

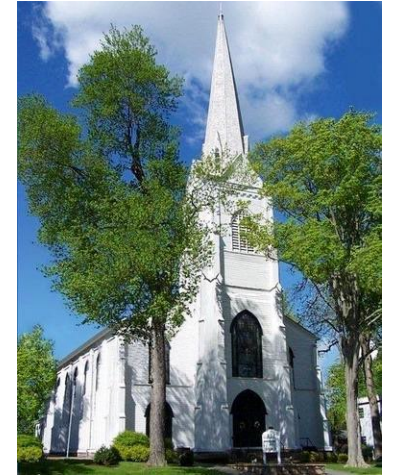
**First Presbyterian Church
298 Main Street
Hackettstown, NJ 07840**

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

**MAY
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

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
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

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
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	

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2: Jessica Dartnell
4: Gabe Roguso
6: John Mark Wojcicki
Donald Luques
Addison Stymacks
8: Nellie Creagar
10: Charles Lee
11: Gabriel Roguso
17: Brian Wallace
21: Geof Gohlich
22: Carol Hammell
John O'Brien
23: Carol Spitzer
24: Lauren Werth
25: Heather Melendez
Deanna Annunziata
26: Austin Stone
30: Meg Slachetka
31: Rose Green

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

10: Scott & Donna Annunziata
15: Jeff & Suzanne Raphaels
Chris & Sara Kshatri
19: Mark & Winnie Slachetka
20: Jeff & Kim Newton
21: Michael & Ginny Plumbo
23: Dan & Linda Gardner
28: Anthony & Eileen Curcio
30: Ted & Brenda Zellars

CONGRATULATIONS!

PRAYER LIST

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

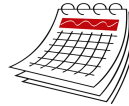
Jeff Archer
Gwenn and Louis
Bartku
The Brodo Family
Eris Bunnell
Churches throughout the U.S.
Barbara Courtright
FPCH
Friends of FPCH
Dan Gardner
Roger George (father
of Gwen Bartku)
Terry Gretchen
Joan Grover
The Gulick Family
Sharon Heil
Maikuu congregation,
Kibwezi Kenya



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

DATES TO REMEMBER-MAY 2023

- 02: Ladies Who Lunch - 12 PM at Bruno's Pizzeria, Schooley's Mountain Road, Hackettstown, NJ
- 03: Yarn Girls - 1 PM - Conference Room
- 03: PLEFF Dinner - 6:30 PM at Mattar's, Allamuchy
- 04: REHEARSALS: FPCH Ringers - 6:30-7:15 PM; Senior Choir - 7:30-8:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 05: Cinco de Mayo
- 06: Church Workday - 9 AM-12 PM
- 07: Worship and communion-10 AM, livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise and Unity Chimes rehearsal following worship
- 09: Deacon's meeting - 6:30 PM - Conference Room
- 13: Men's Breakfast - 8:30 AM, at the Chapel
- 13: Community Dinner - 5-7 PM, at the Chapel
- 14: Worship -10 AM, livestream through Facebook; Joyful Noise and Unity Chimes rehearsal following worship
- 16: Session meeting - 6:30 PM - Conference Room
- 18: REHEARSALS: FPCH Ringers - 6:30-7:15 PM; Senior Choir - 7:30-8:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 19: Prep for Maifest - 9 AM - 12 PM Baking at the Chapel; set up on Main Street
- 20: Deacon's Clothing Drive - 8 AM - 9 AM
- 20: Women's Breakfast - 9 AM; River Star Diner, Hackettstown
- 20: Maifest- 12-5 PM - Main Street, Hackettstown, NJ
- 21: Worship -10 AM livestream through Facebook; Pinning Ceremony of Sunday School students; last day of Sunday School; Joyful Noise and Unity Chimes rehearsal following worship
- 25: REHEARSALS: FPCH Ringers - 6:30-7:15 pm; Senior Choir 7:30-8:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 26: Worship -10 AM livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise and Unity Chimes rehearsal following worship; "Not Second Sunday" Sunday - 11:30-1:30 PM at the Chapel
- 27: Decorate the Sanctuary - time to be determined
- 28: Pentecost Sunday-Wear Red! Worship -10 AM livestream through Facebook; Sunday School
- 29: Memorial Day Parade and decorating float - meet at 8:30 AM at church parking lot



A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters in Christ.

