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PASTOR'S PEACE by Rev. Fred G. Garry

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee."

- Matthew 21:1-11



In July, Kathy and I ventured to Mississippi. We stayed in Oxford and toured the home of William Faulkner. It was a kind of pilgrimage. For many, many years I have wanted to see "Roanoke."

I began reading the novels of Faulkner in high school as an act of protest. Kathy and I went to a private high school that was quite conservative/evangelical and as part of a desire to shield students from unsavory characters, there was a list of books the school deemed inappropriate. They had a list of banned books. Being a good Protestant and a teenager, I took this to be an invitation to read as many of them as possible. Faulkner's novels were on the list.

Through the years I have read and reread William Faulkner. There is always something new to discover, some vantage I had not seen before. Last year, I began to reread him in earnest because of ghosts. Faulkner's novels are filled with lingering ghosts of disappointment and the legacy of southern generations. I wanted to read his novels again to hear how the past affects the present, how traditions shape our actions. Does history determine us or shape us?

I also began to read Faulkner again because I discovered that many of my ancestors were his contemporaries and lived not far from Oxford. One of his early novels, *As I Lay Dying*, is based in Chickasaw County where my genealogical tree was planted for over a century. This is the hill country of northern Mississippi that is east of the Delta; this is hard scrabble farms and small towns all in the orbit of Memphis.

Never before had I noticed that everyone in Faulkner's novels is either going to or coming back from Memphis. Like so many parts of America, Memphis was just a dot on a map. Yet, for farming communities, especially those growing cotton, Memphis was a hub of a wheel from which all things moved forward.

When we arrived in Oxford this connection to Memphis was clear. Oxford is a "planet" orbiting the sun of Memphis. We had another geographic epiphany in our short visit. It only took folks a few seconds to realize that we were not from Mississippi. And this distinction was noted, commented on, and shaped the way folks interacted with us. That is a nice way to say, we were Northern intruders.

At the end of October we will begin the last section of the Gospel of Matthew: Jesus in Jerusalem. The first lesson is the entry of Jesus into the city, what we call Palm Sunday. Usually we read this story at the end of Lent and the beginning of Spring. The reading is festive and fun; kids wave palm branches; some churches get a donkey. Yet, what is so intriguing is that the lesson has more to do with geography than liturgy.

Continued in page 2



Continuation of Pastor's Peace from Page 1

Jesus is from Nazareth of Galilee. He has ventured from the North to the South. He is leaving the rural, farm country for the urban swirl of the city. Mostly, though, he is leaving the patient, ponderous habit of meandering around the hills and entering the poignant and often oppressive demands of the center of the world.

Jerusalem, in ancient maps, was often drawn as the center of the world. The city set high on a hill, the city of David, the city where prophets go to die is like a magnetic force pulling you in. Jesus, being a prophet of Galilee, means he was "not from around here." Jesus was an intruder.

In each teaching, each story and reading from this point forward in Matthew, the question of history shaping the present, or the present as leaving the past behind, will rise to the surface. Jesus is stepping into the beginning and the end. Tradition and hope will clash. The church has read these stories and reread them for nearly 2,000 years. What will we hear this time? Do the stories of Jerusalem speak to us as insiders or intruders; do we find ourselves at a beginning or an end? Are we living "unto hope of captives freed" or lingering with the ghosts of Faulkner? What will it mean for us to hear the good news here and now, in this place and time?

*Are we living
"unto hope of captives
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- Session will investigate retaining the Sanctuary balcony as a mask-required area during Sunday Morning Worship services. We may be at a point with the COVID-19 pandemic where we can transition to either only a section of the balcony remaining mask required or making the entire balcony mask optional.
- Session voted to dissolve the Congregational Life Commission. Former commission areas of ongoing roles and responsibilities have been transferred to The Board of Deacons.
- The Food Pantry Taskforce reported to Session that it is reviewing architectural drawings regarding the possible expansion of the Food Pantry within the Social Center.
- Session received the 2022-2023 Slate of Sunday School teachers, assistants, and substitutes as presented by the Christian Education Commission.



We are all pieces of God's Plan. Where do you fit in at our church?

