

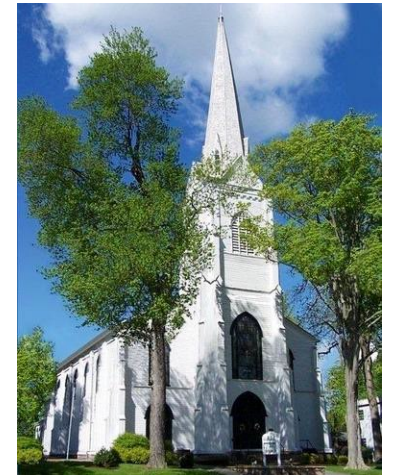
First Presbyterian
Church
298 Main Street

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
maryann.simmons3@verizon.net

**JULY/AUGUST
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

2023 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

2023 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

2023 HEAVEN SENT NURSERY SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICE: 852-2006

Director: Jen Bujno

Pam Venturini	- 2025	Pat Butts	- 2026
Kaitlyn Elliot	- HS Parent	Heather Pittman	- HS Parent
Sharon Heil - Session Rep			
Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook - Ex-Officio			

A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

Happy Summer, FPCH.

I have decided to combine July and August to make a Summer publication. Therefore, I have moved our birthday and anniversary lists to the back of the issue so that I could have everyone included on one page. I will return to our monthly issues in the Fall.

June has been a month of many activities that kept us all busy with plenty of opportunities which revealed how truly blessed this congregation is.

Our fish and chips dinner was a success. Be sure to read Donna Erickson's report in a separate article.

Most of our monthly gourmet groups will not during the summer, however, the Ladies' breakfast at the River Star Diner will continue. See our calendar of events for the dates of these meets.

In the month of June we had many celebrations within our congregation. See the separate articles regarding confirmation Sunday, Teacher and Student recognition Sunday, the commissioning of the Camp Johnsonburg Staff, and our Scout Troops' National Honor Society Induction, Order of the Arrow.

In addition, we have many activities planned for the upcoming Summer and Fall, including weekly Bible study, monthly community dinners, and the Free Market. Also, take a look at opportunities to purchase a FPCH polo shirt or access a prayer shawl or blanket made with love by our Yarn Girls.

I'd like to take the time to mention that FPCH has created a Christian Education Committee which has been meeting regularly to make decisions about our growing children's program and has begun a search for a Sunday School Teacher for grades PreK-1. I will update you in the Fall. Be sure to also take note of the financial report our treasurer Al Ravo provides on a monthly basis.

Lastly, it is with a sad heart that we recognize the passing of Edna Ort in early June. Please be sure to extend your condolences to her family.

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

Until next time...

Yours in Christ,
MaryAnn Simmons

DATES TO REMEMBER-JULY/AUG 2024

JULY:

- 01: Christian Education Committee Meeting - 2 PM in the Conference Room
- 02: Personnel Meeting - 1 PM in the Conference Room
- 03: Yarn Girls - 1 PM - Conference Room; Bible Study - 6:30 PM - Conference Room
- 04: Happy Independence Day!
- 07: Worship and Communion - 10 AM, livestream through Facebook
- 10: Bible Study - 6:30 PM - Conference Room
- 13: Community Dinner - 5-7 PM, at the Chapel
- 14: Worship -10 AM, livestream through Facebook; collecting diapers and wipes for Free Market; Second Sunday - 11:30-1 PM at the Chapel
- 17: Bible Study - 6:30 PM - Conference Room
- 20: Ladies breakfast - 9 AM at the River Star Diner, Hackettstown
- 21: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; collecting diapers and wipes for Free Market; start of school supplies collection for Backpack Program
- 24: Bible Study - 6:30 PM - Conference Room
- 28: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; collecting diapers and wipes for Free Market
- 30: International Day of Friendship
- 31: Bible Study - 6:30 PM - Conference Room