When I need to breathe and live into something new
By: Arianne Braithwaite Lehn

Spirit of life,
Teach me to breathe...
to gulp with desperate surrender
your life-giving energy,
not out of fear,
but because I am listening
to my primal hungers
and rejoicing in them.
The breath you give me in
this moment is a messenger
telling me how right now
I am reborn
I am cared for
I am called...
Charged with the call
to channel my breath,
your life-force,

toward a gasping world.
Your breath is eternal-
never stopping,
never returning empty.
It continuously flows to
spread life and promise
if I will be a river rather than a
dam.
If I listen, I will learn.
I will ride the wind of
your breath now filling me,
letting it carry me away from
my middle anchor to the
edges where I'll grow and glimpse
the purpose you have
for ever-evolving me.
Amen.

During this season of spring and Eastertide I invite you to read this prayer. A chance at new life comes to us every day. Sometimes our routines and striving get in the way of our finding it. We search for new life in the old worn-out places of our hearts, and not in the living water of Jesus. We search for new life in the old habits of the past and not in the chance to start again. One day at a time. God's mercies are new every morning. This spring I wonder what new life is bursting to come out of you. Will you be available to hear it? Or will you let it pass by?

I am looking forward to connecting with new people at the Maifest as we sell desserts alongside the rescue squad, raking some mulch on clean up day, welcoming new members and confirmation students in June, and premiering our new website and video. Our community is alive with spirit! I hope to find ways to connect with you this Spring!

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.

	MARCH	Year to Date
Income	\$15,734.16	\$68,980.86
Expenses Paid	\$26,048.34	\$69,231.69
Net Operating Income / Deficit	(\$10,314.18)	(\$ 250.83)
Amount Needed from Endowment	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Financial Comments / Observations:

1. The five largest operating expenses in March were:

- \$10,588.04 – Pastoral expenses (payroll, Board of Pensions, etc.).
- \$4,284.14 – Staff payroll & payroll processing expenses.
 - \$2,866.25 – Workers Comp Insurance.
 - \$2,051.44 – Elizabethtown Gas (3 buildings).
 - \$1,980.00 – Grounds Care (snow plowing & salting).

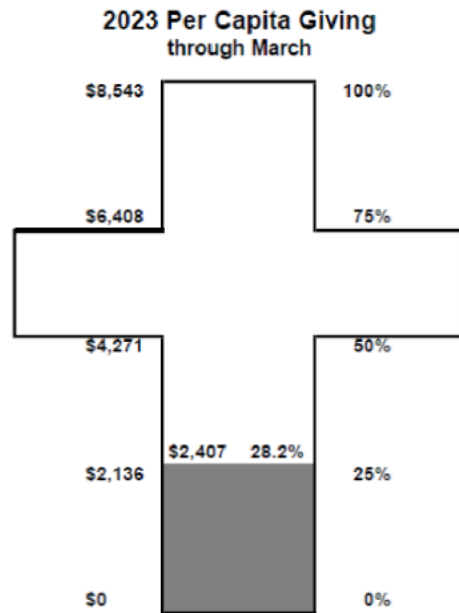
2. The March and Year To Date operating net income / (deficit) are **(\$10,314.18)** and **(\$250.83)** respectively.

• The actual March operating expenses were \$7,215 above the average monthly budgeted expenses. The expenses were high because 1.) the remaining annual workers comp insurance (\$2,866.25) and 2.) Board Of Pensions medical premiums from February and March of 2022 (\$2,942.45) were paid.

• The actual March operating income was \$641 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

3. In March, the value of the Mass Mutual Investments increased \$8,095.89 to \$317,411.71.
4. The total endowment fund on March 31, 2023, was \$320,884.37. The total endowment fund was up \$8,086.75 since March 1, 2023, and up \$12,109.61 since January 1, 2023.
5. The donations from the Community Dinner received in March were \$159.00. The expenses for the March dinner were \$250.79.
6. The donations from the St Patrick's Day dinner received were \$200.00. The expenses for the St. Patrick's Day dinner were \$661.42.