Matthew 6:26-33 says—*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was in all his splendor dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Knowing the simple truth that God provides so generously may take your breath away. But, when a lack of generosity based on fear and worry, that there will not be "enough" creeps in... we may wonder if we really are all pieces of God's Plan? When we read Matthew 6:26-33 it reminds us that God provides generously to us, that we don't need to worry and instead we are called to "strive first for the kingdom of God." One important way to strive first for the kingdom of God is by participating in our Church. A place where we can share our time and talents that have been bestowed on us by God. A place that allows us to grow as a Christian Community as we become the hands and feet of Christ.



Thanks to Niall Corbalis from Stewardship Commission for sharing this important reminder.

Preventing Human Trafficking in Warzones with LUV

By Audrey Walters-Moore
CEO of Lift Up the Vulnerable (LUV)

When I first learned about human trafficking, it was personal.

'Carlos' was an inquisitive, funny, delightful nine-year-old boy, and it broke my heart when he came to ask for help. His small body was being traumatized by older men. At the time, I was part of a missions team spending the summer at the orphan home where Carlos lived in Portugal. I had gotten to know Carlos over several months as I helped to coordinate groups of volunteers to repair the dilapidated buildings where the children lived.

We were told Carlos had been rescued from exploitation when he was a baby. However, we learned Carlos was being trafficked for his caretakers' nefarious and personal gain.

Once we uncovered Carlos' exploitation, his rescue did not come easy.

Carlos and the other children were African-born and not Portuguese citizens. It took international pressure to get the Portuguese authorities to take action to protect the children, even after they saw the evidence on Carlos' small body.

Carlos was eventually rescued. But it took another two years before the courts closed the home, rescuing the other eighteen boys and girls. There were no arrests. The children were simply shuffled around in a broken system of orphan care.

This profound tragedy deepened my commitment to protect children **before** they experience the trauma of trafficking, and I began serving with an organization whose aim was focused on prevention. We worked to identify where children and women are the most vulnerable to human trafficking and where there is little to no other help because it is either too dangerous or too remote to go. In 2005, this led us straight to the warzones of Sudan and South Sudan.

Nineteen years later, First Pres continues to help Lift Up the Vulnerable (LUV) move this vision forward.

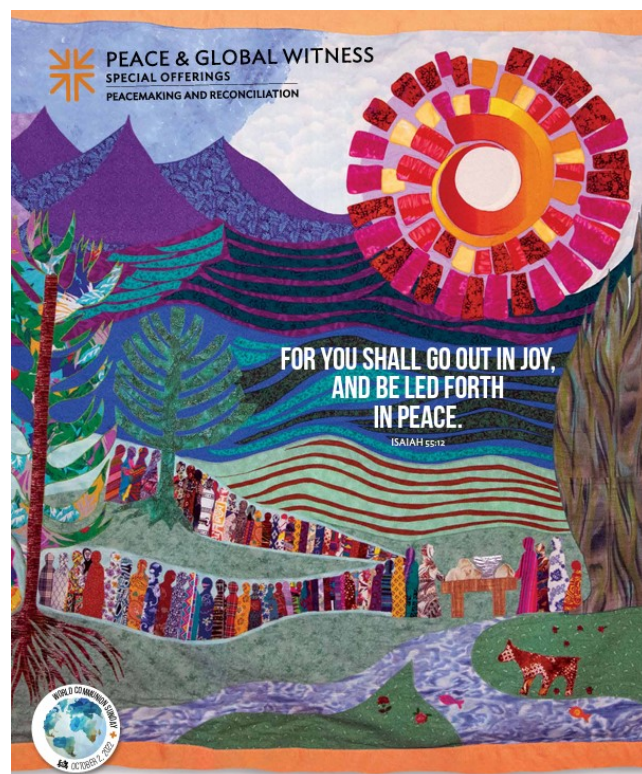
With support from individuals, the First Presbyterian Women, and the Outreach Committee, we're protecting, educating, and providing economic development opportunities for hundreds of the world's most vulnerable children and women — and stopping human trafficking before it starts.

