

Seeking Sanctuary (Love) | Luke 1:39-55

## *Come on Home*

By Sarah Speed

We all know the feeling—  
the shaky ground,  
sinking sand,  
water-is-rising,  
sun-is-fading feeling  
that makes steady breathing  
an entire miracle,  
and holding back tears  
a marvel in and of itself.

And when those days come,  
I call my parents.  
And I call my church,  
and I call my friends,  
and they say in unison  
what God has said  
from the very beginning,  
which is, "Come on home."

Is there anything more healing  
than an open door?  
If you're seeking sanctuary,  
if the waters are rising—  
listen.  
It may be hard to hear,  
but God is always saying,  
"Come on home."

Come on home, this Christmas to the God who will always fling the door wide open for you. Come on home, this season to the God who chose to make a home with us on earth. We all need to know we have a place to belong. And, these past two years have taught us how to stretch ourselves to places in our spirits we never knew could be possible. It is in the spirit of our hands that help carry groceries and write a card to the lonely. It is the Spirit that taught us how to connect over a screen and letters in the mail. We are resilient and beloved children of God. I hope that this Advent season you will welcome Jesus whose welcome began in the voice of his mother, Mary, saying yes to an angel. May you know that God will always be our home. And all we need to do is walk through that door.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to you all!  
Pastor Erin

# TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 12 & 13 Issues 12 & 1

December '21/January '22

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Special points of interest:

- Church Community News - pgs. 3 & 4
- Prayer Requests - pg. 5

### Inside this issue:

Giving Tree /  
Candlelight  
Service Pg. 2

Cooked with  
Love Pg. 4



Just a gentle reminder about the Giving Tree:

Families have been selected so please consider purchasing a gift card(s) from ShopRite, Walmart, or Target, and present it to a member of the Outreach Committee by **Sunday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>**. If sending a check, please make it out to 'First Presbyterian Church' and put 'Giving Tree' in the memo.

Christmas Blessings,  
Outreach Committee

### Stated Congregational Mtg.

Tentative date for the meeting will be the last Sunday in January, the 30th. We will keep you updated via our weekly emails, Facebook, and website if the date should need to be changed.

Editor:  
CAB  
office@1stpresrahway.org

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Thursday, December 24th 7pm



# Holiday Flea Market Update

As always, church family & friends came together and worked hard on our fundraiser sale, a portion of which goes to our community outreach.

We made an astounding -



**\$2854.08**



We also want to thank those who come out year round to collect donations, clean them up, price them, and pack them away for our next sale. Even in these challenging times we've done very well, and we owe that to all of you!

Our Spring Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2022. Any time you can spare is always greatly appreciated.

Join Us for  
**COFFEE HOURS**



Coffee hour resumed on November 28th.

Come meet our new organist, Evan O'Donovan, lift your voices in praise, and

join us in Davis Hall to reconnect with our church family. There will be fresh brewed decaf coffee, hot water for tea or hot chocolate, juice packs and bottled water to drink as well as individually packaged snacks to enjoy.

**We hope to see you on Sunday!**



## 2022 Pledges

You should have received a pledge card in the mail. If not, please let us know.

We thank those members who dedicated/are going to dedicate a portion of God's material blessing so that our Church and our mission for Christ can continue. Your offerings of your time, of your God-given talents, and of your money, help support all that we do here at the church.



**Dec.**

- 6 - Samantha Anne S.
- 9 - Ashley N.
- 11 - Kristen Rickes H.
- 13 - JoAnn R.
- 13 - Tara Roesch C.
- 14 - Scott Ikena N.
- 16 - Daniel D.
- 20 - Thomas J. M.
- 25 - Jesus
- 26 - Robin S.
- 27 - Charlotte Mychelle K.
- 28 - Diana N.
- 29 - Carol D.
- 29 - Dawn M.



**Dec.**

- 5 - Megan & Andrew
- 11 - Terry & Arnold
- 29 - Laura & Randy



*Blessed*

As another new year begins, we all need a reminder that to just simply take a breath, slow it down, and feel the Love that surrounds us in so many ways.

So here's a wonderful short story to serve as a reminder to us all...we are so truly blessed.

*Cooked With Love*

By Joseph J. Mazzella

It was about ten years ago. It was a cold, gray and gloomy winter's day. A steady rain was falling that soaked my clothes and chilled my bones. I was walking over to visit my Dad and although his house was only a short walk from mine, I was already wet and miserable. I knocked on his door and stepped in. A warm steam was floating from the kitchen. It touched my nose and suddenly I was eight years old again. Dad was making Nana's special sauce.

