



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 26, No. 5

May 2026

MAY AT A GLANCE:

May 10th — Mother's Day

May 16th — Daisey Roe Flea Market/Thrift Shop

May 17th — Music Sunday

May 24th — Pentecost Sunday

May 25th — Memorial Day (Office Closed)

May 31th — Trinity Sunday





Our Mission Statement:

"We Welcome all as we celebrate God's love."

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



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Dear Church Family,

Recently, our Thursday night Bible study has been reading through the book of Genesis. Naturally, we started this journey at the beginning, with the story of creation. This is a familiar story to most of us, even if you were not there when we read it at Bible study. God creates the world in six days and rests on the seventh. God creates human beings in God's image and the first two beings are Adam and Eve.

While we might be familiar with the story, I always try to encourage people to read it as if for the very first time. A practice I try to implement myself every time I pick up the Bible. As I read the creation story again, a few things stuck with me and presented me with some challenges for this season:

First, God declares creation to be good. We might be tempted to say that the world is 'bad' or 'sinful' while the realm of the spirit is 'good,' but this is not how God views the world. The sun and stars, the oceans and mountains, the animals and fish, all things have been declared as good by God. How often do we spend time in nature, enjoying God's goodness? Now that winter is finally giving way to spring, it may be a great time to seek out the goodness in the world God created.

Second, God takes a day of rest. It is a little strange to think about God resting. When we speak of rest for humans, we often think of curling up in bed with a blanket, or relaxing on a couch and watching television. But it's important to remember that God's rest is intentional. It is time set aside to acknowledge the work that has been done and recharge from it. How often do we participate in intentional rest? Do we set aside time to do things that recharge us, or do we find ourselves mindlessly scrolling, dreading the next task to come?

Third, God creates humankind in God's image. Male and female, young and old, black and white, it does not matter. All humans are made in God's image. In our world, it can be difficult to remember that. Social media, news sites, and even gossip all benefit from making us angry at each other. If we instead remember that each person we grow angry with is a child of God, will we be less inclined to act on that anger? Would we be more willing to prioritize peace?

Easter and spring are seasons of renewal, resurrection, and new life. By reflecting on the creation story, maybe we can take the lessons from it to help refresh our own souls.

Peace,
Rev. Adrienne Poissant



Please offer prayers for these concerns that have been brought to our attention. They are collected each Sunday morning during the past month from the prayer concerns list used in worship.

- Aaron & Ethan
- All those with cancer.
- Amy & Molly
- Barbara Z.
- Barley
- Betty McMickle
- Bill & Viki caretakers for family needs.
- Bobby
- Carol
- Carols
- Chuck with broken foot.
- Edye
- Emeraldalda
- Joyce O.
- Karen
- Kevin
- Linda
- Lisa
- Madison Y. on her kidney
- Michael

- Our Country
- Patty
- Robyn
- Robyn
- Roger & Joyce Gibbins
- Rolf
- Ron & Katie
- Stephanie & her newborn twins in the hospital.
- Terry
- Terry Post
- The family of Drew Shelton
- Tom
- Tom & Taylor Simon
- William



- Buzz & Marion's 51st Wedding Anniversary.



Church News



2ND QUARTER MISSION - ShelterBox USA is a top-rated charity that helps families affected by natural disaster around the world. With a score of 93% by Charity Navigator, this organization believes that all families require shelter - and that all families deserve to feel like their shelter is a home. Shelter Box delivers disaster relief by providing emergency shelters and the tools needed

to help rebuild and recover after the event of a natural disaster. These tools include family-sized tents, solar lights, temporary shelter build kits, blankets, mosquito nets, water filters and carriers, and sturdy, portable kitchen sets. Their disaster relief projects have positively impacted families dealing with situations including flooding, earthquakes, storms, and war in places such as Syria, Turkey, India, the Caribbean, and Ukraine. As Presbyterians, we are dedicated to providing relief to those in need and the Mission Committee is excited to support this new cause. Please consider donating to the 2nd Quarter Mission over the next three months to make a difference in the lives of those families facing unthinkable situations. For more information about ShelterBox, go to <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/>

MANNA HOUSE \$5 SPAGHETTI DINNER — Indoor dining or take-out, First Presbyterian Church, 54 High St., Newton (Church Street Entrance), May 12th 5:00 to 6:30pm. Adults \$5.00, Children 5-12 \$3.00, and under 5 Free. (Included are Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Cookies)



WALK N' TALK: 9AM—10AM — SPRING hours, Through JULY 1st. Mon-Sat: On Mon, Wed, Fri, and Sat we walk around the circle by Selective Insurance, (the old fairgrounds), or through town. We park and meet by the tennis courts. Tues at Frankford Park, we park and meet by the basketball court. Thurs at Woodbourne Park, we park and meet by the first parking lot. DURING JULY AND AUGUST, we will start walking at 8:30 am. Any questions – please direct to Bev Keur. Hope to see you there. Please invite friends to join us.