There are an estimated 50 million people trapped in modern-day slavery. This number has increased by 25% since 2016 due to conflict, Covid-19, and the climate crisis. Your help is needed now more than ever.

Join me on **Sunday, October 9th**, for a **Second Hour Forum in the Chapel** to learn about the **Myths and Realities of Human Trafficking** and how you can take a courageous step to end exploitation.

Audrey Walters-Moore, CEO of Lift Up the Vulnerable, is no stranger to the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen. Not only was she baptized and confirmed here at First Pres, she was actively engaged and inspired by her participation in our Youth group and the Habitat for Humanity mission trips before entering full time ministry in 2001.

Learn more about the work of Lift Up the Vulnerable by visiting their website: <https://liftupthevulnerable.org/>



Our Peace and Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world. This church-wide special offering is one of four annual special offerings of PC (USA). It plays an important role in defining what it means to be a con-nec-tional church that brings together the diversity of the church, and allows the church to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns.

Please remember to bring on October 2nd your special offering using the envelopes mailed to you. We will be celebrating World Communion Sunday.

The Social Justice Committee asks...*DID YOU KNOW?*

Written By Mike Draper

Hunger is not an issue of charity. It is an issue of justice.

- Jacques Diouf, Senegalese Diplomat

Yes, I know what it is like to be hungry. In fact, I'm hungry a lot of the time. Just ask around.

What I do not know is what it is like to not know where I will get my next meal, to not know where I can make a phone call or charge my phone, or how I can find and be connected with people who can help me when I need help most.

These are things I take for granted every single day.

These are just some of the things that the FPC Food Pantry and its clients never take for granted.

Started by Jane and Ed Meyer in the late 1980s, the FPC Food Pantry has a long and rich history of converting food and financial donations into sustenance for those who may not, for whatever reason, be able to provide it for themselves. However, over the last 5 years, under the direction, determination and devotion of Local Mission Coordinator Sarah Teti and the multitude of equally empathetic and passionate volunteers, the Food Pantry has grown into a de facto Social Services Center. Here are just some of the things the Food Pantry does almost every week:

- Coordinate with outside agencies like PSE&G and SNAP to make sure clients have access to assistance programs
- Encourage and host employers to provide potential job opportunities for clients
- Provide phone and internet service
- Coordinate with local social workers to bring in and register new clients
- Coordinate local food drives that benefit the FPC Food Pantry
- Act as a partner agency of the Community Food Bank of NJ and REPLENISH (the county's Food Bank)
- Provide excess food to other local food pantries in need
- Assist clients from outside the area to find assistance in their areas
- Assist clients in filling out forms, applications and other paperwork for social service applications, job opportunities, etc.
- Provide emergency financial assistance, transportation and hotel housing for those in need
- Provide homemaking assistance for successfully housed clients, including sourcing furniture, lamps, toiletries, etc.

Wow! But why?

"The system of obtaining help is 30 days at a minimum. It takes that long to even get into the system. And even once you are in, depending on a variety of factors, you still may not get help very quickly. But people often need more than food during that time. And they need these things now, not in 30 days or 60 days. They need a place to care for them before they can get the official care they deserve. Churches just naturally can be that supplemental place that keeps someone going," Sarah said.

"The pandemic was a big change for us," continued Sarah. "Our numbers went up because that is when we started to make connections with other agencies that began to work with us and also lean on us. We had to get very creative in how we provided the constantly growing list of things that people needed in a safe way. But it also gave our volunteers ownership over the Food Pantry. As a result, our volunteers have been empowered to run the day-to-day operations of the Food Pantry, so now I can focus on the clients that have additional needs."

So yes, our Food Pantry feeds the hungry.

It feeds those hungry for justice, hope and dignity.

It feeds those hungry for grace, compassion and integrity. It feeds those hungry for help and it feeds those hungry to help.

There are no shortage of ways to help. Both food and financial donations are always welcome. Also the Local Mission Committee offers the opportunity for hands-on help at "Mission Volunteer Night" held the third Thursday of every month from 7-8:30 pm in the Social Center. **The next one is the Halloween party on October 20th.** Finally, the Social Justice Committee is honored to be spending the next program year partnering with the Food Pantry and Local Mission to help shine a light on the gaps in the system of care and search for solutions for those gaps, from advocacy to action.

