CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER

First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 26 No. 10 **October 2026**

OCTOBER AT A GLANCE:

4th – World Communion Day

12th – Columbus Day
(Office Closed)

16th – Oktoberfest 6pm-8pm

25th – Congregation Meeting/Potluck

31st – Happy Halloween



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



Our Mission Statement:

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

INDEX	Pg.
Cover Page	1
Pastor Page	2
Prayer Concerns	3
Church News	4
Session	5
Christian Ed	6
Birthdays/ Recipe	7
Information/ Calendar	8 - 9



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826

VOLUME 26, NO. 9 **SEPTEMBER 2026**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

This October marks one year since I became your pastor. In some ways, I feel like I've been here much longer, but in other ways, I feel like I just started yesterday. Getting to know everyone here at FPC Branchville has been such a privilege and I look forward to another year of worshiping together!

The past year has been very full with good things! Together, we celebrated the greening of the church, hosted an Ash Wednesday service with our neighboring Methodist churches, listened to our children's choir perform for Christmas, Palm Sunday, and the last day of Sunday school. We've had potlucks and dinners for eight, Bible studies and adult education, and music Sunday.

Since starting here, my goal has always been to take the wonderful traditions of FPC Branchville and add to them. I have wanted to try new things and you all have been so welcoming and supportive of each attempt! I could not have asked for a better congregation to serve than this one!

As we continue with the various programs and groups the church has, I invite everyone to keep their minds open. Tell me what you love about our church, but also tell me ideas you have to try something new. While I am the pastor, this church is ultimately yours. You have been here before me and you will be here after me. Even if you don't have an official leadership position in the church, you are still an important part of keeping it alive.

I look forward to returning from Greece and starting my second year as your pastor! Exciting times are ahead of us with fall now here, holidays approaching, and the church trying new ministries! I hope and pray that my second year will be as blessed as my first one was.

Peace,

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
- All with cancer
- Amy D. & Children
- Anita
- Barbara Z.
- Bill & Krista
- Bobby
- Carlos
- Carol
- Cecilla
- Christine
- Dawn
- Derek & Employees
- Elizabeth
- Esperanza
- Ethel
- Family & Friends of Betty McMickle on her passing
- Family & Friends of Edie on her passing
- Family & Friends of Ronald Jones on his passing
- Fred
- Gary Hocking
- Grace
- Harger
- Jimmy
- Joan
- John & Jeremy
- Jordyn Martin
- Joyce O.
- Judy
- Kelly
- Kevin
- Kevin Smith
- Kristin R.
- Lexington
- Liz
- Margo
- Marilyn DalCin
- Mary Lou
- Melissa
- Michele
- Mike
- Mike K.
- Molly
- Nancy
- Patty
- Phyllis
- Ray
- RD
- Rita
- Robyn
- Ron & Katie
- Sal
- Sarah Rude
- Stephanie D.
- Steve
- Sylvia
- The Smith Family
- The Snyder Family
- Tom
- Tracy
- Virginia
- Wendy



- The Birth of Aurora to Scott & Mariah Hatch
- The Birth of Great-nephew Ajax Alan of Jeff & Betty Willis
- Ryan & Brittany Keur on the Birth of their 3rd Daughter Cameron Elizabeth Keur. Proud Grandparents Link & Bev Keur.

Church News



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — We will be holding our congregational meeting in the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 25th to elect elders, deacons and members-at-large to the nominating committee. Followed by a Potluck Lunch.



MANNA HOUSE $5 SPAGHETTI DINNER — Indoor dining or take-out, First Presbyterian Church, 54 High St., Newton (Church Street Entrance), October 13th, 5:00 to 6:30pm. Adults $5.00, Children 5-12 $3.00, and under 5 Free. (Included are Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Cookies)



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.



4TH QUARTER MISSIONS — Since 1997, Family Promise of Sussex County has provided services to assist families and single men and women as they work towards housing stability and self-sufficiency. Family Promise of Sussex County works to eradicate homelessness in Sussex County and provides resources to strengthen children and families. They provide emergency shelter, meals, counseling, and intensive case management services. Your contributions to the 4th Quarter Mission (October–December) will go to this very worthy program to help our Sussex County neighbors who are in dire need. You may mail a check made out to "First Presbyterian Church of Branchville" with "Family Promise" in the memo. Your contributions to special mission projects make a big difference!! Thank you for your generosity.



PER CAPITA REMINDER — Just a friendly reminder for those who have not yet paid their Per Capita this year. It is $44.00/person and helps our church a great deal when we don't have to take such a large sum from our already tight budget. Thank you for your anticipated generosity!



TRICK OR TREAT CANDY – The Fellowship Committee will be collecting candy donations for Branchville's Halloween Trick-or-Treat. Those who are interested in joining us to give out candy can meet in front of the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, October 31st at 3:00.



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.

