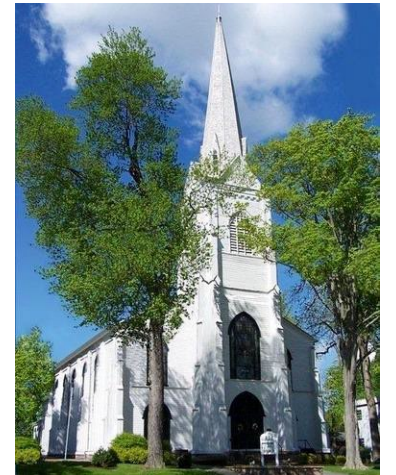


**First Presbyterian  
Church  
298 Main Street**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
298 MAIN STREET  
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ 07840  
REV. ERIN HAYES-COOK  
OFFICE: 908-852-4011  
e-mail: [fpchnj@gmail.com](mailto:fpchnj@gmail.com)  
Church website,  
<http://www.fpchackettstown.org>  
Editor: MaryAnn Simmons  
[maryann.simmons3@verizon.net](mailto:maryann.simmons3@verizon.net)**

**APRIL  
2024**

*Light  
from the*



*Steeple*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ  
CHURCH OFFICE: (908) 852-4011**

**Pastor:** Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook  
**Choir Director/Organist:** Lorinda Ravo  
**Treasurer:** Al Ravo  
**Financial Secretary:** Deborah Gulick-Shepherd  
**Head Usher:** Kim Newton  
**Church Secretary:** Pattie Huff

**2024 SESSION**

<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>
Bruce Bergman	Donna Erickson	Bill Cors
Michele Cameron	Diane Hull	Geof Gohlich
MaryAnn Simmons	Ray Sookhoo	Sharon Heil

**Clerk of Session:** Donna Erickson

**2024 BOARD OF DEACONS**

<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>
Pat Gohlich	Ellen Bergman	Jackie Hammel
Janette Hendershot	Patricia Butts	Kathy Maier
Justin Simmons	Carol Miller	Lorinda Ravo

**Moderator:** Ellen Bergman

**2024 HEAVEN SENT NURSERY SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**OFFICE: 852-2006**

**Director:** Jen Bujno

Pam Venturini	- 2025	Pat Butts	- 2026
Kaitlyn Elliot	- HS Parent	Heather Pittman	- HS Parent

Sharon Heil - Session Rep  
Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook - Ex-Officio

# A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

Happy Spring! I am so glad that you have returned for another edition of good news about our congregation.

As we enter the new month, I encourage you to delight in spring-time weather and glorious new beginnings.

Our Deacons have many events planned for this upcoming season, including participation in the Town-Wide Garage Sale on April 27th and the Clothing Drive on May 4th. Please check the calendar for specific dates for clothing drop off and deadlines to sign up for a table at the garage sale. In addition, be mindful of the spaghetti and chicken parmesan dinner which will occur at the Chapel on Saturday, April 20th - dine-in, take-out, or delivery. Please see any Elder or Deacon to purchase tickets for this event.

Our gourmet groups continue to meet regularly throughout the month. For more information, see last month's newsletter for members who head each activity or if you feel like joining any of the groups on a whim, check our calendar which identifies the place and time for each meal.

Take time to consider the various activities that are planned for April and be sure to ask an Elder or a Deacon if you are looking to get involved with any of the events. We are especially seeking members to take part in the Memorial Day Parade, so we ask you to consider signing up to demonstrate your spirit and support for the oldest church of Hackettstown.

This month, I have decided to add a new article about popular Christian music. Like "Books for Your Reading Pleasure," I thought I would recommend some wholesome music choices for people of all ages. Give the selections a try.

Finally, on behalf of the congregation, I would like to express sincere condolences to James Engel on the death of his mother, Charlotte Maletz, and to the family of Shirley Pennington. Both Charlotte and Shirley passed away this past March.

