

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ
January 18, 2026
Annual Congregation and Corporation Meeting
Pastor Adrienne Poissant
Dawn Latincsics, Music Director
John Gagliardi, Organist
Alycia Gardner, Administrative Assistant/Treasurer

In Memoriam, since our last meeting:

We commend to our Lord:

Werner Lutz

Jesus said,

*“I am the resurrection, and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”*



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**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BRANCHVILLE, NJ**

January 15, 2026

Moderators: Pastors Adrienne Poissant

ECCLESIASTICAL MEETING AGENDA

Business

Meeting called to order

Opening Prayer & Memorial Minute

Certification of a Quorum

Approval of Call for the Meeting and the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the Congregational Meetings held Jan. 26, 2025 & November 2, 2025

Election of Officers

Review and Approval of Annual Reports

Ecclesiastical Meeting Suspended to do Corporate Business

CORPORATE MEETING AGENDA

President: Patrick Murphy Treasurer: Alycia Gardner Secretary: Mike Lutz

Meeting Called to Order

Motion: That the Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Branchville meeting on 1/18/26 adopt
all acts of the Congregation as acts of the Corporation.

Motion to Adjourn Corporate Meeting

Ecclesiastical Meeting Resumed

Other Business

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer

PASTOR REPORT

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It has only been four months since I was first presented to you by your nominating committee. So much has changed since then! I give thanks to God every day for having brought me to this community of faith. While I do not have an entire year to reflect on in this report, I still have many highlights to bring to your attention:

- ❖ We celebrated a joint Thanksgiving service in November with Frankford Plains Methodist Church with a combined choir performance.
- ❖ Thursday night Bible study was brought back during advent with a brief foray into the Prophet Isaiah. Bible Study shall return in February during lent with a dive into the Gospel of Mark.
- ❖ We prepared the way of the Lord and prepared our sanctuary for Christmas with a beautiful greening service the second Sunday of advent. I had never attended a greening before and am already looking forward to it next year!
- ❖ I have been slowly getting to know members of the congregation through conversations before and after worship, during coffee hour, during committee meetings, and through various one on one conversations. I look forward to deepening my relationships with all of you in the new year.

Starting a new job is never easy, but this transition process has been made very smooth thanks to all the support I have received. I would like to thank Alycia Gardner for all the work she does behind the scenes and for everything she has done to help me transition into the role of pastor. I would also like to thank the clerk of session, Mike Lutz, for catching me up to speed on the work of the session and the various committees of the church.

I'd also like to thank Chris Williams and Demetri Savopoulos for helping us stay connected to Wi-Fi, printers, and for streaming during worship services!

Of course, a Sunday service wouldn't be the same without John Gagliardi and Dawn Latincsics sharing their musical talents with the congregation! It also wouldn't be the same without the various volunteers who participate in our choir, bell choir, as lay readers, or as ushers.

Despite not getting to work with her for very long, I am grateful for everything Susan Parson has done on session and as head of the stewardship committee! She has done a remarkable job, and I hope you all will join me in thanking her and in congratulating our new elder, Corbin Opilla, on his participation on session.

I look forward to walking with you all on this journey of faith in 2026. May it be a year of peace, joy, and love abounding!

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Adrienne Poissant

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee was active last fall and presented a slate of officers for the Congregation to consider and elect at its October 2025 meeting. Those elected were:

Deacons: Debbie Gardner
Ellen Santoro
Lisa Hughes will continue for another 3 years

Elders: Mike Opilla will renew for another 3 years
Donna Havelin will renew for another 3 years
Corbin Opilla

Those rotating off are: Wende Clause, Nancy Clink & Sue Parson

The Nominating Committee consists of: Sandy Carlisle, Kathleen Katzenstein, Bev Keur, Ellen Santoro, Debbie Gardner, Dawn Latincsics, Marion Alden, Linda Osborne. They wish to thank Wende, Nancy and Sue for their years of dedicated service.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Katzenstein & Sandy Carlisle, Nominating Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

This year our committee went in a positive direction. I am very grateful to our committee members, our Sunday School volunteers and our Pastors David and Nancy for their continued help and support along our journey. We are very excited to now include our new pastor, Adrienne, and look forward to continuing our work in CE together.

Adult Education: Our "Soup and Study" Bible study met weekly for most of the year. Within, we studied the Psalms, a Lenten study, the "Non-Violent Revelation to John", and ending with "The Great Ends of the Church". The group is enjoyed and very well attended. We thank Pastor Nancy for moderating and for Pastor David assisting. Our new pastor, Adrienne, started us off with an Advent study with passages from the Prophet Isiah, which was also enjoyed. We look forward to seeing her plans for us next year.

Our Women's Book Study reviewed and discussed 1 book, "Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. Unfortunately, interest seemed to go down after, so we decided to stop meeting. Our thanks goes to Pastor Nancy for moderating this group.

