

*He is risen;*  
*he is not here.* MARK 16:6

***“With fear and great joy, they ran from the tomb...”***

Dear Friends,

It's amazing how some of the most momentous times of our lives are accompanied by fear, *and* joy. When a couple stands at the altar making their astonishing and wonderful vows, anyone can see those emotions in their eyes. When new parents are about to bring a child into the world, fear and joy are written all over their faces. Fear and joy are with us when we're moving to a new place, or changing a career. They're with us when we face tough challenges, or stepping out into uncharted territory. They both are there whenever we take the risks that are always involved in changing and growing.

We feel these emotions at such times for good reason. We think about the risks, and all the things that *could* go wrong. We think about all the things that are beyond our control when we venture into new places. But right next to our fears there's always the joy of new possibilities, and the exhilaration of dreams coming true.

Fear and joy were there when the women found the empty tomb, and they are still with us today for the same reasons. Easter *makes* us look at what we believe about God, and life, and death, more intensely than anything else. The Easter story is more than an event - it is about a new, living presence that asks us if we're willing to stake our lives on it - and that is scary. If we seriously believe that Christ is risen, then his life and teaching must shape the way we live, in our families, our jobs, and our communities, and even the world. If we believe Christ is risen *it must shape the way we move into the future. It must shape our responses to the new vision God has in store for our Church and its mission.* In response to God's shaping us, we *will feel* some trepidation as we take our next steps into the future.

But there's where the joy comes in. In the scriptures, the future arrival of God's kingdom is pictured as an amazing festival with Jesus as its' Host. Moreover, it is a new creation where nothing of pain or sorrow or sin exists, and all things are made new. It is this glorious destiny that Easter proclaims, and living as if it's true is cause for the most profound joy. As we move forward, there will be joy associated with seeing God's vision for the future of our church coming true. There will be joy when we participate with God in fostering the sort of peace and justice, healing and faithfulness, that are God's dreams for the world. There will be joy as we begin to see the difference our church begins to make in the lives of people in Rahway, and beyond, for which our response must surely be, Alleluia! Amen!

Peace and Blessings! Ed



# TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 15 Issue 3

MARCH 2024

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Special points of interest:

- Church Community News - pg. 3
- Prayer Requests - pg. 5

### Inside this issue:

**Holy Week & Easter Schedule / Easter Flowers** Pg. 2

**Souper Bowl / Church Workday** Pg. 4

### Deacons-Easter Flowers

The deacons will be decorating the altar with a mix of tulips, daffodils, and perhaps a few other varieties for Easter Sunday, March 31. After the service, the flowers will be available for purchase @ \$5 per plant. If you are interested in a plant, be sure to see Gail after the Easter service so you can choose a plant to take home. Any plants that are not purchased will be planted on church grounds.

Editor:  
CAB  
office@1stpresrahway.org

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

### Palm Sunday, March 24, at 10:30 am:



We will reflect on the choices about Jesus and his ministry that Palm Sunday offered those who were present on that day. In our Palm Sunday worship, we will examine the choices this event offers for our Christian discipleship today.

### Thursday, March 28, at 7:30 pm:

We will commemorate the last meal Jesus had with his disciples before his arrest, and trial. We will explore the messages Jesus was so careful to convey to them during that meal, and we will celebrate Holy Communion in remembrance of him.



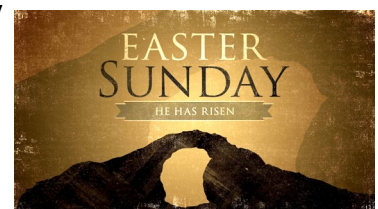
### Easter Sunday, March 31 at 9:30 am:



There will be an Easter morning breakfast served before worship, featuring fresh hot bagels, beverages, and more. (There will not be a coffee hour after the Easter service.) Come to break bread together as we gather to celebrate the resurrection of Christ!

### Easter Service, March 31, at 10:30 am:

This service will focus on the new day - the new reality - for all time, for all the world, that began with the resurrection of Christ!