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 February, \$775.00 was received for the Per Capita bringing the total received in 2023 to \$2,067.50. There was \$711.87 sent to the Highlands Presbytery in February bringing the total sent to \$1,423.75 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

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

- Donations received during March, \$334.00.
- Total donations received from church members, non-members and anonymous from September 2019 (BOG Kickoff dinner) through March 31, 2023, \$632,680.64
- Funds available for next BOG project, \$28,009.63.
- Donations breakdown by source:
 - 5.0% - \$31,593.38 from nonmembers
 - 86.2% - \$545,508.05 from members
 - 8.8% - \$55,579.21 from anonymous & dinners
 - 100.0% - \$632,680.64 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 TO OCCUR ON MAY 20TH

BY: ELLEN BERGMAN

Spring has arrived and that means you need to find time to purge your closets of all the clothing you wish to shed this season.



This year, in addition to the typical clothing, shoes (in their own bags please), pocketbooks, belts and accessories, stuffed animals, bedding and towels, we are also going to collect new items. These include bikes, strollers, and toys for kids that are under 2 feet high.

You can drop off your items at any time on any day and place them in the shed which is located next to the dumpster. However, if you are doing any last minute clean outs at your house, we will be collecting those items on May 20th between 8 and 9 AM, as the truck pulls up to load those items at 9:00 AM.

As always, the Deacons thank you for taking part in this fundraising event which allows them to continue with their many missions throughout the year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

BY: DONNA ANNUNZIATA

To honor our Sunday School students, all students will be recognized during a pinning ceremony on Sunday, May 21st during worship.

Students will receive pins indicating the number of years they have participated in the Christian Education program here at FPCH.



Parents, get your cameras ready. This is going to be a wonderful celebration of the youth in our church. Congratulations to all!



WHAT ARE THE DEACONS DOING?

BY: JUSTIN SIMMONS

The Deacon Board was very busy throughout the month of April.

The Easter worship service was beautiful. Thank you for sponsoring an Easter flower that beautified our dais. In addition, a special thank you goes out to Bill and Mary Cors, who assisted with the cutting of the carnations in preparation for the Easter cross the congregation decorated on Easter Sunday.



It was great to see many of the First Responders who were recently in church with us on April 23rd. It was the deacons' honor to present many stuffed animals contributed by our congregation members. Over 100 furry creatures were collected since March.



We are most appreciative of the rescue squad for their contribution of many food stuffs for our little pantry. If you are able, please continue your generous support of our pantry. Look for the signs in the church hallway and entranceway for suggested items to purchase for our community members in need of food and toiletries.



Our spring clothing drive is May 20th. Please look for the news article which delineates the items we are collecting.



Lorinda Ravo, representing our church and the Deacons, along with Diane Hull and members of the rescue squad, visited the family of a child with leukemia. Together, they presented to the child items that were donated and purchased, including toys, games, and gift cards. The family was very grateful.



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.

CELEBRATE CONFIRMATION SUNDAY WITH US ON JUNE 4TH

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

Confirmation is a time of celebration for our youth, specifically our eighth and ninth graders, to be officially accepted into membership of the church. This year, we have four teens who will be accepting their membership on June 4th: Alex Annunziata, Ryan Chetangie, Emma Fraumeni, and Brielle Plumbo.



Please join us on this day to help welcome Alex, Ryan, Emma, and Brielle as members of First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown. They will recite their vows of membership, present to the congregation their class creed, experience the laying on of hands, and then receive communion with the entire congregation.

Immediately following the ceremony, we will honor the confirmands and their families with a brief reception at the chapel. Please join us in this wonderful event which we hope will allow the students to continue on a lifetime of service to the church.

SPRING WORKDAY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 6TH

BY: DIANE HULL

Get those gloves out to conduct some yard work around the church and the Manse and bring your tools and enthusiasm too for our annual spring work day which will occur on Saturday, May 6th from 9 AM to noon, weather permitting. Kevin's Landscaping is donating mulch for this project.



Anyone interested in attending this event, please speak with Diane Hull.

Sharing God's Bounty

Giving Sacrificially

A husband and wife who were traveling around the world saw a boy in Korea one day pulling a crude plow in a field, while an old man held the plow handles and directed it through the rice paddy. The husband was amused by the sight and took a snapshot of the scene. "That's very curious," he remarked to the missionary who was their interpreter and guide. "I suppose they are poor."

