

## JULY GREETERS

- JULY 2: Pat Butts and Jackie Hammel  
JULY 9: Jean Zetterberg and Maddox Fucetola  
JULY 16: Kathy Maier and Bev Saunders  
JULY 23: Della and Jose Irby  
JULY 30: Carol and Pete Miller

GREETER

## AUGUST GREETERS

- AUG 6: Bruce and Ellen Bergman  
AUG 13: Al, Jen, and Veronica Aquino  
AUG 20: Mark and Winnie Slachetka  
AUG 27: Justin and MaryAnn Simmons

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE

BY: DIANE HULL

We are pleased to announce that FPCH has received a grant from the Presbytery of the Highlands to cover 50% of the purchase of six new windows for the Manse. The windows have been delivered and we are just waiting for a date for installation.

As always, I am happy to report that we are constantly attempting to keep our buildings up to date. These new purchases will enhance the appearance of the Manse.

## OUR LITTLE PANTRY NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

BY: LORINDA RAVO

These past several years, the Deacons have entered into a Summer Stewardship project. This summer's project will focus on our Little Pantry. While summer is a time to relax, go on vacations, enjoy a barbecue or cook-out, it is also the time when many children miss the breakfasts and/or lunches provided at school - food that might be their only meal during the day. Therefore, we are encouraging people to "tithes" items that will be "themed" throughout the summer. As you do your shopping, can you pick up one or more items in our weekly theme? We begin this first Sunday, **July 2**, with items that will Bring on Breakfast! Consider oatmeal, cereals, powdered milk, pancake mix, syrup, breakfast bars, canned fruits, juices. Please bring your items to church and add them to our summer display!

During the upcoming weeks, we will collect the following items. August 6th is the last week of collection for this themed mission, but we appreciate your weekly support once it is over.

**July 9:** Packing the Shelves with Proteins: canned tuna, canned fishes, canned meats, canned chili, dried beans, dried peas, jerky and any other proteins you can think of.

**July 16:** Let's Do Lunch: canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, canned soups, canned fruits, powdered milk, ramen noodles, condiments like salt and pepper, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, salad dressings, and perhaps some snacks like jello, puddings, Pop tarts, pretzels, and popcorn.

**July 23:** Lotsa Pasta: pasta varieties, Mac 'n cheese, pasta sauces, canned pasta meals, ramen noodles.

**July 30:** Very Veggie Week: all varieties of canned vegetables.

**Aug 6:** It's Personal: shampoos, conditioner, deodorant, lotions, soaps, body wash, dental needs, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, women's hygiene products.

The Board of Deacons thanks you. Your giving goes a long way!

# GET READY FOR SUMMER SECOND SUNDAYS

BY: LORINDA RAVO

On July 9 we'll enjoy our Textile Time in Second Sunday. Beginning at 11:30 in the chapel, participants will learn the basics of knitting, crocheting, or weaving. We'd love to have you join us - and this month, we're opening it up to teens and adults. Come learn one of these handicrafts from experienced people. Please register so we're prepared with all that we need. (You won't need to bring your own needles, crochet hooks, yarn, or basket bases - they'll all be provided!)

On August 13, we're reprising last summer's "Super Soaker Sunday" - a day of water fun, including a water war - bring your own super soakers, or use ours. All are welcome!

We enjoy these Sundays together with the kids. Please look for information regarding Second Sunday news once we enter the Fall.

## SUNSHINE BAGS AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS

Did you know that each week, a Sunshine Station Bag is available for kids to enjoy during worship? Filled with coloring pages, games, a craft project, crayons and a clip board, along with a special prize, they are located on the front pew for anyone to grab upon entering church. We ask that they be returned to the front pew after church so that they can be refilled for the next week.



# BACKPACK PROGRAM 2023 SET TO COMMENCE

BY: DONNA ERICKSON

As we enter July, we need to get ready for the reopening of school. To that end, from July 23rd through August 13th we'll be collecting backpacks and school supplies.



We are in need of backpacks, note books (spiral-bound, 3-ring with filler paper, and composition books). Most of the children who receive the supplies are in elementary and middle school, so the notebooks and filler paper should be wide-ruled. We are also collecting rulers, glue sticks, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, zippered pencil bags or cases, crayons, colored markers, colored pencils, children's scissors, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

The filled backpacks will be distributed to families involved with the NJ Department of Children and Families in Warren County.

As always, thank you for your generous support of this program. Any questions, contact Donna Erickson.



# CELEBRATING A MILESTONE: BARBARA COURTRIGHT'S 100th BIRTHDAY

Barbara Courtright turned 100 years old on June 29, 2023. To celebrate her life, Jan Courtright and her sister Pamela Sampson and brother Ted Courtright threw her the biggest birthday bash ever.