If you would like to join the Social Justice Committee in this mission, we meet the first Monday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Social Center.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To **act justly** and to **love mercy**
and to **walk humbly** with your God.

-Micah 6:8

MUSIC Ministry

The hymn *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* has an interesting history and teaches something important about our relationship with God. Scottish theologian George Matheson (1842-1906), though rapidly losing his eyesight and destined to become blind, was a brilliant student of theology at Glasgow University in the mid-19th century. Matheson's account of how he composed the hymn's text details what might only be described as a divine intervention.

"Something happened to me, which was known only to myself, and which caused me the most severe mental suffering. The hymn was the fruit of that suffering. It was the quickest bit of work I ever did in my life. I had the impression rather of having it dictated to me by some inward voice than of working it out myself. I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes, and equally sure it never received at my hands any retouching or correction...this came like a dayspring from on high. I have never been able to gain once more the same fervor in verse."

Some have speculated that the "suffering" mentioned by Matheson is the end of an engagement, his fiancé having left him after deciding that she did not want to marry a blind man. Although we cannot confirm the truth of this story, it offers us a way to access truth—truth about God's nature.

We know that God loves us, and this hymn is a celebration of that extravagant love. Through trials, when we rejoice, during pandemics, amidst stability and change, God's love is an ever-present fact. It is inescapable, overflowing and cannot be explained away by the human mind.

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O Light that follows all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red,
life that shall endless be.



CHOIR REHEARSALS

ENSEMBLE	AGE	REHEARSAL TIME
Jubilee Choir	Age 4 – Gr. 2	Tuesdays, 4:00 – 4:30 PM
Junior Choir	Grades 3 – 6	Thursdays, 4:15 – 5:00 PM
Joy Ringers	Grades 3 – 6	Thursdays, 5:00 – 5:30 PM
Westminster Choir	Grades 7 – 12	Wednesdays, 6:45 – 7:15 PM
Good News Ringers and Chapel Ringers	Grades 7 – 12	Wednesdays, 7:15 – 7:45 PM
Concord Ringers	Adults	Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:15 AM
Covenant Ringers	Adults	Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:00 PM
Senior Choir	Adults	Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:30 PM

Questions about Music Ministry?

Please feel free to contact Jordan Klotz at: jklotz@fpcweb.org



SAVE THE DATE!

December 24

Christmas Pageant

The annual Christmas Pageant will take place on December 24 at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. We look forward to staging a full pageant in the Sanctuary this year featuring our church youth as angels, shepherds, wisemen and more. Rehearsals will be on Sundays after church in December. Watch the October Sunday Paper for information on how to sign up and more details. All children ages 4 – 18 are invited to participate in the Christmas Pageant. Parent volunteers are always needed as well.

FROM YOUR: *DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION*

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

1st Tuesday (4 years - 2nd Grade)

October 4th from 4:30 to 5:00 pm

Library of the Education Building

New this Fall, we are listening to stories by guest visitors and creating awesome crafts. This month Pastor Fred Garry will read a story.

Junior Club (3rd to 6th Grade)

October 6th and 20th from 5:30 to 6:15 pm

Social Center Auditorium

Junior Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month for games, songs and crafts. We welcome friends; invite them to Junior Club!



Class begins October 2nd

10:30 a.m. in the Library

Parents Orientation

11:15 a.m. in the Chapel

We welcome our 7th and 8th grade youth registered for Confirmation Class of 2022/2024. Meet with Rev. Garry and the dedicated adult leaders who

will share about what to expect during the year.

Immediately after the class, at 11:15 am in the Chapel, we invite parents for an orientation of the confirmation class. Please mark your calendars!



We invite our church families and CNS families for a fun-filled spooktacular afternoon for all! A prize awaits the best decorated trunk! Contact Nancy Leardi if you would like to participate. There will be a free-will donation box to benefit our Puppet Ministry.



PUPPETEERS!