On April 27th Dawn Latincsics, in honor of Earth Day, educated and informed us about our county's recycling program. Dawn is our County's Recycling Coordinator. Everyone learned so much and we received so much positive feedback on the presentation. It was excellent!

Sunday School: We continued the format to where our children came to church on the 1st Sunday of the month for communion. The remainder of the Sundays in the month, they report to church for the beginning of the service through the Children's Sermon and then go to the SS classroom for the remainder of the service. This structure seems to be working out very well for everyone. We have been using the Pres. USA curriculum. Starting in Jan. 26 we will change to another curriculum that has been organized by Linda Osborne. The number of children attending is an ongoing challenge which we have accepted and continue going forward in a positive direction in spite of it. Many thanks go out to Karen Opilla and Deb Anderson for maintaining our beautiful bulletin boards as needed.

Sincere appreciation goes to our teachers, Linda Osborne, Karen Opilla, Lisa Hughes, Sandy Carlisle, Marion Alden and Deb Anderson. Our classroom could not have been nearly as successful without the help of our very dedicated teacher's assistant, Liz Dietz, who would come forward every week, to give help and guidance to our children and teachers. I also need to thank our other assistants, Brian Dietz, Nicole MacCallum, Bev Simon and Alicia Opilla. I humbly thank all of our volunteers for your dedication in keeping our Sunday School going!

VBS: This year again, we coordinated with Frankford Plains United Methodist church for a week in August. Karen Opilla, Brian Dietz and myself volunteered to help for the week. Thirty plus kids came to attend every day with a few from our church. It was a lot of fun for all of us.

Our Christian Ed Committee meets on a regular basis throughout the year. The members are myself, Debbie Anderson, Linda Osborne, Karen Opilla, Liz Dietz and Lisa Hughes. Pastor Nancy also attended.

It is wonderful to see the growth within this area of our church. It is with the help of so many that we are able to share God's love through all these important programs. I am very proud to be a part of it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Havelin, Christian Education Elder

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee put together a number of game nights and gatherings for dinners at the homes of various members throughout the year.

In November 2025 care packages were sent to the college students. The Fellowship Committee received donations of snacks to send out. Seven college care packages were sent out. The total cost of shipping was \$131.70 (\$20 in donations was received towards shipping).

On October 31, 2025, the Fellowship Committee handed out candy to Treat-or Treaters during the Branchville Trick or Treat with candy donated by the congregation.

On December 7, 2025, supplies were donated to build Christmas Gingerbread Houses during the fellowship coffee hour. Church members also participated in a game of Christmas themed Jeopardy led by Pastor Adrienne.

The church participated in the 2nd Annual Christmas Light Parade of Branchville and gave out hot chocolate in front of the church to parade watchers. Thanks to Patrick Murphy and Dawn Latincsics for volunteer the use of their vehicle and also a thank you to Marian and Buzz Alden for donating the hot chocolate. Over 100 cups of hot chocolate were given out and the church received \$107 in donations during the event. Banners costing \$79 were purchased for the parade vehicle.

The Fellowship Committee gave out nineteen Christmas stockings to be filled for families using the food pantry. The filled stockings will be collected on December 14th and given out later that week by the Food Pantry.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Carlisle, Fellowship Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

It has been a busy first year for me as the Session member assigned to Finance. Highlights are as follows:

The year began with the changing of the signers to our bank accounts, with the outgoing officers removed and the current ones assigned.

I attended a Presbytery workshop at the Community Presbyterian Church in Chester, N.J. It was titled Preparing for the Future: Planning for Financial Sustainability in your Church. It was followed by monthly online meetings with a cohort of others to discuss relevant topics.

In March we began to look for an outside bookkeeper to help us transition from Quicken to QuickBooks for our financial software. (Quicken is geared more toward a household, not an organization).

A techsoup.com account was created. This allows us discounts on many products and services as a non-profit organization including QuickBooks and other services.

Kathleen Dai was hired as our outside bookkeeper; she has helped our transition to QuickBooks and will audit all our financial accounts as needed.

In August, we received a check for \$5000 from the estate of Virginia Risdon, a former member of the church who has recently passed.

With the incorporation of QuickBooks, the financial spreadsheets have been reformatted to be more concise and made easier to read and understand.

We began using Breeze as our tithely (giving) software. It partners with QuickBooks as a seamless management tool.

In November, I met with our Merrill Lynch representative who is looking into our investments and will make a recommendation in early 2026 as to whether we should make any changes to our current strategy.

In December, our local bank accounts were reduced to two from five, consolidating accounts that are rarely used. They now include a General Account and a Capital Account (for big projects). Monies that are earmarked for certain activities are listed in the budget but now held in a common account.

I look forward to serving the First Presbyterian Church of Branchville in 2026 as we continue our journey of positive growth in the service of Jesus Christ.

CHURCH SPECIAL FUNDS
As of 1/05/25

Merrill Lynch Account (Selective Risk stock)	\$ 65,426.95
New Covenant Fund (receives 80% of any bequest)	\$831,245.66
Anne Holland Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,087.12

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Murphy, Finance Committee Chair

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Our purpose is to contribute funds from the church budget as well as from individual donations to mandated and chosen areas of need. Those funds are General Mission, Quarterly Missions, Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday and One Great Hour of Sharing.

