

First Press Newsletter



We are a welcoming community formed in Christ, committed to sharing his love with others – with feet that carry us out into the world, with hands that serve, and with hearts in fellowship and faith.

Dear Friends,

As you know, we will celebrate the bicentennial of First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood NJ in 2023. As we prepare to mark 200 years of faithful ministry in this place, the Mission, Peace and Social Righteousness Team (MPSRT) was given the task of recommending a new mission project to be launched in 2023.

Toward that end, the MPSRT twice met with representatives of the Outreach Foundation for the purpose of exploring possibilities for an international mission project. The stated mission of the Outreach Foundation, is *engaging followers of Christ for his work in the world*, and its stated priority is *helping the church live out its missional calling*.

Since a number of First Pres members have roots in Syria and Lebanon, a mission partnership through the Outreach Foundation with a congregation (or congregations) within the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (Presbyterian) would seem to be a natural fit.

During one of our conversations with the Outreach Foundation, I was invited to participate in a mission trip to Lebanon and Syria ó scheduled for October 11 - 25. And our Session has given its blessing for me to participate.

My purpose in going on the mission trip will be to get a sense of what a partnership with a Syrian or Lebanese congregation might look like by meeting and getting to know pastors and church leaders and by learning about their ministries. I will be visiting Syrian congregations and ministries in Latakia, Aleppo and Damascus.

Below you will find links to the Outreach Foundation Home Page as well as its Middle East Page. If you browse the website, you will notice that this is a very Presbyterian organization, which is passionate about doing God's work all over the world.

Please keep me in your prayers, requesting safe travel and a fruitful visit. Thank you.

Grace and peace,

Bruce

Outreach Foundation Home Page
[The Outreach Foundation](#)

Outreach Foundation Middle East Page
[Middle East - The Outreach Foundation](#)

OUTRAGEOUS LOVE! 
**FOR JESUS, THERE ARE NO COUNTRIES TO BE
CONQUERED, NO IDEOLOGIES TO BE IMPOSED,
NO PEOPLE TO BE DOMINATED. THERE ARE
ONLY CHILDREN, WOMEN AND MEN TO BE LOVED.**
- HENRI NOUWEN

Henri Nouwen, an ordained priest, preacher, and spiritual writer also had a distinguished teaching career at some of the most prestigious post-secondary institutions in America, including the University of Notre Dame, Yale and Harvard. Yet the place that influenced him most profoundly was the antithesis of status and influence. In 1986, he accepted the position of pastor at L'Arche Daybreak, a community for people with intellectual disabilities in Richmond Hill, Ontario. It's here where Nouwen found the kind of community he had been searching for all his life. It remained his home until his death in 1996.

Nouwen's words breathe life into the core of our Christian values and remind us of the ways in which we are called to live and be in the world. A strong church provides a place to nurture that ðCallö.

**ENDOWMENT ENCOURAGES AND SUPPORTS THE
WORK AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH NOW AND INTO
THE FUTURE. WE ASK YOU TO BE PART OF THAT MISSION!**

A gift to Endowment is a gift of love that keeps on giving.

Ways to give:

Tree of Life Leaves (\$500) and Stones (\$2000)

 Green Umbrella Note Cards (\$25)

Memorial gifts (any amount)

Outright Cash Gifts (any amount)

Wills, Life Ins., Charitable Gift Annuities

(See brochures on hallway tables)

Checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with
Memo to Endowment

Mission

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2022
CROP Hunger Walks

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF RAISING \$500.00

We're participating in the virtual 2022 CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. Please join us - with your steps and your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and create greater food security in communities around the world.

Please donate to our team today!

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/first-presbyterian-church-ridgewood-nj-2>



On Sept. 4, Suzy McDevitt and a friend delivered dinner to the men at St. Paul's, made by First Pres volunteers. Dinner consisted of teriyaki pork tenderloin from Laura Magrath, BBQ and plain chicken from Dana Feeney, pasta with meat sauce from Janis Ax, fruit and bread from Joel Torielli, and salad with dried fruit and nuts from Suzy.

A special thank you to Janis Ax, for her first time cooking for our St. Paul's mission; and to Laura Magrath, for stepping up to make an entree instead of the veggie she'd volunteered for, when Suzy was unable to do it.

Thank you, as always, to our faithful volunteers who keep the mission going! Your generosity of time, ingredients, skill and heart is very much appreciated by many!



The Mission Peace and Social Righteousness Team is **extending the food/hygiene drive through the month of October** to help stock the pantry at Warren Point Presbyterian Church in Fair Lawn.

This pantry helps to feed our neighbors in Elmwood Park and Paterson.

Nonperishable items only and please no glass!

Suggested items: rice, black beans, canned tuna, chicken & salmon, canned veggies, shelf-stable milk, pancake mix and syrup, peanut butter & jelly, canned fruit, fruit juice, soups, ready-to-eat canned meals i.e. chili, beef stew, ravioli (cheese, beef), hot cereals and cold cereals, pasta, deodorant, shampoo, soap, etc.

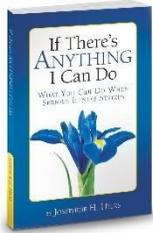
A donation box is located in the Cloister, please give generously ~Thank you!

