

# TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 13 Issue 11

November 2022

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Special points of interest:

- Church Community News - pg. 3
- Prayer Requests - pg. 7

### Inside this issue:

Small Groups Coming Soon	Pg. 2
Baptism Celebration Photos	Pg. 4
iPad Donations / Goodman Family	Pg. 5

### 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...

*“Remember the Lord your God, who brought you out of slavery, who fed you in the wilderness, gave you his commandments, and this good land to live in...”*

—Deuteronomy 8

Dear Friends,

It’s easy to see the connection between this passage from Deuteronomy and our own country with its prosperity and power, and the call to *remember* who is the source of our blessings, and how we got where we are, and how we’re called to live in *our* “promised land.” But as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, I think there’s even more that we might want to remember in this season, as people of faith.

Remembering God is about keeping in touch with God’s picture of life itself- trying to follow God’s ways. It’s about having a constant conversation between our faith, and our lives in the world.

In the context of the exodus story and the wilderness journey, remembering the Lord our God is, at it’s heart, about *conversion*. The journey of conversion is all about discovering that there’s always more than one way to be faithful in this world. It’s realizing that the Spirit is ever ready to lead us into deeper faith, and devotion. The journey of conversion means that we will wrestle with the realization that God’s way might be quite different from “my way,” or the “American way”, or the “the way it’s always been”.

Conversion continually asks, “How much am I *willing* to learn and change, in order to grow as a person - and as a disciple of Christ?”

It’s always up to us, isn’t it? We can always refuse to take that journey over Jordan to a new land, that is, towards greater understanding, and a more vital faith and life. But when we refuse, we lose the heart of what Thanksgiving is all about - which is being *joyfully* aware, of where the best blessings we receive, truly come from - and what they are given *for*.

Peace and Blessings! Ed



### Small Group / Home Meetings On the Horizon!

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.



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.***

Get  
INVOLVED



# Holiday Flea Market



**NOVEMBER 12, 2022**  
**9AM-2PM**



Our indoor only holiday sale is right around the corner. 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 lighten the load for all involved. 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, or call or send an email to the church office.

**1. Bringing items up from the downstairs area, Sunday, November 6**

Please consider staying after worship and lending a hand as we move items from downstairs into Davis Hall and the hallway. If you can't attend worship but can come to the church and help after 11:30am, wonderful. The more help there is, the easier and quicker this gets done.

**2. Setting up Davis Hall Monday - Friday**

Setup will be from approximately 10:00am to 2:00pm. Lunch is provided.

**3. Workers on the day of the sale**

Whatever time you can spare whether it be at the start of the sale or towards the end with putting things away, would be so very much appreciated. This is the last sale fundraiser of 2022, so we're hoping for a great turnout. Lunch is provided.

*Reminder:*

We are not taking used clothing, computers, VCRs, VHS tapes, encyclopedias, TVs, books, or printers. Please call the church office if you have a donation, or items can be dropped off on Wednesdays from 10am-12noon, however, the week of the sale you can drop off items all week until Thursday, Nov. 10.



**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 S.
- 23 - Robyn K.
- 28 - Harold W.
- 30 - Rosalind C.



**Nov.**

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



# What a joyous service & day!

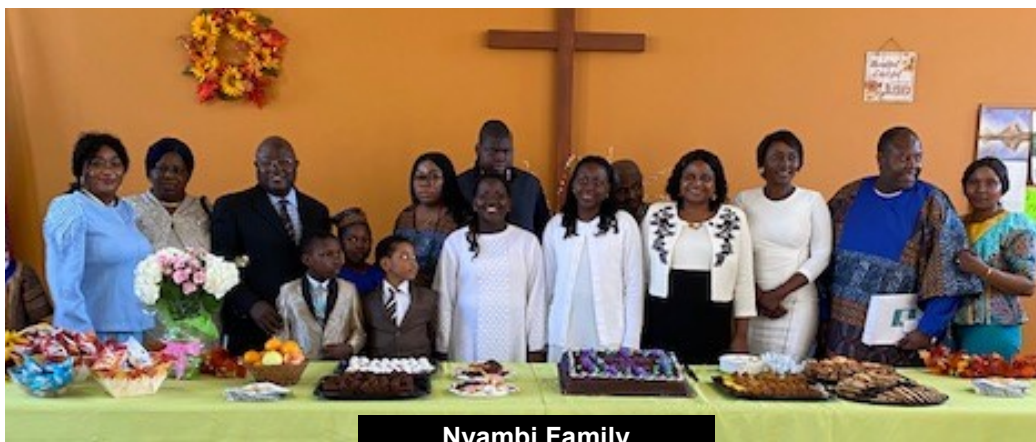
Thank you, Robin Shipley, for sharing pictures of our church family from the five baptisms held on October 9th.



