



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 26, No. 9

September 2026

SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE:

7th – Labor Day (Office Closed)

**10th – Bible Study 5:30pm—7pm
Chancel Choir 7:00pm—8pm**

**12th – Fall Flea Market/Thrift shop
9:00am—3pm**

13th – Rally Day — 10am

22nd – Autumn Begins



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



VOLUME 26, NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Friends:

While September is the ninth month of the calendar year, it's also a month full of beginnings and change. Children are beginning a new year of school, college students are heading back for the new semester, clubs are picking up again, vacations are winding down, and, most importantly, our church activities are picking up. The weather slowly begins to cool off and trees will change color as we finally leave behind summer and head into fall.

The committees of the church have been meeting in August to plan everything for the fall. Sunday school will pick up again on Rally Day on September 13th. Choir practices and handbells will return to regular practice as well, and Bible study will begin Sept. 10th. Meetings will continue, events will be planned, and before we all know it, we'll be preparing for Christmas!

What I love most about September is that it offers us a chance to start something new. It's the perfect moment to join the choir, start attending Bible study, or volunteer for Sunday school. It's like a mid-year opportunity to make some resolutions and try new things.

Of course, all change comes with the potential to be scary or overwhelming. It's easy to say "I'll just keep doing what I've always done." While there's nothing wrong with that, taking a chance on something new might bring a lot of joy to you and the congregation. It's always alright to try something new and decide it's not for you. The power is in the trying to begin with. If you have doubts or concerns, talk to the people involved in the activity you're considering and hear from them how they like it and any tips they might have for making it easier.

September is also a wonderful time to invite someone new to church. With everything starting up again and people returning from vacations and the chapel on the lake, it's a good time to slip in and see what our services are like and what fellowship and service opportunities we have. Remember, most people are brought to church by word of mouth!

However you decide to mark the changing of the season this year, I hope fall brings joy, hope, and peace into your life!

Pastor Adrienne



Prayer Requests

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
- Al & Casey
- All those fighting cancer
- All those suffering from depression
- Amy & Children
- Anita
- Babe Thomas
- Betty McMickle
- Bob
- Bobby
- Carlos
- Charlie Jr.
- Charlie K.
- Christine's Husband
- Dawn
- Ed
- Edie
- Elizabeth
- Eric
- Esmeralda
- Esperanda
- Faith Healy
- Frank DalCin
- Fred
- Grace
- Issac
- John
- John Newcomer
- Jordan
- Josh
- Joyce, Molly & Amy
- Karen
- Kathy
- Kayla
- Ken
- Kenny
- Kevin
- Kim
- Kimberly
- Krista & Bill
- Kristin
- Lexi
- Mike Lutz's Mother-in-law Terry
- Liz
- Lynn
- Margo
- Melissa
- Michael
- Michele
- Michelle
- Our Country & Troops
- Patty
- Peggy
- Phil
- RD
- Rita

- Robyn
- Ron & Katie
- Roseann
- Ryan
- Sal
- Sandra
- Stephanie
- Steven
- Taylor Simon
- Ted
- The friends & family of Elton on his passing
- The friends & family of Ken Lambert on his passing
- Tom
- Tracy
- Trish Cherny
- Veronica
- Wendy



- Happy Birthday Alyssa Murphy
- Happy 90th Birthday Carol Vealey
- Birth of Lisa Hughes Grandchild Levi Josiah Hughes

Church News



MANNA HOUSE \$5 SPAGHETTI DINNER — Indoor dining or take-out, First Presbyterian Church, 54 High St., Newton (Church Street Entrance), September 8th, 5:00 to 6:30pm. Adults \$5.00, Children 5-12 \$3.00, and under 5 Free. (Included are Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Cookies)

THE FOOD PANTRY is in need of Peanut Butter & Ramen. 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.



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.

3RD QUARTER MISSIONS — It's hard to imagine but we are already starting our 3rd Quarter Mission project!! This is one we have supported for a number of years- because Presbyterians support public education! It is DonorsChoose, a website where teachers post requests for classroom resources. This helps offset the money that teachers spend out of pocket each year to give their students the best classroom experience that they can. We will be collecting your donations to add to the budget and will select our educational projects at the end of September. We'll be sure to let you know where the money went!!