As witnessed, Barbara sported a tiara and a gold sash as the guest of honor, and this guest was so grateful for the many people who stood in line to wish her many more birthdays and to share in her day. Before the guests sat down to eat the catered food prepared by Ginette Gulick, Jan, Pamela, and Ted thanked everyone for attending this gala and wished their mom many more years of happiness in her life. Barbara also spoke and revealed her thanks for the many friends she has made during her lifetime and especially thanked her church family for being a part of this event. Pastor Erin Hayes-Cook then gave a blessing and the celebration began.

After food was served, Lorinda Ravo played "Happy Birthday" on the piano and all guests joined in the singing. Congratulations, Barbara!



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2023

We are pleased to share the selected photos from the confirmation Sunday (June 4) and the final painting of the chapel hallway in mid June. Thanks to Donna Annunziata, Jan Courtright, and Deb Shepherd for the photos.



## SHARING OUR SMILES:

### REVEALING THE JOY IN OUR LIVES EACH MONTH

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

During the month of June, we had many highlights to share. Join me in celebrating these accomplishments. If you have good news to share, send your info to Pat Gohlich at [gohlich73@gmail.com](mailto:gohlich73@gmail.com)

Congratulations to our **five confirmands** on June 4th. Their spiritual journey culminated in an affirmation of faith and the laying of hands from the congregation. Following the service, the students enjoyed a celebratory cake in their honor. We are so proud of you, **Alex, Ryan, Andy, Emma, and Brielle.**



**Congratulations to Lila Roguso** and her fourth grade team who placed first in the **Battle of the Books competition** at Great Meadows School. Keep on reading, girl!

Flowers, anyone? Just ask **Harper Schneider** who was the **top flower seller** at the Hackettstown Middle School. Harper, you are a future gardener!



Teaching is a passion for **Justin Simmons** who has been asked to join the ranks of the **Hackettstown High School faculty** in the Fall. Justin will be teaching History and Special Education classes. Congratulations, Justin!

**Continued: See Sharing Our Smiles**

## SHARING OUR SMILES Continued

Congratulations to **Gabe Roguso** who placed **1st in a Warren County Year Game competition** for 6th-8th graders. This math inspired game uses the digits in the year 2023 to write expressions for the numbers 1 through 100. Gabe had 95 correct. What a genius!



**Maddox Fucetola** is now a **Junior Street Class drag race competitor**. He recently competed in his first race where he made it to the finals before finishing as the runner up in his category. Go, speed racer!

**Gabe Roguso and Maddox Fucetola**, along with their fellow Great Meadows Concert Band, participated in the **Music Showcase Festival at Dorney Park** back in May. For the second consecutive year, they placed 1st in the competition with a superior ranking. Congratulations, boys!



We'd like to welcome the newest members of FPCH - **Karen Cramer, Dennis and Pattie Huff, Jose and Della Irby, and Jean Zetterburg.**

**Congratulations, Maddox Fucetola**, who was **baptized** on June 25. We are so proud of you, Maddox. You looked handsome!

We are so blessed to learn of the good news about each of you! May you enjoy your accomplishments!

# GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

This past month we were saddened by the passing of **Rev. Jeff Archer**.

Reverend Jeff Miller Archer, 81 of Hackettstown, NJ passed away on Sunday, June 4, 2023 in Chester, NJ. Born in Cleveland, MS, Jeff was the son of the late Garland W. & Doris Miller Archer.



Jeff graduated from the Princeton Theological Seminary in 1967. He was ordained at his home church, the Clarence (NY) Presbyterian Church. The next day, he and his wife Sandy moved to Buffalo Grove Presbyterian Church in Nebraska until 1970. Then, Jeff and his family moved back east to serve the Presbyterian Church of Shortsville, NY. In 1974 Jeff his family moved to Virginia to serve the Greenwich Presbyterian Church of Nokesville, Virginia. After his tenure in Virginia, Jeff was called to serve the First Presbyterian Church of Wappinger Falls, NY in 1980. Jeff and his family's last move was to Hackettstown, NJ in 1993. There Jeff developed new and lasting friendships. After 13 years of service, Jeff retired in 2007. His ministry in Hackettstown was fulfilling and a fitting end of his active ministry. Even though Jeff retired, his pastoring days remained active.

In addition to Jeff's loving wife, Sandy Eves Archer, he is survived by three daughters: Kimberly (Jerry), Kerrie (Bob) & Jennifer; four caring grandchildren: Steven (Jordyn), Evan, Amber and Ashley; two great grandchildren: Ellie and T.J.

