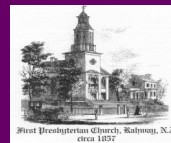


TOWER CHIMES



Volume 12 Issues 5 & 6

May / June 2021

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Special points of interest:

- Church Community News - pgs. 3 & 4
- Prayer Requests - pg. 7

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Announcement

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Worship Services:

On May 2nd & 9th,
Pastor Erin will be
on vacation so there
will be no in person
or Facebook live
stream worship
services.

Links will be
available of other
churches who
worship online and
welcome you to join
them for these two
Sundays.

From Pastor Erin...

"The soul is like a wild animal—tough, resilient, savvy, self-sufficient and yet exceedingly shy. If we want to see a wild animal, the last thing we should do is to go crashing through the woods, shouting for the creature to come out. But if we are willing to walk quietly into the woods and sit silently for an hour or two at the base of a tree, the creature we are waiting for may well emerge, and out of the corner of an eye we will catch a glimpse of the precious wildness we seek." Parker J. Palmer, *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*

I've found this quote helpful to come back to when I find myself weary and tired. We've gone through a wilderness this past year and I believe that many of us are dealing with emotional and spiritual stress that remains. Our God given emotions range depending on the day. Many of us are living with anxiety or depression or what experts are now calling languishing.

"You don't have symptoms of mental illness, but you're not the picture of mental health either. You're not functioning at full capacity. Languishing dulls your motivation, disrupts your ability to focus, and triples the odds that you'll cut back on work." Adam Grant, *New York Times*, April 19, 2021

More than likely most of us are dealing with this feeling right now. And it is part of our God given brain's ability to move through a health crisis that has lasted longer than any of us anticipated. So what happens if we take a step back and ask ourselves how are we really doing? Ask not as if it is a holy assignment that we must pass in order to be in right relationship with God, but as an invitation. For I truly believe Parker J. Palmer is correct, our souls won't heal by shouting at them to come out from hiding. We must be patient enough to nurture our souls by waiting for it to emerge.

Throughout the New Testament Jesus uses imagery of seeds to describe the reign of God. Seeds need love, care and intention to grow. So do we. My prayer for you in this season is that you might be patient enough to let your soul heal. May you grow with the Holy Spirit's intention to move in you and help you be the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Wishing Joanne Noblitt Many Blessings



Joanne has been a faithful member of First Presbyterian since April 10, 1952, when the Rev. Chester Davis was pastor of the church. Ever since that day she found numerous ways to share her gifts of willingness and creativity with the community, all to the glory of God. She was ordained as a ruling elder on January 27, 1974. She was an action elder on session many times and served as Clerk of Session for over 19 years. While serving on session she sat on many committees like Outreach and Worship and Music. Joanne always had a love for Christian Education as she taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible, too. She was always a faithful voice in our choir loft raising her voice to the Lord. You would even see her playing handbells! Even more so she brought her voice to the pulpit many times and shared the word of the Lord.

Her family is blessed, and we are so appreciative of all her hard work and faithfulness during the years. We love you and will miss you. You will always be our church family. May the years ahead be filled with much joy, laughter, and countless blessings. Enjoy California and your family time. God Bless!



Congratulations to Aleya & Maurice



Wedding bells will be ringing with an EventLive broadcast for Aleya L. Daye & Maurice P. Hall on June 12, 2021. Your church family extends their best wishes as you embark on this next chapter of your lives together.

WE'RE SOCIAL DISTANCING
but we just can't wait anymore!

Due to current circumstances we are going digital, but we look forward to celebrating in-person at a later date!
June 12th, 2021 @ 1pm

[HTTPS://EVT.LIVE/N/DAYE/DAYE-HALL-WEDDING](https://evt.live/n/daye/daye-hall-wedding)

Mini Spring Flea Market



May 15
9am-2pm



After a year of not being able to host fundraisers/events at the church, there is a mini spring flea market being held on Saturday, May 15th (rain date is May 22nd). Praise the Lord! It will be mostly an outside event, however, the downstairs area & Davis Hall will be open in hopes of selling some furniture. No bake sale or food items will be available to visitors but there will be refreshments & food for the workers. Speaking of workers...

Help is needed starting at 7am on May 15th. There are those who will have already setup the tents prior, but the tables will need to be setup outside and the items put on display. So please come to the church early so we can quickly and easily get everything in order before 9am, the time when we want to welcome people to begin browsing/shopping. Put in whatever time you can spare, and if you can stay to help sell & clean up, that would be beyond wonderful. The more hands we have, the quicker and easier setting up, selling, and cleaning up will be. Please note that masks will be required.



