

TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 16 Issue 10

October 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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UPDATE

Flo Oppmann is now at **AristaCare @ Parkside Rehab., 400 W. Stimpson Ave., Linden.** She is on the 2nd floor, Room 218. Her phone number is 908-808-9914. Visiting hours are 8 am - 8 pm. Visitors and phone calls are welcome!!!

From Pastor Ed...

"For from him and through him and to him are all things...Rom. 11:36a NRSV Everything that happens goes through God's hands first - and in the end, everything ends up under God's love and care." Rom. 11:36 (paraphrased)

Dear Friends,

Some of us probably know the old hymn that sings, "Will the circle be unbroken? By and by Lord, by and by. There's a better home awaiting, in the sky Lord, in the sky."

It's easy to think that particular spiritual is just about looking forward to heaven, and joining the "unbroken" line of saints who've gone before us, and of course, the fact that life will be much, much *better* there.

But if we look closer, there's more to it than that. That old spiritual is also about all the ways that our faith calls us to resist the things that threaten to break the circle. Human beings find so many ways to divide ourselves; politically, socially, economically, culturally, and even religiously. Even in churches, there are ways that we manage to draw lines around ourselves, and that prompted the composer to ask the question, "will the circle be *unbroken*" – will God's fellowship be intact? Sometimes we create divisions in our own lives; what we believe, and how we live, so that our very *hearts* are in pieces.

This is the month we celebrate World Communion - God's unbroken circle that joins all God's people of every time and place! But this celebration also raises a challenge for us. This old song and its probing question remind us to pay attention, so that we *keep* certain circles *unbroken*. It's about opening closed doors, to let changes and creativity and innovation *enter in*. It's about opening our church's circles to include all the lost and lonely strangers seeking faith, and a place to learn about it, and how to live it. We are called to do this so that God's kingdom increases *around us* here and now. It's about loving others the way Jesus loves us, and living into the promise that *all our divisions*, all our checklists, and all our troubles will cease someday. It's important to realize that "by and by" also refers to what can happen *right now*, as we pursue this calling, even as it promises the fulfillment, which is, that great Day when everything and everyone will be united in God's Household, at last.

Blessings and Peace,
Ed

Food Items to be collected during October



Throughout the month of October, canned and boxed food items, may be brought to Church on Sundays as our congregation continues its discipleship of feeding the hungry. Members have been generous over the last two years since we accepted the challenge to collect food during the months of February, June and October.

At the end of the month all items will be brought to the Rahway Food for Friends Food Pantry for distribution to those in need.

Food items may also be brought to the Church Office on Thursdays between 10 AM and noon.

The items that follow are some suggestions of food most needed and appreciated.

Kraft Mac and Cheese in a box	Boxed milk (such as Parmalat)
Pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles	Canned pasta
Canned veggies and soup	Rice a-Roni
Cooking oil	Spices, salt and pepper
Tea bags and coffee	Sugar and flour
Canned tuna	Cereal
Crackers	Peanut butter and Jelly
Cake mix and frosting	Stove top stuffing



I want to say thank you to each and every one of you for all of the support and assistance you have provided for me and my family, especially my daughter Kiana. Being a refugee, leaving your family and loved ones and everything, is not easy. It is really hard to leave your own country and start a new life where everything is new to you, but through your support, we, I mean me and my family, were able to move on with all of the hardships and started living a new life. Although we don't share the same religion and culture,

