

TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 14 Issue 11

NOVEMBER 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Story / Holiday
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Tips

SAVE THE DATES

Manse Reception
Sunday, Dec. 17th
After Worship

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Dec. 24th

This falls on a Sunday;
the current plan is to
have an evening
service only. More
details to follow next
month.

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From Pastor Ed...

*“Present yourselves as building stones,
who live for the construction of a sanctuary
vibrant with life - God’s people to do God’s work
and speak for him...” 1Peter 2: (Peterson’s)*

Dear Friends,

This image, with Peter’s description of God’s people as a pile of stones, is so reminiscent of one of the scenes in the first Harry Potter movie. It takes place right at the beginning of Harry’s journey to becoming a wizard. He and Hagrid have just stepped into a wonderful English pub that looks like it sprang right off the pages of Charles Dickens. After Hagrid exchanged pleasantries with some of the clientele, they went out the back door right up to a solid brick wall. Hagrid pulled his umbrella wand out of his inner pocket and tapped the wall three times, and suddenly something wonderful happened. Suddenly the bricks began to spin and turn, making that spine-tingling scraping sound that bricks make, until they had rearranged themselves into a lovely arched doorway.

That amazing scene has something wonderful to say to us, as a community of faith. It can serve as a visual reminder to us, that being the church never means being a dead end - a cold, stone wall that keeps things in, *and out*. I think that wonderful scene can serve as a reminder that we must always be ready to be re-arranged according to the leading of the Spirit. Sometimes we’ll be a shelter from the cold. Sometimes a hospital for the healing of souls. Sometimes a place to celebrate God’s blessings. But most of all, that scene can serve as a reminder that we must *always* be an open door, where everyone is welcome to come in and find mercy, *even as* it must also be an exit out into the world, where God’s people help others and proclaim the good news of God’s amazing, transforming grace.

Peace and Blessing!

Ed



Life Group Fireside Gatherings – Moved to Fridays

Fireside gatherings are moving to the 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month. The first one was held on Friday, October 6th.

Feel free to call Ed or Diane if you're looking for confirmation.

The November gatherings will be:

*November 3rd
&
November 17th*

Come, relax, and receive what emerges!



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 if interested in either Season 1 or 2.

Please mark these Sundays at noon on your calendars. We meet at the manse.

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



Church Angels Schedule

The "Church Angels" will meet on Thursday, November 2 & December 7.



We begin at 10 a.m. and work together for several hours. If you would like to join us, we would welcome both men and women who want to work together to make our church more organized and inviting. Typically we work for three or four hours, but you can 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.

Holiday Flea Market



NOVEMBER 11, 2023

9 AM-2 PM



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 5*

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 big sale fundraiser of 2023, so we're hoping for a great turnout. Lunch is provided.

We hope you can help with these events as we help the people in our community as well as our church.

Reminder:

No Mini Flea Market on Nov. 4th; next Mini Flea Market is on Saturday, Dec. 2nd.

2024 First Presbyterian Calendars have arrived . They can be found in the Narthex and Davis Hall.



NOV.

- 1 - Mimi Z.
- 1 - Will M.
- 2 - Candy T.
- 2 - Dana M.
- 2 - Kevin C.
- 2 - Sara T.
- 3 - Layla 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

FREE Hospital Bed Available

From Michele:

I have a hospital bed that is fabulous but my mom can not fit it into her bedroom. It was used by one person, my friend's mom. The mattress is included and is in the original plastic wrapping. We also have some used/washed bed sheets as well as one (or two?) in the original plastic wrapping. It is in my mom's dining room unassembled and ready-to-go :). Thank you!

If interested, call or email the church office.



Almost Home for the Holidays (Author: Richard King)

I was a college student in Illinois that Thanksgiving, and I couldn't wait to get home to Massachusetts for the holidays. A friend's mother offered me a lift as far as upstate New York, where my parents were going to pick me up.

