

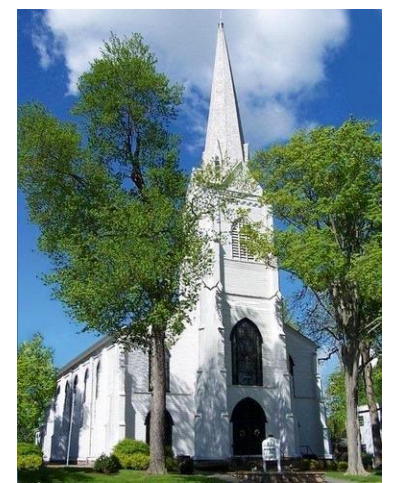
**First Presbyterian  
Church  
298 Main Street**

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

## **SEPTEMBER 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	

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

3: Shirley Roe  
5: Katy Groover  
Skylar Jones  
7: Janette Hendershot  
Ryan Chetangie  
9: Annette Knauer  
Anthony Venturini  
10: Alexia Dughi  
12: Ellen Bergman  
14: Annalee Smith  
15: Jen Aquino  
16: Kim Ligarzewski  
Anabeth Fernandez  
17: Eileen Curcio  
Edna Ort  
18: Teresa Collina  
23: Cassie Ravo  
24: Paul Sobolewski  
Barbara Yankiv  
26: Lila Roguso  
28: Torey Ravo  
29: Daniel Wallace  
Sandy Lindstedt

**CONGRATULATIONS, ALL!**

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

17: John & Pam Covert  
26: Chris & Erin Roguso

**PRAYER LIST**

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

The Archer Family  
Gwenn and Louis Bartku  
Joan Beddow  
Eris Bunnell  
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  
Students, teachers, coaches, paraprofessionals, nurses, administrators, secretaries, custodians, substitutes, and bus drivers returning to school  
Those in Hawaii  
Those who are food insecure  
Those who are homeless  
Those struggling with addictions  
Those recovering from surgery



## **DATES TO REMEMBER - SEPTEMBER 2023**

- 03: Worship and communion - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook
- 04: Morning Bible Study - 10-11 AM in the Conference Room
- 05: Ladies Who Lunch - 12 PM at OMG Burger
- 06: Yarn Girls - 1 PM - Conference Room
- 06: Evening Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room
- 07: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 09: Men's Breakfast at the Chapel - 8 AM
- 09: Community Dinner - 5-7 PM, at the Chapel
- 10: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; first day of Sunday School for grades Pre-K - 5 and grades 6 & 7; Second Sunday 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
- 11: Morning Bible Study - 10-11 AM in the Conference Room
- 12: Deacon's Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 13: Evening Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room
- 14: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 16: Women's breakfast at the River Star Diner - 9 AM
- 17: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Blessing of the Backpacks; Sunday School; Confirmation class meets with mentors after worship
- 18: Morning Bible Study - 10-11 AM in the Conference Room
- 19: Session Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 20: Evening Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room
- 20: Native American Day
- 21: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 21: International Day of Peace
- 23: Fundraising Dinner with Hackettstown Rescue Squad - at the Chapel at 5 PM
- 24: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 25: Morning Bible Study - 10-11 AM in the Conference Room
- 27: Stone Soup Symphony open rehearsal to the public - 7:30 PM at the Chapel
- 27: Evening Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room
- 28: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room

## **A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR**

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ.

I've been thinking a lot about legacy and faith over these past months. Over the past six months we have said goodbye to four of the great pillars of our church: Charles Lee, Lyman (Bucky) Gulick, Rev. Jeff Archer, and now Barbara Courtright. It was an honor and blessing to lead Barbara's memorial service on Saturday as we celebrated 100 years of life and faith!

I shared this with the folks who gathered at Barbara's memorial service. Saying goodbye to the pillars of our church feels like it has shaken our foundation a bit. We looked to our pillars for wisdom, strength, and faithfulness to help carry us through. These pillars of faith for us here at First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown were words of love when we needed them, advice, guidance, and a prayer. They were love when we needed it. They helped us see Jesus in each other and make sure the word of God was proclaimed. Folks like Barbara, Rev. Archer, Charles, and Bucky give us the hope of Christ and give a launch point for our own faith and the work of Jesus in the world. What happens when your pillar moves? What happens when your pillar is gone?

