

TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 13 Issue 9

September 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Pastor Ed's Office Hours

Well, I'm all moved in and will be keeping regular office hours at the church! At this time, they will be: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30am-1:00pm.

Of course other times can be arranged by calling me or by e-mail:

edhoener1@gmail.com

From Pastor Ed...

Dear Friends at FPC Rahway,

Let me tell you a bit about myself. I was born in Brooklyn, NY and lived there about 4 years. (As a babe in arms, I attended one of the last Brooklyn Dodgers games!) Next, my family moved to NJ and I spent most of my formative years in Rahway, first on Ridge Road, and then, Maple Ave. As a young man, I put myself through college at night, while working full time at Public Works here in Rahway. After earning my Psychology degree, I had always considered going to seminary "some day" to study how spirituality and psychology can be part of treatment plans. Through a series of coincidences, *my* plans for continuing education in Clinical psychology were thwarted, and I suddenly found myself admitted to Princeton Theological Seminary. (God is very skilled at opening and closing doors to guide us!) I have been a pastor since 1992, serving churches in NY State in Vestal, Binghamton, Tonawanda and two interim pastorates in Mendon, and Scottsville, NY.

My mother still lives in Rahway, and my two sisters live in Rahway and Colonia, respectively. After I completed my service in Scottsville, I began seeking a call that would make it possible to be closer to family, and to help out with my Mom's health concerns. Once again, God has been faithful to open the door that has led to First Pres. I am married to a *wonderful* person and my best friend, Diane. We love music of *almost* all kinds. Diane and I sang with one of the premier choirs in our area, the Rochester Oratorio Society. Diane and I like to canoe and kayak and we are both certified in open-water scuba diving. We love camping and bike riding. We love vacationing - exploring different places, and discovering great places to eat. Diane is an avid "scrap-booker", and card player (especially bridge). I love hiking and playing my guitar, and microbreweries. Diane and I lived in Lakeville, NY for a number of years helping her Mom and Dad stay in their home, until they both passed on. Diane has been a special education and Montessori teacher (having started a new school in the Raleigh, NC area.)

Fall Flea Market



SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

9AM-2PM



Our annual fall sale will be coming up in a couple of weeks. As always, we need volunteers to help, but 1 & 3 are the ones we could use the most help with since it requires many hands to get these jobs done. So if you can, we'd so greatly appreciate any time you can give us. Let Carol or Jake know you'll be able to help, or call or send an email to the church office.

1. *Bringing items up from the downstairs area, Sunday, September 11*

Please consider staying after worship and lending a hand as we move items from downstairs into Davis Hall and the hallway. If you can't attend worship but can come to the church and help after 11:30am, wonderful. The more help there is, the easier and quicker this gets done.

2. *Setting up Davis Hall & the Hallway, Monday - Friday*

Setup will be from approximately 10:00am to 2:00pm. Lunch is provided.

3. *Workers on the day of the sale from 7am-3:30pm*

One of the biggest jobs is getting the outside ready, which begins at 7am. We've been blessed with a lot of help over the last few flea markets, we hope it will continue for this one as well. Please consider helping from 7am and throughout the day, if possible. Lunch is provided. (The time noted above includes helping with cleanup by bringing the outside items in.)

Reminder:

We are not taking used clothing, computers, VCRs, VHS tapes, encyclopedias, TVs, books, or printers. Please call the church office if you have a donation, or items can be dropped off on Wednesdays from 10am-12noon, however, the week of the sale you can drop off items all week until Thursday, Sept. 15.

Save the Date

Next Session-approved 2022 flea market date:

- **Saturday, November 12th, 9am-2pm**
Indoor / Holiday Sale



Sept.

- 1 - Andrew R.
- 5 - Ryan Nicholas C.
- 7 - Rachel R.
- 9 - Anga N.
- 11 - Patrick W.
- 12 - Gail W.
- 13 - Ted P.
- 15 - Francis N.
- 18 - Emily Elizabeth O.
- 20 - Steven O.
- 23 - Hudson R.
- 26 - Bryan K.
- 29 - Sarah R.
- 30 - Christine J.



Sept.

- 1 - Dana & Bill
- 2 - Tara & Eric
- 7 - Hillary & Daniel

Baptisms on the Horizon!

God knows how much we love these special celebrations of God's covenant love with us, and for us!

In October we will be celebrating the baptisms of several children from among our families and friends. Stay tuned for more details as they unfold!





Summer Worship w/Zion Lutheran

Our time worshipping with Zion Lutheran is coming to a close with the last worship service on Sunday, September 4th. We want to thank our sisters & brothers in Christ, along with Pastor Carmine Pernini, for opening their arms to us this past summer. It was a pleasure gathering with them and we are looking forward to being more involved with them in the coming months. Speaking of September 4th...



Celebration on September 4th!

