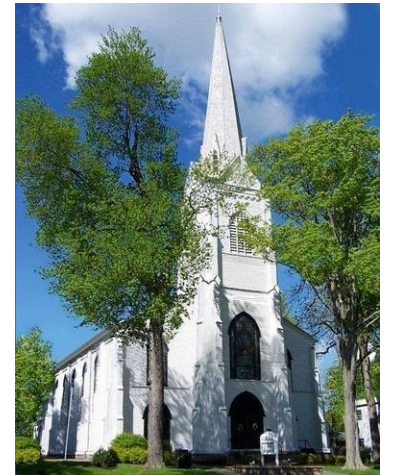


**First Presbyterian
Church
298 Main Street**

**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
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**OCTOBER
2024**

*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

2024 SESSION

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Bruce Bergman	Donna Erickson	Bill Cors
Michele Cameron	Diane Hull	Geof Gohlich
MaryAnn Simmons	Ray Sookhoo	Sharon Heil

Clerk of Session: Donna Erickson

2024 BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Pat Gohlich	Ellen Bergman	Jackie Hammel
Janette Hendershot	Patricia Butts	Kathy Maier
Justin Simmons	Carol Miller	Lorinda Ravo

Moderator: Ellen Bergman

2024 HEAVEN SENT NURSERY SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICE: 852-2006

Director: Jen Bujno

Pam Venturini	- 2025	Pat Butts	- 2026
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!

Pastor Erin has challenged us to discover how God is working in our lives...to determine ways that have we are disciples of Jesus.

Take a look around you and see how you fit within our church community. Do you assist others in their daily lives? Do you help during a mission the Deacons hold throughout the year? Do you bring a small donation for the pantry when you can? Do you sign the cards each week for members of our church who are not well or homebound? Do you reach out to a friend or a stranger in need? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, then you are a disciple of Jesus. You live a life as Jesus preached: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).

I know that all of you are leading a good and faithful life as witnessed through all that I have published in this newsletter. Read through these pages and see where you have been a disciple and shown love toward others. Read through these pages and find something that connects you to a mission you are passionate about. Maybe you can find it in your heart to donate to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help victims of Hurricane Helene. I know that you are able in mind or spirit to meet this challenge and take up the cross for others.

May you all feel the strength of our Lord Jesus as you continue on your journey to make our church community a place where you feel comfortable and where you can continue to grow as one of Jesus' disciples.

Until next month...

Yours in Christ,
MaryAnn Simmons

DATES TO REMEMBER - OCTOBER 2024

- 02: Yarn Girls - 1 PM - Conference Room
- 03: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 06: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 06: Worship and communion - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 07: PLEFF Dinner - 6 PM at Terranova Pizzeria Trattoria, Panther Valley Mall
- 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 AM - at the Chapel
- 12: Community Dinner - 5:30-7 PM, at the Chapel
- 13: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 13: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 13: Second Sunday -11:30-1:30 PM at the Chapel - Eyes of the Wild
- 15: Deacon's 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
- 19: Fall Work Day at the church - 9 AM-12 PM; See Diane Hull if interested
- 19: Ladies' Breakfast - 9 AM - River Star Diner
- 19: Confirmation Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg, 10 AM - 4 PM
- 20: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 20: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 22: Session Meeting - 6:30 PM, in the Conference Room
- 22: Ladies Who Lunch-12 PM at Panther Valley Pub
- 24: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 27: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 27: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 31: Happy Halloween

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:16).

What made you become a disciple of Jesus? Each of us carries a story with us about when and why we decided to follow after Jesus. In the life of the church we have the beautiful opportunity to see the growth of faith in people, whether it is promising to help teach little babies about faith, hearing about the lives of our confirmation students, welcoming a young adult who has deep questions, or learning about the legacy of faith in our life time members of the community. Within all of these stories are the seeds of faith that lead us to growth.

