

First Press Newsletter



Pastor's Message



Consecration Sunday Is Coming – Sunday, November 18

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 Session and Board of Deacons 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 on November 18.

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

Session Moderator,

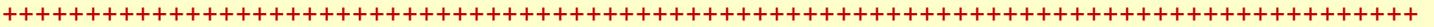
Reverend Bruce Ballantine



First Pres Happenings

On Oct 9, 2018 the Session adopted the following New Mission Statement for our church:

"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."



On a hot September afternoon, last year's Confirmation students and their parents painted the manse porch!

Thank you to Suzy and Samantha Mc Devitt, Michael Berger, Kate and Palmer Yates, Chris, Laurie and Kyle Feltmann, Sandy, Nick and Maddie Santangelo, Gianna and Joel Torielli, Marjorie Vanacore and Pastor Bruce!



Welcome to our family!
Robin and Ed Schilling

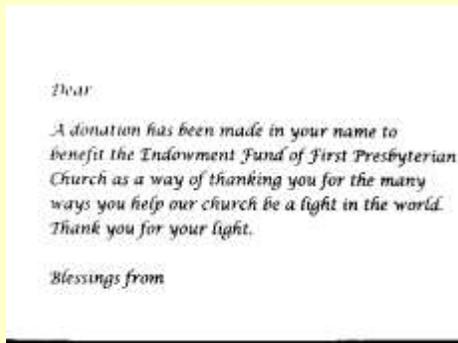


Endowment Corner

November 2018

It is the hope of the Endowment Committee to combine the task of raising funds with the blessing of encouraging more personal communication between members and staff. We have available a variety of "Green Umbrella" note cards to send to someone you would like to affirm. Make a donation of \$25 in someone's name. Choose an appropriate card with a message that expresses "Appreciation", says "Congratulations" for a Birthday, Anniversary or the arrival of a New Baby, or says, "Thank you" for kind words, a good deed, or a job well done.

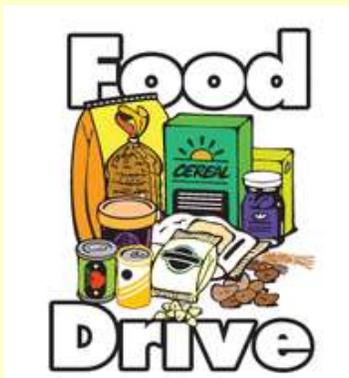
Our Endowment Fund is growing and your help makes our church an increasingly more dynamic force in God's world. The Endowment Fund is an active fund. We save, we invest and we spend the earned income and interest from the principal. The larger the principal the bigger our gifts in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, helping with disaster relief and growing our church's programs and facility. Don't just go to church. Help us **Be** the church. Pick up a card any Sunday at the Endowment Table.



Mission Giving

On October 7th, the Di Iorio family served 23 men at St. Paul's homeless shelter in Paterson. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this possible: Joanne Bonwick for her popular sweet and sour meatballs, Dana Feeney for her delicious barbecue chicken, Suzy McDevitt for some very tasty ham turkey and cheese sliders, Laura Magrath for preparing a healthy salad, Marjorie Vanacore for providing fruit and bread, and Salwa Eliya for donating a variety of pizza. The men enjoyed a healthy and delicious home cooked meal!

If you are interested in becoming a part of this mission by volunteering to cook or serve, feel free to contact Laura Di Iorio at 201-634-9322 or lauradiiorio6@gmail.com.

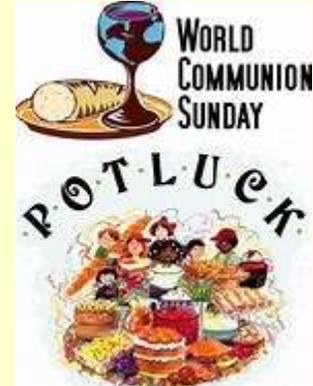


~~~~~

Please continue to donate non-expired foods and dry goods until November 18<sup>th</sup>!

## World Communion Sunday, October 7th

“Breakfast with Bruce and Sam”



A splendid array of delicious food was enjoyed by all!

## Sunday School News



### Save the date!

Vacation Bible School is planned for the week of

**August 5-9 2019!**

Before you plan your vacations, PLEASE prayerfully consider volunteering at our summer community outreach program. We need your help!

### Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

The Sunday school students will meet in the Minemma Room at 10:00am for bagels and juice, to prepare for our Mission project for this month "Operation Christmas Child". We all have been blessed with so much and we are truly thankful for all that God has given us. Today we will discuss many ways we can make a difference in the lives of others here in the US and around the world. After a short video, we will discuss the mission program and then make a Thanksgiving craft. PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

### Our Rotation Church school classes

I want to send a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers for teaching church school classes!

We began the 2018 school year with September's lesson on "Creation".

October, our students learned about the stories of Ruth Naomi and Boaz.

November, we will learn lessons about David, and how God used a small boy to do amazing things!

December, we will talk about the season of Advent and revisit the story of Christmas.

## Nursery School celebrates 50 years!



### **Building the foundation for a lifetime love of learning**

First Presbyterian Church Nursery School has been serving the community since it opened its doors on October 7, 1968.

Thank you to all the teachers, parents, grandparents and especially the children who have walked through those doors! And a special thank you to Julia Bolt, our terrific Director!



Celebrating 30 years of Service to Habitat for Humanity in Paterson



Pastor Bruce presents plaques of gratitude to Paul Rosengren (in honor of John Rosengren), Allen Maxfield and Frank Pastor for their leadership, service and dedication to Habitat for Humanity.



Cole plays Happy Birthday!



Allen and Frank cut their cakes!



A special thank you to Donna Flagg for organizing the event and creating a Habitat Wall of memories in the Dining room!

CHRISTMAS ALREADY? Yes, it's coming before we know it, and we want to "spread the word". Santa Songsters will again be bringing Caroling Cheer to the residents of both Dell Ridge Health Care Center in Paramus and Sunrise Assisted Living in Woodcliff Lake on **Saturday morning, Dec. 8.**

All are welcome to join us for a fun and rewarding morning. No vocal talent is needed and there are no rehearsals. Our talented piano accompanist, Hana Choi, will make us sound wonderful! If possible, wear something "Christmassy" like a red scarf, Santa Hat, Christmas sweater, etc.

As in previous years, we'll meet at Dell Ridge at 9:30, sing, and visit for 30 - 40 minutes, and then travel to Sunrise where we'll finish by 12:00 or earlier.

If you can be a part of our merry songsters, please contact Mary Shaw (201- 652-5356) or dandmshaw



**Staff:**

|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Interim Minister                | Pastor 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             |
| Treasurer                       | Carolyn Reitz           |
| Youth Leader                    | Jessica Strader         |
| Director of Nursery School      | Julia Bolt              |
| Sexton                          | Tom Carozza             |
| Custodian                       | George Wood             |
| Newsletter Editor               | Joan Davies             |

Church Phone (201) 652-2504

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

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

