

TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 15 Issue 11

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Would you Like a Visit From Our Pastor?

Our pastor would love to come and see you! Anyone who would like a visit, or Home Communion, is invited to call Pastor Ed or send him an email.

You will be contacted right away to schedule a time!

From Pastor Ed...

“For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams... a land with wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey... where you will lack nothing... Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God...” Deut. 8:7, 11

This month we will celebrate our national holiday of Thanksgiving. It is such a time of warmth and family. When I'm with my family around the table, I can't help but think of Norman Rockwell's paintings and the spirit they capture on canvas. We should hold on tight to those feelings and celebrate them!

The verses above come from Deuteronomy, which is Moses' farewell sermon to Israel on the eve of their crossing into the Promised Land. In these verses, he pointed out the features of the good land, with all its resources, and the prosperity that awaited them. Then, he added one simple caveat, "Don't forget the Lord your God." Don't forget the source. Don't forget the lessons of the wilderness. Don't forget how you got where you are."

It's easy to see the connection between this passage from Deuteronomy, and our own country with its prosperity and power. For us, to remember God, is to give thanks for this country we live in, to thank God for our blessings, and to remember how we got where we are.

To remember the Lord is also to acknowledge the intangible gifts we receive; like serenity, and hope, and faith, and peace. It's about the way our *relationship* with God helps us to make our way through life as it really is - with all the challenges of living. It's about remembering that there are certain things that can only be given by God. It's remembering that for certain things, "There's nothing we have to do. There's nothing we *have* to do. There's nothing we have to *do*."

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen." This is the other side of what remembering is for – which is going forward into the future. Moses wasn't just asking Israel to give, "thanks for the memories." He was calling them to let the lessons they learned inform their living in the Promised Land. He was calling them to trust God enough, to follow in His footsteps.

This Thanksgiving, may we both give thanks for all the blessings we have received, and go forward into the future, in faith, trusting God for all those we have not *yet seen*. May we trust God enough to follow where the Spirit leads First PC into its own promising future!

Peace and Blessings!



FIREBIRD SPIRIT is Rising Up at First Presbyterian!

Hello Everyone at FPC!!

Firebird Spirit, a nationally recognized organization that specializes in church transformation and growth **is coming**: November 9th -10th, from 9:30-12:30 on Saturday and Sunday (closing with awesome and inspiring worship).

This will be a comprehensive seminar to help us understand the changes that have happened in the last 60 years, **and how the church may adapt to meet those challenges.**

Possible subjects: New ways to equip and do leadership. Effective missions and outreach for our current surrounding community. Deepening spirituality that makes sense in the 21st century! And more...

We are standing on both sides of a threshold! One foot is standing in the way things are that aren't over yet. The old structures that may no longer work. All the things we do that were suited for conditions that have changed or evolved. The other foot is planted in something that has yet to be learned and defined, and implemented. **In such times we are required to build the way forward as we walk on it.**

To do this we need our congregation's input, because; this seminar is not a prepackaged revitalization program! Canned approaches almost always fail because churches are so different! Such attempts to find quick and easy fixes, ignore three essential ingredients! They don't consider our unique identity; that is, who we truly are; have been, and how those will be part of who we are becoming as we change. The second ingredient is our context; which combines our demographic information, what our surrounding community has been and *what it is like now*. The third ingredient is to have a handle on what's deeply and fundamentally important to us. These are our core values, and they are essential to carry with us as we adapt and change.

So, Come! Participate! Listen! Learn! Ask Questions! Share Your Perspectives and Concerns... These will help to make this an authentic, energizing and purposeful best step forward for the sake of our church's future.

Cheryl Anne went to Belgrade, Serbia in September to officiate at the wedding of her nephew Timothy and his new wife Milica (pictured). She was in Belgrade for 2 weeks and had an amazing time sightseeing and learning the incredible history of the country.



Thank you, Cheryl Anne, for sharing this beautiful photograph with us!

Wow, that old church in the background is absolutely amazing!

"The Chosen", Season 3

Our last meeting of the year in the manse to view & discuss this wonderful TV series: November 3 @ 12 noon.

All are welcome so please feel free to stop in!



Nov.

- 1 - Mimi Z.
- 1 - Will M.
- 2 - Candy T.
- 2 - Dana M.
- 2 - Kevin C.
- 2 - Sara T.
- 2 - Lola P.
- 3 - Layla L.
- 5 - Jennifer C.
- 7 - Carol H.
- 9 - Jesse T.
- 12 - Jonathan R.
- 16 - Kennedy N>
- 18 - Christopher S.
- 23 - Robyn K.
- 28 - Harold W.
- 30 - Rosalind C.



Nov.

- 7 - Robyn & Bryan
- 24 - Lauren & William
- 25 - Bridget & Kennedy

Presbyterian Women's Guild

Did you know that the above meets every other month in our chapel? Interested in knowing more? Email or call the church office, - your message will be given to one of our members, Anne, who would love for you to be a part of it.





Holiday Market

Saturday, November 16

9 am—2 pm

Our last BIG sale of 2024!



We continue to be blessed with many new donations! Throughout the year we have received many fabulous new holiday items to sell. In addition, we recently have received many new pieces of furniture, a lot of new pictures, and many new baby items as well.

