

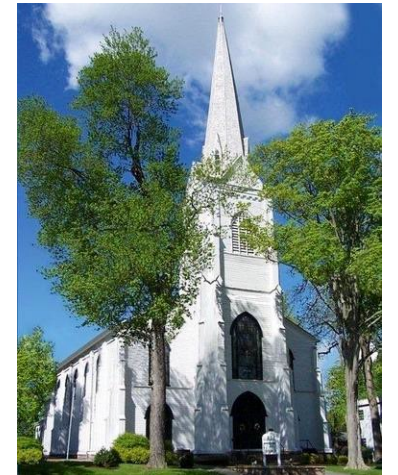
**First Presbyterian
Church
298 Main Street**

**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**

**MAY
2025**



*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

2025 SESSION

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Donna Erickson	Bill Cors	Michele Cameron
Diane Hull	Geof Gohlich	Pete Miller
Ray Sookhoo	Sharon Heil	MaryAnn Simmons

Clerk of Session: Donna Erickson

2025 BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Ellen Bergman	Jackie Hammel	Dennis Huff
Patricia Butts	Kathy Maier	Jose Irby
Carol Miller	Lorinda Ravo	Jean Zetterberg

Moderator: Ellen Bergman

**2025 HEAVEN SENT NURSERY SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OFFICE: 852-2006
Director: Jen Bujno**

Pat Butts	- 2026	Pam Venturini	- 2027
Meghan DeCree	- HS Parent	Toni Fryer	- HS Parent
Sharon Heil - Session Rep			
Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook - Ex-Officio			

A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

Hello, FPCH.

Welcome back to our fifth edition of *Light From the Steeple*.

I am pleased to reveal to you some important information about a new committee - the G.R.O.W. Team - that has been formed to assist with creative ways to engage the church in gaining financial resources. Each month we will highlight a "Mission of the Month" and a "Financial Fact." In this issue you will also find updates regarding the town wide garage sale and the clothing drive, both taking place on May 3rd. Our calendar is full and we have many dates for other activities to consider, including our church building and grounds cleanup, Eagle Scout Sunday, an outing to a baseball game, and opportunities to participate during the Memorial Day parade and singing with the choir at the end of May.

Please know that we are still looking for people to volunteer to videotape our Sunday worship services and to assist with our teaching duties in September since our Sunday school is growing. We are also in need of new people to serve as greeters, ushers, or worship leaders each Sunday. If interested, see a session member. Finally, we would like to ask if anyone would like to join - even if only on a part-time basis - our Public Relations Committee to assist with getting the word out about the wonderful things that are happening at FPCH.

I truly hope to see you at any of all of these activities that are taking place both on our church grounds and elsewhere. Know that the opportunities allow us to feel a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that we are helping others in the process.

As always, thank you for your readership. If anyone has suggestions for stories in our future editions, please email me or chat with me after service one Sunday.

Until next month...

Yours in Christ,

MaryAnn Simmons

DATES TO REMEMBER - MAY 2025

- 01: National Day of Prayer
- 01: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 02: Drop off items for Town Wide Garage Sale 3:30-7 PM
- 03: Town Wide Garage Sale - church parking lot, 8AM - 4 PM
- 03: Clothing Drive - drop off prior to 9 AM and truck pick up 9 AM
- 04: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 04: Worship and communion - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 04: PLEFF RSVP due today to Jan Courtright
- 06: PLEFF Dinner - 6 PM at The Panther Valley Pub, Allamuchy, NJ
- 07: Yarn Girls - 1 PM in the Conference Room
- 08: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 10: Men's Breakfast - 8:15 AM - location to be determined
- 11: Happy Mother's Day
- 11: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 11: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 13: Deacon's Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 15: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 15: Teacher letter of intent due today to MaryAnn Simmons
- 17: Ladies' Breakfast - 9 AM - River Star Diner
- 18: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 18: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 20: Session Meeting - 6:30 PM, in the Conference Room
- 22: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 25: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 25: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 26: Memorial Day Parade - refreshments to be sold in front of the church
- 27: Ladies Who Lunch - 12 PM The Smashed Olive, Rte 31, Washington, NJ
- 29: 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.