Pillars hold up the foundation. Pillars are connected to the foundation of Jesus who lived died and rose again so that we will be free. Did you know that when you move a pillar in a structure you have shore to the foundation? This means you must make sure that the weight is evenly balanced and then you can replace or move the pillar. In these next years of our church life we "shore" our foundation in Christ. We become attentive to where we "shore" our trust in God. We become rooted in the story and witness of Jesus so that we may too be a pillar of hope for someone else. As we enter this upcoming school and program year, may you find ways to "shore" your foundation in Christ. And on that rock we will and the Holy Spirit will build the church.

Pastor Erin

# AUGUST 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.

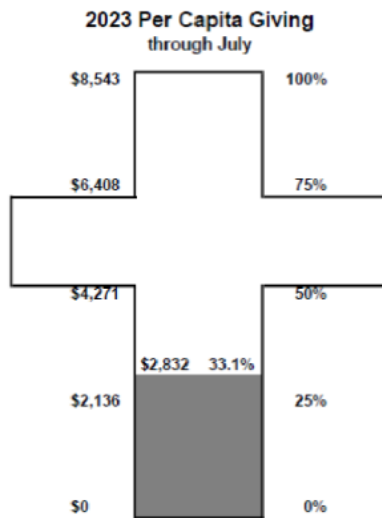
	May	Year to Date
Income	\$13,596.81	\$123,330.18
Expenses Paid	\$14,273.69	\$147,056.24
Net Operating Income /Deficit	(\$ 676.88)	(\$ 23,726.06)

Amount Needed from Endowment

## Financial Comments / Observations:

1. The five largest operating expenses in July were:

- A.) **\$7,461.68** – Pastoral expenses (payroll, Board of Pensions, etc.).
- B.) **\$4,137.17** – Staff payroll & payroll processing expenses.
- C.) **\$1,100.00** – Manse window installation.
- D.) **\$375.78** – Phone, internet & website.
- E.) **\$197.86** – Gas expenses (3 buildings).



2. The July and Year To Date operating net income / (deficit) are **(\$676.88)** and **(\$23,726.06)** respectively.

- A.)The actual July operating expenses were **\$4,559** below the average monthly budgeted expenses.
- B.)The actual July operating income was **\$2,778** below the average monthly budgeted income.
- C.)Both the Year-To-Date operating incomes and expenses are above the budgeted amounts.

3. In July, the value of the MassMutual Investment accounts decreased **\$14,411.26** to **\$313,756.80** because \$20,000.00 was transferred to the Fulton Designated Donations account. The \$9,000.00 that was borrowed from the Designated Donations account in May and June to pay operating expenses was paid back. The remaining \$11,000.00 is in an Endowment fund in the Designated Donations account so it is easily accessible when needed to pay operating expenses.

CONTINUED - SEE AUGUST 2023 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

# AUGUST 2023 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT CONTINUED

- 4. The total endowment fund on July 31, 2023, was **\$317,073.25**. The total endowment fund was down **\$14,402.16** since July 1, 2023, and up **\$8,298.49** since January 1, 2023.
- 5. No community dinner expenses were submitted for the July dinner. Donations collected at the dinner were \$47.00.

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 July, **\$127.50** was received for the Per Capita bringing the total received in 2023 to **\$2,831.50** or **33.1%**. There was **\$127.50** sent to the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ in July bringing the total sent to **\$2,831.50** or **33.1%** of the total amount due.

## BUILDING ON GENEROSITY (BOG) CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- Donations received during July, **\$2,790.00**.
- Total donations received from church members, non-members and anonymous from September 2019 (BOG Kickoff dinner) through July 31, 2023, **\$638,930.64**.
- No expenses were paid from the BOG funds in July.
- Funds available for the next BOG project, **\$6,559.63** with an additional **\$2,500.00** designed for parking lot pavement.
- Donations breakdown by source:
  - 5.0% - \$31,893.38 from nonmembers
  - 86.3% - \$551,228.05 from members
  - 8.7% - \$55,809.21 from anonymous & dinners
  - 100.0% - \$638,930.64 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.

