



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



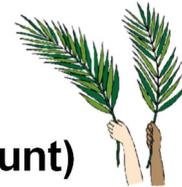
First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 22, No. 4

April 2022

APRIL AT A GLANCE:

10th—Palm Sunday
(Deacon Donut Day/Kids' Easter Egg Hunt)



Maundy
Thursday

14th—Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service 7:30pm

17th—Easter Sunday – In-person and Live Streaming Worship
10am on Facebook (Bagels offered during Coffee Hour after)



Every Sunday - 10am - In-person and Live Streaming Worship on
Facebook and then available on YouTube for later viewing

Every Saturday - Daisey Roe Thrift Shop is open from 9am-noon



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
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BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME 22 NO. 4

APRIL 2022

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Lenten Pilgrimage



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As you may know, Kay and I took a trip to Israel this past month. But more than going as sight-seers, we went on a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is more than just taking in the sights and learning the history of an area, it's to have a spiritual experience. And we certainly did.

We visited the site of Jesus' birth, and then went up into the hills where the shepherds had been visited by angels. We went to Jesus' hometown of Nazareth and read Scripture and sang in a synagogue where he probably attended as a boy. We stood in the Jordan river where Jesus was baptized. We stopped at a number of sites around the Sea of Galilee where Jesus did about 90% of his ministry. We went to where he called disciples along the shore to join him, where he multiplied the loaves and fishes for the crowd, and where he gave the Beatitudes to his followers.

We also toured Jerusalem and saw where Jesus overturned the money-changers' tables, where he went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane and then was arrested, and where he was crucified on Golgotha. We saw the empty tomb of his resurrection and gave thanks that we have a God who has overcome sin and death and is alive forever more.

It was an amazing journey that we will never forget, and we got to share some of it with the congregation on 3/20 in worship (you can find that video on YouTube). I've continued to share more pictures with the Lenten Class on Sunday evenings, and there will be 2 more classes if you'd like to see more (just contact me for the Zoom link).

This is a Lenten season, Holy Week, and Easter that has taken on deeper meaning for having experienced many of the places that the events originally took place. I pray that you have also been blessed by our journey, and are finding deeper meaning this Lent as we prepare for the events of Holy Week that lead up to the defining moment of our faith: the resurrection!

May God bless us all in this pilgrimage.

Your pastor, *Jefferson L. Hatch*





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.

- All those facing mental or physical illness
- Anna Clausen
- Audrey
- Ava
- Barbara
- Beth
- Bill
- Bonnie
- Carolyn Celli recovering from heart repair
- Charles
- Cheryl Howard
- Dorothy Grau in Hospice
- Doug
- Ed
- Family of Fred Kilpatrick (who passed away)
- Family of Lesley Harris
- Family of Sandy Tichnor
- Gabe Titus
- Grace
- Harry
- Heather
- Irene
- Jack
- Jeff and Kay
- Jess
- Jimmy
- Joan Bischoff that her recovery from surgery goes well
- Joanne Chase
- John
- Joyce Gibbins's sister
- Jude
- Karen Opilla
- Kathy
- Ken English
- Kevin
- Kip Cash and his remission
- Lewis
- Thank God for the life of Lillian Castimore
- Linda
- Lisa
- Rich Havens—recovering from knee replacement
- Rob
- Robert
- Ron Meyer
- Ruth Lozier
- Makenzi Decker
- Marie
- Mark
- May
- Mike
- Nancy
- Natalie
- Randy-lynn
- Riley
- Ruth Lozier
- Ryan
- Sylvia
- Sue
- Tom with heart problems and in Morristown Medical Center
- The Ray Cordts Family
- Those facing struggles they do not share
- Ukraine—especially children of Ukraine and animals of Ukraine
- Vera who is fighting cancer
- Vicky Haggerty
- World Peace





HELP UKRAINE — The OGHS offering will be collected throughout the Lenten season, but particularly on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. Currently one of its parts is the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) which responds to crises and disaster around the world. They are now responding to the Ukraine crisis this way: “We are responding to the Ukraine crisis as a member of the ACT Alliance. Fellow ACT Alliance partners, the Russian Orthodox Church, and Hungarian Interchurch Aid, are the lead implementers of the response. “So please give to the OGHS this season and help those displaced from their country. For more information, use the link below:



<https://pda.pcusa.org/page/ukraine-report-2-11-2015/>

PER CAPITA — If you haven't sent in your Per Capita we ask that you consider doing so. 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 goes toward the missions we support within our denomination. 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, remember to *Love Your Church* with your Per Capita gift.