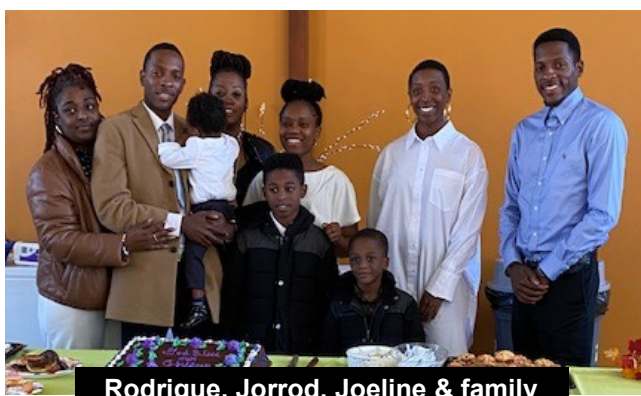
Allison, Olivia, & Ed



Ashley & Anga



Nyambi Family



Rodrigue, Jorrod, Joeline & family



Rachel, Ruby, & Sarah

*May God bless you and keep you safely in His care.*



### **Are you getting a new iPad?**

If you are contemplating an upgrade, we'd like to use your old iPad for our homebound members (or those in the hospital, etc.) so that they can easily participate in worship! We will keep them at the church, and then when visiting our members, we will bring the iPad with instructions for using it. If you're willing to share, it will be so helpful for our friends who aren't able to access live streaming. If you have an old iPad that you're willing to give, please contact JoAnn Roesch or Ed. We'll put it to good use!

## ***Recycling in an awesome way!***



### **Charity, Logan, and the Goodman Family Request for Photos**

A lovely email sent by Charity Goodman after their October 2nd visit:

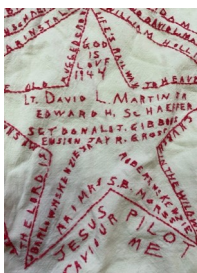
*Hi,*

*First Logan and I wish to thank the church for your warm welcome. We are so happy the quilt is back safely at your church after so many years.*

*Please send us Assistant Pastor Sue's wonderful summary of our grandparents lives in Rahway at the beginning of the Dedication Service. Much of it we never knew and want to pass on to the rest of the family. Feel free to email it to me at*

*Charityjgoodman65@gmail.com.*

*Please also send a copy to my brother and sister, Beth and Walter, who are copied on this email. I saw the photos that you posted on Facebook. Thanks. I was able to save them. I also saw the thank you posting on your website and appreciate it. **I believe someone took a photo of Logan and me in front of the quilt. If you find this, please send it and any other photos not posted on Facebook.***



*Again much thanks for both the dedication service and the reception in Davis Hall. So lovely to be in the church again after so many years and meet the congregation. **When the quilt is able to be displayed or hung, I would love a photo.***

*Sincerely yours,  
Charity*



If anyone took photos, please forward them to the church office so that it can be shared with the Goodman family.

***Look at the quilt photos that Robin sent, how amazing is the detail!?!?***

***Wow!!!***

### Merchants & Drovers — Ghosts of the Past

Merchants & Drovers held their cemetery tour a few weeks ago. Here are some pics for you to enjoy. You might even recognize some familiar faces who were participating such as Al, Ed, and Diane!





*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.*

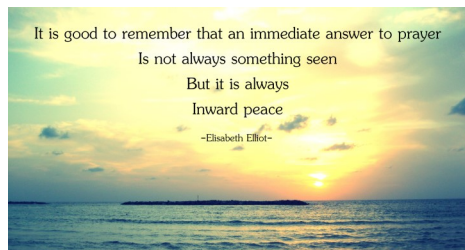
**Prayer Requests**

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



*Sincere condolences to...*

Ken & Gail Anderson & family on the passing of Ken's aunt, **Gloria Snell**, on October 6, 2022. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.



**Prayer Persons**

**NOVEMBER**

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

**DECEMBER**

- Dec. 4th** - **Al & Robin Shipley**
- Dec. 11th** - **Sean Simpson**
- Dec. 18th** - **Ruth-Noemi Belonni-Rosario**
- Dec. 25th** - **Donna Gutches & Family**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1731 CHURCH STREET  
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

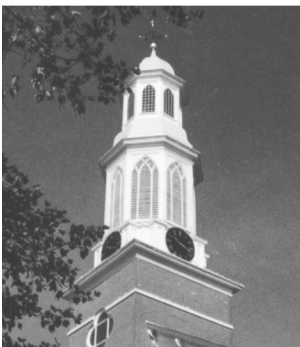
732.382.0803

**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 Available Also**

**Office: [office@1stpresrahway.org](mailto:office@1stpresrahway.org)  
Rev. Ed Hoener: [edhoener1@gmail.com](mailto:edhoener1@gmail.com)**



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



**Thanksgiving Blessings to You & Your Family**