# BIBLE STUDY SESSIONS TO CONTINUE

BY: PASTOR ERIN HAYES-COOK

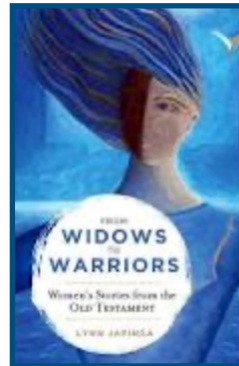
During the month of September, we will continue our Bible study which focuses on the women of the Old Testament. The text is *From Widows to Warriors: Women's Stories from the Old Testament* by Rev. Dr. Lynn Japinga.

Morning sessions for this study will take place each Monday from 10 to 11 AM in the Conference Room of the Church. Evening sessions will occur each Wednesday, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, also in the Conference Room. Check the calendar for specific dates.

*From Widows to Warriors* is divided into six chapters, each focusing on a different woman from the Bible. Readers will encounter flawed heroes like Ruth and Rahab, fierce fighters like Deborah and Joel, and tragic characters like Jephthah's daughter and the unnamed concubine in the book of Judges. So far, the groups have worked their way through the first part of the book due to elaborate discussion about each of the women they've encountered over the summer.

Conversation will focus on the faith of these women and their messy, yet redeemable humanity. These women have inspiring, funny, and tragic lives. We will explore what each individual's story means today for each of us.

Although we have already gone through the first chapter of the book, there is still time to join in on the discussion. Won't you consider joining one of these groups? To reserve a spot or if you have any questions, see me before or after worship or email me at [revehayes@gmail.com](mailto:revehayes@gmail.com)



# NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

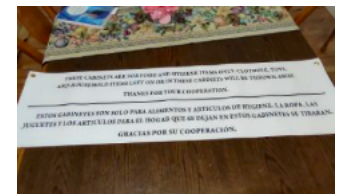
BY: JUSTIN SIMMONS

The Deacon Board met on August 8th to discuss their mission projects that have taken place over the summer months, as well as anticipated plans for the Fall season.

The annual clothing drive will take place on October 21st, however, to prepare for that event, the Deacons will be at the shed in the church parking lot from 6-8 PM to collect donations from those who don't like to get up early on a Saturday morning. Note that congregation members may still drop off items in the shed at any time before the 21st. More information will follow in the October newsletter.

The Deacon Board is still eagerly awaiting the approval of a book drop to be placed in our parking lot. More news will follow once we hear from the Hackettstown Council.

Please take note of the article regarding our Little Pantry. As revealed in the article, we have received new signs printed in both English and Spanish suggesting acceptable donations. Hollie Studios of Hackettstown produced the signs.



Finally, the school nurses of our elementary and middle schools will gladly accept donations of blessing bags which will contain personal care items for students who are in need of them. They will be distributed on an as-needed basis.

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

# ALEXANDER WOJCICKI BAPTIZED AT FPCH

THREE GENERATIONS OF FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN  
THE CEREMONY

BY: LORINDA RAVO AND MARYANN SIMMONS

A baptism is a beautiful ceremony to witness in the life of the church. We at FPCH had the distinct pleasure of observing Alexander Wojcicki receive the love of Jesus into his life on August 20th.

Alexander is the third generation of his family baptized at FPCH: his dad John Mark and his Grandmother Sharon were also baptized here, as well as his Aunt Sarah and his Great-Uncles and cousin Emma. In addition, Alexander's great grandparents, Phil and Rose Green, have also been pillars of the church, serving as Elders and Deacons, and Phil was a long time treasurer.

Alexander's dad John Mark grew up in the church where he sang in kids' and adult choirs, performed for about 10 years in the kid's musicals, and is both an ordained Deacon and Elder. He has subbed in the Chime Choir and taught and will continue to teach Sunday School. He was the church Sexton for many years, and still quietly and "behind the scenes" takes care of things that need repairs or attention. John Mark is devoted to working in the Old Presbyterian Burial Ground where he painstakingly is restoring the gravestones - some of which date back to Revolutionary times.

