



*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,

While the word *lazy* has a negative connotation, I cannot help but look forward to the lazy days of summer. For many of us, so much of life happens at full speed ó one activity, project, event or task after the other! And the lazy days of summer provide us with a wonderful opportunity to slow down, relax, play and experience refreshment and rejuvenation.

Reading a book on the beach. Taking a walk in the park. Rising early while the air is still crisp and cool and reading one's daily devotion on the patio with the first cup of coffee. Throwing a frisbee with a young child. Planting a flower garden. Eating a Van Dyke's ice cream cone. Turning off the phone and spending the day enjoying a picnic with friends. Taking trips to see family members, some of whom we haven't seen since before the pandemic. Attending an outdoor worship service in a beautiful courtyard. Sitting on the deck in the evening and marveling at the splashes of orange and yellow painted across the canvas of a dark June sky. Lying on a hammock and counting stars. Slowing down and appreciating the gift of friendship, the wonders of creation and time with the Creator.

What I'm describing here is essentially Sabbath time ó which God has given to us as a gift to be experienced every seven days. In the words of Margaret Feinberg in *Wonderstruck*: "Through the Sabbath, God asks us to slow down so we once again become awestruck by the goodness of God in our lives, relationships and world. The Sabbath provides the opportunity to nurture our appreciation for the beauty of creation, the deliciousness of provision, the joy of celebration. In a single day, God gives us the opportunity to recapture the wonder of everyday life." [pp. 70-71]

In short, if we've been a little lax about Sabbath observance, I'm encouraging each of us to use the lazy days of summer as an opportunity to jump start our Sabbath practice. Doing so is essential to experiencing the abundant life Jesus came to offer.

The following poem, inspired by Psalm 23, is attributed to Japanese poet Toki Miyanshina. In it, the poet reminds us that there is much to be gained by slowing down.

*The Lord is my Pace-setter, I shall not rush;  
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.  
He provides me with images of stillness,  
which restore my serenity.  
He leads me in ways of efficiency  
through calmness of mind,  
and His guidance is peace.  
Even though I have a great many things  
to accomplish each day,*

*I will not fret, for His presence is here;  
His timelessness, His all importance,  
will keep me in balance.*

*He prepares refreshment and renewal  
in the midst of my activity  
by anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility.  
My cup of joyous energy overflows.  
Surely harmony and effectiveness  
shall be the fruits of my hours;  
for I shall walk, in the pace of my Lord  
and dwell in His house forever.*

Friends, this summer, may we slow down, walk in the pace of the Lord and thereby experience the good life God wants to give us.

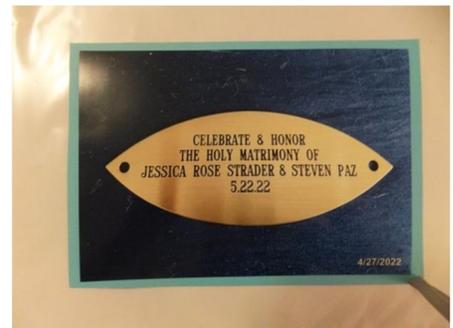
Yours in Christ, Bruce

## Endowment Corner

Our ðTree of Lifeö continues to grow and bloom this spring.

Weöve recently installed two new leaves on our ðTreeö.

Donna Flagg honors the memory of her mother Sue (Sui Ping) Mahr and Jessica Rose Strader celebrates her marriage to Steven Paz.



Our ðTreeö now holds 51 engraved Leaves, eight engraved stones and one engraved Benefactor Dove. Each addition becomes a permanent part of the history of our church and its members.

And each grows our Endowment Fund in a significant way. All the existing Stones have been engraved so we will soon be purchasing additional stones which will be available for engraving.

For more information about purchasing memorial or celebration Leaf and Stones pick up a Tree of Life Brochure on tables in the hallway. You may also call Joanne Bonwick at (201) 652-7520 or Email [joannedbonwick@gmail.com](mailto:joannedbonwick@gmail.com).

Weöll be glad to help you with selection for engraving.

**Endowment is the gift that keeps on giving!**

## MISSION WORK



On Sunday, May 1, the McDevitt family delivered dinner to the men at St. Paul's men's shelter. Entrees provided were buffalo chicken with potatoes by Joel Torielli, penne with vodka sauce by Fay Reid and Mexican chicken casserole by Suzy McDevitt.

Also for the dinner, Sue Dickinson provided dinner rolls and made jello with fruit, MaryEllen Castaldo made a broccoli casserole, and Suzy purchased chocolate chip cookies.

We are still in need of more volunteers for June's meal, and are also planning for July and August's meals, each on the first Sunday of the month. You do not need to be a great cook - purchased items work, too!

If you'd like to help out, or are considering but have questions about how it works, please contact Suzy McDevitt by email at [suzyimcd2@yahoo.com](mailto:suzyimcd2@yahoo.com) or by text at 201-325-2063. Thank you!!