As always, thanks for your readership and continued support. Until next month...

Yours in Christ,  
MaryAnn Simmons

## DATES TO REMEMBER - APRIL 2024

- 01: Easter Monday - Church office closed
- 01: April Fools' Day
- 03: Yarn Girls - 1 PM - Conference Room
- 07: Worship and communion - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School for all students; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 08: PLEFF Dinner 6 PM at Hong Kong Palace, Mountain Ave, Hackettstown
- 09: Deacon's Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 11: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 13: Men's Breakfast at the Chapel - 8 AM
- 13: Community Dinner - 5:30-7 PM, at the Chapel - Souped up Mac & Cheese
- 14: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Baptism; Sunday School grades Pre-K - 5 and grades 6 & 7; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 14: Second Sunday AND Confirmation Class 11:30AM - 1:30 PM at the Chapel
- 14: Last day to purchase tickets for spaghetti dinner
- 16: Session Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 18: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 20: Last day to rent table for Town Wide Garage Sale - \$15.00 per table; contact Ellen Bergman if interested
- 20: Fundraiser dinner: FPCH and Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad - Spaghetti and Chicken Parmesan at the Chapel 4-7 PM.
- 21: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Baptism; Sunday School grades Pre-K - 5 and grades 6 & 7; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 23: Ladies Who Lunch - 12 PM at Main Street Cafe, 103 Main Street, Hackettstown, NJ
- 25: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 27: Town Wide Garage Sale in Church Parking Lot - 9 AM-4PM
- 28: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 30: Clothing Drive Drop off - 6-8 PM in Church Parking Lot, Washington Street

## A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:17-18

"Do not hold onto me." Jesus says this in His resurrected body. If I were Mary, I would want to hold onto and feel the proof that He was alive again. I would want to cling to him and say, "You are really alive!" Yet Jesus tells her not yet, for I have more holy work to do. How often do we want to cling to what God is working on for our behalf and the world? We want to cling to the wrong things, the wrong ideas, the wrong perspectives, the ones that no longer serve to give new life. It is human because we are like Mary and are often surprised by what God can do.

This time of the church season is called Eastertide, when we remember the amazing stories of Jesus appearing to people after His resurrection. We claim that Jesus has risen from the dead and we are his witnesses. But what if gaining this new life also means we are to cling not to what holds us back to recognizing new life? What if Jesus' invitation to us this Eastertide is to be courageous enough to bear witness to what we need to let go of to claim new life? When we exchange our hope to cling to the promise of an empty tomb, we can face the beauty of our lives. May you, this Eastertide, cling to hope, cling to new life. Amen.

In Christ,

**Pastor Erin**



## BOOKS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS



Since Spring is in the air, I am recommending some light titles which might intrigue our members of all ages. Please consider these books, which focus on nature. Find time to sit on the back deck, front porch, or just on your couch with your feet up and relax with one of these books in your hand.



**The Oldest Living Things in the World** by Rachel Sussman: Artist and scientist Rachel Sussman set out to photograph the old living things in the world. This stunning coffee table book reminds us how fleeting and precious a single human life is against the backdrop of mosses, lichen, and tree systems that have lived for centuries.



**A City Inside** by Tillie Warden: A story that shifts between the surreal and the everyday as a woman looks back on her childhood and growing up, ultimately about discovering who we are and want to be in life while not having just one coming-of-age, but multiple in a lifetime. A beautiful reminder that who we are in this moment does not define who we can become.



**Dear Children of the Earth** by Schim Schimmel: Dear Children of the Earth begins a remarkable letter from Mother Earth asking for help from children everywhere. She writes to express her love for each and every child and asks for their love and appreciation in return. In her own words, and with all of her heart, Mother Earth enfolds children with love and entrusts them with her protection. The book contains a beautiful message with equally beautiful artwork. Schimmel's message is appropriate for children of all ages. I might add, it is one of my favorite children's books.