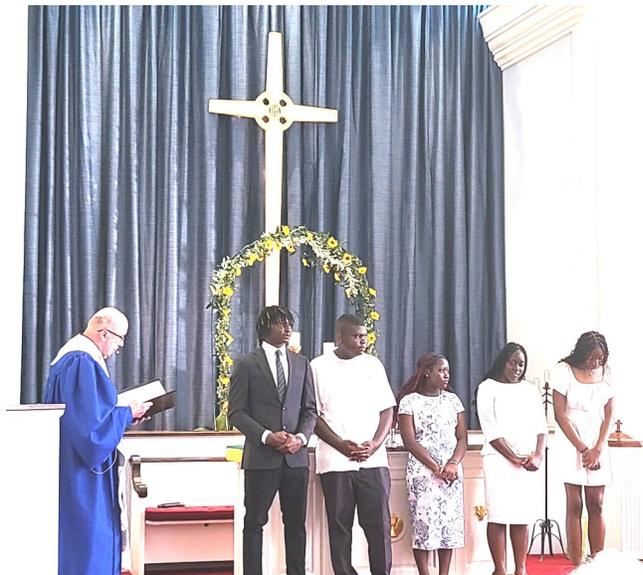
we all believe in one word and context, which is humanity, it is greater than everything, which connected us. I am not able to find any word which I could use to thank you for all the support and help which you have provided to me and my family. At the end, I want to thank Andy, his wife, and Diane - you guys have taught me and my family the real meaning of humanity, which is to help people in need without any expectations. Thank you to each one of you from the bottom of my heart. You have become my role models.

Best wishes,
Marmareen

Being a part of our church family is like having a second home...



On a beautiful early September weekend, some members took a ride down the shore to visit with Gladys. They had a nice outdoor lunch and a very enjoyable afternoon. Gladys is doing well and all were in good spirits.



We are excited to share with you a photo (courtesy of Selva) from our September 14th service where we confirmed / welcomed five new members: David Kalu, Brian Nyambi, Ashley Nyambi, Anga Nyambi, Glory Kalu.

Congratulations on this faith journey milestone!

Thank you to Carol DeLuca for all of her efforts in coordinating the confirmations, those who were sponsors, and Selva for creating a social media reel and taking pics.



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 N.



Oct.

- 3 - Rachel & Sarah
- 6 - Joanne & Ted
- 8 - Carlos & Erwin
- 20 - Elizabeth & Vincent
- 20 - Diane & Ed



Meet Binx & Luna who are Selva & Howard's cat family members. In September, Pastor Ed did a beautiful pet blessing ceremony. And yes, both Binx & Luna dressed for the occasion (see the reel on our YouTube channel).

If you're interested in having your beloved companion(s) blessed, please speak to Pastor Ed to arrange your ceremony.

UPCOMING EVENTS



On Saturday, November 8, at 10 am, our first Public Town Hall will be held in Davis Hall. Its purpose is to introduce our church's mission and ministries to our neighbors. There will be refreshments, presentations about our church and the latest project: the Union Street Resource Center; and the many opportunities for service to our community it offers. Please place the date on your iPhones and calendars. Invite everyone you know who might be interested. Stay tuned for more details as they become available .



OCTOBER ACTIVITIES AT THE CHURCH

Chair Yoga is Coming!!!



If you have been looking for a low impact exercise, your search is over. Cheryl Anne Cammann is starting a Chair Yoga experience for all ages. What is Chair Yoga? It is a yoga experience where all the movements are done while seated in a chair. The movements gently work the muscles in your torso, arms and legs, strengthening and toning. Each participant works at their own level, gaining more flexibility and strength over time. If this sounds like "your kind of thing" contact Cheryl Anne through the church email (office@1stpresrahway.org) to find out when sessions are being held and to sign up. The sessions are each 45 minutes long and offered during morning and evening hours.

Time to Spruce Up

SATURDAY, October 11, 2025 from 9:30 A.M. – 12 :00 P.M. has been declared SPRUCE UP DAY. So grab your work gloves and energy and come join the Spruce Up gang! The church grounds, as well as other areas within the buildings, need an end of summer clean-up. Tools and light refreshments will be provided.



MOVIE NIGHT – HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA

Bring your family and friends and join us for pizza and beverages for a viewing of the animated, PG rated movie *Hotel Transylvania*. The movie will be shown in the Squier Hall Pink Room with our newly installed projection & sound system on Friday, October 17th at 7:00pm. Please email the church office (office@1stpresrahway.org) to **reserve** your seat(s) so we know the quantities of pizza and drinks to order.