PENTECOST is Sunday, May 24th, so to honor the day when the Spirit came down on the disciples in tongues of fire, we ask that you please wear red to the worship service.



MUSIC SUNDAY - Come one, come all, and sign-up for Music Sunday, May 17th. We would love to have a variety of musical offerings. Everyone is invited to participate. It doesn't have to be fancy – if you would like to sing, dance, play an instrument, or do anything to share your talents with the congregation, then please sign-up to participate. See or call Dawn Latincsics at 973-896-1630 to sign-up. Thank you!





Church News



SPRING FLEA MARKET— Our 29th Annual Spring Flea Market including the thrift shop will be Saturday, May 16th from 9 am to 2 pm. Please stop by to shop and support our efforts. Volunteers are needed for this event, The Thrift Shop and serving coffee, bagels and lunch. Please plan to attend and volunteer!

DAISEY ROE CHAIN'S SPRING FUNDRAISER — Our C & C Growers Fund Raiser is scheduled through May 23rd and flyers will be available for pick up for your friends and neighbors. C & C Growers are located on Route 206 across from Tractor Supply. Note that a pink flyer is needed to receive the 10 % discount.



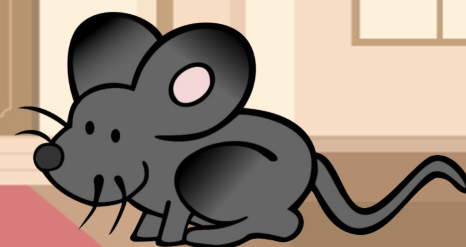
THRIFT SHOP — Please continue to donate your CLEAN/REUSABLE items to the shop. Sorry, but we can NOT accept electronics, textbooks, or manuals. Opened Saturday's 9am—1pm.

THE FOOD PANTRY is in need of Jelly, Syrup & Ketchup. Please consider donating to this continuous need in our community. Open Weds 10am—12pm. Thank you to our church congregation for your generous support of Jean's Pantry. Your kindness truly makes a difference.



OUR CHURCH MOUSE

Eek! Hi! Hello! I am getting to know so many of you (some by just your shoes). I can see the people who speak up front. I don't think I could do that; well I am quite small and I wouldn't want to scare anyone, besides I'm not very brave. I wonder if there are some new brave people who would like to be up front to read. It would be great to see some new faces. I really would like to know everyone.



Worship Notes

What is the point of the Call to Worship?

Each Sunday, after the words of welcome and the organ prelude, the congregation joins together in the call to worship. But why do we do this? It might feel a little odd, as there are many other moments in which the congregation is called to join the worship service. The church bell is rung a few minutes before ten o'clock, and the pastor stands up to announce the start of worship on the hour. If that is not enough to signal the start of worship, then the organ prelude reminds everyone that it is beginning.

The call to worship serves to mark the shift between a community gathering together and a community gathering together for worship. Groups of people come together all the time, but what happens on Sunday morning in our sanctuary is different from friends meeting for breakfast, and it's even different from a Bible study or prayer group meeting. It reminds us that the reason we are gathered together is to come before God with our joys, hopes, praise, and our fears and grief.

It also helps frame the rest of our service. Through the call to worship, we are reminded why God is worth worshipping. It puts us in the correct headspace to then move through the rest of the service; to confess our sins, to greet one another, to hear the Word read and proclaimed, to affirm our faith, and give our offerings.

The call to worship is also a reminder that it is not just the pastor and the lay reader who are participating in worship— it is everyone who has come into the building. Your involvement in the service is just as important, even if you are not part of the choir, or an usher, or a reader. You are not in the church as a member of the audience, but as a fellow worshipper. We all participate in praising God and preparing to hear God's Word.

APRIL SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS 4/13)

- The new copier has been installed in Alycia's office. We are expecting a \$2,000 per year savings from this change.
- Session approved a leave for Pastor Adrienne so she can do the next leg of her Seminary Fellowship investigating worship in other countries. She will be in Ireland and Northern Ireland June 15-30.
- Our new AED has been installed in Fellowship Hall.
- The church will have a table at Frankford Twp school 75th Anniversary Celebration 5/15.
- The church received a \$10,000 gift from the estate of Richard Martin.
- Shelter Box has been designated as our 4th Quarter Mission.
- Mike is working with the state to get approval for signage on 206 advertising our church.
- At the February meeting Session approved moving our investments from New Covenant to Merrill Lynch. Due to restrictions Merrill Lynch places on non-profits, of which we were unaware, we have not yet moved our investments out of New Covenant. Patrick is working with Mark Cummins to find alternatives.
- Session approved the installation of a new heating and air conditioning system for the sanctuary. Willco will be managing the HVAC project and DenHeyer will upgrade the electric service to accommodate the new equipment. The cost for both projects will be approximately \$65,000. We already have approximately \$50,000 in gifts dedicated to the projects. We were able to procure zero percent financing for 5 years, so any gap between the cost and the gifts can be paid over the course of the next five years without incurring any financing costs. The project will begin this spring and will be completed before summer.
- Daisy Roe will be doing a "spring cleaning" of the old paperwork in the Church office.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR MAY

