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## PASTOR'S PEACE by Rev. Ashley Bair

As 2022 has taken off with a running start, I've found myself searching for hopeful things happening this year.

February has historically been the snowiest month of the year. As our climate continues to shift, the unpredictability of the weather - which in winter can also barometer my mood - makes this search for the hopeful more of an investigation.

I started this investigation with the obvious: holidays. What holiday is in February? Valentine's Day. I read all the pages on the history of Saint Valentine and how the Saint Valentine that we celebrate today was martyred for his radical ministry to persecuted Christians. Noble indeed. But the thing that made me pause in my investigation was the note that said that Saint Valentine is the patron saint of beekeepers.

I'm fascinated by beekeepers and bees.

New Jersey alone is home to 12 species of native bees and honeybees. According to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, "bees are the most important pollinators in most ecosystems. They facilitate the reproduction and improve seed sets for half of New Jersey's top fruit and vegetables.

Throughout history, bees have provided humans with products such as honey, beeswax, pollen, venom, and dietary supplements. In New Jersey, we benefit from bee pollination as they help sustain many crops, such as apples, cranberries, blueberries, cantaloupes, cucumbers, and watermelons.

Honeybees pollinate about a third of the food Americans eat. And honeybees have been plagued by a variety of introduced insect and bacterial parasites, so today it is extremely rare to find natural colonies. This makes beekeeping an essential activity, not only for agriculture culture but also for anyone who has a backyard vegetable garden and flower beds or trees in their yard." (From <https://www.njbeekeepers.org/>)



From around the globe you will find them—busy bees and beekeepers such as those pictured here clockwise from top left: Albania, South Africa, urban Australia, Gloucestershire (UK), India and "Bee Evangelists" from California.



*Continuation of Pastor's Peace from page 1*

Beekeepers take care of bees so bees can take care of themselves, and in return us! They do so by providing bees with hives for shelter, medications feeding them, treating them for any pest problems, inspecting the hives regularly, and providing the bee colonies with queens.

So far this year there are over 3,000 registered beekeepers in the state of New Jersey. What a hopeful thought.

Soon our youth will be exploring the realities of food loss and lack of access to food on a global and local scale. With this reality and the effects of climate change, especially during a pandemic where consumerism and our carbon footprint has increased exponentially, it feels right to spread some seasonal warmth to the patron saint of beekeeping. This February, this Valentine's Day, let us give thanks for the hope found in beekeepers, the hope found in those seeking to care for some of the smallest creatures in our midst that make the biggest impact. Thank you, beekeepers, for your hands that hold the food on our tables.



### ***Something Brewing...***

Bob Smietana posted an article on May 2021 in the Episcopal New Service (ENS) regarding **the beloved church coffee hour.**

Coffee hour is a staple of congregational life for many houses of worship, where members drink coffee, often brewed in commercial vats, and chitchat before or after services. But when in-person worship services paused during the pandemic, coffee hour disappeared. That time of socializing is one of the things that churchgoers have missed most about meeting in person.

When we return to worshipping together in person, the First Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons has taken the reigns of ***After Worship Fellowship*** and they are bringing in-person gatherings back a little at a time. The renovated and redecorated Session Room and the Chapel are ideal places to gather. Thanks to our dedicated church staff, there will be coffee brewing and individually wrapped snacks handed out to those who stop by for a moment of social interaction.

When you feel comfortable to come, we encourage you to stop by after worship, if only for a moment or two to say hello. Once a month, there is also the opportunity to grab a cup of coffee and a snack in the Social Center when the children gather for Lego Sunday.

We welcome more volunteers to host one Sunday! Please contact the Deacons through the church office to sign up!

***Cathy Ostermueller, Moderator, Board of Deacons***



Session called for a 27 February 2022 Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation to receive:

- The annual Terms of Call for the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
- The 2021 Financial Annual Report
- The Narrative reports from the different Commissions, Committees, and Boards for the Program Year ending 30 June 2021
- The 2022 Church Operating Budget.

For the upcoming 27 February 2022 Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation, Session moved to consider virtual attendance of all Active Members to be the same as in-person attendance due to FPC-M Covid-19 restrictions.