4 Quarterly Missions – \$250 budgeted for each quarter. Additional collections were added to the base amount.

First Quarter – Manna House/ Harvest House (Local Soup Kitchens)- Bev Simon is our liaison for Manna House, organizing the volunteers who serve in the kitchen each month. We received \$70 to be added to our budgeted amount of \$250. Amount donated: \$160 each to Manna House and Harvest House.

Second Quarter – Shelter Box This organization provides emergency shelter and supplies to families worldwide who are displaced due to disaster. \$124 was collected from the congregation to be added to the budgeted \$250 for a total donation of \$374.

Third Quarter -DonorsChoose.org – A well-vetted charity fund where public school educators post needs for their students/classrooms. Robin Rath took the time to select and present options for the committee to approve. This year \$290 has been given to DonorsChoose.org for the following projects:

Stitched Back Together: Creative Recovery After the Fires -\$145

Step Up for Independence - \$145

Fourth Quarter – Family Promise of Sussex County – This local organization works to support and assist the homeless in our area. \$310.00 was collected for the fourth quarter which will be added to the budgeted amount of \$250.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – OGHS collections began Ash Wednesday. We raised \$1,265. Half of our donations were given to Highlands Presbytery. The other half was given to Camp Johnsonburg for the “Marked for the Future Campaign” dedicated to facility improvements to better serve the camp community. The amount donated to each was \$632.50.

‘Souper Bowl’ of Caring – Souper Bowl of Caring is a one-time collection made on Super Bowl Sunday to combat hunger. This year we received \$337.46 to donate to Manna House and Harvest House.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Williams, Mission Committee Elder

MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The church year of 2025 has seen the culmination of our search for new, full-time ministerial leadership bringing excitement and opportunity to our traditional approach to worship.

The 2025 Church Year in Review:

- January – We began our year with celebrating Epiphany. To remember the Wise Men’s arrival “Star Words” were given out to everyone as a guide for the year. “Ungreening” of the Sanctuary took place on the 7th. We also celebrated the Baptism of Jesus and renewed our own baptisms in our hearts by the sharing of shells. Our congregational meeting was held on January 26th and included the ordination and installation of church officers with a potluck luncheon following.
- February – Reverend Sal Siermarco preached on the 23rd as pulpit supply.
- March – A shared Ash Wednesday ecumenical service was held on the 5th at Frankford Plains Methodist church. Mike Opilla served as pulpit supply for March 30
- April – Palm Sunday on the 13th with palms distributed at the end of the service. Maundy Thursday service was held on the 17th and Good Friday ecumenical service was held at the Branchville Methodist Church. Easter services were held on April 20th with the Sunday School singing with the Choir. New white hanging banners – in honor of Carol Vealey – were displayed in the sanctuary. In addition, a large wooden cross was placed in front of the sanctuary for Holy Week, with purple, black and white drapes helping to illustrate Christ’s entrance to Jerusalem, the Passion and crucifixion, and subsequent Resurrection of the Lord. On Easter Sunday, members were encouraged to participate in the “flowering of the cross” whereby the barren wooden cross may be transformed into a symbol of new life.”
- May – Celebrated Mother’s Day on the 11th. Mike Opilla served as pulpit supply on the 4th. Music Sunday was celebrated on the 18th.
- June – Pentecost Sunday was observed on the 8th with members encouraged to wear red and many joined in marking the service with hand-held “tongues of fire.” New red hanging banners were displayed for Pentecost as well. Father’s Day was observed on the 15th – also marking the end of the choir year. Beginning in June – and through the end of August – we used a new ecumenical prayer, doxology and gloria patri during services.
- July – Worship was held in the sanctuary.
- August – Worship moved into the Fellowship Hall with a service on the last Sunday of the month held at Willow Brook Farm (the Opilla’s) followed by a potluck picnic. The “Happy Together” women’s choral group sang after the luncheon.
- September – Sunday School began with Rally Day on the 9th followed by a Mission Fair during coffee hour. Jeff Walters preached as pulpit supply on the 21st.

- October – On Sunday the 5th, (World Communion Sunday) Pastor candidate Adrienne Poissant preached and a congregational meeting was held immediately at the end of the service to determine if we would offer her the position of full-time pastor. A positive vote was recorded, and Pastor Adrienne became our Pastor officially as of the 19th. Interim Pastors Nancy and David Young led their final service on the 12th. Reformation Sunday was observed on the 26th.
- November – Reverend Bronc Radak joined us to lead communion pending Pastor Adrienne's formal ordination. We celebrated Stewardship Sunday on November 16th . An ecumenical service was also held on the 23rd in the evening at Frankford Plains Methodist Church. A Sohmer baby grand piano was donated by the Opillas and moved into the sanctuary this month (the piano was previously owned by Reverend John Arnedt a former Pastor of FPC Branchville).
- December – We celebrated the four Sundays of Advent. The Greening of the church on the 7th was carried out as in prior years with the congregation helping to place decorations throughout the sanctuary and placing Crismsons on the tree during the service. The Sunday School sang with the Choir on the 14th. The Christmas Eve service started with a hymn sing at 7:15 pm followed by a 7:30 pm service. We ended the year with a Carol Sing service.

