th is important as Pentecost Sunday, Intercultural Sunday, Presbyterian Heritage Month, and the beginning of older adult week. And the first Thursday of May is the National Day of Prayer.

However, May speaks to you, whichever date is important to you, please use your stewardship of time, talent, and creativity. Use these in church, in the community and in your personal life. Spread the love, sweetness and happiness this month brings. Please include in your prayers to see, understand Christian kindness and a guidance for stewardship to be beneficial for all of May as in the whole year.

Yours In Peace, Faith & Fellowship –

Susan Parson
Stewardship Chair
sepk@icloud.com
551.358.1266

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAY

Karen Opilla	5/7	David Young	5/27
Gail Burckes	5/8	John Grau	5/28
Aeliana Opilla	5/9	Meryl Kurland	5/29
Stacey Van Houten	5/9	Gay Plog	5/31
Emily Billings	5/11		
Debbie Guile	5/13		
Connie Leenheer	5/22		
Lois Kinney	5/25		

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 bottom and up the sides of an ungreased 9-in. tart pan.
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.



MAY VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

Deacon of the Month—John Newcomer

5th – Wende Clausen/Nancy Clink

12th – Sandy Carlisle/OPEN

19th – Judy Casey/Ann Bain

26th – Gail Burckes/Gay Plog

LAY READERS

5th – Patrica Cherny

12th – Linda Wistermayer

19th – Patrick Murphy

26th – OPEN



MAY COFFEE HOUR

DAISEY ROE

MAY 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

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>





MAY 2024



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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