

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,

While we're not completely out of the woods, conditions created by the coronavirus are improving greatly! Thanks be to God and to the good work of scientists, public health officials, healthcare workers and to the sacrifices we've all made to slow the spread of the virus!

Increasing numbers of people have been vaccinated; case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths are decreasing; more and more restrictions are being lifted; and many of us who haven't taken a trip or seen some of our loved ones in more than a year are looking forward to getting away in the coming weeks.

As some of you know, recently I was able to take a quick trip to see my father and other family members and for the first time hold my twin grandsons, Shane and Troy. What a joy! I hope that this summer each of you will have similar opportunities to spend time with family if you haven't done so already!

Having said that, I am pleased to remind you that each Sunday when you're out of town, you can take First Pres with you. Which is to say you are invited and encouraged to tune in to our live worship broadcast on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. And if that time is not convenient, you can watch the recorded version anytime at your convenience. What's more, MaryEllen's Sunday School lesson is available anytime on Facebook, and our Virtual Coffee Hour is available at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday on zoom.

I have one additional task before signing off. Through various iterations, the quality of our Sunday service broadcast has improved significantly. And we all know people whose lives would be enriched by an encounter with God through worship. While it is always possible to invite a friend to attend a worship service in person, now we also have the opportunity to invite a friend to one of our virtual services. We can send a friend the link to join us live any Sunday at 10:00. Or, pick a service that was especially meaningful to you and send the link to the recorded version to someone you think might benefit from watching it. This is an easy way we can all share the good news with someone we care about or love.

Have a great summer! Bruce



Mission

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 Pres 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."

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.

If you would like to donate to these worthwhile scholarships, you may send a check payable to First Presbyterian church with a notation "Habitat Scholarship fund" in memo line.

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On May 1st, Paterson Habitat for Humanity held a wonderful celebration dedicating 17 homes!

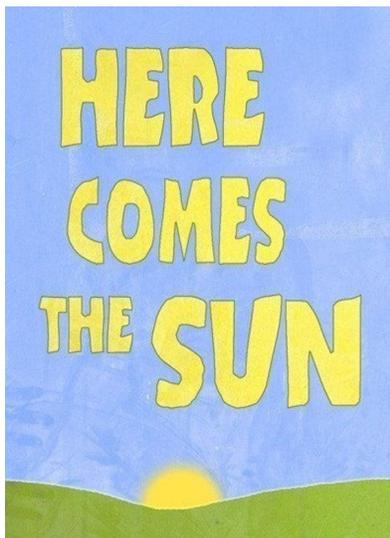
You can watch the event by copying and pasting this link-



[Paterson Habitat's Spring House Dedication \(#WalkHome\) YouTube](#)

And while you are there~ consider taking the **Walk Home Challenge!** This is a do it yourself fundraiser which allows you to set your own fitness goals or join as a team. For more information visit www.charityfootprints.com/.

Second Saturday Service in May & Men's Breakfast at the Manse!



Announcements

St. Paul's: On Sunday, May 2, The McDevitt family delivered dinner to the men at St. Paul's shelter. Fay Reid made Chicken Francaise and Spanish rice, Joan Davies made a spaghetti casserole, Diane Eliya made a green salad, and Suzy McDevitt made pork tenderloins with gravy and applesauce, and provided a fruit salad, dinner rolls and double chocolate chip cookies.

Because of Covid, we are still not serving the meal, but simply delivering it. When we arrived, the door of the dining room was open, and some of the men quickly came out to help when they saw us. They were so grateful and delighted by all of the delicious food, as usual.

We are always looking for volunteers, first timers and regulars, to help provide food for the meals. And you do not need to be a good cook to do so. Providing the salad or fruit/bread doesn't require cooking. And entrees do not need to be homemade; fried chicken, pizza, or other types of purchased foods are always welcome, as well! In general, we plan for a small portion of each item for each of about 20 men.

Summer time is more difficult to find volunteers, so if you think you might be able to help out with part of a meal, please let us know as soon as you can, for planning purposes. We are currently planning for meals on the following Sundays: June 6, July 4, August 1, and September 5TH

If interested in helping, or even if you just have questions, please contact Sam McDevitt at 201-820-8056 (text or call), or e-mail sammcdev99@gmail.com. Thank you!