Invited guests from Camp Johnsonburg presented the organization's \$2 million Capital Fundraising Program for infrastructure improvements to the camp campus. Rev. Garry noted FPC-M's long-tenured association with Camp Johnsonburg, pledging continued financial support from the congregation for the camp and their capital fundraising program.

Elder Linda Boughton, Chair of Personnel Commission, presented to Session an overview of the 2022 Church Staff Employee Handbook. Session will review the Handbook and look to approve it at the Regular Monthly Session meeting on 8 February 2022. Session expressed its thanks to the Personnel Commission for undertaking such a critical project.



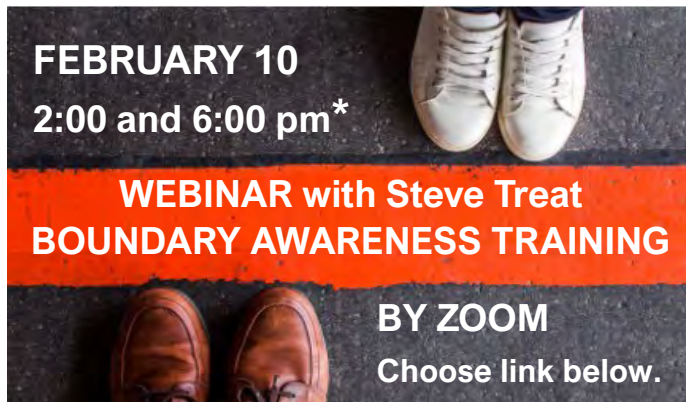
A series of New Member Classes will be offered in February. This is open to adults interested in becoming members of the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen.

They will meet with Rev. Garry to explore what it means to be Presbyterian, what are the opportunities to be part of ministry, and what mission projects and efforts are currently under way for people of all ages.

While details are still being finalized, it is never too early to let us know of your interest. Contact us in the church office for any questions, or check our website for details. Call: (732) 491-2300 or email: [fpc@fpcweb.org](mailto:fpc@fpcweb.org)



## From the desk of: REV. FRED GARRY



\*Choose from the two time slots offered, and find the Zoom link below:

**2:00 pm Zoom link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87234800655?pwd=ei9qWVRWM1BhTTY2MTE2UXBDelJuUT09>

**Webinar ID:** 872 3480 0655 **Passcode:** Calvin

**6:00 pm Zoom link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81122118751?pwd=amZzVjRhZmJLZdOTDLTVlxTkjhUT09>

**Webinar ID:** 811 2211 8751 **Passcode:** Calvin

This workshop is planned with the goal to explore healthy boundaries that will sustain good and healthy relationships in the church, and making room for spiritual growth.

In December, Session voted to invite Dr. Stephen Treat to lead a workshop/training for the congregation, and for other churches in the Presbytery as well. Steve Treat has a long career in counseling and is a sought after speaker. Many of you have had training on boundary awareness in your workplace as this is a significant challenge. Yet, this workshop is focused on the unique dynamics of maintaining healthy boundaries within a church.

Pastors receive ongoing training in this area, but such training is not often made available for the larger congregation. We believe this is equally an important training to share with church members and certainly a timely one as we seek to move forward.

The event is open to all and there is no charge. We are still fine tuning the details of this webinar with the hope that a hybrid meeting consisting of in-person and virtual by Zoom will be possible. We remain vigilant in monitoring the Covid-19 situation and a final decision will be announced through all of FPC social media platforms and eblasts whether a hybrid meeting or only a virtual one will occur. Hopefully this will be a moment to strengthen our fellowship and foster the vitality of our congregation. **Please watch out for eblasts and postings closer to the date of the event.**



Steve Treat is a Senior Therapist and former Director and CEO of Council for Relationships, one of the nation's oldest and largest counseling agencies. In his role as CEO, he oversaw the operations of 14 offices throughout the Greater Philadelphia area, numerous professional and public educational programs, and his own busy clinical practice at Council.

Today, Steve continues to see clients and consult with family businesses and philanthropies as he phases into retirement. He has helped hundreds of people and their families to live their most productive and authentic lives.

