

# TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 13 Issue 10

October 2022

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Special points of interest:

- Church Community News - pg. 3
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### Please keep in mind...

If you should need to contact Pastor Ed because of a death in the family or another urgent matter, please call or text his cell phone to ensure he gets the message ASAP.

## From Pastor Ed...

*"Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were mined ... Listen to me my people and give heed to me, for a teaching will go out from me, for a light to the peoples."*

--Isa. 51:1-6

Dear Friends,

In this passage, Isaiah was trying to strike a balance between a healthy grasp on the past and forward movement. He was trying to give them a precept to guide them and steady them in difficult times. The people of Israel were going into exile so that everything they knew, everything they had, and everything they had trusted in, was being lost. They were about to become people without a country. Maybe worst of all, even their faith was losing its' foundation because the temple - the place where Yahweh lived, (or so they thought) was broken in pieces. So Isaiah gave them something they could carry with them - something from the past to help them move on. "Look to the rock you were chiseled from," he said. Look at Abraham and Sarah, who went to unknown lands and an unknown future just like you are. Look at how God went with them wherever they journeyed and made a nation from just the two of them." In other words, there are always lessons and insights and strengths we can carry with us from the past - as we move on in our journeys. That old saying about remembering our history so that we learn from it is undeniably true. However, there's also something to learning when, and what, to let go of from the past.

Someone once said, "To forget nothing is to learn nothing." That's talking about how holding too tightly to what's been, can leave no room for something else to become. That's talking about how so much of life and faith can only be experienced in the present. Sometimes the best is yet to come – however, it's hard to get there if we're living in the past.

It isn't easy, to learn *what* to let go of, especially if it's keeping us stuck. The solution according to Isaiah, is to listen for God's word to our hearts. And, how will we know if it's God we are listening to? God's words to us will always move us forward, and they will always widen the circle of their influence in our lives. This is about the journey of *learning* how to live with faith. There is a poem called *The Gate of the Year* that aptly summarizes Isaiah's words to us. It says, "I said to the

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man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may go safely into the unknown." And the man said, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."

So, when the way forward is dim, let's pray for the Spirit to help us to put our hand in God's. Let's pray for the capacity to trust that God sees the way we should go, and for the strength and courage we need to follow, knowing that we will be led to "a future and a hope." (Jer. 29: 11)

Peace, and Blessings!  
Ed



### Two Special Services Coming Up in October

#### **October 2nd -**

Charity & Logan Goodman will be at the church to hand deliver a quilt made in 1944, a time when their grandfather, Rev. Dr. Chester Davis, was the pastor of First Pres. There will be a 'Special Dedication' during the service which includes the quilt donation. As a part of the dedication, Charity & Logan will be presented with a donation being made to *Doctors Without Borders* in memory of their mother, Carol Goodman, who passed away in March of 2022. This organization was named in Carol's obituary in lieu of flowers. A very touching service in many ways—what a wonderful way to begin October!

Please  
Join Us

#### **October 9th -**

There will be five baptisms amongst our church family: Olivia Purcell, daughter of Allison & Ed Purcell; Jorrod Joseph, son of Joeline & Rodrigue Joseph; Ruby Remelgado, daughter of Sarah & Rachel Remelgado; Anga & Ashley Nyambi, daughters of Brigette & Kennedy Nyambi. This just might be the most baptisms we've ever had at one time at the church! We are so blessed to be able to once again gather and celebrate this sacred sacrament together.



### **Challenges of Live Streaming**

Technology is certainly a blessing, but at times, frustrating! Cheryl Anne & Sue have done a tremendous job at addressing the issues and providing alternatives to live streaming when something unexpected happens—kudos to them!

Keep in mind we live stream to both Facebook & YouTube, so if there is an issue with one of them, the other will be able to stream our worship service. The most likely culprit to act up is Facebook—due to its constant updates there are more chances of encountering a problem.

So, please do join us online for worship, and if a problem occurs, instructions will be provided as to how to view the service. If the live stream should fail, know that the issue will be addressed and corrected.

# Fall Flea Market

**A Grand Success!!!**

What a beautiful day we were blessed with!

A sincere thank you to all who helped bring the items up from downstairs, set up the tables & tents, and worked the day of the sale. And of course we can't forget all those who gather at the church all year long to collect, organize, & price the sale items—we *truly appreciate each & every one of you!*

The grand total is in the awesome amount of:



**\$3,501.11**



*The next sale will be our indoor-only Holiday Sale on November 12th. Keep the date open & join us for 2022's last flea market fundraiser.*

## Congratulations Evan & Annalise!



Our Music Director, Evan, married his lovely fiancé, Annalise on...

**Thursday, September 29th**

May this next chapter in your lives be a long and happy one ...

filled with family, friends, love, laughter, and good health!

*Best wishes*



# Oct.

- 3 - Matthew S.
- 4 - Carlos A.
- 12 - Michaela Grace W.
- 12 - Cheryl Anne C.
- 16 - Helene H.
- 17 - Emma Rose O.
- 19 - Robin S.
- 20 - Makenzie M.
- 21 - Florence O.
- 29 - Bill M.
- 31 - Richard E.
- 31 - Ashley S.



# Oct.

- 3 - Rachel & Sarah
- 6 - Joanne & Ted
- 8 - Carlos & Erwin
- 20 - Elizabeth & Vincent
- 25 - Cheryl & Dan



## Small Group / Home Meetings On the Horizon!



Beginning in October, we will be starting a series of Small Group / Home meetings to learn and share together in relaxed informal settings.