What a Great Summer it has been, worshipping with our sisters and brothers at Zion Lutheran Church! So, if you can, be sure to attend the September 4th worship service, to join a special time for outside worship, fellowship, food, and refreshments following the service. Come and worship!



Live Streaming God's Living Water

Jesus once said that the life God gives is like a spring of living water in our hearts. One of the truths about that is wherever we are, we can experience that gift. Our church's live streaming capability makes it possible for us to worship together no matter where we may be.

We will once again begin live streaming on Sunday, September 11th @ 10:30am. Here are simple instructions for how one can access our live streaming.

We live stream in 2 places—

Facebook: Go to the church's FB page and the live stream will be posted on the page's feed.

YouTube: Go to our YouTube channel and the live stream will be posted.

You can do a search in either of these apps for 'First Presbyterian Church Rahway' to get to the appropriate page/channel. Both places will allow you to click on a link for an online bulletin.

Please note that if you do not have a Facebook account, you can view the live stream in YouTube, which does not require you to have an account to watch the stream.

Recorded Services:

All worship services are recorded so that they may be viewed at another time. The recordings are available on Facebook, YouTube, and our website.

We would love for you to join us in the Sanctuary, but if you can't, please join us online and celebrate the gift with us wherever you may be.

Congratulations Emily (Marsh) & Dylan Broadley!



Joyous news!!! Please meet the newest, and may I add ADORABLE, addition to the Broadley & Marsh families:

Beckett Jackson

8/27/2022

Proud grandmother (Mimi), Dana Marsh, posted the following on her Facebook page:

So, anyone who knows me knows that I am not a big FB poster, BUT this is big news... Emily Broadley and Dylan are the proud parents of sweet Beckett Jackson born this past Saturday. And that makes Bill and me the beyond excited grandparents (also known as Mimi and Pop).

Everyone is doing well! We are looking forward to holding the little nugget soon! So much love coming your way, sweet pea! I love how big brother Bodie (golden retriever) is keeping a close eye on you!

May God's many blessings be with you all during this wonderful new chapter in your lives!



Charity Goodman & Family Coming to First Pres Sunday, October 2nd

The church office received an email from Charity with a picture of a quilt she had in her possession which she would like to donate to the church. On October 2nd, Charity and her sister Logan will be coming to the church to hand deliver the quilt. Below is a part of the original email communication:

Dear church members,

This is a photo of a 1944 quilted bedspread with church members names embroidered on it. It was given to my grandfather, Dr. Chester Davis, a former pastor at your church as a gift. We want to make sure it is saved for future generations. Is this something the church would be interested in having donated to it? If not, is there a local history museum or society that might be interested? It is in good shape and all of the names can still be read.

By the way I have fond memories going to Sunday School at the church and staying over at the manse. I remember his retirement party when I was about 4 years old.

The quilt is in my possession in Maryland because my mother Carol Goodman (nee Davis) passed away March 4 of this year at 92. She was the youngest daughter. I am an anthropologist interested in history and a quilter which is why I especially value this quilt and wish to save it.

*Sincerely
Charity Goodman*



Wonderful news! Plans are now being discussed, but the quilt will be here in October so we hope you can join us for a special service & fellowship on 10/2!

Session Welcomes Rev. Edmund L. Hoener



The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee's (IPNC) search is over. During the sixth month search process, the IPNC received 71 Pastor Information Forms and after reviewing all of the PIF's, the committee found about a dozen candidates they thought would be the right person to lead our Church. Zoom interviews were held with those individuals. When the interview process was complete, the Committee was very excited about the possibility of calling the Reverend Ed Hoener to be our candidate and invit-

ed him to an in-person interview.

On Monday, July 18, our Session, our Presbytery Moderator, Claire Davis, and the three members of our IPNC, Gail Anderson, Diana Nwosu and JoAnn Roesch met with Pastor Hoener. During the interview which lasted about two and a half hours, Session members and IPNC members were given the opportunity to ask Pastor Hoener a myriad of questions covering his faith journey, his experiences at other churches, and his strategies for helping our Church as we move forward. Pastor Hoener, who grew up in Rahway, shared many personal stories about his life journey. At the conclusion of the meeting, Pastor Hoener was excused and his candidacy was discussed. Everyone present agreed that he was the person we wanted to call as our Interim Pastor. A motion was made and all present voted in the affirmative.

It is our hope and prayer that everyone would soon be able to welcome Pastor Hoener and his wife Diane to our Church family.



A brief bio about Pastor Ed & his wife, Diane...

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A large part of my ministry has been in church transformation and growth, and I am certified in Interim and Transitional Ministry by the PCUSA. I love helping to tackle the challenges of being Christ's church today, by equipping congregations in leadership development, community building, gifts-based ministries, outreach and discipleship. Diane and I have learned many of the new approaches to ministry together, and we will love helping First PC to build on the work you've already been doing. I am excited about the time we will be sharing together. We are looking forward to meeting and getting to know you! Grace, Peace and Blessings!

Ed and Diane Hoener



Have a blessed Autumn!

