



May 18, 2025

"Common wisdom has it that doubt is the opposite of faith, but what if that's not accurate?

What if doubt is simply the warping of the faithful imagination or making conditional statements that limit God's activity within certain prescribed barriers as it was with (doubting) Thomas? We need reminding that resurrection isn't about us and what we're doing. It's about God and what God is doing. So, be open. Be patient. Cultivate an apostolic imagination and let it carry us somewhere that isn't even on our map." Ann Carter Florence

Welcome

Reverend Ed Hoener

Call To Worship:

Jesus invites us to come into his presence, to let ourselves be shaped as God's people. **Our lives are founded on God's grace and faithfulness.** The Spirit searches the deepest parts of us, transforming our potential. **She empowers us to make a difference for good in the world.**

***Hymn of Praise #31**

Let Us with a Gladsome Mind

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Reconciliation :

We are always met and ministered to, securely in the unconditional love of Christ. He helps us to see the places in our lives where we can grow. Come Lord Jesus, and empower us to learn and walk in your ways. Amen.

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Grace:

God heals us, and works with us to make us better and stronger followers. **Through God's grace, our renewal and restoration is sure.**

***Response of Praise #469**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Sharing the Peace of Christ:

The resurrection life rises upon the world like the dawn! God guides our feet in the way of peace! Let us share the peace of Christ with each other. The peace of the Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

Ministry of Music

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

Message

Pastor Ed

***Hymn of Faith #684**

Faith Begins by Letting Go

Call to Offering

***Offering Song #710**

We are an Offering

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are Yours, we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to You, we give to You. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering, we are an offering.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Announcements (pg. 4)

**If you can stand comfortably, please do so.*

***Hymn of Response #745**

Now Go in Joy

TOWN HALL MEETING

Closing Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Blessing

**If you can stand comfortably, please do so.*

Announcements

Thank you to Linda Anderson & Cheryl Anne Cammann for running the projector & camera!

Join our Worship Support Team! For more information; ask the pastor or the technicians or call the church office.

TODAY: Town Hall Meeting during worship.

The Chosen Season 4 – MEETING TODAY

The next meeting date is June 1st. On June 1, be sure to bring your calendars to determine the dates to meet in the fall. - Diane

Childcare Available Through May 25th

Childcare will continue through May 25th, the last Sunday in May.

Beginning in June and during the summer months, there will be no childcare, however, the childcare room can be opened for parents who wish to bring their children there during service; ask for it to be unlocked when you arrive at the church. *Please note: a parent will have to stay and supervise their children while using the room.*

Book Study: God Didn't Make Us to Hate Us

We are starting a Book Study Group! Selva Villahermosa is leading a book discussion of the book entitled "God Didn't Make Us to Hate Us" by Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail. This book is about deconstructing the fear-based faith many Christians have been handed, toward embracing Jesus' heart-healing grace. The book offers 40 devotions designed to unravel toxic theology and reveal the abiding love of a joy-full God. Please sign the sheet on the table in the narthex, OR contact Selva ASAP. The books will be ordered when the full number of participants is counted. She is planning to meet on Friday evenings, and the times and place will be announced!

Rahway Gallery Space Tour Invitation

On Sunday, June 8th, at 1 p.m. Please join us for a tour of the Rahway Gallery Space. The current exhibit is **Black Wings: American Dreams of Flight**. The Rahway Garden Club members will be joining us for the tour. All are welcome!

Next Manse Fireside Chat @ 7 pm is Friday, May 23rd.



Online Donations

PRAYER PERSON OF THE WEEK

Leslie Ficke

PRAYER REQUESTS

Carlos Browne's family, Logan, Linda, Evelyn, Linnea & Roger, Diara, Antoine, Becky, John, Sam, Benjamin, Jarod B., Michael, Sara & Joan P., Mary "Cookie" F., Savannah B., Cameron, Nicole, Allison, Zia L., Mary R., Jane B., Pat & family, Major A. & family, Helen, Logan, Harper, Helene & Diane, Dorothy R., Amy

The First Presbyterian Church of Rahway 1731 Church Street

May 18, 2025
Rev. Ed Hoener
JoAnn Roesch
Carol Ann Bregman
Evan O'Donovan

10:30 A.M.
Pastor
Worship Leader
Administrator
Music Director