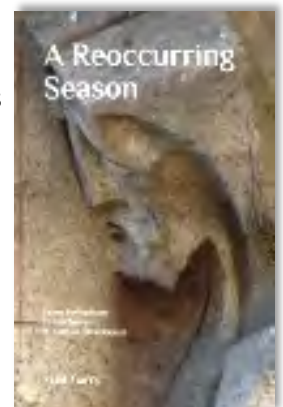
In addition to his busy clinical practice, Steve has had an impact on many people through his teaching, consulting, and speaking engagements. Many are drawn to his calm and confident demeanor. He has shared his expertise on national TV, several TED talks, and many print outlets over the years. Steve's accomplishments over his 35+ years as a therapist, educator, and executive leader of Council for Relationships are many. But perhaps Steve's greatest impact on Council and the behavioral health field will be in the future generations of talented therapists he has trained in Post Graduate Certificate and Master's Programs.

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**Camp Johnsonburg** gave the Session an exciting presentation in January. The Camp is seeking funds to do an impressive renovation. They are hoping to invest \$2 million given by partners and friends. We will seek to be such a partner as a congregation. In the coming months, we will provide more information as well as an opportunity to support this great legacy of outdoor ministry here in New Jersey.

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Soon to be released is Rev. Garry's latest Lenten Devotional titled **A REOCCURRING SEASON**. With the Lenten season upon us, we hope you will grab a copy of this new devotional that will be available on February 20th.



# ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

## HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY



What My Grandmothers  
Taught Me

**February 7, Monday**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**In the PW Lounge**  
**and by Zoom**

This study helps us learn from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. **EVERYONE IS INVITED!** We always have room for those interested to join.

This study meets every **first Monday of each month**, at 7:00 pm in the PW Lounge or via Zoom—your choice!

This month's lesson 5 is about *Ruth and Redemption* with **Scripture text:** Ruth 3 & 4 where we will see Ruth and Naomi filled and redeemed through the honesty and care they show one another. Deb Teall leads this study. The lessons may be accessed from our website.

<https://fpcmetuchen.org/ministries/presbyterian-women>

If you prefer to have a hard copy, contact Deb Teall. The zoom link is below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81327982944?pwd=bHljVXo1bytaUnN3RGxRdTJPMXJHQT09>

Use meeting ID: 813 2798 2944      Passcode: PW270

Call, text or email Deb Teall to sign up:

Cell: 908.917.3990 | Email: [debteall@optonline.net](mailto:debteall@optonline.net)



### THE 26TH ANNUAL JERSEY CARES COAT DRIVE

The Jersey Cares Coat Drive has officially ended and is pleased to report that almost 19,000 coats were donated to organizations across the state! We couldn't have done it without your generosity in hosting a coat container, so thank you once again!



## A Weekly Pastoral Bible Study On the Teachings of Jesus

Wednesdays @10:30 a.m.

PW Lounge\* / By Zoom

With Rev. Fred Garry

To join by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84711673419>

Use Meeting ID: 847 1167 3419

\* Meeting in the PW Lounge will resume when in-person gathering is safe based on the CALI score. There is always room for anyone and everyone! Join us!

## MEN'S BREAKFAST February 16 @ 7:30 am Social Center Dining Room



We are going out on a limb here and plan an in-person Men's Breakfast. As of press time, the New Jersey Covid cases are on a steady decline and we are cautiously optimistic that this trend will continue.

If we are proven wrong, however, we will still proceed but on a virtual mode by Zoom.

To join, connect using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84711673419>

Use Meeting ID: 847 1167 3419

Fingers crossed we will be able to safely gather once again and load up on Rev. Garry's signature breakfast and, more importantly, to enjoy the fellowship and share laughter, once again. Fingers crossed.



## From your Minister of Music Brenda Day

As we navigate this spike of Covid as a church, with the disappointments yet again of no in-person services, rehearsals, or meetings, I was reminded of hymns about our faith. The first one I'll quote was written by Isaac Watts in 1719 and wedded to a tune that was written by William Croft in 1708. It's a beloved hymn of the church with words as timely today as they were when written 300 years ago—"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past."

*Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.*

*A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.*

*Beneath the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.*

*Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.*

*Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.*

*Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while life shall last,  
and our eternal home.*

Another hymn about faith was written more recently, in 1995, by Carl P. Daw Jr. with words that can speak to us today. Hymn lyrics of "Faith Begins By Letting Go" is a message we can all cling on to and claim.

*Faith begins by letting go,  
giving up what had seemed sure,  
Taking risks and pressing on,  
though the way feels less secure:  
Pilgrimage both right and odd,  
trusting all our life to God.*

*Faith endures by holding on,  
keeping memory's roots alive  
So that hope may bear its fruit;  
promise fed, our souls will thrive,  
Not through merit we possess  
but by God's great faithfulness.*

*Faith matures by reaching out,  
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,  
Sharing struggles, living prayer,  
binding up the broken parts;  
till we find the commonplace  
ripe with witness to God's grace.*

Add more music to your life by joining one of our choirs or bell choirs! We have something for everyone beginning at age 4. When we can safely meet in person and sing, the following Choir schedule will resume.

JUBILEE CHOIR (Ages 4 – 2nd Grade)	Tuesday	4:00 – 4:30 PM
JUNIOR CHOIR (Grades 3 – 6)	Thursday	4:15 – 5:00 PM
WESTMINSTER CHOIR (Grades 7 – 12)	Wednesday	6:30 – 7:00 PM
SENIOR CHOIR	Thursday	8:00 – 9:30 PM
JOY RINGERS (Grades 3 – 6)	Thursday	5:00 – 5:30 PM
CHAPEL RINGERS (Grades 7 & 8)	Wednesday	7:00 – 7:30 PM
GOOD NEWS RINGERS (Grades 9 – 12)	Wednesday	8:00 – 8:30 PM
CONCORD RINGERS - Adults	Thursday	9:30 – 10:15 AM
COVENANT RINGERS - Adults	Thursday	7:00 – 8:00 PM



**Questions about Music Ministry?** Please feel free to contact Brenda Day [brendaday@fpcweb.org](mailto:brendaday@fpcweb.org)



FROM YOUR: *DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION*

*We are God's children, fearfully and wonderfully made.*

### From your Christian Education Director

We have the following activities programmed for February with the hope that we will be in the clear with the CALI score and can safely meet in-person. We urge families to constantly check eblasts and postings in our website and Facebook for the latest updates.

#### **1st TUESDAYS** (Age 4 years thru 2nd Grade)

February 8 / 4:30—5:00 pm

Location still to be finalized

#### **JUNIOR CLUB** (For 3rd to 6th Grade)

Thursday, February 10 and 17

5:00 - 5:30 pm, Education Bldg. Rooms 105/106

Jr. Club will share their love to the Parker Nursing Home in Piscataway, NJ by making Valentine cards.



### MOVIE SUNDAY

#### For 5th - 7th Grades

February 20

8:30-10:30 am

Room 201

This is a humorous and heartfelt coming-of-age story about three unlikely heroes and the winter that changed their lives forever.

After a surprising discovery in the snow catapults three small-town boys into the spotlight, the best friends hatch a plan to be remembered forever by setting a Guinness World Records title. Along the way, the trio battles schoolyard bullies, unites their community and discovers that, while fame may be fleeting, true friendship lasts forever.



Questions? Contact your CE Director, Nancy Leardi:  
(732) 491-2264 or [nleardi@fpcweb.org](mailto:nleardi@fpcweb.org)



#### Presbyterian Young Women (PYW)

#### **BEAD and CREATE\***

**February 6<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00-6:30 pm**

**Dining Room**

*\*when Cali score is out of red*

Our young women in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older are invited for some fun fellowship and pizza while creating jewelry in time for Valentine's Day. **RSVP is needed by email to Mrs. Leardi: [nleardi@fpcweb.org](mailto:nleardi@fpcweb.org)**

#### **NEW IN 2022!**

#### **DRAMA TIME WITH KAT DAVIS**

#### **IN OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS**

Coming soon to your child's class will be a time for the kids to learn Bible stories through drama skits.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION CLASS.** Updates are regularly sent by eblasts and postings on our website and Facebook page. In case we still need to meet virtually in February, your class zoom links are below. Sunday School will be in recess on Presidents' weekend, February 20th.

