



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of RIDGEWOOD

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood!

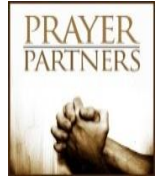
We are glad you have chosen to worship with us!

Pastor Bruce can be reached at 215-337-5623 and via email:

pastorbruce@firstpresridgewood.org.

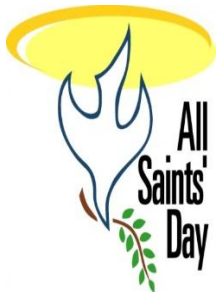
He encourages you to reach out to him should you need pastoral care.

Ours is a congregation which believes in prayer. Each Friday we email the Prayer Partners newsletter. If you would like to have a prayer of concern, joy or thanksgiving included in the next issue(s), or if you would like to begin receiving Prayer Partners, contact the church office at Dana.Feeney@FirstPresRidgewood.org.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS for THIS WEEK:
TUESDAY – FRIDAY (9:00 AM to 12:00 PM)

Interest Items ~ Sunday, October 19, 2025



All Saints' Day Observance

On Sunday, November 2, we will observe All Saints' Sunday at First Presbyterian Church. During the 10:00 a.m. worship service, there will be a Litany of Remembrance and a Prayer of Thanksgiving – thanking God for members, family members and friends who have died in the previous 12 months. If you would like to have a family member's name included in the prayer, please notify the church office by Monday, October 27.

Thank You to Those Who Contributed and Pledged to the Capital Campaign!

Sincere thanks to all who contributed and pledged to the Capital Campaign. You helped us reach our goal of raising \$100,000!

Here is a breakdown of the results:

Total Funds Received as of 10.17.2025	\$88,349
Matching Funds Provided by Mission/Benevolence Budget	\$ 5,000
Matching Funds from Endowment Fund	\$ 5,800
Funds Pledged but Not Yet Received	\$ 4,000

Total as of 10.17.2025 \$103,149

Our goal was to raise \$100,000 to support the following projects:

- (1) To replace the air conditioning system which serves the sanctuary.
- (2) To repair portions of our driveways and parking lots. *(completed)*
- (3) To replace or repair portions of the church's roofs. *(completed)*
- (4) To repair and paint some of the outside walls in the Tudor section of the building, which have become quite weathered in recent years.

Remember, it's not too late to give. No gift is too small, and no gift is too large.
Thank you!

We continue to be amazed and grateful for the generosity of our congregation!





FIRST PRES EVENTS

~ Sunday, October 19 – Sunday, October 26 ~

Please go to our website at www.firstpresridgewood.org
for our full calendar.

SUNDAY, October 19

10:00 am	Worship	SANCTUARY
10:30 am	Trinity Worship	Chapel
1:45 pm	Produce Mission	
	Ridgewood Train Station (on the West Side)	
5:00 pm	Living Water Church	Chapel

MONDAY, October 20

Church Office is closed.

TUESDAY, October 21

11:00 am	Staff Meeting	Manse
1:30 pm	Crafted with Love	Library
7:00 pm	Session	Minnema Room

WEDNESDAY, October 22

12:00 pm	Book Study: James	Minnema Room
7:00 pm	Matthew 25 Task Force	Minnema Room

THURSDAY, October 23

5:00 pm	Walk & Talk	Duck Pond
7:00 pm	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
7:45 pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary

FRIDAY, October 24

9:00 am	Budget Team	Library
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SATURDAY, October 25

SUNDAY, October 26

10:00 am	Worship	SANCTUARY
10:30 am	Trinity Worship	Chapel
12:00 pm	Exploring World Religions	
	The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood	
1:45 pm	Produce Mission	
	Ridgewood Train Station (on the West Side)	
5:00 pm	Living Water Church	Chapel

**We are collecting items for our college boxes for our
First Pres College students! There are "14" College students and
we need 14 of the following suggested items...**

Breakfast bars * Granola bars Fruit bars * Packaged cookies * Packaged
cheese crackers * Individual tissue packs * Individual trail mix packages *
Small popcorn bags * Small pretzel bags * Pencils * Pens * Gum

**There is a designated box in the cloister hall, with a list
of items, please write your name next to the item so
we don't have duplicate donations. *Please donate by
October 31st. Thank you!***



Reminder: The 2025 Per Capita Assessment Is \$38 Per Member of the Congregation



The per capita assessment is an amount paid annually by each member of the congregation. Our per capita payment supports the work of The Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey, The Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly, which is our national body.

In 2025, the per capita assessment is \$38 per member, which is the same as last year. When writing your check (\$38 x the number of confirmed church members in your household) please write “per capita” on the memo line. Or you may use Tithe.ly and indicate that your contribution is your “per capita” payment.

As Timothy Hart-Andersen has written, “Per capita provides the wherewithal for the ecclesiastical democracy of the priesthood of all believers to run smoothly. It fuels the machinery of doing church the Presbyterian way” Thank you, First Pres members, for helping us do church the Presbyterian way!

Join First Pres Members & Friends ... as we build with Passaic County Habitat!

Saturday, November 1 from
8:00 am – 12:00 Noon

No previous construction skills or experience needed
– just a servant’s heart!

