



# CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church  
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 21, No. 2

FEBRUARY 2021

## FEBRUARY AT A GLANCE

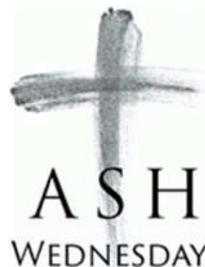
14th Valentine's Day



15th President's Day



17th Ash Wednesday



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

LIVESTREAM  
WORSHIP A red icon of a video camera with sound waves.

# CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**P.O. BOX 1**  
**5 WANTAGE AVE.**  
**BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826**



**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.

VOLUME 21, NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2021

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**Love is a Many Splendored Thing**



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This month holds both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. One celebrates the love we share as humans, and the other is the day we remember that God loves us so much as to come and sacrifice his life for us. Both speak of love, so I thought I'd share some quotes and verses that speak of these two loves. I hope they inspire you to love others and our Lord a little bit more:

- \* Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage. -Lao Tzu
- \* Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. -1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- \* Love has no desire but to fulfill itself. But if you love and must needs have desires, let these be your desires; To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night. To know the pain of too much tenderness. To be wounded by your own understanding of love; And to bleed willingly and joyfully. -Kahlil Gibran
- \* Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. -Ps. 36:5
- \* Love does not dominate; it cultivates. -Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- \* But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. -Romans 5:8
- \* Age does not protect you from love. But love, to some extent, protects you from age. -Anais Nin
- \* I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. -Proverbs 8:17
- \* Love is life. All, everything that I understand, I understand only because I love. Everything is, everything exists, only because I love. - Leo Tolstoy
- \* And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. -Galatians 2:20
- \* There is only one happiness in this life, to love and to be loved. -George Sand
- \* We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. -1 John 3:16
- \* If you find someone you love in your life, then hang on to that love. -Princess Diana
- \* And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; -2 John 1:5
- \* Love is friendship that has caught fire. -Ann Landers
- \* And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. -1 Cor. 13:13

May your month be filled with love.

Your pastor,

*Jefferson L. Hatch*





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.

- Walter Ackerly
- All front line workers
- All who are sick find health and safety in 2021
- All the vaccines being developed and those deployed find their way into arms and that our country and our world beat this virus
- All those fighting cancer
- Aileen's son's upcoming Covid test
- Alex
- Amy
- Ann
- Antoinette in serious condition as she fights Covid
- John Arnedt
- Arif after the loss of his mother to cancer
- Audrey
- Joyce B.
- Barbara
- Beth
- Beth & Ken
- Bobby
- Britney
- Linda Buehrer
- Roberta Burkhart
- Rob
- Peg Carlson
- The Castimore Family after Mary Ann's passing from her long fight against cancer
- Chrissy
- Clara
- Corine
- Cory
- Louise C.
- Michelle Dabney
- Dana
- Dave & Pat
- Debbie & Tom
- The DeVita-Krug kids
- Liz Dietz recovering from ankle surgery
- Donald
- Donna
- Doug
- John Dudas
- Carole Edwards
- Lorraine Feaser
- Greg
- Harry Horodeck
- Roy & Donna Havelin
- Helen
- Dave Henderson
- Alice Mae Hickey
- Cookie Hocking
- Irene
- Jay
- Jack
- Jess
- Jim
- Joe
- John
- Johnny
- Jolene & John
- Andrew K fighting Covid
- Kathleen K fighting Covid
- Karen P
- Kate & Mike
- Kevin
- Amy, Dave & Josh Langley
- Linda
- Lon
- Lorraine
- Sharon Lee
- Linda
- Lisa & Rob
- Massaro Family after the passing of their mother, Pat
- Meghan
- Michael
- Mikey
- Family of Carolyn Messena
- Sherry Moon
- Morgan
- Ruth Morrow
- Moulton Family as they care for aging parents
- Gail M.
- Nancy
- Natalie
- Karen P
- Tom Pepe
- Peacock Family on the loss of Brian
- Louise Post in rehab after a recent stroke
- Marilyn Rath
- Ray & Diane
- Rick
- Riley
- Risdon Family after the passing of Joann
- Robin & Joe
- Joseph Seeger
- Sharon Lee Shaeffer
- Siriwan recovering from surgery
- Nancy Snook recovering from congestive heart failure
- Virginia Stein
- Steve
- Sue
- Suzanne & Jerry
- Karen Utter
- Anne McAuliffe's father Fred Wheeler who is facing surgery for skin cancer
- Michelle Walker
- Joe Westorp transferring into hospice care
- Scott Williams
- Prayers for the people of our country to give this new administration a chance to make a positive difference, setting aside our fears and prejudices to truly be the people of God



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Do you play a musical instrument or sing? Then we need you to sign-up to participate during the anthem portion of our worship service. If you are willing to help out, please call Kay Hatch at: 973-459-1238 to sign-up to participate. Thank you! - Kay Hatch

**LOVE YOUR CHURCH MONTH** - In February, we are encouraged to think more about the love in our lives, but 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 2021 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 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, in February, as you celebrate the many gifts of Love, remember to *Love Your Church* with your Per Capita gift.



