

TOWER CHIMES



Vol. 15 Issues 7 & 8

July/August 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Special points of interest:

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Summer Worship & Live Streams

When the heat is excessive during the summer, we worship in Davis Hall, which doesn't have livestream capabilities at this time.

Be sure to check our Facebook page or our website for updated information as to whether there will be a live stream.

Editor:
CAB
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From Pastor Ed...

One day Jesus got into a boat with His disciples, to cross the sea, and as they sailed, Jesus fell asleep. A great storm arose so that the boat was being swamped by the waves. The disciples went and woke Him saying, "Save us Lord, we are perishing!" Jesus arose and said to the wind and the sea, "Peace be still" and they ceased their raging."

Matt. 8:23-27; Mk 4:35-41; Lk 8: 22-25)

Dear Friends,

This is one of the more dramatic episodes in the gospels. Jesus and his disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee when suddenly a nor'easter arose. The waves were tossing the boat around like a volleyball, and even though the disciples were experienced old salts, they were terrified. Then when they looked through the spray and driving wind, they saw Jesus sleeping peacefully in the stern, and they were irate. "Jesus!" they cried, "We're going under any minute, and you're taking a nap! Don't you care?" Jesus wiped the sleep from his eyes, stood up, and told the wind and sea, "Calm down!" and in an instant, the sea was like glass. Then Jesus said something curious to the disciples. He asked them in the most sincere, inquisitive, tone of voice, "Why are you afraid? (Matthew's version) "Where is your faith?" (Luke's version)

We tend to hear Jesus' questions as an indictment of their lack of trust, (only after we think to ourselves, "Are you kidding me?"). But Jesus didn't teach us to regard faith as something quantifiable in our lives. It's more likely that Jesus, at this most unlikely time, was providing a "teaching moment." Jesus was seriously asking them (and us) under turbulent circumstances, to confront their fears, and examine their faith.

Now sometimes our fears are founded. There may be legitimate risks at stake, and when we confront our fears, we have to take the possible consequences seriously. But it's also true, that we often avoid the *opportunities to grow and change* which the fearful situations offer us. Sometimes it's just easier to stay afraid, than to venture out in faith, and take the chance we may not succeed. Yet, sometimes, even when we "play it safe", we lose what we're afraid of losing anyway.

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This episode with Christ calls us to examine our individual lives, and see where our fears lie. It calls our church to do the same - to look carefully at what we're afraid of –especially as we're trying to discern God's will for the mission and ministries and future of 1st Pres. church. This story calls us to follow the path God calls us to take, along with what we're afraid of. But thankfully this story also has a promise to hold onto. The promise is, Jesus asks his probing questions, while He simultaneously keeps us in His care. The "keeping" which is ours to experience, is His *continuing* presence and power that will accompany us *wherever* He calls us to go. As long as we are in the same boat with Jesus, we're guaranteed the presence of the One who can quiet whatever wind and waves are unsettling us, with just a word!



You're Invited

The Chosen Season 3, Episode 5

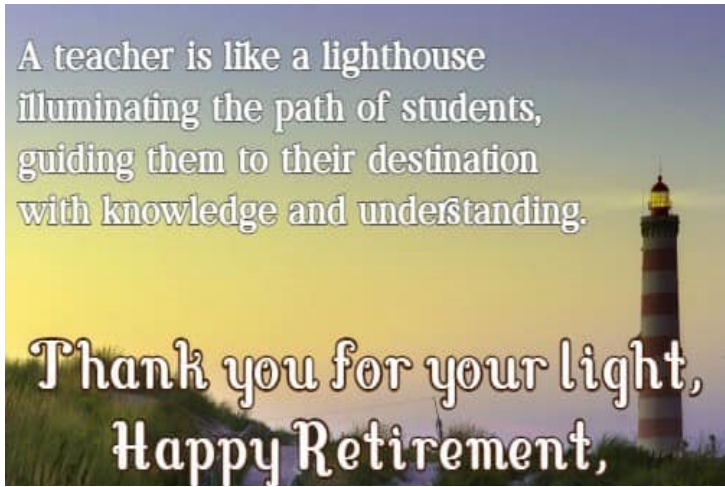
Sunday, July 14 at noon @ the manse

Each episode stands on its own.
Search for "Angel Studios" on your browser and you can watch it for free.

Each season has 8 episodes, so to catch up with where we are, schedule in 20 viewing sessions

OR

just come on July 14 at noon and pick up from there!



A teacher is like a lighthouse
illuminating the path of students,
guiding them to their destination
with knowledge and understanding.

**Thank you for your light,
Happy Retirement,**

Enjoy this next phase of your life,

Sara Pender

as we send you our wishes for all of
God's wonders in the years ahead.

***Congratulations to you on
your retirement!***

Congratulations, Sue & Cliff!

♥ He asked. I answered! ♥



By these pics that Sue posted on Facebook, we know what Cliff asked and what Sue's answer was!



Your church family & friends couldn't be happier for you both ... *the best is yet to come!*



Thank You, Portia, for the Lovely Gifts!



This year all the women were presented with a lovely gift bag on Mother's Day by one of our newest members, Portia Gas-kin.

Portia didn't show favoritism...

On Father's Day, she gave all the men in the church a gift bag that she had made for them. Portia said that she had done this in her home church and that she wanted to do it in her new church.



Everyone appreciated your kindness and generosity, Portia, we're blessed to have you in our church family.



July

- 1 - Monyka K.
- 1 - Erwin A.
- 3 - Ray M.
- 4 - Fred R.
- 8 - Rev. Doug Grote
- 10 - David K.
- 10 - Richard M.
- 19 - Bridget N.
- 23 - Lauren H.
- 27 - Joanne P.
- 27 - Uma K.