Congratulations, Wójcicki family, on the baptism of your son, Alexander.



# Sharing God's Bounty Faith Empowers God's Stewards

The writer of Hebrews defines faith: *"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see"* (Hebrews 11:1). Faith enables us to be God-pleasing stewards. *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him"* (Hebrews 11:6). The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is known as the "Faith Chapter." From Abel down through the ages, the writer names the heroes of faith, listing their accomplishments, preceding each one with "by faith."

Through faith, we understand that our stewardship is God working in and through us. It is not what we do, not what we give, not how we serve – but what God does, what God gives, how God serves, and our response to his love and gifts to us. God has shown us his plan for our lives. *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10). This is the definition of stewardship: doing the good works which God has prepared for us to do. God empowers and equips us to be faithful stewards. God has chosen us to carry out his work on earth. *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last"* (John 15:16).

It is through faith that our pastor confidently enters the pulpit to speak forth the Word of the Lord. It is God's message, God's gift, and he is only the channel through which it flows. Through faith, the servant humbly steps forward to serve. His only motive is that God may receive the glory as he offers his hands, feet, lips, his whole body, soul, and mind in service. Through faith, the teacher diligently prepares the lessons, seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit, studying the Word of God, and looking into the hearts of the students. God creates the learning; his Spirit creates the faith. As stewards, we are the faithful vessels that God uses. Through faith, God can make us into his faithful stewards.


## SEPTEMBER GREETERS

Sept 3: Ginny and Brielle Plumbo

Sept 10: The Roguso Family

Sept 17: The McDonagh Family

Sept 24: Della and Jose Irby

A rectangular badge with a brown background and a thin black border. The word "GREETER" is written in the center in a white, sans-serif, all-caps font.

## MICHAEL ORT ENTERS GOD'S KINGDOM

We are saddened by the news that our dear friend, Michael Ort, 79 years old, past away some time last year in Virginia. He was born on August 19, 1943. At the time of his death, he was living with his nephew Scott and his wife Carolann in Virginia.

Michael worked at Heath Village of Hackettstown, NJ for 50 years and was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown for over 75 years.

When we receive more details about his passing we will pass along the information. Please say a prayer for Michael and his family.

**We give thanks for the God of the Resurrection whose love brings us hope everyday.**

## SAVE THE DATE: STONE SOUP'S "OPEN REHEARSAL" CONCERT IS 9/27

Stone Soup Symphony will be opening up their rehearsal in the chapel to all who want to hear the program for their "Pops Concert" on Wednesday evening, Sept 27 at 7:30 PM. There is no charge for this program, and it's a great way to get a "behind the scenes" look at how the orchestra comes together to make such beautiful music!



## MUSIC NOTES

BY: LORINDA RAVO

In September, we welcome back our music ensembles to their participation in our services! Music selections for this month include:

Sept. 10: Senior Choir: Precious Jesus

Sept. 17: Senior Choir: Think on These Things

Sept. 24: Unity Chimes: More Precious Than Silver

## JAN AND DIANE THANK YOU

Diane and I want to thank all of you for your support, thoughts and prayers after the passing of my mother, Barbara Courtright. We truly appreciate the many expressions of love, concern and kindness from all of you. It has been a great comfort to us.

We also want to thank you for helping to celebrate her life through the Memorial Service and the repast at the Chapel. At the Memorial Service, the scriptures, hymns, special solo, homily, and tributes were a wonderful dedication to my mother's faith and love for her church. At the Chapel, the sharing of stories, the creatively decorated tables, the slide show and the general atmosphere of the repast was a wonderful celebration of her life.

Thank you all so much, for honoring Barbara Courtright's life through a wonderfully spiritual and joyful occasion.

Jan Courtright and Diane Hull

# LITTLE PANTRY THRIVING

BY: LORINDA RAVO AND MARYANN SIMMONS

As you all are aware, our Little Pantry has been used quite frequently throughout the summer and it has been stocked through the generosity of our many members, not only this summer, but throughout the year. We also cannot forget our friends with the Hackettstown Ambulance and Rescue Squad who, to date, have conducted food drives for our benefit to assist us in better serving the community.



