



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 26, No. 34

April 2026

APRIL AT A GLANCE:

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

5:30pm Worship Service

Good Friday, April 3rd

7:00pm Worship Service
Frankford Plains Methodist

Easter Sunday, April 5th

10:00am Worship Service



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



Our Mission Statement:

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

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1
3-5 WANTAGE AVE.
BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME 26, NO. 4

APRIL 2026

Dear Church Family,

It only took several months, but I have officially been installed as your pastor! While the service was absolutely wonderful and meaningful, it also changes very little about us and our church. The vows taken during the installation are for actions and behaviors that we have already been participating in. Already have we been praying for each other, teaching and learning from each other, and giving each other grace.

Still, the installation celebrated the start of our relationship: of my being your pastor and you being my congregation. While it would have been nice to have the installation earlier, there's something fitting about having it so close to Easter, a holiday in which we remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our own promised resurrection, and the first steps towards the start of the church.

While following the liturgical calendar each year, we go through seasons of birth, life, death, and resurrection. Each year we repeat them, but each year we are slightly different people than we were the year before. Last Easter, I was a student and had no idea what church I would be working at. This year, I am with you all. This has made the preparation of Easter so different, even though the holiday remains the same.

As we celebrate the resurrection, I celebrate the new life I found here, at FPC Branchville. This life might have started last fall, but it has been renewed during my installation, and I pray we continue to renew each other in the years to come!

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
- Ann Bain in the hospital.
- Barbara Z.
- Bill Smith
- Bobby
- Brian
- Carlos
- Carole
- Debbie
- Debbie knee surgery
- Diane
- Donna
- Drew & family
- Drew Shelton & family
- Edie
- Esperanda with cancer
- Fran hip surgery
- Joanne

- Joe
- John
- Joyce O.
- Kenny
- Kevin with cancer
- Linda
- Melody
- Michele
- Our Country & Military
- Patty recovering from surgery
- Peggy
- Penny
- Peter Lippert
- Rita
- Robyn
- Roger & Joyce Gibbins
- Ron & Katie
- Terri
- The family of Barbara O'Brien
- The family of Billie Blakeney
- The family of Kathy Berkowitz
- The family of Ruth Bernstein on her passing.
- The family of Sharon
- The Laux family
- Those with anxiety
- William
- Ashley
- Julie & Pat
- Grace
- Susan
- Walt

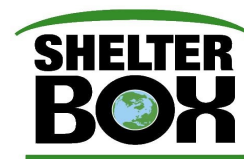


- Happy Birthday to Charlie.



THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING mission began with Lent. This event lasts until Easter Sunday and the money we collect will go to help people in need around the globe as well as support the Johnsonburg Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center. As always, giving to a good cause is good for the soul so we hope you will take the time to support this annual Presbyterian Church USA effort!

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), April 14th 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, APRIL 1st to 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.





THE DAISEY ROE THRIFT SHOP is planning to re-open April 11th, 9am -1pm. We are now accepting clean reusable items!



DAISEY ROE MEETING — will be Wednesday, April 8th, 3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served. Agenda will be Spring Flea Market on Saturday, May 16th 9am - 2pm.

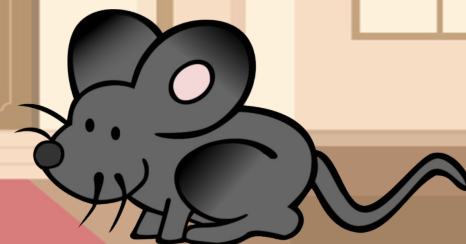
SPRING IS JUST HERE — The First Presbyterian Church of Branchville and the Daisey Roe Chain are planning their 29th Annual Spring Flea Market including the thrift shop on Saturday May 16th, 2026 from 9 am to 2 pm. Our group will be renting tables indoors/outdoors for \$20.00 each. Inclement weather - space is limited to 25 indoors - first come first served. Good weather – space is limited to 30 tables indoors and outdoors. We do the advertising and provide tables for indoor/outdoor, rain or shine. Daisey Roe keeps spaces for our church members who are interested in renting a table. Please send in your check by April 20th, 2026, to reserve your space. Co-Chairwomen: Marion Alden, Beverly Keur, Ellen Santoro. Checks payable to: Daisey Roe Chain and mail to: Marion Alden, 170 Culver View Lane, Branchville NJ 07826. Contact Marion Alden # 201-317-8210



DAISEY ROE CHAIN'S SPRING FUNDRAISER — Our C & C Growers Fund Raiser is scheduled April 1st 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.

OUR CHURCH MOUSE

Eek! Hi everyone. I heard the Pastor today talking about the music and singing in church; She said this was a way of giving a gift to God and praising Him. I wanted to clap because I thought all the music was so beautiful, but do you clap when you are offering a gift?



Worship Notes

Why do we change colors so much?

One of my favorite ways to open a children's message is by asking them about the changes they see in the sanctuary. We change the banners, paraments, and table runners to reflect the holidays and seasons we are observing during the liturgical year.

The liturgical year is just a fancy way of saying the worship year. It is different from the secular calendar, as we do not celebrate historical or governmental holidays. For example, Independence Day and Veteran's Day are holidays on the secular calendar, but are not observed as liturgical holidays because they are not religious in nature.