#### **8:30 am CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Join Zoom Meeting with Rev. Garry

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81705374643>

Meeting ID: 817 0537 4643

#### **10:30 am VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

##### **Preschool**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89347783182>

Meeting ID: 893 4778 3182

##### **Kinder- Grade 1**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88608151258>

Meeting ID: 893 4778 3182

##### **Grades 2-3-4**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89860388579>

Meeting ID: 898 6038 8579

##### **Grades 5-6-7**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82266247240>

Meeting ID: 822 6624 7240



## WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP VIRTUAL BY ZOOM\*

5:00 pm-6:00 pm

Junior High

7:00 pm-8:00 pm

Senior High

\* Subject to change when the CALI score improves

With an NJ CALI score of red, Youth Group will still meet virtually until there is improvement with the numbers. We are hoping to be back in orange soon and be together in person! Until then, we will gather via Zoom during the regular Wednesday night hours and continue to hold that time for us to be together to share, learn, and have fun. Virtual Wednesday night Youth Group schedule:

Junior High Youth Group 5-6 pm

Senior High Youth Group 7-8 pm

If you have any questions, any ideas, want to chat, grab a coffee - you can connect with me at [abair@fpcweb.org](mailto:abair@fpcweb.org) and 989-859-2083.

Grateful to be in this ministry with you,  
Rev. Ashley Bair

**UPCOMING: February 26 | Famine 2022**

See next page for all the details.

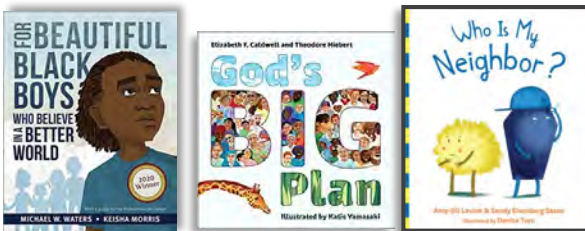
### GERTRUDE HAWK FUNDRAISER

If you or someone you know would like to purchase Gertrude Hawk candy in anticipation of the Easter holiday, our Youth are selling chocolate from February 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 13<sup>th</sup> with all proceeds going towards the 2022 Youth Mission Trip. Orders will be available the week of April 4. Online orders can be placed at: [fundraising.gertrudehawkchocolates.com](http://fundraising.gertrudehawkchocolates.com). Just select First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen as the Organization and type in the name of the youth you are supporting. If you have any questions please contact Colleen Walker at [cwalker@fpcweb.org](mailto:cwalker@fpcweb.org) or 732-491-2303 for more information.



*If interested or have questions on the Youth Program, please email [youthgroup@fpcweb.org](mailto:youthgroup@fpcweb.org)*

## Family FAITH at Home



These are a few of some beautiful new books from Flyaway Books that are available for you to borrow. Many of the books carried by Flyaway explore social justice and other contemporary issues. Some retell familiar religious stories in new ways, and others carry universal themes appealing to those with or no religious background. For an extensive list, visit their website: [www.flyawaybooks.com](http://www.flyawaybooks.com).

Contact Nancy Leardi if you are interested to borrow one of these or to set up a time for you and your child to visit the church library.



**Dear Church Members and Community Nursery School, Friends,**

On behalf of the Deacons and the Advent Angel Committee I would like to share to you our heartfelt thanks for contributing to another successful Advent Angel Program.

Every wish on the tree was fulfilled and that is because of those kinds souls who took an Angel and filled a gift bag with the wish. Residents of the Care One Facility, Roosevelt Care Center and the children enrolled in the Elizabeth Port Childcare Center all received wonderful gifts for the Christmas holiday because you cared to make that happen. Each facility has returned their gratitude in a lovely note to the Board of Deacons and I wanted to pass their gratitude to you all. I wish you many blessings of joy as you have made together over 150 blessings of joy to others. I look forward to being able to reach out to you later this 2022 to once again do the same.

