



Dear Friends,

One once said: “Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them”

Who were you before life’s situations and circumstances challenged your assumptions and other people told you who you were meant to be? The way we think about ourselves really impacts every area of our lives. The way you think about yourself impacts all areas of your life.

Every decision you make, every day of your life, and every date you hold and place on your calendar.

In the book of Isaiah, the great prophet was writing to the nation of Israel who found themselves in exile. Their identity had been diluted and their temple had been destroyed. Isaiah wanted them to fix their eyes on the truth of God’s words rather than the world into which they now lived. A nation in exile.

Isaiah 41:1 is a verse that acknowledges the prophet telling the people that the Lord created and formed them. That God had and continues to have a purpose for them. Delivering and gathering their children from east to west was a reason for them not to fear. He considered them and us honored in His sight. Although they were brought into exile because of their sin and disobedience, the Lord still unconditionally loved them. Although we go astray and sin before God, He still loves us and offers us His peace. This relationship of love was a promise that still holds true today in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

How difficult it must have been for the nation of Israel to comprehend the truths of the prophet’s words. Does your life experience cause you to have trouble comprehending the truth of God’s word? Although it was their sin that brought them to where they found themselves, they still had to deal with feelings of being forgotten, forsaken and fruitless. God’s words from the prophet must have felt like distant platitudes. However, they were fueled with hope, and that hope began to rise in them. Later in Isaiah’s book, we read about another promise. This promise exclaimed that God did not forget them and that all of Israel’s people were engraved on the palms of His hands.

God wanted the Israelites to know how precious they were in His eyes, and how loved they were by His heart. Now Jesus has come, we are not only precious in Christ’s sight; God the Father now sees us as perfected in Christ. Because of Christ’s redemptive act on the cross, we have been affirmed, accepted, approved, and acknowledged by grace through faith. Don’t be defined by the world, be defined by finding your identity in Christ. You are known, called, loved and chosen.

Blessings,
Pastor Jim

Mark Your Calendars

Worship/Communion/Facebook Live 10:30 am.....	Sept 4
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 6
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 7
.Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 8
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 9
Worship Facebook Live 10:30 am /Rally Day.....	Sept 11
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 13
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 14
Facebook Live 8:30am.....	Sept 15
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 16
Worship Facebook Live 10:30 am/.....	Sept 18
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 20
Facebook Live 8:30 am/.....	Sept 21
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 22
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 23
Worship Facebook Live 10:30 am 11:30 am.....	Sept 25
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 27
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 28
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 29
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Sept 30
Worship/Communion/ Facebook Live 10:30 am	Oct 2

CURRENT EXPENSES



Amount pledged	\$131,388.00
Anticipated monthly contributions	\$10,949.00
Contributions should be:	\$87,592.00
Contributions to date	\$82,570.00
Short	-\$5,022.00



MEANS THIS



First Presbyterian Church

Phone 908-689-2547 Fax 908-689-7911
Web site: www.washingtonfpc.org

Pastor, James Scovell; Directors of Music, Peter and Julie Stevenson;
Administrative Assistants Kerri Caldaro
Church School Coordinator, Jean Bowers.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time: 10:00 a.m.

October issue will be published on 31st. The deadline is
September 27, 2022 . Please submit articles to the church office or by
email to: office@washingtonfpc.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A celebration luncheon will be held on Oct. 16, in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship to honor those that have been members of First Presbyterian for 40 or more years. This is always a joyous occasion. Additional information is forthcoming.



ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL? Sept. 11, is the kickoff for football-season. Just for fun, we ask that you wear your favorite football team's jersey or hat. It can be high school, college or pro team. No judgements will be made. GO TEAM!!!

Prayer:

O Lord, we live in tension. We feel you calling us away into the quiet, sacred, holy and lonely spaces. We also feel the heat and the crush of the urgent. Needs are all around, pressing us for answers, pushing us for help and pulling us for time. And yet we cannot fully engage the needs without the perspective that only you can bring. Grant us grace, Lord, to now come fully engaged, as we pray for all those on our hearts and minds.

Those ill or recuperating at home: Dot Decker, Joyce Parsons, Ronald & Joan Weber, Michael Housman, Joyce Parsons, Alfred Bowen, DJ Pesaniello, Carley Miller Heatley, Sue Wiedman, Bob & Joan Anderson, Tempe Schramm, Vickie Brown, Bob Schuch, Charlie Wright, Marion Kingsbury, Kerry Webb, Peggy Westlake, Grace Murphy.