- ♦ Protecting God's Earth — Join us on a fellowship outing to tour the recycling center and learn more about recycling on Saturday, May 2nd at 2:00 pm. Those interested will meet at the church and carpool to the SCMUA Recycling Center in Lafayette
- ♦ We will host an information table at the Daisey Roe Flea Market on May 16th with information about our church, service times, and church activities.
- ♦ Memorial Day Parade - We are looking to see if anyone would be interested in participating in the Branchville Memorial Day Parade on May 25th 9:30 am. We will have an interest sheet for those who are interested in volunteering to assist with giving out beverages (lemonade/iced tea) before/during the parade in front of Fellowship Hall or to participate in marching in the parade.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

- * Teacher volunteers are scheduled through the end of our SS school year. We are still in need of weekly teacher's assistants. Please sign up to help in the Fellowship Hall.
- * Our next CE meeting is scheduled for Tues. May 5th at 3:30.
- * Again we will be partnering with Frankford Plains Church, August 10-14, 9:30-12. Please save the dates on your calendars so that your children may attend.

ADULT EDUCATION

- * We will be wrapping up our May Genesis Bible Study on Thursday's at 5:30pm
May 7: Genesis 8 & 9 & May 14: Genesis 10 & 11. The next segment is to be discussed and to be determined with our attendees.
- * On Sunday, May 17th, after church, our adult "Discovery and Discussion Group" will learn from our Pastor Adrienne about "The Book of Confessions". Please come to hear this very interesting topic.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAY

Karen Opilla	5/7	Connie Leenheer	5/22
Gail Burckes	5/8	Lois Kinney	5/25
Aeliana Opilla	5/9	David Young	5/27
Emily Billings	5/11	John Grau	5/28
Debbie Guile	5/13	Meryl Kurland	5/29
Gabriel Cummins	5/19	Gay Plog	5/31
Parker Cummins	5/19		

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

OLD-FASHIONED BANANA PUDDING

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 1/4 cups whole milk
- 4 large eggs, separated
- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 1/3 cups vanilla wafers
- 4 ripe bananas, cut into 1/2-in. slices
- 3 Tbsp. sugar



PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Whisk together first 3 ingredients in a small bowl. Whisk together sugar mixture, milk, and 4 egg yolks in a medium-size heavy saucepan until well blended. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, 6 to 8 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat; stir in butter and vanilla.
2. Layer half of vanilla wafers in an 8-inch square baking dish. Top with half of banana slices and half of pudding. Repeat procedure with remaining wafers, banana slices, and pudding.
3. Beat egg whites at high speed with an electric mixer until foamy. Gradually add 3 Tbsp. sugar, beating until sugar dissolves and stiff peaks form, about 5 minutes. Spread meringue over pudding, sealing to edge of dish.
4. Bake at 375°F for 7 to 9 minutes or until golden. Let cool 30 minutes, and serve warm; or chill an additional hour, and serve cold.



MAY VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

3rd – OPEN/OPEN
 10th – OPEN/Brian Dietz
 17th – Buzz & Marion Alden
 24th – OPEN/OPEN
 31st – OPEN/Lois Kinney

LAY READERS

3rd – Trish Cherny
 10th – Mike Opilla
 17th – Mike Lutz
 24th – OPEN
 31st – OPEN



MAY COFFEE HOUR

DAISEY ROE

MAY FLOWER CHART:

If you would like to provide flowers for any of the dates, please see instructions below:

Dates:

3rd –
 10th –
 17th –
 24th –
 31st –

Call Lisa the week before your signup to have flowers delivered. Gail Burckes will contact you for your dedication or memorial.

Flowers By Lisa 862-268-3123

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville
 PO Box 1

3-5 Wantage Avenue
 Branchville, NJ 07826
 Phone 973-948-3495



View our website at:

<http://www.fpcbranchville.org>

and Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com>

and Instagram at:

<http://instagram.com/fpcbranchville/>

You may e-mail
 the secretary at presbsec@ptd.net





MAY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
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