

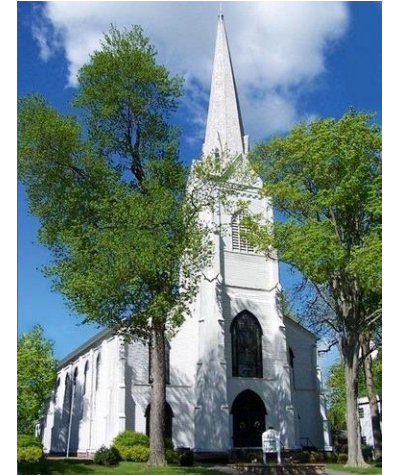
**First Presbyterian Church  
298 Main Street  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840**

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

**JUNE  
2023**



*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

**2023 SESSION**

<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>
Geof Gohlich	Bruce Bergman	Donna Erickson
Sharon Heil	Michele Cameron	Diane Hull
Dottie Kappers	MaryAnn Simmons	Ray Sookhoo

**Clerk of Session:** Donna Erickson

**2023 BOARD OF DEACONS**

<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>
Gilles Djongang	Pat Gohlich	Ellen Bergman
Jackie Hammel	Janette Hendershot	Patricia Butts
Lorinda Ravo	Justin Simmons	Carol Miller

**Moderator:** Ellen Bergman

**2023 HEAVEN SENT NURSERY SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**OFFICE: 852-2006**

**Director:** Jen Bujno

Ved Fernandez	- 2023	Pam Venturini	- 2025
Kaitlyn Elliot	- HS Parent	Heather Pittman	- HS Parent
Sharon Heil - Session Rep			
Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook - Ex-Officio			

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

3: Haley DelPlato  
7: Leo Starks  
8: Linda Burroughs  
9: Jennifer Bramley  
Ryan Van Orden  
12: Justin Simmons  
Arden Cook  
13: Pat Gohlich  
14: Jessica McDonagh  
15: Suzanne Raphaels  
Malia Melendez  
22: Jerre Budd  
23: Dottie Kappers  
24: Peter Miller  
25: Samantha Newton  
26: Daniel Carpenter  
28: Justin Sentner  
Ginny Plumbo  
Jackson Turney  
29: Barbara Courtright  
Mike Plumbo

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

6: Carl & Donna Erickson  
8: Scott & Michele Cameron  
11: Otto & Lori Fleischman  
16: Geof & Pat Gohlich  
23: Richard & Grace Clegg  
25: Doug & Peg Russack

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**PRAYER LIST**

**Please keep the following  
in your prayers:**

Jeff Archer  
Gwenn and Louis  
Bartku  
The Brodo Family  
Eris Bunnell  
Les Carpenter  
Churches through  
-out the U.S.  
Barbara Courtright  
FPCH  
Friends of FPCH  
Dan Gardner  
Roger George (father  
of Gwen Bartku)  
Terry Gretchen  
Joan Grover  
Cathy Hayes  
Sharon Heil  
The Lee Family  
Maikuu congregation,  
Kibwezi Kenya



Members of the Armed Forces  
Edna Ort  
Barbara Pace, niece of the  
Prestopines  
Shirley Pennington  
Carol Spitzer  
Those in California affected by  
Natural catastrophes  
Those who are food insecure  
Those struggling with  
addictions  
Those recovering from COVID  
Those recovering from surgery  
Those traveling long distances

## DATES TO REMEMBER-JUNE 2023

- 02: Heaven Sent End of Year Ceremony - 11 AM - in the Sanctuary
- 04: Worship, confirmation, and communion-10 AM, livestream through Facebook; reception to follow immediately after worship at the Chapel
- 06: Election Day: VOTE TODAY!
- 06: Ladies Who Lunch - 12 PM at the Panther Pub, Allamuchy
- 07: Yarn Girls - 1 PM - Conference Room
- 10: Men's Breakfast - 8:30 AM, at the Chapel
- 10: Stone Soup Symphony Concert - 3 PM - in the Sanctuary; admission is FREE
- 10: Community Dinner - 5-7 PM, at the Chapel
- 10: RSVP due to Jan Courtright for Barbara's birthday bash
- 11: Worship -10 AM, livestream through Facebook
- 11: Second Sunday - 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, at the Chapel
- 13: Deacon's meeting - 6:30 PM - Conference Room
- 14: PLEFF Dinner - 6:30 PM at Mama's and Cafe Bacci, Hackettstown
- 17: Women's Breakfast - 9 AM; River Star Diner, Hackettstown
- 18: Worship and baptism -10 AM livestream through Facebook; welcome new members
- 18: Happy Father's Day!
- 19: Juneteenth
- 20: Session meeting - 6:30 PM - Conference Room
- 24: Barbara Courtright Birthday Bash - 1PM at the Chapel
- 25: Worship -10 AM livestream through Facebook; welcome new members; fellowship after worship