The Puppeteers have a full year of puppet shows planned! Rehearsals will be held during the fall before each performance. **We will be building our trunk for the Trunk or Treat on October 30.** Everyone is welcome!

If you or your child would like to be a puppeteer, and is in 7th grade or above, please contact Kat Davis katddavis@gmail.com or Nancy Leardi nleardi@fpcweb.org.



Our Lego Sundays are back and we have exciting Bible stories to share. As a fun teaching tool, the students will be encouraged and guided to bring to life what they learn from the story using Legos. We hope that the lessons they learn will be remembered, brick by brick.

Ever mindful that we want this to be a covid-safe activity, each child will have their own Lego building square with blocks and figures to create and imagine. Make sure to mark your calendars for our first Lego Sunday.



ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM & OTHER EVENTS

THE GOSPEL STORIES

A Weekly Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
in the PW Lounge & Zoom

Join Rev. Garry in this continuing study on the teachings of Jesus, exploring the Gospel books. Come in person or join virtually by Zoom. The lessons are available from our website, go to Resources/study-resources and look for the Gospel Stories. To join by Zoom, use:

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

Use Meeting ID: 847 1167 3419

October 30 The Kirkin o' the Tartan Service

Get ready to march with your tartans! The fun service of the Kirkin o' the Tartan is back as we remember that we are woven together by the faith of centuries, and a community of believers from across the globe. We'll gather at 9:15 a.m. on Lauderdale and Woodbridge Avenue, and together march down Woodbridge Avenue, with a "Beadle" carrying the pulpit Bible and bagpipes leading our way. We want to see everyone - young and old!



MEN'S BREAKFAST

October 19

7:30 am

Dining Room

Need some eggs, bacon and roasted potatoes to start the day? A cup of coffee and some great conversations? These will be provided. The meal may not be "heart" healthy but it is sure to satisfy your soul. Come and join the monthly breakfast with no less than Rev. Garry whipping it up! Call us in the Church office if you have any questions.



SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

11:00 am in the Chapel

This group will meet and discuss the books below.

October 2 The Lincoln Highway: A Novel

October 23 The Haunted Hotel

Got questions? Contact Mary Kay Dangremond

Phone: (732) 310-8714 Email: mk.vatrout@gmail.com



YOUTH GROUP EVERY WEDNESDAY

Starting October 12th

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW SCHEDULE

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm Junior High in the Senior High Room

6:45 pm - 7:15 pm Westminster Choir (Grades 7 to 12)

7:15 pm - 7:45 pm Chapel and Good News Ringers (Grades 7 to 12)

7:45 pm - 8:45 pm Senior High in the Senior High Room

The Youth Group program year began with a barbeque on the ball field with Junior and Senior High combined. Thanks to our Rev. Garry for his grilling expertise, volunteers from Local Mission, and, of course, to our Youth Leaders who helped make this a successful event.

We have decided to shift to a later start time of 6:00 pm to allow for increased participation of both youth and Youth Leaders. As a result, we will not be serving dinner. However, we will be providing snacks each week. Be on the lookout for ways you can contribute to the snack donations.

Remember to register your youth for Youth Group and choirs, if applicable. Use the dropdown on the FPC website under forms: <https://fpcweb.org/sunday-school-and-youth-group-registration/>

It helps us to maintain the most up to date contact information for you and your youth, and also alert us on any

special needs or concerns, medical or otherwise.

STAY CONNECTED AND INFORMED USING GroupMe APP!

Use the links or QR code below to sign up. We invite both parents and youth to sign up to be informed.

Parents GroupMe link:

https://groupme.com/join_group/24026950/GkoacZ

Youth GroupMe (just the youth!) link:

https://groupme.com/join_group/23722261/kLHOPE



Parents QR Code



Youth QR Code



It's an exciting start to the school year at Community Nursery School! The CNS staff and students are very happy to walk in to renovations done over the summer. Room 211 is brighter and fresher for our AM & PM K-Wrap programs. There is a new playground to enjoy, and no more wood chips! Community Nursery School has never looked better! Visit our website www.communityns.org for additional information about CNS.



Room 211 looks fresh and functional, and CNS playground is cleaner and safe!

