

CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 22, No. 2

February 2022



AT A GLANCE

13th – Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday



14th – Valentine's Day



21st – Presidents' Day—Office Closed



Happy Valentine's Day



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



Our Mission Statement:

Our mission is to gather as a church family for worship and spiritual fellowship, to nurture and educate, and to proclaim the gospel to the world.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1
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BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME 22, NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2022

The Loving Way

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



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This month I've been preaching on I Corinthians, where Paul tries to bolster a church he had founded a few years earlier, to help them get past the divisions that have developed amongst them. Going in four different directions within the one church there in Corinth, Paul tries to pull them back together into a single body again all following Jesus Christ. You can feel the love he has for them as he points out their strengths and blessings, and tries to bring them back together in a unity of purpose.

Most likely the divisions have caused hard feelings between the groups. Accusations, bitterness, one-ups-manship, thoughtlessness, and pride have all arisen in their dispute, none of which is easy to get over. Like them, we've all had someone cut us down. We've all had someone take advantage of us. We've all been the object of jealousy or false rumors, and *none* of it feels good. The easy way is to continue the progression, returning hurt for hurt, and pain for pain. It's not easy to take the high road.

There's a poem about that called,

It Is Not Easy...

- To apologize,
- To begin over,
- To be unselfish,
- To take advice,
- To admit error,
- To face a sneer,
- To be charitable,
- To keep trying,
- To be considerate,
- To avoid mistakes,
- To endure success,
- To profit by mistakes,
- To forgive and forget,
- To think and then act,
- To keep out of a rut,
- To make the best of little,
- To subdue an unruly temper,
- To shoulder a deserved blame,
- To recognize the silver lining—

BUT IT ALWAYS PAYS.

I think that's what Paul was getting at. To follow the example of the One who went to the cross, even when he was innocent. That's what we're called to do as well—not take the easy way of revenge or pettiness, but the harder way that breaks the cycle.

I don't offer this page of thoughts like I have it all figured out myself. So let's all make a stronger effort to live up to Christ's example, and I'll see you in church where we can support each other in the attempts.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff





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.

- Marion & Buzz Alden after the loss of her sister Lois
- Amy
- Ann
- Alec
- Charles Barefoot
- Beth
- Roberta Burkhart
- Nikki Bush
- Muriel Card who is fighting cancer
- Lois Castle
- Cathy
- all those suffering or recovering from Covid, may all those who are hospitalized come home.
- Sylvia Dachisen
- Danielle and family who have been in the NICU with their new-born daughter Riley since before Thanksgiving
- David
- Ed
- Emily
- Dave Freeman Jr. and his family on the passing of his father
- Ronald Gibbins Sr who has covid and pneumonia at 85 in a FL hospital
- Grace
- Barbara Granholm
- Heather
- Irene
- Jack
- Jacob
- Janet's Aunt Shirley who recently lost her son Leonard
- Jess
- John
- Karen
- Audrey Katzenstein
- Lois Kinney and her son Kendahl and Melissa both with covid
- Kevin
- n David who've caught covid, and her brother Raymond Price that he recovers from pneumonia soon
- Kirsten with Covid
- Chick Krug recovering from surgery
- Josh Langley
- Linda
- Lisa
- Nate battling chronic illnesses
- Cully Opilla
- Karen Opilla
- Nicole Perry
- Sandy
- Sarah
- The Seely family on the loss of Grandma Rose
- Sherry Moon
- Stephanie
- Todd
- Becky Willis
- Mindy Wunder with Covid
- Molly Young who is recovering from brain surgery



Church News

I ♥ My Church

In February we are encouraged to think more about the love in our lives. It's also a great time to remember that, as Christians, we have the privilege and power to share the great Love of Christ far beyond our own limited reach. The 2022 Per Capita is \$40 per person. Our Per Capita is used to pay administrative costs of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, and also goes toward the denominational missions we support. It would help us meet our budget if you would use the Per Capita envelope, or note on a check "Per Capita," to help us offset what we have to pay out of our church budget. So please, in February, as you celebrate the many gifts of Love, remember to Love Your Church with your Per Capita gift.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES - For those who use offering envelopes, they may be found on the table just inside the Fellowship Hall. They are organized in alphabetical order. For those who chose to be assigned a "giving" number rather than using the boxed envelopes, you may continue to use the envelope number that was assigned to you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the church office.



STEWARDSHIP - Thank you to all those who have turned in their Pledge Card. If you have not turned yours in for 2022 yet, please drop it in the offering plate during our offering, or mail it in to the church office. Additional Pledge Cards may be found in each pew or from the office. Thank you!

DAISEY ROE - The next Daisey Roe meeting will be Wednesday, February 9th, in the Fellowship Hall at 1pm for Valentine Crafts for Homestead residents, followed by our meeting and refreshments at 3pm. We hope you'll join us!