Ages 16 and older are welcomed to volunteer.

To sign up, email Pastor Bruce at pastorbruce@firstpresridgewood.org
or sign up during Coffee Hour.



BULLETIN BILLBOARD HIGHLIGHTS ~ OCTOBER 2025



“SCAREDY CATS” -

What is one of the scariest things You ever did?
Members talk.

“IT HAPPENS IN WORSHIP” –

The rituals, readings and music that keep us grounded.

“TOGETHER WE GROW” –

Our monthly activities in photos.

First Presbyterian Church Nursery School has once again been nominated for Best Preschool for Best of Bergen (201) magazine!

They would appreciate your nomination/vote. You can only vote once between now and October 31, 2025

Please use the link below.

<http://northjersey.gannettcontests.com/201-Magazines-Best-of-Bergen-2026-Communitys-Choice-Awards/#/referrals/766b661f-e117-4778-9493-81d4fa2cd7f6>

Allow it to load

Click on Places to Go, Things to Do, & People to Meet

Scroll to BEST PRESCHOOL

Type in (exactly)

First Presbyterian Nursery School Ridgewood

Enter your name and your email address

Click: NOMINATE

They thank you for your continued support!



Calling All Sunday School Teachers!

Our church school is growing! We really need help in teaching church school this year. Please prayerfully consider teaching one or two Sundays during the school year! Or at least if you can sub when a teacher is absent. We would appreciate any time you can give us! So please help us to make this 2025-26 school year a successful and joyful one for the children at First Pres!



Please Contact MaryEllen Castaldo
at marecmt@aol.com.

Thank you!

First Pres Intergenerational Mission Trip 2026

The Mission, Peace and Social Righteousness Team is planning an intergenerational mission trip to volunteer with Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity in Lewisburg, West Virginia, during the week of July 26 - August 1, 2026.

We have taken two youth trips and one adult trip to Almost Heaven in recent years, and each time participants have had an enjoyable and meaningful experience as they have worked to provide low-income homeowners with a hand up.

While in Lewisburg, we will stay in the air conditioned Rhema Christian Center. The center includes sleeping quarters for men and women, a commercial kitchen where we will prepare our own meals, a gym where youth and the young at heart can enjoy basketball and soccer, as well as individual showers – which isn't always the case when one goes on a mission trip!

Cost is \$200 per participant – which covers our payment to Almost Heaven for materials. The Mission, Peace and Social Righteousness Team will cover the cost of food, fuel and rental van(s) with funds from the Mission/Benevolence budget.

If you plan to participate, please make your commitment with a \$50 deposit by Tuesday, October 28. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, with the notation *Almost Heaven Mission Trip* on the memo line. The balance (\$150) will be due by June 21, 2026.

To learn more, contact Pastor Bruce at pastorbruce@firstpresridgewood.org or 215.337.5623. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to serve in this way!



St. Paul's Shelter Monthly Meal First Sunday of Every Month



We continue to be amazed and grateful for the generosity of our congregation! Jon made baked spaghetti. Marjorie made delicious chicken. Sue Dickinson came through with beef stew. Linda Strickland made 2 delicious green salads. Nancy Walters brought a bounty of bread and fruit. We also delivered bedding. Our minivan was packed and, as usual, smelled amazing!

The men at the shelter were grateful for the massive delivery. The shelter continues to need *twinsize sheets*—both fitted and flat, bath towels, and washcloths if you're able to help! If you'd like to get involved, click on the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0845ACAE2BA7F49-59138619-stpauls>



**First Wednesdays
November 2025**

Ladies, join us for an evening of food, conversation, and spiritual inspiration. It's a wonderful opportunity for women of all ages to gather together with church friends and make new ones, as we discover fresh ways to connect with one another and with God. Each gathering will include a brief spiritual inspiration with most of the time for people to enjoy fellowship over food.

What: **November Hostess – Donna Flagg**
You are invited to bring a dish to the potluck dinner.

Spiritual Inspiration of the Month – Donna Flagg
 Trust: The Bridge to Joy

Date: **Wednesday, November 5**

Time: **6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Place: **First Presbyterian Church
Minnema Room**

**Please RSVP by Friday, October 31 to Donna Flagg
Via Email or Phone**

Exploring World Religions

Come and learn about various religions from local clergy and practitioners. Each session, facilitated by Rev. Sarah, will involve sharing by our guest followed by time for Q&A.



**October 26th
Presbyterianism**

Reverend Bruce Ballantine
Pastor
First Presbyterian Church,
Ridgewood



**November 2nd
Buddhism**

Reverend Mark Morris,
Sensei, Abbot
Heart Circle Zen
Enshinji Temple



**November 9th
Hinduism**

Jyoti Gandhi
Past Chairperson
& Past President,
Arya Samaj of New Jersey



**November 16th
Judaism**

Rabbi David Fine
Senior Rabbi
Temple Israel,
Ridgewood

**12 pm in Anderson
All are welcome.**

*Childcare can be arranged if we have two weeks notice
before the event that you'd like to attend.*

the
**UNITARIAN
SOCIETY of
RIDGEWOOD**

The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood
114 Cottage Place
Ridgewood, NJ 07450