**VOTE**

## A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

**Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ.**

### **IGNITE IN PRAYER**

Happy Pentecost season! We know that the Spirit is alive and well in this community. What an amazing spring we've shared together. Here are some ways that I have already seen her at work.

- Session approved two eagle scout projects that will improve our food pantry and outside façade of the chapel
- Five confirmation students will join the church on June 4 after two years of study
- We will baptize one of our youth on June 18
- We will welcome new adult members in worship on June 25
- Our Second Sunday program will continue for the second summer

My prayer for us as we enter into the summer season is that you might be on the lookout for how the Spirit is moving in your life. Each week during our prayers of the people in worship we will say aloud ways that we have seen the spirit at work. I am excited to hear what we might discover about the spirit.

We know that summertime is an opportunity to break from the routine of the year and enjoy walks on the beach, summer evenings, and vacations. I encourage you to take a Sabbath moment each week, whether it is lingering over a cup of coffee or taking a hike, find what your soul loves to do and use it as a way to connect with God. I encourage you to find creative ways to stay connected to God and our community over this summer. Let the spirit ignite you!



**Pastor Erin**

# MAY 2023 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

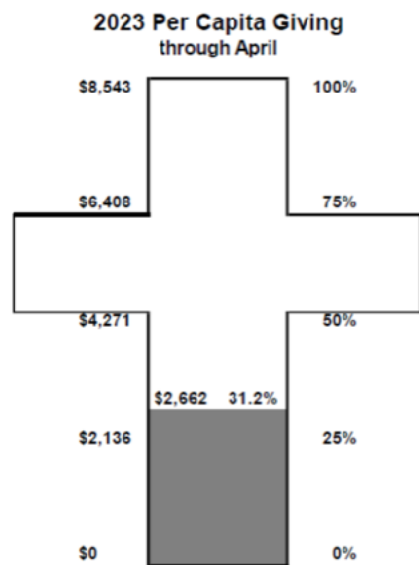
BY: AL RAVO

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

	APRIL	Year to Date
<b>Income</b>	\$13,591.20	\$82,572.06
<b>Expenses Paid</b>	\$27,467.09	\$96,698.78
<b>Net Operating Income / Deficit</b>	<b>(\$13,875.89)</b>	<b>(\$14,126.72)</b>
<b>Amount Needed from Endowment</b>	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

## Financial Comments / Observations:

- The five largest operating expenses in April were:
  - \$7,836.89 – Pastoral expenses (payroll, Board of Pensions, etc.).



- \$4,337.71 – Quarterly Liability Insurance.
- \$4,199.76 – Staff payroll & payroll processing expenses.
- \$3,392.50 – Grounds Care (snow plowing & salting).
- \$3,132.56 – Facilities Expenses.

2. The April and Year To Date operating net income / (deficit) are **(\$13,875.89)** and **(\$14,126.72)** respectively.

\*The actual April operating expenses were \$8,634 above the average monthly budgeted expenses. The reason the expenses were high is because 1.) the quarterly liability insurance was due (\$4,337.71), 2.) final snow and salting payments from March (\$3,392.50) and 3.) facilities expenses (\$3,131.56) primarily new lights in the youth room and

church offices were paid.

- The actual April operating income was \$2,784 below the average monthly budgeted income.
- Both the Year-To-Date operating incomes and expenses are above the budgeted amounts.