**Give these books a try. Your lives will be richly enhanced.  
Happy Reading!**

## CHRISTIAN MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

As some of you may know, I am a fan of Christian music. To that end, I thought I would make some recommendations for some of my favorite singers. When you see me in church, be sure to let me know your thoughts about these suggested musicians.

**AMY GRANT** is a famous Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) singer turned pop. She has been singing since the age of 20 and is married to country singer Vince Gill. Grant made her debut as a teenager, gaining fame in Christian music during the 1980s with such hits as "Father's Eyes", "El Shaddai", and "Angels". In the mid-1980s, she began broadening



her audience and soon became one of the first CCM artists to cross over into mainstream pop on the heels of her successful albums *Unguarded* and *Lead Me On*. These albums, *Be Still and Know... Hymns of Faith*, and *Age to Age* are two of my favorites.



**MICHAEL W. SMITH** is an American musician who has captured hearts in both contemporary Christian and mainstream charts. His biggest success in mainstream music was in 1991 when "Place in This World" hit No. 6 on the Billboard Hot 100. Over the course of his career, he has sold more than 18 million albums. On two occasions, Smith has collaborated with Amy Grant and served as her keyboardist for a time. I guess you can tell why I enjoy Smith's music. These two albums are *Worship* (2001) and *A New Hallelujah* (2008).

I hope you give these musicians a try. I enjoy their works very much and would love to hear your thoughts.

# First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, NJ

## Clothing Drive

Drop Off: **Tuesday, April 30, 2024---6-8 pm**

**Saturday, May 4, 2024—8-9 am**

Place: Church Parking Lot, Washington St

### **WE ACCEPT:**

**Shoes (Please separate bags)**

**Towels Bedding Curtains Table-**

**cloths Toys (2 feet & smaller)**

**Stuffed Animals Clothing (Hats/**

**Belts/Purses)**

**Strollers Bikes Scooter**

**Please Bring Your Items in Plastic Bags!!!!!!**

**SPONSORED BY THE DEACONS OF FIRST**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HACKETTSTOWN**

## **NEWS FROM THE DEACONS**

**BY: JUSTIN SIMMONS**

The Deacons continue to work diligently to maintain their missions. Below is a list of the items they discussed during their meeting in March.

The Little Pantry continues to be used daily. Oftentimes, we cannot keep enough food on the shelves as the food is picked up as soon as it is stocked. A special thank you to our congregation and outside community members who continue to assist with his critical community outreach. You are a blessing. We are exploring the opportunity to request donations from local businesses for the pantry. We will keep you updated when we receive news about this endeavor. We no longer stock personal care items in the pantry. However, we continue to distribute personal care bags at free community dinners each month for those who need them.

Kid Care Kits are still being distributed to the middle schools of Hackettstown and Great Meadows. The school nurses express their appreciation for the items we include in these kits.

This month, we will participate in the Town-Wide Garage Sale, which will take place on April 27th. The Deacons are offering an opportunity for people in the church and in the public to rent a 6 foot table to sell their items. In addition, if anyone wishes to donate items to be sold at the event, we are gratefully accepting those items and will apply the proceeds from this sale toward the general church fund.

As witnessed on March 31st, the Deacons provided the carnations for the Easter cross. See the photo in the March Highlights and check out our Facebook page and the church website for more photos.

Our Clothing Drive is on May 4th; however, we will be collecting items on April 30th, from 6-8 PM in the church parking lot. Please be sure to bag your items and provide all shoes in separate bags.

Finally, the Deacons have set the date for the Free Market. This year it will be held on Saturday, September 21st from 9 AM - 5PM. Save the date for this community event.

Thank you for your continued support in our endeavors. If you have any questions or suggestions, be sure to reach out to a Deacon.

