

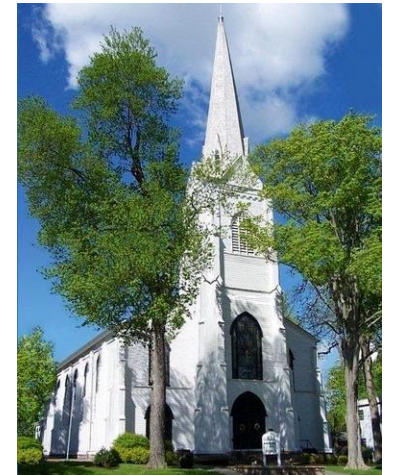
**First Presbyterian
Church
298 Main Street**

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

**OCTOBER
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	

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1: Tim Gelsinger
3: Jolene Stark
Randi Venturini
5: Kerrie Nilsen
6: Larson Jones
7: Sara Kshatri
10: Chris Bramley III
12: Pam Covert
Chris Ratti
13: Tracey Gelsinger
Sarah Wojcicki-Rabuano
16: Sandy Archer
18: Nicholas John Wojcicki
19: Rhonda Stone
Sharon Wojcicki
21: Deborah Gulick
Shepherd
22: Heather Dartnell
25: Brielle Plumbo
28: Vanessa Neice
29: Arthur Butts
Allison DelPlato
30: Guy Collina Jr.
31: Chris Roguso

CONGRATULATIONS, ALL!

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

7: Pete & Carol Miller
7: Chip & Amy Cochran

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers:

The Archer Family
Gwenn and Louis

Bartku
Joan Beddow

Eris Bunnel

Les Carpenter

Churches throughout
the U.S.

The Courtright Family
FPCH

Friends of FPCH

Dan Gardner

Roger George (father
of Gwen Bartku)

Terry Gretchen

Joan Grover

Maikuu congregation,
Kibwezi Kenya

Members of the Armed Forces
Edna Ort

Barbara Pace, niece of the
Prestopines

Shirley Pennington

Carol Spitzer

Those who are food insecure

Those who are homeless

Those struggling with
addictions or mental illness

Those recovering from surgery



DATES TO REMEMBER - OCTOBER 2023

- 01: Worship and communion - 10 AM; World Communion Day; livestream through Facebook; no Sunday School for grades 6 & 7; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 02: Morning Bible Study - 10-11 AM in the Conference Room
- 03: Ladies Who Lunch - 12 PM at Hong Kong Palace, Mountain Ave, Hackettstown
- 04: World Animal Day and St. Francis of Assisi Day
- 04: Yarn Girls - 1 PM - Conference Room
- 04: Evening Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room
- 05: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 07: Church Work Day - 10-1 PM (Rain Date 10/15)
- 08: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship; Second Sunday 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (ALL GRADES INVITED to learn about Communion)
- 09: Confirmation Class with Pastor Erin and Mrs. Simmons 10 AM -1 PM at Chapel
- 10: Deacon's Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 11: Evening Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room
- 12: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 14: Men's Breakfast at the Chapel - 8 AM
- 14: Community Dinner - 5-7 PM, at the Chapel
- 15: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 16: Morning Bible Study - 10-11 AM in the Conference Room
- 17: Session Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 18: Evening Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room
- 19: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 21: Women's breakfast at the River Star Diner - 9 AM
- 22: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 23: Morning Bible Study - 10-11 AM in the Conference Room
- 25: Evening Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room
- 26: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 28: Roast beef Dinner - 4-7 PM at the Chapel
- 29: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal; students grades 6-9 pumpkin carving at the chapel 11:30 AM - 1 PM
- 29: Middle School Adventure (grades 5-8) - Corn Maze at Donaldson's - 11:30 AM and Pumpkin Carving at the Chapel - 12:30 - 2 PM
- 31: Happy Halloween!

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world'" **John 6: 12-14.**

I just made the yummiest pumpkin bread yesterday. I had been dreaming about making a Fall quick bread for a few weeks and can still smell the spices wafting out of my oven. Bread is a symbol of life and sustenance for many cultures. On World Communion Sunday we will celebrate with various breads from different cultures. Throughout the Bible we see symbols of bread as hope in the wilderness, provision, blessing, and the body of Christ broken for us. The above story from John is about Jesus and his disciples feeding over five thousand people with a few loaves of bread and fish. Jesus was able to multiply small pieces of bread into a feast. In fact, there were enough leftovers to fill 12 baskets; that is a lot of "to-go" containers.