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

If you would like the church to know the appropriate person to call in case you have an emergency, please let Dana Feeney, Administrative Manager, know. She will keep it on file, and hopefully we'll never have to use it!



Please send your birthday month to your deacon, the church office or Sue Dickinson. The Deacons are hoping to list the birthdays monthly in the First Pres. It will be fun to see who shares our birthday month and it will be a way for us to reconnect after a year and a half of isolation from one another! Thanks so much! Sue Dickinson



Produce Mission volunteers needed to meet at the Ridgewood train station Sunday afternoons at 2:30 and deliver the left over produce to the church. For more information contact Sandy Santangelo @ gssantangelo6@gmail.com

ENDOWMENT -MORE THAN A PIGGY BANK by Joanne Bonwick



Many of us still remember having a literal ‘piggy bank’ when we were kids. Mine was bright red and everytime I dropped a coin in it I dreamed of getting closer to having something I was longing to have that my parents were not going to foot the bill for.

I guess you might say my ‘piggy bank’ was my ‘Endowment Fund’. But my endowment fund never grew. If I put \$5.25 in it in May and nothing in June or July, I started out in August with that same \$5.25. No pain, no gain. No interest, no earned income. Thankfully our First Pres Endowment Fund is not a ‘piggy bank’.

All gifts to Endowment are put to work immediately through investing and earn income and interest each year. That earned income and interest are what become available to spend on mission needs and our own church needs. Endowment is not just for the future, it is working for us now. Investing is managed by a professional investment firm and is regularly monitored by the members of the Endowment Committee.

Through wise conservative management our fund has grown even in challenging financial times. We count on you to continue to support this fund that helps us maintain a viable church building and to answer Jesus’ call to generously, “Feed my people”.

Donations to Endowment can be made through our Tree of Life Memorial and Celebration leaves and stones, our Green Umbrella note cards, Outright cash donations, Memorial gifts and Estate planning.

All checks can be made to First Presbyterian Church with a memo to ‘ENDOWMENT’

We are all the church’s future.

Endowment Endures Forever.

If you have any questions about making a donation, please contact:
Richard Davies (Chairperson) at (201) 232-8411 davies.dick@aol.com or
Joanne Bonwick at (201) 652-7520 joannedbonwick@gmail.com





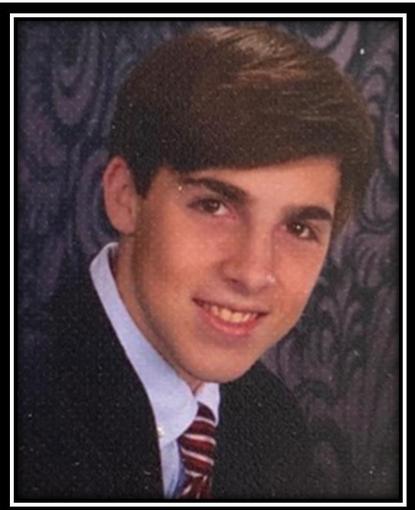
Congratulations to all our First Pres High School Graduates!



Katelyn Edelbach graduates from Paramus High School in June. Katelyn was an honor roll /high honor roll student most of her school career taking Honors/AP classes. She was part of the National Honor Society and participated all 4 years on the high school's Swim Team. She also participated in an after school club called HOSA -Future Health Professionals (formerly known as Health Occupations Students of America) for the past 3 years and just this year she was awarded 2nd place in a regional competition for First Aid/CPR. Two summers ago, she earned four certifications -CPR, First Aid, AED and Lifeguarding. For the past 2 years, Katelyn has worked at the Ridgewood YMCA as a Lifeguard. Katelyn has been a part of FPC's bell choir for the past 5 years (started in fall 2016 while in 8th grade). Prior to that, she was part of the 1st group to join Cherub Choir while she was in 4th grade and then graduated to Angel Fire when she was in 5th & 6th grades. She has also participated in various Sunday school activities/missions since being confirmed in 2017. She will be attending Rutgers University at the New Brunswick campus in the fall to study Genetics on a Pre-Med track.



