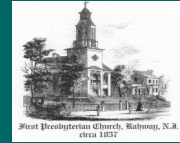


TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 16 Issue 5

May 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Special points of interest:

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Re: USRC

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Manse Fireside Chat

Friday
May 9th & 23rd

All are welcome!

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

From Pastor Ed...

God provides blessings in abundance so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2Cor. 9

Dear Friends,

There's a spirit in our world that we all labor under - and it's the spirit that tells us more is always better. It's the spirit behind so many of the slogans we hear like, "The one with the most toys wins." It's the spirit behind the feeling that if we have bigger houses or fuller bank accounts or newer cars, or lots of possessions, we'll be happy and fulfilled.

The problem is that spirit leads us into a bottomless pit. The more we get, the more we want - and it's never enough. But even for those who aren't on the materialistic treadmill, that spirit still leaks into people's souls.

We experience that spirit when we catch ourselves thinking, "*If we only had more*; time, energy, money, and even faith, *then* we could deal with whatever we're facing. Yes, there are times in our lives when it's appropriate to search for greater faith, and satisfaction, and strength. But sometimes that longing comes from looking in the wrong direction. Sometimes it's because we are so busy looking at the "not enough," that we *miss the gifts that we already have*. This is the spirit of scarcity.

That spirit can be a great drain on people who are trying to follow Jesus. It can drain the life out of the community of faith, because it causes us to retreat into foxholes so deep we can't see what resources are all around us, and we feel like we can't move from where we are.

The promise that God gives, is that there will always be enough grace and love and enthusiasm and generosity "for every good work" that *really needs to be done*, in our lives and in our mission. That's good news because it means that there are some things we don't need to do! If we can discern that, then, we're free to participate in what God wants done. The promise is that whatever God wants to be done will be supported by his Spirit, and his power. Sometimes it's just a question of you and I being *ready and willing to receive those gifts from God's hands*.

Peace, and Blessings
Ed

Editor:
CAB
office@1stpresrahway.org

Union Street Resource Center Update

Renovations in Squier Hall began in late January with the painting and floor refinishing of the 2nd floor multipurpose room. The gym in the basement was painted shortly thereafter and the 2nd floor bathrooms were upgraded with fresh paint, new sinks and toilets. In the early part of February we began the partnership with Rahway's Best after school and summer camp programs which required more aggressive renovations to Squier Hall. The entire hallway entrance to Squier Hall and stairwells were painted and the landings carpeted. The snack room and hallway in the basement outside the gym were painted and new flooring installed. The game room in the basement was painted and carpeting installed. The 3rd floor was painted and 6 new windows have been installed. The back parking lot was paved and flower boxes and a shed to store the garbage cans were built by one of the owners of Rahway's Best. There are not enough words of gratitude to thank the many church members and volunteers from Rahway's Best who gave of their time and talents to complete all the work before May 1st when the children start coming here.

The after school program during the school year hours are Monday thru Friday, 6:30am to 8:30am and 2:30pm to 7:30pm. The summer camp hours are Monday thru Friday 6:30am to 7:30pm.

The Snack Room
located by the
gym.



nice!



Photos of the
Pool Table Room.

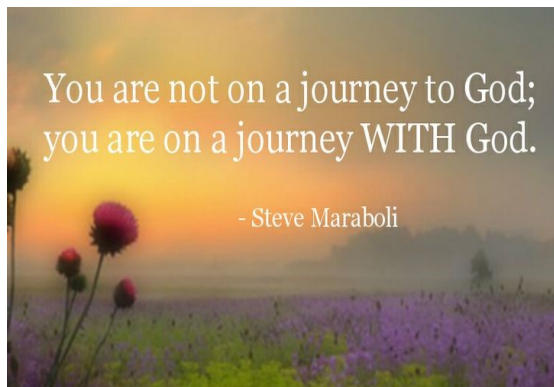
Congratulations to...



Al Shipley
Thomas Maye
Kenneth MacFarlane

on becoming 50 year members of our church this year.

What a wonderful faith journey milestone!



2025 Graduates, Anyone?

Do you have a loved one who is graduating in 2025? Whether it be kindergarten, elementary or middle school, high school, tech or college, send us an email to let us know what milestone they've achieved. Please include a picture also.

