

TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 16 Issue 11

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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UPDATE

Great News!

Flo returned home on Tuesday, October 28th.

She's doing great!
Please keep lifting her up in your prayers as she continues to get stronger and heal.

From Pastor Ed...

God said to Israel, "Forget about what's happened - don't keep going over old history. Be present, and alert! I'm about to do something new! Don't you perceive it?"

Isa. 43 *The Message*

Dear Friends,

Recently, I read about a fascinating experiment with bees. The scientists were studying how bees exhibit a kind of corporate "intelligence" in their "community". In the experiment, they put a dish of sugar water right next to the hive, and then began moving the dish farther and farther from the hive (at precise intervals) at an exact percentage of the previous move. What they discovered was that by the fourth time they moved the dish, the bees were *waiting* at precisely the place where the next dish would be placed. The bees "did the math" and figured out how to anticipate where the dish would be.

One thing that this phenomenon shows us is that the whole is more than the sum of its parts. It shows us that the collective "wisdom" of a group (even in the insect world) can accomplish more than any of its members alone.

That idea has enormous significance for the life of our church. When it comes to our growth and the changes that are happening all around us, this insight suggests that we need to anticipate our future *together*. This insight suggests that we can't keep doing the same things we did when the "dish was next to the hive." The world out there has changed, and we need to change in order to "get the goods" - in order to grow as a church, and be engaged with the surrounding world. This is the enterprise we're working on as a congregation during this time of transition.

Looking ahead, this experiment also shows us something to think about regarding Advent. Whenever Advent comes, it's so easy to anticipate the same old things - shopping, the tree, carols and mangers and all the familiar things about Christmas. Those are all wonderful, but our celebration of Advent is never meant to be routine. No one was ready for Jesus' arrival, because everyone had such definite ideas about how the Messiah would appear. What if Advent is more about how God keeps coming to us, in ever-new ways, to help us cope in an ever-changing world? If that's true, then perhaps Advent is an opportunity every year, to get ready for God's *new* appearing, and to receive the excitement and joy that comes with discovering what new things God has in store for us!

Peace and Love,
Ed

Editor:
CAB
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*"Our church had a wonderful time interacting with the community at Rahway Day!
Thank you to Bob Markey and @rahwaychamber.*

Photos courtesy of Selva Villahermosa



Neighborhood Town Hall

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.



Chair Yoga

The Chair Yoga sessions have begun. The morning session is on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. The evening session will be on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. **STARTING** on Thursday, December 4th. Come join us ... all are welcome, bring 2 full water bottles to be used as weights or dumbbells if you have them.

Join us!



Coffee Hour at the Manse will be on Sunday, December 14 following worship. Dozens and dozens of cookies will be available for your taste-testing!

And a musical surprise is being planned as well!



What inspires you?

A big 'thank you' to Selva, who had some thoughts on how to improve our social media. She began creating posts for our social media, and we are seeing results already. ***This is OUR social media, so let's create it together!***

Email the office @ office@1stpresrahway.org with your favorite Bible verse, quote, or anything else that you find inspiring. We will use it to create a post, which reflects who we are as a church family.

Let's inspire each other, and in turn, share our inspiration ... for this time surely needs it!

Inspire...



Nov.

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

- 2 - Kulsoom & Levi
- 7 - Robyn & Bryan
- 24 - Lauren & William
- 25 - Bridget & Kennedy

The CHOSEN

“The Chosen” Season 4 will conclude on Sunday, November 9 and 16. Now we are getting to the good part of the story...



Annual Holiday Market

Saturday, November 15th

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Davis Hall

A recap of the article published in the October newsletter. Below are the dates/times of when you can volunteer. Come when you can, leave when you must.

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, 10 am**
- **Sunday, November 9th – Item Move-Up, After Worship**
- **Monday–Friday, November 10th–14th – Item Set-Up, 10 am—2 pm**
- **Flea Market Day – Saturday, November 15th, Volunteer Refreshments 8:15 am—8:55 am**

Any time you can spare is greatly appreciated!



Another way you can get involved with our market fundraisers...

If you can't volunteer due to other commitments during the week for those hours, there is another way that we could use your help ... and you can do it in the comfort of your own home.

Have you ever wished you could help with the Fabulous Finds Sales, but can never make the work times each week?

We need some help posting items on eBay. Is this up your alley?

Contact Diane to discuss what is involved.



Rahway's Best Invitation for Two Events

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 13, 4:00pm – 6:00pm

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



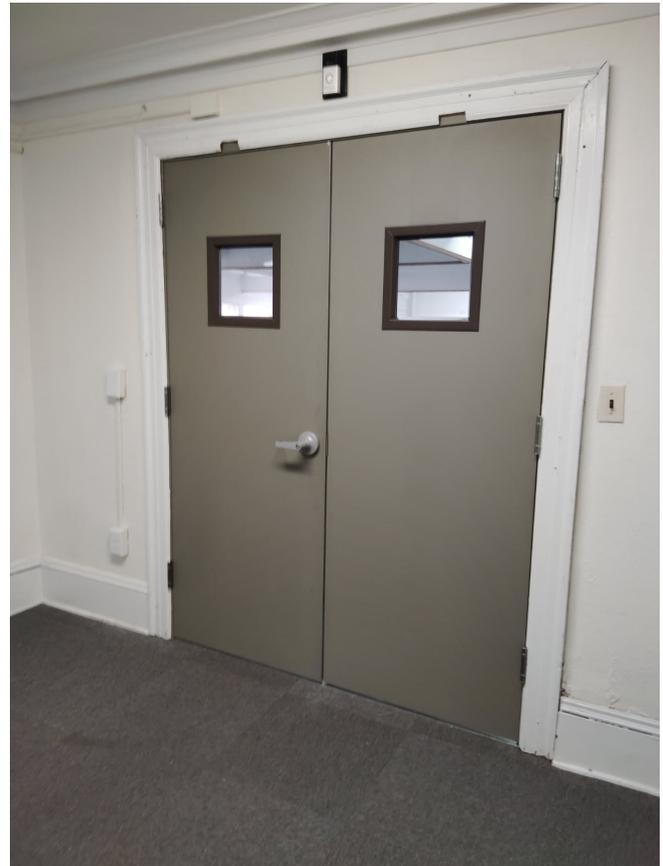
Thank you to Portia, Gail, and Cheryl Anne for helping make @rahwaysbest Trunk or Treat a success! It was such a fun event for the community and we loved seeing all of the creative trunks!



Improvements Continue...

Finally new fire doors were installed on the 3rd floor of Squier Hall.

The old doors were damaged when the roof leaked. One of the doors actually started crumbling and was removed for safety. Another project completed and crossed off the "to do" list.



"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more." - Anonymous



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

Dante B., Portia, Kaiser, William S. Jr., Carol & Jake, Roberta D, Edna, Sue K., Agnes N. & family, Ellen, Anne H., Flo, Leo & family, Mike & family, 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



Prayer Persons

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

DECEMBER

- Dec. 7th** - Helene Haith
- Dec. 14th** - Kalu family
- Dec. 21st** - Bill & Dana Marsh
- Dec. 28th** - Nwosu family

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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

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