I know that growing in faith can be fun, as we seek new understandings of who God is and see God at work. It is humbling to see how God moves in our lives. On the other hand, it can be hard to grow. We all, including me, find it comfortable to just stay where we are because it is familiar. When we take that first step towards growing our feet might be a little unsure. We might need to grow a new muscle for caring or seeing a new way. You see, the thing about muscles is that in order for them to grow you need to stretch and strengthen them. While you do that you are breaking down the muscle and building it back up. What in our lives or community needs to be broken down and built back up again?

As we grow in a community of faith, I encourage you to listen for the stories of how people are following after Jesus. Perhaps you may find a message of God's consistent love for us. And who knows what muscles God is strengthening in us? I know that God is ready, willing, and able to do far more than we can imagine.

In Christ,

Pastor Erin

BOOKS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

This month I offer you books about faith and love and the challenges one encounters while taking this journey.

Christy Lefteri's novel *A Watermelon, a Fish, and a Bible* is a heart-warming tale about Koki, whose hometown is invaded by a Turkish army during July 1974. She falls in love with an enemy soldier who is now searching for her.

Pastor Erin frequently mentions Anne Lamott in her sermons, so I chose one of her books which helps readers of all ages understand how one arrives at a generous life of faith. This autobiography, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*, shows us how Lamott comes to believe in God.

Rev. Janette Hile recommended this Mitch Albom book to me two years ago, and I loved it. *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* is the story about men who survive a shipwreck in the middle of the ocean and meet a "stranger" who offers them faith of survival. Give this book a try. Albom never disappoints.

Try these books. You will appreciate all that you will learn about life, love, and faith.

KIDS' CHALLENGE IN OCTOBER

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

Hi, Kids. I know that a few of you took up some of the challenges offered in September, so I thought I would share a few more for this month. Below is a list of special days of celebration. Let's see how many of these you can complete. Be sure to find me in church and tell me all about them.

Oct 1: International Day of Older Persons: I challenge you to find a person who is as old as your grandparents and offer to assist them in some way. Maybe take out the garbage, rake their lawn, or read a story to them.

Oct 4: World Animal Welfare Day: On this special day for animals, consider visiting an animal shelter to give a pet company or even donating a can of pet food to our Little Pantry. You will make a pet happy.

Oct 5: World Teacher's Day: While at school, say something nice to your teachers to make them smile. Maybe, create a card telling them how you enjoy their class.

Oct 15: World Students' Day: Find a classmate who may not be your friend, and offer some kind words of encouragement.

I hope you have fun with these activities... and remember to tell me all about your experiences.

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some of the highlights of our September worship services, the Free Market, the shawl dedication, and music ensembles. Other highlights from our Second Sunday can be found on page 10. Enjoy these memories.



NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

BY: JUSTIN SIMMONS

The Deacons continue to work diligently on their missions.

Recently, we received a request from the local schools for more personal care items. Drop offs occurred at the elementary schools in Hackettstown and Great Meadows.

Now that schools are in session, Centenary students have joined efforts to assist with our monthly community dinners. We will continue to build this relationship.

Our Little Pantry has received many donations from people outside the congregation. As I drive by I see boxes and bags of food items dropped off. We thank these donors for their generosity and we thank our congregation members who consistently stock the shelves and make weekly donations.

The Free Market held on September 21st was a huge success. Citizens visited the Chapel and accessed many items. People chose from clothing, home goods, tables and chairs and kitchen items, toys, and of course, diapers and wipes. Thank you for your continued support of this event.

As indicated in a separate article, our semi-annual clothing drive will take place on October 5th. If you haven't already cleaned out your closets to make space for new items, please do so before the first weekend in October.

The Deacons are reaching out to college students, members of the military, and family members or friends who struggle to get out. We plan to send cards or letters or make phone calls or visits. Please contact Ellen Bergman or a Deacon with names and we will include them in this mission.