**CONTINUED - SEE MAY 2023 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

# MAY 2023 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

CONTINUED

- In April, the value of the Mass Mutual Investments increased \$2,976.03 to \$320,387.74.
- The total endowment fund on April 30, 2023, was \$323,734.75. The total endowment fund was up \$2,850.38 since April 1, 2023, and up \$14,959.99 since January 1, 2023.
- There were no donations or expenses received from the Community Dinner in April. The 2023 Per Capita is \$42.50 for each of the 201 members of our Church. (The number is the membership of FPCH on December 31, 2021.) The total amount due in 2023 is \$8,542.50 or \$711.88 monthly. In April, \$255.00 was received for the Per Capita bringing the total received in 2023 to \$2,661.50 or 31.2%. There was \$525.87 sent to the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ in April bringing the total sent to \$2,661.50 or 31.2% of the total amount due.

## BUILDING ON GENEROSITY (BOG) CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Please take note of the following updated information regarding our Building on Generosity campaign.

- Donations received during April, **\$2,420.00**.
- Total donations received from church members, non-members and anonymous from September 2019 (BOG Kickoff dinner) through April 30, 2023, **\$635,100.64**.
- Total expenses used from BOG for Chapel ceiling renovations in March and April, **\$7,550.00**
- Funds available for the next BOG project, **\$22,179.63**.
- Donations breakdown by source:
  - 5.0% - **\$31,633.38 from nonmembers**
  - 86.2% - **\$547,778.05 from members**
  - 8.8% - **\$55,689.21 from anonymous & dinners**
  - 100.0% - **\$635,100.64 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.

# CLOTHING DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS

BY: ELLEN BERGMAN

The Deacons would like to thank the entire congregation and any other people who donated to the cause of our semi-annual clothing drive on May 20th.



They are proud to announce they collected 385 bags of clothing, shoes, accessories, and toys. Proceeds from the event will be used to advance the compassionate ministry of the Board of Deacons.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LORINDA RAVO

Once again, thank you to all who contributed and thank you to the members of the church who assisted on that morning. Without your help we could not reach

## SOCIAL MEDIA REQUEST

BY: LORINDA RAVO

Don't forget- as FPCH provides more and more activities, we welcome photos or videos from those events. We encourage you to take out your phone or camera and take some photos that can be shared on our website and facebook page and our recently launched Instagram page. Simply email your pictures to Al Ravo ([alpravo@gmail.com](mailto:alpravo@gmail.com)) or Lorinda Ravo ([theravos@comcast.net](mailto:theravos@comcast.net)) to help us let our community know the great things going on at FPCH. If you prefer to text your photos, Al and Lorinda's phone numbers are in the church directory.

## WHAT ARE THE DEACONS DOING?

BY: JUSTIN SIMMONS

The Deacon Board was busy throughout the month of May.

The Simmons family and Kristin Taenzer, a college student earning community hours, as well as a few other congregation members, have been seeing to the upkeep of the Little Pantry. Lorinda Ravo has purchased \$174.99 worth of food and personal care items using funds from the Super Bowl of caring.

We held our clothing drive on May 20, 2023 from 8-9 am. For this collection, the Deacons provided two opportunities for people to drop off donations. They were at the garage on both Tuesday evening, May 16th, and Saturday morning, May 20th. We collected 385 bags.

Collection of stuffed animals is continuing and another bag has just been dropped off at the rescue squad building.

The Deacons are awaiting town approval for a book drop to be placed in our parking lot. Once that is approved, we hope our congregation members and other community residents will use it to drop off unwanted books so those books can find another home.

All Deacons were encouraged to help out for Maifest and the Memorial Day Parade in May. Friday, May 19, volunteers prepped and baked at the chapel from 10 am through the late afternoon for the Maifest fundraiser.

As you may be aware, an Eagle Scout is in the process of finalizing plans to revamp the Little Pantry. To that end, the Deacons contributed \$100.00 to her Eagle Scout Project.

Across the world, the Nairobi Project sent a thank you for our \$128 donation. They are currently helping 12 students with scholarships.

Finally, we approved funding for two table carts for the chapel dining hall.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to seek out one of your Deacons who can discuss your concerns or ideas for ways to reach out to our community.

