



*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 we make our way through life, inevitably we face situations which cause us to fear. At times, fear can be understood as a gift, inasmuch as it enables us to sense danger and can motivate us to take action in response. On the other hand, fear can become all-consuming and debilitating, robbing us of the abundant, healthy life God intends for us.

The Bible has much to say about fear and how God's people have found strength to face adversity and confront their fears. This fall you are invited to explore some of those biblical passages by participating in *Living Unafraid*, a video-based Bible study written by Adam Hamilton.

Gleaning practical wisdom from the Bible and informed by psychology and neuroscience, this study consists of brief daily readings and once weekly gatherings for discussion. During each gathering, following a brief video presentation, I will lead a discussion of the readings and video.

Gatherings will take place twice each week. Monday evenings at 6:00 and Wednesdays at noon. Choose the day/time which best suits your schedule; and feel free to switch days/times in any given week if your schedule changes. Gatherings will take place in the Minnema Room.

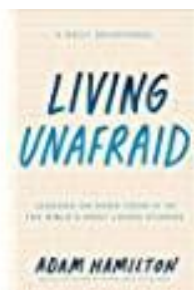
### Dates

### Topics

September 12 & 14	<i>Understanding &amp; Countering Fear</i>
September 19 & 21	<i>Crime, Race, Terrorism and Politics</i>
September 26 & 28	<i>Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance and Loneliness</i>
October 3 & 5	<i>Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out and Finances</i>
October 10 & 12	<i>Aging, Illness, Dying and Fear of the Lord</i>

Books are \$15. Reserve your copy today by contacting Dana Feeney in the Church Office (office@firstpresridgewood.org or 201-652-2504). I hope each of you will consider joining us for this meaningful study. And as always, friends are welcome!

Grace and peace, Bruce



## Mission Opportunities!



The Mission Peace and Social Rightousness Team is holding a food drive during the month of September to help re stock the food/hygiene pantry at Warren Point Presbyterian Church in Fair Lawn. This pantry helps to feed our neighbors in Elmwood Park and Paterson.

Non perishable 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!**



**SERVING MEALS  
TO THE HOMELESS**

On Sunday, Aug. 7, Jessica Lee and 6 girls in her Glen Rock Girl Scout Troop provided the entire meal for the meal at St. Paul's Men's Shelter. They made lasagna, chicken pot pie, chicken with rice and beans, Caesar salad, bean salad, fruit salad, bread and chocolate bundt cake. What a treat these ladies made and delivered! We thank them so much for their generosity and kindness!

On the first Sunday of every month 20-25 men are treated to a dinner like this provided by our volunteers. We and are in need of volunteers for the fall months. If you are interested in providing part of a meal or if you have questions, please contact Suzy McDevitt by email at [suzyimcd2@yahoo.com](mailto:suzyimcd2@yahoo.com) or text at 201-315-2063. Thank You!



**A fall MUM sale- all proceeds will benefit our Bicentennial Celebration!**

The mums will decorate the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, you can pick them up after Worship.

Mums sell for \$10.00 each. To order email [jessicastrader@gmail.com](mailto:jessicastrader@gmail.com) or Dana Feeney in the church office at [office@firstpresridgewood.org](mailto:office@firstpresridgewood.org).

**FARMERS  
MARKET**



Our Summer Produce Mission continues into the fall on Sundays at the Ridgewood Train Station!

Meet at the station at 1:45 and help box up food and transport it to the church for pick up the next day by Table to Table.

Any questions email Sandy Santangelo at [gssantangelo6@gmail.com](mailto:gssantangelo6@gmail.com)





**On a hot Saturday in June, First Pres members and friends swept up, leveled out the backyards, painted and installed insulation at Paterson Habitat for Humanity!**



Our 2022 Confirmation students~ Olivia Davis, Luke Eliya, Kyle Schnure, Hudson Feeney, Luke Feltmann, Carlo Torielli, and Dante Torielli were welcomed as new members on June 4<sup>th</sup>!



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## Genesis Sunday!