## FEBRUARY 2024 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

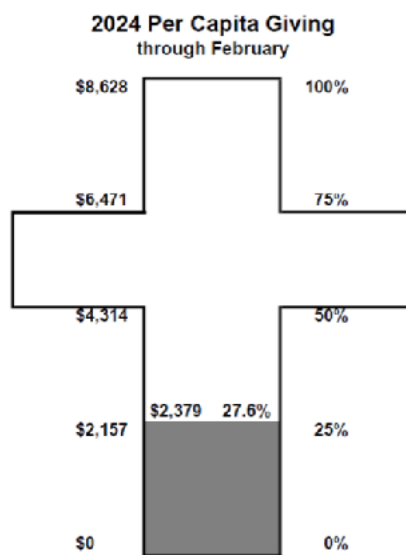
BY: AL RAVO

The Expenses Paid and Income amounts below do not include the funds transferred from the Endowment to meet the church operating expenses.

	February	Year to Date
Income	\$10,914.58	\$44,750.71
Expenses Paid	\$19,397.77	\$43,104.07
Net Operating Income /(Deficit)	(\$ 8,483.19)	\$ 1,646.64
Amount of Schwab/Edward Jones funds used to pay operating expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Amount Needed from Endowment	\$ 0.00	\$. 0.00

### Financial Comments / Observations:

1. The five largest operating expenses in February were:



- 1.) **\$7,415.37** – Pastoral expenses (payroll, Board of Pensions, etc.).
- 2.) **\$4,269.17** – Staff payroll & payroll processing expenses.
- 3.) **\$2,560.00** – Snow removal and salting parking lot and walkways.
- 4.) **\$2,043.11** – Gas expenses (3 buildings).
- 5.) **\$718.96** – Per Capita.

2. The operating net incomes / (deficits) were **(\$8,483.19)** in February and **\$1,646.64** Year To Date.

- The actual February operating expenses were **\$64.44** above the average monthly budgeted expenses.
- The actual February operating incomes were **\$5,918.75 below** the average monthly budgeted income.

- The Year-To-Date operating expenses were **\$4,437.40** above the average YTD budgeted amounts.
- The Year-To-Date operating incomes were **\$11,084.04** above the average YTD budgeted amount.

**CONTINUED - SEE FEBRUARY 2024 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

## FEBRUARY 2024 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

CONTINUED

CONTINUED FROM FEBRUARY 2024 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

3. In February, the value of the MassMutual Investment accounts increased **\$8,252.23** to **\$334,206.46**.

4. The total endowment fund on February 29, 2024, was **\$349,078.92**. The total endowment fund was up **\$8,321.75** since February 1, 2024, and up \$9,413.29 since January 1, 2024.

5. The community dinner expenses for February were \$200.78. The donations collected at the dinner were \$58.00.

6. The Men's breakfast expenses for February were \$22.20. The donations collected at the breakfast were \$101.00.

**The 2024 Per Capita is \$42.50 for each of the 203 members of our Church.** (The number is the membership of FPCH on December 31, 2022.) The total amount due in 2024 is \$8,627.50 or \$718.96 monthly. In February, **\$425.28** was received for Per Capita bringing the total received in 2024 to **\$2,379.28** or **27.6%** of the amount due. A Per Capita payment of **\$718.96** was sent to the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ in February making the total sent in 2024 **\$1,437.92** or **16.7%** of the total amount due.

Please contact Al Ravo if you have any questions or would like to discuss the Church's operational finances, the Endowment Funds, Per Capita or the Building On Generosity Capital Campaign.

## BUILDING ON GENEROSITY (BOG) CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- Donations received during February, **\$452.00**.
- Total donations received from church members, non-members and anonymous from September 2019 (BOG Kickoff dinner) through February 29, 2024, **\$644,350.02**.
- No expenses were paid using the BOG funds in February.
- Total BOG funds are **\$14,428.51**. The breakdown is **\$10,928.51** for the next BOG project with an additional **\$2,500.00** designated for parking lot pavement and **\$1,000.00** designated for the Chapel range hood replacement.
- Donations breakdown by source:
  - **5.2%** - **\$33,699.76 from nonmembers**
  - **86.1%** - **\$554,782.05 from members**
  - **8.7%** - **\$55,868.21 from anonymous & dinners**
  - **100.0%** - **\$644,350.02 Total**

Please contact Al Ravo if you have any questions or would like to discuss the Church's operational finances, the Endowment Funds, Per Capita or the Building On Generosity Capital Campaign.