A SHOUT OUT AND SPECIAL THANKS TO BOB HALE

for his generosity and the special attention he gave to the improvements of the CNS playground. Rev. Garry captured this photo of Bob personally working a loader crane.



The Soup ministry will be returning this Fall!

They will be delivering soup to congregants who are homebound, recovering from medical issues, working on the frontlines in health care, or feeling isolated.

How can you help? The Soup ministry welcomes anyone who would like to donate a pot of soup, deliver soup to congregants, or help with phone calls to congregants to schedule a soup delivery. If you know someone who could use some "soup love" or are interested in helping with this ministry, please email Laura Draper: draperfam44@gmail.com

MIDDLESEX COUNTY • NJ FLU CLINIC

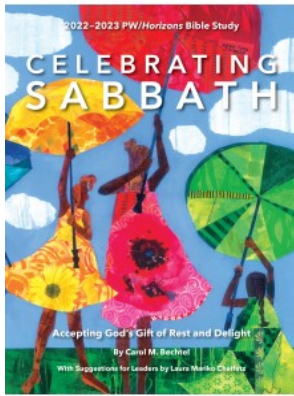
**October 25, Tuesday
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Social Center Auditorium**

This free clinic offered by Middlesex County Health Services **requires masks be worn** when availing of the flu shot.

- Only the Quadri-valent flu shot will be offered, not the Prevnar 13 nor the Pneumovax vaccine.
- There will be no Senior Flu vaccine.
- When applicable, bring Medicare card.
- Vaccine is for 6 months and older.
- Everyone must obtain consent for each person online using: www.middlesexcountynj.gov/dispenseassist

Questions? Call (732) 745-3117

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: In the Church Community



HORIZON BIBLE STUDY IS FOR EVERYONE!

**Begins October 3rd
At 7:00 p.m.
PW Lounge with
Zoom option
Led by Mary Kay
Dangremond**

The first lesson will touch on "Sabbath and Celebration," where Jesus, as Lord of the Sabbath, invites all of us who are weary to celebrate a Sabbath that is more about "yes" than "no." Join us to learn how as we look at the passage from Matthew 11:28 - 12:13.

Horizons Bible Study meets on the first Monday of the month. The lessons may be found in the Resource and PW pages of our website.

Join by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81327982944>

Use meeting ID: 813 2798 2944

If interested in a hard copy of the study or if you have any questions, email Deb Teall (debteall@optonline.net).

PW POSITIONS OPEN :

Come Join the Fun – Not a Lot of Meetings!

The PW Coordinating Team would love your company! We meet monthly, September through June, and we have a couple of positions open that just might interest YOU:

Corresponding Secretary A perfect way to stay in touch with church members! Send cards and notes to congregants to let them know they're in our thoughts. All stationery and postage paid for by PW.

Local Service Coordinator All about the food! Because sharing meals brings us together, as we celebrate the lives of those we've lost and create fellowship among the various groups of the church. We have templates for different occasions. The Coordinator orders the food and directs the set-up, with the rest of the Coordinating Team as supporting cast.

Dessert Volunteers The best food of all! We'll call you if we need desserts for church gatherings. You can bake or buy – we are NOT PICKY!!! Just let us know your phone and email.

Interested? Contact Co-Moderators:

Deb Teall (debteall@optonline.net) or

June Young (june18@optonline.net).

And stay tuned for next month's Parish News for info on other positions!

Presbyterian Women 2022 FALL RUMMAGE SALE

**Friday, October 14th
4:00 pm* – 8:00 pm**

*New start time



**Saturday, October 15th
9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

DROP OFF OF DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED:

Monday, October 10th through Thursday, Oct. 13th from 9:00 am-6:00 pm

Extended hours on Tuesday, October 11th until 8:00 pm

Rummage Sale Volunteers Needed during the whole week beginning October 10th through 15th!

Please consider volunteering for PW Fall Rummage Sale! The success of our rummage sales depends on donations, and volunteers. There are many opportunities to volunteer, and we will take any amount of time you can come to help sorting and set up to cashiering, helping shoppers and cleaning up.

