



November

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 he often does when writing to the churches, the Apostle Paul begins his letter to the Philippians with words of gratitude: %thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you ò .+(1:3-4)

Like Paul, as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood NJ, I thank God for each of you . for the privilege of knowing you, for the opportunity to serve in your midst, and for the many contributions you make to the Body of Christ in this place.

I am grateful for those who serve as Elders and Deacons; for those who sing and those who play hand bells; for those who teach and those who assist; for those who serve on committees and those who go on mission trips; for those who volunteer for the Produce Mission and those who support our food drives; for Caring Cooks and those who cook for St. Paul's; for those who visit the sick and those who bring joy to shut-ins; for those who pray for the church and its ministries; for those who read Scripture and offer Minutes for Mission during worship; for those who oversee improvements to our building and those who assist in the office; for all those who contribute financially - for all gifts large and small; for those who bring the energy and enthusiasm of youth and those who offer the wisdom that comes from a long lifetime of experience; for those who help others and those who need to be helped.

We are one body with many parts. And without each part making its unique contribution, the body would not function effectively. So, during this month as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, I am reminded to say %thank you!+to each of you.

Thank you for all that you do to support the ministry and mission of this congregation! But just as important, thank you for simply being you. It is a joy to know you as friends and a privilege to serve along with you.

Thanks be to God for First Pres and its people!

Yours in Christ, service together,

Bruce



Mission



(Scott Millard, CEO)



On Saturday, October 2nd, under glorious skies, 5 new houses were dedicated at Paterson Habitat for Humanity.

The Mission Committee provided all 5 families with welcoming baskets that contained bulbs and gardening tools.

First Presbyterian Church was recognized for their partnership, continuing support, and for the newly established Paterson Habitat Scholarship program for homeowners and their children.

A child of a homeowner speaking for his family, told everyone when walked into his new home he thought it was a mansion!

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On October 3, the McDevitt family delivered dinner to the men at St. Paul's shelter in Paterson. This delicious dinner consisted of ziti with sausage from Joan Davies; chicken Francaise from Fay Reid; Mexican stuffed peppers and veggie pasta salad from Suzy McDevitt; and honey and raisin bread, clementines and apples from Sue Dickinson.

The men are always so delighted to see such a full meal when we deliver it. We're still not serving inside the shelter due to Covid, but it's easy to see how appreciative and grateful the men are. Most of them wish God's blessing as they carry the food trays and bags into the shelter.

If helping out with this mission sounds like something you might be interested, please reach out to Sam or Suzy McDevitt with any questions you might have. You do NOT need to be a good cook, as purchased items work just as well, and are just as welcome! Each month we need 3 entrees (preferably each a different type of protein), a salad or veggie dish, and fruit and bread/rolls/baguettes. The dinners always take place on the first Sunday of every month, and we like to plan a few months ahead if we can get the volunteers. You can let Sam or Suzy know at any time now if you'd like to provide something for November, December or January.

You can contact Sam by text at 201-820-8056 or by email at [sammcdev99@gmail.com](mailto:sammcdev99@gmail.com) or Suzy by text at 201-315-2063 or by email at [suzyjmcd2@yahoo.com](mailto:suzyjmcd2@yahoo.com)



**CARING COOKS** were active this past month delivering meals to Mary and Dave Shaw as Mary recovered from a second fall in September. She is doing well and is happily regaining strength. Mary and Dave were both very grateful for delicious meals and visits from Fay Reid (Chicken Francaise), Greta Croucher (Roast Chicken), Suzy McDevitt (Pork Tenderloin), Diane Eliya (Salmon) and Joanne Bonwick (Swedish Meatballs).

Thank you to all our Caring Cooks who often make a challenging day a bit brighter. If you would like to be a Caring Cook, grab your apron and call Joanne Bonwick at (201) 652-7520.

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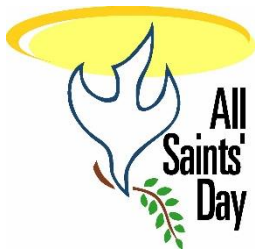
The Mission Committee is sponsoring a Fall Food Drive to benefit Social Services Association of Ridgewood and vicinity from October 31<sup>st</sup> until November 28<sup>th</sup>

Please help by bringing any of the following items to church and place in designated boxes in the cloister-

Canned meat and fish, canned fruit and 100 percent fruit juice, canned pasta, stew, chili, hearty soup, canned tomatoes, vegetables, pasta sauce. pasta, white and brown rice, dried beans, cold cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, peanut butter and jelly, powered or evaporated milk.