We'd love to share the great news with everyone!



The Chosen Season 4

The next two meeting dates are Sunday, May 18th and June 1st.

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



- Diane



May

- 1 - Craig L.
- 1 - Jake H.
- 8 - Ruth-Noemi B-R.
- 10 - Carole H.
- 11 - Laura G.
- 13 - Allyson 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 K.
- 30 - George D.



May

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



Upcoming Event:

**A Women's Retreat
Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat**

October 24th—26th

*Sacred Scraps: Creating Beauty
Alongside the Creator*

More details in
upcoming newsletters.



Union Street Resource Center

West Grand Avenue at Church Street

TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, RAHWAY

PLEASE BE ADVISED OF THE FOLLOWING

GOAL - Squier Hall will not be run by the church, instead the USRC Board of Directors will be making decisions. This Board will lyase with groups using the building. The Union Street Resource Center will become self-sustaining, able to pay its own utilities and maintenance. We are currently accepting resumes from people interested in serving the board.

PARTNERSHIP - The groups using the building will be PARTNERING with the USRC, working in conjunction with the USRC Board to maintain and respect the building. This model will not be the typical landlord-tenant model. We expect that everyone in the congregation respects the relationship we are developing with Rahway's Best and, in the future, other community organizations.

RATIONALE - As we learned with the help of Firebird Spirit, the future of First Presbyterian Church lies in changing how we do things. The USRC was created as an extension of First Presbyterian Church's mission outreach. The next generation of members will most likely come from our being a MISSIONAL church and being actively present in our community.

As such, there are certain guidelines that MUST be adhered to as we move forward.

- 1. COMMUNICATION** - ALL communication regarding the USRC, either from congregation members or groups using Squier Hall MUST go through the church liaison, currently the liaison is Session Clerk Cheryl Anne Cammann. This is to ensure that all concerns, issues, maintenance, etc. is handled in an efficient and timely manner. Further, this means NO PERSON OTHER than the liaison is to direct inquiries or concerns to any of the individuals from the groups using the building. If you have a concern, you can find a form in the Narthex or you can request an electronic version from Carol Ann Bregman.
- 2. ACCESS TO SQUIER HALL** - In accordance with New Jersey State laws concerning child-care safety and security NO ONE is allowed to be in Squier Hall during Rahway's Best after-school and summer program hours WITHOUT first securing approval from the Liaison and Rahway's Best authorized personnel. Additionally, during the summer program when the children are involved in outdoor activities on church grounds no one is to make contact with any of the children or their parents.

Your cooperation in abiding by these directives is respectfully mandatory.

USRC CONCERN FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

Concern:

Date _____ Received on _____

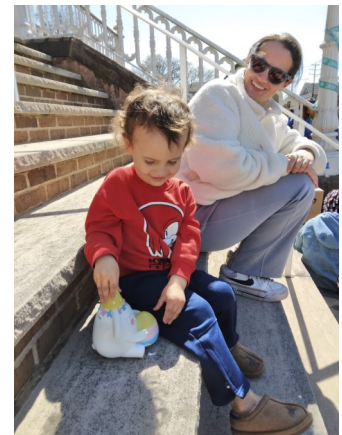
Addressed by _____

Resolution:

Contact about resolution made on _____

Rahway's Best Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 18th on our front lawn.

As you can tell, a good time was had by all.





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

Antoine, Amy, Becky, Carlos B. & family, Daphne P., Diane & Helene, Diara, Dorothy R., Evelyn, Harper, Helen, John, Linnea & Roger, Logan, Major A. & family, Mary "Cookie" F., Pat & family, Pete S., Sam, Savannah B.



Quote of the Month:

"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

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

MAY

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

JUNE

June 1st - Dona MacFarlane
June 8th - Orieji K. Awa
June 15th - Vincent DeLuca & family
June 22nd - John Ludington II & family
June 29th - Linda Guariglia

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RAHWAY, NJ 07065
732.382.0803

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH**



Thank you to Gail Anderson, Debby Russell, & Lauris Beam for putting together this beautiful Easter display.



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@1stpresrahway.org
Rev. Ed Hoener: edhoener1@gmail.com**

1stpresrahway.org