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES – With college students returning to campus, the Fellowship Committee is asking all members to provide the names and addresses for any college students who we can reach out to with a College Care Package this fall. Please contact Alycia in the Church office to provide the information so that we can update our list of college students this year.

VENISON DINNER — September 19th at 6pm to benefit Harvest House. Join us at the Beemerville Fire Hall for a buffet dinner featuring locally prepared Venison. Soda & Beer included. \$50.00 Donation. Tickets are available at: Yetter's Diner, Airport Diner and Brodhecker Farms. For more information Contact Chuck Hughes 973-459-2211



JOIN US FOR WALK N' TALK – Fall/Winter 9am-10am, September 1st to June 1st. Monday - Saturday: On Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday we walk around the circle by Selective Insurance, (the old fairgrounds), or through town. We park and meet by the tennis courts. Tuesday at Frankford Park, we park and meet by the basketball court. Thursday at Woodbourne Park, we park and meet by the first parking lot.

Any questions – please direct to Beverly Keur. Hope to see you there. Please invite a friend to join us.

MUSIC NEWS

CHANCEL CHOIR will have their first rehearsal on Thursday, September 10th, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. **EVERYONE** is welcome to be a member of the Chancel Choir. No previous choir experience is necessary to join! Come join us!

THE BELLS OF BRANCHVILLE schedule will be announced soon, the bells are currently being repaired.



FALL FLEA MARKET

Fall is just around the corner. The First Presbyterian Church of Branchville and the Daisey Roe Chain are planning their 29th Annual Fall Flea Market including the thrift shop on Saturday September 12, 2026, from 9 am to 3 pm. **TABLES ARE SOLD OUT!** Please stop by and support our Daisey Roe fundraiser.

Co-Chairwomen: Marion Alden and Beverly Keur



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- ♦ Oktoberfest— The Fellowship Committee is planning to hold an Oktoberfest gathering on October 16th starting at 5:00 pm. We are looking for volunteers to help out with food, decorations, and entertainment. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up and indicate which area you would be interested in helping with. Your assistance is appreciated!



AUGUST SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS 9/10)

- Session met with Amanda Keesser, who, along with her business partner, are asking to use our kitchen for their catering business. They will be paying the church a fee for the use of the kitchen. Session has tentatively approved the arrangement.
- Session approved Brian Deitz as a replacement for Dimitri and hiring both Nicole Deitz and Leah Klimas to staff the nursery, starting in September.
- Session will conduct a “Who’s My Neighbor?” after worship on August 30. Highlands Presbytery will award the church \$1,000 for conducting the meeting.
- We are close to creating lawn signs for members of the congregation to put on their lawn, advertising our church.
- The church received a \$50,000 donation that will be applied to capital improvements.
- We need more counters for Sunday morning offerings.
- Session approved a \$32,000 proposal to repair the sanctuary’s slate roof.
- We will be moving our email to Gmail. The move will provide us with more functionality and Google provides the service for free to non-profits. We will therefore be saving the money we currently spend on our email system.
- At Pastor Adrienne’s request, Session members will be providing feedback on her first year of serving the church as our pastor.
- As a result of our feedback to our cleaning company, the cleaning company has assigned a new team of cleaners to the church.
- Pastor Adrienne will be traveling Oct. 4 -11 as the final investigatory trip for her fellowship.
- Octoberfest is planned for October 16.
- Rally Day is September 13.



Worship Notes

How does the pastor pick the readings each Sunday?

In the Presbyterian faith, pastors have the ability to pick any Scripture passages to preach on each Sunday. They could do something completely random each week, follow specific stories, or follow specific themes.

Many pastors choose to follow the Revised Common Lectionary. This Lectionary was put together in 1983 with the intent of helping ministers pick Bible passages that speak to the rhythms of the church calendar while covering as much of the Bible as possible. The Revised Common Lectionary is a Protestant version of the lectionary put out by the Catholic Church in 1969. Each Sunday a reading is assigned, one from the Old Testament, a psalm, one from a Gospel, and one from the rest of the New Testament.