"Yes," said the missionary. "That is the family of Chi Noui. When the church was built they were eager to give something to it, but they had no money, so they sold the only ox they had and gave the money to the church. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves."

The husband and wife were silent. Then the wife said, "That was a real sacrifice."

"They did not call it that," said the missionary. "They thought it was fortunate they had an ox to sell."

The two tourists had little to say, but, when they reached home, they took the photograph to the church and told their pastor about the incident. "We want to double our pledge to the church," they said, "and give us some plow work to do. We never knew what gratitude or joy or sacrifice really meant until now."

God spoke to this couple through their experience in Korea about the joy that comes from giving. In his Word, God speaks to all of us about the importance of giving. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). He also said, "Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8). If we choose not to give faithfully and generously, we forego the blessings that God gives to those who give cheerfully. There is no better time than now to examine your level of giving, and, if need be, to take a leap of faith and increase your giving. In the words of Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we give; we make a life by what we give."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SECOND SUNDAY

BY: LORINDA RAVO

In April, we held a “Not Second Sunday Sunday” because the second Sunday of April fell on Easter Day. As a result, we waited a couple of weeks and encouraged kids to “Get Their Game On” for an afternoon of playing board games.

Because the Second Sunday of May is Mother’s Day, we won’t be having an activity that afternoon. However, we’ll return in June, when we’ll celebrate our one year anniversary of this new way of engaging the kids from our congregation in fun and fellowship!

Be sure to pre-register by signing up in the sanctuary or by calling the church office.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LORINDA RAVO

FPCH AND HACKETTSTOWN RESCUE SQUAD JOIN FORCES FOR STUFFED ANIMAL DISTRIBUTION

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

What happens when you pair two groups together? The community benefits in multiple ways. Welcome the efforts of FPCH and the Hackettstown First Aid Squad who have joined forces to allow for people in and around the Hackettstown area to experience a sense of comfort during an emergency situation.

During March and April, our Board of Deacons sponsored a stuffed animal drive for donation to our health emergency responders. The animals will be given to youngsters any time they need to be transported in an ambulance during a crisis.

The squad honored us with their attendance at our April 23rd worship service to receive the 100 plus fur babies donated by the entire congregation. In return, the rescue squad provided FPCH with bags of groceries for our very own “little pantry”.

That same day, Tyler Volkert, captain of the squad, informed us that the squad had to respond to two incidents - one a motor vehicle accident and the other an emergency rush to Morristown Hospital. Volkert stated, “we gave away three of the stuffed animals and brought smiles to the faces of the young children who received them.”

We are blessed to have established this union with the First Aid Squad. Be sure to read more about our joint efforts in future newsletter publications.



DEACONS OF FPCH AND FIRST AID SQUAD COMFORT LOCAL BOY WITH LEUKEMIA

BY: DIANE HULL, LORINDA RAVO, AND MARYANN SIMMONS

"This is 911. Please state your emergency."

"My son's nose bleed will not stop. Please help."

"State your location and we will dispatch an ambulance to your site."

This is the conversation that occurred one day in March when a nine year old boy was experiencing a nose bleed as a result of the chemotherapy he was receiving due to his diagnosis with leukemia. Captain Tyler Volkert of the Hackettstown First Aid squad, along with two others, responded to the call. After stopping the nose bleed and calming the young boy down, the squad gathered together outside the home to discuss what they witnessed inside. Not one toy or game was present in the home of this family of five.



Once the squad members returned from the trip,

Volkert contacted Diane Hull of the church to see what we all could do to assist this family. Diane contacted the Deacons who moved right into action. They set up a drive to collect games and toys and gift cards to provide the child and his siblings with opportunities for diversions from the boy's illness.

Early in April, Diane, Lorinda, and members of the rescue squad visited the boy and his family and presented him with the purchased and donated items. The smiles never left the boy's face.

