

# TOWER CHIMES



Volume 12 Issue 11

November 2021

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Special points of interest:

- Church Community News - pg. 3
- Prayer Requests - pg. 5

### Inside this issue:

Offering Envelopes / Giving Tree	Pg.2
Reading Medal for Uma / Congregational Mtg.	Pg. 4

### Update on Live Streaming

The Somerset Media Group has been contracted to install a video system that will greatly improve our live streaming capabilities.

They will begin the project shortly. We will continue to keep you updated in the weeks ahead.

Editor:  
CAB  
office@1stpresrahway.org

## From Pastor Erin...

“That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!’” Matthew 13:1-9

“He said to them, ‘Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.’” Matthew 17:20-21

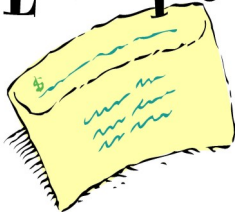
**W**e’ve been taught to compare the amount of the gift we give to God with what others give. It is a human reaction. But if we look at the scriptures from the book of Matthew, it seems as if Jesus uses the image of a small mustard seed to describe the power of faith and the kingdom of God. What we deem small still has the power to grow our faith and the kingdom.

During this time of gratitude, we are grateful for all the ways that you have given to the life of First Presbyterian Rahway. Whether it is teaching Sunday School, setting up for coffee hour, fixing, raking, cleaning, leading worship, serving on session or visiting someone in the hospital, we say thank you. For the power of faith and love grows even more when we give of ourselves in response to what God has done for us. As you consider where God’s reign on earth is sprouting, I pray that you consider giving again to the sprouts of ministry that will come alive in this community over the next year. For whatever you give we know it comes from the heart.

You should have received a “pledge card” in the mail so that you can let us know how you hope to give to the ministry at FPC Rahway in 2022. If not, please reach out to us and we will make sure you receive one. I am looking forward to this upcoming season of Advent when we will play with the theme of *Close to Home* thanks to Sanctified Art.

Blessings to you all-  
Pastor Erin

## Offering Envelopes



### Do you want offering envelopes for 2022?

In early 2021, the Finance Committee ordered boxes of offering envelopes for 2022. The committee decided to order fewer boxes for 2022 since many congregants no longer use envelopes to make their offering. Many members give in other ways, such as, by mailing checks directly to the church, paying from their own banks using their "Bill Pay" feature, by QCD's (Qualified Charity Deductions) from their IRA investment accounts being sent directly to the church, or by giving online. Online giving has become a popular method of supporting the church. One can give online by using a "Give Now" button featured on our website or by using a feature on our weekly Thursday emails. There is also a Mobile App for donating. Soon, one will be able to give online on our Facebook page.

However, there will still be enough boxes for those who desire them. Please leave a message at the church, 732-382-0803, if you would like a box for 2022.

Also, it was decided that the collection for the Initial Offering would be dropped. The intent of this offering over the years was to cover the costs of the envelopes. Initial Offering envelopes will no longer appear in the boxes.

The finance committee appreciates and thanks all congregants for their continued support.



Yes, the Christmas Season has arrived and the Outreach Committee needs your help in offering assistance to families for the holidays.

The Session of this church established "The Giving Tree" many years ago. It was designed to offer support during the holidays to local families faced by difficult times.

Over the past few years, the Outreach Committee has collected only gift cards for distribution. The gift cards enabled recipients to purchase items most needed for the family. When speaking with a parent, you hear the sadness in their voice and feel the hardship they endure every day trying to make their children's memories a little brighter.

Since the beginning, the success of the Giving Tree, and the number of families aided by it, continues to grow due to the strong support the members of this church have always offered. This year, we hope to offer assistance to at least the same number of families as we did in previous years. It is an effort to be reached only with the help of the congregation.



Please consider purchasing a gift card(s) from ShopRite, Walmart, or Target, and present it to a member of the Outreach Committee by **Sunday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>**. If sending a check, please make it out to 'First Presbyterian Church' and put 'Giving Tree' in the memo.



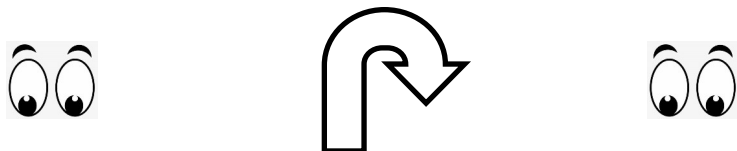
Christmas Blessings,  
Outreach Committee

# Fall Flea Market Update

Through everyone's efforts we raised a GRAND TOTAL of \*insert drum roll\*

 **\$3467.93** 

Considering that it was a scaled-down sale, the sum is especially awesome. As usual, our church family did an amazing job! Thanks to all who donated items, worked at various jobs, and contributed in countless ways.



## Mini Holiday Flea Market

**Saturday, November 20**  
**9am-2pm**

Our holiday flea market will be held on Saturday, November 20th, from 9am-2pm, and will feature Christmas items, jewelry, as well as some of the regular things. This will be an inside-only flea market.

Donations can be dropped off at the church office Monday through Thursday, from 10am-3pm. If you need a pick-up, please call the church office at 732-382-0803, and we will try and arrange one. We are no longer accepting VCRs, VHS tapes, TVs, any/all books, computers, or used clothing.

