

John 20:18

*"I've seen  
the Lord."*

The Easter message below was written by a former pastor, Rev. Branwen Cook. She wrote it in 2008, and since it is just as meaningful today as it was then, the elders wanted to share it with you once again.

Dear sisters & brothers, may the light and hope of Christ be with you this Easter and always.  
Session



***"O give thanks to God, for God is good..."***  
- Ps. 118:1

Greetings in this Easter Season,

And may you be filled with the renewal of life, especially the life we share in Christ.

On Easter Sunday we raise our voices in glad acclamation,  
"Christ is Risen!"  
"Alleluia! He is Risen indeed!"

Against the squalid backdrop of corruption, war and economic stress which seem ever to grow larger, we who follow Jesus might seem to be trying to avoid reality, clutching at a pair of worn out rose-colored glasses.

What we are doing, however, is affirming that in spite of human error and the devastations of natural disasters, there is light, there is hope, and God is good. If we do not choose to put our strength and resources in the service of goodness, furthering those things we deem worthwhile, then we have simply added to the sum total of darkness. "Christ is Risen!" inasmuch as he rises within each of us and within this community of hope and light at First Presbyterian Church.

So let us be witness to hope, for the world in which we live is sorely in need of the Good News that life is far more than we know, and we are loved far more than we can ever understand!

Grace and Peace be with you and yours.

# TOWER CHIMES



**Vol. 13 Issues 3 & 4**

**March/April 2022**

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

### Special points of interest:

- Church Community News - pgs. 3 & 5
- Prayer Requests - pg. 7

### Inside this issue:

**Update, Not Give Up—  
Lenten Series** Pg. 4

**Church's YouTube Channel** Pg. 6

### **Masks are Optional for In-person Worship**

**Wearing a mask is now optional when attending in-person worship, please do what you feel most comfortable with. The exception is for those who have not been vaccinated, we ask that you please continue to wear a mask while in the church.**



### **How do you wish to receive future issues of Tower Chimes?**

The Church has received requests to post Tower Chimes online. However, we realize that Tower Chimes readers prefer different ways to view the newsletter. In an effort to be accommodating to personal preferences, we will offer the following 3 choices.

#### **Everyone, please choose one of the following:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I prefer to receive Tower Chimes by first-class mail.

\_\_\_ I prefer to receive Tower Chimes online.

\_\_\_ I no longer prefer to receive Tower Chimes.

If you chose first-class mail, please let the church office know this choice. You may mail this form to the church at 1731 Church Street, Rahway N.J. 07065, drop it in the church mailbox or offering plate, or call the office and leave a message at 732-382-0803.

If you choose to receive the newsletter online, send us an email at [office@1stpresrahway.org](mailto:office@1stpresrahway.org).

If you no longer wish to receive Tower Chimes, contact the church office using one of the methods for first-class mail listed above.

Special letters to congregants will continue to be sent by first-class mail whenever necessary.

Thanks for your cooperation,  
Administrative Committee.

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

An online poll will also be available in the weekly email.



**Spring Flea Market  
April 30**

Our annual spring sale will be coming up at the end of April. As always, we need volunteers to help, but 1 & 3 are the ones we could use the most help with since it requires many hands to get these tremendous jobs done. So if you can, we'd so greatly appreciate any time you can give us. Let Carol or Jake know you'll be able to help.

**1. Bringing items up from the downstairs area, Sunday, April 24**

Please consider staying after worship and lending a hand as we move items from downstairs into Davis Hall and the hallway. The more help there is, the easier and quicker this gets done.

**2. Setting up Davis Hall & the Hallway, Monday - Friday**

Setup will be from approximately 10a-2p; Lunch is provided.

**3. Workers on the day of the sale, April 30, 7a-3:30p**

One of the biggest jobs is getting the outside ready, which begins at 7am. We've been blessed with a lot of help over the last few flea markets. Please consider helping at that time and throughout the day, if possible. Lunch is provided. *The end-time noted above includes helping with some cleanup by putting the outside items away.*



**Other Session-approved 2022 flea market dates:**



**September 17th, 9am-2pm**  
Indoor / Outdoor--weather permitting

**November 12th, 9am-2pm**  
Indoor / Holiday Sale



**Mar.**

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



**Mar.**

- 19 - Uchechi & Ukoha



## Lenten Series - Update, Not Give Up

In case you haven't been able to join us for worship during Lent, the Worship & Music Committee had prepared a Lenten Series titled *UPDATE, NOT GIVE UP*. Traditionally, Lent is a time to give up something but instead of giving up, you are encouraged to UPDATE. Updating has 4 components and involves self-reflection guided by a series of questions. Here are the questions/guides presented in March that can be used throughout the year:

### #1 *Become Healthy in God*, presented by Elder Cheryl Anne Cammann

Questions:

1. Did I actively seek ways to grow spiritually today, this week?
2. Did I obey the teachings of Jesus today?
3. Did I open my life to be changed by Christ today?