This year we will be participating in Rahway Day on Saturday, October 18th. Cheryl Anne is looking for volunteers, so please let he know if you can help at our table during the day.





ELECTION DAY – NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Once again, Davis Hall will be the voting location for the 2nd Ward residents. As was done for the Primary Election in June, we are asking for volunteers to be present for shifts of no more than 2 hrs. each between 5:00am – 8:00pm to assist with any needs that may arise. Please contact Al Shipley if you would like to be one of the volunteers on election day, November 4, 2025.



Rahway's Best News

HOURS OF OPERATION: Rahway's Best Afterschool Program, located in Squier Hall, operates from 2:30pm – 6:00pm Monday through Friday during the school year. Please be advised that whenever school is closed, holidays or other closures, the Program operates from **7:30am** – 6:00pm. Additionally, the gym is used for basketball camp on Mondays through Thursdays from 6:00pm -8:00pm. With the November and December holidays around the corner please note the following dates when the Program will be operating a **FULL** day.

November 26th

December 24th – 7:30am – 3:00pm

December 26th

December 29th and 30th

December 31st – 7:30am – 3:00pm

January 2nd



In December, Rahway's Best will be having 2 events open to the public to which we have been invited to attend and participate.

Pictures with Santa – Saturday, December 13th, 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Fundraising Breakfast with the Grinch – Saturday, December 20th, 9:00am – 11:00am.

For this event, **we are looking for a few volunteers** to help cook/prepare the breakfast. The Union Street Resource Center will be receiving half of the proceeds of this event as a donation toward building operations. If interested contact Cheryl Anne Cammann.





SENIORS: Consider making a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) to the Church before the end of 2025

RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions) are the minimum amounts that retirement account owners must withdraw annually from their **tax-deferred** retirement accounts starting at age 73. **RMDs are taxed.** RMDs can **increase** the taxpayer's overall tax liability and potentially push them into a higher tax bracket.

QCDs are direct transfers of funds from an IRA to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity such as Rahway First Pres. To make a QCD, individuals must be at least 70 1/2 years old.

At 73 years old, individuals can take advantage of QCDs since they can count toward satisfying their RMDs for the year. In other words, individuals can fulfill their RMD requirements while making charitable contributions **that are tax-free.** A QCD withdrawal can be a **partial amount** of one's required minimum distribution from their tax-deferred retirement account.

To use the QCD option, you need to inform your custodian to withdraw your contribution from your IRA account and send the contribution directly to the qualified charity you have identified. The deadline for choosing this option is December 31, 2025. Robin Shipley, 732 382 7573, can provide more details.

Please note: Starting in 2025, custodians will now be reporting a code "Y" on your 1099-R, specifying the QCD distribution.



Annual Holiday Flea Market



Our "Fabulous Finds" Mini Marts have been a big hit — and now, by popular demand, we're bringing back our **Annual Holiday Flea Market!**

Thanks to many generous donations, our **Holiday Closet is overflowing** with wonderful Christmas items and treasures ready to find new homes.

Event Date:
Saturday, November 15th
Time: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Location: Davis Hall

Set-Up Schedule & Volunteer Opportunities

We'll need lots of help to make this event a success! Here's how you can get involved:

⇒ Saturday, November 8th – Table Set-Up

- **Time: 10:00 AM**

We'll begin setting up tables in Davis Hall.

⇒ **Sunday, November 9th – Item Move-Up**

- After worship, we'll start bringing items up from downstairs.

Please **mark your calendars** and lend a hand if you're able!

⇒ **Monday–Friday, November 10th–14th – Item Set-Up**

- **Time:** 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM daily
- We'll be organizing and setting up sale items.
- **Volunteers are welcome to come when you can and leave when you must.**

Lunch will be provided for all helpers during setup days.