Special thanks to all of the office church staff, and to our Deacons that helped on this project for 2021.

May you all have a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Warm Regards,

Chris Van Pelt

Deacon & Chairperson Advent Angel Committee





**FEBRUARY 26, SATURDAY  
9:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.  
SOCIAL CENTER**

## FPC Youth Group 2022 Famine is Coming Soon!

FPC Youth Group members will once again participate in the annual Famine Event. In order to raise funds, our Youth ask sponsors to support them as they fast for 24-30 hours in solidarity with the many people that go hungry everyday around the world. This year's fundraising goal has been set at \$20,000. Monies raised by the Famine participants will be split amongst our own FPC Food Pantry, Kids Against Hunger, Elijah's Promise and World Vision.

Every year our Congregation responds to this event with great enthusiasm, generously sponsoring individual youth or the general famine group and we look forward to your support again this year. You can sponsor our youth online in several ways:

- Go to <https://give.classy.org/2022famine> and follow the instructions
- Scan the QR code below
- Forms will be available from the church office or from our website for those seeking to sponsor in this manner.

To sponsor an individual youth, type their name in the Fundraiser Search box or you can just make a donation to the general Famine event. If you prefer, you can mail a check payable to FPC and put FAMINE 2022 in the note field. All donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated!

During Famine, the youth will spend the day learning about issues surrounding food insecurity and its causes and effects on both individuals, families and communities. This year's theme of **WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?** examines how difficult it is to fill a plate with food in so many parts of the world, including our own communities. We'll explore issues and factors including "food deserts", access to water, farming, labor, environmental changes and more. Along with the research portion of the day, the youth will package 20,000 meals for Kids Against Hunger ([www.kidsagainsthunger.org](http://www.kidsagainsthunger.org)), learn about our own FPC Food Pantry and the amazing work that they do feeding local families, play some games, and create visual reminders for our church and community about the lives lost every year due to hunger related issues.

While we are planning a COVID-safe event, given the current pandemic situation, it is possible that Famine 2022 may end up modified or canceled at the last minute. Any funds raised will still be donated to the agencies mentioned.







### WORKING IN VIRTUAL!!

PW is currently working in the virtual world to make sure we can fund our missions in 2022...and here is what we have planned for you when we meet again in person:

#### Our two MAJOR fundraisers...

- \* Spring Rummage Sale April 29 & 30 (donations accepted April 25-28)
- \* Fall Rummage Sale October 14 & 15 (donations accepted Oct. 10-13)

#### Our SEASONAL fundraiser...

Holly Fair—December 3 (Donations accepted from November 29—December 1)

#### More fun events...

- \* Elaborate Coffee Hours when we are able to safely return to in-person Church
- \* PW Birthday Party in May

#### Here are a few missions you can partner with us and participate NOW:

- \* SAVE flannel sheets for a special project
- \* GIVE online to PW to help support those who need our help
- \* PLAN to donate and volunteer at our fundraisers

We would love to hear from you! Call or email us with your questions and suggestions.

#### YOUR PW COORDINATING TEAM:

Nancy Kipnis, Co-Moderator	njbkipnis@optonline.net	973.479.4537
Deb Teall, Co-Moderator	debteall@optonline.net	908.917.3990
Cindy O'Neill, Fundraising Co-Coordinator	mimabook@aol.com	732.887.8111
Lori Kellner, Fundraising Co-Coordinator	lgkellner@gmail.com	732.306.8519
Susan Short, Secretary	nellieb113@gmail.com	908.705.7148
Sue Harmon, Treasurer	sharmon@fpcweb.org	732.491.2302
June Young, Crafts Co-Coordinator	june18@optonline.net	732.548.0280
Doris Gulotta, Crafts Co-Coordinator	gulottador@optonline.net	516.385.0668
Norma Tambingon, Indonesian Fellowship Liaison	norma.tambingon@yahoo.com	732.331.8558

### Creative (and Simple!) Means to Stay Connected by Amy-Bertelsen Robles

My mother is an independent person, who appreciates having her own space and routines. She lives alone and is approaching her 90th birthday. When she recently tested positive for covid, her doctor told me that I needed to check her temperature and blood oxygen levels four times a day. Having my own health issues, I was not going to be able to take care of her in-person. I was really scared, and I had to figure out another way to take care of my mom.