AUGUST

- 04: Worship and communion - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; collecting diapers and wipes for Free Market; National Sisters Day
- 05: Run Background Checks on all Sunday School Teachers and Volunteers
- 07: Yarn Girls - 1 PM - Conference Room
- 07: Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room
- 08: Deacon's Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 10: Community Dinner - 5-7 PM, at the Chapel
- 11: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; collecting diapers and wipes for Free Market; backpack donations end today; Second Sunday - 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- 12: World Youth Day
- 14: Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room
- 17: Ladies breakfast - 9 AM at the River Star Diner, Hackettstown
- 18: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Public Education Sunday
- 19: World Humanitarian Day
- 20: Session Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 21: Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room
- 25: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook
- 25: Youth Ministry Leadership Workshop - 2PM-6:30 PM at Camp Johnsonburg
- 28: Bible Study - 6:30-8 PM in the Conference Room

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ.

What do we **hope** for?

One morning while on my walk, I conducted a prayer meditation about **hope** for *Pray As You Go*. The person on the recorded prayer said, "Where is God acting with newness and restoration in your life and the world around you at the moment?" This is so appropriate because during the months of June and July we will be thinking about the word **HOPE**.

We find throughout the Bible words about **hope**: "God gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who **hope** in the LORD will renew their strength," Isaiah 40:29-31. We also see in Romans 8:24-25, "For in this **hope** we were saved. But **hope** that is seen is no **hope** at all. Who **hopes** for what they already have? But if we **hope** for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." We learn from Paul in the book of 1 Corinthians that love always **hopes**, always perseveres. The Psalmist writes over and over again about **hoping** in God to rescue, to forgive, to save us.

How are we living as people with **hope**? Are we living as if the resurrection **hope** offered to us is true? It is so easy to get caught up with what is in front of us and not to foster the spiritual discipline to live into the resurrection **hope**, but we miss it when we do not.

I believe that **hope** and resilience work hand in hand with one another. I believe the holy imagination of the Spirit always **hopes** for and with us. We live with that truth inside of us. Remember that **hope** is not one that is simply born out of optimism but one born out of facing the ugliest parts of our humanity and still breathing in new life. So friends, over the summer I invite you to engage the spirit and your life and ask, "What do we **hope** for? What does God **hope** for me?" Let's discover it together.

Pastor Erin

MAY 2024 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

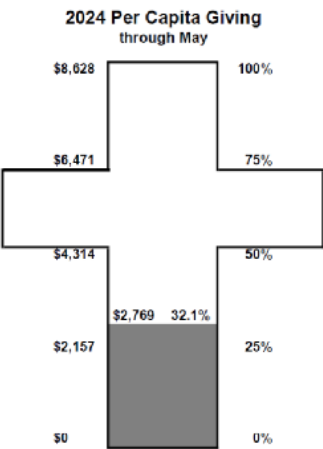
BY: AL RAVO

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

	MAY	Year to Date
Income	\$16,611.83	\$93,417.80
Expenses Paid	\$14,972.54	\$97,440.84
Net Operating Income /Deficit	\$ 1,639.29	(\$4,023.04)
Amount of Schwab / Edward Jones funds used to pay operating expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Amount Needed from Endowment	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,500.00

Financial Comments / Observations:

1. A donation from the Roger George Estate was received in May and used to pay operating expenses. Without this donation, funds would have been needed from the Endowment to pay all the operating expenses in May.



2.The five largest operating expenses in May were:

- 1.) \$7,378.77 – Pastoral expenses (payroll, Board of Pensions, etc.).
- 2.) \$4,329.72 – Staff payroll & payroll processing expenses.
- 3.) \$864.15 – Gas expenses (3 buildings).
- 4.) \$399.22 – Facilities supplies & maintenance.
- 5.) \$391.32 – Electric expenses (3 buildings).

3.The operating net incomes / (deficits) were \$1,639.29 in May and (\$4,023.04) Year To Date.

- The actual May operating expenses were \$4,360.79 below the average monthly budgeted expenses.
- The actual May operating incomes were \$221.50 below

the average monthly budgeted income.

- The Year-To-Date operating expenses were \$774.17 above the average YTD budgeted amounts.
- The Year-To-Date operating incomes were \$9,251.13 above the average YTD budgeted amount.

