

TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 14 Issue 10

OCTOBER 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Food Collection in October

We will be collecting food items during the month of October for Rahway Food For Friends. You can bring your nonperishable items in on Sunday and place them on the table in the Handbell Choir area, which is left of the altar.

Editor:
CAB
office@1stpresrahway.org

From Pastor Ed...

"God's ways are perfect. God's promises prove true for all who come to God for help." Ps.18

"Be perfect, as God your Father is perfect." Matt.5

Dear Friends,

When we consider the whole idea of perfection, isn't it kind of a difficult struggle for us? When we consider the faults that we contend with, it seems like perfection, is out of reach.

It is a source of great relief to know that the true scriptural meaning of "perfection" is not about the absence of flaws. It is about our character and everything we do. But in the scriptures, the word translated, "perfect" actually means wholeness, and completion. So when we read that God's ways are perfect it tells us that God's goal for our spiritual lives is *to grow* in faith and virtue, and vitality until we *"become complete."*

That is good news! But how do we go about following this journey? The psalmist gave us a clue. The verse about "God's promises proving true" tells us that the nature of the spiritual journey is *experimental*. Sometimes the way our faith and character grows, is by trial and error. The point is, *trusting God* is the starting point. When faith is the starting point, we don't have to be afraid of stepping out in new directions and cultivating change - even when those attempts don't work out at first. As long as we keep heading in the right direction, we'll continue to make progress.

There is a helpful metaphor we can remember when it comes to our growth and change. Imagine that life is like a road trip and that there will be times when we'll make wrong turns along the way. (Even with GPS.) We will make mistakes. We may even get lost for a bit. Some of our faith "experiments" will fail. But the good news is that whenever we take the wrong exit, we don't have to start over as if all our progress to that point never happened! We always get back on the road *wherever it was that we got off*. All our progress along the way *remains*, and looking back, we'll be blessed to see, as the old hymns says, "God was [indeed] working God's purpose out each day, in every situation", as year succeeds to year! Thank God for that!

Peace and Blessings! Ed



Shall We Start a Life Groups Ministry?

Another initiative Session is beginning to explore is the formation of Life groups in our congregation.

Life groups are simply small gatherings of people with a purpose. There are *at least* 5 types. There are Working Together groups, that gather around doing some sort of task or project. Caring Together groups gather around supporting each other. Learning Together groups gather around learning various topics, both spiritual and “secular”. Being Together groups gather around fellowship and recreation. Mixed Agenda groups that divide their time between all of the above and more.

A brief training is available to equip anyone who'd like to be a small group leader. If you're interested, contact Ed or any member of Session.

There are now Two Life Groups in the works,

A first Life Group that is being planned will be a gathering at various establishments in our town to share conversation over a beverage or snack. The dates, times, and locations will be announced on Sunday mornings, posted in our weekly newsletter, and website.

A second Life Group will be Fireside gatherings on Wednesday evenings at 7pm! There's something about gathering around a campfire that is meditative, calming, and naturally elicits conversation. Recent evidence suggests that it lowers blood pressure and reduces stress. The Fireside gatherings will offer sacred space for gazing at the coals, listening to night sounds, and attending to the gifts that arise on their own. ***This has changed to the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month—1st gathering is October 6, 2nd is October 20th. Come, relax, and receive what emerges!***



User-Friendly Faith Formation is Coming!

Many of us realize that a traditional Sunday School structure doesn't work well today. There are sports practices and games on weekends. Sunday may be the *only* day when parents can have “family time”, or, it may be a regular work day.

At a date to be announced in the next several weeks, there will be a zoom meeting with parents and members to learn about different approaches that will make faith formation for our children, youth, and adults easier to access, more practical, intergenerational, and effective. We are seeking to create a partnership with parents that is home-based and church-supported. However the zoom meeting will be *collaborative* so that every family will be part of creating the programs that will work the best.

Sue Krivenko will be the host for the Zoom meeting.

Stay tuned for the date and time To Be Announced!

Join the Conversation!



Updates: A Very Successful Fall Flea Market

Once again we were blessed with beautiful weather and many volunteers to help with our Fall Flea Market which was held on Saturday, September 16th. Carol and Jake Hayes extend their sincere thanks to everyone who helped. This flea market would not be possible without your assistance. Thank you also to those members who posted information about the flea market on their social media sights. After the sale they deposited \$4,663.01. They had previously deposited \$485 from our presales, for a grand total of \$5,148.01.

Since we had so many wonderful things to sell indoors, it was decided that we have a second Saturday sale before we packed everything that wasn't sold. This turned out to be a very good idea.

