



CHURCH KEY NEWSLETTER

First Presbyterian Church
of Branchville, New Jersey

Volume 20, No. 2

February 2020



FEBRUARY

AT A GLANCE

1st Youth Group makes subs



2nd Super Bowl Sub pick up

14th Valentine's Day



21st Bunco Night



26th Ash Wednesday Soup Supper



28th Confirmation Class Retreat





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 19, NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2020

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Mindfulness



Mindfulness is one of the big buzz words lately. I've been reading about mindfulness for nearly a year while doing my weight loss program. When it comes to losing weight, they emphasize being very mindful of what you eat, taking time to enjoy it, not being distracted by TV or other electronics, taking time to savor each bite. Studies have found that people who truly attend to what they are eating enjoy it more, are more satisfied after the meal, and tend to be less hungry later.

But it applies to more than just food. They urge that you be mindful about your life as well. Get enough sleep, exercise and attend to your body throughout the day, be aware of stress in your life and actively practice ways to minimize it or cope with it. Be mindful of your relationships, and be more attentive to those around you. Mindfulness is a whole lifestyle, where we are more conscious of who we are, what we do, and how we interact with the rest of the world.

Interestingly I heard from a member that their son is working on this topic and is about to present on it for his doctoral thesis. (Younger) Dave Yaden has nearly completed his doctoral work at the University of Penn in the Department of Psychology, and through practicing mindfulness himself, he has gone on to research how religions around the world have been practicing mindfulness for thousands of years through rituals and religious practices. It turns out that religion has been effecting people's positive mental health for millennia.

From Jews sitting shiva, to yoga, to Christian meditation, and many other ways, "You can see so many psychological processes at work, particularly related to community support," Dave explained in a recent interview.

<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/looking-back-collective-history-of-humanity-through-religious-rituals-practices>

Which brings me to our church. Think of the many ways we are mindful around here (yes, I want you to be mindful about mindfulness). We take time at the beginning of the Pastoral Prayer to sit in silence and be mindful of God's presence. We hold potluck meals for us all to gather as a church family and support each other. We pass along word amongst ourselves when someone is sick and may need some extra TLC. We sing songs of praise and faith to remind ourselves of the love of God that surrounds and upholds us every day.

We can always be more mindful of our faith, our own need for forgiveness, the relief we can feel when we confess and hear the words: "In Jesus Christ we are forgiven," and the joy of being in a Christian family of faith. I urge you to practice the mindfulness of being an intentional part of this church, because according to the experts, the mental health benefits can belong to us just as they have for others over the years. I hope to see you in church. 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 • Active military • All those fighting cancer • All our military away from home • Alex • Amanda • Anderson Family—loss of Egan • Norman Anderson
(Debbie's father-in-law) • Ann • Ann Marie • The Ansback Family • Anthony & Samantha • John Arnedt • Audrey • Australians from fire • Barbara • Beth & Ken • Bill • Bob • Bobbie • Bobby • Brian • Buddy & Nancy • Bushfires in Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peg Carlson • Caregivers everywhere • Carol • Chuck • Colleen • Roger Coss • Courtney • Carole Edwards • Lorraine Feaser • George • Dick Gibbins on passing of his wife Cynthia • Eric • Greg • Herolyn • Alan Hershey • Dave Henderson • Phyllis Hoke • Lauren Hoke • Vivian Hough • Rayna & Ronnie HOWell • Irene • Jack • Jake • Jess • Jim • Jo Ann • Jodi • Joe & Robin • John • Jolene & John • Family of Walter Jollie • Joyce • Karen • Karen's mom-broke hip • Kate & Mike • Kayla • Ken • Janine Klewin • Kyle • Lisa & Rob • Loos family—on loss of Heather | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MaryAnn • Marlene • The Massaro Family on death of Greg • Family of Raymond Mastaroni • Mary Beth • Mikey & Riley • Morgan • Ruth Morrow • Gail M. • Natalie • Bill O'Hara • Nancy Padalino • Pat & Dave • John Pawelczyk • Hilda Penberthy • Trix Penberthy • Jim Phillips-cancer • Liz Price • Rachel • Rich • Robin • Roger • Hap Rowan • Sharonlee Schaffer • Sherri • Sherry • Shirley • Doug Shroeder • Skylar • Bea Smith • David Strain • Family of Jimmy Smith • Sue • Suzanne & Jerry • Those fighting cancer • Vincent • Wycliffe • Family of John Zimet • Gail Zubl |
|--|--|---|



Church News

LOVE YOUR CHURCH MONTH - In February, 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 2020 Per Capita is \$39 per person. Our Per Capita is used to pay administrative costs of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, and also 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, in February, as you celebrate the many gifts of Love, remember to *Love Your Church* with your Per Capita gift.



