

# News From the Pews

REFORMED CHURCH OF FREEHOLD  
DEMONSTRATING GOD'S RECONCILING LOVE

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## Fellowship

We have enjoyed fellowship opportunities at church and outside of church this summer. Gathering for a BlueClaws ball game in August was a fun night. As luck would have it, many of us missed the home run when we decided it was time to get something to eat. However, we did thank our luck when we all went home without a bump or a scratch from the many foul balls that came our way!



We also had a very nice outing to the Manasquan Reservoir for a bike ride. Our young riders did a great job of making it around the 5 mile perimeter. Taking in the scenery was also the perfect way to refresh along the way.

We hope you have had a chance to admire God's miracles and the evolution of the garden over the summer. Many helping hands have kept it going and growing all summer too. Special thanks to Pastor David, Helen, Lorraine and Sharon who lent a hand to water. We also appreciate Lorraine's expertise in keeping the plants happy with the appropriate amount of fertilizer. We are grateful for all that the garden has given to us and that it has allowed us to give to our community. We have made 5 deliveries to Open Door thus far. We are also happy it has been a blessing to our congregation with periodic shared garden treats as well as providing ingredients for a special salad shared at August's fellowship hour.

Our next fellowship hours will be September 11 and October 16. A sign up sheet is posted if you would like to make something to be served. Your help and donations are always appreciated.

## Pastor's Pen

While visiting France this summer I squeezed in a 2-night visit to Geneva, Switzerland. Geneva was a refuge for French Protestants (known as Huguenots) when they experienced persecution during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was in Geneva that John Calvin preached and worked with the city council to live out the faith and practice of what would become the Reformed branch of the Protestant movement. On Sunday morning, I arrived at Calvin Hall, adjacent to John Calvin's church, St. Pierre's Cathedral, hoping to attend a Waldensian (Italian Protestant) worship service. (The Waldensian Church and the Reformed Church in America have a long-standing mission partnership.) I must have misread the sign as the door was locked, and the only *worship* sounds were coming from St. Pierre's Cathedral next door. Coming up the side steps I avoided the guides redirecting tourists who were looking for a historic tour and not a worship service. I entered the dark, cool, cavernous 850-year-old cathedral, and a greeter handed me a worship book as she unclipped the braided rope inviting me into the French language Protestant service. A multi-national congregation of maybe 150 sat in the pews. The minister,

## Pastor's Pen continued

wore a preaching robe with Genevan tabs (a type of preaching collar with two strips of white cloth forming an inverted V at the collar). She led us through a familiar liturgy in an unfamiliar language. Following her sermon, the congregation was invited forward to come forward and form a circle around the Lord's table at the base of the pulpit. I made my way forward, slowly, behind the man at the end of our pew who used crutches and braces. We formed one large misshapen circle, bulging out into the aisle behind the pulpit as room was made for one more and one more and one more. In a pew bordering our circle an older woman sat with her oxygen tank and a companion who might have been a grandson. All were graciously served by elders. The bread was served, *the body of Christ broken for you*. The tray of glass-thimble-cups filled with either wine or juice followed. Just as the older woman was about to be served the tray was empty. Servers quickly retreated to replace the tray. Fearing she would not be served, the woman grew anxious. Myself and others made silent gestures inviting patience. We also made faces that we hoped communicated an assurance that we could wait, we would all wait, until everyone was served. The server returned. She received her cup, as did the rest of us. *The blood of Christ shed for you*.

As I drank a shiver moved through me. Five hundred years prior a movement was taking shape in this space. It was five hundred years since a reformation began, calling the church to rethink Jesus, God, community and salvation. The Reformation travelled throughout Europe. From the Netherlands a branch arrived in the New Amsterdam (New York) in 1628, and in the 1840's another branch arrived in the land south of Chicago, Illinois. Their heir, I stood at this table with others yielding space in order to make room for the lame, the infirmed, the anxious, the afraid, the sad, the lonely waiting for all to arrive in the circle at the table, waiting for the cup to be replenished, waiting until all are served. I recalled Christ's instruction in Luke 14, "when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind."

Kingdom seeds were planted 500 years earlier. We are heirs of those seeds as we still shift and move and shuffle finding a way to welcome more into the circle of Christ's redeeming love.

Peace, Pastor David

## Recipes- Cherry Tomato Salad

### Ingredients

4 cups cherry or grape tomatoes, halved	1 & 1/2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
2 cups fresh mozzarella balls, halved	
1/4 cup red onion, diced	1/4 teaspoon sugar
1/4 cup chopped fresh herbs (basil, oregano, parsley)	1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
	1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 cup olive oil	Salt and pepper to taste

Place the tomatoes, mozzarella balls, red onion and herbs in a large bowl. In a small bowl, whisk together the olive oil, red wine vinegar, sugar, oregano, garlic powder, and salt and pepper to taste. Pour dressing over the tomato mixture and gently toss to coat evenly.