We live in a world of random containers. Depending on how you grew up anything could be a plastic container for leftovers. When I was young, plastic bags used to line our cabinets ready for trash cans and car trips. We live in a world of random containers for our "stuff," but I contend that our society is aching and longing for a container for the stuff of our soul. I also contend that so many of us feel disjointed, a drift or discontent, because we have not found a "container" for the stuff of our soul.

What I mean is that as humans, we all feel the range of emotions. We all long for community and a place to belong. Each of us needs people to remind us of our possibility and hold us accountable to our higher calling as God's people. Yet we all know that we face anxiety and confusion at different times in our lives. I cannot tell you how many conversations I've had with many of you who describe an anxiety moving through our community about the economy, about who you can trust, and how we might find a way to live together when we sometimes feel like strangers in how and what we believe.

I truly believe that we must approach our faith and our community as a holy container to hold our anxiety, grief, and shortcomings. If we are courageous enough to share them together in worship, in work and in relationships, I believe that is where we will find the face of God. When we are courageous enough to share that together, then I believe we will find the way through together. If we turn our eyes towards God and God's resurrection power, then we know that God can hold onto all that holds us back and then turn it back to us in redemption, reconciliation, forgiveness and joy. If we trust God to be our Creator, then we trust that when we offer ourselves God will show us the freedom of what it means to be God's people.

As we enter this Eastertide of the life of the church, may we be courageous enough to foster relationships and space to be containers as we wait for the Holy Spirit's move. As Jesus says to those who greeted him at the tomb, "Don't cling to me," for he was about the work of God amongst the people. May we hold onto the Spirit and hope for one another.

Pastor Erin

GET READY FOR SOME BASEBALL

FPCH Will Travel to Somerset Patriots Game

BY: CHRIS AND GABE ROGUSO

Everyone loves a baseball game and what better way to spend a Saturday evening than to take a trip to TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater, NJ to see a NY Yankees affiliate play ball?

Won't you join in the fun to see the Somerset Patriots play the Erie Seawolves on Saturday, June 28th at 7:05 PM? This evening promises to be a fun event for the entire family - your parents, siblings, and church family as well. And, you get to see fireworks immediately after the game.

Tickets are \$16.00 per person. Checks should be made out to FPCH with a note in the subject line indicating "Patriots Baseball tix." Give your payment to Al Ravo by June 8th.

We hope you plan to attend this fun night out.



SAVE THE DATE: SCOUT SUNDAY, 6/8

BY: JONATHAN GOHLICH

Troops 158 Boys and 143 Girls will be having an Eagle Ceremony for six of our Eagle Scouts on Sunday June 8, 2025 at 2 pm in the Church Sanctuary. All church members are invited to come. We will honor Ryan Due, Autumn Hoover, Matt Kmetz, Bryce Stagg, John Trineer, and Will Van Doren.

After the ceremony in the church, all are invited for refreshments at the Chapel at 3:30 PM.

Won't you consider joining in the celebration of these scouts who have worked diligently to earn

the highest level of achievement?



WE NEED VIDEOGRAPHERS

The worship committee would like to solicit your help on alternating Sundays as a videographer for our worship services.

If you have a talent for capturing events on video, then this is the job for you. We are currently in need of people from the congregation who are willing to take on this role. We can help you learn how to work the equipment. Just give us one or two Sundays a month so our homebound members can watch our services each week.



If interested, please see Geof Gohlich for details. Thank you.

OUR KIDS NEED YOU: CAN YOU ASSIST?

Our Christian Education Program has been growing tremendously and that means we are in need of another volunteer or two.

If you are interested in sharing your gifts, we are looking for volunteers willing to help our children grow in their faith. Can you give up one hour a week of your time to give them a foundation for their faith journey? We have the curriculum, complete with lesson plans and ideas - but we need people to bring them to the children of FPCH. We would even welcome volunteers to be "co-teachers," so you would be in class two weeks a month instead of every week.

We have great kids. We just need another adult or two to help us continue to expand! Won't you consider joining FPCH in this mission to teach our children each Sunday from September through mid-June?

If interested, please email Pattie Huff at fpchnj@gamil.com or call 908-852-4011. Or you can see MaryAnn Simmons or Pastor Erin one Sunday after worship who will share the details about this program. If you would prefer, you could email either at maryann.simmons3@verizon.net or revehayes@gmail.com

G.R.O.W. TEAM NEWS

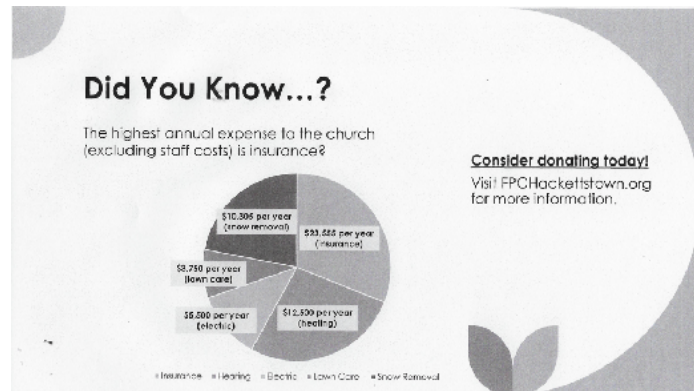
BY: BILL CORS

The GROW Team (Growing Resource Opportunities Wholeheartedly) is a newly created committee that is reviewing opportunities for the church to ascertain financial stability through various strategies. The Team has proposed a calendar that includes one "Mission of the Month" and one "Financial Fact" to help educate our congregation over time as to the many wonderful opportunities and the varied financial challenges we face as a congregation. This month, we are highlighting information regarding money that stays directly with the church from the PCUSA special Pentecost offering.

In addition, we would like the congregation to know about our monthly church expenses. This month, we feature a slide image of our "insurance" obligation.

DID YOU KNOW?

40% of Pentecost
Offering
remains local to fund
Johnsonburg
Scholarships
for youth of our
congregation



If you have any questions or if you have any ideas, feel free to contact Bill Cors or any member of his G.R.O.W. Team Committee.

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

By PAT BUTTS

We would like to thank all those who sponsored Easter Flowers. The money will support our ministry and the flowers added to the beauty of our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

We would like to request assistance with the town wide garage sale which was postponed until May 3rd. See the information below this article for more information.

Our Spring clothing drive pickup will also be on Saturday, May 3rd. The truck is due to arrive at 9 AM and you can still drop off bags at 8:30 AM. The money raised will go to the Deacons to assist in our ministry.

The Little Pantry is still up and running as we upgrade our storage room. We thank you for all the donations that assist those in need in our community.

If you have any questions about our programs and ministry, please speak to any of the Deacons. We would love to share.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

GARAGE SALE UPDATE

BY: ELLEN BERGMAN

As you may be aware, the town-wide garage sale was postponed on April 26th due to inclement weather. The new date is Saturday, May 3rd. Drop off of items will occur on Friday, May 2nd, between 3:30 and 7 PM.

We are still in need of volunteers to assist with this event. If interested, see Ellen Bergman, Dennis Huff, or use the sign up sheet at the front of the church.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of our church.

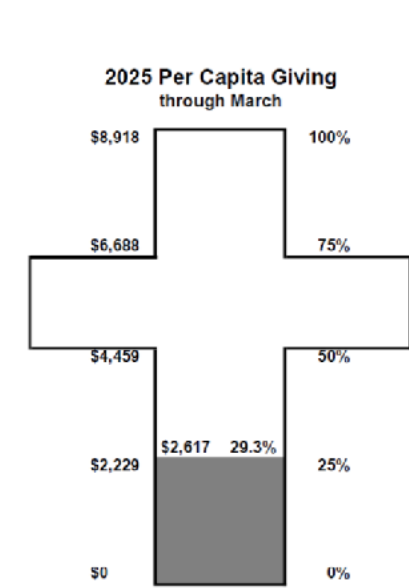
MARCH 2025 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

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.

	February	Year to Date
Income	\$17,280.61	\$53,423.62
Expenses Paid	\$21,317.60	\$75,464.88
Net Operating Income /(Deficit)	(\$4,036.99)	(\$22,041.26)
Amount of Schwab/Edward Jones funds used to pay operating expenses	\$6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Amount Needed from Endowment	\$3,000.00	\$21,000.00
Total amount of Endowment, Schwab & Edward Jones funds used to pay Operating expenses in 2024	\$9,000.00	\$27,000.00

Financial Comments / Observations:



- 1. In March, \$6,000.00 was obtained from the Edward Jones accounts. The Johnson & Johnson stock was sold, and the remaining money was taken from the cash account to obtain the \$6,000.00. The \$6,000.00 was used to pay back the Building On Generosity account for the \$6,000.00 that was 'borrowed' in February to pay operating expenses.
- 2. In March, \$15,000.00 was obtained from the Mass Mutual Endowment accounts to have available to pay operating expenses. There was \$3,000.00 needed to pay operating expenses in March and the remaining \$12,000.00 is in the Fulton Designated Donations Endowment account.
- 3. There was a \$3,000.00 shortfall in March which came from the Mass Mutual Endowment account.

MARCH 2025 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

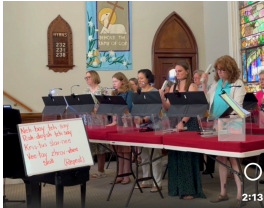
CONTINUED FROM MARCH 2025 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

- 4. The five largest operating expenses in March were:
 - 1.) \$7,849.57 – Pastoral expenses (payroll, Board of Pensions, etc.).
 - 2.) \$4,487.65 – Staff payroll & payroll processing expenses.
 - 3.) \$3,014.17 – Gas (3 buildings).
 - 4.) \$1,850.39 – Facilities Supplies & Maintenance.
 - 5.) \$870.00 – Fire alarm monitoring (quarterly bill)
- 5. The operating net income / (deficits) were (\$4,036.99) in March and (\$22,041.26) Year To Date.
 - The actual March operating expenses were \$984.27 above the average monthly budgeted expenses.
 - The actual March operating incomes were \$613.94 above the average monthly budgeted incomes.
 - The Year-To-Date operating expenses were \$14,441.54 above the average YTD budgeted amounts.
 - The Year-To-Date operating incomes were \$3,423.62 above the average YTD budgeted amount.
- 6. In March, the value of the MassMutual Investment accounts decreased \$25,557.35 to \$328,541.72. The decrease of \$25,557.35 is comprised of the \$15,000.00 transferred to pay operating expenses and a market decrease of \$10,557.35.
- 7. In March, the value of the total Endowment Fund decreased \$13,791.55 to \$343,257.47. This includes the \$3,000.00 used to pay operating expenses.
- 8. The March Second Saturday Free Community Dinner was not held. The total cost to the church of all community dinners since September 2021 remains at \$693.02.
- 9. The March Men's breakfast was held at River Star Diner.

The 2025 Per Capita is \$43.50 for each of the 205 members of our Church. (The number is the membership of FPCH on December 31, 2023.) The total amount due in 2025 is \$8,917.50 or \$743.13 monthly. In March, \$411.50 was received for Per Capita bringing the total received in 2025 to \$2,617.12 or 29.3% of the amount due. A payment of \$743.13 was sent to the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ in March bringing the total sent in 2025 to \$2,229.39 or 25.0% of the total amount due.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL

During April, we experienced great music during worship, celebrated Resurrection Sunday and decorated the Easter Cross. Below you can enjoy snapshots from those events. Photos courtesy of Lorinda Ravo and MaryAnn Simmons



CLOTHING DRIVE NEWS

Our clothing drive will take place on May 3rd. We work with A&E Clothing Corp for our Clothing Collection Fundraisers:

Items they ACCEPT

- Clothing for men, women and children
- Shoes in separate bags
- Clothing accessories: belts, hats, scarves, handbags, gloves
- Small toys (2 ft. or less)
- Stuffed animals, towels, sheets & pillowcases
- Bikes & Strollers

Items they DO NOT accept:

- Quilts, comforters, pillows & blankets.
- Sports equipment (bikes are OK).
- No board games, books, puzzles, pots, CAR SEATS.
- No electrical devices or glass.
- No large toys, highchairs or baby cribs, or scooters.
- VCR tapes, furniture and outdoor play sets.
- Bric and brac (picture frames, school supplies, phone cases, candles, cosmetics, greeting cards, plastic cups, food containers, baking accessories).
- Home and holiday decorations / pet accessories.

Please call or email Ellen Bergman or any Deacon with any questions you may have. Thank you.



C O L O R I N G
F U N

SPRING WORKDAY - MAY 10th

“Clean up, Clean up, Everybody, Clean up!”

Memorial Day is fast approaching and it is time for our annual Spring Church Work Day. Please bring your gifts for raking, weeding, spreading mulch, window cleaning, dusting, and organizing. We will be working outside and inside; tools and supplies will be provided, but if you would like to bring your own, please feel free to do so.



We will work from 9 AM to 12 PM. Rain date is May 17th. Many hands make light work so your help is greatly appreciated! Let's make our church shine for the Memorial Day Parade. Any questions, see Diane Hull.

MUSIC NOTES

Music for the month of May will be:

May 4: Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?-
Angel & Blessing Anyangwe

May 11: My Lord, What a Morning - Sr. Choir

May 18: On Wings of Love and Prayer - Unity Chime Choir

May 26: American Medley - FPCH Ringers
America, the Beautiful - Sr. Choir

YOU'RE INVITED TO SING WITH US

BY: LORINDA RAVO

During the month of May, our Senior Choir has a tradition of singing "America, the Beautiful" on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, and for the past couple of years, we've invited any and all from the congregation who would like to sing this moving song to join us.

You are welcome to sing the melody, or if you'd like to sing the harmony parts, that's fine too! We'll have a rehearsal after church on May 18 to get everyone comfortable with singing together. Please look for the sign up sheet in front of the church, or see Lorinda to volunteer.



Sharing God's Bounty

Whom Are You Looking At?

The disciples were thrilled. They had their Lord back in their presence once again. Since his resurrection, he had appeared to them and others several times. They were still a little confused, though, when he talked about *"wait[ing] for the gift [his] Father promised"* (Acts 1:4), and, then, *"He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight"* (Acts 1:9).

You can imagine their bewilderment. He had died and been buried and then had risen from the dead! He had walked among them and taught them again, and now he is taken up into the clouds. No wonder they stood ... probably with mouths agape ... looking into the sky where they had last seen him.

It took *"two men dressed in white"* (Acts 1:10) to bring them back to their senses. *"Men of Galilee,"* they said, *"why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into Heaven"* (Acts 1:11).

Back they went to Jerusalem. Their eyes were no longer on the clouds, but they were still looking at Jesus. They waited. They prayed. They chose another disciple. And they waited some more ... all the while looking at Jesus.

Whom are you looking at? Yes, Jesus had ascended. We can only imagine his joyful triumphant return as all the hosts of Heaven welcomed back the risen victorious Savior. Because he is that Savior, because he is the *"author and perfecter of our faith,"* *"let us fix our eyes on Jesus"* (Hebrews 12:2). Though his Word and Sacraments, he will lead us in his ways; he will teach us obedience and self-sacrifice; he will teach us love for our neighbors. With joyful and generous hearts, we celebrate the new life that Easter brings us by sharing the message of the Cross and the Empty Tomb with all who listen. Keep looking at Jesus until in Heaven you see him face to face!

God comes first, not last. Otherwise, we give him only the leftovers after we have made sure that we have provided for our own comforts.

The principle of sacrificial giving is that our giving to God comes off the top of all that he has given us. Otherwise, some would say it is not a true offering, just a tip left at the table. Pray to be enabled to give generously.

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PENTECOST OFFERING TO OCCUR IN JUNE

Each year Presbyterian Church USA has four offerings that each congregation participates in. This June, we will again have an opportunity to provide a special offering for Pentecost, which supports children at risk and nurtures the faith of youth and young adults.

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By donating toward the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of children, youth, and young adults.

Forty percent of all money collected remains with FPCH to be used for youth activities at Camp Johnsonburg. Twenty-five percent supports young adult volunteers around the world. Twenty-five percent supports ministries with youth around the world, and ten percent of the money is devoted to children at risk and is used to improve education and provide safe havens for these youth.

Won't you consider joining with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love for our youth? Your support of this faith-based giving helps in many ways, regardless of your dollar amount. We will have this special collection on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025, the day we celebrate our youth and their teachers. Greeters will provide envelopes at the end of May.



SECOND SUNDAY RECAP

Our Second Sunday participants first enjoyed a fun-filled acting on April 13th: QUILTING! Mrs. Sharon Heil shared several of her beautiful self-made quilts, and explained how they are created. She also shared some interesting history of quilts.

Then she helped us all to make a “Friendship Quilt”, showing us how to cut our pieces, design the square, and then join them together to make a pattern. When we put all nine quilt squares together, we created a beautiful quilt! Thanks, Mrs. Heil for a wonderful time!



We will not have a Second Sunday event in May, as that is Mother’s Day, but be sure to sign up for more Second Sunday fun on June 8th!

As Lorinda will be away on July 13, we are hoping that someone might have an activity that they’d like to do with some wonderful kids for a Second Sunday. If you’d like to provide a program please let Lorinda or Pastor Erin know.

We are already planning for the 2025-26 school year. Do you have a talent/hobby/passion that you’d like to share with our wonderfully enthusiastic Second Sunday learners? Please let Lorinda or Pastor Erin know and we’ll help you with whatever you need for your activity!

WALL WORDS ON DISPLAY

We hope that you’ve all enjoyed getting to know our Sunday School students through their charming answers to the “wall words” by the entrance ramp to the sanctuary. In April, we used the John Denver song “Sunshine on my Shoulders Makes Me Happy” and asked the kids what makes them happy? Photo included in the April Highlights.

In May, we’ll see their answers to the prompt “MAY-be I should.....”. There are some very adorable answers, and some very insightful responses. Be sure to take a look!

Building On Generosity (BOG) Capital Campaign

- Donations received during March, **\$229.00**.
- Total donations received from church members, non-members and anonymous from September 2019 (the BOG Kickoff dinner) through the last day of March 2025, **\$650,181.02**.
- Expenses paid using the BOG funds in March, **\$4,133.00**. The payment was to JRC Construction to install new windows in the manse master bedroom as part of the 2025 Presbytery manse grant and Chapel and the final interior repairs and renovations.
- The total available BOG funds are **\$7,738.28**. The breakdown is **\$2,488.28** for the next BOG project with an additional **\$2,500.00** designated for parking lot pavement and **\$2,750.00** designated for the Chapel range hood replacement.

Donations breakdown by source:

- **5.3% - \$34,278.76 from nonmembers**
- **86.0% - \$559,577.05 from members**
- **8.7% - \$56,325.21 from anonymous & dinners**
- **100.0% - \$650,181.02 Total**

Contact Al Ravo if you have any questions or would like to discuss the Church’s operating finances, the Endowment Funds, Per Capita or the Building On Generosity Capital Campaign.

MAY GREETERS

- MAY 4:** Jen and Al Aquino
- MAY 11:** Jean Zetterberg and Maddox Fucetola
- MAY 18:** Pat Butts and Kathy Slater
- MAY 25:** Della and Jose Irby



TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO PRAY

Focus on God's Beautiful Creation

With our societal addiction to cell phones and other electronic screens, sometimes we wonder if we miss out on really absorbing the beauty of nature all around us. We are so eager to capture and share everything around us. We take videos, but do we really let beauty sink deep into our souls and leave a permanent impression there? This practice encourages deep observation of nature and creation of mental pictures of the world around us that use all five senses.

Designed for ages 4+

Materials: None

Time Investment: 5-15 minutes

How to:

1. Go outside and find something beautiful to focus on: a sunset, a flower, a beautiful sky, or anything else interesting.
2. Instruct everyone to notice all of the details they can about the beautiful object and talk about them together. Ask questions such as: *"How does it look? Are there any sounds associated with it? If you can touch it, how does it feel? Does it have a smell?"* Take a good look at this thing, more than you might normally, and notice details you mightn't have noticed before.
3. After some time of observing together, go back inside and try to recreate the memory again. Instruct everyone to close their eyes. Ask questions such as: *"Can you still picture the same scene? What do you remember? What was the most beautiful part in your mind?"*

Notes:

- This practice is fantastic for vacation or other special times when it is tempting to rush through the "to do" list without pausing to notice the beauty all around us.
- When visiting an art museum or other attraction, use this practice to help name lasting memories of the visit.

Variations:

- After coming inside, try to recreate the scene by drawing or painting it.
- Do the "three snapshots" activity: At the beginning of an important day, instruct everyone to plan to take three mental snapshots of special or beautiful moments in the day. At the end of the day, ask each person to recall his or her snapshots and share with others.

"This practice is excerpted from the book ***Faithful Families: Simple Practices for Daily Family Life*** by Traci Smith, published by Chalice Press, 2017, All rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

JOIN US FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Everybody loves parades: infants, kids, teens, adults. Lots of people are marching and lots of vendors are on the streets.

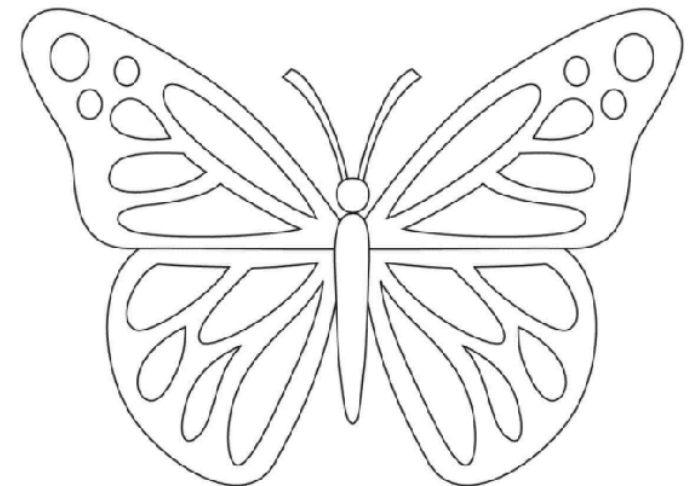
This May, we will be outside the church selling refreshments - iced coffee, lemonade, iced tea, water, and breakfast sandwiches - Taylor ham, egg, and cheese - to the public. All proceeds will benefit FPCH.

One hour before the parade, we will hold an open house, granting the public an opportunity to stroll into the church to see the beautiful sanctuary and listen to Lorinda play the organ. Outside we will provide a news brief which will identify key information about our church, our pastor, our missions, and Christian Education, as well as members of the session and the deacon board.

Members, we encourage you to join us in this effort as we provide some tasty sandwiches and delicious cold drinks to passers-by. We'd like a strong presence to show Hackettstown what this congregation is all about. Please say yes!



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GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

It is with a sad heart that we learned of the passing of Muriel Stellingwerf on Monday, April 7th. She was 96. She is the daughter of the late Cecil and Dorothy (Bunning) Kuver.

Muriel graduated from Tenaflly High School and then attended Berekley Secretarial School. She began her career at Mack Trucks in New York City and she retired in 1993 from the International Group as an administrative assistant to the CEO.

She enjoyed traveling, knitting, gardening, counted cross stitch, playing Scrabble and being social with everyone.

Muriel was pre-deceased by her husband Roy Stellingwerf, son Roy Stellingwerf, Jr., sister, Doris Stellingwerf, and son-in-law, Peter Bianco.

She is survived by two Daughters, Susan Stellingwerf and fiancé Kevin Bluett, Ellen Bianco, four grandchildren: Scott Todd, Matthew Todd, Kimberly Todd, Paige Bianco, four great-grandchildren: Spencer Davis, Logan Todd, Jaclynn Todd, and Lincoln Todd.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Shriners Hospital or Suncrest Hospice.

Funeral arrangements were held at Cochran Funeral Home, Hackettstown, NJ.

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



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2: Jessica Dartnell
- 6: John Mark Wojcicki
Addison Stymacks
- 8: Nellie Creager
- 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



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
- 30: Ted & Brenda Zellars

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Eugenie Chetangie
Churches throughout
the U.S.
College Students graduating
from university
FPCH and Friends of
FPCH
Dan Gardner
Terry Gretchen
Joan Grover
Barbara Hall
Maikuu congregation,
Kibwezi Kenya
Members of the Armed Forces
Barbara Pace, niece of the
Prestopines
Alice Phoebus
Jim Simmons
Carol Spitzer
Stellingwerf Family
The food insecure
The homeless
Those struggling with
addictions and mental health
Those recovering from surgery
Those traveling
Richard Westby