July

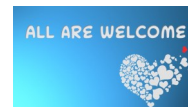
- 14 - Debby & Fred

Fireside Chats @ 7 pm

July Dates:

12 & 26

Although most of our gatherings have been at the manse, the



Koenig family hosted one of them, and most recently, Selva Villahermosa hosted on June 28th...thank you!

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.

Annual Fall Flea Market

Mark your calendars!

The date: **Saturday, September 28th**

*Save
the
Date*

That's when we are going to have our annual fall flea market from 9 am until 2 pm.

We will begin bringing up our items from the flea market area after church on Sunday, September 22nd and we will be setting up

Davis Hall that week from 10 am until 2 pm.

We hope that you can help out getting ready for this event. Not only do our efforts help support our church financially, it also provides items to those in our community at reasonable prices.

As we did in the spring, we are not going to put everything away the week after our sale. Instead, we are going to have another flea market the following Saturday, October 5th from 9 am until 1 pm in place of our "Fabulous Finds" Mini Mart on the first Saturday of the month. We will pack up what doesn't sell the following week.

Please join us whenever you can. We enjoy working together and we truly appreciate your help.



Look at the array of food items donated by the congregation for the Rahway Food for Friends pantry during the month of June. Fantastic!

Our church has faithfully collected canned and boxed items to support the pantry since 2000.

Thank you to everyone who donated. Stay tuned for when we will hold our next food drive.



Aug.

- 7 - Vincent D.
- 15 - Lawrence C.
- 15 - John L.
- 16 - Zachary W.
- 18 - Tracie W.
- 20 - Hazel Marion McBride R.
- 21 - Eric R.
- 21 - Sam S.
- 21 - Lucas S.
- 27 - Ashley C.
- 27 - Bill D.
- 31 - Michael T.



Aug.

- 8 - Kristen & Russell
- 13 - Carol & Jake
- 22 - Judy & Eric
- 29 - Robin & Alex
- 29 - Candy & Michael



I just wanted to say thank you to all of our prayer warriors who prayed for me when I was hospitalized recently because I had a TIA. Your thoughts and prayers truly made a difference. I was blessed that I didn't have any lingering effects from my TIA. Thank you also to everyone who sent me an email, card or flowers wishing me well. Your thoughtfulness and concern were sincerely appreciated.

JoAnn

What does the Christian faith think about...?

Feedback wanted: You fill in the ...
&
Pastor Ed will talk about it on Sunday.

Pastor Ed would like to hear what topics the congregation would like to discuss. Topics can be sent to Pastor Ed via email, or using the 3X5 cards that will be next to the bulletins in the narthex; place them in the basket on the table when completed.



Looking for volunteers each Sunday to help with our new technology.

Does manning the live stream camera or advancing slides for our worship presentations sound interesting? Speak to Cheryl Anne if you would like to know more.

Training will be supplied.



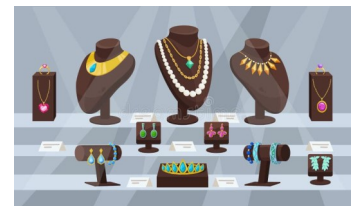
Thank you to our current volunteers, we are grateful to have you, and for all of your hard work!

August “Fabulous Finds” Mini Mart

Saturday, August 3rd from 9 am until 1 pm

There's no “Fabulous Finds” Mini Mart in July because it would fall on the 4th of July holiday weekend. Please join us when you can to work on cleaning, sorting and pricing donations that we receive. Each week an email announcement is sent out informing every one of the day that we are going to work. If you are available, please join us, we would love to have your help. Also, if you would like to work on Saturday, August 3rd with that Mini Mart, please let either Gail or JoAnn know.

Coming!!!! A fantastic jewelry display! Carmen Davies started joining us working on the flea markets. In April, she created a British display. She donated and sold many pieces of Royal Commonwealth china that she had. In June, she set up an amazing jewelry display in the hallway by the coat rack. Since then we have taken the jewelry downstairs. She has been working on setting up a permanent display there, complete with twinkling lights, mannequins' and treasure box. Stop by! I am sure that you will find something that will catch your eye that you just can't resist!





A shoutout to Deacon Gail Anderson, who always makes our Sanctuary look gorgeous with her altar arrangements. If you haven't been able to get to the church, here are two of the most recent—the one to the left was displayed during the spring; the one on the right is displayed now for Pride Month.



Beautiful!





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

Alyne B., Amy, Avril Muller & family, Carlos B., Chrissy, Christine H., Dan S., Dave, DeLuca family & Marie, Diane & Helene, Dorothy R., Edna, Eileen P., Elizabeth M., Eunice, Barbra, & Dave, Falicity & Rita, Fred R., Jay G., Jean K., Jean P., Jesus M., Joan C., JoAnn R., Joannie S., Kathleen & Koenig family, Kulsoom, Liam, Marilyn & Jasmine, Meli, Noel, Patty-Travis & family, Remelgado, family, Robert S., Savannah B., Tina Marie & family, Vicky, Those in war-ravaged areas

Those that are homebound—Caroline Balla, Doris Kapus



Prayer Persons

July

- July 7th - Lauris Beam**
- July 14th - Grider Family**
- July 21st - Barbra & Dave Maskarinetz**
- July 28th - Eunice Schwietering**

August

- Aug. 4th - Remelgado Family**
- Aug. 11th - JoAnn & Andy Roesch**
- Aug. 18th - Toth Family**
- Aug. 25th - Robin & Al Shipley**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1731 CHURCH STREET
RAHWAY, NJ 07065

732.382.0803

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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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



Have a safe & blessed summer!