

## 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,

As members of the Body of Christ, we are commanded to love one another. How that love is expressed will depend upon circumstances and needs.

As members of the congregation grow older, become less mobile and/or suffer from illness, it can become difficult or impossible for them to attend worship services and other church activities. In fact, as church members age, they sometimes find themselves homebound, seldom leaving home except for an occasional trip to the doctor. This can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness.

During such times, when members are unable to come to church, the church can show its love for them by coming to them.

With those thoughts in mind, the Board of Deacons has recently formed a Visitation Team for the purpose of visiting older adult congregants who are homebound. A regular visit by a member of the Visitation Team will remind our homebound members that they have not been forgotten; they are valued members of the congregation; and they are not alone as they face the difficulties of growing older.

Although the Visitation Team is a ministry of the Board of Deacons, members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to be part of the team.

Do you enjoy visiting people who are sick or lonely in order to bring them a little cheer? Are you a good listener, who can offer a word of comfort or perhaps simply listen if someone needs to talk? Are you able to offer an hour a month to visit a homebound member of the congregation? If so, God may be calling you to become a member of the Visitation Team!

For additional information or to indicate your willingness to be part of the team, you may contact one of the Visitation Team Co-Leaders Sue Dickinson ([lewandsue@optonline.net](mailto:lewandsue@optonline.net) or 201-447-5964) or Mary Shaw ([dandmshaw@gmail.com](mailto:dandmshaw@gmail.com) or 201-543-4557).

An orientation has been scheduled for Sunday, June 16, immediately following the worship service.

Your willingness to serve as part of the First Pres Visitation Ministry will allow our homebound members to feel cared for and loved by their church family. Thank you for your consideration.

Grace and peace, Bruce



## Happenings



On Sunday, May 5, the Di Iorio family went to St. Paul's homeless shelter in Paterson as part of our monthly mission at First Pres. They served 22 men a warm and home cooked meal. Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed this month: Dana Feeney for her popular baked chicken, Joanne Bonwick for her delicious sweet and sour meatballs, Sandy Santangelo for generously donating penne vodka, and the Di Iorio family for preparing a healthy salad. The men truly appreciated a warm and healthy

meal and all came back for seconds.

Our next serving date is Sunday, June 2nd and if you are interested in volunteering to cook or serve, please reach out to Laura Di Iorio at [auradiiorio6@gmail.com](mailto:auradiiorio6@gmail.com) or 201-634-9322.

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### East Meets West on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

Worship will be at First Pres at 10:00 AM~ Rev. Mark Oehler from Westside will be preaching.



A picnic in the auditorium and live music will follow!

Mark your calendars and support this fellowship of kindred spirits!

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*Serving Eastern West Virginia for 25 Years*



**A Mission trip to Habitat for Humanity's Almost Heaven West Virginia will be held July 28 through August 3<sup>rd</sup> please keep all our youth and adult volunteers attending and**

**the people they will be serving in your prayers.**

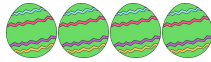
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Don't forget the Summer Produce Mission on Sunday Afternoons~

Contact Sandy Santangelo at [glenandsandy6@gmail.com](mailto:glenandsandy6@gmail.com) if you can help out with this worthwhile Mission!

## Sunday School News



\*\*Thank you to all who donated candy and chocolate for the Easter Egg Hunt. We appreciate your generosity! We were blessed the weather held up. Many families participated and enjoyed hunting for eggs on our front lawn!



Our May rotation began with “The Parable of the Sower” and on May 5<sup>th</sup> the students planted seeds in small pots they decorated and presented them to their Moms as an early Mother’s Day gift! We began rotation lessons on Psalm 23 and made Mother’s Day cards for their Moms.



Youth Service is June 9<sup>th</sup> and the last day of Sunday School. We will recognize our High School graduates Samantha Barkho and Jaqueline Grayson. There will be a fundraiser that Sunday during coffee hour. And in addition to our regular coffee hour we will have some extra festive treats and a cake for our graduates!

Summer Bible School will begin on June 17<sup>th</sup> and continue through the end of August!



**Vacation Bible School is August 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.**

Registration forms have gone out!!!

I have also placed forms on all the tables in the church throughout the hallways.

**Please, Spread the word!**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Each year we ask for volunteers for VBS week. We can’t do it alone without your help. We strive to provide successful children/youth programs in our church and in order to do this we need your support. Please I am reaching out to ask you to prayerfully consider helping this year!

**WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!!!**



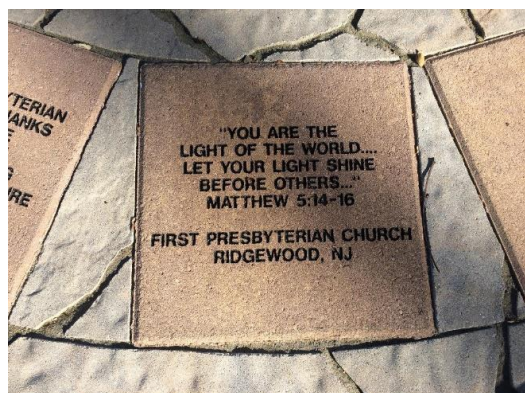
## Picture Time



April 27, 2019 Camp Johnsonburg Women's Retreat  
Resilience for the Fearfully and Wonderfully Made+

East Meets West participants were: First Pres - Donna Flagg and Li Towt,

West Side - Donna Burdick, Phyllis Anderson and Shelagh Brooke.



The brick our church donated to the restoration of the campsite at Johnsonburg!