Offering Envelopes



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!

SAVE THE DATE- The First Presbyterian Church of Branchville turns 200 in 2020!! We are planning a celebration for this bicentennial to be held in May. Please save the dates of Saturday, May 16th, for a dinner to be held in Fellowship Hall and Sunday, May 17th, for a special worship service followed by a picnic and party on the church lawn. Keep a look out for Bicentennial Briefings in upcoming Church Keys and bulletins as we get closer to the event.



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE – We will be hosting a fun Bunco Bash on Friday, February 21st (snow date February 28th), at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall - and this event is open to congregation members and friends. Prizes and snacks provided, BYOB. Pre-registration/pre-payment is required. The signup sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Cost is \$10 per person. We will have a dessert bar afterwards with coffee. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 16th. If you haven't played Bunco in the past and want to see what it's about, you should go to YouTube and search Bunco Games. We hope you will join us for a fun night out!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY - The Souper Bowl of Caring offering will be on **February 2nd**, the day of the Super Bowl game. Mission Committee representatives will be at the doors as you leave the service with bowls to collect money for Manna House and Harvest House, which is our first quarter's (Jan.-March) local mission. Please consider dropping into the Souper Bowls an equivalent amount to what you will spend for refreshments while watching the Super Bowl. Checks may be made to First Presbyterian Church with "Souper Bowl" on the memo line, or cash is fine also. Thank you.



LAITY SUNDAY – Laity Sunday will be on March 1st, so if you are interested in helping lead it, please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

SUPER BOWL SUBS - Be sure to stop in to the Fellowship Hall after worship on Feb. 2nd and pick up your pre-ordered subs. Thank you for supporting Work Camp 2020!

MISSION NEWS

Well, Here We Go Again! The Mission Committee has been busy planning how we can make a difference in our community and our world. We met in January to plan our giving for 2020 and here are some of our goals:

February will kickoff once again with **Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday**. This is a national, non-denominational effort to combat hunger that takes place on Super Bowl Sunday across the US. A one-time collection held at the end of worship on February 2nd will be donated to feed the hungry in local soup kitchens and food pantries. Last year we raised \$501 in one offering!! And although this day officially ends the football season, we're just getting started with our **1st Quarter Mission- Manna House and Harvest House** will be the recipients of mission giving, continuing our commitment to help the hungry in our own community. You can make a donation to this worthy cause by writing a "1st Quarter Mission" notation on the check or a special envelope found in the pew. Last year we were able to raise \$550 from personal giving. Added to the \$250 that was budgeted for this cause, we donated \$800 to these food pantries - for which they were very grateful. Let's see if we can pass that mark this year!! And last year

we participated in a program called **End Hunger 3.6** where about a dozen of us went to Madison to package dry food meals for NJ food pantries. It was amazing and we will be signing up folks to participate again on Saturday, March 7. **THANK YOU!!** We know that it's YOUR generosity that makes our job so much fun!

DEACON NEWS

We hope you enjoyed the Pot Luck luncheon and Congregational meeting on Jan 26th. Many thanks go out to those who helped with set up, serving or clean up! It is a great time to get together and review the annual reports and share some delicious dishes!

As always, we are looking for Ushers for the month of February going forward. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. We love seeing new faces so give it a try! There are instructions posted in the back of the church and several Deacons (past or present) are in church and can guide you if you have questions.

As the



season of Lent approaches, the Deacons are planning the Ash Wednesday **Soup Supper** for Feb. 26th at 6:30pm. There will be several soups served for dinner followed

by Communion with ashes and an activity led by Pastor Jeff. Please see a Deacon if you would like to bring a soup to serve. Hope to see you there!

2020 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN RETREAT

The retreat will be held on March 21st from 9am-4pm at the Shrine of St. Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ. Led by Amy Clarkson and Lorelei Oelschlager, we will journey to an exploration of spiritual practices, with plenty of Fellowship (woman-ship, learning, craft, worship and gift shop!).