We are continuing to stream our worship services online in "real time".

We continue to be blessed to have John Gagliardi as our Organist and Dawn Latincsics as our Choir Director. The Music & Worship Committee thanks all those who have lent their musical talents, and those who participated as Lay readers, ushers, "camera crew" and more. Many thanks to all who helped in some way, enriching our worship experience.

Music & Worship Committee members: Gail Burckes, Trish Cherny, Nancy Clink, John Gagliardi, Kathleen Katzenstein, Dawn Latincsics, Gay Plog,

Respectfully submitted,
 Karen Opilla, Music & Worship Elder

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

By far the most important Personnel event for the year was the onboarding of our new pastor. The work began with an updated job description for the role, which Mike Lutz did in collaboration with the Pastor Nominating Committee. Mike worked closely with Pastor Adrienne to ensure a smooth transition into her new role. The onboarding was successful.

Prior to Pastor Adrienne assuming the role of pastor, Mike worked with Pastors David and Nancy to clarify the terms and conditions for both Dawn and John. As a result, we reclassified them from employees to contractors.

The Personnel Committee also recommended 2026 compensation increases for our paid staff which reflected both the value we place on these individuals and the church's ability to pay. After extended discussion, Session approved the recommendations.

The paid staff – Alycia Gardner, Dawn Latincsics and John Gagliardi – are all performing well and are off to a good start working with Pastor Adrienne.

Respectfully submitted,
 Mike Lutz, Chair, Personnel Committee

PROPERTY REPORT

Our buildings and grounds operations, throughout the past year may best be summed up as “ongoing.” Following are a few highlights of activities:

- Property clean-up and repairs continue to be foremost, and we had a really good volunteer workday this past Fall that included a pancake breakfast (Thank You Volunteers!)
- The old basement entry door at the front of the Sanctuary building has been replaced, including some significant re-construction of the surrounding framing (Thank you to Daisey Roe for funding!)
- Snow removal – in both the early months of 2025 and the closeout of the year last month in December – have hearkened back to snowy winters of old. We have purchased a hi-powered, hand-held blower to help and it has already proved to be very useful
- The breezeway between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall had a significant upgrade in the Fall with power-washing, repainting of the ceiling and new light fixtures installed (again, thank you to Daisey Roe for funding!) AND we were able to power-wash the exterior of the Sanctuary (back wall and side facing the Fellowship Hall) at the same time
- Tree maintenance was another important activity this past year with removal of an old Ash tree in the back yard and trimming of the large Maple in the front yard

Our physical structures and facilities are all operating well at present; however, we believe that there is significant room for improvement. Earlier this past year we began investigating the viability of two significant capital projects:

1. Heat upgrade for the Sanctuary (to also include installation of air conditioning). We have received our first proposal for this effort.
2. Renovation of the interior of Fellowship Hall (including upgrades to our qualified kitchen). We are still in the planning and proposal stage for this project

We look forward to continuing to refresh our physical structures in the coming year, with some additional focus on our grounds and landscaping.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Opilla, Property Elder

STATISTICAL REPORT

As of 12/31/25:

Active members 176

During 2025:

Additions: 1
Losses: 16 (mostly due to membership roll review)

As of 12/31/24:

Active members 161

Liturgical Activity during 2025:

Communion: 12
Confirmations: 0
Baptisms: 1
Weddings: 0
Funerals: 4

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Lutz, Clerk of Session

STEWARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee approached the Congregation with a letter and a pamphlet that was mailed out to the Congregation about our story of Stepping Up as We Gather, Nurture and Proclaim along with our narrative budget. A link for virtual pledging was included as move forward with technology. The committee participated in the Mission Fair Sunday in early September with a table showing and explaining stewardship (It is not just financial pledging). Thank you to those who stopped by, asked questions and volunteered to be on the committee.

2025: 27 pledges. \$68,300 pledged.

2026: 24 pledges. \$71,060 pledged as of 12/31/2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Parson, Stewardship Chair

DAISEY ROE CHAIN

The Daisey Roe Chain was established in 1948 and continues to thrive to this day with 19 members and three cherished senior members.

In February we planned our meetings and projects for the year and made a craft for the congregation. The group purchased two new Lenten banners in honor of Carol Vealey.

In March we held our member appreciation luncheon and a movie called "The Six Triple Eight".

In April we planned and prepared for our May Flea Market. The new door was installed under the Sanctuary between the two stairways.

In May we hosted coffee hour and held a very successful Flea Market and flower/plant sale fundraiser.