Self-Reflection Guides:

- \* I will actively seek to grow spiritually this week by ... *(Suggestions: Read a devotion, set aside time to focus on Jesus' sacrifice for me, read the bible, memorize a favorite bible verse)*
- \* A teaching of Jesus that I will obey this week is (are) ... *(Suggestions: Love my neighbor as myself, donate to a charity of my choosing, visit a friend, practice forgiveness)*
- \* I opened my life to be changed by Christ this week by ... *(Suggestions: Pray for God's guidance, creating a new habit of prayer, fasting, meditating; serving others)*

### #2 *Connecting All to Christ*, presented by Carlos Browne

Questions:

1. Would others know that I follow Jesus if they spent time with me today?
2. Did I thank God today?
3. Did I extend Christ's kindness today?
4. Did I pray for someone else today?

Self-Reflection Guides:

- \* I will show others I follow Christ by ... *(Suggestions - help others unexpectedly, offer to pray for someone, wear a cross)*
- \* I am thankful for the following and will remember to tell God that I am ... *(Suggestions - family, friends, children, home, work, play, church, country, freedom)*
- \* I will extend Christ's kindness to others in the following ways ... *(Suggestions - greet others with a smile/hello-especially people I don't know; call a shut-in; write a note, send a text or email; volunteer)*
- \* Those I want to remember in prayer are ...

### #3 *To Be Christ's Light*, presented by Elder Al Shipley

Questions:

1. Did I reflect the Light of Christ today?
2. Did I make someone's life better today?
3. Did I ask for God's help with something today?
4. Have I done something today I would not otherwise have done if it were not for these questions?

Self-Reflection Guides:

- \* I reflected the Light of Christ today by ... *(Suggestions - listening to someone needing to talk, told someone how much I love them)*
- \* I helped make someone's life better today by ... *(Suggestions - telling someone how much they mean to me, taking a burden off someone's shoulder)*
- \* I asked for God's help today with ... *(Suggestions - my attitude, my fears, my faith, my health, my family)*
- \* Something I did today that I would not have done if it were not for these questions was ... *(Suggestions - talked about my faith, encouraged someone to pray about something that is troubling them)*

Continued on page 6



**Hebrews 10:25****A reminder of the importance of gathering as Christ's community**

JoAnn & Andy sent an email a while back of a wonderful message they wanted to share with everyone. It concerns Hebrews 10:25 and serves as a reminder of the importance of gathering as a church family and the support it provides.

***[Let us] not [give] up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but [encourage] one another.***

Hebrews 10:25

I grew up the firstborn son of a Southern Baptist preacher. Every Sunday the expectation was clear: I was to be in church. Possible exceptions? Maybe if I had a significant fever. But the truth is, I absolutely loved going, and I even went a few times feverish. But the world has changed, and the numbers for regular church attendance are not what they used to be. Of course, the quick question is why? The answers are many and varied. Author Kathleen Norris counters those answers with a response she received from a pastor to the question, "Why do we go to church?" He said, "We go to church for other people. Because someone may need you there."

Now by no means is that the only reason we go to church, but his response does resonate with the heartbeat of the writer to the Hebrews. He urged the believers to persevere in the faith, and to achieve that goal he stressed "not giving up meeting together" (Hebrews 10:25). Why? Because something vital would be missed in our absence: "encouraging one another" (v. 25). We need that mutual encouragement to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (v. 24).

Brothers and sisters, keep meeting together, because someone may need you there. And the corresponding truth is that you may need them as well.

— John Blasé

***As we move forward out of this pandemic, we hope you will join us in the Sanctuary when you are comfortable. We look forward to us all gathering once again; we look forward to encouraging and supporting each other after the difficult couple of years we've all been through.***

Meeting Together  
Encouraging One Another



# Apr.

- 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.



# Apr.

- 12 - Melinda & Doug
- 13 - Allison & Eddie
- 22 - Jennifer & Jim
- 28 - Marisa & Richard
- 29 - Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook & Lawrence Cook

### **Interim Pastor Nominating Committee**

A very big 'THANK YOU' goes to the following members who stepped up and will be searching for our Interim Pastor:

***Gail Anderson  
Diana Nwosu  
JoAnn Roesch***

Claire Davis, Regional Coordinator Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery, will be leading their training sessions and preparing them for the work ahead. Please keep them in your prayers as they move through the process of finding the congregation an Interim Pastor.

thank  
you!