Earlier in the year a number of FPCH members painted the storage area on the second floor of the Chapel and just recently, Sharon Heil and Jan Courtright and Diane Hull gifted shelving and cabinets for our pantry room.



In addition, Autumn Hoover, a member of Scout Troop 143 under our church's auspices, completed her Eagle Scout Project by building a new, larger pantry so that we can stock more food on the shelves which can be better protected from inclement weather. We have come a long way from when we first began this mission three years ago.

During the last week of August, Harper Schneider volunteered to assist with organizing the storage room and it looks great! We would welcome assistance from other youth in the future.

Between the painting of the room and now shelving, we are looking ever more organized and ready to serve our community!

Finally, John Mandick of Hollie Studios in town, made a new sign for the pantry in both English and Spanish. He recommended a banner style to be more weather resistant, and... he made us two of them for the price of one.

Thank you to all for your unselfish giving.

# BACKPACK PROGRAM 2023 A BIG SUCCESS

BY: DONNA ERICKSON

Each year our congregation members find it in their hearts to donate to the backpack program which has been occurring each year for the past ten or more years. This year is no different.

Through your generosity, we were able to put together 50 backpacks filled with many school supplies and dental hygiene products for the children who are under the auspices of Warren County Youth and Family Services.



As always you have been extremely charitable in your giving and have been very supportive of this program which the children of the county need for a successful school year.

Thank you to all who contributed to this yearly mission.

# LOOK FOR THE NEW FPCH WEBSITE

BY: AL RAVO

During September, an updated website for the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown will be launched. It will replace the current website and can be found at the same address, [www.fpchackettstown.org](http://www.fpchackettstown.org).

The updated website will have a different look and feel and contain additional features. A short video of our church will debut with the launch. Please check out the new website.

Send any feedback or comments to Al Ravo.



# THANK YOU NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS

This summer we have been blessed with members who are grateful for the little things in life. To that end, I have received notes from the Archer family and from Harper Schneider. See their messages below.

First, Sandy, Kim, Kerrie, and Jennifer give thanks for all the prayers, cards, and visits for Jeff during his illness and express sincere gratitude for your kind words after his passing. Below is a beautiful saying they wish you to hear:

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair.  
Perhaps you sent a floral spray, if so we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.  
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you very much.

Always,  
Sandy, Kim, Kerrie, and Jenn

Next, Harper had the privilege of attending Camp Johnsonburg this past summer on a partial scholarship provided by our Session. She writes:

Thank you for the scholarship to Johnsonburg. I appreciate it and I am looking forward to talking about my experience on Sunday (August 27th).



- Harper

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY AND AUGUST

We are so pleased to share the following highlights of our church worship during the months of July and August. Included here are selected photos from the musical ensembles, pantry offerings, and other events that occurred in the summer. Photos courtesy of MaryAnn Simmons



# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

September is here and that means the school bells are sounding, the busses are in action, and students are ready to begin anew in the schools. It is no different for our children and teens at FPCH.

Sunday school will commence on September 10. Miss Donna, Mr. John Mark, and Mrs. Simmons are excited to begin working with their students to teach them about the love of Jesus Christ and the Good News of the Bible. To that end, Pastor Erin has purchased a new curriculum for the Pre-K through fifth graders, and the middle school students will continue with their program "Echo the Story." Students will meet each Sunday after the children's sermon to hear and discuss the words of the Bible with their respective teachers.

Parents of the elementary students, we are looking for assistance from you once a month so that the younger children can be monitored during their craft activities. Middle schoolers will meet each week, but on the first Sunday of each month, they will remain in worship in order to partake in communion.

Members of the confirmation class will be meeting with Pastor Erin and Mrs. Simmons once a month on an evening which will be convenient for all students in order to focus on themes witnessed in the Bible and to engage in activities which will help the students become accustomed to the life of the church and its missions. This group should remember that they will meet with their mentors on September 17 after worship for a brief gathering and on October 9th, they will meet with Pastor Erin and Mrs. Simmons from 10-1 PM to kick off their lessons. Lunch will be served.

