

# TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 14 Issue 5

May 2023

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### The Chosen –

Drop ins are welcome!

Join us to watch "The Chosen" and participate in the discussion. The show is easily accessible if you would like to watch each episode in order.

We will meet to view and discuss "The Chosen" at the manse at noon on the following Sundays:

May 7 -  
Season 1 Episode 7

May 21 -  
Season 1 Episode 8  
(final episode for this season)

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## From Pastor Ed...

*"You all are the Light of the World. A City built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way let your light shine before others..."*

Dear Friends,

When we hear these very familiar words, we feel a little nervous inside, because Jesus is saying that we can't keep our faith under wraps. Maybe it's that we don't want to be confused with the "bullhorn on the street corner Christian", or the door-to-door salesman variety. Maybe it's that many of us feel inadequate or embarrassed to share the gospel with others – even if it's a friend – not to mention a stranger.

The question is what does Jesus really want from us to fulfill our calling in this passage?

For one thing, Jesus wants us to look at the state of our *relationship* with God. Shining our light is solidly connected to how teachable we are, *and* how available we are to the Spirit when opportunities to shine arise. When it comes to our *church's* ministry these days, we have to have a solid handle on who God (really) is, and how God works in our lives - so that we can share that light with others.

Another thing that this passage says is that we have to find the courage to step out of our comfort zones. We have to find the courage to (appropriately) share with others how God is part of our lives, where we live and work. The odds are against us – if we are hoping that people will *come to us*, looking for the light underneath those baskets.

The good news is that the way each of us shines our light will fit who we are - who God made each of us to be, and the same is true for all of us. We are called to show how the Lord has changed our lives through the words we say and the deeds we do that reveal God's love and compassion. The good news is that we don't have to generate the beams on our own. (Thank God!)

All we have to do is let the opportunities happen in our lives, for God to work. The promise we have in Pentecost, is that the Spirit is always with us, wherever we are, giving us the power we need to embody the good news in bright, tangible ways. May that be our aim as we continue our spiritual journeys, *learning* to follow Christ.

Peace and Blessing!  
Ed

## Spring Clean-Up

It's that time of year! People are enjoying the outdoors. We are fortunate that Ted Padavano and Rev. Ed Hoener mow our grass; Ken Anderson weeds the flower beds and Al Shipley weed whacks. However there is much more to do. We need to wash our windows, clean up the trash that accumulates around our church, and keep up with the unending task of weeding. WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Please consider joining us on Saturday, May 20, at 9 a.m. to work on these projects. Together we can get this done! Become a member of the clean-up team, because...

**Together Everyone Achieves More!**

Rain date: TBD



## **Church Angels– Can You Help?**

The church angels are going to begin meeting now that our flea market is over to work on cleaning, organizing, and beautifying areas throughout our church. They would welcome anyone who would like to join them in this endeavor. On Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, they will meet at 10 a.m. to continue the numerous projects that need to be addressed. If you are interested in helping, please call JoAnn and let her know. Look for future dates on the First Presbyterian Church weekly announcements that you receive via email and in your Sunday bulletin. Together we can make a difference.

## **Clothes Bin Donations— What happens to the clothes you donate?**

As you might know, we now have two clothes bins in the parking lot located on Union Street. Recently someone asked what was done to the clothes donated? We contacted American Recycling Resources, the company that supplied us the bins, and they provided the following information:

A few things are done with the items:

- ☺ Some are donated to St Vincent De Paul Society so they can go to various shelters
- ☺ Other items are sold very inexpensive on the second-hand market and go to thrift
- ☺ Anything that is stained, ripped, torn, etc. is recycled into fabric or stuffing (i.e., for pillows, stuffed animals, etc.)

It's good to know that the donated items are going towards good causes, just as the funds the church receives for having the bins will be going towards outreach.



### Spring Flea Market Update



Once again we were blessed with good weather for our spring flea market and we are very pleased to announce that to date we raised



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We are very grateful for those people who got up early on Saturday morning to help us take out tables, many boxes and other items that we were selling. Many church members came to help sell our vast array of merchandise to our customers. Afterwards, we had a group of members pack up the items under the tents and then take the tents down because the evening forecast called for high winds and rain. Carol and Jake extend their sincere appreciation to everyone who helped.

We are also very grateful to those church members who work year round collecting, cleaning, and pricing the numerous items as well as those members who helped the Sunday before bringing up the boxes from our storage areas and those members who came during the week to display the many things we had accumulated.

The Flea Market not only provides our treasury with additional funds raised by selling donations that we receive, but it also provides an opportunity for people in our community to purchase something that they need or want, all at more reasonable prices than in the stores.

*The next sale will be our Fall Flea Market on Saturday, September 16th—mark your calendars!*

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**We are going to try something new!**

On the first Saturday of each month beginning with May 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. we are going to open the room under the sanctuary to the public.

We would like to offer them the opportunity to purchase furniture, lamps, lights, pictures, frames, and other items that are on display downstairs. We are very optimistic that this will be a win-win situation for everyone.