Finally, a scout, Kyle Larga, has offered to build a pergola for the prayer garden. We are working out the details and hope to provide more news about this endeavor in the next newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support of our missions. If you have any questions or suggestions, be sure to reach out to a Deacon.

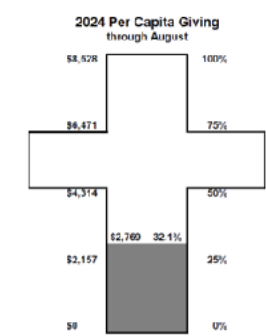
AUGUST 2024 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

BY: AL RAVO

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

	AUGUST	Year to Date
Income	\$13,786.44	\$136,013.50
Expenses Paid	\$20,986.82	\$152,999.21
Net Operating Income / (Deficit)	(\$7,200.38)	(\$16,985.71)
Amount of Schwab/Edward Jones funds used to pay operating expenses	\$ 9,000.00 \$ 0.00	\$ 9,000.00 \$ 10,000.00
Amount Needed from Endowment		

Financial Comments / Observations:



1. In August, \$9,000.00 of the \$15,000.00 received from the Charles Schwab Organ Fund cash account in July was used to pay operating expenses.
2. When the insurance carrier changed to GuideOne earlier this year, the first quarterly bill was delayed and paid in July. The next quarterly bill was paid in August. Quarterly insurance bills were paid in both July and August with the next bill due in November.
3. The five largest operating expenses in August were:
 - 1.) **\$7,682.34** – Pastoral expenses (payroll, Board of Pensions, etc.).
 - 2.) **\$5,623.38** – Insurance, liability & umbrella.
 - 3.) **\$4,281.28** – Staff payroll & payroll processing expenses.
 - 4.) **\$1,037.91** – Facilities & Maintenance, Wire's, A/C & supplies.
 - 5.) **\$490.52** – Electric expenses (3 buildings).

4. The operating net income / (deficits) were **(\$7,200.38)** in August and **(\$16,985.71)** Year To Date.
 - The actual August operating expenses were **\$1,653.49** above the average monthly budgeted expenses.
 - The actual August operating incomes were **\$3,046.89** below the average monthly budgeted incomes.
 - The Year-To-Date operating expenses were **\$1,667.46** below the average YTD budgeted amounts.
 - The Year-To-Date operating incomes were **\$1,346.83** above the average YTD budgeted amount.

CONTINUED - SEE AUGUST 2024 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

AUGUST 2024 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

CONTINUED FROM APRIL 2024 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

4. In August, the value of the MassMutual Investment accounts increased **\$6,229.71** to **\$359,143.52**.
 5. The total endowment fund at the end of August was **\$364,196.04**. The total endowment fund was up **\$6,142.35** since the beginning of August and up **\$24,530.41** since January 1, 2024.
 6. The August community dinner expenses were \$0.00. The donations collected at the dinner were \$35.00. The total cost to the church for all community dinners since September 2021 is **\$545.48**.
 7. The Men's breakfast expenses for August were \$0.00. The donations collected at the breakfast were \$0.00 because the breakfast was not held in July and August.
- The 2024 Per Capita is \$42.50 for each of the 203 members of our Church. (The number is the membership of FPCH on December 31, 2022.) The total amount due in 2024 is \$8,627.50 or \$718.96 monthly. In August, **\$0.00** was received for Per Capita leaving the total received in 2024 at **\$2,769.28** or **32.1%** of the amount due. No Per Capita payment was sent to the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ in August leaving the total sent in 2024 at **\$2,769.28** or **32.1%** of the total amount due.