**St. Patrick Family & Friends Dinner  
Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Begin gathering at 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner served at 6 p.m.*

*A Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner...  
complete with boiled potatoes, carrots,  
rye & Irish soda bread, cole slaw,  
& dessert.*

Please call JoAnn Roesch and let her know how many will be in your party.

***Be sure to join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and food!***



**"The Chosen"** discussions began on February 18th and will be held at noon, after church, at the manse.



These are the Sundays I'd like to schedule further sessions:

March 3 and 24, April 14.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

I am looking forward to discussing these episodes and their impact on our lives with you! Diane



**Life Group Fireside Gatherings**



Fireside gatherings are held @ 7pm on the manse patio (weather permitting) or inside on the **2nd & 4th Fridays of each month.**

If you want confirmation, call:  
Ed or Diane

**March Friday Gatherings:  
8th & 22nd**



**Mar.**

- 7 - Jennifer S.
- 13 - Doris K.
- 13 - Diane Hoener
- 14 - Jon-Paul D.
- 16 - Russell G.
- 18 - Brian N.
- 19 - Debby R.
- 20 - Ruby R.
- 28 - Elizabeth O.
- 28 - Robert B., Jr.
- 29 - Marisa E.
- 29 - Leslie F.
- 30 - Lilliann Queenie S.



**Mar.**

- 19 - Uchechi & Ukoha

Hi Everyone!

Miss seeing you but do think of you! Hope you all have a nice Valentine's Day and keep well.

Love,  
Dona



*Thank you*

...to all who contributed to our February Souper Bowl collection.



**Church Workday Rescheduled**

**When: Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Time: 9 am until 1 pm**

Originally we had selected Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> for an indoor work day from 9 am – 1 pm. However, we had snow that day and consequently it was cancelled. It has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Depending on the weather, we may be able to do some projects that need to be done outside as well as inside that day.



***Come when you can and leave when you must!***

We're looking forward to your assistance in the many jobs that must be done on a regular basis. In addition, we could use your help doing some special projects that will help organize our different areas of our church. Please consider joining us.







*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., Amy, Arleene, Avril Muller & family, Bill & Candy K., Bruce & family, Carlos B., Carol H., Christine H., Danny M., Dave, Edna, Eileen P., Elizabeth M., Gail, Gladys S., Grace P., Jane S., Jasmine, Joan Cubino & Roy’s family, Joannie S., Joe K., Kristen & family, Laura W., Marilyn, Mary R., Mary Ann, Mary Ann R., Matt P., Michael & Marty, Molly, Nancy T., Noel, Olga S., Patty-Travis & family, Robert S., Sandy G. C. & family, Savannah B., Tina Marie & family, Tom P., Toni B., Victoria & her sister, Whitney S., Those in war-ravaged areas

Those that are homebound—Caroline Balla, Doris Kapus



**Prayer Persons**

**MARCH**

- Mar. 3rd - Carmen Davies**
- Mar. 10th - Nwosu Family**
- Mar. 17th - Levi Knippel**
- Mar. 24th - Carol & Jake Hayes**
- Mar. 31st - Patti Persaud**

**April**

- Apr. 7th - Rebecca Abungwo**
- Apr. 14th - Russ Ginda**
- Apr. 21st - O’Loughlin Family**
- Apr. 28th - Gail Anderson**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1731 CHURCH STREET  
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

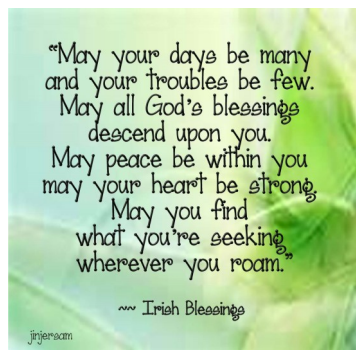
732.382.0803

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

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



QR Code for donations



**SAVE THE DATE:  
Saturday, April 27, Spring Flea Market, 9a-2p  
Volunteers needed beginning @ 7a; lunch is provided.**