# Albright College Chamber Choir Visits FPCH

BY: PASTOR ERIN HAYES-COOK

I would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, all who came to hear the Chamber Choir of Albright College, my Alma Mater, on March 11. Thank you to the volunteers who prepared delicious food for dinner for the students and Director Derrick Thompson. The students cheered and gladly filled up their plates with home cooked meals.



For those of you who could not attend, you missed a treat. The harmonies rose high above our beautiful sanctuary. The Chamber singers sang spirituals, gospels, love songs, and traditional African arrangements. Everyone in attendance felt their spirits lifted. I would like to share two stories of their impact. One woman introduced herself to me before the concert began. She attends one of our local churches and saw the poster on our Chapel marquee. With a big grin on her face she said, "I had to come; my uncle graduated from Albright." She loved being in our beautiful sanctuary.

As you might imagine, the choir came via Albright's-College bus, which displayed Albright Lions logo. After the concert, the bus driver told me he met a police officer who was outside taking pictures of the bus. When he greeted him, the officer asked if the bus was in Hackettstown with a sports team. Come to find out, the police officer is a graduate of Albright and was on the football team. He is new to the force and was so excited to see his Alma Mater represented in our town. Those stories are samples of the positive impact this event had on our neighbors.



If you missed the concert, just know that we are already penciled in for next year. We continue to seek creative ways to connect with our community.

# MUSIC NOTES

BY: LORINDA RAVO

In April, our anthems during worship services will include:

During the month of April, our anthems will be:

April 7: Solo

April 14: As Long As I Have Breath-Sr. Choir  
Lead On, O King Eternal-Unity Chimes

April 21: On Christ I Stand-Sr. Choir  
Trinity Fanfare-FPCH Ringers

April 28: Shen Zhen Mai Hao-Little Lights Sunday School Choir  
God of Great and God of Small-Joyful Noise Bells



# REQUESTS FOR PANTRY ITEMS

BY: JUSTIN SIMMONS

Last month, you were extremely generous in providing Spanish food items to our pantry giving. Thank you for your continued support. This month, we are putting in a request for snack foods, cereals, jelly for the large supply of peanut butter that we have, and proteins such as meals in a can. If you are at a store and feel the urge to assist in this endeavor, we are grateful for your donation.

Once again, the Deacons thank you for your generosity. You warm our hearts and help many in need!

## APRIL GREETERS

**APRIL 7:** Pattie and Dennis Huff

**APRIL 14:** Carol and Pete Miller

**APRIL 21:** Grace and Richard Clegg

**APRIL 28:** Carol Granitzski and Brenda Neice

GREETER

## PHANTOMS HOCKEY GAME

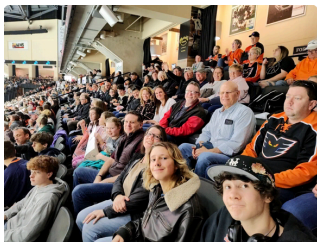
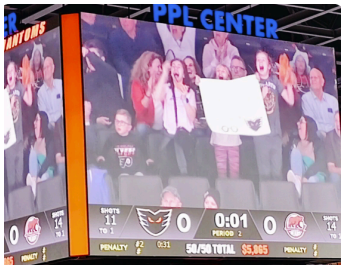
BY: LORINDA RAVO

What a game, what an experience, what fun at the Lehigh Valley Phantoms game on Sunday, March 3rd.