Announcements

Caring Cooks were busy this summer. A total of 17 meals were delivered June 2nd through September 12th. Peggy Niemann continues to improve and has enjoyed her weekly meals and visits from our cooks. Suzy McDevitt is on the mend from carpal tunnel surgery and received a meal while her family was out of town. A huge thank you to the following cooks that found time this summer to drop meals off and visit with our recipients - Kate Yates, Suzy McDevitt, Sue Fischer, Sue Dickinson, Sue Sofka, Greta Croucher, Sandy Santangelo, Joanne Bonwick, Elisa Cerrina, Janine Jamieson, and Nancy Walters.



If There's Anything I Can Do . . . What You *Can* Do When Serious Illness Strikes: **A Book Discussion Group in October**



You're invited to join to discuss this short, practical book AND learn from each other's experience as well, as we seek to strengthen our ministries of care serving as channels of God's grace.

Dawn Murdock and Sue Dickinson will facilitate the group, meeting after church on three **Sundays: Oct 2, 9, 16**, from 11:30 am – 12:15 pm. The book is \$15, available on Amazon – *If There's Anything I Can Do . . . What You Can Do When Serious Illness Strikes* by Josephine Hicks. If you haven't already signed up, please email Dawn, dawnmurdock159@aol.com to let us know you're coming.



A Meeting of the Congregation will be held on October 2, 2022 following the Worship Service to act on the Nominating Committee's recommendation to elect Donna Flagg and Suzy McDevitt to the Board of Deacons.



Team 200 is selling once in a lifetime, limited edition, gold plated, church bicentennial ornaments for members, friends and families!

Cost is \$20.00 with all proceeds going towards our bicentennial celebrations being planned for 2023.

You will find a table set up in the auditorium on most Sundays, or stop by the church office and see Dana Feeney on any Tuesday through Friday morning. Don't wait too long or they may be gone!



If you have old photos, CDs, film clips or videos of members or events at First Pres that you would like included in a bicentennial montage please send them to JessicaStrader@gmail.com



The Summer Produce Mission continues through November! To volunteer meet at the Ridgewood train station at 1:45 PM on Sundays to pack up produce and transport back to the church.

Sunday School Notes



September 11, Genesis Sunday

We held the Blessing of the Backpacks, we had a lesson on creation! Students enjoyed ice cream sodas during class!



SUNDAY INFANT NURSERY IS OPEN! Nursery care is available for newborn through 3-year-olds during Sunday School time and during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship service. We welcome our new Nursery attendants Sarah Eliya and Katie Paveo!

We have adopted guidelines and policies to provide a safe environment for all children. There will be a child sign-in sheet in the nursery. Parents are required to sign the attendance form when dropping off and picking up their children. There is a Parent/Guardian Signature Sheet that is required to be filled out and signed before dropping off your child. Please make sure you fill this out. We will have extra forms in the Nursery as well as the table outside the Collentine Room.



September 18th Sunday school kickoff with entertainment from Ron, a Christian magician, who creatively incorporated biblical messages throughout his amazing magical performance! Lots of audience participation and laughs!





It's great to be back in the swing of things at the Weekday Nursery School! This year marks the 54th year of First Pres. Nursery School! In September, we had a well-attended Back to School Night. Many of our FPNS parents attended our Nursery School when they were preschoolers themselves! It is very exciting to have first and second generation of First Pres Nursery School families.

We are very busy enjoying getting to know one another and making new friends! Lunch Bunch and afternoon Enrichment classes are underway. As we work back into our regular routine, Weekly Gym, Music, and Spanish classes have begun as well.

We have a few fun events happening in October. We are looking forward to a visit from the Ridgewood Fire Dept. to acknowledge Fire Safety Month. In preparation for Halloween, our students are rehearsing for the annual Halloween Parade on Friday, October 28th @ 9:15 am in the Auditorium.

Should you have any questions about our nursery school, please contact Julia Bolt, Director, @ 445-2552.



First Pres FEST ~ A Taste of AUTUMN

Sunday, October 30th

We will have coffee, tea, apple cider at coffee hour
with sweet and savory bites!



Guess how many candy corns are in the jar to win a gift basket



Wear your Halloween Costume and win a prize for best costume!



Bring a “picture” of your pet in costume to win a prize for best costume!



Join us for a PIE EATING contest!



There will be games & pumpkin painting for the youth!

Sponsored by the Christian Education & Growth and Hospitality Committees.





Susan Castaldi Peter Castaldo John Dickinson
Steven Eliya Joe Unger
Joel Torielli Luca Torielli Nicole Torielli

If you are not on our church birthday list, please email davies333@aol.com

Church Staff~

Pastor	Rev. Bruce Ballantine
Director of Children & Families	MaryEllen Castaldo
Director of Music	Dr. Ed Schmiedecke
Organist	Linda Sweetman Waters
Director Cherub Choir and Bells	Carol Schmiedecke
Administrative Manager	Dana Feeney
Tom Carozza	Sexton
Custodian	George Wood
Director Nursery School	Julia Bolt
Newsletter Editor	Joan Davies (Volunteer)

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Pastor Bruce: (215) 337-5623 please contact him directly for Pastoral Care
www.firstpresridgewood.org