CONTINUED - SEE MAY 2024 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

MAY 2024 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

CONTINUED

4. In May, the value of the MassMutual Investment accounts increased \$9,832.20 to \$340,885.83.
5. The total endowment fund on May 31, 2024, was \$350,351.00. The total endowment fund was up \$10,042.96 since May 1, 2024, and up \$10,685.37 since January 1, 2024.
6. The May community dinner expenses were \$0.00. The donations collected at the dinner were \$59.00. The total cost to the church for all community dinners since September 2021 is \$727.48.
7. The Men’s breakfast expenses for May were \$8.48. The donations collected at the breakfast were \$57.00.

The 2024 Per Capita amount is \$42.50 for each member of our congregation.

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 May, \$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 May 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 May, \$0.00.
- Total donations received from church members, non-members and anonymous from September 2019 (BOG Kickoff dinner) through May 31, 2024, \$646,180.02.
- No expenses were paid using the BOG funds in May.
- Total BOG funds are \$16,258.51. The breakdown is \$11,408.51 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% - \$34,079.76 from nonmembers
 - 86.1% - \$556,232.05 from members
 - 8.6% - \$55,868.21 from anonymous & dinners
 - 100.0% - \$646,180.02 Total

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

SAVE THE DATE: FREE MARKET TO TAKE PLACE ON SEPT 21, 2024

BY: JUSTIN SIMMONS

The Deacons are proud to announce their bi-annual Free Market will take place on Saturday, September 21st between 10 AM and 5PM. People in the community will be able to “shop for free” for all types of items - trinkets, jewelry, household necessities, knick-knacks, tables and chairs, luggage.... To that end, anyone wishing to donate no longer needed or wanted items in good shape can drop them off the day (Sept 20) before between noon and 6 PM.

In addition, in an effort to provide for the less fortunate families with young children of the community, we are asking the congregation to donate diapers of any size and baby wipes, which will be distributed at this event. These donations can be dropped off in the playpen located in the sanctuary each Sunday at church before worship. Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

FPCH POLO SHIRTS AVAILABLE

BY: WINNIE SLACHETKA

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

Thank you.



WHAT ARE THE DEACONS DOING?

BY: JUSTIN SIMMONS

The Deacon Board met on June 11 and discussed many of its mission projects that have taken place over the past month and made plans for the months of July and August.

At the monthly community dinner, we dispersed four bags of personal care items. The dinner was well-attended.

The Little Pantry continues to be utilized throughout the month. Many of our Deacons assist with stocking the shelves on a regular basis and we thank others, both congregation members and nonmembers, who continue to donate their time and supplies. We also thank our faithful congregation members who donate regularly each Sunday. Each Deacon has received a \$50.00 gift card from the Deacon's treasury to purchase much needed items. Please take a look at the separate article regarding some of our needs for the pantry.

We have distributed Summer Kids Care Kits to elementary and middle schools in Great Meadows and Hackettstown.

During the summer months, we will be collecting diapers of all sizes and baby wipes to be distributed at the Free Market which will be held on Sept 21st. Please see the separate article regarding the Free Market.

Our Fall clothing Drive will take place on October 5. An extra drop-off date will be October 1st from 6-7:30 PM. More news will follow in a future newsletter.

In August, the Deacons will be making Christmas ornaments with a picture of the church and one of Geof Gohlich's stained glass pieces he made from the broken window last year.

The Deacons will resume their meetings in August, after taking a well deserved break in July.

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

FREEZER NEEDED FOR CHAPEL

As you know, each month our church community uses the Chapel to host the men's breakfast, the community dinners, and various other dinners throughout the year for fundraising opportunities.

Recently, the freezer in the Chapel broke. If anyone in the congregation has a used freezer that you are willing to donate, please see the dinner committee.

For more information, speak with Donna or Carl Erickson.

SCOUTS EARN NHS RECOGNITION

BY: JONATHAN GOHLICH

Troops 143 (girls) and 158 (boys) which the church sponsors had a great weekend May 31 - June 2, where two leaders and four scouts passed their ordeal weekend and were initiated into the Order of the Arrow, Scouting National Honor Society. Two other scouts advanced during the weekend and earned the brotherhood honor. Leaders Carl Erickson and Jonathan Gohlich were there to encourage and support the scouts.