Relatives of church members: Roberta Kugelmeyer's great niece Olivia, Don Johnson's daughter Donisse Kelton, Dorothy Thoms son Don, Martha Kenny's brother Fred Wilson, , Bob Pesaniello, John Westlake, Bart Schott, Pauline Albrecht's cousin Pete Lekousis, Elinor Bettie's sister Jane, Laura Housman's mother Betty Machauer, Fred Kulick's brother in-law Jon, Bob & Joan Anderson's son Robert Scott, Tami Phelps cousin Jimmy, George Van Veldhuisen's brother Bill, Elaine Boreman's mom Florence, Jean Scovell, Sarah McLeod's son, Lawrence Lewis, Barbara Miller's cousin Kayla Norvis, Eleanore Jensen's son Scott, Phyllis & Warren Kearns' son, Joan Miller's sister in-law, Nancy Vlossak's niece, Ken Dirkes' wife & great grandson, Betty Ann Roseberry Wright's sister, Vicki Tensfeldt's mother & niece;

Those in care centers: Connie Allen.

Friends of the church: Ray Halpin friend of Karen Graf, Phyllis Fyfe friend of Joan Miller, friend of Fred Graf and Pastor Jim, Bart Trachin, Barbara Miller's friend Diana Dunlap Weidner, Pauline Albrecht's friend Christine Kowal, Jean Bowers friend and his family Thomas Ferranti Jr, Joan Millers friends Walter & Pat Reedell, Elinor Bettis friend Ginna Zukswert, Carol Novak, Ruthann Lambert, Marion Hoskin's daughter Michelle, Joan Miller's friend Sarah Armbricht, Florence Hagemann Philip Hagemann's mother, Joan Miller's friend Patty Fratticcioli, Christine Otto, Jason Ford, Lisa Groff, Hoskins & Gerard Families, Fred & Gail Mosher, Gale Soler, Ellen Gulick, Jessica Yerance, Robin Halozan, Tori Reade, Kris Miller, Bob Best, Markie DeVoe, Mark Christie, Vlossak family's friend Hallie, Shirley Pulsinelli.

Also, pray for our servicemen and women and their families: Albrecht's nephew Captain Kyle Mogensen, Vimp Smith's grandson Cory, D.J. & Bob Pesaniello's grandson Ryan, Stephanie Farley's nephew John, Kathy Perry's nephew Jimmy, Bob Schuch's, grandson Adam, Elaine Boreman's nephew Drew, Linda Darwin's friend Sean Devine.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH



September 1	Patrick Foley Sean Murphy
September 3	Kerri Caldaro
September 4	Barb DeNichilo
September 5	Warren Kearns
September 6	Vicki Tenfeldt

September 22	Karen Graf Carol Teabo
September 26	Gail Speirs



MUSIC NOTES

For those of you who have enjoyed vacations over the summer, WELCOME BACK! I hope you are refreshed and ready for new challenges. Fall presents opportunities to do things differently. I love the idea of “turning over a new leaf” in September. Peter and I would like to give you an open invitation to participate in the Music Ministry here at 1st Presbyterian Church. We are so blessed with this beautiful sanctuary and fantastic instruments (pipe organ, piano, handbells). I have been informed that this is the 50th anniversary year of the handbell choir so I anticipate hearing lots of handbell music this year! You are welcome to come join the **Carillonnaires** if you are interested in ringing. They will begin rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:00-7:45 P.M. with the first rehearsal on September 14th in the sanctuary. Likewise, if you like to sing and want to be part of a small but fun and faithful choir, you are very welcome to join **Chancel Choir**. We too will be rehearsing on Wednesday evenings at 7:45-8:30 P.M. with our first rehearsal on September 14th in the sanctuary.

WEDNESDAYS: 7:00-7:45 Carillonnaires (handbell choir)
7:45-8:30 Chancel Choir (choral group)

Peter and I will be hosting a **MUSIC MINISTRY WELCOME PARTY** for anyone interested in participating in the music ministry in some form this year. Handbell ringing? Choral singing? Singing on a few occasions but not every Sunday? Playing an instrument now and then? Participating in the *Christmas Cantata* on December 11th? Playing percussion on a few songs along with the choir? Whatever your musical gift/availability, you are WELCOME!

