



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 20, No. 1

January 2020



AT A GLANCE

12th—Youth Group Super Bowl Sub orders begin



20th— Martin Luther King Jr. Day—office closed



26th—Annual Congregational Meeting & Pot Luck Luncheon



2020
HAPPY NEW YEAR



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
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BRANCHVILLE, NJ 07826



VOLUME 19, NO. 1

JANUARY 2020

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Something to Roar About



Happy New Year! Happy New Decade! But other than the number of the year, is anything really new?

On a surface level, there are always new things happening around us. Here in Branchville, the Grill next door to the church is once again open under new management. During this past year we welcomed some new members into our church and it changes the dynamic (for the better) of who we are. New stores open here and there, a new neighbour moves onto your street, someone in your family gets married, a baby is born to a relative, and newness is all around us if we but have eyes to see it.

Paul explains in II Corinthians 5:7—"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

Just as a new year gives us a clean slate of 12 months ahead of us to try and do things new and in a better way, living in Christ gives us an even cleaner slate. Our sins have been wiped away. That means the mean things we've uncharacteristically said to someone are now forgiven. The good we meant to do and didn't, or the nastiness we let out but shouldn't have—has been forgiven and put behind us.

Didn't we just hear that at Christmas? "And you shall name him Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins." Saved from sin in this case means forgiven. How, in this new year (and new decade), can we respond appropriately to such a thing? C.S. Lewis says that forgiveness and forgiving are two sides of the same coin. In Letters to Malcolm he writes, "By heavenly standards forgiving and being forgiven are two names for the same thing. ... No evil habit is so ingrained nor so long prayed against... that it cannot, even in old age, be whisked away."

So this new year, why don't we try a little harder to forgive others? It's not really that hard to do, but can also be a blessing to us for not holding the grudge that eats away at us like a cancer, and opens us to the forgiveness we truly need as well. "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" we say each week as a part of the Lord's Prayer. To receive it we must give it to others, so let's add a renewed emphasis on being forgiving of others this coming year and decade. Now that's something to roar about in the 20s!

Your pastor,

Jefferson 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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron & Ethan • Walter Ackerly • Mrs. Ansback • All those fighting cancer • All our military away from home • Alex • Amanda • Amy & children • Norman & MaryJo Anderson • Anthony & Samantha • John Arnedt • Audrey • Family & Friends of Henry Aulenback who passed from brain tumor • Skye Bak • Barbara • Beth & Ken • Bob • Bobbie • Brian • Buddy & Nancy • Peg Carlson • Carol • Carter • Chuck • The Clark Family • Roger Coss | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyndi & kids • Doug –battling cancer • Bob Gaeckle • Dorothy Grau • Ellen • Carole Edwards • George • Greg • Hannah undergoing tests • Alan Hershey • Herolyn • Phyllis Hoke • Lauren Hoke • Vivian Hough • Irene • Jack • Jake • Jess • Jim • Jo Ann • Jodi • Joe & Robin • John • Jolene & John • Joyce • Karen • Kate & Mike • Kayla • Ken • Lillian Kinney • Janine Klewin • Kyle • Lisa & Rob • Heather Loos • Ann. L & family • MaryAnn • Andrew Malone • Marlene • Mary Beth • Mikey & Riley • Morgan • Ruth Morrow • Natalie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Connor family on loss of Christopher • Bob O'Hara • Margaret Paradise • Pat & Dave • The Pearson Family • Family of Bob Price • Liz Price • Family of Ralph Rome • Relationships • Rich • Robin • Roger • Sawyer • Sharonlee Schaffer • Shirley • Sherri • Sherry • Shirley • Bev Simon & family • Bea Smith • David Strain • Sue • Suzanne & Jerry • Bea Sweat • Toni • Family of Mary Williams |
|--|--|---|



- Welcome Home Jesse



Church News

ANNUAL MEETING—Our Congregational Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch will be held on Sunday, January 26th, immediately following worship. Please bring a lunch item to share, if you can (but we know there'll be plenty of food there since we get leftovers from the Chili Open event the day before). We'll go over Annual Reports and our finalized budget for this year, and elect any remaining officers for our boards. We hope to see you there!



