



October 2021

*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.*



### **Consecration Sunday Is Coming: Sunday, October 24!**

Congregations which approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Finance and Stewardship Committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

*New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"+

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Yours in Christ's service,

Bruce

## MORE THAN A FACE-LIFT...

As our church undergoes much needed repairs and upgrades we are grateful to have the resources to begin the work. This is all made possible, in spite of the pandemic, by many generous supporters including an extraordinary gift willed to the church from the Haffey Estate. All these combined gifts have helped Endowment fund several of the needed projects. As we reported last month the new kitchen door has been replaced (\$2,360) and now the cleaning of the outside masonry brick on the north side of the building is done (\$5000) and the caulking on the outside wall joints is complete (\$8,200). A power wash of the main front entrance is a huge improvement.

We were also able to respond to Haiti's urgent need for immediate help with a \$1000 donation to the Presbyterian Disaster Fund.

Here are some of the improvements:

## ...A RENEWAL!



Old kitchen door vs New kitchen door



Caulking may not be exciting but it keeps bricks in place!



Prior exterior



Power washed exterior



Power washed by cloisters

ENDOWMENT ENDURES FOREVER...  
THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

## Sunday School News

Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> was our church school kickoff! We held the blessing of the backpacks during the children's message and after the message enjoyed a special program from "Eyes of the Wild" a wild & exotic animal rescue! Travis brought a coatimundi, a wallaby, a special dove, a porcupine and a Mommy chinchilla and her baby! Many were able to pet the back of the baby chinchilla at the end of the program! Travis brought education mixed with humor and it was a fun event!



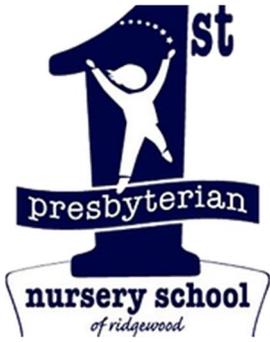


On Sunday, September 19, 2021 we held a family worship service and our class of 2020 confirmands were recognized as new members during worship service with a lovely reception followed in the Covington memorial garden!



Patrick Edlebach, Isabella Burger, Francesca Feltmann, Maddy Santangelo, Will Yates, William Rae, (not pictured Amanda Schnure and Colden Tobias)





Happy Fall! It's great to be back in the swing of things at the Weekday Nursery School! This year marks the 53rd year of First Pres. Nursery School! Everything is pointing to another incredible and productive school year. Our dedicated teachers have planned and prepared for our students. Our hard working church staff have spent the summer thoroughly cleaning the Nursery School and painting classrooms. All new beautiful Pella windows have been recently installed in all the classrooms. And, we are prepared to offer exciting events and programs throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Last school year, we successfully made it through the entire school year all while keeping our students and staff safe. We will continue to follow the CDC, NJ Department of Children and Families and NJ Department of Health requirements and guidelines. In preparing for our opening of the 21-22 school year, Health and Safety of students, staff and community is our number one concern.

Staff and students are enjoying getting to know one another and making new friends! Lunch Bunch and PM Pre K classes are underway. As we work back into our regular routine, Gym, Music and Spanish classes have begun as well.

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



## Deacon Ministry

If you would like to remember or honor someone with chancel flowers the cost is \$45.00. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church (write in memo %chancel flowers+). You can sign up for a date on the chart in the hallway or call the church office.

The Midland Park Thrift shop receives goods on Mondays between 10 AM and 2 PM. Our church gets a donation if you write our church name and the #2 on a label.

Do you need a ride to church? Call Sue Fisher at 551-427-3808 or email her at [fdsrcd@optonline.com](mailto:fdsrcd@optonline.com) and she will make arrangements for your transportation.

If you would like the minister to have the number of an emergency contact person for you, let the church office know.

## Mission

On Sunday, Sept. 4, the McDevitt family delivered dinner to the men staying at St. Paul's Men's Shelter. A big thank you to Laura Magrath for her baked bean and hot dog casserole, Joanne Bonwick for sweet and sour meatballs, Dana Feeney for BBQ chicken breasts, Donna Flagg for pasta salad, Sue Dickinson for inside out chocolate chip cookies, and Suzy made a fruit salad of cantaloupe, plums and peaches, and provided 24 dinner rolls. Thank you so much, ladies!!

Please contact Suzy or Sam McDevitt if you are interested in providing an item for a St. Paul's meal in the future. You do *not* have to be a cook to help out - purchased foods work just as well! Any kind of help is appreciated! We still need one entree for Oct. 3, and we need everything for Nov. 7, with the exception of the fruit & bread.

Text Suzy at 201-315-2063 or Sam at 201-820-8056  
or email [suzyjmc2@yahoo.com](mailto:suzyjmc2@yahoo.com) or [sammcdev99@gmail.com](mailto:sammcdev99@gmail.com)

Thank you, once again, for helping to keep this mission going!!



Date: Sunday, October 17  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Start: Van Neste Square



Please remember the Produce Mission

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

Meet at the Ridgewood train station at 1:45 PM on Sundays to pack up produce and transport back to the church.

A big thanks to everyone who purchased mums to benefit our Endowment Fund!



Remembering  
Sept 11, 2001



Give me love  
Give me love  
Give me peace on earth  
Give me light  
Give me life  
Keep me free from birth  
Give me hope  
Help me cope, with this heavy load  
Trying to, touch and reach you with  
Heart and soul

My Lord

Please take hold of my hand  
That I might understand you  
Won't you please ̎ .. George Harrison



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

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

---

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

**The next Second Saturday Service is October 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM!**