2ND QUARTER MISSION — Our local focus for April, May and June is Communities' Little Helpers. This group of children up to 12 years old, led by our own Kristen Reinertsen, gathers to perform acts of community service and kindness. They visit with, make crafts for, shop for, and donate to those in need. One of their traditional projects is to create gift bags for children admitted to the Newton hospital! Your contributions allow them to purchase items that are necessary for their program activities while they learn the value of helping others. You can mark your pew donation envelope for quarterly mission or memo "CLH" on your check made out to FPCB, or use the QR Code above to make your donation. Thanks for giving to this local cause!





DEACON DONUT DAY — This is a call for us all to join in fellowship after church on **Palm Sunday**, April 10th for... Deacon Donut Day! In addition to lots of donuts there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. We look forward to gathering together in real-life—mask free!



SIGN UP TO BE AN USHER — Below is the link to the Usher sign-up form. If you would like to volunteer to be an usher, just use the link and add your name to the date you would like to sign-up. Thank you!

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PtxTt-i8tGs0Zil6mqjJbqQPKFspneu6pjxvsQWuPd8/edit>

DAISEY ROE CHAIN — Daisey Roe's next Meeting will be Wednesday, April 13th, in Fellowship Hall at 3:00pm. Agenda is our Saturday, May 14th, Flea Market and Thrift Shop 9am – 2pm. Remember, volunteers are needed. Please circle your calendar for both Flea Market and Thrift Shop.

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE — The First Presbyterian Church of Branchville and the Daisey Roe Chain are planning their 25th Annual Spring Flea Market including the Thrift Shop on Saturday May 14, 2022, from 9 am to 2 pm. Our group will be renting tables outdoors for \$20.00 each. Table space is limited to 25 tables. We do the advertising and provide tables for outdoors (sunshine only). Daisey Roe keeps spaces for our church members who are interested in renting a table., so please send in your check by April 28th, 2022, to reserve your space.



Co-Chairwomen: Marion Alden and Beverly Keur

Checks payable to: Daisey Roe Chain and mail to:

Marion Alden, 170 Culver View Lane, Branchville NJ 07826. 973-948-3663

DAISEY ROE CHAIN'S SPRING FUNDRAISER — Our C & C Growers Fund Raiser is scheduled April 1 through May 26, 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. Hostesses are Gay Plog and Nancy Clink. Please plan to join us, but note that a pink flyer is needed to receive the 10 % discount.





FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES — Spring is here and our young members at college will be returning from spring break and preparing for finals. The Fellowship Committee would once again like to send out care packages to our young members away at college. We feel this is an important outreach program to our youth away from home and helps remind them that their church family cares deeply about them and prays that they will be successful in their academics. Donations are being received through Easter.



Here are some Care Pack suggestions for you to consider: Easter candy, pencils, pens, sticky notes, prepackaged crackers, nuts, granola bars, candy bars, homemade cookies or brownies, individual size cereal boxes, popcorn, Ramen noodles, gum, hot chocolate, potato chips, Cheetos, tic tacs, protein bars, gum, etc.

You can also help by contributing money to assist with the mailing cost of the packages Just drop your check in the offering plate and put "Care Packages" in the memo line. Thank you again for your continued support of this ongoing mission project to our young members. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Fellowship Committee.

EASTER SUNDAY — The Fellowship Committee will be serving an assortment of bagels and toppings Easter Sunday after worship. Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall after worship.



FOOD PANTRY

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.

Starting this May, we are also excited to announce we will be giving out newly designed reusable grocery bags to our clients.

Just a reminder....Starting May 4, 2022, New Jersey retail stores, grocery stores and food service businesses may not provide or sell single-use plastic carryout bags and polystyrene foam food service products.