⇒ **Flea Market Day – Saturday, November 15th**

We'll need volunteers throughout the day!

- **Morning Refreshments** (for volunteers only): Coffee, tea, bagels, and cake will be available from **8:15 – 8:55 AM**.

Please consider donating your time — many hands make light work!

Help Us Spread the Word!

Invite your friends and family!

Share the beautiful event poster designed by Carol Ann.

Let's make this year's Holiday Flea Market a joyful success — supporting both our **church** and the **community**.

So far this year, our **“Fabulous Finds” Mini Marts** have successfully raised funds to support our church budget. But the impact doesn't stop there — our sales also offer affordable treasures to our neighbors, making a difference in the community. In addition, **10% of all proceeds go directly to our Outreach Program**, allowing us to extend even more help and support to those in need.

Thank you for your continued support and spirit of service!



So far this year our 'Fabulous Finds' Mini Marts have successfully raised almost \$20,000.

Congratulations, Alicia & Michael



August 28, 2025

At the end of August, Patti Persaud's daughter held her wedding at our church. As you can see from the pics above, the Sanctuary was beautifully decorated as Alicia and Michael welcomed family & friends to witness their marriage ceremony. What a beautiful day for a gorgeous couple!!!

*Wishing you joy, love, and happiness as you begin your new life together.
May all of God's abundant blessings be yours!*

Dear church family,

Thank you for hosting my daughter's wedding. I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the entire church family for graciously allowing us to use your beautiful facility for my daughter's wedding. The ceremony was deeply meaningful and the welcoming spirit for our family and guests. We truly appreciate your generosity, hospitality, and support in helping make this important milestone so memorable.

Please extend our gratitude to everyone involved. We are deeply thankful.

Warm regards,
Patricia Persaud





If you have a prayer request please give Ilanda a call at 732-382-6193 or send her an email: ikerobo@comcast.net. Ilanda will ensure that your request is addressed/sent to our wonderful prayer warriors.

Prayer Requests

William S. Jr., Roberta D, Edna, Sue K., Kaiser, Portia & family, Agnes N. & family, Ken & Gail, Rick C., Ellen, Anne H., Flo, Leo & family, Mike & family, Carol & Jake, Savannah B. & family, Carole H., Becky, John, Sam, Michael, Sara & Joan P., Mary "Cookie" F., Nicole, Allison, Mary R., Helen, Logan, Harper, Helene & Diane, Dorothy R., Amy

A Morning Resolve:

I will try this day to live a simple sincere and serene life; repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impunity, and self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence; exercising economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust, and a childlike faith in God.

In particular, I will try to be faithful in those habits of prayer, work, study, physical exercise, eating, and sleep which I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me to be right.

And, as I cannot in my own strength do this, nor even with a hope of success attempt it, I look to You, O God, My Father, In Jesus my Savior, and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Our deepest condolences to...

Eric, Judy, and the Rickes family on the passing of, **Hazel Rickes**, who entered eternal peace on September 15th at the age of 107. Please keep her family & friends in your prayers during this very difficult time.



Prayer Persons

OCTOBER

- Oct. 5th** - Joan Pender
- Oct. 12th** - Christine Jeffries
- Oct. 19th** - Fred & Debby Russell
- Oct. 26th** - Kenneth MacFarlane

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 2nd** - Sam Shipley & family
- Nov. 9th** - Susan Krivenko & Cliff Williams
- Nov. 16th** - Jennifer Sola & family
- Nov. 23rd** - Carol & Jake Hayes
- Nov. 30** - Carmen Davies

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1731 CHURCH STREET
RAHWAY, NJ 07065
732.382.0803

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**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH**



**Worship with us
Each Sunday at 10:30 AM**
In-person / Facebook & YouTube Live Streams
Recorded Video Available Also

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

1stpresrahway.org



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