The scouts and leaders worked on a variety of projects to improve Camp Minsi in Pocono Summit, PA including trail maintenance and improvement, getting the rifle and shotgun range ready for summer camp, and painting the shower house.



PICTURED ABOVE:

BACK ROW - KYLE LARGA, BRYCE STAGG, TOM BUCHANAN, WILL VAN DOREN, DAN LEMASTERS, ALEX MERCADO, JONATHAN GOHLICH, CARL ERICKSON
FRONT ROW - MIKE IZZO, RAEANN KOPESKI, AND ROMMEL MERCADO.

Sharing God's Bounty

Living a Stewardship Lifestyle

When we discuss stewardship, we may immediately start to think of giving our time and money. Stewardship certainly involves giving and serving, but, even more, our stewardship is incorporated into a way of life. It does not consist of just isolated events. When God's word and love fill our hearts and minds, our stewardship becomes a lifestyle. As a lifestyle, it defines who we are and what we do. It is our vocation. With transformed hearts, we express our faith in the way we live our lives. Through faith, God provides motivation and power to live the Christian life in a growing awareness of redeeming grace.

In defining stewardship, W. H. Greever wrote, "Christian stewardship is the practice of the Christian religion. It is neither a department of life nor a sphere of activity. It is the Christian conception of life as a whole, manifested in attitudes and actions." Our faithful stewardship, as it reflects God's love, becomes our approach to life. It is more being than doing. Our deeds of stewardship such as using time wisely or helping the needy arise out of being stewards. Stewards are who we are. Stewardship is a whole life response to God out of gratitude and thanksgiving for all of his love, goodness, and mercy. T. A. Kantonen wrote, "The life of stewardship is nothing less than 'total devotion' to the Christ who is known as a real, living personal presence in the hearts of believers, a genuine loyalty that is expressed not in mere opinion or sentiment but in character and conduct."

It does not take talented people to be faithful stewards, but it takes all there is of us. It takes our total commitment. Stewardship is our response to God's abundant grace in all aspects of life. This faithful stewardship is only possible when we acknowledge our sinfulness and our forgiveness through faith in Christ. God gives us faith so he can use us to carry out his plan, which is to save all people. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we acknowledge God in all things and in all places. As faithful stewards, we know that all we have belongs to him so we can give generously of our time, talents, and money.

"I have learned to manage on whatever I have. I know how to be poor and how to be rich..."

There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the one who gives me strength." St. Paul

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JULY GREETERS

JULY 7: Nellie Creager and Janette Hendershot

JULY 14: Kathy Maier and Bev Saunders

JULY 21: Pattie and Dennis Huff

JULY 28: Della and Jose Irby

GREETER

AUGUST GREETERS

AUG 4: Pat and Geof Gohlich

AUG 11: Ellen and Bruce Bergman

AUG 18: Pattie and Dennis Huff

AUG 25: Della and Jose Kirby

GREETER

FISH AND CHIPS DINNER NETS \$944

BY: DONNA ERICKSON

The Fish and chips dinner on June 15th netted a profit of \$944.47 for the church. Dinners were made available for dining in or take out. Many thanks to all who helped set up, serve, and clean up and to those who bought and sold tickets. A special shout out goes to Lila Roguso who served people at tables and provided the take out bags to those looking to pick up for home dining.

We look forward to sponsoring another dinner with Tastefully British next year sometime in the early Spring.

OUR LITTLE PANTRY NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

BY: JUSTIN SIMMONS

Our congregation has been very generous in providing food items for our pantry throughout the year, but this summer we are running low on supplies and are making a plea for items.

We are desperately in need of peanut butter and jelly and juices for kids, primarily large bottles of apple juice or Sunny D or juice boxes. In addition to juice, we can use non-refrigerated, boxed milk since many families with young children access our pantry daily. We can use various kid-friendly snacks and breakfast items like pancake mix and syrup and cereals of all kinds.

Proteins are also a product we can use, most specifically canned tuna, canned chicken, Chef-Boy-R-Dee products, and soups of any kind.

