



He is not here, but is risen.

LUKE 24:6

Jesus said to Mary, *"Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father..."* Jn 20:16-17

Dear Friends,

Easter is just around the corner, and one of the scriptures that is often read on Easter day is this conversation between Jesus and Mary Magdalene. None of the other gospels record this rather upsetting exchange. When she recognized him, she wanted to hug him with all her might. But before she took a step, Jesus interrupted her with this sudden brush-off.

Were her feelings hurt? Did it feel like a mother does when her child announces that it doesn't want to be cuddled anymore? Or when it doesn't want to hold her hand when they reach the school yard?

When we look at Jesus whole way with people, we know that a brush off just isn't Jesus' style. So maybe something else was happening. What if Jesus was trying to tell her that he didn't come back to life so that their relationship could be the way it was before? Maybe Jesus was saying that the only way that their relationship could *grow*, was if she let go of the way it had been. Maybe Jesus was saying that change is a necessity of life, in order for life to progress and flourish. Perhaps, Jesus was already envisioning the possibilities for a larger faith and life that would exist for the world, when he ascended into heaven.

This brief story suggests wonderful truths for living with faith. Letting go of Jesus' presence as a human being, is what makes it possible for his Spirit to be with everyone, *always*. Letting go, is what makes Christ's love and grace available to us in all times and in all places. Letting go of that life on earth, is what makes it possible for Christ to prepare eternal life for us all in heaven.

This brief story suggests that letting go of old ways, and beliefs set in stone, paves the way for new insights about ourselves and life, and faith. It suggests that letting go of control and fears, paves the way for a new and larger life than we ever dreamed possible, which is precisely a huge part of what Easter is, for us, now and forever.

Easter Blessings! Ed

TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 16 Issue 4

April 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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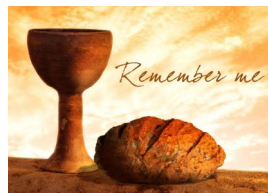
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday, April 13, at 10:30 am

Jesus invites us to follow him into a life that will change us in ways we can't anticipate or control. It is riskier to live our faith this way, but it is also more satisfying and transforming too. Jesus, cares about the quality of life we can know, and it's never too late to get on the road towards discovering the things that make for peace.



Thursday, April 17, at 7:30 pm



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

Manse Fireside Chat

Friday
April 11th & 25th

All are welcome!

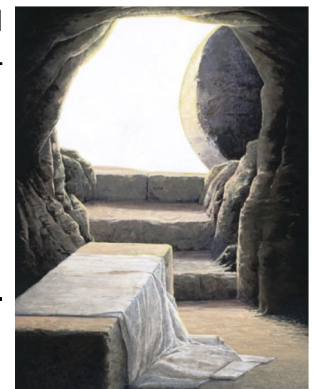
Feel free to call Ed or Diane if you want confirmation.

Easter Sunday, April 20, 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, April 20, 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!



Editor:
CAB
office@1stpresrahway.org



Sue's husband, **Cliff Williams**, was ordained as an elder during the service on March 16th. Thank you, Cliff, for answering the call to serve as an Elder.



Deacons-Easter Flowers



BECAUSE EASTER ARRIVES LATER IN APRIL, AND PROVIDING THERE ARE PLANTS THAT HAVE NOT ALREADY LOST THEIR BLOOMS, the deacons will be decorating the altar with a mix of tulips, daffodils, and per-

haps a few other varieties for Easter Sunday, April 20th. 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.



Yoga Anyone?

An invite from Selva: We are having a yoga class provided by Melanie with Akasa Yoga on April 6 at 1 pm. It is donation-based, whatever anyone wants to pay they can. It will be at the Akasa Yoga studio at 208 Central Ave, Rahway, NJ 07065.



Apr.

- 4 - Carleigh R.
- 4 - Andrew Bruce R.
- 12 - Jean K.
- 14 - Alex S.
- 14 - Eric C.
- 16 - Jacob R.
- 17 - Daniel M.
- 19 - Olivia P.
- 25 - Katelyn C.
- 26 - Adeline O'L.



