

Friendship Center for New Beginnings

162 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822

Spring 2025

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"THE LORD'S MERCIES ARE NEW EVERY MORNING, GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS." Lamentations 3:23

As Scripture states in John 5:17, Jesus said "My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working". Often, we are not even aware at first of all that He is doing, As the Pew Research Center reports in February 2025 through the 'Washington Stand', the recent decline in the share of Americans who identify as Christians shows signs of beginning to rise again from the current 62% towards the 78% recorded in 2007! Hallelujah! The Barna Group confirms this with preliminary data from 2025 suggesting a potential uptick in weekly church attendance also to about 32%.

Research reports that much is due to the spiritual awakening of Generation Z (young adults) noting how keenly they are looking for answers from those who share authentic testimonies of the difference the Lord Jesus has made in their lives!

There has been a significant rise in the sales of print Bibles, with sales up 22% from last Fall, compared to the same period in the previous year!

Further, there has been an exponential Increase in popularity of Christian and Bible apps during the last year: Washington Stand reports that "one Christian app was the first ever religious app to reach the #1 spot in Apple's App Store. Bible chat and AI chat bot trained exclusively on the Bible has been downloaded 7 million times since 2023 and was second only behind Google Translate in the reference category. On the first Sunday of this year almost 800,000 new users installed the Bible app YouVersion with 18 million people opening the app that same day!"

Our university campuses have seen small prayer meetings of students explode to campus wide!

We thank God for all He is doing!



**TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO;
EVEN WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT. PROVERBS 22:6**

This wise observation of Solomon's reminds us how important it is to train up our children in the Word of God to guide their lives!

In the last 12 years that Gallup poll has been tracking LGBTQ+ identification, it has nearly tripled. Researchers noticed that Generation Z in particular were mainly responsible for this upward shift. In fact, the poll found that 22.7% of Gen Z adults identified as LGBTQ+ from 2022 to 2024. Further, that over 40,000 minors in 2021 were diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Clearly the spiritual awakening already noted amongst our young people is vitally needed! In other ways, Gen Z are more conservative than Millennials, who considered casual sex outside of marriage to be common practice for the people in their lives; now, only 23% feel this way. Indeed, according to a 2021 study published in the Archives of Sexual Behavior, the share of teenage girls who said they were NOT sexually active rose from 49% to 74% between 2009 and 2018. The many years of so-called sexual freedom have led instead to broken relationships and deep emotional wounds, and we believe God is inviting this new generation to explore and come to treasure His Guidance in sexual purity.

PTL for this new opportunity God has given!

Since 90% of New Jersey's children are in public schools, what happens there has a huge influence on the development of their moral reasoning. This year, NJ will have an opportunity to elect a new governor, as Gov. Murphy is term-limited and cannot seek re-election.

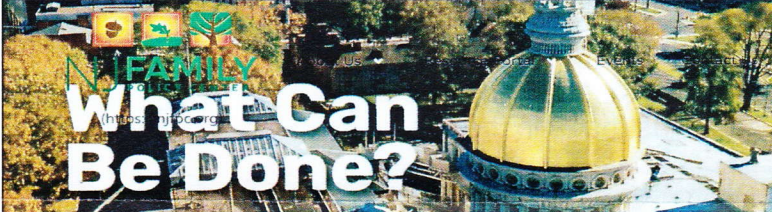
The primaries are set for June 10, 2025, in preparation for the election of the next NJ governor on Nov. 4th.

Our friends at NJ Family Policy Center (NJFPC) have prepared a Voters' Guide on how each candidate would lead on issues vital to parents. It is accessed at www.NJFPC.org

In NJ, the new governor appoints the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Education, who both will greatly influence parents' ability to impact school policies, such as not permitting school districts to hide a student's transgender behavior at school from the child's parents. Further, school boards have only until December 2025 to adopt a book challenge policy, to restrict access to sexually-explicit age-inappropriate books in the school library.



NJFPC are offering an informative presentation to any church requesting it on "What Can Be Done" by the next governor and school boards to protect parental rights in school policies.

We pray many churches will invite them!




What Can Be Done?

Learn what the next **GOVERNOR** can do, what **SCHOOL BOARDS** can do, and what **YOU** can do!



- ✓ 40 minute presentation
- ✓ 20 minutes of Q & A
- ✓ No cost to attend
- ✓ Complimentary refreshments



Register at www.NJFPC.org/events

We know by your faithful support, that you share God's heart for the fatherless families we serve! We are delighted to share with you some of what God is accomplishing, as you continue to pray for us. We treasure your prayers!

Many of our single mothers are raising their children without the support of extended family living close. We also, of course, work with married couples in need, and husband and wife sometimes come from different cultures, and this adds to the potential for conflict. Our peer counselors help the wife to embrace her role as her husband's helper, bringing a godly influence to her home through her prayers and wise counsel, according to 1 Corinthians 7.