Thanks to Chris Roguso for organizing the outing that saw our

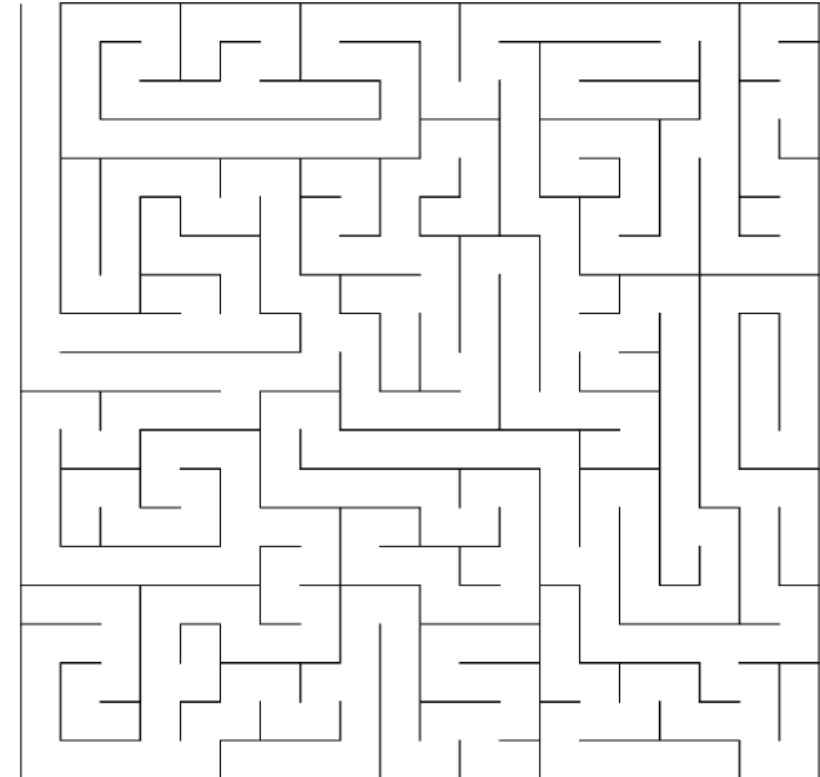
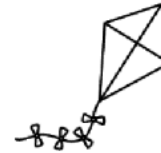
church name on the Jumbotron, our “Three Musketters” finally making a dream come true as they appear on the big screen, Myles being wished a happy birthday for all to read up on the Jumbotron, and ... our own Cathy VanOrden finding out that she WON the 50/50!

Oh, and did we mention that the Phantoms WON the gam in a shoot out after 4 scoreless periods, and it was Melvin’s (the Phantom’s mascot) birthday. What a day!



## Spring into Fun with this Maze

**Instructions:** Trace the path through the maze. Help get the kite to the windy day in Spring.



© www.BigActivities.com



Finish



# MARCH SECOND SUNDAY

BY: LORINDA RAVO

In March, our Second Sunday kids watched the movie *Lion of Judah*, an animated film about the last weeks in Jerusalem before the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Snuggling down with blankets, pillows, stuffed animal friends, and of course, popcorn made the afternoon cozy and fun for all.

On April 14, we'll be having a day celebrating Music, Music, Music! Taking our cue from the verse in Psalms that tells us to "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord", we'll start with our bagel time lunch. After lunch, the kids will be decorating "bolang gu" drums and then using their imaginations and creativity, they will make their own instruments out of recyclable "stuff". Please be sure to preregister so that we have enough supplies for everyone!

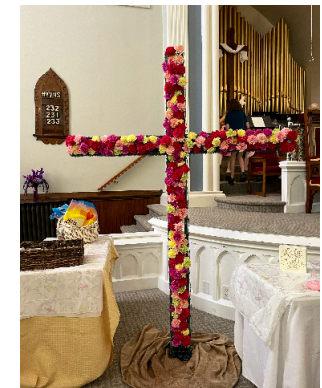


PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
LORINDA RAVO



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH 2024

We are so pleased to share the following highlights of music events, March community dinner, Ladies breakfast bunch and PLEFF dinner outing, and the Easter display and carnation cross. Other music photos are featured in the Music Notes for the month. Photos courtesy of Geof Gohlich, Lorinda Ravo, and MaryAnn Simmons.