Apr.

- 12 - Melinda & Doug
- 13 - Allison & Eddie
- 22 - Jennifer & Jim
- 28 - Marisa & Richard
- 29 - Rev. Erin & Lawrence

The Chosen Season 4

Reminder: No meetings for the month of April; the next meeting is Sunday, May 18th.

Please note:

Please change Season 4 Episode 5 of "The Chosen" **from June 8 to June 1.**

On June 1, be sure to bring your calendars to determine the dates to meet in the fall.

Sorry for the change and I hope it doesn't cause any confusion or inconvenience. - Diane

FREE EVENT

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY
APRIL 12, 2025
9:30AM-12:30PM

FRONT LAWN OF FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
1731 CHURCH ST,
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

Follow us
@rahwaysbest & @rahwaytigers
on Instagram!



First Pres Pantry: A Great Start!

Sue shared a pic of the pantry shelves that are starting to fill in our library for those who are in need/have an emergency.

We are off to a wonderful start and was able to help one woman recently. She had called and left a message on our answering machine. Arrangements were made so she could come in and take a look at what we had. She gathered a few much-needed items for herself and her family, and was so very grateful for our help. How amazing is that?!?

If you would like to contribute, please contact Elder Awa, who is organizing the pantry and its stocked items. You can email her if you would like to know what items are needed.

**Building & Grounds News**

From the March Session Meeting:

Davis Hall has been approved by the Union

County Board of Elections to be the 2nd Ward Polling location beginning with the primary election June 10th and continuing with each election thereafter until such time that we can no longer accommodate the City.

Spring Sale

Our spring sale is being held on the first weekend in May. As always, there are opportunities to help price, set up, clean up, etc. Whatever time you can spare is always greatly appreciated, especially the day of the sale. If interested, please call the church office or send an email. Please share our FB post if you're a Facebook user.



YouTube



First Presbyterian Church

1731 Church Street
Rahway NJ

Indoor/Outdoor Spring Market
Saturday, May 3rd
9 am — 2 pm

*Have nothing to do on a spring day?
Stop by First Pres., it's time once again for our annual spring sale!*

We've received so many new items over the last several weeks, and have a variety of furniture pieces such as chairs, sofas, dressers, tables, etc.

We also have an amazing jewelry display, household items, electronics, lamps, baby items, and so much more in our downstairs area.

Plus, we will have **FREE** items available at the sale.

All Are Welcome

Parking also available in the back of the church.

*A portion of the proceeds goes toward
local community outreach.*

www.1presrahway.org





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, Avril Muller & family, Barbara O. & family, Carlos B. & family, Daphne P., Diane & Helene, Dorothy R., Harper, Helen, Lauris & Cindy, LJ & Corinne, Logan, Major A. & family, Mary Ann R., Mary "Cookie" F., Michele P., Pat & family, Pete S., Savannah B.



Our deepest condolences to...

To the Malczuk family & friends on the passing of one of our former members, **Fred Malczuk**, who entered the church triumphant on March 13th. Please keep Fred's family & friends in your prayers during this very difficult time.

If you have a prayer request please give Ilanda a call or send her an email. Ilanda will ensure that your request is addressed/sent to our wonderful prayer warriors.



Prayer Persons

APRIL

Apr. 6th - Joan Cubino
Apr. 13th - Ernest Awutey
Apr. 20th - Carol DeLuca
Apr. 27th - Carlos Browne

MAY

May 4th - Lauren Davis & Family
May 11th - Jay Beam
May 18th - Leslie Ficke
May 25th - Kevin Crowley

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1731 CHURCH STREET
RAHWAY, NJ 07065
732.382.0803

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**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH**



QR Code for donations

**Worship with us
Each Sunday at 10:30 AM**
In-person / Facebook & YouTube Live Streams
Recorded Video Available Also

Office: office@1stpreshway.org
Rev. Ed Hoener: edhoener1@gmail.com

1stpreshway.org

