

# CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 21, No. 4

**April 2021** 

## **APRIL AT A GLANCE:**

1st-Tenebrae Service-Live Streaming Worship at 7:30pm on Facebook



4th—Easter Sunday–Live Streaming Worship at 10am on Facebook



11th-Worship open to 52 max in Sanctuary (call the office to reserve a pew)

Every Sunday-10am Live Streaming Worship on Facebook and then available on YouTube for later viewing

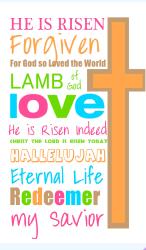
**Every Saturday-Daisey Roe Thrift Shop is open from 9am-12pm** 



**Our Mission Statement:** 

Our mission is to gather as a church family for worship and spiritual fellowship, to nurture and educate, and to proclaim the gospel to the world.

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## **CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH P.O. BOX 1 5 WANTAGE AVE. BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME 21 NO. 4

FROM THE

PASTOR'S DESK

God Is With Us



APRIL 2021

I'm of two minds this week in a number of ways. I got my 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination shot yesterday (3/29) and that's cause for celebration(!) but today I'm experiencing the side-effects of that shot and feel achy all over. I know that means my body is creating anti-bodies, and that is heartening, but I still feel beat up.

And last month we (the Session) voted to open church on Sunday, April 11th, back to the level we'd gone to last fall. That means there will be more bodies in the pews to preach to, and smiling eyes as we get back together, but I looked up the data for Sussex County and we're the only county in NJ that is listed at the worst level known as "severe," where all the rest are "very high risk." A lot of our numbers are the highest they've been during this pandemic began and peaked in mid-January. We set a goal last November, when we shut down to 10 or fewer in the sanctuary, that we would open back up when the positive test rate was under 5% for our county, and we're currently at 13.3%. We'll follow all the guidelines for those gathered in a room by wearing masks, not singing, not doing responsive readings, and staying socially distant. I hear both the calls for being back together as well as the calls to hold on a little longer until the vaccines have truly begun to make a difference in the numbers.

This week we have our Maundy Thursday service of Tenebrae, and that means the service that darkens the sanctuary and reminds us of Christ's death for our sins. On the other hand the following Sunday we'll celebrate Easter and Christ's resurrection, which means forgiveness and blessings and the reminder that ours is a God of light and life.

This first week of April sure has a lot of give and take, darkness and light, feeling ill and better/safer health. We cover the spectrum of sorrow and joy, introspection and external validation, darkening of horizons and beams of hopeful light.

I suspect you're on that spectrum somewhere as well with your own story of challenges and victories, wounds (emotional, mental, etc.) and healings, feeling blah and jumping for joy. Wherever you are, please remember, as I do as well, that Jesus said, "remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." That reminds us that no matter what we feel or whether we are of two-minds (or more) about what is going on in life, our Lord is with us, through thick and thin. That's comfort when life is darker, and reason for added joy when life is bright. Through it all, God is with us.

I'll see you in church. Your pastor,

geofferson L. Hatch



Please offer prayers for these concerns that have been brought to our attention. They are collected each Sunday morning during the past month from the prayer concerns list used in worship.

- Walter Ackerly
- Buzz & Marion Alden, recovering from Covid 19
- · All those suffering with Covid
- Alex
- Lamar Allen
- Amy
- Ann
- Kenneth Anderson fighting cancer
- Anthony
- Audrev
- The family of Audrey after her passing
- Joanne B
- Joyce B.
- Kenny Blecher
- Beth & Ken
- Bobby
- Mike Bohdan
- Brittnev
- The Mario Bonsignore family on the passing of his father
- Linda Buehrer
- Roberta Burkhart
- Cindy Burse
- Rob
- Jorgen Clausen
- Peg Carlson
- Cole
- Corine
- Connie mom's Anna

- Christina Courtright, who's fiancé died of Covid
- The Crump family
- Family of Helen "Hone" Cuddeback
- Dasher Family
- Dave & Pat
- Debbie & Tom
- Denise's sister Michele after 3 surgeries have left her very weak
- Al Dunn's family and friends after his passing
- The Doty family on the passing of Stephen
- Rev. Edsal
- Gale Eamigh
- Carole Edwards
- Marion Falk
- Lorraine Feaser
- Gail
- Helmet Grau
- Roger Gibbons
- Roy & Donna Havelin
- Connie Hotalen and her family on the passing of Ed
- Family of Kenny House in his passing
- Irene
- Jack
- Jess
- Jim going through some serious health issues
- Joe
- John
- Johnny
- Jolene & John
- Bev Keur's mom
- Karen P
- Kate & Mike
- Kayden
- Kevin
- Chick Krug with ongoing health concerns
- Lamar
- Laura's brother-in-law who was hospitalized with Covid 19
- Laura's Aunt Sue undergoing a knee replacement, for a speedy recovery
- Charlotte Lawson's sister who suffered a stroke
- Amy, Dave & Josh Langley
- Linda