On Friday night we are opening an hour early at 4 pm and would love to have a full staff for checking out loyal customers who are shopping with us. With more help and cashiers we can move the lines quickly! *There will be Anthony's coal-fired pizza and meatballs dinner for all volunteers!*

On Saturday we are open from 9 am to 3 pm. Any number of hours that you can come to help will be greatly appreciated. Why is this important? The Saturday of the rummage sale is also the Metuchen Townwide Garage Sale and we expect shoppers from all over to come and find bargains. AND we have bargains! This means we will have crowds.

Continued on page 10

CHURCH STAFF**First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen**
(July 1, 2022)**CLERGY**

Rev. Dr. Fred Garry 732-491-2330
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff fgarry@fpcweb.org
Rev. Ashley Bair 732-491-2260
Interim Associate Pastor abair@fpcweb.org
Rev. Robert A. Beringer, Pastor Emeritus

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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Elaine Hansen ehansen@fpcweb.org
Assistant Bell Director and Accompanist
Brenda A. Day, Minister of Music Emeritus

SUPPORT STAFF

Sue Harmon 732-491-2302
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Jonathan Hollenbeck 732-491-2270
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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
Josephine Czochanski 732-491-2242
Office Manager cnsadmin@fpcweb.org

Celebrating 20 years! ELAINE HANSEN

What does dedication look like?

Yes, years of service is one example of dedication, but it's really the quality of those years that truly mean something.

Elaine is that example of a servant of God who has dedicated quality years to the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen.

Elaine Hansen joined the First Presbyterian Church in 1997 along with her husband Art. She immediately joined the bell choirs and adult choir. She had extensive bell choir experience at her former church, including directing the bell choirs.

As music leaders around her would retire, Elaine took the opportunity to take on more responsibility and give even more to the church. When Marilyn Tyrrell retired in 2002, Elaine was excited to step into the position. She started directing the Chapel Ringers and Concord Ringers, and co-directed the Covenant Ringers. She also accompanied for the children's choirs.

She took on even more responsibility as accompanist of the adult choir when Bill Kistler retired. For 20 years, Elaine has done all that needs to be done—setting up chairs and bells, washing handbell gloves and robes and organizing music files.

It was Elaine who helped get Jordan set up as the new Director of Music Ministries when our Minister of Music Emeritus Brenda Day retired in June.

Elaine, we have been blessed to have you honor us with your service for the last 20 years. As the children sing, you took your "little light" and you "let it shine" for all of us! Your dedication to the church serves as an example to us all, and gives us something to aspire to. We praise and thank God for you, Elaine!

Thanks to Brian Smith, Chair of Personnel Commission, for this piece that he read on September 18 in recognition of Elaine Hansen.

INDONESIAN FELLOWSHIP meets Noon most Sundays for a worship service in their language, except the first Sunday when they join the 9:30 am service for communion.

**Tak berkesudahan kasih setia TUHAN,
tak habis-habisnya rahmat-Nya,
selalu baru tiap pagi; besar kesetiaan-Mu!**

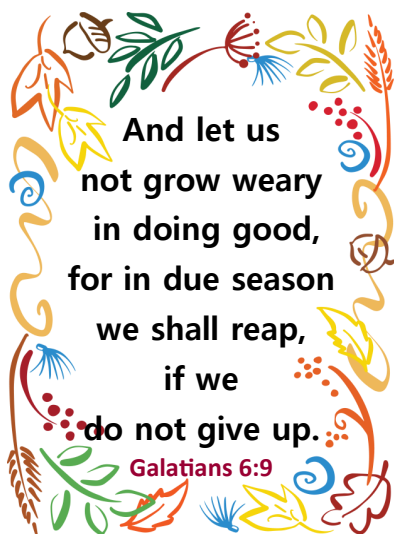
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OCTOBER 2022 PARISH NEWS
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First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Parish News Submission

To submit an article for the Parish News, email vlacson@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
Office Hours: Monday– Friday 8:00 am to 4:30pm
Telephone: (732) 491-2300 Email: fpc@fpcweb.org

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am
Online Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 am
Livestream on FPC Metuchen Facebook