Finally, pasta and sauces are always welcome, as are macaroni and cheese and ramen noodles.

As always, the Board of Deacons thanks you for your generosity and participation in this mission. Your giving goes a long way!

CALLING ALL EDUCATORS

What a blessing to know that our Children's program is growing! For the Fall we plan to divide our children into two classes, Pre-K-1 and second through fifth grades. We are in need of



teacher(s) 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 2 committed teachers 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 fpch-nj@gmail.com or reach out to Pastor Erin or MaryAnn Simmons.

GET READY FOR SUMMER SECOND SUNDAYS

BY: LORINDA RAVO

Although Second Sunday was not held in June, we have a fun filled summer agenda for our kids during July and August.

July 14 we will have fun playing board games for our Game Day Second Sunday, and on August 11 we'll have our Third Annual Super Soaker Sunday! You won't want to miss that!



Please join us on one or both of these Second Sundays.

Once the Fall commences, we will be seeking some suggestions for our Second Sunday activities. If you happen to know of some fun activities, inform Lorinda of your recommendations.

As always, we look forward to your input and any assistance you are willing to provide on any given month.

SUNSHINE BAGS AVAILABLE ON SUMMER SUNDAYS

Did you know that each Sunday, a Sunshine Station Bag is available for kids to enjoy during worship? Filled with coloring pages, games, a craft project, crayons and a clip board, along with a special prize, they are located on the front pew for anyone to grab as they come into church. We ask that they be returned to the front pew after church so that they can be refilled for the next week.



BACKPACK PROGRAM 2024 SET TO COMMENCE

BY: DONNA ERICKSON

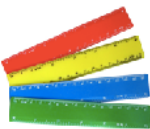
As we enter July, we need to get ready for September and the reopening of the school season. To that end, we will be collecting backpacks and school supplies from July 21st through August 11th.



We are in need of backpacks, note books (spiral-bound, 3-ring with filler paper, and composition books). Most of the children who receive the backpacks are in elementary and middle school, so we would appreciate that the notebooks and filler paper be wide-ruled. We will also be collecting rulers, glue sticks, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, zippered pencil bags or cases, crayons, colored markers, colored pencils, children's scissors, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

The filled backpacks will be distributed to families involved with the NJ Department of Children and Families in Warren County.

As always, we thank you for your generous support of this program. Any questions, contact Donna Erickson.



FPCH COMMISSIONS CAMP JOHNSONBURG STAFF

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

FPCH was honored to commission the staff of Camp Johnsonburg during worship service on Sunday, June 16th.

Elise Bates-Russell, Executive Director of the camp, introduced the staff as part of the ceremony, whose theme this summer is “Linked by Love.” As part of her introduction, she identified the camp’s motto: “Where all may gather, where all are welcomed, where all are invited to share and receive gracious hospitality, joyful Christian community, and the wonder of God’s creation.”

Bates-Russell explained how good it is to be back at FPCH where she and the camp have made longtime connections. She expressed the gratitude for being among leaders throughout the church, including camp board members, campers, alumni, and staffers, and she was pleased to honor fathers on this beautiful Father’s Day. She informed her campers, “In your effort to give, you actually receive so much more.” Members of the staff then sang a beautiful anthem “My Lighthouse” and encouraged the congregation to sing and demonstrate their love for God.



Our children of the congregation then heard a message from Chad Rodgers, Associate Director of Programs. He asked the children to consider attending the camp in the future since it instills core values of respect, diversity, beauty, creativity, collaboration, gratitude, authenticity, and adventure in all who attend. Five campers then performed a skit to demonstrate how we all have different gifts that are important to make everything in our lives work smoothly.

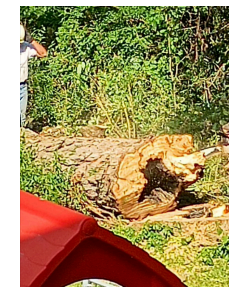
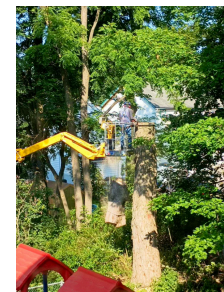


Staff members led worship with the scripture readings, followed by Pastor Erin’s sermon, and then the commissioning of the staff who come from all areas of the world.