- Linda G
- Sharon Lee
- Lisa & Rob
- Susan Martin and all of John Arnedt's family at his passing
- Mike McMillen suffering from cancer
- Mikey
- Sherry Moon
- Morgan
- Ruth Morrow
- Gail M.
- Nancy
- Natalie
- Karen P
- Family of Doug Pettinger on his passing
- Ray & Diane
- Riley
- Robin & Joe
- Roberta Ann with pneumonia
- Joseph Seeger
- Tom Selkow
- Sharon Lee Shaeffer
- Jim and Penny Snook
- Students & Faculty at Frankford School who have Covid
- Sue
- Suzanne & Jerry
- Hannah Svendsen for an easy, health pregnancy
- Pat Swanson
- Terry
- Tim
- Tom
- Tom & Kathy
- Karen Utter
- Chris Vandergroef in the hospital with both cancer and Covid 19
- John Veres
- The Velez family
- Michelle Walker
- The Westdorp family
- Austin Willis who broke his arm and needs surgery
- Scot & Debbie Williams
- Rosanne Zoccoli with Covid 19
- Hear our prayers of thanks and celebration for Aunt Peg Carlson's 100th birthday and good health



<u>THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)</u> will be collected throughout the Lenten season, but particularly on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. One-half of the OGHS offering will go to Presbyterian denominational programs which include Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self Development of People. Through our support of these programs, we improve the living conditions, health, and economy of people throughout the world and show them God's love through their struggles.



The other half of our OGHS offering will go toward designated missions around the world. The MISSIONS Committee will go through a catalog of worthwhile missions that have asked for funds outside of our regular General Mission giving, and use our donations to help specific people and projects. These projects will be reported to you next month after they have been funded

Please make checks out to the church and mark your donation "OGHS" on the memo line. We mailed out OGHS information and envelopes on Ash Wednesday, so if you haven't received them please call the church office. Together we can make a world of difference for those lacking the basics we often take for granted... clean water, sanitation, medical care, and food. Thank you for being generous!

<u>PER CAPITA</u> — If you haven't sent in your Per Capita we ask that you consider doing so. We are encouraged to think more about the love in our lives, but it's also a great time to remember that, as



Christians, we have the privilege and power to share the great Love of Christ far beyond our own limited reach. The 2021 Per Capita is \$40 per person. Our Per Capita is used to pay administrative costs of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, and goes toward the missions we support within our denomination. It would help us meet our budget if you would use the Per Capita envelope or note on a check "Per Capita" to help us offset what we have to pay out of our church budget. So please, remember to *Love Your Church* with your Per Capita gift.

2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER MISSION - Our focus for April, May and June is Communities Little Helpers.



This group of local children up to 12 years old, led by our own Kristen Reinertsen, gathers to perform acts of community service and kindness. They visit with, make crafts for, shop for and donate to those in need. Your contributions allow them to purchase items that are necessary for their program activities while they learn the value of helping others. You can mark your cash donation pew envelope for quarterly mission or write CLH on your check.

We will also be reporting the total amount donated to OGHS during Lent and Easter and keep you up to date on which gifts have been purchased with General Mission funds. Thanks so much for your generous contributions for what we feel are worthy causes.

Presbyterians Help People Everywhere!

#### **COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES**

Spring is here and the Fellowship Committee will be sending off Spring Care Packages in April.

Please keep this ongoing mission project for our youth in mind when you go shopping for Easter candies and goodies, and pick up an extra package of peeps, small chocolate eggs, Easter bunnies, etc. to mail to our youth away at school.

Other suggestions - Prepackaged crackers and nuts, granola bars, homemade cookies, individual size cereal boxes, popcorn, Ramen noodles, gum, hot chocolate, potato

chips, etc., etc.

You have seen in the past that our young members really enjoy and look forward to receiving these packages from their church family each fall and spring. You can also help out by contributing money to assist with the mail-

ing cost of these care packages (each costs about \$15 to mail).

Also, please remember that if your child has changed their address since last fall, you should please notify the Church Office so that we can update our records. Thank you again for your continued support of this ongoing project to let our young members away at school know that we care.

#### **DAISEY ROE CHAIN**

<u>Spring is finally here!</u> The First Presbyterian Church of Branchville and the Daisey Roe Chain are planning their 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Flea Market including the thrift shop on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 9 am to 2 pm. Our group will be renting tables <u>outdoors</u> for \$20.00 each. Table space is limited to 25 tables. We do the advertising and provide tables for <u>outdoors</u> and sunshine only. Daisey Roe keeps spaces for our church members who are interested in renting a table. Please send in your check by May 1, 2021 to reserve your space.

