



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of RIDGEWOOD

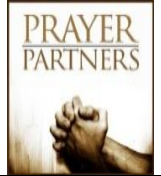
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood!

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.*

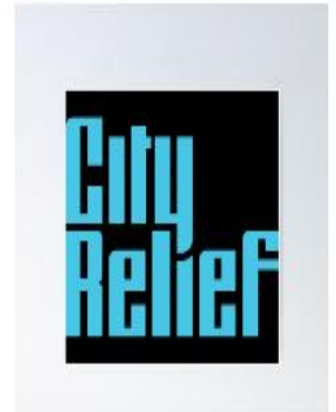


**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS for THIS WEEK:**  
**TUESDAY – FRIDAY (9:00 AM to 12:00 PM)**

***Interest Items ~ Sunday, May 18, 2025***

### ***About Today's Minute for Mission Speaker***

Sidney Bowie is the Donor and Mobilization Officer with City Relief. He started with the organization four years ago as an outreach leader, connecting with, serving, and walking alongside individuals experiencing homelessness, while also leading volunteers to foster a culture of dignity and empowerment. He became an eyewitness to the transformation that can happen as a result of compassionate outreach, both for the individuals receiving resources and the people who serve.

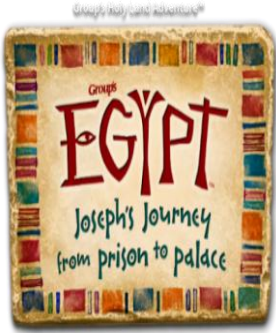


### ***Learn more about Homeless Neighbors:***

City Relief's approach to ending homelessness is intentionally "guest" centric as seen by visiting the same locations weekly to create a safe place for building relationships, sharing a meal and eventually discussing solutions to issues folks may be facing. You can learn more about homelessness by signing up for the next volunteer day at City Relief in Paterson on June 21<sup>st</sup>, or joining Pastor's book series starting May 21 (in person or on zoom) or just reading up on the work of City Relief by checking out their website for the full story: [Our Story — City Relief](#) and listen to some of the great podcasts including "Nobody chooses to be homeless" ... [Nobody Chooses Homelessness | City Relief](#).

While there may be many causes for someone to be unsheltered, the lack of affordable housing here in New Jersey is a key factor. Each year a comprehensive housing report called "Out of Reach" is released by the National Low Income Housing Coalition. The most recent report shows New Jersey is the 7<sup>th</sup> most expensive housing market in the U.S. with an annual income of over \$79,000 needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment resulting in a staggering 74% of low-income renters spending more than 50% of their monthly income on rent. With a shortage of over 200,000 units of affordable housing here in NJ, the increasing number of our NJ residents are unable to afford any roof over their heads is not a surprise. See more details here: [Out of Reach](#).





## Vacation Bible School will be held August 4 - 7, 2025

Monday thru Thursday, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. We need volunteers to run snacks, crafts, activities and shepherds who bring children from one activity to another (no teaching involved). We ask that you prayerfully consider helping this year!

If interested and available  
please contact MaryEllen for more information  
[marecm1@aol.com](mailto:marecm1@aol.com) or text at 862-686-8956.



## Walk & Talk

Do you enjoy the outdoors? Do you enjoy walking? Do you enjoy stimulating conversation? Join Pastor Bruce and your First Pres friends for an hour of fresh air, exercise & fellowship!

We'll walk & talk on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 at the Duck Pond in Ridgewood!



Thursday, May 15 - Thursday, June 5

See you at the flagpole near the front parking lot @ 6:00!



## ***Thank You to Those Who Have Contributed and Pledged to the Capital Campaign***

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the current Capital Campaign! As of Wednesday, we have received **\$65,914**, along with additional commitments of **\$8,775**. Thanks to your generosity, we are more than halfway to our goal of raising **\$100,000 -- which will allow us to move forward on the following projects:**

- replacing the air conditioning system in the sanctuary,
- repaving portions of our driveways and parking lots,
- repairing portions of our roof,
- repairing and painting some exterior walls in the Tudor section of the building.

If you haven't already contributed to the Capital Campaign, there is still time. All gifts will be greatly appreciated!



## **CHANCEL FLOWERS: DONATION**

*The Flower Chart is located to the left of the bulletin board in the hall.*

*Please choose an open Sunday to give the Chancel Flowers.*

***Available dates are: September 7 ~ October 5 ~ October 12 ~***

***October 26 ~ November 2 ~ November 9 ~ November 23 ~ November 30***

*The price is \$60 or you may share the cost with another family. You can pay via cash, check or Tithe.ly. Dana Feeney will include your dedication (s) of the Chancel Flowers in the Sunday Bulletin. You may celebrate anything you wish, and memorial dedications are welcome as well. Flowers are delivered to members and friends by the Deacons as part of their Flower Ministry.*

# Bulletin Board Highlights ~ May 2025



## "Baskets of Hope"

Families came together for Basketball fun and to create Easter Baskets for families in need in Paterson.

## "What Happens in Worship"

Our people participate.

## "Variety Keeps Us Living an Learning"

Events keep us busy with purpose.