In June we held our annual luncheon. We paid to update the lights in the breezeway and re-do the ceiling.

In August we held our annual picnic and planned the September Flea Market.

From our flower/plant sale fundraiser, we were able to purchase through the Presbyterian Catalog, two goats, a family of chickens and two sewing machines that were sent to underprivileged areas.

In September We had another very successful Flea Market. We also participated in the church Mission Fair.

In October the group paid for power washing the side of the church and the breezeway and paid for fans in Fellowship Hall. The group voted and approved that this year's charity of choice will be St Jude's and the Shriners. We discussed purchasing new collection plates and a new challis.

In November we planned out our annual donations to local and non-local charities.

In December we hosted coffee hour again and provided cookies for each week in December. We also held our annual Christmas party in Fellowship Hall, catered by Hayak's.

We made donations to the following charities:

Branchville Hose Company, Manna House, Frankford Fire House, Blue Ridge Rescue Squad, Harvest House, DASI, Samaritan Inn, Project Self Sufficiency, Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice book drop, Jean's Pantry

The Daisey Roe Chain thanks you all for your continued support of our events including our Spring and Fall Flea Markets and Thrift Shop. It is your donations of items to our Thrift Shop that makes our donations to local charities and our church possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Katzenstein, Daisey Roe Secretary

DAISEY ROE FINANCIALS

DESCRIPTION	INCOME	
January 1, 2025, Opening Balance		\$4,138.54
INCOME:		
Offering	\$59.58	
Thrift Shop	\$14,899.24	

C & C Growers Fundraiser	\$262.03
Flea Market May	\$1,539.30
Flea Market September	\$1,939.35
Repair New Door Project	\$3,600.00
Church Projects	\$2,600.00
Christmas Luncheon	\$380.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$25,279.50

EXPENSES & DONATIONS

Easter Banner	\$278.00
Daisey Roe Luncheon	\$98.00
Flea Market May	\$163.50
Flea Market September	\$248.11
Mission Presbyterian Church USA	\$303.00
Repair New Door Project	\$3,600.00
Church Fans	\$172.67
Breezeway Power Washing	\$600.00
Breezeway Painting	\$1,877.00
Breezeway Light Project	\$1,060.00
Birthday Flowers	\$15.00
Charity of Choice:	
St. Jude Children	\$1,000.00
Shiners Children	\$1,000.00
Local Charities Donations	\$2,000.00
Christmas Luncheon	\$394.29
TOTAL EXPENSES & DONATIONS	\$12,809.57
December 31, 2025, Closing Balance	\$16,608.47

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Burkes, Treasurer

DEACONS

The Deacons continue their mission to lend compassion, provide service, and share in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ to all in need.

Deacons completed the following duties/tasks during 2025:

- Served in the major role of preparing and clearing of communion as well as recruiting ushers for worship services. In addition to regular Sundays, we were involved in Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve worship.
- Organized, set up and cleaned up Potluck meals. This year we had events at the Congregational Meeting on Jan. 26 helped with the potluck at Opilla's Farm on August 24.
- Organized and maintained the Fellowship Hall Supply Closet by monitoring paper goods and coffee supplies. It was suggested that we inform (give a tour to) other people who use the supplies of the closet. This would let them see how it is stocked and managed.
- Met the Coffee Hour responsibilities for the month of January and June.
- Provided and distributed Mother's Day & Father's Day gifts at worship service.
- Attended a joint meeting with Session Aug 11.
- Participated in the Mission Fair on September 7.

- Organized food collection and assembly of 15 Thanksgiving Baskets for Jean's Food Pantry clients. The Deacons funded the pies. This year Linda Osborne, Wende Clausen and Bob Price assembled the baskets with their knowledge and understanding of the clients who would be getting them.
- This year we organized our December duties by week, rather than by the month. Dividing up the recruiting of ushers and separating out the communion set up worked very well during this very busy season!

Jean's Food Pantry: The Deacons oversee the food pantry with Linda Osborne as the coordinator. Wende Clausen manages the finances. Separate reports are included in this document.

Concern List: The deacons have revised the process to reach out to our membership. We are sending "Thinking of You" cards for joys and concerns as people are identified by Deacons and members of the congregation. At the end of meetings, we each sign the card with a personal message. It is a very nice "community" event.

Other:

- It was also decided that the Fellowship Committee would provide Christmas Stocking Gifts to the food Pantry clients this Christmas season.
- The Deacons will research, with the input of Pastor Adrienne, and purchase a new Communion Goblet & Pitcher set.
- We have established a new routine as per request of Session. Each month the Deacon Treasurer will forward our approved minutes with the treasurer report to the Finance Elder.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Anderson, Secretary

DEACONS FINANCIALS

2025 starting balance - \$6635.48

Food Pantry's Starting Balance - \$5736.71

Deacon's Fund Starting Balance - \$898.77

The Deacons Fund checking account is split into two smaller accounts, the Food Pantry and the other is the Deacons Fund. The donations received from individuals and organizations are tagged for either of those smaller accounts. The Food Pantry continues to be blessed with donations. The donations received totaled 2399.00. Checks written to help replenish the food pantry totaled 1336.91. The Deacon Fund had no deposits named for them in 2025. A check was written for new checks for the checking account totaling 33.95 from that account.

