

News From the Pews

REFORMED CHURCH OF FREEHOLD
DEMONSTRATING GOD'S RECONCILING LOVE

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

JULY 2024

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A Sunday in the Park

Come out and join us for a great day of worship, food, and fun at Michael J. Tighe Park (65 Georgia Road, Freehold Township) on Sunday, September 8 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Worship will start at 10 am, followed by a luncheon, and games. Grills are not allowed at Michael J. Tighe Park, so we will order sandwiches. Participants are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Cold beverages and paper products will be supplied. There will be picnic tables available, but you may want to bring along a camp chair. Games are planned for all ages. Join us for the whole day or any part of it. We expect to eat lunch at about 11:15 AM and begin the games around 12:30 PM. Pavilion 1 is reserved for our use and the closest parking is in parking lot 2. In case of rain, we will still gather at the park under Pavilion 1 and play board games rather than field games.

Freehold Reformed Cares is also organizing a family hike for October. In November we would like to take advantage of the Teachers' Conference and plan a daytime program on November 7 or 8. With the arrival of December and Advent, a holiday-focused event will be offered.



Narthex Remodel

Have you seen the Narthex lately? The Narthex is being transformed into a bright and welcoming gallery space. Two years ago, it was decided to honor our long-time Music Director, Bill Starsinic, by turning our narthex into a community gallery space in Bill's memory. The transformation began with the carpet and tile floor being professionally removed. Tom Moore has painted the walls and ceiling. The next step will be laying down the flooring.

All money for this project has been raised through memorial and concert donations. Gifts are still being accepted for the final phases of the project. Donations can be marked Starsinic Gallery and placed in the offering plate, sent to the office, or made online through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly). (Please watch your step entering and exiting the narthex during this renovation.)



Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

Recently, at the wedding of my niece and her fiancé, I from chapter 3 of Paul's letter to the Colossians. Paul's letters are great for weddings as he was writing to churches with many different kinds of members.

Paul challenges the church members to live out Jesus' values. He begins by saying "have hearts (or guts) of compassion." By this, he means we should feel with our guts what others are experiencing. The community is advised to be kind, which is a word that can also be translated as useful. (I'm aware of times I may have been right about something, but not in the least bit useful.) When he calls for humility, Paul is inviting people to consider that they don't know the best way forward and to discover what works best for everyone. When he calls for gentleness, Paul wants the community to express power with reserve. Being patient means to be long-tempered instead of slow-tempered. In other words, don't act too quickly. Bear with one another and continue together as Christ's servants. Don't give up on one another. Practice forgiveness by showing favor and kindness. Let love be your go to response, and let that love bind all these values together. Finally, let peace (the full prosperity of the community) be your rule for life together.

I love how Paul's rich language builds, creating a very full image of living together in Christ. Sometimes Paul's words are so powerful I am left asking where one starts. To get a handle on our calling, I would say we need to have each other's back. When we have each other's back we trust that we are all trying. There's no wrong answer. There's going to be a lot of things that fall flat, and ways we get it wrong. It's ok to goof up. When as a community we trust one another, the group and its mission can keep moving forward.

In the end, this is the very human story of what God does for us through the sacrificial life of Jesus. No matter how often we get it wrong, forgiveness is offered. Through the sacrificial life of Jesus, we discover forgiveness and we know that we are more important than our sins. The Christian story is a story of humanity missing the mark and a God who has our backs.

Peace,
Pastor David

Center Players

Center Players, a long-established theater group in Freehold, has been rehearsing their latest play at The Reformed Church. They would like to invite you to their latest production, Coyote, July 19-28, 2024. In this timely original musical, two immigrants separated by borders and dreaming of a better life, head north to America with the help of a mystical and complicated character known as Coyote. An inspiring and heartwarming love story, based on true events. The musical will be at the Park Avenue Complex, 280 Park Avenue, Freehold, NJ. Tickets can be purchased online at centerplayers.org or call 732-462-9093.



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CONSISTORY 2024

Lee Ann Newland– Vice President
Barb Lyon–Hospitality & Congregational Care
Helen McKenzie–Buildings & Grounds
Lee Ann Newland–Worship & Music
TBD–Human & Financial Resources

Bill Barth–Classis Delegate
Bill Barth–Missions & Benevolences
Gabrielle Uchno–Fellowship
Sharon Sanicola–Education
John Lambert–Building & Grounds

Odds and Ends

Communion Offering

On the first Sunday of the month we collect items for **Open Door** which can be left in the church Narthex. Monetary gifts are accepted at any time and can be placed in the offering plate. Please mark “Open Door” on your envelope.

Flowers

If you would like to have flowers given in honor or memory of a loved one or event, please contact the church office. The cost is \$20. Please make checks payable to: “Reformed Church of Freehold” and write “flowers” in the memo.

Secretary’s Hours

Our secretary will be in the office sporadically over the summer. She will continue to check and answer emails during the week. In case of emergency, Lauren’s cell number is 732-766-5147.

Missions

The Mission of the Month for July 2024 is Camp Warwick, part of the Warwick Conference Center, conveniently located on 450 acres just 50 miles northwest of New York City, serving groups, organizations, and churches since 1959, and a facility of the Regional Synods of New York & Mid-Atlantics, Reformed Church in America. Options include a day camp for kids and youth from kindergarten through 8th grade and an overnight camp for kids and youth who have completed second grade through 18 years old. Also, Camp Sunrise invites campers who have cognitive and/or physical disabilities for overnight camp.

Prayer—submitted by Barb Lyon

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon, where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life." St. Francis of Assisi

Birthdays and Anniversaries

JULY: 1 Tom Bateman, 4 Michael Murphy, 23 Ashley Biddle, 27 The Lambert/Newlands, 28 Joel Uchno, 31 Carol Bateman

AUGUST: 1 Pastor David, 13 Melissa Dey, 20 Joyce Ojo, 22 Kyle Dey, 23 Sarah Sanicola, 25 Bill Biddle



**THE REFORMED
CHURCH
OF FREEHOLD**

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Freehold NJ 07728

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DEMONSTRATING GOD'S
RECONCILING LOVE

Dates to Remember

JULY

- 4 Thursday **Happy Fourth of July!**
- 7 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
Fellowship Hour
- 14 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
- 16 Tuesday Consistory ZOOM Meeting, 7 PM
- 21 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
- 28 Sunday Worship, 10 AM

AUGUST

- 4 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
- 11 Sunday Worship, 10 AM,
- 12-16 Mon-Fri Summer Arts Camp
- 18 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
- 25 Sunday Worship, 10 AM

 REGISTER NOW



Classes are FREE!

August 12-16th
Reformed Church
of Freehold
67 W. Main Street,
Freehold, NJ

Summer Camp

Sponsored by
The Community Arts Center of Freehold

Dance & Performance

12-12:30pm: Ages 4-6
12:30-1pm: Ages 7-9
6-6:45pm: Ages 10-13
6:45-7:30pm: Ages 14+



Brazilian Jiu Jitsu/ Self Defense

6-6:45pm: Ages 14+
6:45-7:30pm: Ages 10-13