Thank you to all for making this young boy happy!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DIANE HULL

PENTECOST SUNDAY IS MAY 28 WEAR RED TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS MISSION

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

What is Pentecost? According to Christian history, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ (Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2), and it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world. The purpose of Pentecost is to remind every Christian that even though Christ died for our sins and that by baptism we accept the forgiveness of our sins, there is something else each one of us needs to do. We need to receive the Holy Spirit so we can do the work of discipleship that awaits each one of us.

On this day, the church asks for a special offering. This Pentecost offering helps guide young people in Christian formation from their earliest years to young adulthood. It will assist in ensuring life-long faith and service for our younger members of the church. When you give to the Pentecost offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ. To that end, 40% of this donation stays with our congregation to support local ministries with children, youth, and young adults; 25% of the donation, supports young adult volunteers, serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service; 25% supports ministries with youth, especially the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Finally, 10% is devoted to children at risk and supports to improve education and provide safe havens.



With our gifts, we are assisting the Presbytery and our own church, to help build the youngest members of our body of Christ into the people God would have them become. Won't you join me in this effort? You will be receiving in your bulletin a Pentecost offering envelop at a future May worship service. Thank you for your contribution!

MUSIC NOTES

BY: LORINDA RAVO

The members of all of our music ensembles, from children through adults, are so grateful for the abiding support of our efforts. During the month of May, our services will include the following special music:

May 7: Soloist

May 14: Hallowed Be Thy Name Senior Choir

May 21: I've Got Peace Like a River Joyful Noise Bells
Cambiamo, Senor

May 28: America, the Beautiful Choirs
American Medley: FPCH Ringers
A Pentecost anthem, title TBA

WE ARE SEEKING SINGERS FOR OUR MEMORIAL DAY CHOIR

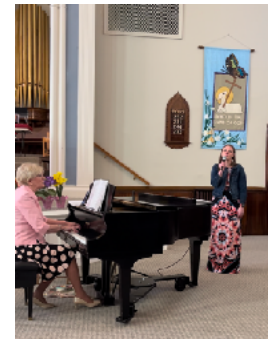
It has been a long tradition that on Memorial Day weekend, our Senior Choir sings America, the Beautiful. We'd like to invite anyone who would like to join us on May 28, kids and adults alike, to sing in a "Memorial Day Choir".

Please see Lorinda if you're interested in being part of this wonderful tradition!



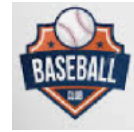
HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL 2023

We are so pleased to share the following highlights of our church worship during the month of April. All photos are courtesy of MaryAnn Simmons, Lorinda Ravo, and Diane Hull. Enjoy these moments of song, Palm Sunday, and Rescue Squad Sunday. Other highlights can be seen with the associated articles of events covered throughout this publication.



COLORING FUN

Hey, Kids. In honor of our springtime, I thought you might like to try your hand at coloring a spring flower image. Have fun and enjoy your day.



FPCH SPONSORS BASEBALL TEAM



BY: CHRIS ROGUSO

The First Presbyterian Church is sponsoring Gabriel Roguso's Colonial Little League Baseball team. The team is managed by Gabe's father Chris Roguso.



If interested in coming to a game, we play on most Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Contact Chris if you want to see our team in action.



THANK YOU FOR EMBRACING OUR CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAM

BY: LORINDA RAVO

Throughout this school year, our Sunday School children have



"traveled" around the world and learned about different countries, cultures, languages, and how we all praise the same God and Father of us all. This year we visited South Africa, Israel, Italy, Germany, Austria, Namibia,



Cameroon, United States, and Venezuela.

Many, many thanks to congregation members who helped us learn to sing in German (Della Irby), ASL (Torey Ravo), French (Gilles Djongang) and Spanish (Ved Fernandez). We'll be boarding the plane again next year as we continue our travels and learn new music.

VOLUNTEER AT 2023 HACKETTSTOWN MAIFEST & INTERNATIONAL DAY

BY: MICHELE CAMERON AND JAN COURTRIGHT

May is upon us and that means many town wide events will be occurring throughout the month. On May 20th, from 12-5 pm (Rain Date May 21st) we're taking the church beyond our walls. Come and help us support local artists, crafters, builders, and FPCH on Main Street in Hackettstown!