Also, no donations please until after the flea market. We are trying to clear as much out as possible since we were not able to hold our usual sales last year.

We are so excited to be able to host this important church fundraiser after a year's hiatus. If you're planning on helping, please email the church office or leave a message on the answering machine so that the flea market committee can be notified that you'll be there.

FYI: The downstairs area will be open the first Sunday of each month for anyone who wants to shop.



Rahway Food For Friends



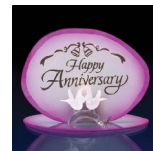
If you're looking for an opportunity to give back to the community this spring, RFFF could surely benefit from some extra food, funds, etc.. The pandemic has caused much hardship for many. They are now serving 600-700 people a month via the pantry. Give them a call and find out what they are in need of:

732-381-7201



May

- 1 - Craig L.
- 1 - Jake H.
- 4 - Gene S.
- 8 - Ruth-Noemi B.-R.
- 10 - Carole H.
- 11 - Laura G.
- 13 - Allyson Faith P.
- 15 - Carol Ann B.
- 16 - Melinda G.
- 17 - Andy R.
- 19 - Uchechi K.
- 20 - Ryder E.
- 29 - Garry G.
- 30 - Glory k.



May

- 11 - Gail & Connie
- 29 - Loretta & Thomas



Congratulations, Graduates

As always, we are so very proud of our graduates. If you would like to share details of your graduation and your future plans, please email the church office so it can be included in our July/August newsletter. Your church family wishes you the best and carries this prayer in their hearts for you always:

*Every Gift Comes From Above...
may your life be blessed with many.*

*God is Abundant in Goodness...
may you know and experience the
fulness of it.*

*God's Love Endures Forever...
may it touch your heart today and keep
you always.*



Congratulations to the three new members of our 2021 fifty year member class:

- Lauris Beam*
- John Ludington*
- JoAnn Roesch*

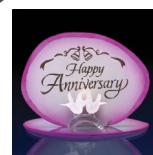
What an amazing faith journey milestone!

We look forward to a future date when we can all gather and celebrate together.



June

- 2 - Kenneth M.
- 3 - Ashley T.
- 4 - Susan K.
- 5 - Judith R.
- 10 - Agnes N.
- 11 - Lauren D.
- 11 - Joshua G.
- 12 - Arden Joesetta C.
- 12 - Chloe T.
- 13 - Sean S.
- 15 - Jack M.
- 17 - Linda S.
- 22 - Michele P.
- 25 - Daniel Rocco M.
- 28 - Donna G.
- 28 - Allison P.
- 30 - Zachary T.



June

- 9 - Jean & Ray
- 11 - Carol & Vincent
- 15 - Leslie & Chris
- 20 - JoAnn & Andy
- 20 - Donna & Garry
- 23 - Sara & Steve
- 27 - Jennifer & Jose
- 28 - Linda & Gene
- 28 - Elizabeth & Steven



Dear Church Family,

I'll start by saying, I miss you. This past year has been full of challenges, loss, stress and more. But it has also been full of opportunities and joy. Last summer I decided to move across the Atlantic to be with my partner. This was a decision that faced many COVID-19 related challenges but I faced it with joy and looked forward to new opportunities.

I made it to Switzerland in October. After the mandatory quarantine, I started to explore the city of Zürich and nearby regions. It's been a blessing to explore a city in which the Protestant Reformation was felt so deeply. I saw many churches which are living testaments of the Reformation. Of course I remembered my Rahway church family every time I walked into a church.

This country is beautiful. The mountains and the lakes are a prime example of God's love and grace for us.

During the Advent season all the different denominations present in Switzerland displayed an Advent light. It was a big bonfire, which sat on a small open boat in the middle of the Limmat River, which runs through the city. For me, this light was a reminder that the guidance and support of God can be felt anywhere and under any circumstances.

Currently, I'm still in a transition period; moving to another country is never simple. I have a good amount of online piano students. I'm also teaching virtual chorus classes. Two opportunities I would not have had outside of this pandemic.

Lastly, I'm grateful to stay in touch with many of you through the Thursday Announcements and the Facebook page. I'm only an email away. Or if you use *Whatsapp*, you can reach me through my US phone number.

Many blessings,
Ruth-Noemí



Happy spring and greetings to all,

I hope this finds everyone doing well and having had their "shots!" This should give us a little more leeway!

Enjoy getting the Tower Chimes & learning what's going on.