## COME CELEBRATE 100 YEARS WITH BARBARA COURTRIGHT

Jan Courtright and the Courtright Family cordially invite you to celebrate the 100th birthday of their mom Barbara Courtright.

All are officially invited to this birthday bash which will be held on June 24th at our very own Chapel on Main Street from 1-5 PM. We ask that you come prepared to write on a card an anecdote, story, memory, or birthday wish which will be used to create a birthday scrapbook for Barbara.



Please RSVP to Jan at [snicks34@comcast.net](mailto:snicks34@comcast.net) by June 10th. If you are unable to attend, please consider providing a few words that may be included in the scrapbook.

Thank you in advance for sharing in Barbara's special day.

## THANK YOU FROM THE ARCHER FAMILY

Jeff, the girls and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls, visits and prayers he has received. Together as a family, we made a most difficult decision in May to move Jeff to Assisted Living at Paragon Village. The neuropathy continues to progress, making his care more difficult to manage at home.

Jeff would love to receive calls and have visitors at Paragon Village, Room 380, 427 Route 46 East, Hackettstown NJ 07840

Prayers and cards are always appreciated.

Thank you,  
Sandy, Kim, Kerrie, Jennifer

# Sharing God's Bounty

## What's on God's Refrigerator Door?

If you are a parent or grandparent or even just an admirer of a young child, your refrigerator door may be the showcase of one or more paintings or drawings. To a visitor, that work of art may be just a mass of scribbles, but to the one who loves the child it is a masterpiece. We love the gift because of the person who made it and gave it to us. It is precious to us because it was a gift from the heart. The motive of the child was pure and loving.

Perhaps our gifts to God are similar. We're such amateurs, such babies. God could accomplish his work so much more efficiently by himself. Our works, even if monumental by human standards, are just scribbles if God would judge them in relation to his ability. Because he loves us, though – and loves us far more than a parent or grandparent loves a child – He looks at our works with eyes of love. He sees our hearts and knows we are motivated by love and faith, and he is pleased. He is so pleased that, if he had a refrigerator, he'd use it to display our works done for his glory.

God has given us gifts to use for this purpose – to glorify him by serving others. In 1 Peter 4:10 we read, *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.”* God has seen to it that each of us has something to offer. He gives us the privilege of serving and then provides all that we need to do so.

Just as the budding art student improves with the help of a teacher and with appropriate tools to create his work, so does God teach us through his Word how to fulfill our purpose and how to improve our service. So also he gives gifts of time and money and talents and then his Word and Sacrament to strengthen us for service.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SECOND SUNDAY

BY: LORINDA RAVO

We've made it through our first year, and what a terrific year it has been. We are so grateful all those who gave their time to make Second Sundays a special time for the kiddos who are so dear to us.

We provided the children of our congregation activities and events on most of the second Sundays of the month. Our programs included making origami, tangrams and beading creation, learning yoga and martial arts, enjoying the laughter of "Super Soaker Sunday", making our own applesauce, and carving pumpkins for Halloween. We also enjoyed a Super Science Sunday, made edible Christmas decorations, created kindness rocks and spin-art pictures, used rubber bands and canvases to create abstract works of art (learning along the way that everyone makes mistakes!), and we finished our first year with Board Games.



On June 11, we'll be offering kiddos the chance to learn to knit, crochet, or weave as we explore working with textiles. And we're also going to return the VERY popular Super Soaker Sunday one day this summer.



We welcome anyone who has an idea for programming, a talent they'd like to share with the kids of our congregation, or just "chaperoning" and helping kids have a great time.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE

Did you notice a section of the parking lot has been paved? Thanks to a generous reduction in cost, we were able to pave the area by the back door and along the yellow railing, which were the high risk areas for tripping. Unfortunately, the cost, which was financed through our **Building on Generosity** funds, exceeded the amount we anticipated. As a result, we are asking our congregation members to consider making a donation to our BOG campaign so that we can make additional future improvements to the parking lot and other areas of the church when the need arises.

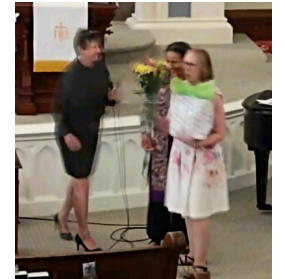
As always, we thank you for your "generosity".

## STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS HONORED

BY: LORINDA RAVO AND MARYANN SIMMONS

Sunday, May 21st was a big day for our Sunday School as Donna Annunziata and Pastor Erin gave out pins to 30 of our students in grades Pre-K through grade 9 for successfully completing this year of Christian Education.

Following the presentation of the pins, MaryAnn Simmons, our session liaison to our Education programs, acknowledged and thanked the 18 volunteers who were responsible for providing the classes for the children - from our teachers, to our Second Sunday volunteers, our Youth Group advisors, and our music programs for kids.



Lorinda Ravo our Music Director, gave the children passports to remember their "travels" this year, and then thanked congregation members who helped teach the children German (Della Irby) French (Gilles Djongang), American Sign Language (Torey Ravo), and Spanish (Ved Fernandez).

What a blessing it is for so many of our congregation members to recognize the importance of supporting, encouraging, and teaching our children and youth. We are so very grateful to them all!

We'll be looking forward to beginning another year of Christian Education in September, and when we put out the call for volunteers, we hope that you might prayerfully consider being part of this essential ministry of First Presbyterian!

# PRAISING GOD AROUND THE WORLD

BY: LORINDA RAVO

Throughout this Sunday school year, the kids of FPCH boarded their imaginary airplane to travel around the world as they learned that kids from other countries praise God and Jesus just as they do here in Hackettstown. Our travels have taken us to South Africa, Israel, Italy, Austria, Germany, Namibia, the USA, Cameroon, and Venezuela.

Along the way kids have learned to sing songs in Swahili, Zulu, Hebrew, Latin, German, American Sign Language, French, and Spanish. My special thanks to Della Irby for teaching us German, Gilles Djongang for showing us the correct pronunciation of French, Ved Fernandez for helping us learn Spanish, and Torey Ravo who taught us how to sign in ASL.

And most especially, I thank a congregation who not only supports, but encourages programming for the children of our congregation. When you try out the sign language, or attempt to sing in Swahili or French, you show the kids that what they do matters.

Get those passports ready for some more travel next year because we'll be on the road again!



PHOTO COURTESY OF LORINDA RAVO

# GET READY FOR BACK- PACK PROGRAM 2023

BY: DONNA ERICKSON



Although the academic year is about to come to a close, we need to get ready for September and the reopening of the school season. To that end, we will be collecting backpacks and school supplies from July 23rd through August 13th.

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 backpacks are in elementary and middle school, so we would appreciate that the notebooks and filler paper be wide-ruled. We will also be 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, we thank you for your generous support of this program. Any questions, contact Donna Erickson.





# MUSIC NOTES

BY: LORINDA RAVO

As all of our ensembles draw to a close to give our talented musicians a well-deserved respite, I want to thank them all for sharing their talents with us throughout the 2022-2023 "season", and I also want to thank our church congregation for being so supportive of the music program here at FPCH.

From our youngest musicians in the Little Lights Sunday School Choir and the Joyful Noise Bell Choir, to our slightly older Unity Chimers, to our Senior Choir, and our multi-generational FPCH Ringers and our "Special season choirs" for Pastor Erin's Installation, Christmas, Easter and Memorial Day, we are all grateful to you for continuing to affirm the importance of music in our worship services!

We'll be back in the fall, but in the meantime, if anyone would like to provide a solo (or duet, or small ensemble) sometime during the summer, I'm happy to accept your offer and will gladly help you prepare your music.

## CELEBRATE CONFIRMATION SUNDAY WITH US ON JUNE 4TH

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

The ceremony of confirmation is not the end of a milestone... it is just the beginning of one's true journey into the life of the church. On June 4th, I invite you to celebrate this wonderful event when our five confirmands become full-fledged members of First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown.



Immediately after the service, the Christian Education Committee invites you to chat with the new members - Alex Annunziata, Ryan Chetangie, Andy Djongang, Emma Fraumeni, and Brielle Plumbo - and their families at the Chapel to wish them continued success on their journey of faith.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY 2023

We are so pleased to share the following highlights of our church worship during the month of May. All photos are courtesy of MaryAnn Simmons, Lorinda Ravo, Al Ravo, and Jose Irby. Enjoy these moments of fellowship while cleaning, song, celebration, fundraising, and marching in the Memorial Day Parade. Other highlights can be seen with the associated articles of events covered throughout this publication.