Sunday, September 11, 2022, we will have the "Blessing of the Backpacks" school supplies, students and teachers during our children's message. Bring your Backpacks, book bags, chrome books and school supplies to church! We will have a First day gathering in the Minnema Room after the message ALL GRADES are invited. We will have Ice cream sodas during class and we will have a short lesson and prayer then talk about the new school year!!!!



Please mark your calendar for Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 10:00AM! We invite you to join us in the Auditorium for our Church School Kickoff program. This show features a Christian entertainer (magician), formerly of "The Greatest Show on Earth," who performs a family show for children and parents that ties his magic tricks into "forgiveness," "hope," and "mercy," focusing on God's love. The performance includes lots of audience participation, comedy, juggling, and a balancing act. **There is NO children's message on this Sunday! Please come early to be seated before the show begins at 10:00AM!**

### Calling All Sunday School Teachers!

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to teach our Sunday school youth! It is such a wonderful ministry and we have so much fun! THEY ARE the future of our church! One Sunday, two Sundays a month we would appreciate any time you can give us! So please help us to make this new school year a successful and joyful one for the children at First Pres!

Please Contact MaryEllen Castaldo email at [marecmt@aol.com](mailto:marecmt@aol.com). Thank you!

### Vacation Bible School

We had a great time at Vacation Bible School. Our theme was " **Champions of Faith**". The children learned Bible stories, made awesome crafts, learned wonderful songs, ate yummy snacks, had fun during activities, played basketball, ran relays and made new friends!

A BIG Thank you to Dallyla Park who donated snacks to Vacation Bible School, they were a hit!

A HUGE THANK YOU to the following angels who helped make our Vacation Bible school run so smoothly! It couldn't happen without the time and talents you all contributed to our program!

**Rebecca Burger**

**Sue Fischer**

**Pete Castaldo**

**Rev. Christine Park (Westside)**

**Carol Davidson**

**Sandy Santangelo**

**Katelyn Edelbach**

**Linda Strickland**

**Diane Eliya**

**Kenia Valdes**

**Dana Feeney**

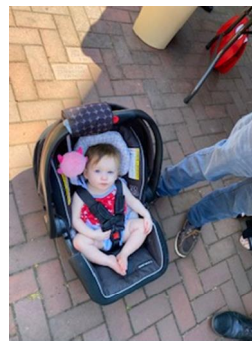
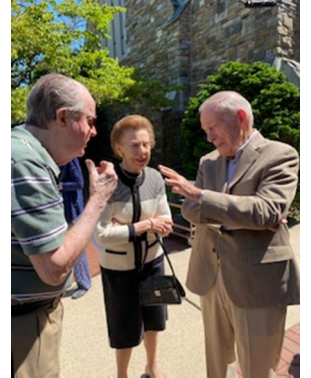
**Roger Yaden**


A special "Thank you" to Carol Schmeidecke for leading music!

You always get the children moving and teach the children songs they will sing long after VBS is over!



# Summer Snapshots!



Band shell  
Concert! 







On July 12<sup>th</sup> we welcomed new members James Park, Dallyla Silva Park and Lauren Gill!



*James Park along with his daughter, Sarah Park, received the sacrament of baptism on July 10th!*

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*On August 14th, Leah Olivia Schilling, daughter of Edward and Robin Schilling (and little sister to Ben) was baptized!*



In Baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God! Hallelujah!

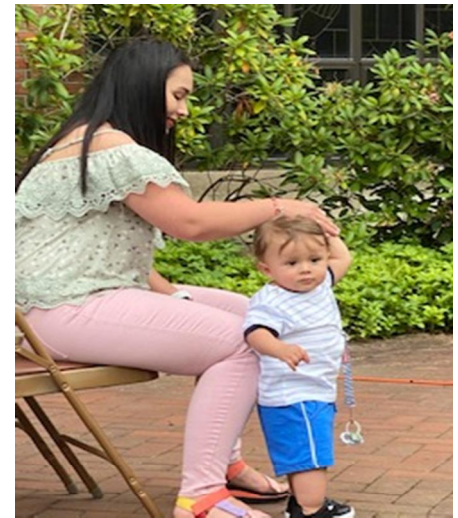




Second Saturday in June~

Welcome to Katerina, Ivan  
and Yan!