When the flea market crew met during the week, they went through most of the boxed items that came in from outside and sorted what they wanted to keep and what they wanted to get rid of. All the things that we didn't want we put in boxes for free. Diane Hoener took photos of the more expensive and interesting items that we had and posted them on Facebook Marketplace, that was a very wise decision. She received many inquiries and made many replies. Consequently two people came to the church on Tuesday evening and made very large purchases that brought in proceeds of \$890. One customer bought so much; she wasn't able to take it all with her, so she made arrangements to come for the rest of the things she bought the next morning. The next day while we were there packing up her items, we had several other individuals who came in and bought another \$112 worth of things. Ted also had purchased a charger and two new batteries for the scooter that had been donated. Then he posted it online too. It was bought almost immediately.

During the week we rearranged what was left and made an area in the hallway for the free items we had chosen. Even though the weather on Saturday wasn't good, we had people come and they spent another \$545. We encouraged everyone who came to check out our free section. As one woman was going through the free boxes, selecting items for her sons for Christmas, she was telling Diane that she had lost her job in May and she was very concerned how she was going to be able to feed her two boys. Diane told her about Food for Friends and she was relieved and delighted that she was able to get help from them for her food needs. We are blessed to have enough and it was very rewarding to help people in need, not only with furniture and household items from our sale, but also help with their nourishment needs.

Thank you to everyone who came to help that day. After church this Sunday & on Monday, we had several other customers and we added another \$54 to our proceeds, for a **grand total of \$7269.01**. We look forward to our next "Fabulous Finds Mini Mart" on Saturday, October 7th and then our Holiday Flea Market on Saturday, November 11th. We hope you can help with these events as we help the people in our community as well as our church.



Oct.

- 3 - Matthew S.
- 4 - Carlos A.
- 12 - Michaela W.
- 12 - Cheryl Anne C.
- 16 - Helene H.
- 17 - Emma 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

Fabulous Finds Mini Mart

Saturday, October 7th

9am—1pm



Holiday Flea Market

Saturday, November 11th

9am—2pm



Celebration Luncheon to Honor Carol Ann Bregman

I hope you have marked your calendars for Sunday, October 29th.

Immediately after worship we are going to have a luncheon to celebrate our dedicated and devoted Church Administrator, Carol Ann Bregman.

Carol Ann has served First Presbyterian Church faithfully for more than sixteen years. Because we weren't having coffee hours during Covid, we didn't celebrate her dedication then. **Please let JoAnn Roesch know that you are coming by October 20th** so the committee can order enough food for everyone.

If you didn't respond, but you can attend worship that day, please feel free to join us.

Let's make this a day that she'll always remember!



Each episode can stand alone. Feel free to drop in, even if you haven't seen Season 1.

If there is a small group of people wanting to view and discuss Season 1, Diane would be happy to lead the group at an agreed upon day and time. Contact Diane at 585 694-0881 if interested in either Season 1 or 2.

Please mark these Sundays at noon on your calendars. We meet at the manse (522 Union Street).

- October 8, 15,
- November 5, 12,
- December 3, and 17 (at 12:30 pm for the 17th only)



Church Angels

The "Church Angels" will meet on Thursday, October 5th to continue to clean areas in our church. We welcome both men and women who want to work together to make our church more organized and more inviting. We begin at 10 a.m. and work together for several hours. If you would like to join us, we would welcome your help. Typically we work for three or four hours, but you are welcome to come when you can and leave when you must. Since the church doors are not left open, call JoAnn Roesch when you arrive, so she can let you inside.



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 & family, Avril Muller & family, Bob H., Bruce & family, Carlos B., Christine H., Dan & Tammy F., Danny M., Debbie C., Doris & Celeste, Eileen P., Gail, Gladys B., Gladys S., Jane S., Jeffrey, Carol, & Jake H., JoAnn R., John H., Kathy K., Kristen & family, Laura W., Marc, Mary Ann, Mary Ann R., Matt P., Megan B., Michael & Marty, Molly, Nancy T., Patty-Travis & family, Sarah R. & family, Savannah B., Tina Marie & family, Tom P., Toni B., Whitney S., Ukrainian Sisters & Brothers

Those that are homebound—Caroline Balla, Doris Kapus



Prayer Persons

OCTOBER

- Oct. 1st** - Danny Martin & Family
- Oct. 8th** - Ray Montanari & Family
- Oct. 15th** - Nyambi Family
- Oct. 22nd** - Michele Panila
- Oct. 29th** - Allison Purcell & Family

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 5th** - Cheryl Martin
- Nov. 12th** - Imani Mota
- Nov. 19th** - Scott Rickes & Family
- Nov. 26th** - Joan Pender

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1731 CHURCH STREET
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

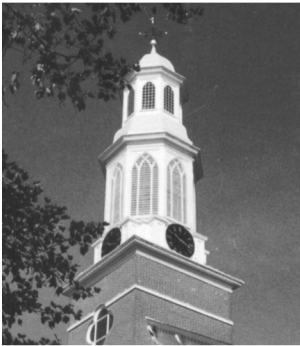
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PLEASE RUSH**



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

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

**Office: office@1stpresrahway.org
Rev. Ed Hoener: edhoener1@gmail.com**



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