All parents should have received emails identifying the activities throughout the year as well as dates when classes will not be held due to holidays. If you have not received that information, please contact Donna Annunziata at [dja.annunziata@gmail.com](mailto:dja.annunziata@gmail.com) or if you have not responded to that email, please do so at your earliest convenience.

We are all excited for a great school year. Please know that if you have any questions, you can reach out to any of the teachers or Pastor Erin. We are here for you every step of the way and look forward to working with your children this year.

# SECOND SUNDAY SUMMER RECAP

BY: LORINDA RAVO

It's hard to guess who enjoyed our summer Second Sundays more: the kids who participated, or the adults who prepared our lunches and served as chaperones and teachers.

**On July 9**, participating kids learned to knit, crochet, or weave a basket. Mrs. Shepherd started the event by reading a story called "Charlie Needs a Cloak" and then we moved on to learning the handicrafts. We thank Deb Shepherd who taught students to knit, Pattie Huff who taught students to crochet, and Lorinda Ravo who helped kiddos make baskets.



**On August 13**, we all laughed, squealed, and got VERY wet on our Second Annual Super Soaker Sunday. It also included body painting, sidewalk chalk, water balloon relays, and sudden and unexpected water wars.

**On September 10**, we'll hear the story of Joshua and the wall, and then we'll be using LEGOS to build our own walls and other creations. If you have LEGOS that you'd like to donate or even loan us for the day, we'd love to have them! Please be sure to sign up either in the church, or by calling the church office at 908-852-4011.

As we consider our upcoming year, we'd welcome anyone who would like to share their interest or talent with our kids: art, woodworking, cooking, gardening or anything else. We'll let you know what you'll need to provide, and we'll help with anything that we can. The kids LOVE to learn new things and are a great group to work with!



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

# GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

This month we were saddened to learn of the passing of Barbara Nye Courtright, peacefully on Wednesday, August 9, 2023. She was 100 years old. Barbara was born on June 29, 1923 in Prospect, NY, the only child of the late Clarence H. Nye and Leila Nye (Johnson).



After graduating High School in Pine Bush, NY, she attended Plattsburgh State College in Plattsburgh, NY and received her Bachelor of Science degree in teaching Home Management. Barbara taught for a year in Corinth, NY. On June 29, 1945, she married her sweetheart, Richard Theodore Courtright. They were married for 64 years.

Barbara enjoyed substitute teaching in the Junior High School, and, when her children were grown, she realized she loved teaching pre-school children. She was offered a job to teach at a pre-school in Milltown, not far from home in East Brunswick, NJ and she happily took the job and taught pre-school for eleven years.

Barbara enjoyed cooking, baking and sewing. Freshly baked cake, pie or cookies appeared when family or other company were to arrive. An adept seamstress, she made clothes for her children when they were young, as well as Halloween costumes for her grandchildren. Barbara's love of music is witnessed in her singing in choruses and participating in musicals during high school and college. She joined the church choir at FPCH and enjoyed singing anthems and hymns. She also enjoyed meeting on Friday nights at friends' houses to play bridge.

Whenever Richard was promoted, the family moved-three times-before he retired. Once established in their new residence, they found a home church. The church and her religion were always a prominent part of her life. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for over fifty years. When retirement came, Richard and Barbara moved to Wilmington, NC. Barbara became an avid golfer and participated in the Women's Golf League at Echo Farms Golf Club. After Richard passed, Barbara became a volunteer for Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, which she felt was her way to give back to the same organization who had helped her husband before he passed.

Entertaining and spending time with family and friends were Barbara's joys. She was known for her kindness, hospitality and enjoyment of conversation. Being actively involved in her church, which encompassed many roles, was another joy and important to her and her faith.

Barbara was predeceased by her husband of 64 years, Richard Theodore Courtright, Sr. She is survived by her two daughters, Pamela Sampson, Janice Courtright and wife Diane, and her one son, Richard Theodore Courtright, Jr. and significant other Peggy. She is also survived by six grandchildren: Kim Albritton and her husband Jason, Meredith Danner and her husband Justin, Ken Sampson and his wife Laura, Jennifer Siegfried, John Durner and his wife Brittany and Richard Theodore Courtright III; along with ten great-grandchildren: Gabriella and Annabelle, Annika, Lukas, Grayson and Madalyn, Landon and Weston, Colton, and Adeline.



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

# FPCH AND HACKETTSTOWN RESCUE SQUAD SPONSOR FUNDRAISER

BY: MICHELE CAMERON

Attention all congregation members! FPCH is partnering again with the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad to sponsor a fundraiser dinner on Saturday, September 23 from 4-7 PM at our Chapel.

Tickets will be available at the start of the month and we ask that you bring your appetites and friends with you so that we can benefit from this activity. If you like, you will be able to access tickets by clicking on the link on our newly revamped website.

Members, see me, Michele Cameron, if you are interested in assisting with this event. We could always use some additional hands to either sell tickets, bake dessert items, work in the kitchen, or help serve the attendees.

As always, thank you for your support in this endeavor. We look forward to a great meal and some good fellowship.

For more information, contact Michele at [ml.cameron@comcast.net](mailto:ml.cameron@comcast.net)



# MANY MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR ALL AT FPCH

We love having our young congregation members learn about music and work together as a team as they participate in worship services. We have a number of ensembles for kids of all ages.

**LITTLE LIGHTS SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR:** This choir learns their music during the children's message portion of our service and then sings about once a month. This year, we'll again be traveling around the world as we learn about other countries, sing in their language, and understand that kids from many cultures world-wide praise God just as they do. Among this year's planned "journeys" are trips to India, Egypt, France, Argentina, and many more!

**JOYFUL NOISE BELL CHOIR:** Our youngest instrumental ensemble is for kids who are in kindergarten and up. They rehearse for about 10 minutes after Sunday School, and perform in church several times a year. They use handbells that are designed for young hands and tuned to a 13 note scale.

**UNITY CHIMERS:** The Unity Chimers are for kids in Grade 3 and up, and no prior experience ringing is necessary. They use the same hand chimes that our adult ringers use and perform in church several times throughout the year. Members of this group do not have to know how to read music to be part of this group. They rehearse after the Joyful Noise Bells are done with their rehearsals on Sunday mornings.

**UPWARD ENSEMBLE:** If we have enough student instrumentalists with at least 1 year of lessons under their belt, we'd love to have our Upward Ensemble play for us again this year. And adults with instrumental background on wind or string instruments are also welcome to be part of the ensemble. Please see Lorinda for more details!

**FPCH RINGERS:** The FPCH Ringers is our intergenerational chime choir. Kids who have been ringing in our youth ensembles for at least 3 years can also be part of this group that meets on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:15 pm.

**SOLOS:** If your student musician plays piano or any other instrument and would like to play a solo, we can work together to make that happen! Please see Lorinda to make plans together!

# A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

Hello, readers.

Summer is almost over but the Fall season is about to begin. With the start of the Fall we look forward to a time of bustling activity: Sunday school will resume, fundraising activities will take place, and we will share in worship each Sunday to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

Throughout this issue you will find news about the finances of the church, the continuation of Bible study, the activities of our Deacon Board, and the upcoming events such as Stone Soup Symphony's concert, our Little Pantry, our backpack program, music opportunities for our kids and adults and everyone in between, and thank you notes from our members. In addition, check out the news about our Sunday School programs and opportunities to fundraise and purchase FPCH clothing.

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

Until next time...

Yours in Christ,  
MaryAnn Simmons

## FPCH POLO SHIRTS AVAILABLE

BY: WINNIE SLACHETKA

It is that time again to spruce up your wardrobe and what better way than to purchase a shirt which sports the logo of our very own church? The shirts are available in all colors and can be purchased for \$20.00. For more information or to order your polo, see me, Winnie Slachetka, or contact me via email or phone: [wchetka@gmail.com](mailto:wchetka@gmail.com) or 908-391-0719.

Thank you.