Thanks to all the dedicated workers, they deserve a BIG THANK YOU!

Take good care.

Fondly,
Dona

Rev. Erin & all church family,

Happy Easter!

Stay well and safe everyone.

With prayers and love to all,
Ros Casey



Belated wishes...

Due to not issuing a March/April newsletter, we are sending belated wishes to the following people who celebrated birthdays and anniversaries during those months.

March B-days:

- 7 - Jennifer S.
- 13 - Doris K.
- 14 - Jon-Paul D.
- 16 - Russell F. G.
- 18 - Brian N.
- 19 - Debby R.
- 20 - Ruby R.
- 28 - Elizabeth O.
- 28 - Robert B.
- 29 - Marisa E.
- 29 - William M.
- 29 - Leslie F.
- 30 - Jean M.
- 30 - Lilliann Queenie S.

Anniversaries:

- 19 - Uchechi & Ukoha



April B-days:

- 4 - Carleigh Grace R.
- 4 - Andrew Bruce R.
- 12 - Jean K.
- 14 - Alex S.
- 14 - Eric C.
- 16 - Jacob Francis R.
- 17 - Daniel James M.
- 25 - Katelyn Elizabeth C.

Anniversaries:

- 12 - Melinda & Doug
- 13 - Allison & Eddie
- 22 - Jennifer & Jim
- 28 - Marisa & Richard
- 29 - Pastor Erin & Lawrence



“Prayer is tantamount to the closest possible relationship to our loving God; it’s the way even through our earthly lives, that God sees into our hearts and knows our soul.” Daily Guideposts

Today, when our church receives a prayer request, the requested prayer can be sent out to over seventy people in a matter of minutes.

That is quite different from the church prayer chain of the past when a dozen people would receive the request by a chain of phone calls that could take up to a day.

If you have a prayer request, contact Ilanda Kerobo, our prayer chairperson. Ilanda can be reached at ikerobo@comcast.net or 732-382-6193. You can also leave a prayer request at the church office, 732-382-0803. Individuals do not have to be members of the church to receive prayers. All concerns are welcomed. Ilanda will send your prayer request online to her “Prayer Warriors”. If you do not have internet, let Ilanda know that you would like to be aware of the requests so that you too can include them in your prayers.

Ilanda reminds us to pray for those who are permanent residents of nursing homes. She mentioned that we tend to complain about our own restrictions during the pandemic, but forget those whose restrictions are permanent. She also reminded us to reach out to those who are living alone as loneliness can lead to stress. Thanks Ilanda!



Please consider either calling or sending a card to church family who are homebound; call the church office (732-382-0803) if you need phone numbers and/or addresses.

Prayer Requests

Alyne B., Billy H., Carole H., Candie A., Debbie C., Gail, Gary M., Gene S., John C., Mary, Russ G., Savannah B., Tommy

Those that are homebound—Caroline Balla, Doris Kapus, Beverly Woolley



Since we didn't have a newsletter for March/April, the prayer people were sent to church family via email so they could be lifted up in prayer.

Here are those that you can say a prayer for if you didn't get the emails.

MARCH:

Barbara Androvich
Carlos Browne
Jennifer, Ashley, & James Clemens
Aleya Daye

APRIL:

Leslie Ficke
Gerhart Family
Christine Jeffries

If you aren't on our Thursday email distribution list, please send a message to office@1stpresrahway.org so you can be added.



Prayer Persons

MAY

- May 2nd** - **Tori Dunsavage**
- May 9th** - **Alyne Borst**
- May 16th** - **Rosalind Casey**
- May 23rd** - **Tara, Eric & Ryan Crowley**
- May 30th** - **Caroline Balla**

JUNE

- June 6th** - **Bob Bresenhan**
- June 13th** - **Debbie Cornwall**
- June 20th** - **Carol DeLuca**
- June 27th** - **Linda Guariglia**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1731 CHURCH STREET
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

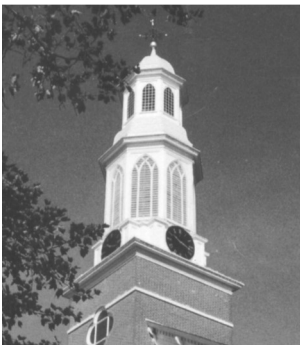
732.382.0803

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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PERMIT NO. 111

**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH**



**Worship with us
Each Sunday at 10:30AM
In person / Facebook Live Stream**

Office: office@1stpresrahway.org

Pastor: revehayes@gmail.com



1stpresrahway.org