As we approach the season of gratitude and stewardship, I challenge you to be aware of the fragments of bread that can be a blessing. Even the crumbs of a meal hosted by Jesus are a blessing. In these months before the end of the year consider how you might be able to help us multiply the blessings of ministry here at FPC Hackettstown. How might we be able to rely on God to multiply the crumbs and pieces in our baskets to be part of the abundant ministry here? This Fall is a perfect time for us to take stock of our lives as the leaves fall, the light fades, and the orange pumpkins remind us of the harvest. May we be willing to take part in the multiplying work of God.

I leave you with the words of Jill J. Duffield: *"Lord, forgive us for how easily we forget that you have the power to do more than we can ever hope or imagine with whatever gifts we freely give to you. Help us to boldly step forward in times of need and offer ourselves for your service. Take, bless, and use our barley bread, our fish, our desire to serve in ways that bring relief to those who are suffering. May we too look upon the crowd with compassion. Amen."*

Pastor Erin

SEPTEMBER 2023 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

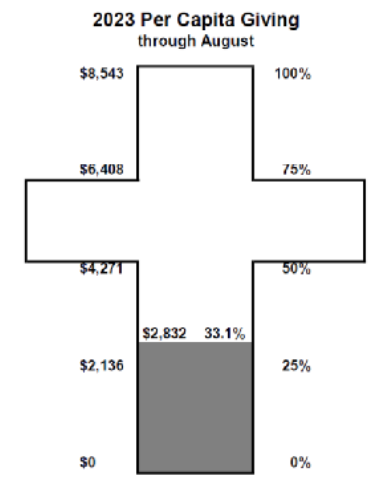
BY: AL RAVO

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

	August	Year to Date
Income	\$10,573.40	\$133,903.53
Expenses Paid	\$14,312.87	\$161,369.11
Net Operating Income /Deficit	(\$3,739.47)	(\$27,465.53)
Amount Needed from Endowment	\$4000.00	\$13,000.00

Financial Comments / Observations:

- The five largest operating expenses in August were:
 - 1.) **\$7,432.77** – Pastoral expenses (payroll, Board of Pensions, etc.).
 - 2.) **\$4,342.28** – Staff payroll & payroll processing expenses.
 - 3.) **\$385.83** – Phone, internet & website.
 - 4.) **\$370.00** – Church grounds care.
 - 5.) **\$355.14** – Electric expenses (3 buildings).



- The August and Year To Date operating net income / (deficit) are **(\$3,739.47)** and **(\$27,465.53)** respectively.
 - The actual August operating expenses were **\$4,520** below the average monthly budgeted expenses.
 - The actual August operating income was **\$5,802** below the average monthly budgeted income.
 - Both the Year-To-Date operating incomes and expenses are above the budgeted amounts.

- In August, the value of the MassMutual Investment accounts decreased **\$5,890.90** to **\$307,865.90**.
- The total endowment fund on August 31, 2023, was **\$311,121.76**. The total endowment fund was down **\$5,951.49** since August 1, 2023, and up **\$2,347.00** since January 1, 2023.
- The community dinner expenses for the August dinner were \$23.41. The donations collected at the dinner were \$48.00.

CONTINUED - SEE SEPTEMBER 2023 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

SEPTEMBER 2023 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

CONTINUED

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 August, \$0.00 was received for the Per Capita leaving the total received in 2023 at \$2,831.50 or 33.1%. No Per Capita payment was sent to the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ in August leaving the total sent at \$2,831.50 or 33.1% of the total amount due.

BUILDING ON GENEROSITY (BOG) CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- Donations received during August, **\$3,075.25**.
- Total donations received from church members, non-members and anonymous from September 2019 (BOG Kickoff dinner) through August 31, 2023, **\$642,005.89**.
- No expenses were paid using the BOG funds in August.
- Funds available for the next BOG project, **\$8,634.88** 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% - **\$33,543.38** from nonmembers
 - 86.1% - **\$552,653.30** from members
 - 8.7% - **\$55,809.21** from anonymous & dinners
 - 100.0% - **\$642,005.89** 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.

