Dear Friends,

September is here and with it, another church year. Once again, we'll try to get back in the groove with all the gatherings that define who we are. We in turn will be reminded that we're, collectively, an extended family...a church family but, more importantly, the family of God. And as an extended family we will find that our experiences together aren't that much different than those experienced by the nuclear family, the family you live with at home. We will cry and laugh, we will be challenged in the face of adversity, we will celebrate in times of success and achievement. The dynamics that you experience with your family at home are not really that much different than those dynamics we experience as a church family. So if we treat our church family as our bio-family, what might we discover? Let the following story explain just a little of what we might discover.

One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while, and then said, "Momma, how come all of grandma's hairs are white?

Just a thought...we've all had our chance or participated in turning another person's hair white...figuratively speaking. 😉

Enjoy these fun truths about life and family:

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look at it.
I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.
Families are like fudge...mostly sweet with a few nuts.
Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
Laughing helps. It's like jogging on the inside.
My mind not only wanders, sometimes it leaves completely.

Another year with our "other family." Are you ready for it? Are you ready to change someone's hair color? Are you ready to be changed? Are you ready to embrace and be embraced? Are you ready to laugh together and cry together? Are you ready to pray and support our family? Are you ready to take part in our mission to our neighbors near and far? Are you ready to love and mentor the children of our family?

Let's be ready! The time is now! A new year is here!

God's Blessings,

Pastor Jim

Mark Your Calendar

Worship/Communion 10:30 am.....Sept 6

Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED.....Sept 7

Facebook Devotions 8:30am/Deacons 7:00pm.....Sept 8

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 9

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 10

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 11

Needles & Pins 10:00 am.....Sept 12

Church School/Adult Bible Study 9:00 am

Worship/ Facebook Live 10:30 am.....Sept 13

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 15

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 16

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 17

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 18

Church School/Adult Bible Study 9:00 am

Worship/Facebook Live 10:30 am/Book Club 11:30 am.....Sept 20

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 22

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 23

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am/Session 7:00 pm.....Sept 24

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 25

Festival in the Boro 10:00 am.....Sept 26

Church School/Adult Bible Study 9:00 am

Worship/Facebook Live 10:30 am/Fall Craft 11:30am.....Sept 27

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 29

Facebook Devotions 8:30 am.....Sept 30

First Presbyterian Church

Phone 908-689-2547 **Fax** 908-689-7911

Web site: www.washingtonfpc.org

Pastor, James Scovell;

Directors of Music, Peter & Julie Stevenson;

Administrative Assistants Kerri Caldaro

Church School Coordinator, Jean Bowers.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Our first choir and handbell rehearsal will be Wednesday September 9, 2026.

Carillonaires Handbell Choir rehearsal-7:00 pm -7:45 pm
Chancel Choir rehearsal-7:45 pm-8:30pm

If you are interested in joining any of our choirs please see Petter or Julie Stevenson after worship.

Local Mission Emphasis for September 2026:

The Washington Ministerium

For many years, 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 also 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. Over the many years, the ministerium has provided, moral support, financial support, and the encouragement to motivate community members to move forward with their lives. Your support is greatly appreciated. Additional congregations who share in this effort are: St. Lukes Lutheran, 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 on the tables in the Sanctuary. Checks should be payable to the First Presbyterian Church with "Wash Ministerium" in the Memo.

Prayer: O Lord, we live in tension. Needs are everywhere, pressing us for answers, pushing us for help and pulling us for time. And yet we cannot fully engage in the needs of others without the perspective that only you can bring. Grant us grace, Lord, to become fully engaged, as we pray for all those on our hearts and minds.

Those ill or recuperating at home: John Scovell**,** Barbara Miller, Joan Miller**,** Peggy Westlake**,** Jim Vlossak, Vicki Morgan**,** Eleanore Jensen**,** Doug Foley, Linda Walsh, Joyce Parsons, Ronald & Joan Weber, Michael Housman, DJ Pesaniello.

