

TOWER CHIMES



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Coming in June

A Four Message Series: "What Christian Faith Affirms about Relationships" in Marriage, Families, Neighbors, and Faith Communities.

The first message will be presented on June 22.

From Pastor Ed...

Dear Friends,

In the 139th psalm the author asks, and answers with an amazing affirmation, "*Where in the world can I go to avoid your Spirit? Your spirit is higher than heaven and deeper than the earth. There's no place so dark that you can't see me. There's no place I can go where your love can't reach me.*" (paraphrased)

If we think about it, all *throughout* the scriptures there is an unbroken record of all the ways, God keeps coming to us whatever our situations may be. We see it in the story of Abraham and Isaac, Jacob's ladder, and Moses and the burning bush. We see it in Isaiah's visions, and the still, small voice that whispered to Elijah in the cave. We see it in the story of Daniel in the lion's den - and so many others, which illustrate God's unrelenting initiative to meet us, and *be* with us.

Then there is the Christmas story, when Christ's coming dissolved the boundaries between what's human and divine. *All* of life is now joined because of Christ's incarnation.

This month we will have celebrated Pentecost – perhaps the most significant way that God comes to *be with us*. Living in the Spirit, the final boundary between us and God is gone - the one that is in the heart. Living in the light of Pentecost, we can experience the way that God's love and strength are experienced within. Now, once and for all, God is not "out there" anymore. Where Jesus broke through the barrier of space between us and God, the Spirit breaks through the time barrier. Now God is most powerfully and *always* with us.

That's good news to hold onto when life presses in on us. It's good news to remember when life is at its most challenging, because there is no place we can go on our journey where God is not there, with provisions to supply. The truth is, there's no place we can be where peace beyond understanding, and hope beyond reason, and grace upon grace cannot be experienced. Wherever we are and whatever we are doing. In all of life's challenges, this is good news indeed.

Peace and Blessings! Ed



Food Collection in June

During the month of June, we are asked to bring food items to church to help supply the Rahway Food For Friends pantry. We will also be collecting food in October and in February (Souper Bowl).

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

Please bring the items to the Sanctuary and place them on the tables to the left of the altar.



Rahway's Best: Here's a picture from Rahway's Best Grand Opening on Saturday, May 17th, with Mayor Jacobbe cutting the ribbon. They have photos of that exciting day for our community on their Instagram page. Go check it out!

Want to support their summer camp? Here's the link to their Amazon wish list. You can purchase from the store of your preference but this will give you ideas as to what their needs are for the program.

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



"Fabulous Finds" Update

We have been doing just fine with our "Fabulous Finds". So far this year \$12,847.10 has been added to our treasury from our sales at church and our online sales. Our very next sale will be Saturday, June 7th from 9 am until 1 pm. When we set up for our annual spring market on May 3rd, we realized that very large sales like that one take too much time to set up and take down. Consequently, we have decided that other than our Holiday Market in November, we will just have smaller "Mini Marts" on the first Saturday of most months. The exceptions will be the months where the first Saturday is a holiday. In those instances, we will not have a "Mini Mart" those months. Please note, there will not be a "Mini Mart" in July, but in August we will have a "Mini Mart" on Saturday, August 2nd, and in September we will have a "Mini Mart" on Saturday, September 6th.

First Presbyterian Church invites you to explore

LIFE GROUPS

WHAT IS THE GOAL?



Spiritual Growth

In order to grow in faith, it is important to be able to share our encounters with God. Life groups provide a safe and accepting space for open and honest conversation. Over time, group members become comfortable sharing their troubles and issues knowing the group is supportive and not judgemental. Unacknowledged wounds cannot heal, which means that spiritual growth is hindered.

Care & Nurture

To properly care for and include all of our congregational members, there are life groups that can include not only members who regularly attend services, but also meet needs of those that are homebound or have schedules that do not work with a Sunday service. We can alleviate the feeling of isolation some may feel. Also, we can tap into the energy of members that feel called to fellowship ministry.

What is calling you?



Growth in Numbers

Humans thrive in a non-threatening, supportive and positive community. We here at First Pres are people who have a relationship with Christ. Discipleship has many definitions and looks different to each of us. However, by creating life groups around our interests, we can call others into our midst through mutual interests and providing a safe and supportive space. This is a variation on a theme: If we build it, they will come. By creating relationships, those that are drawn to these opportunities will see who we are, and hopefully will be moved to be a more formal part of our congregation.

LIFE GROUPS



TYPES & EXAMPLES

Working Together

The groups will focus on a task or a project. This can be an ongoing project, a one and done project, or something in between! Our Fabulous Finds group is a perfect example of this type of group. However, other groups could be formed to address other missions that are on the hearts of our members.

Mixed Agenda

This is a group of people that just like doing things together! It could be mission projects one week and the new restaurant downtown the next!

