

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 I write this, August will soon give way to September, children will soon return to school, and in the rhythm of church life, we will soon begin a new program year.

First, let me say that I hope each of you will join us for worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. - either in the sanctuary or online. To gather as a faith community to worship God is essential to our spiritual health, individually and corporately. Next, I hope you will read through this edition of First Press to discover at least one additional way you might be involved in the life of the congregation this fall.

Once again I will offer an adult Bible study from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays from September 15 through November 17. On each of these Wednesday evenings, we will gather via zoom to watch a video and discuss one of the Ten Commandments, which are guideposts provided by God to help us experience a good and beautiful life.

In addition to attending the Wednesday gatherings, participants will be asked to prepare for each session by reading a chapter in *Words of Life - Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today* by Adam Hamilton. Cost of the book is \$15. Please contact Dana Feeney in the church office (201-652-2504 or fpoffice@firstpresridgewood.org) to sign up to receive the zoom links and to reserve your copy of the book.

You will find the schedule of readings and discussions below. See you in September!

Grace and peace,

Bruce

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter in <i>Words of Life</i></u>
September 15	At the Center of It All
September 22	The Idols We Keep
September 29	%Swear to God!+
October 6	Rediscovering the Joy of Sabbath
October 13	A Question of Honor
October 20	The Tragedy of Violence, the Beauty of Mercy
October 27	Faithfulness in an Age of Porn
November 3	Weqe All Thieves. Yes, Even You.
November 10	Sticks, Stones and the Power of Words
November 17	Keeping Up with the Joneses

The Mission Committee (following Session approval) is pleased to announce the establishment of 3 scholarships for Paterson Habitat for Humanity homeowners and/or their children!

Doors to the Future Scholarships



Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood, NJ has been in partnership with Habitat for Humanity in Paterson since its beginning by helping families build a place to call home. First Presö has expanded its support by offering scholarship(s) to qualified Habitat homeowners and their children in the hope it will open new doors of opportunity in God's world.

Matthew 7:7: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

We are pleased to offer three scholarships:

1. College Scholarship (**maximum up to \$2500**) is for applicants planning to enroll or currently enrolled in a two-year associate or four-year bachelor degree program from a college or university. This may be renewable based on college/university transcripts.
2. Trade Scholarship (**maximum up to \$1000**) is for applicants seeking a diploma or certification from a trade or technical school. This is not renewable.
3. Resource Scholarship (**maximum up to \$500**) is for applicants who are currently in High School or in College who need assistance with books and/or computer hardware or software. This is not renewable and cannot be combined with above scholarships.

The Mission Committee is pleased to announce it has awarded \$1000 to Jason Simpson, the child of a Paterson Habitat Homeowner, who will be attending Passaic Community College this September.

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The Mission Committee met via ZOOM and made the following donations:



\$300 to Paterson Habitat for Humanity in honor of our High School graduates; Katelyn Edelbach, Collin Feeney, Peter Lucky, Kristina Rae, Ryan Schnure and Shane Strickland.

\$1000 gift to Carol Eliya to assist in her ministry at YWAM (Youth with a Mission) as she heads to Rome, Italy!

\$1000 to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief-Haiti Fund.

***And after the earthquake ... a sound of sheer silence.
Then there came a voice ... that said, "What are you doing here?"
1 Kings 19: 12-13***



St. Paul's Ministry~

The meal on July 4th was quite an appropriate one. I made grilled burgers with all the fixings, Sue made grilled hot dogs and baked beans, Marjorie made BBQ chicken, Dana brought the green salad, and Joanne put together individual fruit cups (with flag stickers on top of each!) and bread. She also surprised us with a large sheet pan cake with "Happy 4th of July" on it, and Donna brought a generous amount of apple crumb cakes. Very much an all American meal!

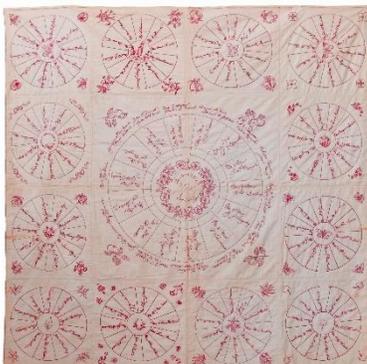
I had called St. Paul's the previous Thursday or Friday to confirm that we were bringing the meal, as I always do. And I asked about what time they like for the men to sit down to dinner lately. We were told last month that it was now allowed for us to come in and actually serve again. So Sam brought a friend, and we went with the intentions of serving. Unfortunately, when we got there, the desk clerk hadn't been made aware that we were planning on serving, and said that we weren't allowed to serve without the manager's OK. Although I did speak with the manager about it, she didn't pass along the information, and the desk clerk said she was unreachable for the holiday. Soooo, unfortunately, we had to leave the food there. I'm sure the men were going to love the meal, though! They were certainly excited to see how much there was! :)

So thank you all again. Your generosity and willingness to spend time on this mission is greatly appreciated by so many!! Suzy McDevitt



The Bergen County Quilt and Coverlet Show will be held October 1 and 2. Eighty quilts and thirty-six coverlets, made between 1800 and 1976, will be on display at the Schoolhouse Museum and the Old Paramus Reformed Church Education Building (650-660 E. Glen Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ 07450). The quilts and coverlets are from the collections of 13 local museums and 16 private collections. This is a rare opportunity to view these fragile textiles. Quilts and coverlets are not only beautiful reminders of our history, but reflect the lives of Bergen County's women and men through the years. **One of the quilts on display was made by the women of the Pastor's Help Society of our church in 1898 and now in the collection of the Ridgewood Historical Society.** Another is a crazy quilt made in 1892 by Joe Suplicki's ancestors.