# Sharing God's Bounty

## What's Your Gift?

Perhaps you haven't spent much time, if any, pondering that question. God has given each of us at least one gift, though, and if even one of us does not use that gift, the Body of Christ suffers. Paul, in Ephesians 4:16 writes, *"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and build itself up in love, as each part does its work."*

Christian stewards tend to have a lower opinion of themselves than they ought, denigrating their abilities and talents and even their financial capabilities. When we keep in mind that it is God himself who has chosen our gifts and blessed us materially, we realize that to belittle these gifts is to question God's wisdom and generosity. Again we read Paul's words, now from Romans 12:5, *"... in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."* He goes on to say that whatever our gifts are, we are to use them as effectively as we can.

Yes, it is the pastor's job to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, but we, as stewards who have received the Great Commission from Matthew 28:19-20, are to be obedient also to Jesus' command to tell the Good News to the whole world.

Yes, there are those in your congregation who seem to have more abilities and talents than you, and there may be members who have more money than you – perhaps may even be very wealthy. Does that exempt you from the responsibility to serve or to give? By no means! In 2 Corinthians 9:7 we're commanded, *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* Each one is to give and to give cheerfully – of his time, his talents, and his treasures. God looks at the size of the heart of the giver rather than at the size of his gift. *"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have"* (2 Corinthians 8:12).

If you are not using your gifts, if you are not giving your money, if you are not sharing your time, the Body of Christ suffers. We need each other and our individual gifts in order that we might carry out our responsibilities as stewards to the end that the name of Christ might be made known.

*Stewardship is not about large giving, but gifts in small ways. A child's gift, although small, gives glory to the Lord in many ways. Stewardship does not have to be in monetary ways. A gift of time to an elderly shut-in serves the Lord, too, A gift of a loaf of bread to a homeless family could mean the difference between going to bed hungry or going to bed satisfied.*

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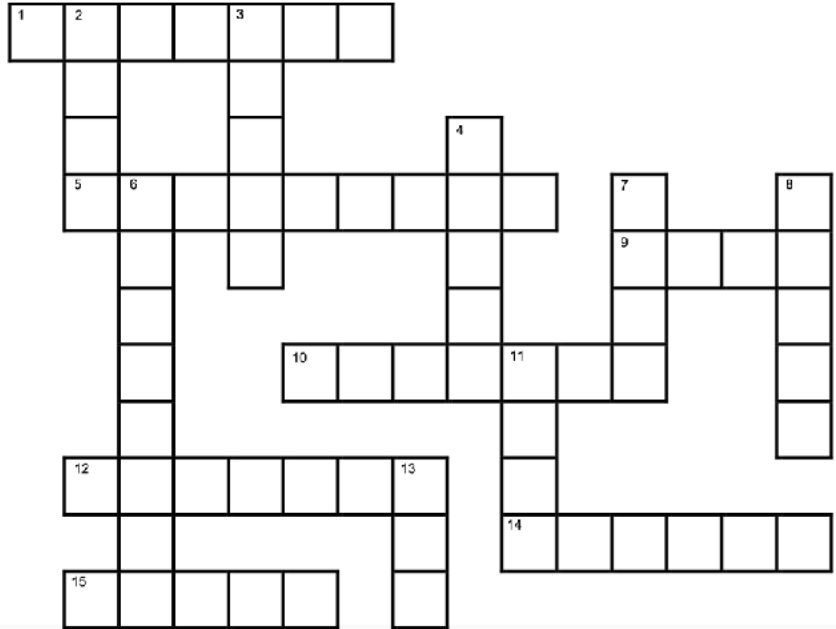
## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE IS COMING

BY: LORINDA RAVO

We are looking for congregation members of all ages who would like to be a part of the annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. We have been a presence in the parade for many years, and we want to continue our participation and representation of First Presbyterian in this annual event. Young and old are invited to walk in the parade demonstrating their pride in America and in FPCH's unique place in Hackettstown history. We will provide American Flags and the banners at the parade site.