What a blessing to witness the leaders of Camp Johnsonburg who wish to instill the love of God in all who attend this camp.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2024

We are so pleased to share the following highlights of our church worship during the month of June. Photos included from Confirmation Sunday, celebration of students and teachers, musical events, and tree felling at the Manse. Photos courtesy of Sharon Heil, Diane Hull, Lorinda Ravo, and MaryAnn Simmons,



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: A JOY TO BEHOLD

SIX TEENS JOIN THE CHURCH ON JUNE 2

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

With the arrival of June comes the arrival of new life into the church. On June 2, 2024, FPCH witnessed the confirmation of six students who asked to join the congregation through their own affirmation of faith.

Deanna Annunziata, Maddox Fucetola, Ani McDonagh, Alex Muessig, Chris Ratti, and Gabe Roguso stood before the congregation and made a vow to believe in Jesus Christ as their savior and Lord. Their mentors first introduced them and stood by their side to witness this formal introduction to First Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Erin anointed them with oil and gave them her blessing as they took the final step of their faith journey for the past 10 months. After the worship service, all joined in a mini celebration in the Narthex.

Congratulations to all of our confirmands. May you share in a blessed life of faith and happiness.



FPCH CELEBRATES ITS CHILDREN AND TEACHERS

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

Sunday school has been a blessing this year as the church has witnessed a growth in our program over the past few years. Currently, we have a total of 33 students ranging from grades PreK through 8 and the numbers will continue to grow as we have witnessed a number of families with young children requesting to join the church.

On June 9th, FPCH celebrated its children and teachers with a program that incorporated the songs and words of the children themselves, explaining what they liked most about being in Sunday School. Our youngest ones loved coloring, the 3-5th graders enjoyed the crafts, music, and friendships, and our middle schoolers liked relating to God through their studies and Pastor Erin's messages during the children's sermons.



Lorinda Ravo, alongside Pastor Erin, created a program which featured the songs the students learned during each service as they traveled to various countries and sang in various languages throughout the year. Students then received their pins and traveling passports and posed for a group photo.



Next it was time to acknowledge the 12 teachers and volunteers who were instrumental in helping these children grow spiritually. MaryAnn Simmons and Pastor Erin presented the adults with a small succulent as a token of their appreciation for all of the hard work and dedication from September through May.



A special thank you goes out to Donna Annunziata who after several years of working with the PreK-5th graders is stepping down from her position. Special thanks also goes to Erin Roguso who took on the task from March through May.

Congratulations, students and teachers, on another great year of learning about God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit. May they abide in your lives forever.

GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER



It is with a sad heart that we share with you the passing of **Edna Ort** on June 5, 2024. We ask for prayers for the family.

Edna Stanzione Ort, age 90 of Hackettstown, NJ and Key West, FL, passed away June 5th at home surrounded by her family. Edna was born 9/17/1933 in Newark, NJ. She is the daughter of the late Nicholas and Evelyn Stanzione. She is preceded in death by her husband Charles G. Ort Jr. and brother Donald.

Edna worked for the NJ Bell Company, Reaction Motors, Centenary College and retired from the Florida Keys Community College. Edna enjoyed traveling, reading, antiquing, and loved her cats.

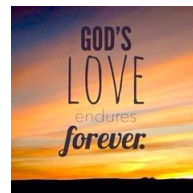
She is survived by her children Carol Miller & husband Peter, Charles C. Ort II and Christopher C. Ort. She has 4 grandchildren, Amy Miller, Daniel Ort, James Ort, and Lydia Ort. She is also survived by her sister-in-laws Joyce Berninger and Judy Ort, brothers Bob Stanzione, Richard Stanzione, Nick Stanzione, her sister Karen Tumminelli and several nieces and nephews.

Edna was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown and a 1951 graduate of Hackettstown High School.

Visitation was held on Monday, **June 10th**, 10:00-11:30 am at Cochran Funeral Home, 905 High Street, Hackettstown. A service was held 11:30 at Cochran's followed by internment at the Union Cemetery in Hackettstown.