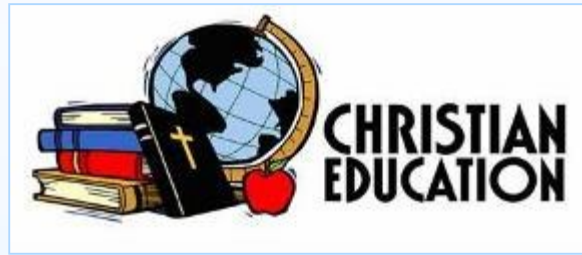
The Lectionary runs on a three year cycle with the years labeled A, B, or C. Every church that uses the Lectionary follows the same years. For example, we are currently in year B, so all other Protestant churches using the lectionary would also be in year B. Each of the first three Gospels are assigned to be covered in each year, with the Gospel of John being spread out amongst all three years.

The Bible is so large that it would be impossible to cover everything in a three year period, so some parts are cut from the Lectionary for a variety of reasons. The Old Testament, being much larger than the New Testament, receives much larger cuts.

So why do we follow the Lectionary? For several reasons. First of all, the Bible is so large, it can feel overwhelming trying to pick three readings each Sunday. Following the Lectionary makes the pastor's job a bit easier and more predictable. The Lectionary also encourages the pastor and the congregation to focus on parts of the Bible they might not have looked at otherwise. As a pastor, I have favorite books in the Bible and would happily preach them all year long. The lectionary pushes me outside my comfort zone and lets the congregation be acquainted with new stories and writings.

Will we always follow the Lectionary? No! It's just one of many tools to engage with the Bible but there will be some months or years in which we will focus on different readings instead!





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

- ♦ The Nursery is staffed and ready to go for children 3 and under. Parents (caregivers) will now be able to spend time in church, while their child will be cared for in a loving and comfortable environment. We hope that some new families will come and join us in the future!
- ♦ Rally day is Sept. 13th. Please mark your calendars so that you may share the fun as we start our year of Sunday School!
- ♦ Our next CE meeting will be Tues., 10/6 at 3:30.

ADULT EDUCATION

- ♦ Our Bible Study Bible will resume on Thurs, Sept 10th at 5:30pm. We will continue on with our study of Genesis. Please come and join in our interesting discussion.
- ♦ Discovery and Discussion Group: On 9/20 after Worship, Kim Chambers from "Mavericks Legacy" will come and share her very moving story about the loss of her son, while in addition, she will give us a class on choking prevention. Please come to hear this very important information.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SEPTEMBER

Regina Snyder
Cathy Hopper
Pat Leenheer

9/1
9/8
9/13

Donna Havelin
Amy Swistack
Mike Osborne

9/16
9/20
9/22



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Mama's Apple Crisp



INGREDIENTS

- 6 Apples peeled and sliced
- ½ cup Apple Cider
- ½ cup flour
- 1 ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- 1 egg, ½ cup butter
- 4 cup old fashioned oats



PREPARATION

1. Gather your ingredients. Preheat the oven to 375°F. Grease an 8×8 baking dish.
2. Peel and slice the apples, add to the baking dish. Pour the apple cider in.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon. Add the egg and mix well until it forms a crumbly dough. Spread the dough mixture evenly over the apples.
4. Place in the oven and bake for 30 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and the apples are tender. Top with vanilla ice cream!



SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

6th – Brian Dietz/OPEN
 13th – Bev Keur/Ann Bain
 20th – OPEN/OPEN
 27th – OPEN/OPEN

LAY READERS

6th – OPEN
 13th – OPEN
 20th – OPEN
 27th – Brian Dietz

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 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



SEPTEMBER COFFEE HOUR

CHANCEL CHOIR

SEPTEMBER FLOWER CHART:

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

Dates:

6th –
 13th –
 20th –
 27th –

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





SEPTEMBER 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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