BUILDING ON GENEROSITY (BOG) CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- Donations received during August, **\$35.00**.
- Total donations received from church members, non-members and anonymous from September 2019 (the BOG Kickoff dinner) through the last day of August 2024, **\$646,940.02**.
- Expenses paid using the BOG funds in August, **\$0.00**.
- Total BOG funds are **\$13,339.26**. The breakdown is **\$8,489.26** for the next BOG project with an additional **\$2,500.00** designated for parking lot pavement and **\$2,350.00** designated for the Chapel range hood replacement.
- Donations breakdown by source:
 - **5.3%** - **\$34,104.76 from nonmembers**
 - **86.1%** - **\$556,942.05 from members**
 - **8.6%** - **\$55,883.21 from anonymous & dinners**
 - **100.0%** - **\$646,940.02 Total**

Please contact Al Ravo for questions or to discuss the Church's operating finances, the Endowment Funds, Per Capita or the Building On Generosity Capital Campaign.

COLORING FUN FOR KIDS



FALL WORK DAY OCTOBER 19, 2024

Rain Date: October 26, 2024



Fall is fast approaching so it is time for our annual Fall Work Day. Please bring your gifts for raking, flower bed clean up, etc. We will be outside preparing our building and grounds for the winter months. Tools/supplies will be provided, but if you wish to bring your own, please feel free to do so. We will start at 9:00 A.M. and work until 12:00 P.M. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. Many hands make light work, so your help would be greatly appreciated! FPCH members of all ages are welcome. Any questions, see Diane Hull.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE FREE MARKET

The Deacons would like to express their gratitude to all who helped with the set up and break down of items for the Free Market. A special shout out to our youngsters who assisted.

We look forward to having another market in September, 2026.

OCTOBER GREETERS

- Oct 6:** Kathy Maier and Bev Saunders
- Oct 13:** Al and Jen Aquino
- Oct 20:** Bruce and Allen Bergman
- Oct 27:** Pat Butts and Janette Hendershot



WELCOME, CHARLOTTE BURDY D'ANDREA

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

Baptisms are always special. Sunday, Sept 29th was no exception. On that day, FPCH welcomed Charlotte Burdy D'Andrea and her family to celebrate her baptism into the church. Family and friends in attendance witnessed this beautiful celebration.

Congratulations, parents, godparents, family and friends. We at FPCH wish you well and hope that Charlotte leads a happy and healthy life as God watches over her.



MUSIC NOTES

In October, our music during the service will be:

- Oct 6: At the Table - Sr. Choir
13: Into my Heart - Unity Chime Choir
20: Hymn of Promise - Women of the Sr. Choir
Immortal, Invisible - FPCH Ringers
29: God Hears my Prayer - Joyful Noise Bell Choir
Wa Wa Wa Emimimo - Little Lights Sunday School Choir

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN

If you've been thinking about being a part of any of our music ensembles here at FPCH: Senior Choir, FPCH Ringers (adult chimes), Joyful Noise Bells (for young ringers) or Unity Chimes (for kids grade 3 and up), please be sure to speak with Lorinda for more information! People are welcome to come in and give it a try at any time throughout the year.



Sharing God's Bounty

Our Vocation as Stewards

A steward is someone who oversees the affairs for someone else. That person is a caretaker, an administrator, and a manager for an owner. In the time of Jesus, the steward represented a trusted overseer of a household. Jesus said in Luke 12:42, *"Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?"*

As God's stewards, we realize that we have been gifted with much. As recipients of God's blessings, we are managers, not owners. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:7, *"What do you have that you did not receive?"* Everything we are, have, and will be are gifts from God. We have been blessed so we can be a blessing to others. Each of us receives varying amounts of talents and treasures, but all of us are called to be faithful in the stewardship of what we receive. In the words of Jesus, *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked"* (Luke 12:48).

We are all stewards. Some of us are faithful stewards who manage God's blessings in God-pleasing ways, while others mismanage them. Others have chosen to be self-centered stewards who only serve themselves. Some of us may want to be good stewards but lack wisdom. To illustrate this point Paul Lindholm, in his book *First Fruits*, told the story about a man who on a hot summer day decided to stretch out with his pet monkey under the shade of a large tree. When a fly disturbed him, he ordered his pet monkey which was beside him to keep the fly away. The fly landed on the man's nose and the monkey killed it with a stone badly bruising his master's nose. The monkey was faithful but not wise. We can be stewards who at times will do foolish things, but because of his faithfulness, God will forgive us and give us the wisdom we need to be fruitful and God-pleasing stewards.