The Peace pole was painted  
with the colors of the  
Ukrainian flag as a sign of  
our support!



PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU;  
MY PEACE I GIVE YOU.  
I DO NOT GIVE TO YOU  
AS THE WORLD GIVES.  
DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS  
**BE TROUBLED**  
AND DO NOT BE AFRAID.

~JOHN 14:27







Second Saturday in July featured warm weather, good music, fellowship and a tasty supper thanks to grill masters~ Joe Unger and Richard Davies!





## Music Sunday and The Deacon's Tea!



*On June 12<sup>th</sup> newly elected officers were installed!*

*Dawn Murdock and Sue Fischer were ordained as Elders and Li Towt was ordained as a Deacon!*







**Our High School graduates Gianna Torielli and Sam McDevitt and college graduate Sophia Burger were recognized on June 19th!**







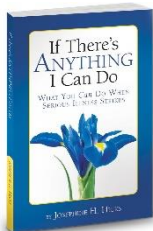
**Carol Eliya presented a Minute for Mission and displayed her global travels and spoke about her ministry at Youth With A Mission (YWAM)!**

## Hear Ye! Hear Ye!



Would you like to participate in music but singing isn't your "thing"? Do you yearn to be part of the worship service in a leadership capacity? Do you enjoy group activities and being part of a welcoming and fun performing unit? Are you "up" for a challenge? If you answered YES to even one of these questions, we welcome you to join the Chancel Bells! Beginning in September, our Chancel Bell Choir will be adding new members, and we're always on the lookout for interested individuals who want to learn more about music and ringing. Positions are open for players in Grade 6 thru adult. Rehearsals are each Thursday evening from 7:00 to 7:45 in the Sanctuary, beginning September 15. No experience is necessary, and we will teach you everything you need to know. If you can count

to four, you can play bells, because yes, it is just that easy! Please speak to Handbell Choir Director Carol Schmiedecke after worship or contact her at [Carol.Schmiedecke@firstpresridgewood.org](mailto:Carol.Schmiedecke@firstpresridgewood.org) for more information. **WE NEED YOU!!!!**



### **How to Really Help Others (More Effectively): A Book Discussion Group**

Join our 3-session group this fall to discuss the short and practical book, *If There's Anything I Can Do . . . What You *Can* Do When Serious Illness Strikes* by Josephine Hicks. We'll learn how to be more helpful to people undergoing health challenges, as we seek to strengthen our ministries of care serving as channels of God's grace. **AND** we'll learn how we can better ask for help *for ourselves* when we need it.

Dawn Murdock and Sue Dickinson will facilitate the group. We will meet after church on three Sundays: Oct. 2, 9, and 16, from 11:30 am - 12:15 pm. Feel free to come even if you can't attend all three sessions. This book was written by an Episcopal colleague of Dawn's; it's 130 pages but the pages are very small! We'll let you know the chapters to read for each session.

If you'd like to join us, **please let Dawn know by Sept. 11**, either at church, by text, or email at: [dawnmurdock159@aol.com](mailto:dawnmurdock159@aol.com); and include whether you'd like Dana to purchase a copy of the book for you.

The book is available from Amazon for \$13 new; here's a link to the book on Amazon: [If There's Anything I Can Do...What You Can Do When Serious Illness Strikes](https://www.amazon.com/If-There-Anything-I-Can-Do-What-You-Can-Do-When-Serious-Illness-Strikes/dp/1493198888)



## Endowment Committee Welcomes New "Chair"!

Laura Magrath is no newcomer to Endowment. She has been an active member of the committee for several years and looks forward to overseeing the fund that has grown consistently even through challenging financial times.

We'd like you to get to know Laura in her own words as she tells us, "First Pres has always been my church. My mom grew up at First Pres so our family has a long history here. I was graduated from Lafayette College with a degree in Engineering, specializing in computer science. I worked for NJ Bell and AT&T designing business phone systems and private line networks before "retiring" to become a full-time mom to Cole and Taylor.