MUSIC NEWS

I'm SO happy to say that on Sunday, March 27th, the Chancel Choir returned to the choir loft and sang during the service. It felt wonderful to have the choir back! **WELCOME BACK CHANCEL CHOIR!**

April will be a busy month as we continue to prepare music for the Lenten Season, Palm Sunday, Tenebrae and Easter. **HOWEVER**, it's not too late to join us! We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00ish and would love to have you join us if you'd like to be in the Choir. Think about it – we have fun while learning music to share with the congregation. Hopefully we'll see you on Thursday night. –Kay Hatch

Handbells

The **Bells of Branchville** have been busy rehearsing. You will hear this group play several times in April. We will accompany the Chancel Choir as they sing, "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley," and will also accompany hymns that are sung throughout upcoming church services. Later in the month we will play the anthem, "Come, Christians Join to Sing." **WELCOME BACK** to the Handbells!



PURCHASE EASTER LILIES AND/OR DONATE TO OUR PVR CAMPAIGN FOR THE SANCTUARY

The Music & Worship Music & Worship Committee thanks you for supporting our PVR for church improvements or giving a lily for our Easter Service. Please remember to take your lily after the service or let Gail know if you would like it to go to a church member on the Deacons' prayer and concern list. With our thanks, Happy Easter!

You may give a gift in memory or in honor of a loved one to help grow our PVR campaign. You may order your Easter Lily now for Easter Sunday, April 17th. Make checks for \$15 each, payable to "First Presbyterian Church" along with your order form and give to Gail Burckes or Alycia in office by April 3rd.



Purchase an Easter Lily @ \$15 _____

-or-

Donate to the PVR Campaign _____

In Memory of _____

-or-

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Phone # _____



COFFEE BOOTH UPDATE



At the December 2021 Session meeting the Session approved the recommendation from the Coffee Booth Committee to "sell the coffee booth trailer and equipment (coffee machines, blenders, etc.) either as a package or individually." We would like to give you a brief update on that project. We have:

--Donated Longaberger baskets and crocks, ice chests, and misc. equipment that was used in the booth to the Daisey Roe Ladies to sell in their Thrift Shop.

--Donated cups, lids and straws from our inventory to the Manna House and Branchville Rotary

--And... **the trailer has been sold!** We are thrilled to report that we sold the trailer for \$3,000 which we feel is quite an accomplishment since it was purchased in 2013 for \$2,000!

As you can see we've been quite busy. We are now looking into selling both of the coffee-makers that were in the trailer (not included in the sale) as well as selling the blenders. Wish us luck – we'll keep you posted.

The Coffee Booth Committee:
Cathy Bambrick, Kay Hatch, and
Linda Osborne



HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL

Julie Anderson Clawson	4/06	Michael Goldsworthy	4/23
Kelly Decker	4/06	Marion Alden	4/25
Liam Reinertsen	4/06	Ethan Billings	4/25
Kristin Becker	4/08	Alec Hughes	4/26
David Yaden	4/08	Charlotte Lawson	4/26
Lauren Seeger	4/09	Susan Martin	4/26
Leonard Clawson	4/14	Madison Bath	4/27
MaryBeth Dean	4/14	Aaron Kurland	4/27
Joanne Lawson	4/14	Joshua Langley	4/28
Elizabeth Dietz	4/21	Debbie Anderson	4/30

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

EASY LEMON COOKIES

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (18.25 ounce) package lemon cake mix
- 2 large eggs
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup confectioners' sugar for decoration



DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat the oven to 375F.
- Pour cake mix into a large bowl. Stir in eggs, oil, and lemon extract until well blended. Drop teaspoonfuls of dough into a bowl of confectioners' sugar. Roll them around until they're lightly covered. Once sugared, put them on an ungreased cookie sheet.
- Bake for 6 to 9 minutes in a preheated oven. The bottoms will be light brown, and the insides chewy.
- Recipe makes 3 dozen cookies.





APRIL

LAY READERS

- 3rd- Joanne Lawson
- 10th- Nancy Swanson
- 17th- Paula Clark
- 24h- Debbie Gardner

USHERS

- 3rd- Linda Osborne/Aimee Nishimura
- 10th- Buzz & Marion Alden
- 14th- Aimee Nishimura
- 17th- Judy Casey
- 24h- Lois Kinney/Debbie Gardner

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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>



APRIL COFFEE HOUR

Hosted by:
HAND BELL CHOIR

APRIL FLOWER CHART:

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

Dates:

- 3rd
- 10th
- 17th
- 24th

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