**CARING COOKS** - Caring Cooks were very busy since our last report. Five meals were delivered to members. A very big thank you to **Jeanine Jamieson** who took a meal to Mary and Dave Shaw on April 12<sup>th</sup>, **Fay Reid** to Dave and Mary on April 18<sup>th</sup>, and **Jan Ax** who took a meal to Tom and Kimber Gibson on April 18<sup>th</sup>. **Elisa Cerrina** took a meal to Dave and Mary Shaw on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Britt Tunick** took a meal to Dave and Mary on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

WE EXTEND A HEARTY THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CARING COOKS WHO ARE READY TO SERVE ON A MOMENTS NOTICE.



### Paterson Habitat Build Date June 4<sup>th</sup>!

If you are interested in participate, please let Donna Flagg know as soon as possible! [flaggbda@gmail.com](mailto:flaggbda@gmail.com)



### **The Summer Produce Mission Needs Volunteers!**

If you are available on a Sunday afternoon to bring produce from the Farmers Market at the Ridgewood train station to the church, or to help load the truck on a Monday morning, please contact Sandy Santangelo! [gssantangelo6@gmail.com](mailto:gssantangelo6@gmail.com)





# Baptism



On May 8<sup>th</sup> Grace Lynn Pavao was baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

Grace with parents, Ben and Katie and sister Charlotte.

Grace started her journey of faith walking down the aisle with Pastor Bruce!



*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1Corinthians 13:13*



*Congratulations to Jessica Strader and Seven Paz on their Wedding Day 5/22/2022!*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

We are finishing up our lessons on Families in the Bible, we have covered Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob & Esau, Joseph and his brothers and Hannah & Samuel and King Saul.

On **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>** our Confirmation Class will be presented as new members on Pentecost Sunday! Congratulations to our Confirmands: Olivia Davis, Luke Eliya, Hudson Feeney, Luke Feltmann, Kyle Schnure, CJ Torielli and Dante Torielli.

**Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>** is the last day of Church School. We will hold a special service led by our church school students and we will celebrate our First Pres. high school and college graduates and teachers!

Summer Sunday school classes will begin on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> for grade school students thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

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**We NEED Volunteers for Vacation Bible School, please prayerfully consider helping to make this week a successful one!**



**Monday, August 1st – Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Time: 9:00 AM–11:30 AM**



## Congratulations to our High School Graduates- Class of 2022!



Gianna Torielli is graduating this June from Ridgewood High School, and will be continuing her education at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina, this fall. At Clemson, Gianna will be majoring in Secondary Education in Social Studies and minoring in Political Science, with this degree she plans on becoming a high school history or government teacher. Throughout her time at Ridgewood High School, Gianna has run on the cross country and track teams, as well as run the RHS Vegan Club. Outside of school, Gianna has danced at Ridgewood Performing Arts Center for over 12 years, where she has performed in the RPAC Holiday Show and Spring Recital every year. Additionally, Gianna works at Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt in Downtown Ridgewood, and babysits for several families around town. In college, Gianna plans on rushing a sorority, as well as joining the running club. She is excited for this new stage in her life!



My name is Kyle Feltmann, I am currently attending Northern Highlands Regional High School and will be attending Arcadia University in the fall. My goal is to graduate with a doctorate degree in physical therapy. My overall high school experience has been filled with good memories, hard work, and fun times with friends and family. The challenges I have faced in the past 4 years have not only prepared me for the hurdles that lie ahead but have become amongst my biggest triumphs. Academically, I am an honor roll student, I am involved with the Deca club, I have raised nearly \$8,000 for a charity of my choice called "The Water Project " through my global service class. Athletically, I was a 2 year varsity letterman in soccer and a 3 year varsity letterman for lacrosse. For Soccer my junior year I was awarded honorable mention all-league and senior year I was awarded second team all-league. For lacrosse, my freshman year I was awarded honorable mention all-league and all county, junior year I was awarded honorable mention all-league and all county and this year I look to improve and hopefully win the states. I look forward to furthering my academic and athletic career at Arcadia University, where I hope to graduate with a doctorate degree in physical therapy and a championship in lacrosse.



Sam McDevitt is a graduate of Paramus High School as a National Honor Society member. She has also worked for the last year at Anthony Franco's in Paramus.

Sam has earned a place in the High School Honors Choir and Bergen County choirs over the years. She has also been inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society, where she performed as the soloist during the induction ceremony.

Sam is well-known at school as a "musical theater kid," and was voted by the senior class as Class Thespian. She has taken part in approximately 15 musicals with lead parts, and finished out her senior year as the lead of Wednesday Addams in "The Addams Family" musical. She was also appointed as the Student Director of the PHS play this year, and as the Assistant Music Director of "The Addams Family" when the faculty music director lost her voice. Sam is headed to Virginia Tech in August as a Theater Performing Arts major, and will add a second major of Human Services with a goal of becoming an LCSW, to become a therapist for children and adolescents.