Mrs. Case and I drove all through the chilly night. Just after sunrise on Thanksgiving morning, the engine quit and we rolled to a stop on a deserted highway somewhere in western New York.

Mrs. Case said calmly, "God doesn't get you just halfway. Let's pray, Richard." After we prayed a little, she turned the key again. The engine coughed and started. The car lurched down the road. We barely made it to a garage at the next exit. I found the owner in back.

"Lucky you caught me," he said. "We're closed today. I just came in to clean up." He checked the engine, then gave us a funny look. "Who pushed you in from the highway?" We told him no one. He shook his head. "That's impossible," he insisted. "A part is burned out and the engine can't run without it."

He didn't have the part, and he told us no other shops were open that day. "I doubt anybody has it in stock anyway," he said.

Seeing our stricken expressions, he said, "Won't hurt to try, I suppose." He went to make a call. In a few minutes, he was back. "My buddy's shop is closed, but he just happened to be there doing some paperwork. Strange, huh? He's got the part you need."

Mrs. Case delivered me to where my parents were waiting with their car. At home in time for Thanksgiving dinner, I said a special thank you, because now I knew: God doesn't get you just halfway.

Source: Guideposts.org



Thinking about food donations this holiday season? Some suggestions...

Here are some suggestions from an article that Robyn read and passed along. It contained quite a few items /tips that she wasn't aware of & thought we would find it helpful as well:

- Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box—rarely used because it needs milk and butter.
- Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which is donated a lot.
- Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
- Pop up tops for canned vegetables is best—a can opener is not needed.
- Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice-a-Roni, which is donated often.
- Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
- Tea bags, coffee, sugar, and flour are beloved treats.
- Fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores is loved.
- Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
- Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
- Peanut butter and jelly are donated a lot but usually not sandwich bread.
- Butter or margarine is nice, and eggs are a real commodity.
- Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
- Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and always comes in handy.
- Feminine hygiene products are a luxury that are greatly appreciated.
- Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.



Thanks for sharing, Robyn, great suggestions for us to keep in mind when donating items.



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., Avril Muller & family, Bob H., Bruce & family, Carlos B., Christine H., Danny M., Eileen P., Frank H., Gail, Gladys B., Gladys S., Jane S., JoAnn R., Joe K., John H., Kristen & family, Laura W., Mary Ann, Mary Ann R., Matt P., Michael & Marty, Molly, Nancy T., Olga S., Patty-Travis & family, Rachel's grandmother, Robert S., Sarah R. & family, Savannah B., Tina Marie & family, Tom P., Toni B., Whitney S., Those in war-ravaged areas

Those that are homebound—Caroline Balla, Doris Kapus

Our heartfelt condolences to...

Ray Montanari & family on the passing of **Jean (Orban) Montanari**, who entered eternal peace on September 25th.

Jake & Carol Hayes & family on the passing of **Jeffrey Hayes**, who entered eternal peace on September 29th.

Clarice & Deshawn Cornwall, Lahnisha & Mykelti Thomas, and Sanai Johnson on the passing of **Debbie Cornwall**, who entered eternal peace on October 18th.

The Clemens family on the passing of **Jim Clemens**, who recently entered eternal peace.

Please lift the families up in prayers of comfort and strength during this most difficult time.

Prayer Persons

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

- Dec. 3rd - Aleya Daye Hall**
- Dec. 10th - Gladys Bond**
- Dec. 17th - Mykelti Thomas**
- Dec. 31st - Sola Family**

Sunday, December 24th is the Candlelight Service



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1731 CHURCH STREET
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

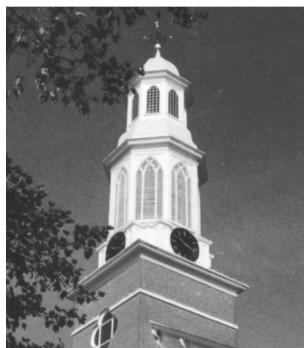
732.382.0803

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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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
Rev. Ed Hoener: edhoener1@gmail.com**



Subscribe to our
You Tube Channel

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving!