

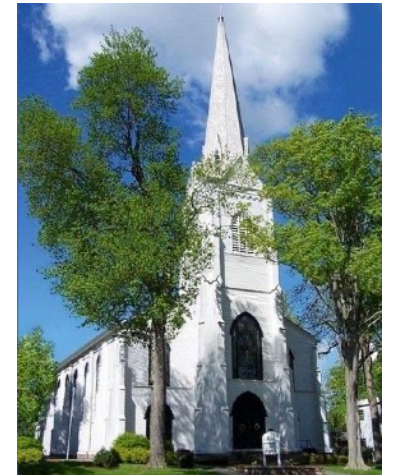
**First Presbyterian
Church
298 Main Street**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
298 MAIN STREET
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ 07840
REV. ERIN HAYES-COOK
OFFICE: 908-852-4011
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Church website,
<http://www.fpchackettstown.org>
Editor: MaryAnn Simmons
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**SEPTEMBER
2026**



*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: Jackie Hammel
Financial Secretary: Deborah Gulick-Shepherd
Head Usher: Kim Newton
Church Secretary: Pattie Huff

2026 SESSION

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Bill Cors	Michele Cameron	Gilbert Anyangwe
Geof Gohlich	Pete Miller	Della Irby
Sharon Heil	MaryAnn Simmons	

Clerk of Session: Donna Erickson

2026 BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Jackie Hammel	Dennis Huff	Patricia Butts
Kathy Maier	Jose Irby	Karen Cramer
Lorinda Ravo	Jean Zetterberg	James Tischler

Moderator: Lorinda Ravo

2026 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 Members!

Summer is now over and the Fall is about to begin. I want to wish our students a great start to a school year, whether they are moving on to grade school, middle school, high school, or college, and remind them that our Sunday school classes will also begin this month.

We had a very enjoyable summer - one filled with a lot of activity, including Second Sundays, special music from guests, our monthly community dinners, and most importantly, the completion of multiple projects around our building, including new windows, new security measures, a newly paved parking lot, and new drainage system. You can see many of those highlights in the photos provided throughout this issue. You can also read about some of them in the various articles in this edition of *Light from the Steeple*. In addition, our very own Pastor Erin enjoyed 2-1/2 weeks as a guest speaker/moderator in Montreat, NC working with youth from around the United States. Be sure to read her article about the great experience she had there spreading the word of the Bible to thousands of teens.

Speaking of teens, FPCH is getting ready to sponsor a monthly Youth Group activity for kids in grades 8-12. Parents, you should be receiving an email from the church providing details, and we are hopeful that our first event will be on October 16th at the Chapel.

I hope you all had a restful summer and enjoyed some “me time” or time with family before you head back to your regular routine.

Yours in Christ,

MaryAnn Simmons

DATES TO REMEMBER - SEPTEMBER 2026

- 01: PLEFF Dinner - 6:30 PM at The Smashed Olive, Rte 31, Washington Township
- 02: Yarn Girls - 1 PM in the Conference Room
- 03: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 06: Worship and communion - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook
- 07: Happy Labor Day!
- 08: Deacon’s Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 10: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 12: Men’s Breakfast - 8:15 AM - at the Chapel; Ladies’ Breakfast - 9 AM - at the River Star Diner
- 12: Community Dinner - 5:30-7 PM at the Chapel
- 13: Worship - 10 AM; baptism; livestream through Facebook; first day of Sunday School; Blessing of the Backpacks; church picnic after worship in the parking lot
- 13: Happy Grandparents’ Day!
- 15: Stated Meeting of the Presbytery 10 AM - hybrid meeting
- 15: Session Meeting - 6:30 PM, in the Conference Room
- 17: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 18: Set up of Free Market - 12 - 6 PM at the Chapel
- 19: Deacons’ Free Market - 10 AM - 2 PM at the Chapel
- 20: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 22: Ladies Who Lunch - 12 PM at The TapHouse Grille, Rte 57, Mansfield
- 24: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 27: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship



A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Praise to God who created us for community and who created us to wander and wonder in our faith. I was blessed to serve at Montreat Conference Center, at their Youth Conference for high school students. We welcomed over 1500 youth over the course of two weeks. These high school students came from all over the country to share in worship, keynote, games and small groups. I worked with the planning team that included two directors and one young adult and adults assigned to each of the areas of ministry.

Montreat is not only a conference center but it is a small beautiful town nestled in the Black Mountains that boasts of streams and trees. Montreat is also a small Christian college that has supported education for many years. The conference center is open all year long to groups and individuals who attend various retreats and conferences.

It is a privilege to share leadership with young adults who are excited about God and serving youth. Their energy is contagious as they share joy and the excitement of that space. Our theme “Wonder and Wander” helped us remember that God is a wonderful wanderer who calls us to ask questions about our faith, to know that we can never wander out of God’s grace, and that we are to go about this wondering together.

Through music, skits, movie clips, and yes, creating a playroom on stage, I had the tremendous opportunity to hold space for the Holy Spirit and remind them that God invites us to be part of God’s playroom- the world. It was amazing to see what happened when youth were given the permission to play with scripture, to ask questions and recognize that a life of faith is really about the wonder of God. The days were very long but the community, creativity, and spirit were palpable everywhere you went. I have included a few pictures of the journey in another section of this publication.

Pastor Erin

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

Hi, all. This is a sincere "Welcome Back to Sunday School" for 2026-27. Please know that we have 24 students on our rosters for Sunday School this year, and to that end, we are excited to introduce our teachers for the upcoming year.

Mrs. Emily Tischler will be teaching our students in grades PreK-1; Mrs. Betsy Hanson and Miss Nadia Hanson will once again work with our students in grades 2-4; and Mr. John Mark Wojcicki will be teaching our students in grades 5-7. We will not have a confirmation class this year. We will consider a confirmation group next year, but more details will follow once the Christian Education Committee meets to discuss this opportunity.

Please know that Sunday School lessons will commence on Sunday, September 13th. Parents, you should have received a letter from the church office which provides you with forms - student information, permission slips for activities outside of the church, and a health information form - to complete and bring to church on or before the first day of Sunday School. In addition, we will have the blessing of the backpacks for all students and educators on September 13th.

If you have any questions regarding Sunday School activities, be sure to contact MaryAnn Simmons, Christian Education Liaison for the Session, or Pastor Erin.

CALLING ALL EDUCATORS

What a blessing to know that our Children's program is growing! We are in need of another teacher for our PreK-1 grade class. We will provide the curriculum. You would spend one-two hours per week prepping for a 45 minute Sunday School lesson for grades PreK-1. We would love to have someone join current teacher Emily Tischler to teach two weeks per month. If you are compassionate, flexible, understanding, creative and patient, then we hope to connect with you. Please respond to fpchnj@gmail.com or reach out to Pastor Erin or MaryAnn Simmons.

PASTOR ERIN MODERATES AT MONTREAT, NC

ADDRESSES THOUSANDS OF TEENS FROM ACROSS THE US:
WITNESS HER TRIP THROUGH PHOTOS



This is an image of the communion table decorated from the stage for one morning. We learned about the story of Hagar, and the book *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker.



Anderson Auditorium where worship and keynote are held.



This is the team I got a chance to work with, including the preacher Daniel Heath and our musician Paul!



These pictures are of candlelight service where everyone comes around Lake Susan on Friday nights. We light candles and sing praise songs and send people home in prayer. The other photo is of me on stage sharing about the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch and our baptism.

MUSIC ENSEMBLES ARE RETURNING

BY: LORINDA RAVO

After the summer “hiatus,” our music ensembles are returning to rehearsals and performances. Our Senior Choir began their rehearsals on Thursday, August 27, and will sing for the first time in church on September 13.

There are NO auditions for the choir - all are welcome to be part of the group. And we completely understand busy schedules: if you can’t make a rehearsal, or even a Sunday when the choir sings in church, that’s fine. The choir will sing, on average, two Sundays a month. This year, as often as possible, the Senior Choir will be singing on the first and third Sunday of each month.

We have a robe for you. We have music for you. We even have a seat for you. If you have any questions, just check with Lorinda.

Our FPCH Ringers still have a couple of spaces to fill this year. We’re happy to welcome anyone who wants to try ringing (hint: it’s lots of fun!). No experience is necessary - we’re happy to teach you, so if you think you might be interested, come to the music room at 6:30 on August 27 (or any Thursday after that!) and we’ll get you started. As often as possible, the FPCH Ringers will be ringing on the Second Sunday of each month for the 2026-27 season.

Our children’s ensembles, Joyful Noise Bells and Unity Chimes, will begin their rehearsals following Sunday School on September 20. Joyful Noise kids who are in kindergarten and up are welcome to join the group. Unity Chimes are for grades 3 and up. See Lorinda for more details.



SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 3rd IS OUR CLOTHING DRIVE

Attention all FPCH members. Now is the time to start cleaning out your closets to make room for those new school clothes for the kids, new seasonal outfits, or new work attire. Remember to put those unwanted clothes into bags and drop them off for our second clothing drive of the year.

All clothing, accessories, towels, sheets, belts, scarves, hats, jackets are welcome. Shoes should be put into their own bags. We also accept stuffed toys, bicycles, car seats, and toys smaller than 2 feet high.

All items may be dropped off and placed in the garage at any time - just remember you need to go into the office to access the key to the garage. If you cannot drop them off early, you may drop off the items on Tuesday, September 29th between 5:30 and 7 pm when the Deacons will gladly accept your material, or you can drop them off on the day of the drive by 9 am before the truck arrives. As always, thank you in advance for your donations.

SEPTEMBER GREETERS

Sept 6: Bruce and Ellen Bergman

Sept 13: Jose and Della Irby

Sept 20: Pete and Carol Miller

Sept 27: Mark and Winnie Slatchetka

† GREETER

FPCH SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

July and August were fun months of wonderful celebrations: celebrating our children, recognizing Bev Saunders for her gardening skills on the church grounds, collection of backpacks and supplies, music events, and welcoming new member Ryan Hall. Photos courtesy of MaryAnn Simmons.



NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

By PAT BUTTS

The Deacons will be holding our Free Market on Saturday, September 19th from 10-2 in the chapel and drop off for items will be on Friday, September 18 from 12-6. All help is welcome! This is our only drop off time so we ask that you DO NOT drop off items in advance in the garage as we will then have to transport them to the Chapel before the Free Market. Thank you. More information is in this newsletter.

We will be collecting prescription eyeglasses, reading glasses, "cheaters", prescription and non prescription sunglasses and glasses frames. A collection box will be in a prominent location in the church. All donations will be taken to Vision Associates of Hackettstown, who partners with the Lions Club to provide glasses to people in need. (NOTE: No cases for glasses will be accepted.)

We will also be collecting hearing aids that will be sent to a center in North Kansas City, Missouri. The hearing aids are cleaned, repaired and given to hearing impaired people who might not otherwise be able to purchase them.

In August, The Deacons purchased 3 LifeVac anti-choking devices - one for the Chapel, one for the church and one for the nursery school. The one for the church is located by the defibrillator.

Additionally, we will be surveying the congregation to see if there is an interest in large print copies of the scripture lessons for Sunday worship.

As always, we continue the work for the Little Pantry. A collection box is always in the front of the sanctuary or you can talk to a Deacon if you have any questions. Your support is amazing.

We would also like to thank the Yarn Girls for their contributions of prayer shawls which we have again donated to the Hackettstown Rescue Squad to comfort patients.

Finally, remember that our Fall clothing drive will take place on October 3rd. See the article within this newsletter for more information.

As always, the Deacons thank you for all of your generous support of our missions.



MORE SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy these photos from our Community Dinner held on August 8th. Our committee served 23 people and then offered a few meals to our guests who meet regularly for their monthly meeting on the second Saturday of the month. Photos courtesy of Ellen Bergman. Other highlights include blankets given to our first year college students, Sophie Russell and Ryan Chetangie. Photos courtesy of MaryAnn Simmons.



BEST'S FRUIT FARM DONATES FLOWERS TO FPCH's BOTANICAL STOP SIGN.

BEV SAUNDERS PLANTS, TENDS THEM WITH CARE

BY: BEVERLY SAUNDERS AND MARYANN SIMMONS

As the congregation may be aware, many improvements have been taking place on the grounds of FPCH. Our parking lot is newly paved, we have corrected our drainage system around the church, we have transformed the old paved area on the side of the church into grass, and we have creatively, artistically, removed the yellow "horse" that previously indicated the end of our driveway and replaced it with a bollard (berm) planted with flowering annuals.



John Mark Wojcicki selected the plants at Best's Fruit Farm, Diane Hull transported them to our church, and I, Beverly, planted them. The plants are Angel Face Super Blue a.k.a. angelonia angustifolia, and Sweet Caroline Sweetheart, a.k.a. ipomoea baratas. Angel Face is tall, 30" to 40," with medium blue flowers. Sweet Caroline Sweetheart is a dark brown vine with creamy pink flowers. Both plants are heat tolerant sun lovers, do not require deadheading, have normal watering schedules, and are expected to last until the first hard

frost.

It's such a peaceful feeling to add another special touch to our church grounds . . . it's like saying to God "We want to offer our best."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

SOPHIE RUSSELL TAKES MISSION TRIP TO EL SALVADOR

BY: SOPHIE RUSSELL

During the month of July, I had the opportunity to travel to El Salvador with seven other people from Camp Johnsonburg in a partnership with Living Waters for the World. The organization collaborates with local networks, international mission teams, and groups like Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to install clean water systems and provide health education. I spent 5 days, from July 21-26, in Santa Ana and Camino Al Rey.

I reflected upon three words after I thought about this trip. The first word that came to mind was community. Whether it was learning Salvadoran slang with the new friends I made, helping fill and distribute purified water, or playing games with everyone, I felt a strong sense of community through all of it. The love was so surreal and radiated so strongly that I never once felt isolated or like an outsider.

The second word that described this experience was God. I felt closer to God because the people we were with had strong faith and demonstrated their beliefs through everyday actions. They cared so much about their peers and welcomed us with open arms which is exactly what God would want us all to do. A couple of the nights there, my group reflected on the day and had devotions. We sang songs, prayed, and read Bible verses. In those moments I could feel God's power after remembering small moments throughout the day, especially thinking about how almost every person we met introduced themselves first by saying "dios les bendiga", which means "God bless you."

Finally, gratitude popped into my mind. I was extremely grateful for all that I experienced and also saw how grateful each person there was for the smallest things. I was grateful to see such beauty when hiking the volcano, to eat their delicious food that they served us, and grateful for my life back home because I often realized how I take so much for granted. Brushing my teeth with tap water and drinking it whenever is such a blessing that I think we all don't recognize enough. I saw lots of gratitude in the community there too. For example, when we taught them songs, hung out with them, or simply showed up, they were all so grateful and expressed it so much. They also all find joy in the little things which was a great reminder for us to do the same as we go through our everyday busy lives. Coming back from this amazing opportunity made me think of these 3 words that opened my eyes to different lifestyles, strengthened my faith, and allowed me to take away new experiences that I will never forget.

EL SALVADOR HIGHLIGHTS

Below are highlights from the trip five students and three adults from Camp Johnsonburg experienced during the month of July. Photos courtesy of Sophie Russell and Elise Bates-Russell.



GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

This month we mourn the loss of Louis Bartku - age 69 (June 13), Alice Phoebus - age 99 (July 8), and Richard Gerber - age 90 (July 14).

Louis Bartku was the beloved husband of Gwenn Bartku, who left her position as PReK-1 grade Sunday School teacher to take care of him who was dealing with multiple health issues.

Alice Phoebus passed away at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center. She was a long time member of FPCH.

Richard Gerber was a US Army veteran who served during the Korean Conflict. He and his wife Elizabeth were the proud foster parents of 22 children over the years. He is the brother of Dorothy Westpy.

Be sure to send your condolences to family members.

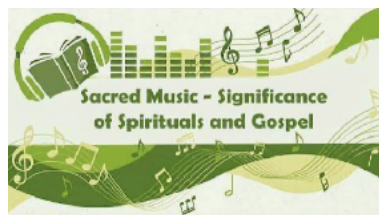
We give thanks to the God of the Resurrection whose love brings us hope every day.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC THIS YEAR

BY: LORINDA RAVO

Last year, our children were learning songs taken directly from scripture, helping them learn both beautiful songs AND information about the Bible.

This year, we'll be introducing our kids to a quintessential American music: spirituals. Many of these will be familiar to the congregation, and I'm excited to help our children learn these beautiful and meaningful songs. Our first song for the month of September will be "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."



MUSIC NOTES

BY: LORINDA RAVO

In September, our music during the service will be:

Sept. 13: Praise the Lord Together Senior Choir
Jubilant Peal FPCH Ringers

Sept. 20: Heleluyan Senior Choir

Sept. 27: TBA



**THANKS TO OUR SUMMER SOLOISTS AND
OUR CONGREGATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT**

BY: LORINDA RAVO

This summer, we were blessed with an abundance of musicians providing our anthems during Sunday morning worship services. Three of our performers - Violet Tischler, Angel Anyangwe, and Harper Ravo - came from our Sunday school program. The support of our congregation means the world to me and provides a wonderful start for these young musicians as they begin to perform. It takes a lot of courage to do what these kids did for us this summer, and I am so grateful that all in the congregation who heard them responded so positively to their performances.

