

TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 17 Issues 7 & 8

July / August 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Special points of interest:

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"The Chosen"

We are meeting on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm at the manse. Please join in the discussion! July begins looking at Good Friday and beyond.

**July 24 and 31;
August 14 and 28;
September 18; October 2 and 9; November 20; December 11**

From Pastor Ed...

Dear Friends,

The wisdom that we all gradually gain in our lives, is in part, a function of the way we learn to *look* at life as we go. It is the result of having experienced plenty of living, and from being involved in the lives of other people. In a way, growth can depend on the kinds of "lenses" we use to look at life.

In the Church, we use special lenses - that help us to see ourselves, and each other, and even life in a very special way. They are the "lenses" of our faith, and they help us see things very differently. There is the lens of the Scriptures and the particular way they help us to see God and God's will for our lives. There is the lens of prayer, and the way we can see things differently once we have given ourselves, and our problems over to God.

Jesus Christ is a lens through which we can see our lives in terms of his teachings and example. When we choose to put our "faith lenses" on, suddenly it's clear how we are loved by God. Through those lenses, each of us can see our selves as a new creation - a work in progress - being shaped by the Spirit who helps us become the best we can be.

With our "faith lenses", we can see the world as a sacred place, full of beautiful reflections of the "hands" that made it, and that we are all responsible to help care for. Looking through those "lenses", we can see *other people's* needs, and find ways to help them.

In a way, what happens in the Church is just like what happens in an optometrist's office. Through the Spirit, and each other, we can receive what we need to see things more clearly - the way God sees them, and then Jesus shows us all the ways to live with what we see.

This is all good news to remember, as we seek to find *our* way together into the future of our church.

Peace, and Blessings,
Ed

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CAB
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EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT

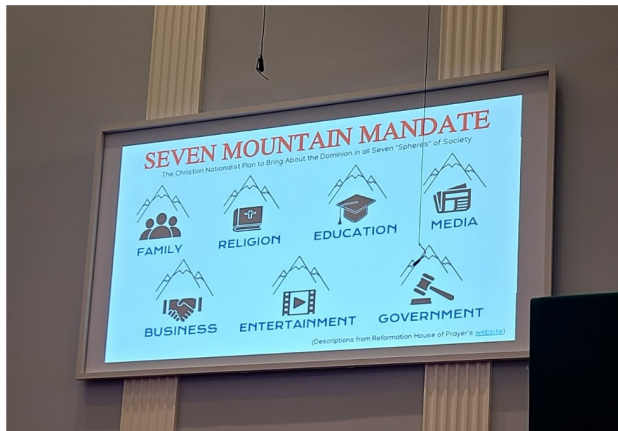
Yes, it's TRUE. Your session took a bold step and approved the installation of air conditioning in Davis Hall. This is indeed a costly project that is being funded by the investment funds and will improve our summer worship services as well as enable us to rent the hall during the hot months. The (4) mini-split units and condensers have been installed. The next phase is the electrical assessment to determine the safest and best way to provide power to the units.



We welcome donations to offset the cost of this project with much appreciation.

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Tim Whitaker's speaking event was a great success! He delivered insightful, thought-provoking perspectives, which sparked meaningful discussions.

Here are a few photos from the May 29th event.

Photos: Selva Villahermosa





Congratulations, Ashley Nyambi

Your church family is so proud of you on your 8th grade graduation! We thank God for the wonderful young person you are becoming and pray that the Lord guides you in every step ahead. Keep shining God's light in all you do—this next adventure in your education is going to be amazing!

Host a Coffee Hour

We are looking for people to host coffee hour. Sign-up sheets are on the food table in Davis Hall.

Reminder:

We will be starting cold drinks for the summertime during coffee hour. We will resume coffee and tea in the fall.

A Note from Diane Hoener:

Patricia Hellwig, a family member, is currently undergoing dialysis and is seeking a living kidney donor. The best match would be someone on the younger side who has either blood type A or O.

Anyone who doesn't match Patricia's blood type can still donate through the kidney exchange program. Patricia will be put in the registry for a kidney swap with another match as a priority.

I would appreciate your prayers and spreading the word. Patricia is a beautiful, loving person. If you would like more information, please contact Diane Hoener and she will connect you with the family. Thank you!



July

- 1 - Monyka Elyzabeth K.
- 1 - Erwin A.
- 1 - Logan Gene S.
- 3 - Ray M.
- 10 - David K.
- 10 - Richard M.
- 19 - Bridget N.
- 23 - Lauren H.
- 27 - Joanne P.
- 27 - Uma K.



July

Love is the anchor that
keeps us steady in
life's storms.

Chair Yoga Has Returned

Morning sessions are on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in Squier Hall. **NO** evening sessions on Thursdays during the summer months. Bring 2 full water bottles to be used as weights or dumbbells if you have them.

Join US !