First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown

Clothing Drive

Drop Tuesday, October 17, 2023---6-8 pm
Off: Saturday, October 21, 2023—8-9 am
Place: Church Parking Lot (Washington St)

WE ACCEPT:

Shoes (Separate bags, please)
Towels Bedding Curtains Tablecloths
Toys (2 feet & smaller) Stuffed Animals
Clothing (Hats/Belts/Purses)
Strollers Bikes Scooters

Please Bring Your Items in Plastic Bags!

**SPONSORED BY THE DEACONS OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
HACKETTSTOWN**

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

BY: JUSTIN SIMMONS

The Deacon Board met on September 12th to discuss the mission projects that have taken place over the summer months, as well as anticipated plans for the Fall season.

Note that our Clothing Drive is Oct. 21, 2023; however, we will be open Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023 from 6-8 pm for collection. Please see the flyer associated with this event for items we are accepting.

Our summer project of food collections from our congregation members was a great success. Over the course of August and September, we were able to gather enough food to sustain our food insecure clients throughout the summer. As a continuation of that activity, Heaven Sent Director Jen Bujno has agreed to have the students of the preschool collect healthy snacks for Halloween and dinner items for Thanksgiving to be placed in the pantry. We hope that you will continue to contribute to this ministry during the Fall months since our supplies are now dwindling. In addition, the signs created in English/Spanish by Hollie Studios stating what donations are acceptable will be hung soon.

During September, Lorinda Ravo made and distributed 18 "Kid's Care Kits", six for each of the three schools in Hackettstown. She is also asking the district about needs for school lunch programs.

The Deacon Board has decided to consider opportunities for fundraising activities in the church. We are considering the cost of magnetic car bumper stickers to be sold.

Finally, the fundraising dinner held in conjunction with the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad on Sept 23 was a great success. See the associated article for more information about that event.

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

BIBLICAL WORDSEARCH

These foods, fruits, and vegetables are mentioned in various contexts in the Bible, such as blessings, offerings, or sustenance. They symbolize the divine providence and the importance of gratitude and nourishment for both the body and the soul. Try to locate as many of these foods as possible. Have a snack while you enjoy this activity. When you are done, try to locate the Bible stories in which these foods appear.

Foods of the Bible

S	B	A	R	L	E	Y	E	P	O	D	A	N	S
K	S	R	E	B	M	U	C	U	C	A	S	T	L
E	P	O	M	E	G	R	A	N	A	T	E	S	S
E	I	R	E	S	G	R	A	P	E	S	I	N	O
L	L	P	L	B	S	S	A	N	A	I	O	G	S
N	A	N	I	S	E	D	N	R	S	I	K	E	A
C	I	L	R	A	G	L	T	A	N	E	I	R	A
F	E	A	E	D	G	S	L	O	E	E	S	R	B
E	I	S	A	M	I	N	T	I	N	B	U	I	E
A	A	G	N	L	T	U	I	A	D	M	B	C	A
A	N	N	S	I	N	I	S	I	N	A	R	S	E
B	L	E	N	T	I	L	S	S	R	R	T	L	E
K	M	S	R	R	I	I	L	A	O	N	E	E	C
O	C	R	G	P	S	E	S	C	C	S	T	I	S

FIGS
MINT
CUCUMBERS
LEEKs
LENTILS
ONIONS
CORN
BEANS
DATES
GRAPES
BARLEY
GARLIC
DILL
ANISE
POMEGRANATES

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3111407/>

COLORING CORNER

HEY, KIDS, COLOR THE SCARECROW PUMPKIN!



OCTOBER GREETERS

- 01: Winnie Slachetka and Sharon Stymacks
08: Pat Butts and Janette Hendershot
15: Don and Cynthia Luques
22: The Aquino Family
29: Geof and Pat Gohlich

GREETER

SAVE THE DATE: ROAST BEEF DINNER SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 28

BY: DONNA ERICKSON

Attention all food aficionados! FPCH is pleased to announce the return of the Annual Roast Beef Dinner with dine-in and take-out options. Please plan to attend this wonderful opportunity for fine food and fellowship. Serving time at the Chapel on October 28th is from 4-7 PM. Our dinner will feature roast beef, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, and rolls, and the cost per ticket is TBA.