Food Pantry Ending Balance - \$6821.68

Deacon Fund Ending Balance - \$841.94

Total Ending Balance - \$7663.62

As I rotate off serving my full expected terms as Deacon, I feel so very blessed to have worked with Deacons over the past years. They are hardworking people striving to help where help is needed. I again pray for continued generosity to the Deacon Fund and The Food Pantry.

Blessings to all!

Respectfully Submitted,
Wende Clausen, Deacons' Treasurer

DEACONS' FOOD PANTRY

Jean's pantry is managed by volunteers Nancy and Bob Price. Linda Osborne is the pantry coordinator. Wende Clausen is the Deacon/Jean's pantry treasurer and volunteer. Mike Lutz does a monthly food pick up from the Sparta Community food pantry

At the end of 2024, we lost our biggest resource for food when advised by the Sussex County Food Pantry that they were no longer able to assist our food pantry. In light of this new development, we decided to reduce our hours of operation in January and February 2025 to the first Wednesday of the month. With the congregation's generosity as well as with the many food pantry angels who provide bags of food, Amazon deliveries and monetary donations, we were able to keep our shelves stocked. Therefore, we changed our hours back to every Wednesday beginning March 2025.

We also received donations from the Sparta Community Food Pantry, Kittatinny Masonic Lodge, gift cards from Weis Market and ShopRite, and we received 180 boxes of cereal from the Frankford School cereal race. This summer we asked the congregation to "Share the Sunshine, Stock the Shelves" as we were running low on essential food items. We provided 15 families with a Thanksgiving dinner.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of the congregation and community. Your donations to Jean's pantry makes a difference for families in need.

Monthly Statistics for 2025: (the number of families/single households using Jean's Pantry)

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	1	6	7
February	4	10	14
March	2	15	17
April	6	12	18
May	4	13	17
June	5	19	24
July	13	16	29
August	11	18	29
September	10	14	24
October	3	20	23
November	4	17	21
December	4	19	23

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Osborne, Deacon, Food Pantry Coordinator

MUSIC DIRECTOR

The 1st Presbyterian Church of Branchville continued its treasured legacy of worship through music and song in 2025. The Chancel Choir of 9-11 members each week provided beautiful anthems to enhance our services.

We are blessed to have talented singers in all ranges who are able to quickly learn new pieces each week, with patience and laughter.

The Bells of Branchville welcomed new "ringer" Karen Cummins and Junior Ringers Maddie and Ellie. Our Bells of Branchville practice most weeks after gulping down their coffee after church! They are a flexible, dedicated group, covering positions and bells for each other as needed. We appreciated the assistance of Pastors Davis and Adrienne filling in when needed!

We were blessed with the special musical talents of David and Nancy, Aimee, Mike Osborne, the Sunday school children, Junko and Kai who each shared their gifts with the congregation. We were also blessed with the donation of a baby grand piano for the sanctuary from the Opilla family.

Many thanks to John Gagliardi for his amazing talents as organist, providing us with beautiful preludes, service music and postludes each week, and for assisting the choir when needed.

I look forward to another year of praising God through music in 2026 and invite any who are called to join us!

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Latincsics, Music Director

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation
First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ**

January 26, 2025

Co-Moderator: Rev. Dr. Nancy Young

Co-Moderator: Rev. David Young

Clerk of Session: Kathleen A. Katzenstein

Pastor David Young called the annual Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church to order at 11:00 am with prayer and with a memorial minute to gratefully remember those members who have passed away this past year: Duncan Caldwell, Charlotte Lawson, Joanne Lawson and Jean Ransom. May they rest in peace.

Kathleen Katzenstein, Clerk of Session, certified that a quorum was present.

It was **MOVED and seconded** that we approve the call and agenda for the meeting and the motion was **approved**. A **MOTION** was made **and seconded** to approve the Congregational minutes from January 29, 2023 and October 29, 2023. The Motion was **approved**.

Donna Havelin, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, reminded us that Mike Lutz and Karen Opilla had been elected as Elders at the meeting on October 29, 2023. Mike was elected for a 1st three-year term and Karen for a 2nd three year term. We are still looking for another Elder to fill our slate of officers. The floor was opened for nominees. Hearing none, a **MOTION** was made **and seconded** to close the nominations. The motion was **approved**. Donna then informed us that Debbie Anderson and John Newcomer were elected on October 29, 2023 as Deacons, each for a three year term. We are in need of three more Deacons to fill our slate of officers. The floor was opened to nominations. Hearing none, a **MOTION** was made **and seconded** to close the nominations. The motion was **approved**.