Peggy Norris (pictured in center) is the chair of the event committee.



For more information see www.bergencountyquiltandcoverletshow.com

**YOUR ENDOWMENT DOLLARS AT WORK NOW!
A LITTLE 'MIRACLE-GRO' TO THE RESCUE!**

Our church building has reached the stage of life when it still looks great on the outside, at least from a distance; but up close is showing clear signs of wear. Things like plumbing, heating, mold, and leaking windows are eating away inside and outside. The longer we put off facing the gradual decay, the more costly the repairs become.

The benefit of gifts to our Endowment Fund have recently made it possible for the Fund to help contribute to some of the projects now underway. If you look at the Fund as a vegetable garden your gifts are the 'Miracle-Gro' that make for a bountiful harvest; a harvest that allows us to care for those in need and to care for the facility that provides a place for us to meet. Our current works in progress:

- 1) Hardware and installation of a new kitchen door - \$2,360
- 2) Cleaning of the outside masonry brick on the North side of the building - \$5,000
- 3) Caulking the outside wall joints around the Church and Nursery School. These upon inspection are falling out and possible water damage could occur - \$8,200
- 4) Repair both floors of the Nursery School carpet seams - \$890

The total for these four projects is \$16,450.



Old Kitchen Door



New Kitchen Door

Could you spare a little 'Miracle-Gro' for our Endowment Fund? We're eager to share its bountiful harvest. The larger the Fund, the greater the harvest.

Some ways to give:

Tree of Life Memorial - Leaf \$500 or Stone \$2000

Green Umbrella Note Cards - \$25

Outright Cash - Any Amount

Memorial Gifts - Any Amount

Call Joanne Bonwick for further information (201) 6752-7520 or
joannedbonwick@gmail.com

YOU ARE OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE - ENDOWMENT ENDURES FOREVER!

~Sights and Sounds of Summer~



Second Saturdays in the memorial garden.

Notes of praise.

Doors remain open but masks back on!



First Day of Sunday school will begin on Sunday September 26th!

Infant/toddler Nursery will be available to parents beginning Sunday September 12th!

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! We have implemented team teaching and rotations are 2 Sundays a month! 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. Thank you!

Genesis Sunday!



about them!

Sunday, September 12th 2021, we will have the “Blessing of the Backpacks” and school supplies during our children’s message. Bring your Backpacks, book bags, chrome books and school supplies to church! We have a special program at 10:15 am in our Auditorium. Eyes of the Wild is an animal rescue will bring some exotic animals and other types of creatures! We will meet them and learn all



We have a new confirmation class in 2021 and we are looking forward to begin classes on Sunday, October 3rd. Welcome Olivia Davis, Luke Eliya, Kyle Schnure, Hudson Feeney, Luke Feltmann, Carlo Torielli and Dante Torielli.



Sunday, September 19, 2021 we will have a Family worship service and our class of 2020 confirmands will be recognized as new members during worship!



We had a wonderful week at Vacation Bible School in August! 24 children were in attendance! A very special "THANK YOU" to Carol Schmiedecke for a wonderful week of music! I would like to thank all our dedicated volunteers who helped make our program a great success! God Bless you all!

Rev. Bruce Ballantine
Isabella Burger
Peter Castaldo
Dana Feeny
Jeanine Jamieson
Rev. Christine Park (Westside)
Katie Rose

Krista Rose
Samantha Santangelo
Amanda Schnure
Linda Strickland
Bob Tedeschi
Kenia Valdes
Roger Yaden



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, September 9 - Thursday, October 14

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



The Mission Committee will be holding a fall MUM sale to benefit
our Endowment Fund!



\$10.00 per plant

To order email jessicatrader@gmail.com or call the church office.

Mums will be available for pickup from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday,
September 24th in the Cloister.



Save the date Ridgewood CROP Walk

Date: Sunday, October 17

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Start: Van Neste Square





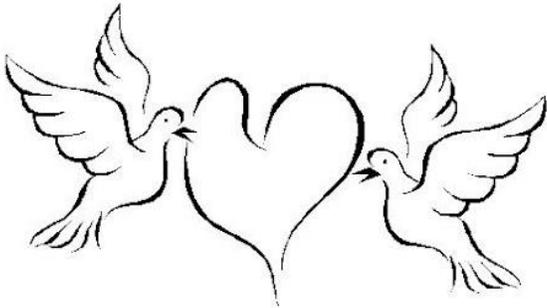
9-11 Service of Remembrance

Saturday, September 11 @ 7:00 p.m.
in the Memorial Garden

The service will include music by Brian Pringing, a meditation by Pastor Bruce, and will conclude with a candlelight vigil.