In general, the liturgical colors are white, purple, red, and green. White symbolizes God's grace and joy. It is used during the seasons of Easter and Christmas, but also during the Epiphany, Baptisms, and All Saint's Day.

Purple is used for seasons of preparation in which we, as Christians, are asked to reflect on our actions. This includes Advent and Lent (the periods of time before Christmas and Easter, respectively).

Red symbolizes the Holy Spirit and is used for Pentecost and for services of ordination and installation.

Green symbolizes life and growth. It is used during the times of the calendar we call "Ordinary Time." Ordinary Time makes up the majority of our calendar and covers the weeks in which no special holiday or season is being observed.

Many other Christian denominations use the liturgical colors in the same manner, but as Presbyterians, we have some flexibility with them as well. Pastors might choose to change the colors to represent something their specific church is going through, or to better represent the themes and readings that will be touched on during a service.

Liturgical colors can remind us not to get so hung up on the secular events and the rush of calendars determined by governments, CEOs, and other powerful people. In the life of the church, the calendar is set by God and we are encouraged to build out lives around God's time— not our own.

MARCH SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS 3/11)

- Session approved the church's participation in the Memorial Day parade. We will be marching in the parade and serving lemonade.
- Session approved a motion to deposit all memorial gifts into the general fund, unless the giver explicitly requests the gift be earmarked for a specific purpose.
- We continue to work on getting new heating and air conditioning for the sanctuary. We've received quotes from three different contractors and are evaluating their proposals.
- Session approved a new copier contract for the office. We project the new contract will save the church over \$2,000 per year.
- Session approved a new policy for interacting with any law enforcement officers who come to the church. This was not done in response to any incident; there have been no incidents. Session wanted to be prepared in case the need arises.
- Session approved the purchase and installation of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for the church.
- The Session is discussing hiring paid nursery attendants as a way to attract younger families to the church. No decisions have been made yet.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL

- ◆ Dinner for Eight will be held on Saturday, April 11th 6:00 pm. Sign-up is in Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ 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

- * The Nursery has been cleaned and organized and we would like to have it available for parents on Easter Sunday. We have 1 volunteer, but we need 2, so if you are over 18 and would like to help please let Donna Havelin or Sandy Carlisle know. Thank you!
- * 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.

ADULT EDUCATION

- * Starting on 4/16 we will be doing a deep study into the book of Genesis. Here is the weekly breakdown for review:
 - April 16: Genesis 1 & 2
 - April 23: Genesis 3 & 4
 - April 30: Genesis 5, 6, & 7
 - May 7: Genesis 8 & 9
 - May 14: Genesis 10 & 11
- * Please attend for our ongoing and interesting discussions. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ATTEND EVERY SESSION IN ORDER; just come when you're able.
- * Discovery and Discussion Group: Please come to hear and support Brian Dietz as he shares his personal story of addiction and recovery on April 19th, after church.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL

Julie Anderson Clawson	4/06	Ethan Billings	4/25
Kelly Decker	4/06	Susan Martin	4/26
David Yaden	4/08	Chris Williams	4/28
Lauren Seeger	4/09	Joshua Langley	4/28
Marion Alden	4/25	Debbie Anderson	4/30

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

SPRINGTIME THUMBPRINT COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

- 36 Hershey's Kisses
- 6 Tbsps. butter softened
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 Tbsp milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups flour
- 1/4 tsp baking soda & salt
- Food coloring & sugar sprinkles
- 1/2 cup vanilla frosting



PREPARATION

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Remove wrappers from 36 Hershey Milk Chocolates.
2. Beat 6 tbsps. butter, 1/3 cup brown sugar and 1/4 cup granulated sugar in large bowl until well blended. Add 1 egg, 1 tbsp milk and 1 tsp vanilla. Beat until well blended. Stir together 2 cups flour, 1/4 tsp baking soda and 1/4 tsp salt; add to butter mixture, blending thoroughly.
3. Divide dough into separate bowl for each color desired. Add desired food coloring to each bowl, mixing until color of dough is uniform. Form 36 equal balls (about 1 inch). Roll each ball in the matching sugar color. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Gently press thumb into ball forming indentation.
4. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until set. Cool slightly; remove from pan to wire rack. Press thumb again into each indentation if needed. Cool completely.
5. Divide and tint 1/3 cup vanilla frosting to match cookie colors. Place about 1/2 teaspoon vanilla frosting in each indentation. Press 1 Milk Chocolate onto each cookie.



APRIL VOLUNTEERS
USHERS

- 2nd – OPEN/OPEN
- 5th – Brian Dietz/OPEN
- 12th – OPEN/OPEN
- 19th – OPEN/OPEN
- 26th – OPEN/OPEN

LAY READERS

- 2nd – Trish Cherny
- 5th – Becky Williams
- 12th – Debbie Anderson
- 19th – OPEN
- 26th – OPEN



APRIL COFFEE HOUR

BELL CHOIR

APRIL FLOWER CHART:

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

Dates:

- 2nd –
- 5th –
- 12th –
- 19th –
- 26th –

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





APRIL 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																										
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