Our Nominating Committee consists of two elders, one deacon and four members-at-large. Donna Havelin presented a slate of members-at-large consisting of Bev Keur, Judy Casey, and Marion Alden. We are in need of one more volunteer. The floor was opened to nominations. Debbie Gardner graciously volunteered as a member-at-large. Hearing no other nominations, the floor was closed and a **MOTION** was made **and seconded** to elect Debbie Gardner as a member of that committee. The motion was **approved**.

Co-moderator Nancy Young assumed the moderator's chair.

Pastor Nancy then asked for a motion to approve the Annual Reports. The **MOTION** was made **and seconded**. Moderator Nancy asked the Congregation if there were any questions regarding the Annual Report. Hearing none, the motion was **approved**.

Donna Havelin and Debbie Anderson then spoke to the group regarding Christian Education. A huge thank you goes out to Pastor Nancy Young and Pastor David for heading up our adult bible study these past few months. Another soup and Lenten study will begin in March. All are invited to attend. Another thank you to Debbie Anderson, Liz Dietz, Julie Clawson and Kristen Reinertsen for several years of teaching our Sunday School students. Donna will be taking over our Sunday School and Linda Osborne has volunteered to assist for the month of March. We need more volunteers for Sunday School teachers. Please volunteer.

Gail Burkes, our auditor, advises us that there are no improprieties found and that it is a pleasure and a privilege to work with Alycia.

At this point, the ecclesiastical meeting was suspended.

Buzz Alden, President of the Corporation, called the corporate meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Branchville to order.

A **MOTION** was made **and seconded** that the Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Branchville (incorporated in the State of New Jersey) meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024, adopts all acts of the Congregation as acts of the corporation. Motion was **approved**. A **MOTION** was made **and seconded** to close the corporate meeting and it was **approved**.

The ecclesiastical meeting was resumed. Pastor David resumed moderating. New Business was discussed. Pastor Nancy spoke to the Congregation regarding the discernment process. She will be our facilitator. She will need a team from the congregation. The process usually takes between four to six months.

A **MOTION** was then made **and seconded** to adjourn the meeting. Motion was **approved**. The meeting was closed at 11:24 am with prayer by Pastor David.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Katzenstein,
Clerk of Session

Rev. David Young,
Co-Moderator

Rev. Dr. Nancy Young,
Co-Moderator

Minutes of Congregational Meeting
First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ
November 2, 2025

The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Reverend Bronc Radak.

Debbie Anderson was certified as the substitute Clerk. She confirmed there was a quorum. There were approximately 51 people present.

The minutes of the October 5 Congregation meeting were approved.

Corbin Opilla was nominated to the office of Elder for a first term as Elder. Mike Opilla and Donna Havelin were nominated to second terms as Elders. The congregation approved all three unanimously.

Debbie Gardner and Ellen Santoro were nominated for a first term as Deacons. Lisa Hughes was nominated for a second term as a Deacon. The congregation approved all three unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Lutz
Clerk of Session

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville

Approved Budget

2026

		EXPLANATIONS	FINAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
			2024	2025	2025	2026
INCOME						
	Pledges		\$ 40,518	\$ 50,000	\$ 57,447	\$ 76,060
	Member Giving	Non-pledging, known	\$ 60,573	\$ 47,500	\$ 30,153	\$ 23,700
	Loose Cash	Unidentified	\$ 4,910	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,361	\$ 2,500
	Other	Identified, non-members	\$ 13,260	\$ 12,000	\$ 4,238	\$ 2,000
	Rent	Fellowship Hall Rental	\$ 200	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ -
	Fund Raisers		\$ 1,227	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ -
	E-Giving		\$ 20,562	\$ 20,000	\$ 13,354	\$ 14,000
	Subtotal		\$ 141,250	\$ 135,400	\$ 109,552	\$ 118,260
NON INCOME OPERATING FUNDS						
	Transfer from stock	Investment distributions from endowment	\$ 13,884	\$ 25,000	\$ 41,551	\$ 50,000
	Misc.	FMI / Dividends/ Capital Gains/ other	\$ 697	\$ 500	\$ 4,231	\$ -
	Estates/ Endowment		\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,300	\$ -
	Envelopes	Special Causes	\$ 410	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ -
	Subtotal		\$ 14,991	\$ 26,900	\$ 51,082	\$ 50,000
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS						
			\$ 156,241	\$ 162,300	\$ 160,634	\$ 168,260
EXPENSES						
PASTOR						
		Pastor (FT 6mo 2025) / (FT 2026)		\$ 50,000	\$ 26,617	\$ 40,000
		Salary/ Combined	\$ 25,201	\$ 25,200	\$ -	
		SECA Allowance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,355
		Housing	\$ 39,999	\$ 40,000	\$ 36,667	\$ 30,000
		Car Allowance	\$ 2,001	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,583	\$ -
		Continuing Education	\$ 3,002	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,583	\$ 1,200
		Pension (Retirement & Health Ins.)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,136	\$ 18,510
		Moving Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000
		Pastor Reimbursements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,276	\$ 1,000
SALARIES						
		Organist	\$ 8,431	\$ 9,075	\$ 6,020	\$ 8,060
		Choir/ Bell Director	\$ 7,493	\$ 11,440	\$ 6,490	\$ 8,900
		Secretary/ Treasurer	\$ 25,893	\$ 32,500	\$ 32,500	\$ 33,475
		Video Streaming Coordinator	\$ 1,119	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,275	\$ 2,750
		Subtotal Salary	\$ 113,139	\$ 173,515	\$ 120,147	\$ 151,250
GOVERNMENT						
		FICA (Medicaid & SSI)	\$ 901	\$ 1,591	\$ 1,865	\$ 1,638
		Subtotal Government	\$ 901	\$ 1,591	\$ 1,865	\$ 1,638
OFFICE/ ADMINISTRATIVE						
		Accounting	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,999	\$ 1,500
		Office Supplies	\$ 4,550	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,617	\$ 1,500
		Office Equipment	\$ 5,626	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,404	\$ 3,000
		Postage	\$ 245	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 250
		Telephone/ Internet	\$ 839	\$ 800	\$ 1,608	\$ 1,200
		E-Giving (Processing Fee)	\$ 1,291	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,126	\$ 1,300
		Software & Apps			\$ 224	\$ -
		Printing			\$ 2,355	\$ -
		Ministry Safe Safety Training				\$ 500
		Per Capita (163 x \$42.50/25)(179 x \$44/26)	\$ 7,523	\$ 6,375	\$ 7,202	\$ 7,876
		Subtotal	\$ 20,074	\$ 17,375	\$ 19,534	\$ 17,126
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION						
		Committee Events	\$ 156	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -
		Sunday School (curric., etc.)	\$ 71	\$ 400	\$ 100	\$ 650
		Background Check	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ 264	\$ 400
		Subtotal	\$ 227	\$ 575	\$ 364	\$ 1,050