For this event, we will be teaming up with the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad. In order to prepare for this activity, we ask that you express your interest on the sign up sheet which is located on the dais, either before or after worship. We are asking for your assistance in a number of areas:

1. Bake your item in the chapel. This must be done in the chapel because a certified food handler must be present on site.
2. Assist with the set up of the tent on Main Street.
3. Sign up for a one or two hour shift to work at the tent.
4. Assist with the break down of the tent at the end of the event.

All times are to be determined for these tasks. Baking of items will most likely occur the day before (May 19th). Obviously, the set up and break down of the tent on Main Street will take place the day of the event. If you have some extra time, volunteer to help out at our booth, and help sell the tasty baked goods we will have for this fundraiser. Please stay tuned during worship announcements for further details.



As always, we thank you for your continued support in your efforts to assist with our fundraising activities. Even if you can just spare 30 minutes of your time, we are grateful, and if you cannot volunteer any of your time, just come by and show support for FPCH as we reach out to our community.

AN UPDATE ABOUT SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

BY: LORINDA RAVO

In February, our congregation participated in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring where we collected \$417 in addition to many items for our food pantry. Our group was one of 2,603 participating groups world-wide, and our \$417 added to the overall total of \$3,856, 981 donated to help alleviate hunger in each participating group's own community!

Once again, thank you, members of our congregation, for your kind and generous contributions to add to these totals. We are sincerely grateful for all that you do throughout the year to "tackle hunger" in and around Hackettstown.




MAY GREETERS

MAY 7: Pam Covert and Jayne Lambo

MAY 14: Ginny and Brielle Plumbo

MAY 21: Jose and Della Irby

MAY 28: Bruce and Ellen Bergman

A rectangular badge with a dark background and the word "GREETER" in white, serif, all-caps font.

SHARING OUR SMILES:

REVEALING THE JOY IN OUR LIVES EACH MONTH

BY: PAT GOHLICH

During the month of April, we had one highlight to share. Join me in celebrating this joy in the lives of our congregation. If you have good news to share, send your info to Pat Gohlich at gohlich73@gmail.com

We all know Gabe Roguso. He can be seen on the dais serving as worship leader or seen greeting our congregation members before worship or assisting with the collection on various Sundays. Not only is he an active member of his church community. He is also a participant in a number of clubs and sports at Great Meadows Middle School.



This past month, Gabe's GATE class received FIRST PLACE among 7th graders in the statewide Law Adventure Competition for the mock trial they wrote. There were 83 applicants, so this is quite an honor.

Gabe's class is invited to perform the trial in front of a real judge and jury at the NJ State Bar Foundation headquarters in New Brunswick on May 8th. He will be portraying the role of the plaintiff in their case.

Congratulations, Gabe and his classmates, for this achievement!

A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

Hello, my faithful readers.

As you can see, our church is filled with members who demonstrate a true sense of faith through time, talent, and treasure. The service they perform within our church is nothing short of amazing. To that end, let me recap some of the wonderful things going on at First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown.

As we come to the end of Spring, you will notice that our Sunday School students will be completing their final class of the year until September. To highlight their efforts, they will undergo a pinning ceremony on May 21st during worship. All classes will be done that day until the Fall.

Our students in the confirmation class will be welcomed as full fledged members on June 4th. Please see the news article associated with that joyous day of celebration.

Note that we have truly begun a terrific partnership with the First Aid Rescue Squad through a number of events. First, the Deacons provided a toy drive for a young boy who has been diagnosed with leukemia. Then, they held a stuffed animal drive to donate to the squad so that young children who need to be transported in an ambulance will find comfort in a furry friend in route to their destination.

We celebrated our worship services with beautiful music selections throughout the month of April, including solos, senior choir hymns and anthems, and music from our various chimes choirs. Thank you for providing us with your musical talents.

You will note that our church has become a sponsor for a little league baseball team and we will be participating in the Maifest and International Day on May 20th. Please be sure to read the articles and sign up for a work session, baking, or setting up the tent for this May 20th fundraising event. We will be teaming up with the Rescue Squad in this endeavor, selling baked goods throughout the afternoon.

Finally, please check the calendar of events which is loaded with many activities that are scheduled to happen in May. I hope to see you all at worship throughout May and I look forward to hearing from you for suggested articles in our future publications.

Yours in Christ,
MaryAnn Simmons