When I was growing up every Sunday after church Nana would make us an Italian feast. She would slow cook her spaghetti sauce for hours. She would throw in olive oil, salt, sugar, pepper, bay leaves, parsley, and garlic. Then she would drop in potatoes, chicken, meat balls, sausage and sometimes even steak. When it was done cooking we would mix in the spaghetti, fix up the plates, and sprinkle on the grated cheese. It always left our bellies full, our hearts happy, and the house smelling heavenly.

I sat down while Dad made me a plate. It felt so good having a meal like we used to when I was a boy. We talked about those old times and laughed over the memories both good and bad. And I noticed something too. I didn't feel cold anymore. Oh, my clothes were still soaked from the rain but my heart was warm, my spirit was light, and both my face and stomach were smiling.

Dad and Nana have been gone for years now. I still miss them both every single day. And although my daughter and I both know how to make Nana's special sauce we don't cook it as often as we could. Maybe it is because no matter how hard I try I can never get it 100% right. I think that maybe I am missing an ingredient. Or maybe it was just the Love with which Nana and Dad cooked it that made it so delicious. Either way this winter I am going to make some again. I need its warmth. I need its goodness. And when I cook it with Love, I know that Nana and Dad will be smiling down on me from heaven.

May all your meals be cooked with Love then. May all your days be filled with Love. May your entire life be lived with Love. And may you always feel God's Love smiling down on you.



Jan.

- 1 - William Alexander D.
- 2 - Princeton N.
- 8 - Dona M.
- 12 - Cheryl M.
- 12 - Lucas James P.
- 21 - Caroline Alexandra D.
- 21 - Alyne B.
- 25 - James Jeffrey C.
- 25 - Megan R.
- 25 - Ukoha K.
- 27 - Hagen Michael E.
- 29 - Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook
- 29 - "New Dawn"



Jan.

- 20 - Andrea & Sean Simpson





*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**

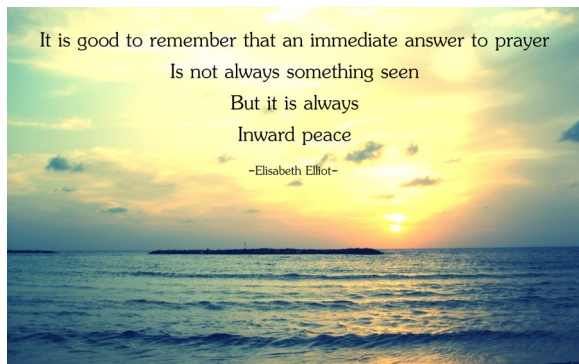
Alyne B., Christine H., Christopher & Family, Debbie C., Eileen P., Evelyn, Gail, Jackie, JoAnn’s Aunt, Joey H., Mary, Nancy, Russ G., Savannah B.,

Those that are homebound—Caroline Balla, Doris Kapus, Beverly Woolley



*Sincere condolences to...*

Susan Sulak & her family on the passing of her mother and one of our long-time members, Barbara Androvich, on November 18th. Memorial service details were not available at the time of publication, but we will keep the congregation updated when plans are finalized.



**Prayer Persons**

**DECEMBER**

- Dec. 5th - Jean Kuc**
- Dec. 12th - Will Marsh**
- Dec. 19th - Allison Purcell**
- Dec. 26th - Patrick Weaver**

**JANUARY**

- Jan. 2nd - Richard McCarthy**
- Jan. 9th - Robin Shivers**
- Jan. 16th - Beverly Woolley**
- Jan. 23rd - Sara Thode**
- Jan. 30th - Thomas Maye**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1731 CHURCH STREET  
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

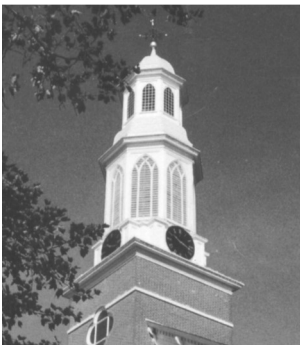
732.382.0803

**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 / Recorded Video**

Office: [office@1stpresrahway.org](mailto:office@1stpresrahway.org)

Pastor: [revehayes@gmail.com](mailto:revehayes@gmail.com)



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



**Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to you!**