## FIRST PRES EVENTS

~ Sunday, May 18 – Sunday, May 25 ~

Please go to our website at [www.firstpresridgewood.org](http://www.firstpresridgewood.org),  
for our full calendar.



### SUNDAY, May 18

10:00 am	Worship	SANCTUARY
10:30 am	Trinity Worship	Chapel
11:30 am	City Relief Presentation	Minnema Room
5:00 pm	Living Water Church	Chapel

### MONDAY, May 19

Church Office is closed.

### TUESDAY, May 20

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

### WEDNESDAY, May 21

12:00 pm	Neighbors with No Doors Book Study	Minnema Room
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### THURSDAY, May 22

6:00 pm	Walk & Talk	Duck Pond
7:00 pm	Chancel Bells	Sanctuary
7:45 pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary

### FRIDAY, May 23

### SATURDAY, May 24

11:00 am	Larrimer Bonwick's Memorial Service & Light Luncheon	Sanctuary/Auditorium
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### SUNDAY, May 25

10:00 am	Worship	SANCTUARY
10:30 am	Trinity Worship	Chapel
5:00 pm	Living Water Church	Chapel

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



The Torielli family led the charge with a perfectly roasted turkey, smothered in rich, gravy—the kind that makes you forget your manners and reach for seconds.

The Dickinsons followed with a generous spread of fresh fruit and warm, crusty bread, because no meal is complete without something wholesome and something to soak up the gravy. Sue Sofka kept the carbs coming with a hearty pasta dish, perfectly cooked and clearly made with love. Joan Davies rounded it all out with sweet potatoes that could pass for dessert and a savory ham that smelled like the holidays came early.

Once the feast was packed and ready, the Toriellis made the delivery, shared some laughs and good conversation with Thomas, and, as always, asked the most important question of the day: "What sounds good for June?"

If you'd like to get involved link below:

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0845ACAE2BA7F49-51100449-stpauls>

Thank you for your continued generosity.





## Neighbors with No Doors Book Study: May 21 & 28, June 4 & 11

Josiah Haken, CEO of City Relief, has written a compelling book about homelessness and the people who experience it. Your understanding of our unhoused neighbors and the challenges they face will be deepened by reading Josiah's book, *Neighbors with No Doors: The Truth about Homelessness, and How You Can Make a Difference*.

Here is just a snippet from the book's back cover: *The next time someone asks you for money on the street, Josiah Haken wants you to know what you're doing. He wants you to engage the human being in front of you with confidence, compassion, and a plan. Neighbors with No Doors is your guide to getting there. With over a decade of experience in homeless outreach, Haken contradicts popular falsehoods about the unhoused community and offers helpful, pragmatic steps to becoming a friend and advocate.*

Join Pastor Bruce for a four-week study during May and June as together we learn how to be better neighbors to those who live on the streets.

We will meet at noon on Wednesdays in the Minnema Room. Dates and topics are as follows:

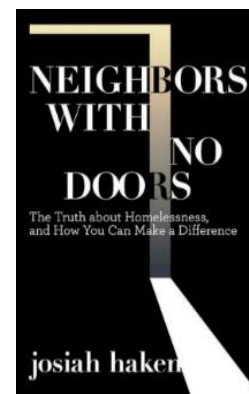
May 21	Session 1	Introduction
May 28	Session 2	Laziness and Danger
June 4	Session 3	Mental Health and Substance Abuse
June 11	Session 4	Becoming a Good Neighbor

You may order the book through Barnes & Noble or wherever you buy books. Here is the B&N link:

[Neighbors with No Doors: The Truth about Homelessness.. and How You Can Make a Difference by Josiah Haken, Paperback | Barnes & Noble®](#)

**Note: This is a hybrid gathering. If you would like to participate via zoom, please notify Pastor Bruce, and he will send you the link.**

Join the conversation as together we learn what it means to be a good neighbor and how we might advocate on behalf of our neighbors with no doors. Friends are welcome!



## A Joyful Update on the Mashliakevych Family as They Settle in Charlotte, NC



Ivan and Kateryna are grateful for how God has blessed their relocation to Charlotte. Ivan is busy enjoying his new role as Director of Engineering at the Sonesta Hotel which is a short commute from home. They enjoyed Easter at their new home with Kateryna's mother, Anzhela, who lives only 4 hours away. Ivan and Kateryna are thrilled that Yan is happily enrolled three days a week at the Goddard School and that Kira is a happy little girl who is now crawling and sitting by herself. They miss all the wonderful people at First Pres Church and would love to stay in touch! Their new address is: 12929 Ballantyne Corporate Pl, Apt. C, Charlotte, NC 28277-1474.

PLANTING & MULCHING  
SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025



**Sunday School Family Planting Day  
will be held on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> after worship and coffee hour!  
We invite Church school families to join us in planting our annual  
flowers in the Bicentennial garden!  
Wear your planting clothes!**



**Come one come all to the mulching  
party! Come and help spruce up the  
church gardens and the manse. No  
experience necessary bring work  
gloves if you have them. Immediately  
after worship:) Questions: contact  
Sandy Santangelo 201-519-6660.**