Co-Chairwomen: Marion Alden, Beverly Keur

Church Phone: 973-948-3495

Checks payable to: Daisey Roe Chain and mail to:

ATTN: Marion Alden at the First Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 1, 3-5 Wantage Avenue Branchville NJ 07826





DAISEY ROE CHAIN'S SPRING FUNDRAISER – C & C Growers, 156 Hampton House Road (Rte. 206) in Newton, is offering that 10% of what you buy from them comes back to the church. Take a hot pink flyer with you when shopping for your spring flowers and hanging baskets. Flyers can be found in front of the doors to the Fellowship Hall, or you can either call or email Laura

at the church and she will mail one to you.

Daisey Roe's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14th at 3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Masks must be worn and please observe social distancing guidelines. Agenda will be the May Flea Market and Thrift Shop. We hope to see you there!



#### **APRIL**

#### **LAY READERS**

1st - John & Joanne Lawson 4th-Mike Opilla 11th-Linda Osborne 18th-Vicky Martin 25th-John Newcomer

#### **USHERS**

1st-Judy Casey 4th-Judy Casey 11th-18th-25th-

#### **REGISTRARS**

11th-Judy Casey 18th-Judy Casey 25th-Judy Casey

#### View our website at:

http://www.fpcbranchville.org

and Facebook at: http://www.facebook.com (ask to be friends with "pastorjh@ptd.net")

You may e-mail the secretary at <a href="mailto:pressec@ptd.net">pressec@ptd.net</a> or the pastor at <a href="mailto:pastorjh@ptd.net">pastorjh@ptd.net</a>

> View a daily devotion at: http://www.d365.org

#### APRIL FLOWER CHART:

If you would like to provide flowers for any of the dates, please see instructions below:

#### Dates:

4th 11th 18th 25th

Call the florist the week before your signup to have flowers delivered, or you may bring them yourself. Gail Burckes will contact you for your dedication or memorial.

> We use Lisa's Stonebrook Florist 973-948-7100

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville PO Box 1 3-5 Wantage Avenue Branchville, NJ 07826

> Phone 973-948-3495 Fax 973-948-3495





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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL

Julie Anderson Clawson	4/06	Marion Alden	4/25
Kelly Decker	4/06	Ethan Billings	4/25
Liam Reinertsen	4/06	Alec Hughes	4/26
Kristin Becker	4/08	Charlotte Lawson	4/26
David Yaden	4/08	Susan Martin	4/26
Lauren Seeger	4/09	Madison Bath	4/27
Leonard Clawson	4/14	Aaron Kurland	4/27
MaryBeth Dean	4/14	Joshua Langley	4/28
Joanne Lawson	4/14	Debbie Anderson	4/30
Michael Goldsworthy	4/23		

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

#### ITALIAN LEMON RICOTTA CAKE

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

1/2 cup olive oil

- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 lemons, zest only
- 1 lemon, juice only
- 1 cup whole milk ricotta
- 2 tablespoons full fat yogurt
- 1 1/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Confectioners sugar & lemon slices or

can use candied lemon slices for decoration

#### **DIRECTIONS**:

- Preheat the oven to 375F.
- Spray a 10 inch pan or a springform pan with baking spray.
- In a large mixing bow combine the oil, sugar, vanilla and lemon zest. Using an electric mixer beat the ingredients on medium speed until combined.
- Add in the eggs one at a time and beat until they are fluffy and pale yellow in color.
- Add in the ricotta and yogurt and beat until combined.
- Add in the flour and salt and finally the baking powder. Beat until the dry ingredients are just fully incorporated. Do not overmix!
- Pour the batter into the prepared pan
- Bake for 35-45 minutes or until the cake is set in the middle and golden brown.
- Cool for one hour. Decorate with lemon slices and dust with confectioners sugar as desired.

#### **BUONA PASQUA!**





### First Presbyterian Church of Branchville

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
S M	Mar 2021 T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6	May 2021 S M T W T	F S	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open		9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop open
7 8	9 10 11 12 13	2 3 4 5 6	7 8	7:30 PM Livestream Tenebrae Service		
14 15 21 22 28 29	23 24 25 26 27	9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 30 31	14 15 21 22 28 29	Tenebrae		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:00 AM Livestream Worship - Happy Easter!	Church Office Closed - Easter Monday	7:00 PM Lenten Study	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open		9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop open
He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!		LENTEN WESTUDY GROUP		3:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting via Zoom		
		JIODI GROOT		Music & Worship		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary (with a	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open		10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open		9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop
reservation) & Livestreamed	7:00 PM Session		3:00 PM Daisey Roe	1 oou Family open		open
1:00 PM Confirmation	Meeting via Zoom		Meeting in Fellowship Hall			
Class	SESSION MEETING					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary (with a reservation) & Livestreamed	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open	7:00 PM Deacons' Meeting via Zoom	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open		9:00 AM -12:00 PM Daisey Roe Thrift Shop open
7:00 PM Youth Group		DEACONS' MEETING				
25	26	27	28	29	30	
10:00 AM Worship in Sanctuary (with a reservation) & Livestreamed	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open		10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open	10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open		He is RISEN indeed!