I look forward to continuing the great work of Bruce Crocco, Tim Wentworth and Richard Davies with the Endowment Fund. As a committee, we will work to educate the members of First Pres about the importance of this Fund by showing that Endowment is a "living" fund which can both continue to grow while also helping fund various church-supported missions and projects."

We welcome Laura as we say a tremendous thank you to Richard Davies for guiding the committee, during his six-year term, with integrity and moving us forward with great team work to accomplish many projects that have benefited outreach missions and our own church.



The Legacy that keeps on giving!

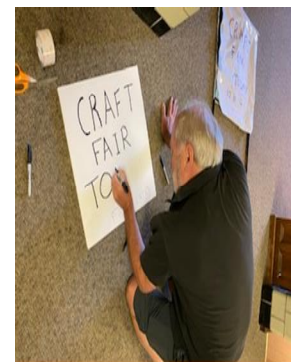
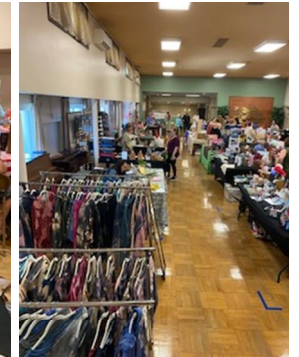




*Team 200 held a bake sale and craft fair to raise funds for our Bicentennial in 2023! Thank you to everyone who worked, baked and bought!*



Special thanks to Pastor  
Bruce, Jessica, Joe,  
Richard and Joan!







Team 200 (the Bicentennial committee) has been hard at work this summer searching every nook and cranny of the church looking for pictures, historical documents and church treasures.

**Now it is your turn to join the hunt!**

Please search your attic, basement, garage, and photo books for First Pres church pictures or mementos that may be used in a new supplemental church history book and/or to be used in a display.

You can scan and email pictures to [davies333@aol.com](mailto:davies333@aol.com), or bring copies (that you do not want returned) to the church office- labeled "Team 200". If you have pictures that you want to include but do want them returned we will have photograph scanning/copying opportunities in the future, so stay tuned!

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## Team 200 Fundraiser

We will be selling limited-edition gold-plated First Pres church anniversary ornaments to help fund our Bicentennial celebration.

**Cost is \$20.00 each**

Sales will begin during coffee hour on September 11<sup>th</sup>. As a special bonus our 1972 Church history book will be free with purchase of an ornament (while they last)!

Make checks payable to First Pres and note in memo line "anniversary ornament".

If you want to order and pick up at the church office please contact Joan Davies at [Davies333@aol.com](mailto:Davies333@aol.com)

**Buy one for yourself and one for a friend!**





# First Pres Welcomes the Mashliakevych Family

by Pastor Bruce Ballantine

At about 9:00 o'clock on the evening of Saturday, May 29, I was putting the finishing touches on my Sunday sermon when I received a text message, which read in part:

*Hi Pastor Ballantine, sorry to be bothering you so late on a Saturday night.*

*My name is Laura Choi and my husband is the pastor at Stewartsville Presbyterian in Highlands Presbytery.... My former student from Warren County Community College is Ukrainian. Her daughter, son-in-law, and 11-month-old grandson from Mariupol are arriving tomorrow. They narrowly escaped Mariupol to Poland for the past few weeks and are coming from there.*

*I'm just wondering if there's a church nearby that's strong in their missions and is willing to "walk" with this family for a while and be their new community. Feel free to call me to discuss. If no, don't worry, I'm just putting my feelers out and am sure God will place the right people in their path! Thanks for your consideration!*

That was my introduction to Ivan, Kateryna and Yan Mashliakevych.

The next morning, as I shared the announcements during worship, I mentioned that the Mashliakevych family would be arriving in Newark that evening. And I asked if any of you might be willing to help furnish the apartment which had been arranged for them in Garfield.