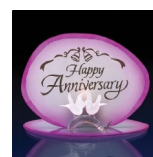
Items will be brought up from the downstairs storage area on Sunday, November 14th. As always, our hardworking crew will be setting up throughout the week from approximately 10am to 2pm, you are invited to come join us if you have the time. If you plan on donating items, please bring them to the Davis Hall door.

There is much to do even though this is an inside sale, so please consider donating whatever time you can. We are so very grateful for the help.



# Nov.

- 1 - Mimi Z.
- 1 - Will M.
- 2 - Candy T.
- 2 - Dana M.
- 2 - Kevin C.
- 2 - Sara T.
- 3 - Layla Ann L.
- 3 - Caitlin C.
- 5 - Jennifer C.
- 7 - Carol H.
- 9 - Jesse T.
- 12 - Jonathan R.
- 16 - Kennedy N.
- 18 - Christopher Daniel S.
- 23 - Robyn K.
- 28 - Harold W.
- 30 - Rosalind C.



# Nov.

- 7 - Robyn & Bryan
- 24 - Lauren & William
- 25 - Bridget & Kennedy

### Decorating for Advent

Yes, the time is fast approaching to decorate the church for Advent on Saturday, November 27th beginning at 9am. Interested in helping? Let Andy know you'll be able to lend a hand.



**And the reading awards go to...**

Uma was in the November 2021 issue of the *Our Town* newspaper. Six students received a medal for completing their September Reading Log and he was one of them.



*Great job, Uma! Your church family is so very proud of you!*

**STUDENTS EARN READING MEDALS**

Students in Mrs. Alicia Scipioni's second-grade class at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway were excited to earn reading medals and prizes from their principal, Dr. Aleya Shoieb as an incentive for completing their September Reading Log.

All students in the school are encouraged to read every night for at least twenty minutes and to complete a reading log every month to enhance their reading skills. These amazing students said they can't wait to get started on their next log.

Franklin School received six free tablets through a Donors Choose grant and they will be raffling them off throughout the year. Students that complete their reading logs are eligible for a chance to win one. What a great way to promote reading!



*(above, l-r) Joseph, Taj, Gabriella, Shawn, Uma, Timothy, and principal, Dr. Aleya Shoieb*

Photo by Rahway Public Schools

**Special Congregational Meeting to Elect Members to the 2nd Pres Mission Fund**

You can participate in the Sanctuary after worship on 11/14 or via Zoom. If you choose Zoom, please let pastor know so the meeting link can be sent to you.

CALL FOR  
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 14, 2021

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY, IS HEREBY CALLED, PURSUANT TO THE BY-LAWS FOR THE CONGREGATION, TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021, DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP, IN THE SANCTUARY AND VIA ZOOM, FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF ELECTING MEMBERS TO THE 2<sup>ND</sup> PRES MISSION FUND COMMITTEE.

BY ORDER OF THE SESSION  
OCTOBER 31, 2021



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**

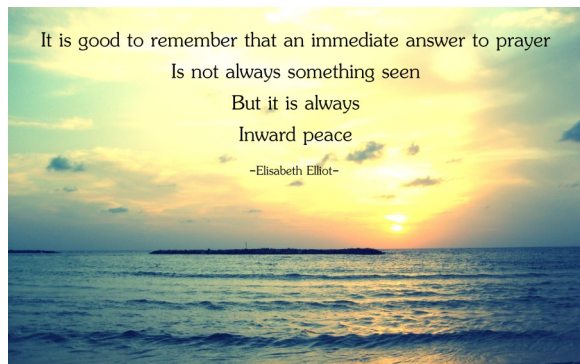
Alyne B., Christine H., Debbie C., Eileen P., Evelyn, Gail, Jeff, John, Mary, Mrs. Kanda, Roger, Russ G., Savannah B., Tommy

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



*Memorial Service for Connie Haefner*

Connie's family is going to hold a memorial service for her on her birthday, Saturday, November 13th. The service will begin at 12noon at the Pettit-Davis Funeral Home located at 371 W. Milton Avenue in Rahway.



**Prayer Persons**

**NOVEMBER**

- Nov. 7th** - John Ludington
- Nov. 14th** - Kristin Bapst
- Nov. 21st** - Dan & Cheryl Martin
- Nov. 28th** - Dawn Mandela

**DECEMBER**

- Dec. 5th** - Jean Kuc
- Dec. 12th** - Will Marsh
- Dec. 19th** - Allison Purcell
- Dec. 26th** - Patrick Weaver

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1731 CHURCH STREET  
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

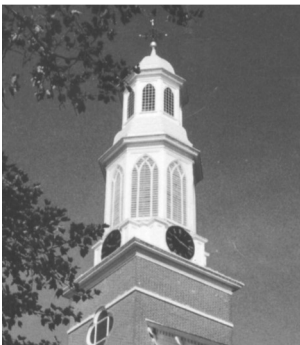
732.382.0803

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

PERMIT NO. 111

**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE RUSH**



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

Office: [office@1stpresrahway.org](mailto:office@1stpresrahway.org)

Pastor: [revehayes@gmail.com](mailto:revehayes@gmail.com)



[1stpresrahway.org](http://1stpresrahway.org)



**Thanksgiving Blessings to all!**