Our Holiday Market is on Saturday, November 16th from 9 am until 2 pm. We will begin setting up on Monday, November 11th from 10 am until 2pm and we will continue throughout that week to prepare for our Saturday sale. If you are available during that week, please come and help us. Any time you can contribute is so greatly appreciated. A light lunch is also provided each day that week.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on November 16th to help with our Holiday Market. Together we can continue to help our community and our church!



Volunteers Needed!



Manse Fireside Chats @ 7 pm

November Friday Dates:

8th & 22nd

Let's grab a sweater or light jacket and gather around a nice warm firepit for some refreshments, fellowship, and prayer.

If you're interested in hosting one of the gatherings, email the church office, or speak to Ed or Diane. We'd love to have you involved if this is something you might be interested in.

WITH OPEN HANDS, INC.

Thanksgiving **FOOD DRIVE**

HELP DONATE TO THE COMMUNITY THIS SEASON

**ACCEPTING CANNED FOODS & NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS
NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 23RD**



WE ARE ACCEPTING:



Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Canned Corn, Canned Green Beans, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Rice, Corn Muffin Mix, Biscuit Mix, Canned Yams, Dry/ Canned Beans, Chicken or Turkey Broth, Mac & Cheese, Cake Mix, Cake Icing

DROP OFF LOCATION: THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA

Rahway Branch
1564 Irving Street, Rahway

Monday-Friday 6am-9pm

Saturday 8am-3pm

Sunday 8am-1pm

**Add'l info call or text
732-630-5386**

With Open Hands Inc is a non profit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

A Thanksgiving Turkey on Every Table

We'd given our turkey to a family that was even more needy. But who would help us?

By Mary Jarvis, Pawhuska, Oklahoma

I lifted the heavy lid of our old freezer in the garage and peered inside, looking for some vegetables to make for dinner. For the past year, we'd scraped by on my small teacher's salary while my husband, Mike, was away at graduate school. With three hungry teenagers to feed, it was a challenge to stretch our grocery dollars. Now, one glance at the half-empty freezer made me question what I'd done on impulse a week earlier.

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Kathy, my 14-year-old, blurted out that one of her friends wasn't celebrating the holiday because her mother couldn't afford it. "We could give them our turkey, Mom," she said. "We don't need it since we're going to Uncle Pat's." How could I explain to her that I was saving our turkey for Christmas? We didn't have enough money for Mike to come home for Thanksgiving. The kids and I were going to my brother-in-law's so I wouldn't have to invest in a big dinner. How could I afford another turkey before Christmas?

We taught our kids to help others. But to help someone else when we could barely help ourselves? Still, I knew I couldn't say no. *Lord, I hope you have a plan because I sure don't.*

We gathered up a bag of potatoes and cranberry sauce I had in the pantry. I sent my son, Matt, out to the freezer in the garage to get some vegetables—and the turkey. When we brought Kathy's friend the food, her mother cried tears of joy. At the time, their happiness made me feel better about giving away our turkey. But now, looking into our freezer, I wondered, *Who's going to help us?*

I rummaged through the frozen containers—broccoli, carrots, some blackberries from our garden. I pushed aside some frosted bags of green beans and corn. Wait...something was there. Suddenly I stopped and stared. Nestled among the vegetables was a newly bought turkey.

I never found out who the mysterious donor was. Does it matter? Whoever it was knew exactly what we needed, when we needed it.



May you and your loved ones have a very blessed Thanksgiving!



Please consider either calling or sending a card to church family who are homebound; call the church office (732-382-0803) if you need phone numbers and/or addresses.

Prayer Requests

Ali & family, Alyne B., Amy, Avril Muller & family, Barbara & James E., Bari, Bob, Bud D., Carlos B., Carolyn & family, Celeste & Doris, Dan, Diane & Helene, Destiny, Dorothy R., Michele & Eileen P., Eileen, Eunice - Barbra & Dave, Gail G., Gary, German M., Gina C., Hector & Jasmine, Joyce B.C., Maureen, Meli, Mike-Evelyn & family, Miriam M., Nicole, Ross J., Savannah B., Vicky, those in war-ravaged areas; those affected by the recent hurricanes



Our deepest condolences to...

Ilanda:

I am asking for prayers for Michele & Eileen Panila, on the passing of one of our members, **Russ Ginda**, who entered eternal peace on September 28th. Please keep them and his family in your prayers.

Thank you & God Bless.

If you have a prayer request please give Ilanda a call at 732-382-6193 or send her an email: ikerobo@comcast.net. Ilanda will ensure that your request is addressed/sent to our wonderful prayer warriors.



Prayer Persons

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 3rd - Judy & Eric Rickes**
- Nov. 10th - Mimi Zahradnik**
- Nov. 17th - Harold Wilcox**
- Nov. 24th - Sara Thode**

DECEMBER

- Dec. 1st - Sean Simpson & family**
- Dec. 8th - Tracie Wiebush**
- Dec. 15th - Linda Simpson**
- Dec. 22nd - Patrick Weaver**
- Dec. 29th - Gail Woolley**

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PERMIT NO. 111

**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH**



QR Code for donations

**Worship with us
Each Sunday at 10:30 AM**

**In-person / Facebook & YouTube Live Streams
Recorded Video Available Also**

**Office: office@1stpresrahway.org
Rev. Ed Hoener: edhoener1@gmail.com**

1stpresrahway.org



Thankful, Grateful, Blessed