Members are thankful that the Brady Landscape company was able to complete the walkway. Brian and Justine did a wonderful job including the Cross in the walkway. Our Thrift Shop has been very successful "a dollar at a time." We will re-open sometime in March, weather permitting. Please HOLD any donations until further notice. This year Daisey Roe members may volunteer in the Thrift Shop and or Daisey Roe gardens. We're looking forward to spring!

Do you see the Cross?



MISSIONS



MISSION NEWS - Manna House in Newton and Harvest House in Sussex are the first quarter Local Mission outreaches for 2022. Both these kitchens are staffed by volunteers and serve an average of 50 people each weekday for lunch. They rely solely on donations and volunteers and receive no government support or grants. Please consider a contribution to keep these kitchens operating. Please help us support these well-established organizations with a check made out to FPCB with "1st Quarterly Mission" in the memo line. If you are in the sanctuary, you can use the special envelopes available. Your donations make a difference!



The Souper Bowl of Caring offering will be February 13th, the day of the SUPER BOWL!! Donations this year will be donated toward our 1st quarter Local Mission. Please consider donating an equivalent amount to what you will spend for refreshments while watching the Super Bowl. The

Mission Committee ask that you mail-in or drop-off your donation to the church office or use the QR Code you see to the right (scan it with your cell-phone camera—no need to take a photo, just click on the link that comes up when you scan). Or, checks may be made out to *First Presbyterian Church* with "Souper Bowl" on the memo line. As always—thank you for your support! You can also give through e-giving by looking for the fund list for Souper Bowl of Caring and checking the box next to it. Here's the link:



<https://giving.ncsservices.org/App/Giving/fpcbbranchville>



**USHERS
WANTED**

DEACONS

Please help us in church by signing up for ushering. With all the on/off with coffee time, and masking, we understand people may be reluctant to come to church. If however, you are comfortable doing so, please consider signing up through the link

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PtxTt-j8tGs0Zil6mqjJbgQPKFspneu6pjaxvsQWuPd8/edit> I know some of us are technically challenged, but I think a lot of us probably know how to shop online, etc! It would make the deacons' lives so much more pleasant to have the knowledge we will have ushers. Looking forward to being inundated with volunteers! By the way, I am responsible for February, hint, hint, so please help the church as much as you are able. We don't have to take peoples' temperatures any more. It just makes coming to church more "normal." Thank you,

Judy Casey (on behalf of the deacons)

Our Food Pantry always needs re-stocking in these uncertain times, and donations of any canned items, paper products, cereals, pasta, or personal hygiene products are needed. Please consider donating to this continuous need in our community.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY

Elizabeth Bellush	2/1	Carly Swanson	2/19
Richard Martin	2/2	Erika Clausen	2/20
Alycia Gardner	2/3	Paul Sutphen	2/23
Mike Opilla	2/4	Dan Kota	2/25
Jim Rawson	2/10	Aidan Becker	2/27
Ember Morris	2/18	Bryant Hatch	2/27

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

TURKEY BISCUIT STEW

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can condensed chicken broth
- 3/4 cup 2% milk
- 2 cups cubed cooked turkey
- 1 cup cooked peas
- 1 cup cooked baby carrots
- 1 tube large refrigerated buttermilk biscuits



DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 375°. In a 10-in. cast-iron or other ovenproof skillet, sauté onion in butter until tender. Stir in the flour, salt and pepper until blended. Gradually add broth and milk. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly, about 2 minutes. Add the turkey, peas and carrots; heat through. Separate biscuits and arrange over the stew.

Bake until biscuits are golden brown, 20-25 minutes.



WORSHIP
VOLUNTEER
opportunities



February LAY READERS

- 6th - Lois Kinney
- 13th - Kathleen Katzenstein
- 20th - Marion Alden
- 27th - Trish Cherny

USHERS

Deacon of the Month—Judy Casey

- 6th - Trish Cherny/Judy Casey
- 13th - Beverly Simon/Judy Casey
- 20th - Trish Cherny/Judy Casey
- 27th - Judy Casey



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View our website at:
<http://www.fpcbranchville.org>

and Facebook at:
<http://www.facebook.com>
(ask to be friends with "pastorjh@ptd.net")

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

View a daily devotion at:
<http://www.d365.org>



FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR

Hosted by:
Chancel Choir

FEBRUARY FLOWER CHART:

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

Open 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*

(even though her shop closed, she'll still do flowers for our church)





FEBRUARY 2022



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, NJ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
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6 10:00 AM Worship/Communion Sunday 11:15-12:15 PM Bells of Branchville 	7 10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry 3:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting	8	9 10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Daisey Roe Valentine Craft/Meeting 7:30 PM Boys Scouts' Meeting	10 10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir 	11	12																																																																																																																
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