The first important step in the interim process, is to gather stories from the congregation that help us to understand who we are, and what have been the most meaningful and pivotal points in the life of our congregation. We want to identify what have been our greatest successes, *and struggles*. We want to identify the parts of our heritage that have the most meaning to us, and that generate life and purpose in ways that can carry us into our future.

The second important step in this interim time, is to learn how the culture around the church has changed, and how the church may change in order to discover what God is calling us to be and do. This is a time for identifying old and new ideas, our core values, and *envisioning*, in order to set a *direction* for the church.

We will want our congregation to acquire a clear sense of our relationship with the surrounding community, and what the opportunities may be for connecting in new and deeper ways. Therefore, a variety of “learning opportunities” will be offered, so that our congregation can have a working knowledge of what Session has learned, and is learning.

These learning opportunities will also be offered in small groups, home meetings, 2 hour church “retreats”, zoom meetings and more, so that maximum participation can be achieved. If there are persons who are unable to attend these gatherings, there will be handouts available for sharing your stories, and self study.

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The times and places for these gatherings will be posted in our Weekly newsletters, congregation wide emails, Sunday announcements, the Tower Chimes, and the Website. ***Please be sure to check these various social media venues. If you do not have access to social media, please contact the Church Office, and we will make sure you receive the information.***

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*In our weekly emails Pastor Ed provides a prayer. Below is his most recent prayer for the week ahead.*

**Prayer:**

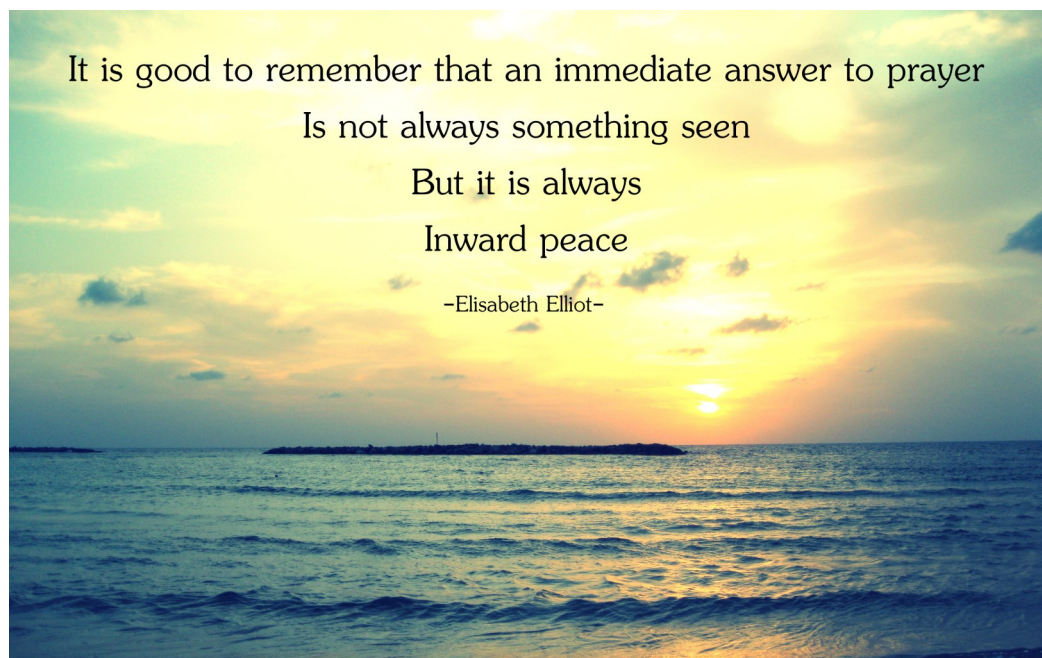
Loving God, we thank you for all the ways you reach for us, and reach out through us, to others. Help us to hear you when you call. Help us to respond boldly when you do, knowing that you will be with us, with strength and courage, to carry it through. Amen.



*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., Angel M., Ann D., Anthony N., Christine H., Dan M., Debbie C., Diane W., Ed L., Eileen P., Flo O., Gail, Gladys B., Jamie M., Jane S., Janet S., Joanne Palka, Joey H., Joseph S., Jr., Maryann F., Michael & Marty, Molly, Patty-Kenny-Travis R., Russ G., Savannah B., Tommy, Tracie W., Ukranian Sisters & Brothers



**Prayer Persons**

**OCTOBER**

- Oct. 2nd** - **Judy & Eric Rickes**
- Oct. 9th** - **Sarah & Rachel Remelgado**
- Oct. 16th** - **Andrew John Roesch**
- Oct. 23rd** - **Sola Family**
- Oct. 30th** - **Harold Wilcox**

**NOVEMBER**

- Nov. 6th** - **Tracie Wiebush**
- Nov. 13th** - **Toth Family**
- Nov. 20th** - **Gail Woolley**
- Nov. 27th** - **Linda & Gene Simpson**

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1731 CHURCH STREET  
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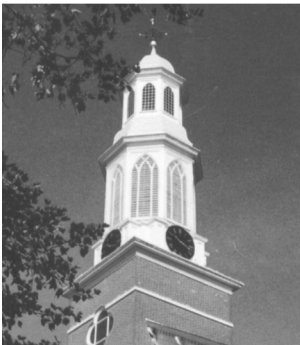
732.382.0803

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE RUSH**



**Worship with us  
Each Sunday at 10:30AM**

**In-person / Facebook & YouTube Live Streams  
Recorded Video Available Also**

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**1stpresrahway.org**