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville

Approved Budget

2026

WORSHIP						
	Pulpit Supply	\$ 425	\$ 1,000	\$ 736	\$ 750	
	Vocal & Handbell Music Supplies	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	
	Piano Maintenance	\$ 375	\$ 2,000	\$ 725	\$ 1,600	
	Handbell Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 3,650	
	Organ Maintenance			\$ 1,840	\$ 514	
	Substitute Organist	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 185	\$ 500	
	Worship Supplies	\$ 804	\$ 2,000	\$ 434	\$ 500	
	Sound System	\$ 5,977	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	Music Copyrights	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 330	\$ 300	
	Subtotal	\$ 7,581	\$ 7,250	\$ 4,250	\$ 7,814	
FELLOWSHIP						
	Fellowship (College Care Packages)	\$ 55	\$ 200	\$ 112	\$ 300	
	Subtotal	\$ 55	\$ 200	\$ 112	\$ 300	
MISSIONS/ STEWARDSHIP						
	General Mission/Global	\$ 1,163	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000	
	Local Mission	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 657	\$ 1,000	
STEWARDSHIP						
	Supplies	\$ 110	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100	
	Subtotal	\$ 1,273	\$ 3,100	\$ 657	\$ 3,100	
PROPERTY						
	Insurance	\$ 10,408	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,115	\$ 10,000	
	Maintenance/Building	\$ 10,162	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,417	\$ 5,000	
	Water (usage)	\$ 566	\$ 700	\$ 477	\$ 700	
	Sewer Service	\$ 3,472	\$ 3,800	\$ 3,842	\$ 3,800	
	Cleaning	\$ 6,108	\$ 5,700	\$ 6,384	\$ 6,500	
	Supplies (Coffee Hour)	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,032	\$ 1,500	
	Burner Maintenance	\$ 1,402	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	
	Propane FH - Stove	\$ 192	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ 3,000	
	Electric FH	\$ 1,464	\$ 2,200	\$ 1,586	\$ 1,800	
	Natural Gas FH	\$ 3,277	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,689	\$ 3,000	
	Oil Church	\$ 5,438	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,082	\$ 9,000	
	Electric Church	\$ 850	\$ 1,000	\$ 868	\$ 1,000	
	Subtotal	\$ 43,339	\$ 40,100	\$ 34,492	\$ 46,300	
COMMUNICATIONS						
	Outreach/Website	\$ 2,235	\$ 1,000	\$ 54	\$ 1,000	
	Nominating Committee (PNC)	\$ -		\$ 1,129	\$ -	
	Advertising	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 78	\$ 500	
	Subtotal	\$ 2,235	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,261	\$ 1,500	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$ 188,824	\$ 245,206	\$ 182,681	\$ 230,078	
	Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (173,833)	\$ (218,306)	\$ (131,599)	\$ (61,818)	
CAPITOL PROJECTS						
	Fellowship Hall Renovations					???
	Church Air Conditioning					\$ 40,000
	Private Donation Towards A/C Project					\$ (25,000)
	Balance needed for Air Conditioning (Church)					\$ 15,000