

The Beacon

I wonder what would happen if we all took a little more time to talk to God?

Love to Pray

Love to Pray is a 40-day opportunity to deepen your prayer life. As a church family we are offering you possibilities for prayer. You may choose one option or choose to participate in all 3 choices during the 40 days following Pentecost.

First choice: Pray for one person in the congregation chosen at random from a basket of names – you will add your name to be prayed for and then choose one person for whom to pray. The basket will be placed in the church parlor beginning May 5th before service and continue to receive names through the morning of Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, when those of us who choose to participate will take a name out randomly. Our shared prayer will begin on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th and continue for 40 days.

(You are encouraged to let the person know you are praying for them.)

Second choice: Observe these 40 days with a book, Love to Pray by Alvin Vandergreind. This book is a guide on this 40-day journey -- learning to love the One to whom you pray and expressing that love in a continuing dialogue with our loving God. You may read it on your own, or join a group that will discuss it on Sunday mornings. (Books will be provided)

Third choice: Pray through the 40 days using the weekly prayer focus concerns which will be in the Friday Blast announcements and the Sunday Worship Guide each week; for example: Our Pastoral Search, Local Mission, World-wide Mission, Youth Mission Trip and Vacation Bible School.

I wonder how God will use this time to prepare us for our future together?

We will gather after the completion of the 40 days of praying as a congregation – perhaps with a meal -- to share our experiences with one another.



“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

- Martin Luther

I wonder -- if we read this book together or separately -- will we discover how prayer can be a way of life rather than a duty?

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May Reminders...

- 5/5 Communion
- 5/12 Begin Drop off of items for Rummage Sale
- 5/14 Manna House Dinner
- 5/18 Rummage Sale

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024



Think about a special meal you had in the last year or two. What made it so special for you? The food? The occasion? The setting? The people around the table?

This summer we are trying something new for Vacation Bible School. As we plan, the Vacation Bible School Planning Team invites you to wonder about the questions above. ***Come to the Table*** is the 2024 VBS

theme. This “whole church” VBS is a reminder that everyone is welcome at God’s table. And so, everyone, no matter your age, is invited to “Come to the Table” on Thursdays July 18 & 25, and August 1, 8, & 15, from 5:30 -7:30 pm. Bring the whole family and join us for dinner, worship, storytelling, games, crafts and more. Look for more information in upcoming issues of *The Beacon*, on the church website and in the weekly Friday Blast.

Horizons Bible Study at Stony Point - June 20-22, 2024

Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation

We are called to care for neighbors and God’s creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society’s least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. Our leader will be the Rev. Anita R. Wright, Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Montclair, NJ. See flyer posted near church office or contact Jane MacDonald: jkmac3536@gmail.com for more information



Pentecost Special Offering Children at Risk * Youth * Young Adults

This offering unites Presbyterians in support of young people sharing their faith, ideas and gifts with the Church and the world.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church.

The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today and pointing us to the church of the future.

Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come.



Thank you to Ella Howell, Donna Kronen, Cindy Fogg, April Fisher, Mary Lou Holterman, Jane MacDonald, the Romano Family and Colleen Duffy for providing delicious goodies for coffee hour on Sunday mornings. If you would like to provide snacks for this time of fellowship, look for the sign up on the coffee table in the parlor.



Faith Formation
Class learning about
the Last Supper

SAVE THE DATE & SEND YOUR STUFF!

RUMMAGE SALE



**Saturday, May 18th
9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**First Presbyterian Church
54 High Street, Newton, NJ**

**Please call 973-383-4420 for
more information and to
schedule donation drop-off.
Please do not leave
donations outside.**

PLEASE NO...
**Mattresses, cribs, car seats,
big appliances, computers/
monitors, TVs, magazines
or encyclopedias.**

SUGGESTED DONATIONS...

NEW & GENTLY USED

**Toys-Bikes-Knick-Knacks-
Kitchen Items & Housewares-
Home, Garden, & Holiday Décor-
Sports Equipment-Clothing-
Shoes-Handbags-Books-Jewelry-
Linens-Arts & Crafts Supplies-
Lamps-Small Pieces of Furniture-
Small Working Appliances**

**Proceeds support the 2024
Youth Mission Trip.**



YOUTH GROUP NEWS! Youth group at the First Presbyterian Church of Newton is open to young people in grades 6-12. We meet most Sundays from 5 to 7 pm at the church for dinner, devotions, games, service opportunities, fellowship, and fun. Below is a list of our May gatherings. All are welcome!

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, May 5th | Youth group gathering at the church from 5-7 pm.
Pizza dinner will be served. |
| Sunday, May 12th | No meeting today, it is Mother's Day. |
| Thursday, May 16th | Rummage Sale set up from 6-8 pm in Fellowship Hall |
| Friday, May 17th | Rummage Sale sorting & set-up from noon-5 pm and 6-8 pm.
In Fellowship Hall |
| Saturday, May 18th | Rummage Sale Fundraiser from 9-3 pm |

Youth group will not meet on May 19th or 26th.

CHILDREN'S STATION



We have made a change...If you could not find the children's activity bags as you were entering worship, don't despair...we are trying something new. Instead of the activity bags to help keep little hands busy during worship we have changed to a Children's Station located in the narthex as you enter the Sanctuary. Pick up an empty

bag and have your child or children pick a couple of things that interest them to use during worship. There are coloring pages, books, drawing boards, match games, and more. Following worship return the items to the designated basket at the Children's Station. We hope the Children's Station, the children's message and Table Time will let all children and families know that they are an important and special part of this worshipping community.