We will be selling tickets during the month of October after worship each Sunday at the back entrance of the church. In addition, we can always use a helping hand the night before for set up and preparation and the day of the dinner. If interested, please see me, Donna Erickson, before or after church on any Sunday during this month.

As always, thank you for your support, as this is one of our major fundraising events. See you on the 28th!

MUSIC NOTES

BY: LORINDA RAVO



Music for the month of October will be:

- October 1: One World, One Communion - Sr. Choir
8: Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken - FPCH Ringers
8: Rob Ki Hove - Little Lights Sunday School Choir
15: Surely the Presence - Sr. Choir
Bells of Praise - Joyful Noise Bells
22: Saranam, Saranam - Sr. Choir and congregation
29: More Precious Than Silver-Unity Chime Choir

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN OUR ENSEMBLES

If you've been thinking about being a part of any of our music ensembles here at FPCH - Senior Choir, FPCH Ringers (adult chimes), Joyful Noise Bells (for young ringers) or Unity Chimes (for kids grade 3 and up) - please be sure to speak with Lorinda Ravo for more information.

All are welcome to come and give it a try at any time throughout the year.



OCTOBER 1st IS WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

Every first Sunday of the month, we Presbyterians partake of communion as a way to celebrate the relationship we share with Christ as our Savior. We are reminded of our spiritual kinship when Pastor Erin asks us to “eat this bread and drink this cup.”

As a reminder of this connection to all Christians around the world, the first Sunday in October is designated World Communion Sunday. Paul tells us that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. You will see an array of breads from around the world displayed on the Lord’s Table.

Celebration of World Communion Day, formerly known as World Wide Communion Sunday,

was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn’t until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a

predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world. The practice then became widespread.

We hope that you enjoy World Communion Sunday, this October 1st as we share in the feast with our brothers and sisters throughout the world.



TREES FALL IN YE OLD BURIAL GROUND

Damage Sustained to Headstones - Financial Assistance Needed

BY: DIANE HULL

On September 9th at 3:30 am a large section of the sugar maple tree, closest to Main Street, fell at our cemetery. When this large section of tree fell, numerous limbs and branches damaged another sugar maple directly behind it and several headstones. Yes, this is another unfortunate tree event, but as a person who likes to see the glass half full verses half empty, let me tell you how very lucky we were.

1. The tree fell into the cemetery and not onto Main Street
2. The tree did not hit the Chapel
3. Jenson Tree Experts arrived within 2 days to start the clean-up and secure the trees
4. Only 5 headstones sustained damage

Unfortunately, it is not all good news.

1. To date, it looks like insurance will not cover the damages
2. Currently, the cost is \$7960.00. This DOES NOT include taking down what is left of the two trees and the repair to the headstones.
3. The remaining part of the tree removal cannot happen until winter when the ground is frozen.
4. These expenses come at a time when our church budget has been stretched to the max.

As a result, on behalf of the Session, I would like to ask, if it is at all possible, for the congregation to help in defraying this unexpected cost. To do so, use the Building on Generosity envelopes and in the memo line of your check, please indicate that it is for “tree work”.

As always, we deeply appreciate all that our members do to assist in the ongoing upkeep of the church during times of crisis.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

Christian Education is off to a good start. Classes for pre-K through 5th grade and the middle school (grades 6 and 7) began on September 10th.

Donna Annunziata reports 19 students are registered in the pre-K through 5th grade. Six students are ages 3 to 5, seven students are in grades 1-3 and six students are in grades 4 & 5 working with Mr. John Mark. Classes begin with story and discussion, then students break up into their groups. Pastor Erin purchased a program called "Simply Loved" which is appropriate for all these grade levels. The middle school students continue to utilize the curriculum "Echo the Story" and are picking up where they left off last year. Currently, Mrs. Simmons has four registered students - two in sixth grade and two in seventh grade. These students have an opportunity to attend a Camp Johnsonburg Retreat for Middle School students from Dec 1-3. Prices range from \$125-165 per person.

The confirmation candidates met on Sunday, Sept 17th with their mentors. Please see the article about the mentor program in the previous pages. In addition, the six students will meet with Pastor Erin and Mrs. Simmons on Monday, October 9th (Columbus Day) from 10 AM - 1 PM to begin the process of their faith journey for the year. At that time, they will determine an evening of fellowship and learning once a month that is convenient for all involved.