Please express your interest on the sign-up sheet in the front of the sanctuary. We hope to have your support for this fun and patriotic occasion. Thank you.

# KIDS. ENJOY THIS SPRING CROSSWORD



## Across

1. Lots of flowers on a tree
5. A brightly coloured flying insect
9. Bees live in this
10. There is said to be a pot of gold at the end of one of these
12. You may give someone special a bunch of these
14. Holiday associated with eggs
15. When a young bird breaks out of its shell



## Down

2. A baby sheep
3. The umbrella in the picture has lots of these
4. Get the dustpan and brush out for a Spring one of these
6. Something you put up when it is raining
7. When it warms up the snow does this
8. Birds build these to lay their eggs
11. The sky is this colour
13. After winter you see more of this in the sky during the Spring

# SPRING TIME COLORING PAGE



# CONFIRMATION STUDENTS CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

Our six confirmation students have been meeting regularly with Pastor Erin and MaryAnn Simmons, co leaders of the confirmands, on the Second Sunday of each month. These students continue to work diligently with their faith journey and studies of the Bible.

On March 10th, the students gathered to continue exploring passages in the Bible which focus on generosity and partnered to create prayers based on the Book of Psalms. In addition to meeting with their teachers, the students continue to share time with their mentors each month. The students will meet once more in April to interview the elder members of our congregation. They will then meet once more in May before they take the final step in making their faith commitment to the church on June 2nd. Please join plan to join us for this joyous occasion in June.

Below are images from their study time in March. Photos are courtesy of Lorinda Ravo.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3: Sharon Heil
- 4: Nancy Budd
- 6: Harper Schneider
- 7: Brenda Neice
- 8: Kate Sobolewski
- 10: Sean Wallace  
Matthew Zellars  
Bruce Bergman
- 11: Heather Fleischman  
Ryan Gelsing  
Brendan Pierson
- 12: Ron Shepherd
- 13: Ashley Kimble
- 20: Chip Cochran  
Michele Cameron  
Brian Ligarzewski
- 21: Ryan Pierson
- 24: Shane Stone
- 25: Courtney Dickey
- 26: Brynn McDonagh
- 27: Audrey Tischler
- 28: Isabelle Fernandez  
Erin Roguso

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 5: Jerre & Nancy Budd
- 6: Mike & Jessica McDonagh  
Jan Courtright & Diane Hull
- 15: Harry & Annette Knauer
- 16: Les & Dana Carpenter
- 29: Lawrence Cook and  
Pastor Erin Hayes-Cook

## PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following  
in your prayers:

- Donna Annunziata  
Gwenn and Louis  
Bartku and the  
George family
- Joan Beddow  
The Budd Family  
Eris Bunnell  
Regina Cameron  
Eugenie Chetangie  
Churches throughout  
the U.S.
- James Engle  
Family and Friends of Shirley  
Pennington  
FPCH  
Friends of FPCH  
Dan Gardner  
Terry Gretchen  
Joan Grover  
Barbara Hall  
Maikuu congregation,  
Kibwezi Kenya  
The Luques Family  
Members of the Armed Forces  
Edna Ort  
Barbara Pace, niece of the  
Prestopines  
Alice Phoebus  
Carol Spitzer  
Muriel Stellingwerf  
College students finishing their  
Spring semester  
The Tang Family  
The food insecure  
The homeless  
Those struggling with  
addictions and mental health  
Those recovering from surgery  
Those suffering from acts of  
terrorism by the Hamas/Islamic  
Resistance Movement