Learning Together

These groups are content oriented. Bible studies, current topics and issues discussions, discussion of books and films, etc. are on the agenda at each meeting.

Caring Together

These groups address our mental and physical health. Supportive and understanding is important for all types of healing and recovery. Caring groups address issues such as loss, divorce, chronic illnesses, etc.

Being Together

We are called to have fun in Christ! Just being together in a fun and informal setting, we build relationships with others. Why not create a group that finds various opportunities to gather and have fun. It can happen in your yard, around a kitchen table, outdoors, at a bar, sporting events, concerts, or involve trips and journeys!

Life of a Life Group

Whatever you want it to be! These are supposed to be organic growths of our spirituality. Some groups may last only a session or two, while others may last years. When something ends, there is room for something new.



Uchechi K. received an Associate Degree in Public Health/Science from Union County College.



Scott N. received a BA in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Ian G. graduated from Rahway High School and is attending Rutgers University-Newark to major in Video Projection. Ian is the son of Nikkie Burnett.



Jacob Frances R will graduate from Zion Lutheran Pre-School in June. He is excited to begin Kindergarten in the fall at Frank K. Hehney School in Clark, where he will be joining his two older brothers, Andrew and Hudson, and his sister, Carleigh, for the first and only time in his school days.



Katelyn C. will be graduating from ALJ High School on June 20, 2025. She will be going to Penn State's Main campus to start her degree in Communications. Katelyn plans on majoring in journalism with a minor in social justice and political science. While she was in high school, Katelyn took many AP classes, as well as college courses from Fairleigh Dickinson College in New Jersey, the University of Alabama, and Union County College. Because of her efforts she begins her college career with 27 college credits.

Special Prayer Request

Please keep up those prayers for Savannah and her very tired family! Here's an update from her mother:

It's been twenty days since we returned home and began rebuilding our daily lives. Although Savannah's seizures were finally under control, a multitude of obstacles lay ahead. Fatigue doesn't even begin to describe our sleepless nights, spent managing her nutrition, behavior, and medication. Receiving the heartbreaking news from Neuro that her brain is deteriorating was a painful reality check. We've always known her rare condition would lead to a shorter life expectancy, but we're choosing not to dwell on that timeline. Our priority is helping Savannah regain her strength and making every moment count. Her recent ICU stay was a result of a relentless seizure lasting an hour, but thankfully, she's now stable and showing signs of her spirited personality. Please continue to pray for her.

May God hear our prayers,
Sue



Do you know what these metals are? They are pictured here on a cart in Davis Hall. See page 8 for the answer.



Quote of the Month:

“Astonishing material and revelation appear in our lives all the time. Let it be. Unto us, so much is given. We just have to be open for business.” —Anne Lamott

Answer to the question on page 7.

The metal items pictured on the previous page are window sash weights. In old double-hung windows, the sash weights were used to counterbalance the weight of the window sashes. These weights were attached to the sash by a cord or chain that runs through a pulley system allowing the windows to open and close smoothly. Recently, Ted and Andy were replacing ten leaking windows in Squier Hall. They collected the sash weights from the damaged windows and brought them to Ken. Ken brings all metals collected in our church to a recycler for cash which then goes into the church coffers.



Sacred
SCRAPS
Creating Beauty Alongside the Creator

DAY 1 Sacred Scraps: Finding Beauty in the Broken

DAY 2 The Creative God: Made in the Maker's Image

DAY 3 The Seam Ripper & The Spirit: Letting Go to Begin Again

Any and all sewing levels welcome (including first timers)!

Johnsonburg
Camp & Retreat Center
Oct. 24th - 26th

Join us!

Rev. Hannah Faye Allred is pastor of Kitchell Memorial Presbyterian Church in East Hanover, NJ. She was coerced into quilting by her sister a few years ago and hasn't looked back since. She is passionate about the Bible and bringing the word of God to life through thoughtful teaching and preaching. She is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary with a concentration in Biblical Studies and was formerly the Associate Pastor of Mission and Social Justice at The First Presbyterian Church in the city of New York.

She fills her time with gardening, running, (quilting, obviously) and trying to keep up with her two children: Henry and Jane. She and her husband Patrick uprooted themselves from the Midwest and have called New Jersey home for 9 years. She is always ready to talk to whoever will listen about the Bible and Taylor Swift. She is a big Johnsonburg fan and is thrilled to lead her first ever Women's Retreat.



Mark your calendar!

LET'S GO!



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

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



Our deepest condolences to...

The Browne family on the passing of one of our members, **Carlos Browne**, who entered eternal peace on April 15th. Please keep his 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. She will ensure that your request is addressed/sent to our wonderful prayer warriors.



Prayer Persons

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

JULY

- July 6th** - Nyambi family
- July 13th** - Aleya Daye Hall & family
- July 20th** - Purcell family
- July 27th** - Carolyn Gerhart & family

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

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