

TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 14 Issue 6

June 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Church Angels Update

The church angels are meeting once again to work on cleaning, organizing, and beautifying our church. They would welcome anyone who would like to join them in this endeavor; let JoAnn Roesch know you're interested.

1st Thursday of the month at 10 am.

From Pastor Ed...

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. (R. Niebuhr)

Dear Friends,

The opening words of this prayer are widely known in the Christian faith - almost as well as the 23rd Psalm and the Lord's Prayer. Less well-known are the remaining words that continue this prayer.

"Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to prayer. Taking as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him, forever, in the next." Amen.

These words are so practical and powerful for many of the moments we face in our lives as individuals, and as a church. It helps to know that we don't have to accept, in a "grin and bear it" way, the hardships that come. It helps to know that we don't have to keep crashing into the same obstacles we meet either. We only make the changes that God asks us to make, and we let go of the situations that are not within our province. Knowing when to stop, and when to move ahead is rooted in the spiritual wisdom that is at the center of God's will, *for the time at hand.*

This prayer provides great comfort from knowing that eventually a beneficial outcome will happen if we surrender to God's will. This prayer points us towards the freedom we can experience, from letting God work at God's pace when things are "just the way they are" in this world.

This prayer offers great guidance to the Christian church that is facing cross-roads, at this time in its' history. The Church is being called to seek and reach people who are estranged and indifferent to the Christian faith. It is being called to identify and let go of ways of understanding, and being the church whose time has passed. It is being called to find God's balance between the acceptance and action pointed to in this prayer. Finding that balance is what leads to the serenity – the calm, and peaceful happiness we can have, from simply embracing God's revealed will as it unfolds.

Peace and Love, Ed

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER.

Thank You for Helping the Homeless

During the past month of May, members of our congregation donated cleaning supplies and paper products to the Homeless Shelter housed in the Zion Lutheran Church. Each Sunday our members faithfully responded to this need by bringing items to church in support of this important mission in our community.

The shelter, which opened in February, closed at the end of April in order to address several unforeseen glitches that caused the temporary shut-down. Zion plans to re-open the shelter in the fall with the means to offer an even better service to those in need. The items we collected will be stored in our church until the shelter re-opens.

Thank you to all who made donations.



Food Collection in June

Our congregation has been collecting food for the Rahway Food for Friends Food Pantry every February (Souper Bowl Sunday Collection) since 2000. For over 20 years, during that one month a year, our members have helped feed the hungry.

At the March Session meeting, Session members voted to expand our giving by holding food collections three months during the year. Starting this June, we are asked to bring food items to church to help supply the food pantry. At the end of the month the food will be delivered to the pantry. We will also be collecting food in October and, as is our custom, in February.

Besides the items most think of giving such as boxes of cereal, canned vegetables, soups and beans, canned pasta, rice products, and spaghetti noodles (all of which are welcome and needed) the following are items food banks suggest folks need, but rarely get:

**Boxed milk cooking oil salt, pepper, spices tea bags and coffee sugar and flour
canned tuna peanut butter jelly and jams cake mix and frosting Stove Top Stuffing**

Thanking you in advance, Session

Congratulations, Ryan!

Recently, Ryan graduated Middlesex County Fire Academy. Ryan joined the Clark Fire Department in January of 2023 and he completed Fire 1, and Fire 2 in May of 2023. He is hoping to one day become a Rahway Fire Fighter!

(Ryan with his Fire Academy class.
He is the one in the last row with the red helmet.)



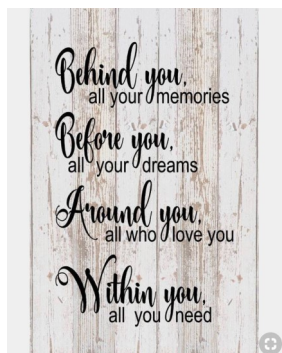
Congratulations, Allyson!

Allyson will be graduating from Linden High School on June 22.

In September, Allyson will be attending Union College, majoring in Adaptive Physical Education. She will also be playing Softball for the UC Owls.



**Your church family & friends wish you
all of life's blessings...**



June

- 2 - Kenneth M.
- 3 - Ashley T.
- 4 - Susan K.
- 5 - Judith R.
- 10 - Agnes N.
- 11 - Lauren D.
- 11 - Joshua G.
- 12 - Arden C.
- 12 - Chloe T.
- 13 - Sean S.
- 15 - Jack M.
- 17 - Linda S.
- 22 - Michele P.
- 25 - Daniel Rocco M.
- 28 - Donna G.
- 28 - Allison P.
- 30 - Zachary T.



June

- 9 - Jean & Ray
- 11 - Carol & Vincent
- 12 - Aleya & Maurice
- 15 - Leslie & Chris
- 17 - Ashley & Anthony
- 20 - JoAnn & Andy
- 20 - Donna & Garry
- 23 - Sara & Steve
- 28 - Elizabeth & Steven



Save the Date:

August 7 - 11

We'll be cooperating with Zion Lutheran. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

'Fabulous Finds' Mini Mart

The mini sale on the 1st Saturday in May was a success - almost \$400 was made that day. The next sale will be held on June 3rd from 9 am until 1 pm. A flyer is available if you would like to post it in your apartment building, grocery store, etc. - email or call the church office to request one. Help us spread the word!



Also, please share the church's FB posts about the sales. Pictures of some of the sale items will be included with the posts.



Fall Flea Market on Saturday, September 16th—mark your calendars!



"The Chosen" Season 2 will begin in September.

Each episode can stand alone. Feel free to drop in, even if you haven't seen Season 1.

If there is a small group of people wanting to view and discuss Season 1, Diane would be happy to lead the group at an agreed upon day and time.

Contact Diane if interested in either Season 1 or 2.

Please mark these Sundays at noon on your calendars. We meet at the manse (522 Union Street).

- September 10, 17, 24,
- October 8, 15,
- November 5, 12,
- December 3, and 17 (at 12:30 pm for the 17th only)



SUMMER'S COMING! (and some new opportunities are coming with it!)



During the summer *Weekends are precious!* We naturally want to be able to do things with family, go to the beach, or just chill in our own backyards.

SO, this summer we will be having Wednesday evening "lawn chair services" to free up our weekends. They will be about a half hour long, simple, very casual, and more participatory than a traditional service. They will be unique every week to introduce us to new expressions of worship and fellowship.

The first opportunity will be held on the patio at the manse, at 7pm on Wednesday June 28, and we'll figure out the where's and when's for the rest of the summer together. Please contact Ed or Cheryl Ann with your ideas!

THIS Summer, our Sunday worship services will be held in the Sanctuary OR Davis Hall on Hot Sundays! Come and Worship!

Join Us
IN Worship



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

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



Prayer Persons

JUNE

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

JULY

- July 2nd** - Leslie Ficke
- July 9th** - Caroline Balla
- July 16th** - Vincent DeLuca
- July 23rd** - Linda Guariglia
- July 30th** - Gerhart Family

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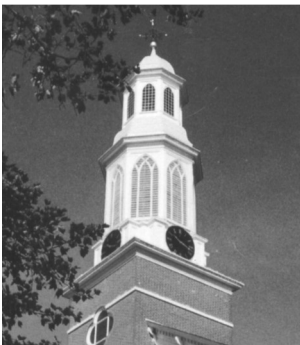
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**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH**



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

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

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



1stpresrahway.org