PLEASE NO GLASS JARS!

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All Saints' Day Observance -

On Sunday, November 7, we will observe All Saints' Sunday at First Presbyterian Church. During the 10:00 a.m. worship service, there will be a Litany of Remembrance and a Prayer of Thanksgiving -- thanking God for members, family members and friends who have died in the previous 12 months.

If you would like to have a family member's name included in the prayer, please notify Pastor Bruce or call the church office by Monday, November 1st.

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**Please note:**

Second Saturday Service on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM will be held in the Chapel.

## ENDOWMENT CORNER

### A TREE GROWS IN RIDGEWOOD AND A DOVE FLIES ABOVE IT!



Our Tree of Life is a place we both honor and remember those we have lost and celebrate the lives of those still living. These tributes are permanent reminders of the people we love and are grateful for.

In September a new white dove was placed on our tree in honor and in memory of Paul and Alpha Jo Haffey. The Haffeys, through their estate, provided the church with an extraordinarily generous gift. All gifts to the church benefit each and every one of us.

Our Honorary Dove Program recognizes both extraordinary financial gifts and gifts of extraordinary service over many years. The Haffey Dove is a Benefactor Dove.

A Benefactor Dove is placed on the Tree for anyone gifting above \$50,000.

A Donor Dove is placed on the Tree for anyone gifting from \$25,000 to \$49,999.

A Patron Dove is placed on the Tree for anyone who has provided extraordinary service to the life of the church over a period of many years.



In October, Jess and Mike Strader purchased a Leaf in loving memory of their mother, Cherelyn Copelton, who passed away August 21, 2021. Cherelyn was also the beloved daughter of Carolyn Pastor and stepdaughter of Frank Pastor.

We are grateful to all our members who choose to honor their loved ones and support our church through our Tree of Life Memorial and Celebration Tree.

## Haffey Sunday~ A Celebration of Generous Hearts





An Oktoberfest of hot dogs, brats, pretzels and root beer - courtesy of The Growth Committee!



With pumpkin painting sponsored by Christian Ed!



The beautiful day -a gift from God!



**Second Saturday Service  
October 9<sup>th</sup>  
in the Memorial Garden.**

**“Amazing Grace” sung by  
Jessica Strader  
accompanied by Brian  
Princing on guitar.**



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**October 17th Coffee hour
held under the big top!**

**Congratulations to Linda
Cascardo on becoming a
grandmother~ God Bless
Amy & baby Mila!**



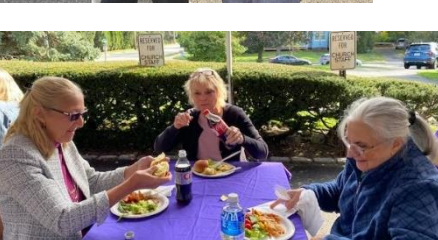
Consecration Sunday- "Giving JoyFULLY and FaithFULLY"



Sharing a Minute for
Ministry~ Joan Davies,
Rick Friedl, Dawn
Murdock

Guest preacher,
Rev. Eileen Lindner

And all were fully fed!



Our grade school students are learning about the women in the Bible. We have covered Lydia, Naomi and Ruth, The Widow who gave an offering, Deborah the Judge and Hannah. In November we will learn about Queen Esther, Mary & Martha, The woman at the well and Mary & Elizabeth.



On Saturday Oct. 23rd our seven confirmands along with Jill Critchley and MaryEllen Castaldo attended a Confirmation Day Retreat at Johnsonburg Camp! The weather was beautiful as the day began with team building activities, a volleyball game and then off to a yummy lunch, a lesson and lively discussion and then we experienced zip lining and the giant bungee swing! Our confirmands for 2021 are: Olivia Davis, Luke Eliya, Hudson Feeney, Luke Feltmann, Kyle Schnure, and CJ and Dante Torielli. A fun day was had by all!



A special thank you to Jill Critchley and Joel Torielli for driving our crew safely to and from Camp Johnsonburg!



**The Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey and
First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood, NJ**

Cordially invite you to worship at the Service of Installation of

**Reverend Bruce Ballantine
as the Solo Pastor/Head of Staff**

**On Sunday, November 28, 2021 at 5:00 PM
in the Sanctuary**

An outdoor reception will follow in the front parking lot.

**We will also be celebrating the beginning of the Christmas season
with the lighting of the outdoor evergreen tree and the singing of
Christmas carols.**

Please join us for this wonderful event in the life of the church!



Joe Amoruso
Larry Bonwick
MaryEllen Castaldo
Michael Reid
Ryan Schnure
Palmer Yates

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

