

*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,

This month, I've decided to use this space to write a stewardship article, but not the kind of stewardship article you might expect.

In the church, when we use the word stewardship, we typically think of money and specifically how much money one gives to support the church and its ministry and mission. If we think more broadly, stewardship also includes the offering of our time and talents to support the church's work. Stewardship of the earth, our responsibility to care for creation, is another way we often use the word within the church.

But the word stewardship, in the most general sense, means the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. I would suggest this definition offers us a helpful way to think about our health. In other words, if we look through the lens of stewardship, we have these bodies which have been entrusted to our care by God; and as a matter of good stewardship, it's imperative that we care for them as well as we can.

As St. Paul writes in his First Letter to the Corinthians: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body." (6:19-20)

Granted, Paul wrote these words in the context of his warning against sexual immorality. Yet, the point he makes can rightly be applied more broadly. Our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, there is something holy about even our bodies. And it is essential that we take care of them.

We know that caring for our bodies means getting enough sleep, eating a healthy diet, and getting enough exercise. I don't know about you, but for me, it's been difficult getting enough exercise during the past winter and this spring, which has too often felt like winter. Therefore, it would help me to jump start the exercise piece of caring for my body. Toward that end, I look forward to restarting *Walk and Talk*, a program which we began last fall.

On the following dates, I invite you to join me and your First Pres friends at 6:00 p.m. for an hour of exercise as we walk the path around the Duck Pond on East Ridgewood Avenue:

Mondays, May 16, 23; June 6  
Thursdays, May 19, 26; June 2, 9

So, put on your walking shoes and join us for some exercise, fresh air and conversation! And one more thing: Bring a friend!

Grace and peace,

Bruce



While searching for Easter cards I found one that said very simply:

His destiny was the cross...

His purpose was love...

His reason was us...

Read it again, slowly

In that moment I felt the weight of His sacrifice.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

- John 3:16

So what is **our** destiny, **our** purpose, **our** reason?

From an Endowment perspective:

Our destiny is to carry His cross...

Our purpose is to love...

Our reason is Him...

We ask that you support our church so that it may survive and thrive now and into the future carrying his Word so that all may come to know the love of Christ. Endowment gifts are gifts that keep on giving during our lifetime and beyond.

You may give using our Green Umbrella note cards, Tree of Life Memorial gifts, Bequests or Cash. Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church with a memo to (Endowment).

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

## MISSION WORK

On Sunday, April 3, the men at St. Paul's Homeless Shelter were treated to a meal prepared by Sandy Santangelo, Sue Sofka, Kate Yates and Linda Strickland. On the menu were chicken and veggie enchiladas, chili, rice and beans, Caesar salad, cornbread and oranges. These delicious dishes were delivered to the shelter by Sandy.

If you are interested in providing part of a meal for this mission, but have questions, please feel free to reach out to Suzy McDevitt. You do not need to be a good cook to help out - purchased items work just as well. The May meal has been completely scheduled, and we are now working on filling the months of June, July and August. Meals always take place on the first Sunday of the month. The summer months tend to be tougher to schedule than other seasons, so please prayerfully consider helping out and getting in touch with Suzy. Thank you!

You can contact Suzy McDevitt by email at [suzyjimcd2@yahoo.com](mailto:suzyjimcd2@yahoo.com) or by text at 201-315-2063



*CARING COOKS* - We say a gracious thank you to *Caring Cooks* Greta Croucher, Suzy McDevitt, Jeanine Jamieson and Joanne Bonwick this past month for delivering meals to Dave and Mary Shaw while Mary continues physical therapy to regain strength from several falls, and to Connie Moore's family who experienced the sudden loss of husband and father, Tom Moore.

First Pres Men's Breakfast Fellowship  
meets every other Thursday morning!

If interested contact Pastor Bruce!



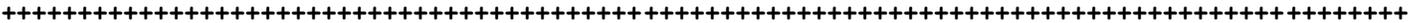


In loving memory of Tom Moore who entered God's Kingdom on 3/27/2022.

Tom was an Elder and a longtime member of First Pres. Tom also served as the head of plate counter for many years!

Please continue to keep Connie, Melissa and Jake in your prayers.

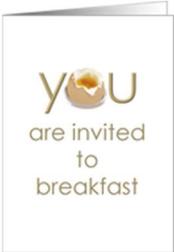
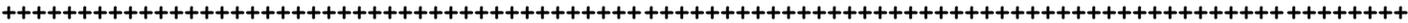
To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust, Psalm 25



# Baptism



Vivian Jean Chizmadia received the sacrament of baptism on Sunday, April 3, 2022!  
  
We rejoice with her proud parents, Monica and Matt!



### Get Acquainted Breakfast Gatherings for New Members:

**Sundays May 15 & 22 @ 8:30 a.m. in the Minnema Room**

New and prospective members are invited to attend two breakfast gatherings on Sundays, May 15 and 22, in the Minnema Room (lower level). Sponsored by the Growth Committee, the breakfast gatherings provide a convenient way to get acquainted with the church, some of its members and staff, as well as various First Pres ministry and mission opportunities. Please contact Pastor Bruce (215.337.5623 or [pastorburce@firstpresridgewood.org](mailto:pastorburce@firstpresridgewood.org)) if you have any questions or if you plan to attend.



The Mission, Peace and Social Righteousness Team would like to thank everyone who participated in the OGHs Fish and Chips sale!

Congratulations to Pete Castaldo for closest guess of Swedish fish!



Second Saturday Service in the Chapel!

Palm Sunday and the choir is back!

Maundy Thursday together with Trinity!



And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."



*He is risen*



*the  
Lord  
risen  
indeed!*  
HALLELUJAH







Thank you to all who have GENEROUSLY donated candy for our egg hunt! You are a blessing!

Our First Pres. Annual Easter Egg Hunt at our Church Manse was a great success!





Thank you to all who donated generously to our Lenten food non-food drive to support the Social Service Association of Ridgewood and Vicinity. It was greatly appreciated!

**Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>:** Our Confirmation Class will be presented as new members on Pentecost Sunday!

**Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>:** Our last day of Church School. We will hold a special service lead by our church school students and we will celebrate our high school and college graduates! 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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<b>Britt Tunick</b>	<b>Dana Feeney</b>	<b>Ramzi Eliya</b>
<b>Kirk Lavine</b>	<b>Carola Di Iorio</b>	<b>Gloria Tedeschi</b>
<b>Joanne Bonwick</b>	<b>Bruce Ballantine</b>	<b>Janie Dear</b>
<b>Helen Eliya</b>	<b>David Schwartz</b>	<b>Sarah Hutton</b>
<b>Lew Dickinson</b>	<b>Jan Cross</b>	

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

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

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