

TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 14 Issues 7 & 8

July/August 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Special points of interest:

- Church Community News - pg. 3 & 4
- Prayer Requests - pg. 5

Inside this issue:

Summer Pg. 2
Worship / RFFF
Freezer / The
Chosen

Summer Worship & Live Streams

If worship takes place anywhere other than the Sanctuary (i.e., Davis Hall on hot days) live streaming is not possible. Be sure to check our Facebook page or our website for updated information as to whether there will be a live stream. Of course, the weekly email will also have that information if it's available before publication.

From Pastor Ed...

"When it was evening the disciples came to Jesus and said, this is a deserted place and it's late, send the crowds away so they can buy food for themselves. Jesus said, "They need not go away, you give them something to eat." Mt. 14 15

About 100 years ago there was a theologian named Schopenhauer who noticed something about human beings. He said, "Everyone takes the limit of their own vision for the limits of the world." In other words, we are prone to "see" every situation or problem we meet, through our own experience and perspective. Because that is so often true, when we come to an impasse or a crossroads in life, we argue for a solution using whatever perspective we gained from a similar experience in the past. In the story this morning, the disciples couldn't see past the problem. They argued for the limitations of their own experience and those became their limitations. According to their perspective, their solution was the only one that made sense.

When the disciples advised Jesus of the situation, He presented them with a mindboggling challenge. "You give them something to eat." Of course that unleashed the arguments from their perspective – but in a way it also opened the door to a new opportunity. That seems to be the pattern throughout the testimony of the scriptures. Israel is backed up to the Red Sea, Jerusalem is surrounded by the Persian army, The nation of Israel is carried into exile, Jesus is crucified, and buried. The Church of Christ is facing a new generation that has little or nothing to do with the Christian faith.

And what does Jesus do? In every generation, Jesus calls us to reformation. He calls us to reach out to people with his message. He calls us to give people something to eat. He calls us to live in such a way that people can see who God is, and how we are called to live.

These are the tests we are given all the time if we try to follow Jesus. He gives us these tests because this is His church not ours. The tests are big and scary sometimes, but God is always there at the next step, whatever it may be. It was when the people of Israel took that first step off of the shoreline that the Red Sea waters parted. It was when the disciples, in spite of their misgivings, brought the crowd to Jesus, with their meager fish and loaves. It will be when we cross the street or cross the room to tell someone our faith story. It may be when we open our lives in a deeper and truer way to other sisters and brothers in a small group. It may be when we open our minds and hearts to a new way of seeing and listening to God's calling. The promise is, that is when the miracles will come to pass.

Peace and Love,
Ed



SUMMER IS HERE!

(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, throughout the 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 next opportunity will be held on the patio at the manse, at 7pm on Wednesday July 19, 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!



Food for Friends Pantry Needs New Freezer

The need for a new freezer that will cost in excess of \$3,000.00 was expressed at a recent meeting of the Rahway clergy held on June 8. The pastors, representing ten Rahway churches, agreed that if each congregation made a donation of \$300.00 the need would be satisfied.

Our Session agreed to present this opportunity to the congregation and ask them to donate to this need during June and July.

To make a donation, make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and write “Freezer” on the memo line. Mail checks to the church or place them in the offering plate during Sunday worship. If making a cash donation, place cash in an envelope and write “Freezer” on the outside.

The Session thanks you in advance for helping our church reach our promised goal.



The Chosen Season 2 will begin in September.

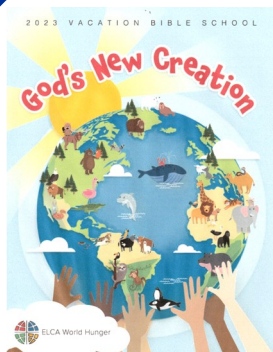
Each episode can stand alone. Feel free to drop in, even if you haven’t seen Season 1.

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)



Vacation Bible School August 7 -11

We will be coordinating this year's Vacation Bible School with Zion Lutheran. The curriculum being used this year is ELCA's World Hunger - *God's New Creation*.