As God's stewards, we understand that we are on a journey with Jesus Christ to serve God's world wherever we are placed. As God sent Jesus, we are sent. We have a high vocation that requires us to have hearts filled with God's love and minds focused on God's will. As the Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:10, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."*

BILL CORS DONATES ORGAN TO FPCH

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS AND BILL CORS

FPCH has been a home of worship for Bill Cors and his family for quite some time. Because he feels like this place is family to him, and because we have such a wonderful music program here in Hackettstown, he decided to gift the church with a Conn electric console model organ.

The organ is a donation by and in memory of Sally Kotch. So there is clear understanding, this donation is to be used in any way deemed appropriate by First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown. Although Sally was never officially a "member" of the congregation, she did worship here for years. She was the mother of Barbara Cors, maternal grandmother of Mary Cors, and by virtue of marriage, Bill's mother-in-law.



Bill stated, "I would like to profusely thank Bruce Bergman, Geoff Gohlich, and Al Ravo for their help in moving an organ today (September 5, 2024) from Panther Valley to our Chapel."

This organ is well broken in. In jest, Bill added, "Lorinda, do not be surprised if it automatically starts to play some good old Baptist top-hit hymns."

Thank you, Bill, for your generous donation of this beautiful instrument. We at FPCH will use the organ well and appreciate your gift.

SECOND SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

Below are highlights (photos courtesy of Lorinda Ravo) from our Second Sunday in September which featured the parable of the Wise Man and the Foolish Man. After listening to the story, the kids then made sand art projects and enjoyed some science fun.



We have a fun change for our **October 13** Second Sunday. It's a **FAMILY** event in October! We welcome kids of ALL ages as well as all interested adults for a program presented by Eyes of the Wild. Please note: kids in Kindergarten and younger must have an adult stay with them. Live animals will be brought in for an interesting program that is educational and entertaining. If you would like to see what Eyes of the Wild is, check out their website at eyeswild.com. Lunch will be from 11:30-12:00 and the program will begin at 12:15.

To help in our planning, we request you preregister for this FREE program, and let us know if you will be joining us for lunch or arriving at noon. Questions? See Lorinda.

“WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO”

MATTHEW 6:21

BY: LORINDA RAVO

This year, our Sunday School students will become treasure hunters. We have special events throughout the year based on the Bible verse from the Gospel of Matthew. In September, we had our blessing of the backpacks. This month, we'll be introducing our Sunday School kiddos with pictures of them with their families, along with their answer to a question from their teachers. We'll be using a heart for this project, which will line the ramp hallway. Be sure to take some time to get to know our precious treasure hunters this month!

YOUTH: GET READY FOR SOME FUN ACTIVITIES

This year, our Christian Education Committee named Lorinda Ravo our Special Events Coordinator and she has been planning a number of activities for our children to attend.

One event includes a trip to Cineopolis sometime in November to a viewing of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. More information about availability for this viewing will be in our next newsletter. On December 22, we will present our Christmas play which is a “Lorinda Ravo original” and involves congregation members of all ages.

More information will follow about these two events in next month's newsletter.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO PRAY

In the 21st century, we need to get creative with helping our kids of all ages to use the tools they have at their disposal. To that end, Traci Smith adapted a special prayer from Lilly Lewin based on her “free range worship.” This practice uses the smartphone as a tool to bring focus to the prayer rather than seeing it as a distraction. ... This practice teaches how to use technology in service of spiritual practice rather than against it and is designed for ages 10+.

MATERIAL: Smartphone with at least 15 minutes of battery life remaining (preferably one smartphone per participant, but if need be, one phone per family.)