Members gather around Pastor Bruce in a drizzling rain on Earth Day for the dedication of a newly planted tree in the front Lawn.



Music For A Sunday Afternoon Series featured Emma Schmiedecke, Cello and Luka Marcoux, Oboe with Pianist Eric Clark on May 11th.

Susan Heerema, Violin, and David Maiullo, Piano played selections from Vivaldi, Godard, Rachmaninoff and Bruch



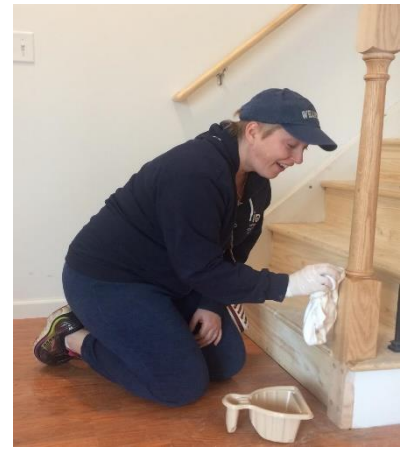
Mozart's "Solemn Vespers" was performed by our Chancel Choir, Soloists and Orchestra during the Sunday Worship Service on May 19th. Linda Sweetman Waters, Organ, Dr. Edward Schmiedecke, Music Director





## Habitat Build Day May 4<sup>th</sup>

Janet Johnston, Donna Flagg, Christine Tobias, Kirk, Jeremy and Spencer Lavine with friend Spencer, and Tom Carozza with friends, Angel, Frank and Mike.



Members Spreading “The Word”





## Celebrating our Time and Talents Survey with PIE



## Endowment Corner

As we enter into the lazy, hazy days of summer it would be wonderful if we could all empty ourselves of worry about things that we can do little about and focus more on what we can do. It takes a lot of money to have a fabulous wardrobe which has no impact on a single soul on the planet. But it takes no money at all to offer a kind word every day to those you meet. It can make someone's day or even sometimes change a life.

On the Endowment committee we're somewhere in-between the two extremes. We're tasked with raising money so we can tend to the business of helping those who need more than a kind word. They need food to eat or shelter to protect them from the elements. Jesus' command is simple..."Follow me". I doubt He's impressed by a collection of Coach handbags or Manolo Blahnik shoes, but would be filled with joy to see us notice who needs food or shelter and act on it on a regular basis.

Author Anne Lamott laments on her own faith journey in her most recent book, *Hallelujah Anyway*, During a bad day she makes a trip to the Mall for a temporary spirit lifting exercise to buy a pretty new blouse she had seen. She knows the high won't last and she sighs, "Who was it who said that to get into heaven, you need a letter of recommendation from the poor?" In fact, Lamott is not anti- consumerism, but she is mindful of the lure of quick fixes and the more permanent fix offered by Jesus simple command, to "Follow me".

What has all this got to do with Endowment? Possibly everything. Our goal is to heed Jesus' command. Your gifts to Endowment are used to grow the fund through investments and to build an ongoing resource that is used regularly to answer the calls from those who experience unexpected disasters and life situations that leave them without viable alternatives. We are called not to turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to a cry for help.

See how you can help build our fund. Our brochures are in the pews. People are using the Green Umbrella cards on the tables in the hallway to encourage or thank other members. The feedback has been wonderful. For \$25 you can make a donation in someone's name and send them well wishes. Take a look and "Follow Him..." Have a joyful, healing summer.



### Session Notes

At the May Session meeting Zitta Chapman, Madeline Kosten and Carolyn Kosten were approved as members. Session also approved the sacrament of baptism for Amanda and Kyle Schnure.



The Ordination and Installation of new officers will be held during the Worship Service on June 2<sup>nd</sup> followed by the Deacons Tea in the auditorium.

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## Church Staff

Interim Minister

Director of Children & Families

Director of Music

Organist

Director Cherub Choir and Bells

Administrative Manager

Treasurer

Youth Leader

Tom Carozza

Custodian

Director Nursery School

Newsletter Editor

Pastor Bruce Ballantine

MaryEllen Castaldo

Dr. Ed Schmiedecke

Linda Sweetman Waters

Carol Schmiedecke

Dana Feeney

Carolyn Reitz

Jessica Strader

Sexton

George Wood

Julia Bolt

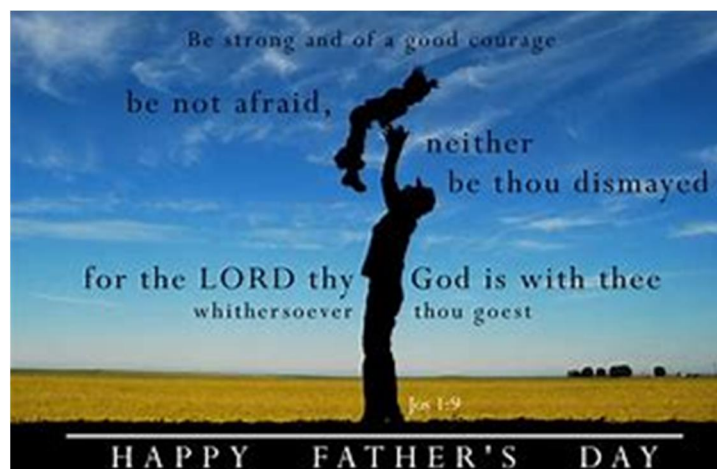
Joan Davies

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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)



The Newsletter is not published in July and August, please check the website for any event updates!