

The Beacon

Monthly Edition

August 2022

Dear Friends:

The "Dog Days" of Summer are here! I hope you are managing to keep cool in the Furnace! Thankfully, this year's Youth Mission Trip headed north instead of south. The daytime temps in Maine were easy to handle and the cool nights allowed nature to reset the thermometer (and for us to reset our internal temps) each day. Our youth will be sharing their experiences during our worship service on August 7th. I hope you will be able to be here to support our youth and to find out more about the life-changing experience they shared in Dexter.

Closer to home, by now all of you should have received a letter from me regarding my upcoming retirement. There is never a good time to retire, as we all know. Nevertheless, good or bad, this is that time for me. Hopefully my letter will give you enough information to go on for now.

The Session met with our Committee on Ministry liaison, Rev. Robin Ray, on July 20th. One of the strengths of our Presbyterian system is the connections we have and the support we can give one another. Robin will be the main point of contact between our church and the presbytery as the transition preparations are put into place.

I am available to talk with you and to answer any questions you may have about my time with you and what the

future may hold for me and my family. Questions regarding next steps in your life as a congregation are best handled by Robin and the Session.

Please know that this has not been an easy decision for me. There is nothing that anyone has done to force this decision to come about. You are a wonderful congregation, and our staff is second to none. I have enjoyed immensely my time in ministry with you and will treasure many fond memories.

Soon I will be on the sidelines cheering you on as the next chapters in your life together in Christ unfold. However, "soon" is a relative term! Monty Python fans will understand the reference when I say: "But I'm not dead...yet!"

We still have work to do, things to accomplish, celebrations to share, friends to encourage and support, and strangers to welcome as we would welcome Christ himself into our midst.

So let's continue to be the fellowship and family of Christ that first caught my attention back in 2013 and then quickly won my heart. Let's trust the God who has been with us at every step in the journey to guide us and lead us into the future.

In faith, hope and especially love,



Pastor David



Youth Mission Trip Sunday – August 7th

Thank you to everyone who supported the youth mission team with prayers, donations, support, and love. Our trip to Dexter, Maine was a wonderful opportunity to go serve in the name of Jesus. In fact, **Go Serve**, was the theme for the week. Join us on **Sunday, August 7th** as we share our adventure with you during the 9:30 am worship service in the Fellowship Hall. We are eager to share with you our stories and photos of the week! Check out some of the photos of our trip in this Beacon newsletter!







in **YOUTH**
Action →



**Church Picnic & Worship
at Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center
Sunday, September 11th**



Join us at 10:30 am for worship in the Lower Meadow at Camp Jburg. Worship is followed by a church picnic, games, boating, and fellowship. Look for additional information in our September newsletter.



Communion

We will celebrate Communion
August 7

If you are unable to be here for in-person worship, plan on having some bread and some "fruit of the vine" on hand when you see the service on YouTube. This could be grape juice, wine (if you prefer), or another juice that comes from a vine.



**Celebrating
Kristy Woodrow's
Graduation from Seminary**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022

Mark your calendar for VBS 2022, *Meeting Jesus in the Marketplace!* This exciting adventure takes place August 8-12, from 9:00 am to noon and is open to children ages 3 (and potty trained) through grade 5. Children will travel through the Marketplace meeting Jesus along the way through scripture, prayer, service, and more. Bring your children, grandchildren, and neighbors! Registration forms are available in the parlor on Sunday mornings, in the church office during the week or, download a copy from the church website at www.fpcnewtonnj.org.

Vacation Bible School is always an amazing week for young and old alike. If you have a bit of time to spare, we could use your help to make this year's adventure an opportunity for children from our church family and community to encounter the love of God found in Jesus.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Spend a day at VBS with us. Help is always needed working in the village shops, preparing snacks, and guiding children through their daily activities.
- Volunteer to be a VBS photographer for a day or two during the week. The kids love seeing their photos up on the big screen during closing time together.
- Join us following worship on August 7th to help set up the decorations for the big event.
- Worship with us on August 14th and learn about the amazing week we had. Taste some of our delicious snacks, sing the lively music, see the amazing set and hear all about the adventure.
- Set aside some time to help break down the village on Sunday, August 14th following worship
- Most important, pray for those making the plans for VBS 2022, pray for the shop leaders, the youth that will guide the children during the day and for the children attending.

This is always a great week to help share God's love found in Jesus with children and youth from our congregation and our community.

Vacation Bible School Sunday August 14th

Worship with us in the marketplace (Fellowship Hall) at 9:30 am on August 14th and hear about our amazing VBS adventure, *Meeting Jesus in the Marketplace*. Sing the songs, hear the Bible stories, and even sample some of the delicious treats!