(We are going back to the Shrine—not only is it a beautiful place, on the mountain top of Stirling, but the food is wonderful, as well.)

Cost for the day is \$40, covers leadership, morning snack, hot lunch and materials.

(Need a little help with the cost? E-mail Nancy at nwlack@verizon.net.)

Mail Registration & payment to : Nancy Lack, 15 Lincoln Ave., Florham Park, NJ 07832 (908-894-3176).

Checks made out in full to Presbyterian Women - Presbytery. Registration forms may be found in the Fellowship Hall or see Laura in the church office.



First Presbyterian Church of Branchville

The Friendship Circle is sponsoring our annual

Fish & Chips

By Tastefully British



Wednesday, April 8, 2020

5:00-6:30 PM

Take-outs beginning at 4:30 PM

**Cost:
\$15 per person**

Advanced Tickets Only

To purchase tickets, call the church office at 973-948-3495

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY

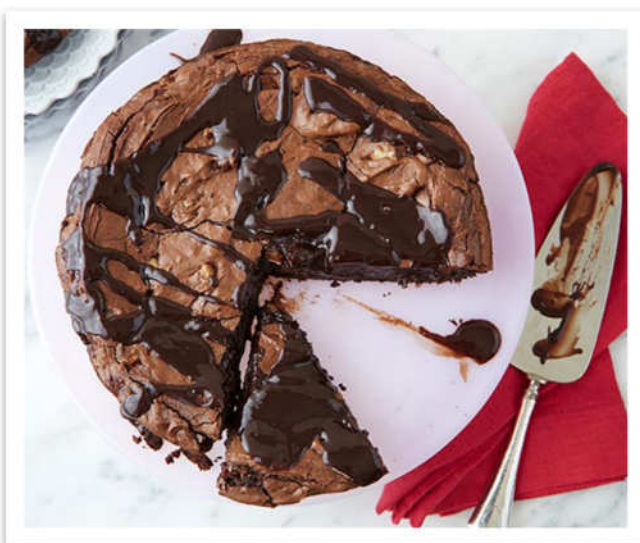
Elizabeth Bellush	2/1	Erika Clausen	2/20
Richard Martin	2/2	Paul Sutphen	2/23
Mike Opilla	2/4	Dan Kota	2/25
Jim Rawson	2/10	Aidan Becker	2/27
Ember Morris	2/18	Bryant Hatch	2/27
Carly Swanson	2/19		

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

BROWNIE TART

INGREDIENTS:

3/4 stick unsalted butter
 3 1/4 cups semisweet chocolate chips
 3 extra-large eggs
 1 cup sugar
 1 Tbs. instant coffee granules
 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
 1/2 tsp. baking powder
 1/4 tsp. kosher salt
 1 cup chopped walnuts
 2 to 3 Tbs. heavy cream



DIRECTIONS:

1. Grease & flour 9-inch tart pan with removable sides. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Melt butter in a bowl set over simmering water. Add 2 cups of the chocolate chips, remove from heat, and stir until melted completely. Set aside to cool.
3. In mixing bowl beat eggs, sugar, coffee and vanilla until light and fluffy. Stir in cooled chocolate. In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt, 1 cup of chocolate chips and walnuts. Fold the flour mixture into the wet batter until combined. Pour into the tart pan and bake for 35-40 minutes, until the center is puffed (the top may crack). The inside will still be very soft. Cool to room temperature before removing the sides of the tart pan.
4. Melt the remaining 1/2 cups of chocolate chips with the heavy cream and drizzle over the tart.
5. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream. Enjoy!



FEBRUARY USHERS

2nd-Debbie Grimm & Bev Keur
 9th-Lisa Hughes & Karen Pawelczyk
 16th-open
 23rd -open

LAY READERS

2nd-Doreen Adamsky
 9th- Scout Sunday
 16th-Becky Goldsworthy
 23rd-Linda Osborne



Check us
 out 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>



FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR

Hosted by:
 CHANCEL CHOIR

FEBRUARY FLOWER CHART:

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

Dates:

2nd-open
 9th-The Opilla Family
 16th-open
 23rd-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

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

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

Laura Scherr, Copy Editor



FEBRUARY 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Branchville

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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