Relatives of church members: Kathy Perry's nephew Arthur, Charlie & Roberta Kugelmeyer's niece Jackalyn Bolcar, Harold & Carolyn Teabo's daughter Kimberly Masi, Don Johnson's grandson Dylan, Callie & Mark Kresser**,** Linda Darwin's sister-in-law Jenny**,** Lynn Alleger friends of the Ours**,** Lee Ann Kubbishun's brother in-law Harvey Hendershot**,** Pauline Albrecht's cousins Kathy & Bill**,** Harold Teabo**,** Judy Ours cousin Aurelius Newbold, Jim Morgan**,** Joe Kresser's brother John, Charlie Kugelmeyer, John & Elaine Boreman's daughter & son in law Jill & Ross Duncan, Joe Caldaro**,** Peggy Westlake's son-in-law Travis Jablonski**,** Barbara Miller's daughter in-law Julie**,** Patricia Handlos's great nephew Bear Shaw**,** Robert Stacie Ullrich's dad**,** Pauline Albrecht's cousin Pete Lekousis, Laura Housman's mother Betty Machauer, Joan Miller's sister in-law, Nancy Vlossak's niece, Vicki Tensfeldt's mother & niece; Kerri Caldaro's mom & dad Gail & Fred Mosher.

Church School
Looking forward to a busy Church School year for 2026-2027. Classes begin Sunday, September 13 when we will all meet in the sanctuary for an overview of the year. All are welcome to attend our classes so if you know someone who does not have home church, please bring them along.
This year the Fellowship Group led by John Boreman will be using a new curriculum. Each person will have their own book with reading to complete before each class. See John to get your book to be ready for the first class.
Mark your calendar for our annual White Gift Service on December 13 during Morning Worship with all the children participating. Hopefully this year the weather will spare us a major snow storm. Planning is in progress for a covered dish lunch and a special vistor.

Book Club
Several members have started reading *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi and are anxious to discuss it. Initial comments from readers are very positive. Our first meeting will be September 20 following worship when in addition to reviewing the book we will plan for future books and meeting dates. There is still time to get the book and join us. All are welcome.

September 1	Patrick Foley Sean Murphy
September 3	Kerri Caldaro
September 4	Doris Carswell
September 6	Catherine Tensfeldt Vicki Tensfeldt
September 22	Karen Graf Donald Johnson Carol Teabo
September 26	Gail Speirs

MUSIC NOTES
SEPTEMBER 2026

Have you heard of Marie Kondo and the KonMari Method of decluttering/organizing everything from your home to your digital files to your finances? It is all about "sparking JOY" and living in the present (not in the past). It is admirable to try but difficult to achieve! I feel like I am in a constant state of de-cluttering and I don't know if I will ever whittle my possessions down to the bare minimum of what truly "sparks JOY". I keep on trying though.

I have also been re-reading an excellent book off my shelves entitled "The Gentle Art Of Swedish Death Cleaning" by Margareta Magnusson. I know, it sounds grim but it is actually excellent advice that I need as I and my siblings have been sorting through possessions of my parents after the death of my father and moving my mother into an assisted living facility. I feel a great responsibility to "clean up after myself" so that when I die, my children won't have to be burdened with all my stuff. It is far too easy to collect things as we go about our lives. Shouldn't we be collecting relationships and experiences rather than more stuff?

I am reminded of Matthew 6:19-21 - *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moths and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

It is that last verse that really speaks to me: **"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."** This forces us to truly think about where our hearts are and what we value. Nothing can replace the love of a parent, sibling, friend, spouse, child but every material possession is replaceable. Our relationship with our Lord is the most important treasure of all. Being a part of the community of Christ by being involved in our church worship and activities is also valuable. We can gain so much by reaching out to help others. In sharing the love of Christ by thought, word and deed, we are rich with the treasures that really matter!

September is the time to jump back into the life of the church with gusto. Now is the time to join the choir or handbell choir or Sunday School or Pins and Needles or Book Club, help with the Food Pantry or any of the other many opportunities our church offers.