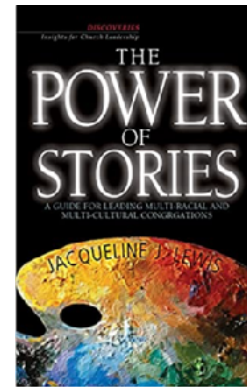
# COLORING FUN



## BOOKS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

As the summer months roll around, I ask that you consider reading something you may not have entertained before. I am going along with Pastor Erin's theme of storytelling. Try your hand at these books and perhaps even try "telling your own story".



***The Power of Stories*** by Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis. You've heard Rev. Erin reference this book in her sermon during the last Sunday in May. I ask that you give it a try since it engages some enlightening thoughts about a congregation which is similar to ours. Leaders like Pastor Erin are able to embrace the multiple, complex stories within their diverse communities, hearing in the many voices a particular echo of the living voice of the gospel. In this book Lewis shares with the reader examples of congregational leaders who have successfully overcome the challenges of leading multicultural congregations, and the lessons that can be learned from them.



For our kddos, I reccoment ***My Big Book of Little Stories***. Storytelling & illustrating are a great way for children of all ages to explore the idea of communicating their creativity & imagination through writing.

By encouraging your children to write their stories here, as the author of their very own book, you're empowering them to see their voice, their uniqueness, and their magic as having value in a world that too often hushes children instead of cheering

them on.

This book has been created specifically for your children to write & illustrate their own stories, to be shared with friends & family now and for years to come.

This month, get creative. Write some stories and keep rereading them! You might like what you hear.

# GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

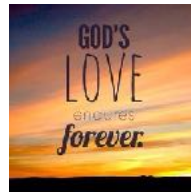
With a heavy heart, we announce the death of Charles M. Lee, a dear friend to many and a lifelong member of FPCH. He passed away peacefully with his family at his side at Morristown Memorial Hospital on May 10, 2023 at the age of 76.



Charles was an intelligent, well-spoken, funny, generous man. He graduated from Hackettstown High School in 1965 and went on to graduate from Bucknell University in 1969 with a BA in both English and History. He was a member of the fraternity Phi Sigma Epsilon. In 1972 Charles completed a law degree at Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, PA and was admitted to law practice in NJ & PA. Charles was a member of the Army ROTC while in law school. He started his law practice with the firm of Stover & Stover in Washington, NJ, later opening his own practice, Charles M Lee & Associates. Elected to a term on the Warren County Board of Freeholders from 1982-1984, serving as Director in 1984, Charles spearheaded & oversaw numerous critical Warren County projects, systems, and improvements. He was also active in the Rotary Club of Washington, NJ for many years.

Charles was a multi-talented and multi-faceted man. He earned his private pilot's license in the late 1970s and flew his own Cessna. He was a man of vast musical talent, proficient in singing, conducting, and playing the piano, organ, and saxophone. Charles had a love for Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, enjoyed home decorating, vacationing in his camper, reading, and staying attuned to law and politics. Devoted to his church, the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, Charles added his rich baritone to the church choir and served as the church's attorney, a ruling Elder, Moderator of the Board of Deacons, substitute organist, and preached and led worship when the church was between ministers. Charles had the ability to connect to others with humor and sincere companionship within moments of meeting him and will be sincerely missed by many.

Charles is survived by his son Brian Lee, daughter Jennifer (Lee) Knittel and her husband Jonathan W Knittel, stepdaughter Karen Staada and her husband Thomas Staada, stepson Joseph Giacomini and his wife Rebecca Giacomini, a grandson Jonathan S Knittel, 3 step-grandchildren Nicholas Staada, Natalie Staada, & Thomas Spencer, a sister Lorraine (Lee) Hoskins, brother James D Lee, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Victoria G Lee and his parents, Mary Kate Lee & Chester W Lee of Hackettstown, NJ.



Visitation was held at Cochran's Funeral Home, Hackettstown, NJ on Tuesday, May 16 from 4-8 pm and the funeral service occurred on Wednesday, May 17 at the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown at 11am with burial following at Union Cemetery, Hackettstown.