TIME INVESTMENT: 5-10 minutes

HOW TO:

1. One family member will act as the leader, and others will be participants. Rotate who serves as the leader to give everyone a chance to participate in the prayer.
2. The leader will call everyone together and explain the Smartphone Prayer. Say, “This prayer moves through five different activities on our smartphones. Each is one minute long. I will tell you what to do for each activity and then start my timer. When the timer rings, look up at me and listen for the next mission.
3. Go through the five missions as follows, making sure the leader sets his/her timer after each instruction and calls everyone back together before presenting the next mission:

*Minute 1: Go to your text messages and take a look at the last five people in the recent messages, whether they are people you text regularly or people you don’t know at all. Take this minute to pray for each of the five people listed there.

*Minute 2: Go to a news app or website and scroll through the headlines. Pray for what jumps out at you as a prayer need this day.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO PRAY

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

*Minute 3: Go to the notepad and spend this minute typing out whatever comes to mind: praise, gratitude, confession, or requests to God.

*Minute 4: Go to your favorite social media site and spend this minute praying for the people who come up on your feed during this minute.

*Minute 5: Go to your photos. Take this moment to scroll through the most recent twenty of so photos. What prayers come to mind? Lift them up to God now.

4. Follow up: After the five minute prayer is over, take a couple of minutes to talk about the activity together using one or more of the following questions:
 - a. Was there anything surprising or unusual that you heard from God when you were using your cell phone to pray to-day?
 - b. What was the most important prayer that came through today?
 - c. How can we incorporate this attitude of prayer as we use our smartphones throughout the week?
 - d. Does technology draw us closer to God or farther away?Talk about your opinion.

NOTES:

Though this practice aims to use technology as a toll for fostering and encouraging spiritual practice, I (Traci Smith) strongly encourage the practice of turning off or unplugging from electronic devices. This is a good practice during the season of Lent.

For other ways to use smartphones to build community through a prayer service for youth groups or families who are far away from one another, visit www.traci-smith.com/resources.

“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.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE - SEE TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO PRAY

CLOTHING DRIVE IS OCTOBER 5TH

BY: ELLEN BERGMAN

It's time again to start cleaning out those closets for unwanted clothing, accessories, and footwear. The Fall clothing drive will take place on Saturday, October 5th. Drop off for all items will be between 8-9 AM. If you want to drop off earlier, you can bring your items to the garage located in the church parking lot at any time or you can give your items to the Deacons on Tuesday, Oct 1st between 6-7:30 PM. We will accept bedding, curtains, towels, tablecloths, clothing, purses, hats, belts, stuffed animals and toys no larger than 2 feet tall. If dropping off shoes, please put them in a separate bag. All items will be given to families in need.

For more information, contact Ellen Bergman.

ROAST BEEF DINNER SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 19TH

BY: DONNA ERICKSON

Attention all members who enjoy a hot meal. Our annual roast beef dinner will be held in the Chapel on Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 4:30 until 7 pm. Adult tickets are \$20 and children under 12 are \$9. Dinners will be available for take out and dine in. The meal includes roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, cole slaw, roll and butter, dessert, and beverage. Tickets are available for sale after Church. Anyone who would like to sell tickets may contact Donna Erickson at 908-637-6007. In addition, we are looking for people to assist at the dinner; please express your interest on the a sign up sheet at the church prior to October 19.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Eris Bunnell
Eugenie Chetangie
Churches throughout the U.S.
FPCH and Friends of FPCH
Dan Gardner
Terry Gretchen
Joan Grover
Barbara Hall
Jose Irby
Maikuu congregation, Kibwezi Kenya
Members of the Armed Forces
Carol Miller
Barbara Pace, niece of the Prestopines
Alice Phoebus
Pam Sampson, sister of Jan Courtright
Carol Spitzer
Muriel Stellingwerf
Gail Thompson, cousin of Diane Hull
The food insecure
The homeless
Those struggling with addictions and mental health
Those recovering from surgery
Richard Westby
Barbara Yankiv