Collin Feeney is graduating with the Class of 2021 from Ridgewood High School. He has persevered through the pandemic as an athlete playing both football and baseball. He will further his education at Ithaca College. He is a baseball commit and will pursue a degree in Business/Finance. Collin was born into First Pres. He was baptized and confirmed in our Sanctuary. He attended Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and local volunteer opportunities. He has warm memories from them all. His favorite is when Mrs. Castaldo asked him what he was afraid of when he was three years old. His answer was "nothing". He is thankful for all of the love and support from his church family.



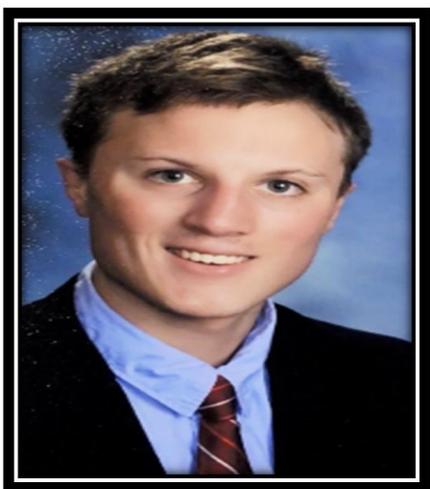
Peter Lucky will graduate in June from Ridgewood High School. During his time at RHS, Peter was a 4-year member of the Boys' Tennis Team and was Varsity Captain his senior year. Peter also ran on the Cross Country Team, played Freshman Football and was a member of the Paddle Tennis Club. In addition, Peter was very active in the DECA club where he competed in business competitions. Peter volunteered regularly at the Social Service Association Food Pantry and also went on two of the Habitat for Humanity work trips to West Virginia with First Pres. Peter currently works at MacMurphy's restaurant as a server and plans to work as a tennis camp counselor at Ridgewood Country Club this summer. Peter will be attending Florida State University in the fall and plans to major in Finance.



Kristina Rae will be graduating from Ridgewood High School with high honors throughout the last 4 years. She is very excited to be attending Ithaca College Business School in the fall to study accounting. She will also continue playing lacrosse in the Liberty League Conference at Ithaca.



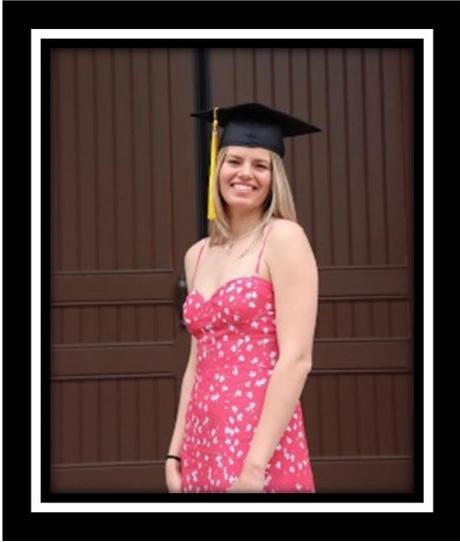
Ryan Schnure is a soon-to-be graduate of Ridgewood High School. During his time at RHS he played baseball on the freshman, JV, and Varsity teams as well as summer and fall club teams. He actively participated in recreational (Bid) basketball and volunteered with RBSA Special All-Stars and at the Ridgewood Public Library. He also enjoyed working as a camp counselor at Ridgewood Day Camp. Ryan is now bound for Penn State where he plans to pursue a degree in business. He has visited the campus countless times over the years to attend football games with his grandfather, a PSU alumnus. Ryan has been a lifelong Nittany Lions fan & is very excited to join the Penn State family.



Shane Strickland will be graduating from Ridgewood High School. During high school he has been involved in baseball, ice hockey, the ALPS club and the engineering club. He will be attending Curry College in Milton, MA.