Here are the details:

MUSIC MINISTRY WELCOME PARTY
Wednesday, September 7
6:00-8:30 P.M.
At the home of Peter and Julie Stevenson
2 Pleasant Run Rd.
Flemington, NJ

This is a potluck dinner, so please contact Julie to let her know what you can bring:

Salad
Meat, Fish, Poultry Entree
Vegetarian Entree
Side Dish
Dessert
Beverage

Julie's contact information:

Text - (609) 285-6580
Phone - (908) 968-4031
E-mail: juliecosenstevenson@gmail.com

WELCOME!
Julie Stevenson



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:

Local Mission Emphasis for September 2022: **The Washington Ministerium**

For generations, the Washington Ministerium has been a vital support organization for our surrounding community. It has brought to people in need not only monetary relief but spiritual renewal. As we live our lives by the mission to help “the least of these,” we undoubtedly bring, at least, a glimmer of hope to the truly needy in our community. However, careful consideration is given to those the ministerium helps knowing that there are some who try to use the system to their unmerited gain. As earlier mentioned, the ministerium has provided over the many years, moral support, financial support, and the encouragement to motivate community members to move forward with their lives. It has been an important organization for years and will be for years to come. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The congregations who share in this effort are: First Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church and local sister churches, Faith Discovery, the 7th Day Adventist Church, and St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church.

Please prayerfully consider contributing. Your gift will be matched by the Kathleen Smith Fund. You Can find an envelope in the Narthex on the information table. Checks should be made out to the First Presbyterian Church with Washington Ministerium in the Memo.

Blessings to All
The Stewardship Committee

**Welcome Back
Church School Begins
September 11 –9AM**

**CHURCH SCHOOL**

Rally Day will kick off the Church School and Adult Group year on Sunday, September 11, 2022 at 9AM. All the students and adults should begin the day in the sanctuary where Julie Stevenson and Kathy Perry will introduce the year and lead us in some songs. Everyone will then go to class for their lessons.

The *Growing in Grace and Gratitude* curriculum we have used for several years appears to be being phased out especially at the older levels. This year the entire Church School and the Adult Group will be using the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum. This is a Presbyterian produced resource which closely follows the Lectionary. Each class, including the adults, will be studying the same part of the Bible each week. We have also purchased a coordinating resource for Pastor Jim with Children’s Bulletins and Children’s messages with the same theme as the lesson for the day.

Pastor Jim will be offering a Confirmation Class this year and will be contacting families regarding this. A few of our youth having been waiting two years for this class and we will be encouraging them to attend.

Plans are being made for our annual White Gift Service on December 11 during worship. There will be more information in future newsletters.

Our student body is small, but very enthusiastic. If you know of any families looking for a church home, please encourage them to visit with us for both Church School and Worship.

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live	5	6 Facebook Live 8:30 am	7 Facebook Live 8:30 am	8 Facebook Live 8:30 am	9 Facebook Live 8:30 am	10
11 Rally Day Church School 9:00 am/Adult Bible Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live/Wear your favorite football team.	12	13 Facebook Live 8:30 am	14 Facebook Live 8:30 am Bible study/ Brown bag lunch 11:30 am Carillonnaires 7-7:45 pm Chancel Choir 7:45- 8:30 pm	15 Facebook Live 8:30 am	16 Facebook Live 8:30 am	17 Festival in the Boro 10:00 am
18 Church School/Adult Bible 9:00am- 10:00 am Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live	19	20 Facebook Live 8:30 am	21 Facebook Live 8:30 am Brown bag lunch 11:30 am Carillonnaires 7-7:45 pm Chancel Choir 7:45- 8:30 pm	22 Facebook Live 8:30 am	23 Facebook Live 8:30 am	24
25 Church School/Adult Bible 9:00am- 10:00 am Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live	26	27 Facebook Live 8:30 am	28 Facebook Live 8:30 am Brown bag lunch 11:30 am Carillonnaires 7-7:45 pm Chancel Choir 7:45- 8:30 pm	29 Facebook Live 8:30 am	30 Facebook Live 8:30 am	
			7			