May

- 1 - Craig L.
- 1 - Jake H.
- 8 - Ruth-Noemi B-R.
- 10 - Carole H.
- 11 - Laura G.
- 13 - Allyson Faith P.
- 15 - Carol Ann B.
- 16 - Melinda G.
- 17 - Andy R.
- 19 - Uchechi K.
- 20 - Ryder E.
- 26 - Jorrod J.
- 29 - Garry G.
- 30 - Glory Ukoha K.
- 30 - George Vincent D.



May

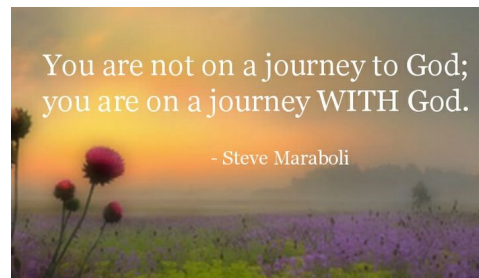
- 11 – Gail & Connie
- 29 – Loretta & Thomas



**Congratulations....**

**Fred Russell**

on becoming a 50 year member of our church in 2023. What a wonderful faith journey milestone it is!



You are not on a journey to God; you are on a journey WITH God.

- Steve Maraboli



## Zion Lutheran Homeless Shelter “Operation Warm Heart” Supplies

During the month of May, we at First Pres. will have an opportunity to respond to the needs of the shelter by bringing in any of the items listed below. A table will be set up in the sanctuary where the items can be placed. Donations will be brought to the shelter at the end of May.

- ⇒ Individual bottles of water
- ⇒ Hand Sanitizers
- ⇒ Disposable plates, cups and cutlery
- ⇒ Paper towels, toilet paper and napkins
- ⇒ Plastic garbage bags
- ⇒ Toiletries (hand soap, body wash, deodorant, lotion, toothbrushes and toothpaste.)
- ⇒ Cleaning supplies (mops, plastic gloves, floor cleaner, dish detergent, sponges and Lysol spray)
- ⇒ Laundry detergent and fabric softener

***Let's support this important program.***



### Operation Warm Heart: An opportunity to be a part of a wonderful mission!

Everyone loves to feel good about what they do? We are so blessed to have so much! That's why it is so rewarding to share what you have with those less fortunate than us. Our church has participated in Operation Warm Heart several times since its inception. Each time several members from our church have made things for the residents of Operation Warm Heart to enjoy for dinner, brought their dishes to Zion Lutheran Church, shared the meal they prepared with the people there and then cleaned up. This not only feeds the people there, but it also feeds the souls of the people who prepare and serve those people in need. It warms everyone's heart who participates in this endeavor. Operation Warm Heart is about to close on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> for several months while Rev. Carmine Pernini pursues grants and takes care of other is-



L to R: Diane Hoener, Gail Anderson,  
Cheryl Anne Cammann

sues that Operation Warm Heart created. But this is only temporary. When Operation Warm Heart resumes, I hope that you will consider becoming a part of this wonderful mission. You won't regret it, because when you do, you will see just what we did and feel just the way we did! You will receive a "Warm Heart" for participating. I hope you prayerfully consider this plea! —JoAnn Roesch





*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., Billy W. & family, Bruce & family, Carlos B., Chris H., Christine H., Debbie C., Diane W., Ed L., Eileen P., Eric & Judy R., Gail, Gladys B., Jane S., Kristen & family, Mary Ann, Mary Ann R., Matt P., Michael & Marty, Molly, Nancy T., Patty-Travis & family, Robert, Russ G., Savannah B., Tina Marie & family, Whitney S., Ukrainian Sisters & Brothers

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



**Welcoming a New Member, Awa**

Easter brought us many blessings, and one of them was our new member, **Orieji K. Awa**. Please pray that God’s abundant blessings be with her as she travels along the faithful road with us.

**Welcome Awa, to our church family!**



**Prayer Persons**

**MAY**

- May 7th** - Carlos Browne
- May 14th** - Debbie Cornwall
- May 21st** - Eric, Tara, & Ryan Crowley
- May 28th** - Jay Beam

**JUNE**

- June 4th** - Robert Bresenhan Jr.
- June 11th** - Joan Cubino
- June 18th** - Kevin Crowley
- June 25th** - Carol DeLuca

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RAHWAY, NJ 07065

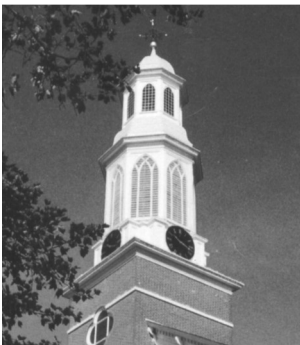
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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE RUSH**



**Worship with us  
Each Sunday at 10:30AM**

**In-person / Facebook & YouTube Live Streams  
Recorded Video Available Also**

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