Photo: Gail Anderson

Food Pantry Giveaway

The recent food pantry giveaway was a heartwarming success, bringing relief and hope to families in need. Quite a few from our church and the Lodge members were there to pack some bags and assist the distribution. By the end of the day, not only had shelves been cleared, but spirits had been lifted — a true reminder of the power of compassion in action.

June 4, 2026

Sue's Birthday

Sue shared some birthday fun with us, because, as we all know, she has a lot to celebrate this year!

Happy Belated B-day, Sue 



Wanted – Soda Can Pull Tabs



As you can see from the photo, it is again time for our church to empty its container of pull tabs brought in by our members and friends. Saving pull tabs is a popular practice used to help raise funds for charities that recycle the metal. Unknown to many, the aluminum in the tab is more pure than the can itself and since the tabs are paint-free they are easy for

scrap yards to process them.

The tabs we collect are donated to the Ronald McDonald House of Central and Northern New Jersey in New Brunswick. Ronald McDonald Houses provide a “home-away-from-home” for seriously sick children and their families. The McDonald Houses are built near pediatric hospitals.

Our Church resumed collecting tabs about two years ago. The container is located in the Davis Hall kitchen. Please remember to bring a bag of tabs when you come to worship on any Sunday. It was a pleasant surprise when former member Susan Haefner recently visited a service and “yes” she brought a bag of tabs with her. Thanks to all.

REMINDER:

Fabulous Finds Mini Mart

Saturday, August 1

9 am — 1 pm

As always, if you find that you have time and would like to come to the church and help, please do so. There are always things that you can do.

Share Our Social Media Posts



August

- 7 - Vincent D.
- 7 - Nicolo Anthony N.
- 15 - Lawrence C.
- 15 - John L.
- 16 - Zachary W.
- 18 - Tracie W.
- 20 - Hazel Marion M R.
- 21 - Eric R.
- 21 - Sam S.
- 21 - Lucas Joseph S.
- 27 - Ashley Nicole C.
- 27 - Bill D.
- 31 - Michael T.



August

- 8 - Kristen & Russell
- 13 - Carol & Jake
- 22 - Judy & Eric
- 29 - Robin & Alex
- 29 - Candy & Michael





Grand Opening June 20th



Saturday, June 20th was the Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting for the Union Street Resource Center's Community Garden. Mayor Ray Giacobbi along with Darlene Eastman, 2nd Ward Councilwoman joined Cheryl Anne, Ed, David Holmes, Sue Krivenko, Rahway's Best Joie Nodarse and Council members Danni Rumsey, David Brown and Jeff Brooks in the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon. The garden is now open to welcome congregation members, families and neighbors. The garden's regular open hours will begin in July. Among the vegetables planted there are 4 varieties of peppers, squash, cucumbers and tomatoes. Also planted were herbs such as basil, parsley, dill and lemon thyme.

The Union Street Resource Center is excited to announce that the first and second quarter tutoring programs were so successful that we will be conducting a 4 week summer session, Mondays through Thursdays, July 6th through 31st. The 2nd Pres Mission Fund committee generously agreed to fund the program which hired 4 tutors from the Rahway School system who will provide 16 students with (2) one-hour individualized sessions each week. The lessons will be conducted in the library, church office, and 2 rooms in Squier Hall.



Prayer REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request please give Ilanda a call at 732-382-6193 or send her an email: ikerobo@comcast.net. Ilanda will ensure that your request is addressed/sent to our wonderful prayer warriors.

Doris, Patricia H., Fran, Paul, Matthew W. & family, Eunice, Barbra & Dave, William S., Abisiji B., Damilola B., Rosemary B., Bob M., Doug A., Patrick W., Lynn H., Michele P., Louise & Teddy, Barbara, Agnes N. & family, Savannah B. & family, Becky, John, Sam, Michael, Sara & Joan P., Mary "Cookie" F., Nicole, Allison, Mary R., Helen, Logan, Harper, Helene & Diane, Dorothy R., Amy

Our deepest condolences to...

The Zahradnik and Hamza families on the passing of **Mildred "Mimi" Zahradnik**, who passed peacefully at her home on May 4, 2026.



The Huntley family on the passing of one of our long time members and former Church Treasurer, **Carole Huntley**, who passed on Tuesday, June 23rd. For many years, Carole also volunteered her time to our fundraising sales, working during the week and on the day of the sale. She will be fondly remembered and missed by all.

Please keep the families in your prayers.

Prayer Persons

JULY

July 5th - Ilanda Kerobo
July 12th - Donna Gutches & family
July 19th - Ruth-Noemi Belloni-Rosario
July 26th - Rodrigue Joseph

AUGUST

Aug. 2nd - Padavano family
Aug, 9th - Thomas Maye
Aug. 16th - Daniel DeLuca
Aug. 23rd - Andy & JoAnn Roesch
Aug. 30th - Odrigue Joseph

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**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH**



Photo: D. Hoener



QR Code for donations

**Worship with us
Each Sunday at 10:30 AM**
In-person / Facebook & YouTube Live Streams
Recorded Video Available Also

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www.1stpresrahway.org

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