Each day of *God's New Creation* offers large- and small-group activities, crafts, games, snacks, and more.

What are the lessons based on? Here's what ELCA's Program Director / Hunger Education, Ryan P. Cumming, had to say:

"Farming communities around the world are important when it comes to ending hunger. They provide the world's food, but often farmers, especially smallholder farmers, are at high risk for hunger themselves. Working with farmers to improve harvests, save money and prepare for the future can be big steps toward ending hunger around the world. This is why ELCA World Hunger works through congregations, partners and companion churches to accompany farmers as they innovate and adapt in creative, effective ways.

"God's New Creation" is about this work together. Our focus verse for this program is: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." —Isaiah 11:6"

More details to follow as to the where, time, etc., however, please speak to Sue if you're interested and would like more info.



Church Angels

The "Church Angels" met on Thursday, June 29 to continue cleaning different areas of our church that were neglected during Covid. They would love to have you join them. They begin at 10 am in the morning and they usually are done around 1 pm. If you would like to join them, feel free to come when you can and leave when you must.



They are not going to meet during the month of July. Their next meeting will be on Thursday, August 3. Please prayerfully consider helping them. You will enjoy the fellowship and feel good about doing something to make our church more inviting.



July

- 1 - Monyka K.
- 1- Erwin A.
- 3 - Ray M.
- 4 - Fred R.
- 8 - Rev. Doug Grote
- 10 - David K.
- 10 - Richard M.
- 19 - Bridget N.
- 23 - Lauren H.
- 27 - Joanne P.
- 27 - Uma K.



July

14 - Debby & Fred (1973)



Congratulations, Debby & Fred, on such a momentous milestone for life's journey ... together!



Fabulous Finds Mini Mart

We have been delighted with the success of our Fabulous Finds Mini Mart. For our first sale in May we made \$400, which we thought was wonderful. In June we were much busier. People were ready to browse before 9 am and new customers continued to come until 1 pm when we closed. That day we made a whopping \$1,425! Needless to say, we were delighted with this amount.

It has been decided that we won't have first Saturday sales when they fall on holiday weekends, so our next sale will be Saturday, August 5 from 9 am until 1 pm.

We are grateful to everyone who makes donations for us to sell as well as those members who work each week to clean, sort, price and display the many things that we receive. Please be sure to share with your family and friends the wonderful flyer that Carol Ann includes in our weekly announcements a week before our sale, so that we will continue to enjoy being busy, selling our "Fabulous Finds" to those who come looking for a bargain.

Our August sale will be the last one before our huge fall flea market on Saturday, September 16th. Together we can make this one too another huge success!



The array of food items donated by the congregation and collected for the Food for Friends Food Pantry during the month of June.

The Food Pantry is open every Monday and Friday throughout the year to take care of the nutritional needs of over 600 families per week. Our church has faithfully collected canned and boxed items to support the pantry since 2000.

Thank you to everyone who responded to this need.



Aug.

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



Aug.

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



Torch Run 2023

Ted's 24th year (minus Covid) running down St. George's Avenue for Special Olympics. Awesome!!!



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., Andrew D. & family, Anthony & family, Billy W. & family, Bruce & family, Carlos B., Christine H., Debbie C., Diane W., Doris & Celeste, Ed L., Eileen P., Eric & Judy R., Gail, 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

JULY

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

AUGUST

- Aug. 6th** - Kristen Hinckley & Family
- Aug. 13th** - Janis Karpinski
- Aug. 20th** - Robyn & Bryan Koenig & Family
- Aug. 27th** - Jean Kuc

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1731 CHURCH STREET
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

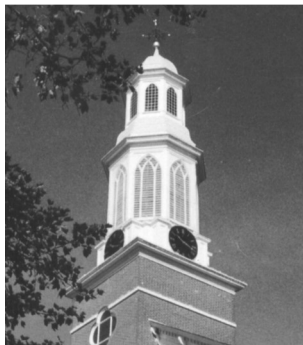
732.382.0803

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

PERMIT NO. 111

**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



May your summer hold God's many blessings!