In lieu of flowers, Edna requested that donations be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, 298 Main St. Hackettstown, NJ, 07840, Enoble Hospice Care, 700 Grand Ave., Hackettstown, NJ 07840 or St. Jude's Children Hospital.

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



BOOKS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

I encourage you to take on the challenge of Pastor Erin in her message to us at the start of this newsletter: find the HOPE in your lives and embrace it. Here are some books to consider for each age bracket.



Little Pieces of Hope by Todd Doughty and illustrated by Josie Portillo, is the perfect book for any age. It is a daily devotional designed to provide a break in a busy day to inspire readers to look for and celebrate the good things that surround us in our lives.



Hope is a Rainbow by Soda Kota and Chloe Dominique is a children's book designed to teach young readers how to reach for their dreams. It provides a lesson in optimism and what a positive outlook can bring.



Making Hope Happen by Dr. Shane Lopez. Some people manage to bounce back quickly from setbacks, to lead happy, healthy, productive lives, no matter their circumstances. These people have found a way to make good things happen even when luck isn't on their side. The secret ingredient they use to transform their lives, it turns out, is hope.

Praised as "thoughtful and pragmatic" (Publishers Weekly), Making Hope Happen is for anyone seeking a better future—for themselves, for their business, or for the world. The message is clear: Hope is a choice. Hope can be learned. Hope is contagious. Hope can change your life.

Give these titles a try. I know you will not be disappointed. Happy Reading, everyone!

SUMMER

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2: Kelsey Gulick Johnston
3: Stephen Carpenter
Al Ravo
4: Chris Bramley
6: Terry Gretchen
7: Jan Courtright
8: Linnea Pierson
9: Richard Gregory
13: Samantha Roome
14: Kaitlyn Cameron
Fred Sentner
17: Cynthia Luques
18: James Grover
Jay Grover
19: Chris Fleischman
20: Russ Reed
22: Judy Eckroth
25: Marsha Gulick
31: Jacqueline Fernandez

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

5: Ron & Deborah Shepherd
15: Al & Lorinda Ravo
18: Tim & Tracey Gelsinger
20: Ryan & Cathy VanOrden
21: Roy & Cindy Pierson
31: Jim & MaryAnn Simmons

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2: Jodie Grover
3: Emily Ligarzewski
5: Kim Newton
8: Daniel Gardner
Carl Erickson, Jr.
11: Garrett Kimble
12: Jane Petty
15: Shawn Gelsinger
Lawrence Cook
16: Barbara Hall
Emma Fraumeni
17: Donna Annunziata
19: Zayden Chetangie
21: Lucas Spranger
22: Maria Koskulics
25: Aaron Bartku
Jim Pippas

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8: Tom & Alisa Dartnell
9: Brian & Kim
Ligarzewski
11: Tony & Pam Venturini
26: Paul & Kate
Sobolewski

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Donna Annunziata
Gwenn and Louis
Bartku and the
George family
Joan Beddow
The Budd Family
Eris Bunnel
The Cameron Family
Eugenie Chetangie
Churches throughout
the U.S.
Confirmands of FPCH
FPCH
Friends of FPCH
Dan Gardner
Graduates of all grade levels -
Preschool, elementary school,
middle school, high school, and
college
Terry Gretchen
Joan Grover
Barbara Hall
Maikuu congregation,
Kibwezi Kenya

Members of the Armed Forces
Carol and Pete Miller
Barbara Pace, niece of the
Prestopines
Alice Phoebus
Sawyer, great-grandson of Dottie
Kappers
Ivy Sookhoo
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
Barbara Yankiv



PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE

Beginning June 30th and then each month there is a fifth Sunday, the Yarn Girls are making available their creations to all who desire one.

Each Wednesday of the month, the Yarn Girls meet to create prayer shawls, blankets, and crosses, among other items, to be provided for all who need comfort during a time of illness or sadness in their lives. Now, anyone who would like one of these items will have the opportunity to choose one on the fifth Sunday of each month.

For more information, contact Deb Gulick-Shepherd.