Thankfully, over the summer she reluctantly agreed to set up an Echo Show 8 in her living room, which is a video camera with built-in Alexa. In order for us to see each other, I had to get one for my house and we've been "dropping in" on each other ever since. It connects automatically, so mom didn't have to be close to the device for me to see into her living room when she wasn't feeling well. Also, if she was in another room, she would hear a sound that the echo makes to alert her that I "dropped in" and was waiting for her to come to the device.

Due to the technology, I was able to care for my mom, monitor her affect, observe her using her oximeter and thermometer, and record her numbers for the doctor. Mom and I are a pair of the least tech-savvy people, but due to this simple technology, we were able to stay connected while she was sick. I was able to take care of my mom, myself and my family, and I am truly grateful.



An Amazon Echo Show is pictured above.



## BLOOD DRIVE

**Sunday, February 20, 2021**

**10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen**

FPC Social Center Dining Room  
270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

Maximize your blood donations. Help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B- or A-donor, consider a Power Red donation.

Conveniently schedule your appointment using the following options:

- Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
- Download the Blood Donor App
- Go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter the sponsor code: **FPCM**. Save time by visiting the Rapid Pass also found on the website.

Questions? Email Jen O'Neill  
[jenoneill06@gmail.com](mailto:jenoneill06@gmail.com)

For the whole month of February, as a "Thank you" for donating blood, the Red Cross in grateful partnership with Amazon will email each donor a \$10 Amazon gift card. Terms apply. Visit [rcblood.org/together](http://rcblood.org/together).

### *Love gardening and the Food Pantry? This could be for you!*

The Food Pantry Garden (FPG) is currently looking for a new leader to lead a team of volunteers to manage, plan and expand the capabilities of the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen's Food Pantry Garden. The new FPG space is about 80 x 30 feet plot constructed in 2021 through an Eagle Scout Project. In the year of its inception in 2020, the FPG provided 600+ pounds. In 2021, the FPG donated 1,200 pounds of fresh food to the clients of the food pantry! With our new space, it is conceivable that we will hit 2,500 pounds!



The FPG Lead's primary responsibility will be to ensure the execution of day-to-day work to keep the garden producing at its highest capacity. Not only is the FPG a way to provide food to the community, but it is also an opportunity for the community to become involved. This individual will work closely with community volunteers on a day-to-day basis to plan, obtain resources, operate equipment, monitor plant growth, and coordinate any needed work sessions. During the growing season, the garden requires nearly daily inspections to assess watering, harvesting, and pest control requirements; taking anywhere from 10 minutes to 1 hour if work is required. This individual should have availability early Wednesday mornings (7:00-8:30 am) to oversee the main weekly harvest, as the Food Pantry is open on Wednesday and Thursdays for distribution. In addition, the candidate should have flexibility to respond to urgent issues, such as storm damage and frost protection.

This is a volunteer position for a person with gardening experience.

Please contact Jenn Messina if you're interested: [Messinajenn@gmail.com](mailto:Messinajenn@gmail.com)