Palmer Yates will be attending West Point and will be a member of the class of 2026. He leaves on June 27th for Cadet Basic Training and will start his studies in September.

At RHS Palmer played football and lacrosse and is one of the captains of the lacrosse team.

He is a member of the National honor society and national Spanish honor society.

He is class VP, a leader of the Cambodia Club, and co-president of the Support Our Troops Club. Go Army!



Sam Santangelo will be graduating from Ridgewood High School. She plans to attend the University of Vermont next year where she will be studying nursing and enjoying her passion for skiing and hiking.



## Congratulations to our College Graduates!



Sophia Burger graduated Cum Laude from the University of Delaware on May 28th with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and two minors in Political Science and Forensic Science. After working as an intern with the Jacksonville Urban League Center for Advocacy and Social Justice the summer of her Junior year, she was invited to stay on as a part-time employee as their Social Justice Intern Coordinator, where she oversees projects with various nonprofits and charities, aiding underserved communities advocating for criminal justice reform, improved access to dental and healthcare access, and voting rights, among other social justice issues. She has been working for the non-profit remotely for over a year, and plans to continue her advocacy work. She looks forward to pursuing a career in NYC in the criminal justice field.



Steven Eliya has been attending our church since he was a child with his parents, Sami and Diane Eliya, and siblings, Carol, Jamie, and Helen. He graduated from Ridgewood High School in 2017 and is celebrating his January 2022 graduation from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ with a B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering and a Minor in Music. While at college, Steven was an enthusiastic participant of the Rutgers Marching Scarlet Knights playing the alto sax at football games and in the pep band at basketball games. He was also an active member of the Music Fraternity, Mu Beta Psi. Last summer, Steven completed an internship at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, as a part of the Information Security Architecture & Engineering team. Currently, Steven is employed as a Cyber Security Analyst at AT&T. During his free time, Steven enjoys playing piano, video games, and hiking.



Ryan McDevitt is a graduate of the University of Maryland. He received a Bachelor of Science as a double major in Finance and Information Systems from the Robert H. Smith School of Business. After earning a highly competitive internship with KPMG last summer, he was offered a job with them as an associate after graduation. He will be starting in September for KPMG in New York City as a Risk Assurance Associate.



Brooks Yates (left) is graduating from Trinity College in Hartford CT with a degree in economics. At Trinity he was a member of the lacrosse team for a couple years. In January he took classes in Barcelona for J-term.



James Yates (right) is graduating from Trinity College in Hartford CT with a degree in economics. At Trinity he was a member of the lacrosse team for a couple years. In January he took classes in Barcelona for J-term.



*For He will command  
His angels concerning you  
To guard you in all your ways*

*Psalm 91:11*



# CRAFT FAIR!

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SAT JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 | 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

722 EAST RIDGEWOOD AVE | RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07450

Handmade items, Makeup, Dry Nail Polish, Jewelry, Soaps, Custom Apparel, Crocheted Items, Handbags, Wooden Signs, Activewear, Loungewear, Tumblers, Doll Clothing, Candles, Wax Melts, Crystals, Signs, Wreaths, and MORE!

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Stop by to see over 20 vendors inside our Auditorium! All ages welcome!

Food available for purchase!

Extra parking in lot on Van Dien Ave.

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We are asking all Deacons and Caring Cooks to contribute to the bake sale at this event. And for everyone to please support this fundraiser for our church bicentennial!

# Happy Birthday To Everyone Born in June!

Carol Eliya    Lucy Dickinson    Jamil Eliya    Andrew Dickinson    Lucy Sourial    Jim Davidson

Michael Burger    Sandy Santangelo    Kate Yates    Michael Hutton    Anita Hutton

Rob Tedeschi    Lindsay Strickland    Shane Strickland    Luke Feltmann    Kyle Feltmann

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
RIDGEWOOD RECITAL SERIES  
PRESENTS

## REJOICE!



AN AFTERNOON OF  
MUSIC  
OF  
HOPE AND JOY

WITH

MELISSA MACY  
VIOLIN  
EMMA SCHMIEDECKE  
CELLO  
CHRISTOPHER VEHMAS  
PIANO

SUNDAY  
JUNE 5, 2022  
3:00 PM

ADMISSION IS FREE



### PROGRAM

Our Great Savior - Pritchard/Funderburk  
Let All Things Now Living - Trad.  
Immortal Invisible - Trad.  
Three American Hymn Preludes - Joyce  
Holy, Holy, Holy - Dykes  
The Holy Boy - Ireland

### Plus Works By

Schubert  
Debussy  
Bloch  
Grieg

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

722 East Ridgewood Avenue  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

## 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](http://www.firstpresridgewood.org)