Also on September 17th we witnessed the blessing of the backpacks for all school aged children. The students received a tag which states, "This backpack has been blessed at FPCH. You are loved." On Sept. 23rd, we had seven of our youth work at the pulled pork dinner serving and cleaning tables.



church office at 908-852-4011.

Finally, our "Second Sunday" in October will take place on the 8th and will feature a discussion about communion in the Presbyterian church. Pastor Erin will introduce the kids (and parents) to the celebration at the Lord's Table. Please be sure to sign up for this exciting discussion either before or after worship on Sunday or call the

POTENTIAL CONFIRMANDS RECEIVE MENTORS

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS & PASTOR ERIN HAYES-COOK

Confirmation marks a special journey of faith for students who reach an age of understanding about church and their role within the congregation. Usually, students who attend confirmation class expect to learn about church doctrine and prayers said during church worship, memorize Bible verses, and create a statement of faith. This year, students will embark on a new journey whereby they will be paired with a mentor so that they can learn how adults are actively involved in the life of the church.

To that end, our six confirmation students met with their mentors on September 17th after church worship in an effort to bond with adults and learn what kind of life they lead within the congregation.

It is our hope that our future confirmands will meet once a month with their mentors at a mutually convenient time so that they can get a first hand understanding of how these adults live a Christ-filled life.

A special thank you goes out to Bruce Bergman, Pat Butts, Geoff Gohlich, Jackie Hammel, Sharon Heil and Chris Roguso, who have accepted the challenge of mentoring these pre-teens. The students and mentors shared contact information and will meet once a month from now until April. Pastor Erin has provided a short booklet which suggests ideas for their future meetings.

We pray that the mentors will help our students realize the fulfillment of a life centered around the church, not only during this journey, but after they become full-fledged members of the congregation.

We wish all of our students and mentors a wonderful experience as they begin this faith journey.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER

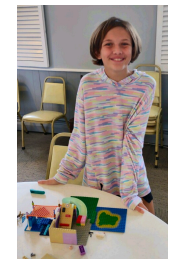
We are so pleased to share the following highlights of our church worship and activities during the month of September. Included here are selected photos from the Eagle Scout Project, musical ensembles, "Second Sunday", gourmet groups, and fundraiser dinner. Photos courtesy of Lorinda and Al Ravo and Diane Hull.



"SECOND SUNDAY" SEPTEMBER RECAP

BY: LORINDA RAVO

Every second Sunday, our youth gather to learn about the ways of Christ as witnessed through stories from the Bible. On September 10, our kids learned about Joshua and the Walls of Jericho. Below you can find some images of the buildings the kids created with the use of Legos. What talent and imaginations they have!



On October 8, Pastor Erin will be leading our Communion Conversation as the kids attending will learn what Communion is all about and enjoy activities to go along with that theme! Be sure to sign up on the registration sheet in church or call the church office at 908-852-4011.

As always, thank you for your support of this program.

BOOKS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

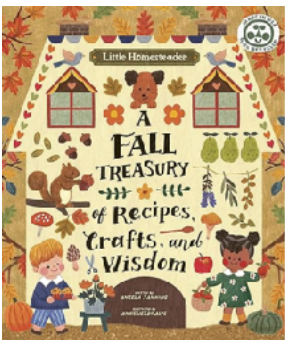
Welcome back to books for your reading pleasure. I took a hiatus from this portion of the newsletter because previous editions of the publication did not allow space for this section. Thus, I bring to you some Fall titles that I hope you will consider and enjoy.

I thought you might like some cookbook selections since Fall is a time for baking and enjoying good food.



My go-to place for recipes on the internet is "all-recipes.com". To that end, I have selected All-recipes' *Fall Recipes bookazine*. This new edition contains recipes teeming with autumnal ingredients like apples, pumpkins, Brussels sprouts, and pears. It includes recipes for game day, breakfast bakes, best-loved quick breads, sweets using Fall spices, and more. Why don't you give these recipes a try?

Little Homesteader: A Fall Treasury of Recipes, Crafts and Wisdom



Little Homesteader offers easy yet delicious autumn recipes and treats, suggestions for using up unloved parts of produce, accessible and fun crafts, and the seasonal gardening and growing projects. Parents, if you want to spend some quality time with your little and big kids, this book should prove promising.

I hope you enjoy these book choices. Happy baking, cooking, gardening, and crafting!