**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** - The Souper Bowl of Caring offering will be on **February 7th**, the day of the Super Bowl game. The Mission Committee asks that you mail-in or drop-off your donation to the church office. The money collected will be sent to Manna House and Harvest House, which is our first quarter's (Jan.-March) local mission. Please consider donating an equivalent amount to what you will spend for refreshments while watching the Super Bowl. Checks may be made to First Presbyterian Church with "Souper Bowl" on the memo line, or cash is fine also. Thank you.

**FIRST QUARTERLY MISSION** - Manna House in Newton and Harvest House in Sussex are the first quarter local mission outreaches for 2021. 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. Make your check to "First Presbyterian Church," indicating "Manna House/Harvest House" on the memo line and/or use the pew envelope also marking it for "Manna House/Harvest House." Thank you for your support.



### LENTEN ACTIVITIES

We'll be having an informal **Ash Wednesday worship service** that evening (Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm). Watch here for further details.

**Sunday School** families will be working on a Lenten banner to be hung in the sanctuary. And **our Adult Lenten Study** will begin 2/23 on Tuesday evenings at 7pm via Zoom (like last year). Our study will be themed "TESTIMONY: Vocabulary of Faith" to help us live our Reformed faith by remembering, reclaiming, and articulating what we believe about who God is and who we are so that we conform more closely to the love and grace of Jesus Christ. The online class will go for 6 weeks and include short video, discussion, and prayer. Sign up will via Facebook, or by emailing [pastorjh@ptd.net](mailto:pastorjh@ptd.net). Each class will last 1-1.5 hours (depending on the amount of discussion).

## **MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS THANK YOU**

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Branchville,

WOW! This is such an important and expensive project and I cannot thank you all enough for supporting my third graders! These supplies will ensure we are safe, healthy, and have what we need in order to be successful! Thank you for filling yet another project. It is so greatly appreciated!

With gratitude,  
Mrs. Tenney

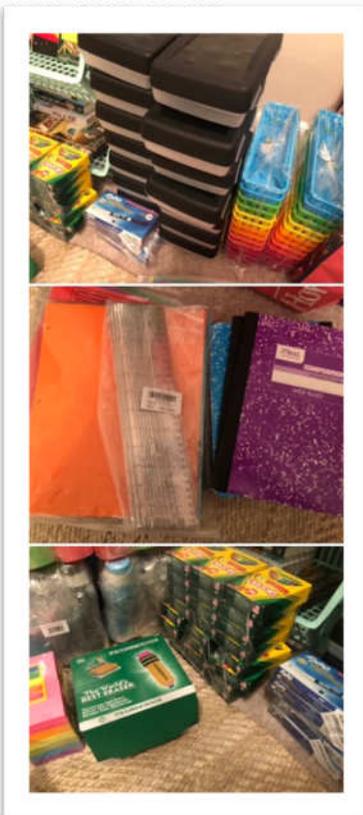
*and the follow-up note once the supplies arrived:*

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Branchville,

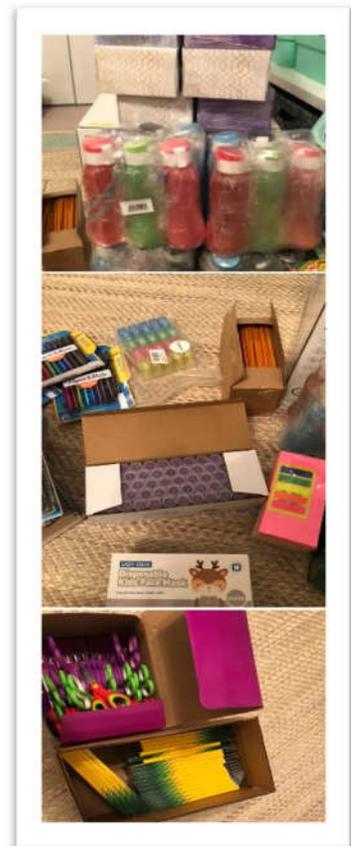
I cannot believe how quickly this project came alive, thanks to donors like you! We did an unboxing and the kids went CRAZY! They loved each and every supply!

The class favorite by far was THE BINDER! So many kids have never had one and they were screaming with excitement! Another favorite is the pencil eraser! And, they can't wait to choose their color water bottle! I have a cricut and will add their name for them!

Thank you for supplying my students with every supply possibly needed in order to be successful learners! My class has excitedly waiting until we can return and these supplies will be waiting for them on their desk!



With gratitude,  
Mrs. Tunney



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: A Look Back and Looking Ahead...