We were also fortunate enough to have Mrs. Michelle Littwin, Ms. Blessing Anyangwe, Mrs. Ved Fernandez and Mrs. Karen Cramer, provide special music during one of our summer services. I extend my thanks to all of these musicians for filling our Summer Sundays with beautiful music!

Please be sure to see the Summer Highlights for photos of these special performances.



FREE MARKET TO OCCUR ON SEPTEMBER 19th

Everyone likes to go shopping, but it is more enjoyable when you don't have to spend a penny. This year, on Saturday, Sept 19th from 10 am to 2 pm, the Deacons will be holding their Free Market, which is a giant garage sale without any price tags assigned to the merchandise. This event is open to the public, and that includes our congregation members.

You will be able to find many household goods, antiques, jewelry, clothing, handbags, silverware, dishes, pots and pans, holiday decorations, pictures, paintings, artwork, toys, craft supplies, lamps, games, linens, kitchenware, comforters, sporting goods, and small working appliances.

The Deacons will be setting up for this event on Friday, Sept 18th, from noon to 6 PM, so if you are willing to assist with this process, they will be very appreciative of any time you can devote to this activity. Many hands make light work, so please feel free to join us allow for a quicker set up. Then, on Saturday, they could also use your assistance to help the public bag the items they wish to take.

Thanks in advance from the Deacons. We hope to see you at the Chapel on either or both days.

CONGREGATION PROVIDES 57 FILLED BACKPACKS

BY: DONNA ERICKSON

Thank you to everyone who donated backpacks and school supplies. As a result of your generosity, we delivered 57 filled backpacks to the Warren office of NJ Department of Children and Families for distribution to needy children in the county. Thank you for your continued support of this mission.



MEET YOUR DEACONS AND ELDERS

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

This month, meet **Jose Irby** (Board of Deacons, Class of 2027) and **Della Irby** (Session Elder, Class of 2028).

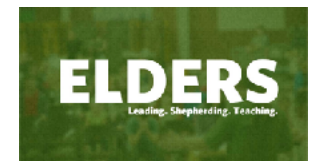
Jose A. Irby was born and raised in Markham, Illinois, a South Suburb of Chicago, as one of 13 children in a close-knit Baptist family. He accepted Christ and was baptized at age 12, and his faith has guided him ever since. After high school, he served in the US Army in Berlin, Germany c/94th Field Artillery (Berlin Brigade) where he also boxed and ran track for the Army team.



As a disabled veteran, he devoted much of his life serving others through nonprofit organizations. He moved to New Jersey where he and his wife Della were married, although they had met many years earlier while he was serving in Berlin. Years later, God brought them back together. Together they found FPCH and it became their spiritual home. Jose is thankful for the friendships, encouragement, and opportunities to serve alongside his church.

Della Irby was born in Berlin, Germany, to a German mother and an American father who was stationed there as a U.S. soldier. She and her brother were raised by their mom, and Della spent the greater part of her life in Berlin.

She married for the first time in 1978. She is a mom to six adult children—four sons and two daughters—and “Omi” to eleven beautiful grandchildren. Four of her children live in the U.S., while two returned to Germany with their families, which often gives Della the wonderful opportunity to go back “home” for a visit.



In 1985, Della committed herself to Christ, a decision that profoundly transformed the direction of her life. In 1998, she felt God's clear leading to move to the United States. Leaving Germany and immigrating with her children was the biggest challenge of her life. The cultural shock, unfamiliar surroundings, and hurdles of starting anew were immense, yet they marked the beginning of a new chapter filled with growth and opportunity.

Finding the right job in New Jersey was not easy, but since 2003, she has been serving as the Assistant and HR Administrator to the superintendent at a Jewish Day School in West Orange—a role that has been deeply rewarding.

Della has been living in Hackettstown since 2010, a town she has grown fond of. In 2020, she married her second husband, Jose Irby, who had moved here from Chicago. Together, they began attending FPCH in early 2022 and have since become actively involved in the life of the church. Jose serves as a deacon, and Della was recently ordained as an elder. Together, they look forward to continuing their service and making a positive impact in the church community.

Thank you, **Jose and Della**, for your dedication to our church.

Sharing God's Bounty

The Exalted State of Servanthood

Martin Luther, as professor of theology in the 1500s wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Perhaps those two sentences appear at first to be contradictory. What Luther was trying to help us understand is that we, as Christians, are called to freedom from an obligation to serve, but that we are called to the freedom to serve joyfully.

This call to joyful servanthood is understood and often scoffed at, simply because we have confused servanthood with servitude. Servitude conveys the idea of bondage and even slavery. Servanthood, on the other hand, connotes voluntary service, joyful giving of ourselves, a willing choice to help others, and selfless commitment.