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

# OUR LITTLE PANTRY THRIVES FROM MANY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

BY: LORINDA RAVO AND MARYANN SIMMONS

As you all are aware, our Little Pantry was started in the spring of 2020 when the COVID 19 pandemic shut downs were making it harder to provide food for people and their families who were food insecure. Many mass transportation systems shut down as did a number of "inside" pantries. If that did not happen, those pantries cut their hours, making it difficult for people to access food due to loss of work or a lack of funds, or both.

At that time, our interim pastor, Brian Merritt, took this news and decided to take an old bookcase which was in the basement of the manse, paint it green, and place it on the porch of the chapel. He added some canned goods to the shelves and the ministry of our "Pay it Forward Little Pantry" was born.

Fast forward to 2023 and you now see many of our congregation members and other community residents contributing food donations at our porch shelves. The newly established youth group has also assisted with the stocking of the shelves at various times when they met for youth activities, and recently we had a college student, Kristin Taenzer, volunteer to suggest nutritional choices for the food insecure.

As a nutrition major at the College of Saint Elizabeth, Kristin believes "people can still have snacks and canned goods, but they need to have good options available to them. We can provide that for them through your Little Pantry." To that end, she met with MaryAnn Simmons to shop, stock, and organize the items for the pantry so that our community of food insecure can have access to good nutritional foods. She spent two hours assisting and promised to drop off additional items during the summer.

Thank you, Kristin, for your desire to help our community project. And thank you to our entire congregation for your generous donations over these past three years.

## JUNE GREETERS

JUNE 4: Carol Granitzski and Brenda Neice

JUNE 11: Pat and Geof Gohlich

JUNE 18: Katy Ratti and Chris Ratti

JUNE 25: Margo and Richard Gregory

GREETER

## CONGRATULATIONS, BARBARA COURTRIGHT AND PAT AND GEOFF GOHLICH

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

We love to recognize milestones that occur throughout our lives and this month we are pleased to announce two very special occasions in our church family.

Congratulations to **Barbara Courtright** who will celebrate her 100th birthday on June 29th. What an honor and a blessing to live with memories of family, friends, and events that have occurred throughout your life.



In addition, we want to wish **Pat and Geof Gohlich** a happy 50th wedding anniversary which will take place on June 16th. Congratulations on a lifetime of bliss and happiness and may you both share much more in the years to come.



We are so happy for all of you! May you all experience many more years of happy memories with your family members and friends and always know that your church

family is celebrating with you.

## A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

Hello, my faithful readers.

What a joy the month of May has been. We had tons of activities that kept us all busy and lots of opportunities to find out how truly blessed we are as a congregation.

As you can see, **our youth** have been a special highlight this month as they have received their pins for attendance to Sunday School, enjoyed imaginative travel around the world by learning songs from different countries and singing those songs in their original languages, finished their last month of Sunday School, and five of our students will earn the rite of passage as members of the church as they await their confirmation on June 4th.

Our **Deacon Board** has been extremely busy with a variety of activities and our Little Pantry has been the focus of attention throughout the month. We were fortunate enough to have a college student express an opportunity to work with our pantry. Thank you, Kristin. Be sure to see the article associated with this event.

We have partnered with the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad on two occasions and plan to continue this relationship throughout the year. Please check out the highlighted photos from Maifest. Keep an eye open for more news to come regarding this partnership.

I'd like to turn your attention to our great reasons for celebration in June: **Barbara Courtright** and **Geof and Pat Gohlich** have reached milestones in their lives. Be sure to read the article about them in this publication. And speaking of congratulations: **Jonathan Gohlich** has just recently purchased his own townhouse in Panther Valley. May you enjoy much happiness in your new abode, Jonathan.

Sadly, I must report that we lost a near and dear friend of our congregation this month. We will truly miss Charles Lee and the many contributions he made to our church.

Finally, take a look at the upcoming activities we have regarding our **backpack program**, our **Second Sunday** opportunity in June, and our celebration of **Confirmation** on June 4th.

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

Until next time...

Yours in Christ,  
MaryAnn Simmons