In 2008, I attended a Presbyterian Women's event where I first heard about the "prayer shawl." I was intrigued and began to investigate the "prayer shawl ministry." According to the Ministry's website: "compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy."

So, with my own enjoyment of crochet, I pursued the start-up of a group at our church. It quickly became clear that many had experience – and talent! – with yarn. Rather than a regular, formal meeting time (or "knitting circle"), due to time constraints and the myriad commitments of so many of our group, we knitted/crocheted at our own pace at home.

Over the 13 years, there have been many prayer shawls made, and all yarn is purchased by whoever is making the prayer shawl. Laura, our church secretary and treasurer, keeps an up-to-date list of prayer shawl recipients – and to date it's more than 100! They are church members, family members, friends and loved ones – and, in many cases, friends of friends. No one seeking the comfort of a prayer shawl is turned away. In past years, through special church services, we've dedicated many of the shawls to the healing power of our Lord. Though we haven't focused on them during services too much lately, we continue to offer the prayer shawls as requested/needed.

Since forming the group in 2008, many participating knitters and crocheters have moved away or dedicate their time to other groups in the church. I continue to truly enjoy the prayer shawl ministry; I believe it is one of those wonderful experiences wherein the blessing felt by the recipient of a prayer shawl reflects wholly on the "giver." I remain with the hopes of others perhaps being interested in joining me to keep the Prayer Shawl Ministry a tangible example of our outreach and response to the needs of others.

You can visit [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com) to learn more – and see a group picture of the original members from our church (they also display a prayer card that my husband, Mike, wrote which we attach to each shawl when presented). If you crochet or knit, and would like to join me in our prayer shawl ministry – OR – if you know someone who you think may be in need of a prayer shawl – please let Laura know, or feel free to give me a call.

-Karen Opilla



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY

Elizabeth Bellush	2/1	Erika Clausen	2/20
Richard Martin	2/2	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
Carly Swanson	2/19		

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### POTS DE CRÈME

#### INGREDIENTS:

9 ounces high-quality semisweet chocolate, chopped  
 1 ½ cups whole milk  
 1 ½ cups heavy cream  
 6 large egg yolks  
 5 Tbs. granulated sugar  
 ¼ tsp. salt  
 1 Tbs. confectioners' sugar  
 Chocolate shavings for decoration



#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Place the chocolate in a blender. Whisk the milk, 1 cup cream, egg yolks, granulated sugar and salt in a heavy-bottomed medium saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring constantly with a heatproof spatula, until the mixture is thick enough to coat the spatula and almost boiling, 5 to 6 minutes.
2. Immediately pour the milk mixture over the chocolate in the blender. Cover and hold the lid with a thick kitchen towel; blend until combined and smooth, stopping to scrape down the sides of the blender as needed. Divide the chocolate mixture among ramekins or small cups and refrigerate until set, about 2 hours.
3. Whip the remaining 1/2 cup cream and the confectioners' sugar with a mixer or in the blender until soft peaks form. Top the chilled pots de creme with whipped cream and shaved chocolate. Enjoy!



*Worship Assistants*

**FEBRUARY**

**LAY READERS**

7th-Cathy Bambrick  
 14th-Debbie Anderson  
 21st-Nancy Swanson  
 28th-Judy Casey

**USHERS**

7th-  
 14th-  
 21st-  
 28th-



**FEBRUARY FLOWER CHART:**

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

**Dates:**

7th  
 14th  
 21st  
 28th

*Call the florist the week before your signup to have flowers delivered, or you may bring them yourself. Gail Burckes will contact you for your dedication or memorial.*

*We use Lisa's Stonebrook Florist*  
*973-948-7100*

**First Presbyterian Church  
 of Branchville, New Jersey  
 PO Box 1  
 3-5 Wantage Avenue  
 Branchville, NJ 07826**

**Phone 973-948-3495  
 Fax 973-948-3495**

**Laura Scherr, Copy Editor**



**View our website at:**

<http://www.fpcbranchville.org>

**and join us for live-streamed worship  
 on Facebook at:**

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

**You may e-mail  
 the secretary at [presbsec@ptd.net](mailto:presbsec@ptd.net)  
 or the pastor at [pastorjh@ptd.net](mailto:pastorjh@ptd.net)**

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



# FEBRUARY 2021



## First Presbyterian Church of Branchville

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open</p> <p>3:00 PM Music &amp; Worship Meeting via Zoom</p> 	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>																																																																																										
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<p><b>7</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Livestream Worship/Communion Sunday</p> 	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open</p> <p>7:00 PM Session Meeting via Zoom</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>																																																																																										
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Livestream Worship</p> <p>1:00 PM Confirmation Class via Zoom</p> 	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Happy Presiden'ts Day! office closed all</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Deacons' Meeting via Zoom</p> 	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open</p> <p>7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Presbytery Meeting via Zoom</p> 																																																																																										
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