Note the change in time. And bring a friend!

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On Sunday September 26th

The Session invites you to “Haffey Sunday” immediately following the worship service~

Paul and AlphaJo Haffey will be remembered and recognized for their generous gift to our church.

More information will be sent via One Call.

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Did you know that 27 persons met in January of 1823 to leave the local Dutch Reformed Classis and form a new congregation?

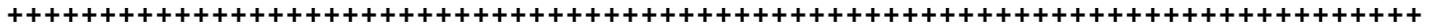
That means in 2023 we will be 200 years old!

A small committee has been formed to mark this momentous occasion, if you would like to be a part of this committee, let Pastor Bruce know.

The Summer Produce Mission continues... to volunteer show up at the Ridgewood train station Sundays between 1:30-1:45 pm or contact Sandy Santangelo @ gssantangelo6@gmail.com

Thanks to all our volunteers!

FARMERS MARKET



Another successful **Camp Lots of Fun** meal was delivered. Actually, two meals as we also provided breakfast!

Dave and Mary Shaw, Kate Yates and Sandy Santangelo prepped and packaged breakfast and lunch for the campers and counselors.

Best of Everything once again gave us a generous discount on two huge trays of very cheesy baked ziti and even provided rolls at no cost. Carrots, watermelon, juice and sugar cookies baked by Maddy Santangelo completed the meal.

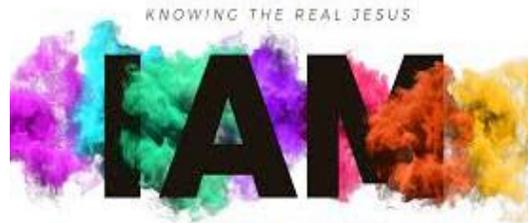
We also donated some boxes of granola bars, apple sauces and packaged cookies for the campers to have for snacks.

Thanks to Mission Committee for supporting this wonderful cause. The campers definitely went home with full bellies and maybe even some left overs!



**First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood, New Jersey
Spiritual Connections with Friends ~ Small Group Study**

**~ Our Walk in God's Tapestry of Grace ~
Study via Zoom: Seven (7) Sessions
Tuesdays, September 28 – November 9, 2021**



John 1:1;14

¹In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.+
¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.+

What: Scattered all through John's gospel there are seven places where Jesus talks about who he is. Each place starts off with Jesus saying very dramatically, "I AM. . ." Through scripture, readings, video clips and music we will be going to places in the Holy Land where Jesus was when he uttered the words. And we will take a journey together to discover how we can walk more closely with Jesus and weave the tapestry of God's grace in our lives.

When: We will meet Tuesdays, September 28 . November 9, 2021
Via Zoom: 11:00 a.m. . 12 Noon

Schedule

Session 1	September 28	I AM the Bread of Life
Session 2	October 5	I AM the Light of the World
Session 3	October 12	I AM the Gate
Session 4	October 19	I AM the Good Shepherd
Session 5	October 26	I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life
Session 6	November 2	I AM the Resurrection and Life
Session 7	November 9	I AM the True Vine

**To register, please email Donna Flagg – flaggbda@gmail.com
or call 201-818-6881 by Thursday, September 23**

A Zoom link will be emailed to you with information and readings.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Alex Santangelo
Nick Santangelo
Sam Santangelo
Maddy Santangelo
Cole Bellorgey
Will Yates
Abed Eliya
Mike Feeney
Donna Flagg
Jamie Eliya
Carol Davidson
Don Weyant
Suzy McDevitt
Ryan McDevitt
Sue Dickinson
Nancy Walters
Joan Davies

Please send your birthday month to your deacon, the church office or Sue Dickinson.

The Finance & Stewardship Committee want to thank everyone for their continued commitment to the mission and ministry of our church through your generous giving. Through July, we are 61% of our budgeted pledges or \$167,000. In addition, with the receipt of the second PPP Grant from the Federal Government, the continued increase of usage income and the support of the Endowment Committee at the beginning of the year, we will continue to meet our commitments to the ministry of our church all of us have come to expect. We are on track to be 100% of budget.

As many of you have heard, we are kicking off our 2022 Stewardship in October this year to allow us to better budget and plan for both short and long terms needs. We will conclude our celebration with an outdoor cookout on October 24. We hope to see all of you during stewardship which allows us to provide you a meaningful worship experience and mission of the church. May God bless you and know we cannot do any of this without you.

Thank you again for you continued support.

Richard J Friedl
Finance & Stewardship - Chair

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 Feeny
Youth Leader	Jessica Strader
Tom Carozza	Sexton
Custodian	George Wood
Director Nursery School	Julia Bolt
Newsletter Editor	Joan Davies (Volunteer)

Church Phone (201) 652-2504

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