Friends and family were invited to a visitation on Saturday, June 10th at the Cochran Funeral Home in Hackettstown, NJ. The funeral service was held on Sunday, June 11th at 1:00pm in the First Presbyterian Church, Hackettstown, NJ. A private interment occurred at the Hackettstown Union Cemetery, Hackettstown, NJ. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the American Diabetic Association.

FPCH is thankful for the service Rev Archer provided to the congregation and will miss him tremendously.



We give thanks to the God of the Resurrection whose love brings us hope every day.

# BOOKS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

I encourage you to take Pastor Erin's challenge in her message to us: engage in some summer spiritual practices. Below are books to consider.

In *You Are Changing the World*, David LaMotte challenges some deeply held ideas about how societal changes happen and our roles in these changes. He looks at questions of daily vocation, helping us discern our potential to have an impact, and how to get started. If you want to make changes occur in your life and the lives of others, pick up this book.



*99 Thoughts for Junior Highers: Biblical Truths in Bite-Size Pieces* by Mark Oestreicher and Brooklyn Lindsey tells us that Junior High is a season of ups and downs, possibilities and confusion, amazing memories and embarrassing moments. These youth pastors created a Christian book for teens to help them figure out what they believe, see where God and church fit into the picture, how to interact with family and friends, and how to decide what matters most in life. This is the perfect book for middle schoolers who are in search of answers about God and life.



*Friends with God: Devotions for Kids* by Mikel Kiefer, includes 54 devotions that help kids discover the truth that changes their lives forever. God loves them and wants to be their friend.

Filled with pages for doodling, retelling of favorite Bible stories, prayer prompts, and fun games or activities, this book is sure to inspire a friendship with God.

Give these titles a try. You won't be disappointed. Happy Reading, everyone!

# SUMMER

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

2: Kelsey Gulick Johnston  
3: Stephen Carpenter  
Al Ravo  
4: Chris Bramley  
6: Terry Gretchen  
7: Jan Courtright  
8: Linnea Pierson  
9: Richard Gregory  
13: Samantha Roome  
14: Fred Sentner  
17: Cynthia Luques  
18: Jennifer Archer  
James Grover  
Jay Grover  
19: Chris Fleischman  
20: Russ Reed  
22: Judy Eckroth  
25: Marsha Gulick  
31: Jacqueline Fernandez

### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

5: Ron & Deborah Shepherd  
15: Alan & Lorinda Ravo  
18: Tim & Tracey Gelsinger  
20: Ryan & Cathy VanOrden  
21: Roy & Cindy Pierson  
31: Jim & MaryAnn Simmons

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2: Jodie Grover  
3: Emily Ligarzewski  
5: Kim Newton  
8: Daniel Gardner  
Carl Erickson Jr.  
10: Shirley Pennington  
11: Garrett Kimble  
12: Jane Petty  
15: Shawn Gelsinger  
Lawrence Cook  
16: Barbara Hall  
Emma Fraumeni  
17: Michael Ort  
Donna Annunziata  
22: Maria Koskulics  
25: Aaron Bartku  
Jim Pippas  
28: Audrey Turney

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8: Tom & Alisa Dartnell  
9: Brian & Kim Ligarzewski  
11: Tony & Pam Venturini  
16: Donald & Cynthia Luques  
26: Paul & Kate Sobolewski

**CONGRATULATIONS, TO ALL!**

## A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

Hello, readers.

I've combined July and August to make a Summer publication and will return to our monthly issues in the Fall.

June has revealed many blessings of this congregation.

First, note the Share our Smiles article. As witnessed, many members have many reasons to share their joy. Next, check out the celebration of Barbara Courtright's 100th birthday. We don't often experience a centenarian in our presence. Congratulations, Barbara! Speaking of centenarians, Happy early Birthday to Shirley Pennington who will be turning 100 on Aug 10th.

The highlights page focuses on Confirmation Sunday and the finishing touches in the Chapel entranceway. In addition, we're grateful that John Mark Wojcicki installed our air conditioners in the Chapel.

As noted, our Deacons established their summer stewardship project to bolster supplies for the Little Pantry. In addition, our backpack program will be under way in mid July and will continue to August 13th. Likewise, our adult Bible study will commence in July and go through August. Lastly, our Summer Second Sunday adventures will be held in the Chapel on July 9th and August 13th, so please register your kids for these fun-filled activities.

Unfortunately, we are saddened by the death of Rev. Jeff Archer who served our congregation from 1993-2007. Please see the obituary from Cochran's Funeral Home to learn about Rev. Archer's accomplishments. Sandy and family, on behalf of your FPCH family, we extend our sincerest condolences to you.

Finally, we're sending a sincere thank you to all who assisted during Maifest and remind you we will partner again for another fundraiser with the Hackettstown First Aid & Rescue Squad. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

As always, I look forward to seeing you all in church.

Yours in Christ,

MaryAnn Simmons