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen

**CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF****CLERGY****Rev. Dr. Fred Garry** .....732-491-2330*Senior Pastor/Head of Staff* fgarry@fpcweb.org**Rev. Ashley Bair**, *Interim Associate Pastor***Rev. Robert A. Beringer**, *Pastor Emeritus***CHRISTIAN EDUCATION****Nancy Leardi** .....732-491-2264*Director Christian Ed.* nleardi@fpcweb.org**Kat Davis** .....kdavis@fpcweb.org*Drama Consultant***MUSIC MINISTRY****Brenda Day** .....732-491-2266*Minister of Music* brendaday@fpcweb.org**Elaine Hansen** .....ehansen@fpcweb.org*Assistant Bell Director and Accompanist***SUPPORT STAFF****Sue Harmon** .....732-491-2302*Dir. of Operations & Finance.* sharmon@fpcweb.org**Jonathan Hollenbeck** .....732-491-2270*Facilities Manager* jhollenbeck@fpcweb.org**Bob O'Connell** .....732-491-2270*Facilities Assistant* boconnell@fpcweb.org**Vicky Lacson** .....732-491-2301*Admin. & Comm. Coordinator* vlacson@fpcweb.org**Nick Spadavecchia** .....732-491-2305*Comm. Consultant.* nspadavecchia@fpcweb.org**Nate Brown** .....nbrown@fpcweb.org*Technician and Sound Design Consultant***Merry Matlock** .....732-491-2262*Senior Services Coordinator* mmatlock@fpcweb.org**Colleen Walker** .....732-491-2303*Office Assistant* cwalker@fpcweb.org**Sarah Teti** .....732-491-2325*Food Pantry Coordinator* foodpantry@fpcweb.org**COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL****Fran Brennan** .....732-491-2242*Director/Treasurer* fbrennan@fpcweb.org**Colleen Smith** .....732-491-2242*Head Teacher* csmith@fpcweb.org

Community Nursery School is registering now for the school year 2022/2023!!

Community Nursery School offers classes for children 2 1/2

to 5 years of age in a traditional preschool setting. CNS also offers a full day kindergarten program and a K-Wrap program (Kindergarten enrichment program) for students attending morning or afternoon at a local kindergarten. Extended day until 5:00 is available for Pre-K4s, full day kindergarten and K-Wrap students. Church members receive a \$25.00 discount off monthly tuition. Call 732-491-2240 to schedule a tour to visit our school, or to get more information. Visit our website at [www.communityns.org](http://www.communityns.org).

### **FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:**

- In case of a snow storm and the roads are not safe to travel, our church office will post all weather-related closings on our church website, Facebook/FPC Metuchen and phone answering system (732)491-2300. Our priority is to ensure the safety of our congregation, staff, and others who are part of our ministry. We encourage you to use your best judgment but always check for details of a possible cancellation or modification of our Sunday Worship Service and programs.
- Church offering envelopes for 2022 are available for pick up in the Social Center foyer.
- To ensure that you do not miss out on important emails from your church treasurer and office, please add email with [fpcweb.org](mailto:fpcweb.org) to your list of safe senders.

### **INDONESIAN PULPIT SUPPLY FOR THE MONTH OF February 2022**

February 13	Rev. Ferdinanda Pattipeilohy
February 20	Rev. Hennie Wattimena
February 27	Rev. Rommy / Jenifer Pelupessy

The **INDONESIAN FELLOWSHIP** Worship Service will be livestreamed at noon during this time until in-person meetings can safely resume. Please email Norma Tambingon if you have any questions: [norma.tambingon@yahoo.com](mailto:norma.tambingon@yahoo.com)

**Engkau sungguh besar, dan berkuasa.**

**Engkau mulia, jaya dan agung.**

**Segala sesuatu di langit dan di bumi adalah milik-Mu.**

**Engkau raja agung, penguasa atas segalanya.**

1 Tawarikh 29:11



## FEBRUARY 2022 PARISH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN  
270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ  
PERMIT 746

Address Service Requested

TO:



*The information contained herein is for Church use only. Individuals using this information must receive permission of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, NJ.*

### Stay up to date with just one click!

We are now using Mail Chimp to bring to you the latest church happenings. Sign up to make sure we have your correct email address.

Visit the church website, send an email to [fpc@fpcweb.org](mailto:fpc@fpcweb.org) or use your cell phone to go directly to the link using this QR code.

We promise not to spam you!



First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

### Parish News Submission

To submit an article for the Parish News, email [vlacon@fpcweb.org](mailto:vlacon@fpcweb.org) or see us at the church office. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month.

### Church Office

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840  
Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 4:30pm  
Telephone: (732) 491-2300 Email: [fpc@fpcweb.org](mailto:fpc@fpcweb.org)

### Sunday Worship Service

9:30 am  
Livestreamed on [www.fpcweb.org](http://www.fpcweb.org) and  
FPC Metuchen Facebook