PULLED PORK DINNER-HUGE SUCCESS

BY: DIANE HULL AND MARYANN SIMMONS

Everyone enjoys a great time of food and fellowship and this past September 23rd Pulled Pork Dinner was no exception. This year, we joined efforts with the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad to raise funds.

The Squad and faithful members of FPCH who consistently assist in the success of our dinner events, served approximately 150 dinners through take-out orders and dine-in at the Chapel. Members of the Rescue Squad delivered a number of meals to local residents in and around Hackettstown. In addition to our FPCH adults, we had seven of our youth assist in the serving of those who remained at the Chapel to eat.

The evening was filled with fine food and fellowship and by the end of the event, our church realized \$890 in profit. This represented a 50/50 split with the Rescue Squad.

We would like to thank Diane Hull and Michele Cameron for orchestrating this joint venture with our Hackettstown First Responders who spent most of the day cooking and preparing the meals for the evening. We also extend a sincere thank you to all of our congregation members who prepared the kitchen prior to this event and to those who set up the tables and chairs and brought in the wonderful mum centerpieces. We look forward to this continued partnership with our friends at the Rescue Squad.



Sharing God's Bounty

The Importance of Trust

Trust is an important part of a relationship between spouses, between parents and children, between employers and employees, and between friends. To illustrate the importance of trust, I will share a story from former President Eisenhower who described an event from his earlier days on a Kansas farm.

"An older farmer had a cow we wanted to buy," the President said. "We went over to visit him and asked about the cow's pedigree."

"Don't know," replied the farmer.

"Well, how's her butterfat production?" we asked.

"Don't know."

"Let's see," my dad finally said. "How many pounds of milk does she give each year?"

"Don't know that either," said the farmer shaking his head. "But I do know she's an honest cow and she'll give you all the milk she has!"

"Well," Ike concluded. "I'm kinda like that old cow. You can always trust me to give you everything I have."

Life would be so much easier if we could take people at their word. It doesn't take long to discover that talk is cheap, so we are forced to decide whom or what we will trust. Where do we place our faith and confidence? Do we trust God as our source of life and things? Trusting is not an easy thing to do. We may trust God in some things but not all things. By nature, we are self-reliant, and we live in a society that admires self-reliance and discourages trust in anyone other than oneself.

Trust knows that God loves us and wants the best for us. Complete trust in God is seeking God himself, rather than his gifts. Knowing God, through Christ, brings about a self-surrender and total trust in him. Then our trust is not dependent on what he gives, but who he is.

In the same manner that God proves he is trustworthy, God wants us to prove our trustworthiness. The apostle Paul wrote, "*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful*" (1 Corinthians 4:2). How blessed we are that our God can be trusted totally and that he loves and trusts us enough to be his ambassadors and representatives here on earth. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we can be faithful to his trust.

A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

Welcome, back!

September was filled to the brim, and October promises to be equally as busy. As you can see, we have had many activities that brought joy to our lives.

Our music programs are thriving as new members have joined both the choir and the bells. Our joyful Noise Bells and Unity Chimes have witnessed a growth in youth joining the troops and our "big kids" have joyously accepted the responsibility of assisting in the instruction of the "littles" during rehearsals after worship each week. In addition, we have had guest musicians bring their talents to our church services.

Speaking of youth, they are busy downstairs and in the conference room each Sunday after the Children's message, learning their lessons from the Bible. Our confirmation students are embarking on a new journey of witnessing the ways our members are active disciples of Christ. Check out the accompanying article about our mentor program.

We had a successful Pulled Pork Dinner fundraising event with the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad and are planning our own annual Roast Beef Dinner to take place on October 28th at the Chapel. Please direct your attention to the two articles regarding these events.

Our Deacon Board is busy as ever planning many events and activities such as our biannual clothing drive, Kid Care Packages to the students in our local schools, and continued efforts with our Little Pantry.

Finally, I have brought back "Books for Your Reading Pleasure", and I hope you enjoy the highlights of the past month as witnessed in pictures.

Please note that we will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 1st and I hope that you will pay attention to the calendar which identifies our various dates of Bible study, children's activities, group meetings - our gourmet groups, community and roast beef dinners, and music rehearsals - as well as meetings of the Deacons and Elders.

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

Until next time...

Yours in Christ,
MaryAnn Simmons