

The Church Steeple

First Presbyterian Church

February 2022

PASTOR CHRIS' CORNER

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”
Romans 12:9-13

During the Christmas/Epiphany Seasons of the Church, we celebrate God's love for all creation in the birth of Jesus—the Word of God Made Flesh. During the rest of the year, we are called/commanded to love one another as Jesus loves us.

Mission Impossible? It would certainly seem so at times. *But if there was ever a time that this world needed “love, sweet love,” it is now!*

But how do we do what seems impossible? Please take time to re-read the Scripture verses that begin this message and meditate on them often. These words remind us how to live a life of love and service. We ignore them at our peril!

*With love and prayers,
Pastor Chris*

LOOKING AHEAD

February is Black History Month. During this month, Pastor Chris will be sharing some facts about and some words of inspiration from Black writers, artists, and musicians. If there is something that you would like to share, please speak with Pastor Chris.

Cable channels will be offering special programming during February. Be sure to check them out.

FEBRUARY 2ND I celebrate my 8th Anniversary with you, my Presbyterian Family. Thank you for your prayers and support as I serve you. God bless you all!

FEBRUARY 9TH 7:00PM Session Meeting.

FEBRUARY 12TH and 22ND Abraham Lincoln's and George Washington's birthdays, respectively, have been conflated into **President's Day**, which will be celebrated on **Monday, February 21st**.

FEBRUARY 14TH is St. Valentine's Day. Be sure to reach out to someone who may be sad or lonely that day.

FEBRUARY 20TH please stay after worship for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall

SUPPORT OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS As a sign of respect and support for our local Police Department, please sign a card that will be hand-delivered to the CPD on Monday, February 14th. (Please tell Pastor if you would like to go with her that day.) We are particularly proud of Mike Dammann, Lawson Browne, and Matthew Anderson. Thank you for your dedication to our safety! God bless you and protect you!

FINANCE AND PROPERTY REPORT
FEBRUARY 2022

Thank you to all who stayed to take down the Christmas decorations.
 There is no new or old news to report from us at this time.
 Please keep us in prayer as we make decisions for the needs of our church.

God Bless,
 Finance and Property Committee
 Carole Sullivan
 John Michael
 Doris Stefura



GINNY DROTAR THRIFT SHOP NEWS
FEBRUARY 2022

First Presbyterian Thrift Shop was closed a few weeks due to the COVID surge again. We reopened with 50% off all winter coats and jackets. Usually our coats don't sell, however, with the sale we did sell approximately twelve coats.
 Information on closings and updates are texted to forty-two of our customers who have given their phone numbers. This has been helpful to them and keeps a good communication with them.
 There is the need for a minimum of four people working on Saturdays. If you wish to volunteer for even just an hour or two, please call Carole -732-423-4137 or Doris 732-541-5542. All proceeds go to our Church.

God Bless and again Happy New Year!
Submitted by,
Carole Sullivan on behalf of the Thrift Shop Staff.

THRIFT SHOP SCHEDULE				
Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26	March 5
Need 4	Need 4	Need 4	Need 4	Need 4

Please select dates that you are available and mail into office, or drop into the collecting plate.

THRIFT SHOP 10 AM – 1 PM (2022)				
Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29	Feb 5
Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26	March 5	March 12
March 19	March 26	April 2	April 9	Apr 16 closed
April 23	April 30	May 7	May 14	May 21
May 28	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Aug 6	Aug 13	Aug 20	Aug 27	Sept 3
Sept 10	Sept 17	Sept 24	Oct 1	Oct 8
Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29	Nov 5	Nov 12
Nov 19	Nov 26	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17
Dec 24 closed	Dec 31 closed			

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

January 11, 2022

We received a thank you letter from The Lupus Foundation in memory of Christine. Thank You letter were sent to the Mayor's office and Rotary club for their gifts of Shop Rite Gift Cards.

BOARD OF FINANCE AND PROPERTY:

Counter for February will be Doris. Per Capita for this year is \$40. Hopefully each member will pay their portion so the church doesn't have to take it out of our General Fund budget. We have had to transfer monies from savings accounts into our checking account since our donations do not meet our expenses.

BOARD OF SPIRITUAL LIFE:

Usher and Communion set up and server for February is Carole. Christmas Eve service was very nice and we had many visitors in attendance. All Session members should know how to maintain alter candles. If anyone in the congregation would like to learn please see a Session member.

BOARD OF OUTREACH AND FELLOWSHIP:

Planning for a one day retreat before Lent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sunday school is doing well with 5 students. Confirmation classes are at a standstill.

NEW BUSINESS:

If anyone is interested in joining the church please let Pastor Chris know.

Next Session meeting Wednesday, February 9th at 7 PM.



WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund, part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC (USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.

WHO PAYS PER CAPITA, AND HOW MUCH?

Congregations pay an annual amount of money per church member, per capita apportionment, to their respective presbyteries. The per capita amount requested from a congregation is a combined total of requests from that congregation's presbytery, the synod in which the presbytery is located, and the General Assembly, based on their respective budgets for the coming year.

WHAT DO GA PER CAPITA DOLLARS PROVIDE?

"As the Church seeks reform and fresh direction, it looks to Jesus Christ who goes ahead of us and calls us to follow him. United with Christ in the power of the Spirit, the Church seeks "not [to] be conformed to this world, but [to] be transformed by the renewing of [our] minds, so that [we] may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2)." (*Book of Order, F-1.0401*)

Per capita funding is how we mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. For example, the funding provides for the cost of bringing together:

- Bringing together commissioners and advisory delegates as the General Assembly
- Publishing (in multiple languages) and distribution (in multiple format) of the *Book of Order*, *The Book of Confessions*, and other General Assembly publications
- Underwriting the expenses of the Co-Moderators of the General Assembly as they travel across the church and around the world to interpret the work of the General Assembly and attend church anniversaries, presbytery meetings, retreats, and ecumenical gatherings
- Gathering church leaders from presbyteries and synods for training events
- Supporting work in the area of ordered ministry, helping all Presbyterians respond to God's call in their lives as teaching elders, ruling elders, and deacons
- Providing necessary tools to develop and administer ordination exams to seminarians preparing to become future pastors
- Maintaining Church Leadership Connection, the online system that supports the call process for pastors and congregations
- Supporting those elected to serve on permanent General Assembly committees, such as the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, the General Assembly Nominating Committee, and the General Assembly Committee on Representation
- Providing information, advice, and counsel to presbyteries and pastors whose members have immigration issues

Please pay your Per Capita. It is \$40 per member. Last year we were short in collecting \$800 in Per Capita which means 20 members or half our congregation did not pay their portion. We were able to cover this shortage because 1/2 of the Thrift Shop profits for December covered \$634 the rest had to come out of our General Fund.



ZION FOOD BANK Please donate cereal, tuna, pasta sauce, pasta, rice, soups, and evaporated milk always needed. More than ever! Gift cards are always welcome.

THE CHURCH STEEPLE



First Presbyterian Church

83 Carteret Ave.

Carteret, NJ 07008

Phone: 732-541-4469

firstpresbyteriancarteret@yahoo.com

JesuslovesCarteret.org

Checkout our website: Jesuslovescarteret.org or Find us on Facebook *Carteret Presbyterian*