To borrow Laura Choi's words, God had placed "the right people in their path." Your response was amazing! That Sunday evening, within an hour of the Mashliakevych family's arrival, we were able to begin delivering furniture, a new baby stroller and other baby items. By the end of the week, their apartment was fully furnished, and baby Yan had many of the toys and books which babies and toddlers enjoy. Furthermore, at a time when baby formula was in short supply, one of our members had managed to have formula shipped to the family's apartment.

A number of you met Ivan, Kateryna and Yan when they attended our Second Saturday Service on June 11. During the service, Ivan spoke, using what he calls his "baby English," and offered his heartfelt thanks to First Pres for making his family feel so welcome and for offering such meaningful assistance.

It wasn't long before many of you were asking, "What else can we do?" So, we took up an offering, and members of First Pres contributed slightly more than \$4,000. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the family; and it serves as a witness to our faith, as we strive to live out the biblical mandate to welcome the stranger.

We have also applied for and received a grant from the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey in the amount of \$7,500. These grant funds, along with funds provided by First Pres members, have been used, and will continue to be used, to provide grocery store gift cards, assistance with rent, and assistance with legal fees and other fees as Ivan and Kateryna pursue their dream of U.S. citizenship.

Just as important as it is to provide financial support, we are providing Ivan, Kateryna and Yan with a community of friends in their new home, the United States. This is especially important since Kateryna's mother currently lives in North Carolina, and her time in New Jersey is limited by her work schedule.

Since their arrival, the family has been to the manse for dinner; Kateryna came to our recent craft fair and enjoyed lunch; and some of you have been to their apartment for a visit or to deliver produce and baked goods provided by our Produce Mission. They have joined us on a recent Sunday morning for worship and have expressed a desire to have Yan baptized - which I will be discussing with them in the coming weeks.



Ivan is grateful to be working. However, the amount he can earn is limited at this time, the work is hard, and he is working six days a week. Yet, he and Kateryna are grateful to be alive, grateful to be here in America where they are safe, and grateful for the friendship and assistance offered by the members of First Pres!



## *Welcome to America!*

Pastor Bruce welcomes Ivan in front of the First Pres peace pole, painted in the colors of the Ukrainian flag.



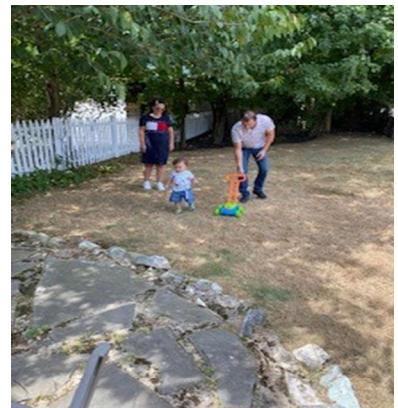
Pastor Bruce and Ivan prepare to take the refrigerator, donated by Tom and Kimber Gibson, upstairs to the Mashliakevych apartment.



Ivan in new stroller donated by the Mission, Peace and Social Righteousness Committee.



Visiting the sanctuary, and mowing the lawn at the manse!



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**"I was a stranger and  
you welcomed me."**

**MATTHEW 25:35**



## Celebrating 3 months of Birthdays!



Isabella Burger  
Ruth Plucinski  
Diane Amoruso

Brook Yates  
Amanda Schnure  
Diane Eliya

James Yates  
Frankie Feltmann  
Pam Brady



Evelyn Kender  
Krystina Dickinson

Janis Ax

Kyle Schnure  
Don Kender



Alex Santangelo  
Don Weyant  
Sue Dickinson  
Sam Santangelo  
Will Yates  
Donna Flagg

Jamie Eliya  
Suzy McDevitt  
Nancy Walters  
Maddy Santangelo  
Abed Eliya  
Joan Davies

Carol Davidson  
Ryan McDevitt  
Nick Santangelo  
Cole Bellorgey  
Mike Feeney

**If you are missing from our birthday list please let Sue Dickinson or Joan Davies know!**

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### 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) send submissions to <a href="mailto:davies333@aol.com">davies333@aol.com</a>

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**Church Phone (201) 652-2504**

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