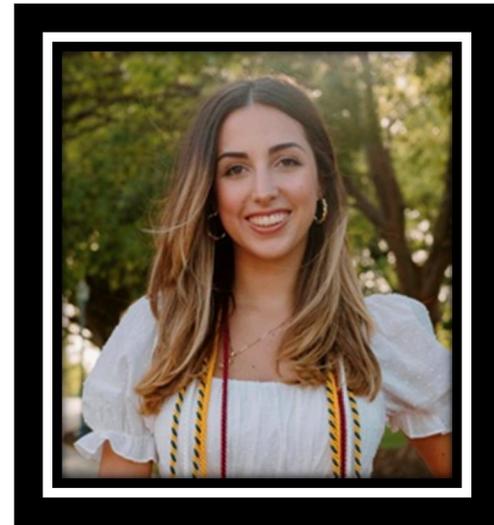
STRONG & COURAGEOUS
DO NOT BE AFRAID. DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED.
FOR THE LORD GOD
WILL be with you wherever you **GO**
Joshua 1:9

“Hats off” to our College Graduates ~ Class of 2021!

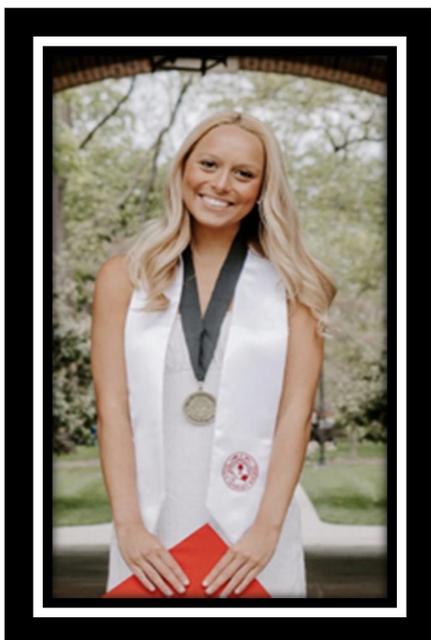


Melissa Dexter graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst on May 15th with a major in Communication and a minor in Art. She was an athlete on the Division 1 Women's Rowing team, rowing competitively for four years. She was employed as the Public Relations Director for the UMass radio station WMUA, learning new skills and techniques for promoting the station's shows and events. Melissa enjoyed being a radio disc jockey for WMUA, working the controls for her Friday evening show called Femme FM featuring women artists. She has now moved back to Ridgewood to begin the job search in this area.

Shannon Lucky graduated Summa Cum Laude from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science in Apparel Merchandising, Design & Product Management and with minors in Business and International Studies. Shannon was also the recipient of the prestigious Auburn University President's Award given to one outstanding graduate in each college. In addition, Shannon was a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and made the Dean's List every semester. Shannon was heavily involved in the Apparel Merchandising & Design Association at Auburn and served as vice president, co-chair of the Fashion Event and editor-in-chief and co-founder of the club's fashion magazine SWATCH. She was also a member of Auburn's Club Swim Team and Sigma Kappa Sorority. Shannon was studying abroad in Italy when the Covid pandemic began and she hopes to return someday. Shannon is looking forward to beginning her career in the fashion industry in New York.

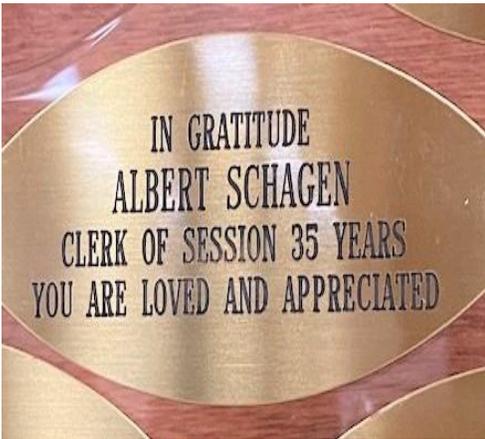


Lindsay Strickland is a graduate of the honors program at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She studied business strategy and marketing in the Farmer School of Business and looks forward to pursuing a career in NYC after graduation.





The Session honors Al Schagen with a leaf for the Endowment Tree, celebrating years of dedication and service to our church.



*Lord,
Give me a servant's heart,
Not serving for my own glory.
But only so that You might be seen in me.*



Surrounded by his family and good friend, Janet Johnson, Al was surprised and left speechless!



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



The First Pres Newsletter will be back in September- have a blessed summer!