Each week via email, Pastor Ed provides a message and a prayer for us to carry with us in our weekly travels. Below is his most recent message & prayer.



Traveling Mercies “when walking into an unknown future”

Read Ex. 33:12-23

At this point in the exodus story, Moses is responding to God’s calling for him to bring this new nation into the promised land, and under the circumstances he felt totally unqualified to do it. He was scared and frustrated, and this was the tension in Moses’ voice, when he said, “See, you’ve told me to bring up the people, but who is going to come with me? God replies, “I will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Well, in spite of God’s promise to go with him, Moses was still afraid, and suddenly his conversation with God took an interesting turn. Moses said, “Show me your glory!” In other words, “Show me even more of Your power, so that I can believe You’ll make good on Your promises” And that’s when God responded in a rather surprising way. God said, “to see my power is not what you need Moses. You have seen lots of my power so far and you’ve come to depend too much on the signs and wonders. What you really need is to know what kind of God I am.” And that is when He showed Moses His back - that is, what is *behind* His power. That’s when God showed Moses his saving “face”, his goodness and mercy and grace. This story says, what we really need to trust God, and follow, is to know God’s heart - the infinite love that is behind his infinite power.

God knows our lives get hard sometimes. We all have times when we feel defeated, or depressed, or frustrated. We all have times when we feel like our prayers are going nowhere. That’s when we may be tempted to resort to Moses’ first prayer. “Show us a sign!” This story suggests that in such times God invites us to go deeper - and to remember that God’s nature is love and mercy and grace - because they are the gifts we can carry with us whatever we’re going through. They are also the gifts that can truly empower us to move on, and make it through, and get over whatever obstacles we meet along the way.

These days it’s like our church is walking through one of its’ own exodus journeys. We are having to make our way from one time and place, into another time of promise and a future. But now at this threshold, as we think about the challenges we’re facing and anticipate a new promised land, it is only natural to want some of the same assurances Moses did. “God show us *now* what will make us grow and thrive. God show us the power that will give us success in all our endeavors”. But God only shows what is *behind* his power; which is his love, faithfulness, mercy and grace. The promise is that if we’ll let *that* sink deep into our souls it will bolster our trust in God more than anything else. May God help us to receive that trust as we prepare to cross our thresholds into the future.

Prayer:

O God, we know that this life of faith is a journey, and these days, we feel especially insecure. It’s hard when we can’t see what’s coming. It’s hard to know what our next steps should be. Help us to feel Your presence within us and around us. Help us to experience, deeply, Your love and grace supporting us, so that we can walk forward with confidence and hope. Amen.



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.

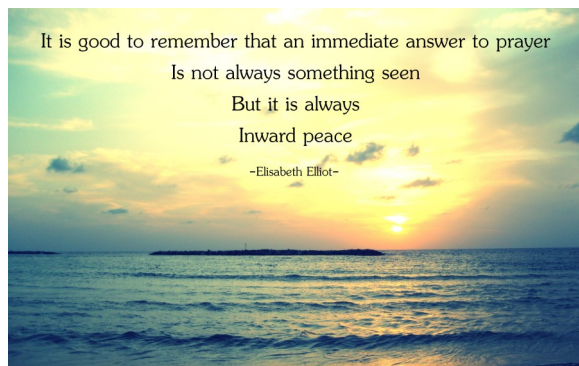
Prayer Requests

Alyne B., Angel M., Ann D., Anthony N., Christine H., Dan M., Debbie C., Diane W., Ed LI., Eileen P., Gail (not Anderson), Gene S., Jamie M., Jane S., Janet S., Joanne P., Joey H., Joseph S., Jr., Mary, Maryann F., Michael & Marty, Molly, Patty-Kenny-Travis R., Russ G., Savannah B., Tommy, Tracie W., Ukrainian Sisters & Brothers



Sincere condolences to...

Thomas Maye & family on the passing of his mother & one of our long-time members, *Bonnie Josephs*, who passed on July 8th. Please keep the family in your thoughts & prayers during this difficult time.



Prayer Persons

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 4th - Candace King**
- Sept. 11th - John Ludington III**
- Sept, 18th - Marion Pavelec**
- Sept. 25th - Eunice Schwietering**

OCTOBER

- Oct. 2nd - Judy & Eric Rickes**
- Oct. 9th - Sarah & Rachel Remelgado**
- Oct. 16th - Andrew John Roesch**
- Oct. 23rd - Sola Family**
- Oct. 30th - Harold Wilcox**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1731 CHURCH STREET
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

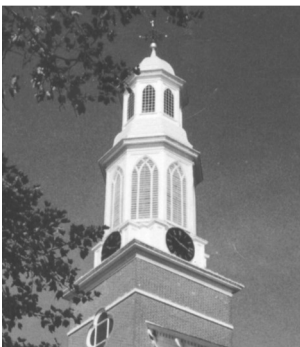
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**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH**



**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