2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES - For those who use offering envelopes, they may be found on the table just inside the Fellowship Hall. They are organized in alphabetical order. For those who chose to be assigned a "giving" number rather than using the boxed envelopes, you will continue to use the envelope number that was assigned to you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the church office.



STEWARDSHIP - Thank you to all those who have turned in their pledge card. If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2020 yet, please drop it in the offering plate during our offering, or mail it in to the church office. Additional pledge cards may be found in each pew. Thank you!

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE – Our next meeting will be on January 7th at 6:30pm for dinner. We will be hosting a Bunko Night on Friday, February 21st, open to congregation and friends. Pre-registration is necessary, more details to follow.

SUPER BOWL SUB SALE!

HAYEK'S IS OUR NEW SUPPLIER AND HAS GIVEN US A BETTER PRICE (WITH A 1/2 POUND OF MEAT INSIDE), SO FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER WE ARE LOWERING OUR PRICE. YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS WILL BE TAKING ORDERS FOR THESE DELICIOUS SANDWICHES AFTER WORSHIP BEGINNING JANUARY 12TH. SANDWICHES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP ON FEBRUARY 2ND. COST IS NOW JUST \$8 PER SANDWICH AND WILL HELP TO SUPPORT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN WORK CAMP 2020.



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT IN THE PAST—CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO DO SO AGAIN THIS YEAR?

-THE YOUTH GROUP

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JANUARY

Carolyn Rauscher	1/3	Corine Barton	1/12
James Bellush	1/4	Kathleen Katzenstein	1/16
Debbie Gardner	1/4	Walter Ackerly	1/18
Virginia Fitch	1/4	Samuel Decker	1/18
Judyth Casey	1/8	Lillian Castimore	1/22
William Leenheer	1/11	Cully Opilla	1/24

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

RUSTIC ITALIAN TORTELLINI SOUP

INGREDIENTS

3/4 pound Sweet Italian sausage links, casings removed
 1 medium onion, chopped
 6 garlic cloves, minced
 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) chicken broth
 1-3/4 cups chicken stock
 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
 1 package (9 ounces) refrigerated cheese tortellini
 1 can 14 ounce cannellini beans
 1 package (6 ounces) fresh baby spinach, coarsely chopped
 2-1/4 teaspoons minced fresh basil
 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 Dash crushed red pepper flakes
 Shredded Parmesan cheese, optional



DIRECTIONS

Crumble sausage into a Dutch oven; add onion. Cook and stir over medium heat until meat is no longer pink. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Stir in the chicken stock, broth, cannellini beans and tomatoes. Bring to a boil. Add tortellini; return to a boil. Cook for 5-8 minutes or until almost tender, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat; add the spinach, basil, pepper and pepper flakes. Cook 2-3 minutes longer or until spinach is wilted and tortellini are tender. Serve with cheese if desired. Enjoy!



JANUARY USHERS

5th-
12th-
19th-
26th-

LAY READERS

5th- Rich Elliott
12th- John Lawson
19th- Mike Osborne
26th- John Newcomer



**We're
on the
Web!**

View our website at:

<http://www.fpcbbranchville.org>

and Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com>
(ask to be friends with
"pastorjh@ptd.net")

You may e-mail
the secretary at presbsec@ptd.net
or the pastor at pastorjh@ptd.net

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

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Laura Scherr, Copy Editor



JANUARY COFFEE HOUR

Hosted by:
DEACONS

JANUARY FLOWER CHART:

*If you would like to provide flowers
for any of the dates, please see in-
structions below:*

Dates:

5th-open
12th-open
19th-Opilla Family
25th-open

*Then call the florist the week of 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



JANUARY 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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5 10:00 AM Worship/Communion 11:15 AM YG Advisor Planning Meeting 	6 10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open 7:00 PM Music & Worship Meeting 	7 6:30 PM COM Meeting -Pastor Jeff 6:30 PM Friendship Circle Meeting @ Dominicks in Newton for dinner	8 10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open 7:00 PM -9:00 PM Boy Scouts	9 10:00 AM -12:30 PM Food Pantry open 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 	10	11 11:00 AM Presbytery Meeting in Sparta																																																																																				
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