One who is involved in servitude serves unwillingly out of a sense of fear and has no hope of entering into a different state, while one involved in servanthood lives in an exalted state, a healthy and uplifting climate of helping others. Even though challenges must be overcome and problems may abound, the joy of servanthood is the overriding experience.

How do we get from a state of servitude to a state of servanthood? This transition is made when we properly understand the Word of God which clearly defines servanthood by explaining Christ's purpose in coming to Earth: ". . . *the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*" (Matthew 20:28). Jesus has lived the perfect life of the servant in our places, so we no longer are constrained to try to "measure up" to what God expects. The Law never saves, never enables us, only shows us our shortcomings.

When we look at Christ, though, and how he lived his earthly life and what he has done for us, we are freed to respond with heartfelt, sincere, loving service to those he has placed around us. The acts of service we render are the same; the motivation and attitude are what make the difference. Through Christ, we are elevated to the exalted state of servanthood.

Time is a gift that is given to man.

We are to use it according to God's own plan.

To each he gives a measured amount; to each a directive to make it count.

Spend this gift wisely. Develop life's plan to the Glory of God and the Service of Man.

G.R.O.W. TEAM NEWS

BY: BILL CORS

A "HEARTFELT" THANK YOU!

Because of the amazing generosity of so many in our congregation community, FPCH now has a safe and dry space for the education of our next generation and an aesthetically pleasing and remarkably safe entrance to our property through the newly repaved parking lot.

We are truly blessed that in eight short weeks, the entire amount needed to cover these projects was not only raised but exceeded the goal! We should all feel "great" to be part of such a dynamic and caring community.

The drainage work occurred first and addressed the recurring pooling of water and flooding of our lower annex level used for both Sunday School activities as well as by the Heaven Sent Pre-school. Coincident with that project was the installation of safety bollards to protect the children playground behind the annex and to prevent unsafe access down the east side of the church.

In early August, the milling, resurfacing and line painting of the parking lot was completed in 2 days! It was truly a wonder to watch the coordinated efforts of the contractors as they went seamlessly about their work. It was a fine-tuned orchestra carrying out its program without skipping a beat.

By the grace of God, our congregation came together and funded these necessary repairs to insure a safe and pleasing part of our campus and to carry out our mission for the community. What is even more remarkable, this was all done through a turbulent time characterized by economic uncertainty. The GROW Team wishes to acknowledge and deeply thank everyone for their support to insure that FPCH is in a position to continue to be able to carry out its mission for now and generations to follow.



SUMMER SECOND SUNDAYs

JULY EVENT FOCUSED ON MAKING SOMETHING NEW OUT OF SOMETHING OLD BASED ON 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LORINDA RAVO



AT THE AUGUST EVENT, KIDS ENJOYED 4TH ANNUAL SUPER SOAKER SUNDAY.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LORINDA RAVO



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3: Della Irby
- 5: Katy Groover
- 7: Janette Hendershot
Ryan Chetangie
- 9: Anthony Venturini
- 12: Ellen Bergman
- 14: Annie Smith
- 15: Jen Aquino
- 16: Kim Ligarzewski
Anabeth Fernandez
- 18: Teresa Collina
- 23: Cassie Ravo
- 24: Paul Sobolewski
Barbara Yankiv
- 26: Lila Roguso
- 28: Torey Ravo
- 29: Sandy Lindstedt



*** I apologize for missing Jonathan Gohlich's birthday on July 2 in the previous newsletter**

WE CELEBRATE YOUR DAY WITH YOU!

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Eugenie Chetangie
Churches throughout the U.S.
Pam Covert
Shirley DeLoia, sister of Phyllis
Prestopine
FPCH and Friends of FPCH
Our Sunday School
Teachers, assistants, and youth leaders
Dan Gardner
Pat Gohlich
Dick Gregory
Terry Gretchen
The Hackettstown Community
The Immigrant Community
Barbara Hall
Maikuu congregation,
Kibwezi Kenya
Members of the Armed Forces
Barbara Pace, niece of Phyllis
Prestopine
The Phoebus Family
Sientje Smith
Rayman Sookhoo and the Sookhoo Family
Carol Spitzer
Students returning to school
Teachers, aides, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, principals, cafeteria staff, school nurses
The food insecure
The homeless
Those struggling with addictions and mental health
Those recovering from surgery
Those traveling
Dorothy Westpy and family