**Deacon's Food
of the Month:
Granola Bars,
Fruit Bars,
Bottled Juice**



**Manna House Spaghetti Dinner
Take Out or Dine Outside**

Tuesday August 9th, 5:00-6:30 pm.

\$5 for adults, \$3 for children 5-12, kids under 5 free! Spaghetti, salad, bread and cookies!

Proceeds benefit Manna House.

Pick up at red canopy door entrance.

fpcnewtonnj YouTube Channel

The link to the church's YouTube channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCifje87megV4T0c-tJ0hSjA>

Each week's worship service is available there. You can also view all our previous worship services since March 2020.



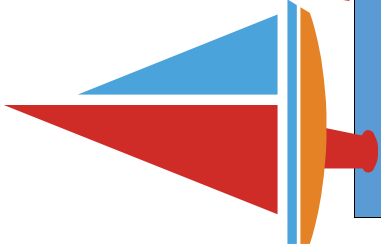


Anniversaries

August 4	David & Nancy Young	August 16	Robert & Karen Osborn
August 5	Allen & Jessica Wood	August 17	Jeffrey & Daele Phlegar
August 9	Robert & Carol Griffitts	August 18	Dirk & Jackie Kelly
	James & Melinda Kline	August 22	Derek & Amanda Macchia
August 15	Rick & Kimber Marthens	August 28	John & Dorothy Smalley
			William & Betsy Towle

Birthdays

August 1	Danielle DeGarmo	August 11	Bob Smith
	Irmgard Frank	August 12	Robert Colyer
	Victoria Macchia		Adam Goriscak
August 2	Jacqueline Kelly		Janice Perrier
August 4	Cole Johnson		Tara Walsh
August 7	Steven Hough	August 16	Gloria Hehn
	James Hough	August 18	Brian Lockwood
	Nancy Young	August 22	Susanne Gerdes
August 8	Jasmine Christ	August 22	Cael Osborn
August 9	Allison Westra	August 25	Dirk Kelly
	Christi Visakay		Michael Woodrow
August 10	Katrina Carson	August 26	Donna Kronen
	Jean Jones	August 27	Jennifer McQuillan
	Elizabeth Publik	August 28	Kristy Woodrow
August 11	Olivia Clark	August 29	Jean Garris
	Christine Clements		Joann Pierce
	Tyler Goff	August 31	Kimberly Brocker



AUGUST 2022

Regular Sunday Schedule

9:30 am Worship

Recording of service available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjffe87megV4T0c-tJ0hSjA>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10 am Wired Word	2	3 8pm Vespers via Zoom	4	5 1 pm Hearts & Hands	6 10-1 FPCN Serves at-BOL
7 Communion Mission Trip Sunday	8 9-Noon VBS 10 am Wired Word	9 9-Noon VBS 5-6:30 pm MH Spaghetti Dinner Take Out or Dine Outside	10 9-Noon VBS 8pm Vespers via Zoom	11 9-Noon VBS 10 am FPCN Serves at MH	12 9-Noon VBS No Hearts & Hands	13 10-1 BOL
14 VBS Sunday Bucket Brigade	15 NewsletterDeadline 10 am Wired Word	16 7 pm Deacons	17 7:30 pm Session	18 2-3:30 pm Book Club 4:30 -7:30 pm Decide	19 Office Closed 1 pm Hearts & Hands	20 10-1 BOL
21	22 10 am Wired Word	23	24 8pm Vespers via Zoom	25	26 1 pm Hearts & Hands	27 10-1 BOL
28	29 10 am Wired Word	30	31 8pm Vespers via Zoom			

Abbreviations Legend:

BOL - Bread of Life

Dis. & Nurture - Discipleship and Nurture Team

Fin. & Fac. - Finance and Facility Team

MH - Manna House

YG - Youth Group

Items in *Italics* are outside organizations using the church facilities.



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 Web site — www.fpcnewtonnj.org
 YouTube.com - Search for: "fpcnewtonnj"



RULING ELDERS & DEACONS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

	Class 2021	Class 2022	Class 2023
Ruling Elders	Susan Shake	Judy Prendergast	Cindy Fogg
	Scott Hoffman	Alice Sharick	Laureen Armstrong (2)
	_____	Chris DeVries	Ron Stickney
	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~
Deacons	Liz Fusco	Gail Hoffman (2)	Donna Kronen
	Susan Hermes	JoAnn Pierce (2)	Fran Patten
	Jody McNulty	Monika Talmadge	April Fisher (2)

Stated Clerk: Terry VanAuken



*Newsletter Deadline: Please submit articles to the church office via email at: [admin@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org) by the 15th of each month for the following month's publication.*