A favorite quote of mine comes from Annie Dillard: "*how we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives."* How will you spend your days this year? I hope you will be building relationships and sparking JOY!

Peace,
Julie Stevenson

Fall CRAFT

FUN FOR ALL AGES! EVERYONE INVITED!

SEPT. 27TH AFTER CHURCH

JOIN LINDA WATTERS FOR A QUICK & EASY CRAFT FOR AUTUMN

PLEASE Sign up

so that we can have enough supplies ready.

We will let you know if there is something you should bring.

Sponsored by the Membership Committee. See Jolene Foley or Office with questions!

RSVP to office or sign up in Coffee Room!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR CHURCH SCHOOL

We are saving you a seat!

Classes ages 3 thru adults

You do NOT need to be a member to attend

40 EAST CHURCH ST WASHINGTON NJ

Meet 9am, Sunday 9/13 in the sanctuary

We'd love to chat with you! 908-689-2547

The Next Chapter

BOOK CLUB

OUR PARAGRAPEVEVERH
TEXT

PLEASE JOIN US
OPEN TO ALL !T

Future dates/times will be chosen at this first meeting

Food items/snacks are welcome! :)

CURRENTLY READING...

Theo of Golden

By Allen Levi

First Meeting...Sept. 20 • 11:45 am

First Presbyterian Church
Family Luncheon
honoring our
40 Year Members

=hosted by the Membership Committee

Sunday, October 25
following the church service

Everyone is invited!

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Let us know you are coming!

Name_____

You Are Invited To

FALL Fun Day

at Camp Johnsonburg

Fall Fun Is Calling ... Make Your Way To Fall Fun Day!
Spend an afternoon enjoying the beauty of Johnsonburg Camp in the fall. We'll have fun activities for all ages, like zip-lining, boating, apple roasting, pumpkin bowling, and more! End the day with a delicious hot meal spent in community with friends and family.

ALL AGES WELCOME

OCTOBER

SUNDAY **4** **1-6:30PM**

The Membership Committee will cover the cost for all youth to attend AND parents/grandparents/adults only pay $10 per person.
To sign up or for more info, please email Pauline Albrecht at paulineandnevin@gmail.com or call her at 908-763-1954

822 ROUTE 519, JOHNSONBURG, NJ 07825 908-852-2349

HTTPS://WWW.CAMPJBURG.ORG/EVENTS/FALL-FUN-DAY/

CAMP JOHNSONBURG IS NEARBY

		1	2	3	4	**5**
6 **Worship/ Communion 10:30 am Facebook Live**	**7** **Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED**	**8** Facebook Live 8:30 am Deacon's 7:00 pm **PW meeting 1pm**	**9** Facebook Live 8:30 am Carillonaires 7:00-7:45pm Chancel Choir 7:45-8:30	**10** Facebook Live 8:30 am	**11** Facebook Live 8:30 am	**12** **Needles & Pins 10am**
13 **Church School/ Adult Bible 9am** **Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live**	**14**	**15** Facebook Live 8:30 am	**16** Facebook Live 8:30 am Carillonaires 7:00-7:45pm Chancel Choir 7:45-8:30	**17** Facebook Live 8:30 am Session 7:00 pm	**18** Facebook Live 8:30 am	**19**
20 **Church School/ Adult Bible 9am** **Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live** **Book Club 11:30 am**	**21**	**22** Facebook Live 8:30 am	**23** **NO Facebook Live** Carillonaires 7:00-7:45pm Chancel Choir 7:45-8:30	**24** NO Facebook Live	**25** Facebook Live 8:30 am	**26** **Festival in the Boro**
27 **Church School/ Adult Bible 9am** **Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live** **Fall Craft 11:30 am**	**28**	**29** Facebook Live 8:30 am	**30** Facebook Live 8:30 am Carillonaires 7:00-7:45pm Chancel Choir 7:45-8:30			