SEPTEMBER SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS 9/14)

- We have a signed agreement to rent the kitchen out to Board & Batter Catering LLC for food preparation. The next step is to get a new hood for the stove that is compliant with current regulations. Once that is completed, the catering company will start using our kitchen. One of the terms is that their use of the kitchen will not interfere with the church's use of the kitchen.
- Session approved a $100 donation to Maverick Legacy, which will be funded out of the General Fund.
- The bells are refurbished! Special thanks for Daisy Roe for contributing financially.
- The outdoor play set is newly refurbished.
- Alpine Roofing has begun repair work on the slate roof.
- Presbytery of the Highlands (our Presbytery) has inaugurated an Innovation Lab with the purpose of coming up with new ideas on growing congregations. We'll be accessing that organization for ideas.
- Pastor Adrienne moderated a "Who is My Neighbor?" meeting, which generated ideas about how to reach out to people in the area who are not currently attending church. The lead idea coming out of that meeting was having an evening midweek worship service. Pastor Adrienne and others are working to develop that idea.
- Session members were polled individually to provide feedback to Pastor Adrienne on the eve of her one year anniversary. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with a few suggested tweaks.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- **Oktoberfest** — Join us for an Oktoberfest in the Fellowship Hall on October 16th from 6:00 to 8:00. There will be food, music, and games. BYOB. Limited tickets will be $10 and need to be purchased in advance. Contact Kathleen Katzenstein or the church office if you are interested.
- **Christmas Parade** — In preparation for the holiday season the Fellowship Committee is planning to continue with the hot chocolate stand in front of the Fellowship Hall again this year. All are welcome to volunteer to help with the hot chocolate stand or simply join us in watching the parade. If any church members are interested in taking charge of creating an entry to march in the parade please see Sandy Carlisle before 10/23.

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!
- Our next CE meeting will be Tues., 10/6 at 3:30.

ADULT EDUCATION

- Bible Study will continue with the study of Genesis every Thursday at 5:30. Please come and join in our lively and informative discussions.
- Discovery and Discussion Group: On 10/18, after church, Pastor Adrienne will make a presentation on her trip to Ireland and her study of the Saints while she was there. This will be a very interesting program, so we hope you can attend!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY OCTOBER

Mark Cummins	**10/1**	**Dawn Latincsics**	**10/13**
Amy Langley	**10/3**	**Karen Pawelczyk**	**10/17**
Mike Lutz	**10/3**	**Aimee Nishimura**	**10/18**
Debbie Englert	**10/4**	**Brian Dietz**	**10/18**
Kai Nishimura	**10/6**	**Ed Nishimura**	**10/18**
David Yaden	**10/11**	**Makenzi Decker**	**10/23**

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Roasted Pumpkin



INGREDIENTS

1 medium sugar pumpkin
(or butternut squash)
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon (optional)
½ teaspoon nutmeg (optional)

PREPARATION

1. Preheat Your Oven: Set your oven to 400°F (200°C). Prepare the Pumpkin: Cut in half and scoop out the seeds and strings. You can save the seeds for roasting later.
2. Cut into Segments: Slice the pumpkin into wedges or cubes, depending on your preference.
3. Season the Pumpkin: In a large bowl, toss the pumpkin pieces with olive oil, salt, pepper, garlic powder, and any additional spices like cinnamon and nutmeg. Arrange on a Baking Sheet: Spread the seasoned pumpkin evenly on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
4. Roast: Place the baking sheet in the oven and roast for 30-40 minutes, flipping halfway through. The pumpkin should be tender and caramelized. Enjoy!



OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

USHERS

4th – Nancy Clink/Nancy Lange
11th – OPEN/OPEN
18th – Nancy Clink/OPEN
25th – Brian Dietz/OPEN

LAY READERS

4th – Patrick Murphy
11th – OPEN
18th – Brian Dietz
25th – OPEN



OCTOBER COFFEE HOUR

SESSION

OCTOBER FLOWER CHART:

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

Dates:

4th –
11th –
18th –
25th –

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

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

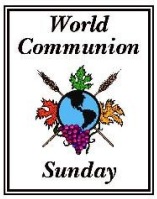
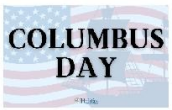
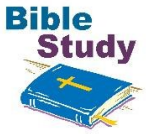
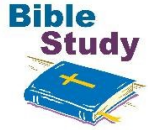
and Facebook at:
http://www.facebook.com

and Instagram at:
http://instagram.com/fpcbranchville/

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



OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Nov 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30				1	2	3 9:00 AM -1:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop 
4 10:00 AM Worship 	5 4:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting 	6 3:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting 	7 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty 	8 5:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir 	9	10 9:00 AM -1:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop 
11 10:00 AM Worship Communion 	12 7:00 PM Session Meeting Office Closed 	13	14 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty 	15 5:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir 	16 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Octoberfest 	17 9:00 AM -1:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop 
18 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Adult Discovery Group 	19	20 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting 	21 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty 	22 5:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir 	23	24 9:00 AM -1:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop 
25 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Congregation Meeting/Potluck 	26	27	28 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Panty 	29 5:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chancel Choir 	30	31 9:00 AM -1:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop 3:00 PM Branchville Trick or Treating 