## Subscribe to our YouTube Channel

Did you know we have a YouTube channel? Pastor Erin created it when the pandemic began so we would be able to upload Facebook's worship videos. Unfortunately, after a time, it became difficult to upload the longer/larger videos and they were no longer made available on YouTube.

Some changes have been made over the last few weeks to enhance our live streaming, and we are now LIVE STREAMING to YouTube as well as Facebook. Why? What's the difference, benefits?

- Not everyone is a 'Facebooker', which you must join/sign-up for in order to view our page; anyone can use YouTube to view our channel.
- YouTube is owned by Google and is the most used platform for videos *in the world*.
- And as anyone who uses Facebook will tell you, it has some issues from time-to-time. So, if Facebook acts up, you can simply switch over to YouTube and continue watching the live stream. Or, watch our live stream on YouTube instead of Facebook, the choice is yours.

We're excited about this new opportunity to reach others and to provide another way in which our congregation and friends can interact online with us, but as always, there might be some hiccups as we adjust our sails to navigate these new waters. Please bear with us and go to our channel and subscribe.

C'mon now, we see you subscribing to those K-pop, baby animals, and 'how to' videos. **Go show our channel some love by clicking and subscribing!**

*Please note: You don't have to do ANYTHING in order to view our channel and the videos on it, but you do have to create a sign-in and password to subscribe to our channel. It's simple if you want to do so, but you don't have to if you aren't going to use YouTube frequently...simply enjoy our videos on YouTube without subscribing.*




---

### Lenten Series—UPDATE, NOT GIVE UP

#### Worship Schedule for April:

April 3rd - Communion - Dr. Rev. Grace Nzameyo-Maa will be with us

**April 10th - Palm Sunday - Component #4 - Courageous in Love - Presenter - Sue Krivenko**

April 14th - MAUNDY THURSDAY - TBD

April 17th - EASTER SUNDAY - TBD

We sincerely hope you will be able to join us in-person or via the live stream as we UPDATE in preparation for the RESURRECTION of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

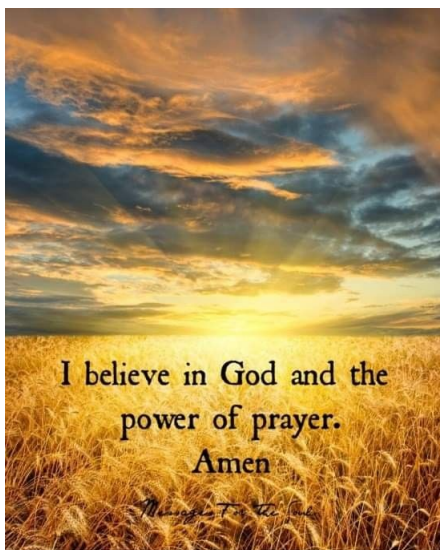


*Please consider either calling or sending a card to church family who are homebound; call the church office (732-382-0803) if you need phone numbers and/or addresses.*

**Prayer Requests**

Alyne B., Anthony, Anthony C. & wife, Christine H., Chuck, Debbie & Jon, Debbie C., Eileen P., Evelyn, Gail, Gene S., Hazel R., Jane S., John B., Judy R., Joey H., Mark A., Mary, Molly, Russ G., Sandy T., Savannah B., Travis R. & family

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



**Memorial Service for Joanne Noblitt—her brother has tentative plans on holding a memorial service in Rahway. Currently, it looks like the April / May timeframe might be when her family will be here. Stay tuned, details will be provided when they become available.**

**PRAYER PERSONS IN MARCH**

- Mar. 6th - Gladys Bond**
- Mar. 13th - Jon-Paul Daye**
- Mar. 20th - Cheryl Anne Cammann**
- Mar. 27th - Marisa & Richard Ebbe**

*Please keep our sisters and brothers of Ukraine in your prayers as well.*

**Prayer Persons**

**APRIL**

- Apr. 3rd - Helene Haith**
- Apr. 10th - Sue Krivenko**
- Apr. 17th - Carol & Jake Hayes**
- Apr. 24th - Barbra Maskarinetz**

**MAY**

- May 1st - Russ Ginda**
- May 8th - Carole Huntley**
- May 15th - Rodrigue Joseph**
- May 22nd - Ilanda Kerobo**
- May 29th - Odrigue Joseph**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1731 CHURCH STREET  
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

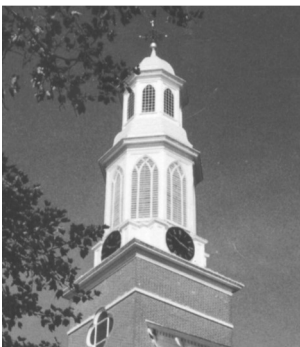
732.382.0803

**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 & YouTube Live Streams/ Recorded Video

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



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



*Hallelujah! He is risen indeed!*