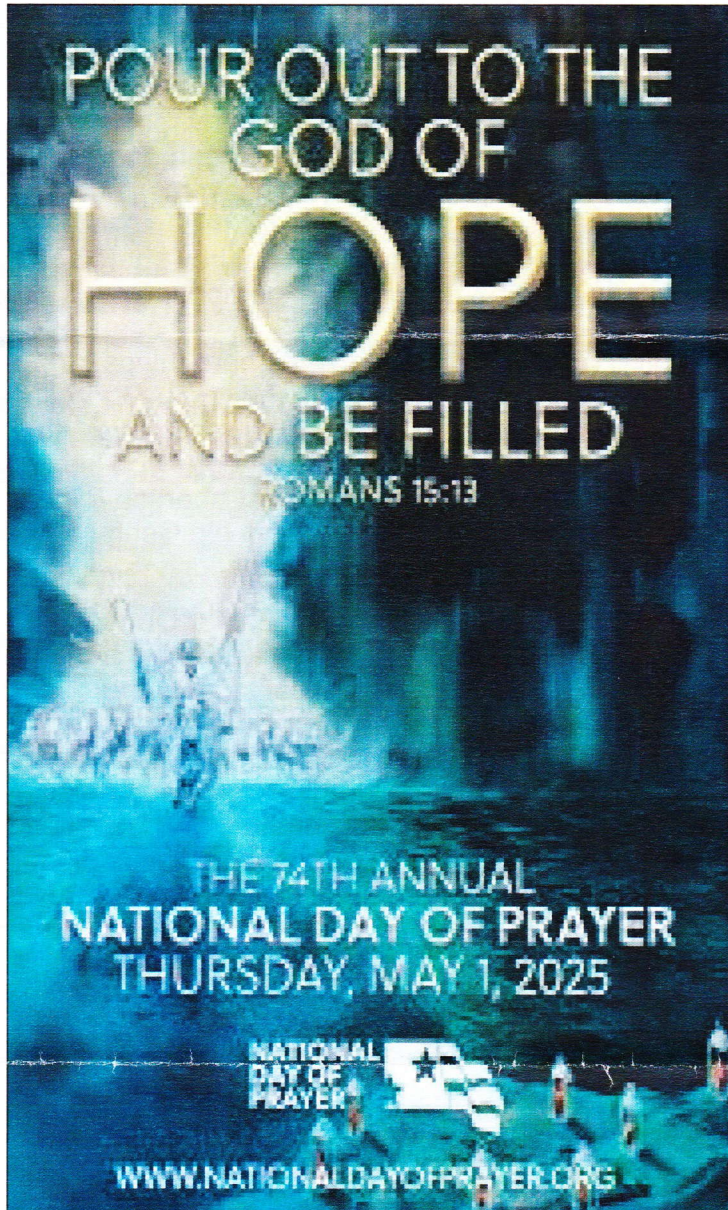
Another of our mothers has a child with special needs. She is a devoted wife and mother and has actively participated in our parenting classes. Prior to her involvement here, she describes feeling completely overwhelmed by the stresses in her life, but through ongoing support and guidance from our peer counselors she has become more confident in God's help, and He has filled her life with hope for the future, as He promises to do in Jeremiah 29:11. We have shared with her some godly coping mechanisms from scripture for the unique challenges of raising a child with special needs. Her progress is an inspiring example to others, facing similar challenges, and we are so blessed to be a part of God's work here!

One mother was struggling with broken relationships in her extended family, which caused her such anxiety, that it was overwhelming her. The Holy Spirit so transformed her life through teaching her how to reconcile, that she became a powerful witness to them all!

This past February we began a Bible study for those who are grieving and carrying guilt from past abortions. Our God is an utterly redemptive God Who forgives the repentant heart and restores the joy of salvation. The women gathered weekly to seek God for this healing journey that He had for them, as they shared their hearts about their past abortions. One woman shared, "I know God is here because I feel like I'm in a safe place to share things I never have before." Through the tears, God healed hearts, built relationships, and gave "beauty for ashes". If you or someone you know would like to participate in a post-abortion Bible study, please contact the Friendship Center for New Beginnings for more information.

The picture below shares our Easter Outreach to families in our community. We wanted to honor God through telling the Biblical story of the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, using the Resurrection Eggs. These keep the attention of the children, as each egg holds a symbol of various aspects of the story. It is such a privilege for us to focus on all that Jesus did for us, and to share these truths with the children!





Date:
Thursday
May 1, 2025

Time:
6:00-7:30 pm

Place:
Mine Brook Park
116 Capner Street
Flemington

For more information
please call:

Mimi Koontz:
908-806-4444

or

George Moyer
908-432-9988