Manna House Spaghetti Dinner

Dine In or Take Out

Tuesday May 14th, 5:00-6:30 pm.

\$5 for adults, \$3 for children 5-12,
kids under 5 free!

Spaghetti, salad, bread and cookies!



**Spaghetti
Dinner**

Deacons' Food of the Month:

**Meals in a can or box
(SpaghettiOs, Stews, Mac & Cheese)**

Birthdays

- 5/6 Reinier Zwart
- 5/8 Abigail Gormley
- 5/9 Mary Lou Holterman
- 5/9 Andrew Sharick
- 5/11 Stephanie Hoffman
- 5/12 Sarah Cohea
Alice Sharick
Maija Volk
- 5/13 Samantha Ruitenbergh
- 5/14 Diana Neira
- 5/15 Katie Douglas
- 5/19 Bill Jones
Liam Visakay
- 5/21 Kathryn McQuillan
- 5/23 Blake Hoffman
Mateo Smith
- 5/24 Jeffrey Chandler
Gregory Nappa
- 5/25 Debra McCarty
- 5/30 William Cohea
Greta Nappa
- 5/31 Lyla Bocker

Anniversary

- 5/4 Robynn & Michael Meehan



Youth Group Stuffing
Eggs for Easter
Egg Hunt



Good Friday Interactive
Stations





Easter Egg Hunt
2024

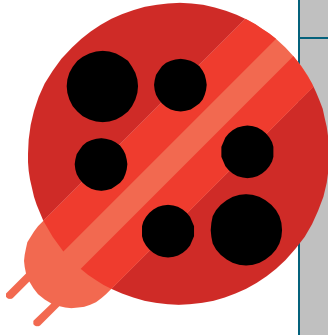


Easter

Regular Sunday Schedule
9:00 am Faith Formation
9:00 am Worship in Chapel
10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary

Recording of service available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCifje87megV4T0c-tJ0hSjA>



MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 8pm Vespers via Zoom	2 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm Bells	3 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 1 pm Hearts & Hands	4 10-1 BOL
5 Communion 9:30 am Family Choir 9:45 am - 10:15 am Chime Choir	6 10 am Wired Word 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 1-3 pm Manna House Board Mtg.	7 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH	8 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm Fin. & Fac. 8pm Vespers via Zoom	9 10am FPCN serves @MH 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm Bells	10 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 1 pm Hearts & Hands	11 10-1 BOL
12 MOTHER'S DAY/No YG Bucket Brigade Rummage Sale Drop-off Begins 9:45 am Family Choir 1-2:30 pm Girl Scouts	13 10 am Wired Word 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH Begins 9:45 am Family Choir 1-2:30 pm Girl Scouts	14 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 5-6:30 pm MH Spaghetti Dinner 7 pm Deacons	15 Newsletter Deadline 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 8pm Vespers via Zoom	16 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 1:30-3 pm Readers INK Book Club 6-8 pm Rummage Setup 7 pm Bells	17 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 12-5 Rummage Setup 1 pm Hearts & Hands 6-8 Rummage Setup	18 9-3 Rummage Sale
19 Pentecost Sunday 9:30 am Family Choir No YG	20 10 am Wired Word 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH	21 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm VBS Planning Mtg. via Zoom	22 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7:15 pm Session 8pm Vespers via Zoom	23 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm Bells	24 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 1 pm Hearts & Hands	25 10-1 BOL
26 9:45 Family Choir 1-2:30 pm Girl Scouts No YG	27 10 am Wired Word 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH	28 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm Jubilee Women	29 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 8pm Vespers via Zoom	30 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 7 pm Bells	31 11:30 - 12:30 pm MH 1 pm Hearts & Hands	

Abbreviations Legend:
BOL - Bread of Life

LWNJ - Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey
Fin. & Fac. - Finance and Facilities Team

MH - Manna House
YG - Youth Group

Items in *Italics* are outside organizations using the church facilities.



First Presbyterian Church of Newton
 54 High St., Newton, N.J. 07860
 Interim Pastor: Heather Morrison-Yaden
 Phone: 973-383-4420
 E-mail: admin@fpcnewtonnj.org
 Web site — www.fpcnewtonnj.org
 YouTube.com - Search for: "fpcnewtonnj"



2024

RULING ELDERS & DEACONS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ruling Elders	Class 2024	Class 2025	Class 2026
	Ed Caffrey	Judy Prendergast (2)	Jennifer Smalley
	Scott Hoffman (2)	Alice Sharick (2)	Cindy Fogg (2)
	Jerry Chandler	Tim Voss	Tom McNulty

Stated Clerk: Terry VanAuken

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|---------|--------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Deacons | April Fisher | Susanne Gerdes                  | Donna Kronen (2) |
|         |              | Susan Hermes (2)<br>(Moderator) | Janice Fisher    |
|         |              | Jody McNulty (2)<br>(Secretary) | Sue Hough        |



*Newsletter Deadline: Please submit articles to the church office via email at:  
[admin@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org) by the 15th of each month for  
 the following month's publication.*