## Lay Recognition Dinner

The Synod of the Mid-Atlantics wants to continue the tradition of helping you honor God's servants in your congregation at their biennial Lay Recognition Dinner, which will be held on Friday, October 21, 2022 at The Imperia in Somerset, NJ beginning at 6:30 PM. This year's honoree is Lorraine Yoncak. Please join us as we celebrate all she has done for our church. There is a sign-up sheet for the dinner in the church lobby. The cost of the dinner is \$52 per person and all monies must be in to the office before September 11, 2022. Please make checks payable to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantics and leave them in the church office.

## CACF Events

The Community Arts Center of Freehold hosted its first-ever Theater Camp during the week of August 15-19. The week was led by actress, Tieisha Thomas, who brought her experience of stage and television to the twenty-three students in attendance. The week culminated in monologues and skits performed by students aged four to thirteen, and the sanctuary was filled with family and friends. We were also blessed to share the week with dance and movement instructor, Rachel Kutner, and artist, Toni Field, who displayed student work throughout the sanctuary. The artwork will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall. The Community Arts Center of Freehold is a partnership between the Reformed Church of Freehold, Freehold Area Open Door, and the Gramercy Brass Orchestra of New York. This Fall, CACF will host a String Day on October 29, 2022, beginning at 10 am for amateur string players and led by members of the Madison String Quartet. Additional events are in the planning stages for November and December!



## Missions

The Mission of the Month for September 2022 is Freehold CROP Hunger Walk that will take place on Sunday, October 16, 2022. The start location will be the Reformed Church of Freehold, 67 West Main Street, Freehold, NJ 07728. Registration starts at 1:00 p.m. and we step off to Walk at 1:30 p.m. Please go to: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/freeholdnj> for more information or to register. CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts. The Crop Project began in 1947 when farmers were asked to donate food and seed crops to our hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. The first CROP Hunger Walks took place in Bismarck, North Dakota (1969), and York, Pennsylvania (1970). Since then, CROP Hunger Walk events have been held in hundreds of communities, large and small, raising millions of dollars to eradicate hunger and poverty.

The Mission of the Month for October 2022 is Freehold Area Open Door. Located at 39 Throckmorton Street, Freehold, NJ 07728, Open Door serves as a local food pantry in Freehold in addition to providing other services to those in need. A roster of member congregations support Open Door by providing a diverse and talented pool of volunteers. Some congregations also provide financial support, while others host volunteer events. Each congregation names a Trustee to the Board of Trustees. The Board meets six times a year, guiding the future of Open Door. Many Trustees actively participate in day to day operations or work on special programs. Donated food items can be placed at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings or in a receptacle in the lobby. Financial gifts can be put in envelopes marked "Open Door" and included with the offering. Also, you can donate online using TITHE.LY. Open Door is a 501(c)(3) organization. For a current list of most needed items and more information please go to: [faopendoor.org](http://faopendoor.org) Open Door is open Monday - Thursday 10:30am - 2:30pm. Phone: 732-780-1089. Email: [info@faopendoor.org](mailto:info@faopendoor.org).

## Open Door

The Open Door Food Pantry is seeking volunteers for daily help as well as their annual Foodstock event. Food Pantry director, Geralyn, says volunteers are needed Monday- Thursday, 9:30- 3:30 at the pantry. Additional volunteers are needed after hours and weekends for special events, cleaning, home deliveries, and our late night the first Wednesday of the month. Drivers are also needed for store pick ups. Foodstock is Saturday 10/15 and volunteers are needed to receive and sort donations. If you have any questions please email [info@faopendoor.org](mailto:info@faopendoor.org). Thanks to all for your ongoing support of the Freehold Area Open Door!





# Reformed Church of Freehold

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67 W. Main Street, Freehold, NJ 07728  
(732) 462-1717

Pastor–David Groeneveld  
dkgroeneveld@comcast.net  
Organist/Choir Director–John Girvin

Secretary–Lauren Redmond  
office@freeholdreformed.org  
Treasurer–Jill Moore

## CONSISTORY 2022

Wilfred Ojo– Vice President  
Bill Barth–Classis Delegate

Barb Lyon– Hospitality & Congregational Care  
Helen McKenzie–Buildings & Grounds  
Lee Ann Newland–Worship & Music  
Wilfred Ojo– Human & Financial Resources

Bill Barth– Missions & Benevolences  
Gabrielle Uchno–Fellowship  
Sharon Sanicola–Education  
Michael Polifka– Worship & Music

## Odds and Ends

### Communion Offering

On the first Sunday of the month we collect items for **Open Door**.

These items 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 check or envelope.

### Flowers

If you would like to have flowers given in honor or memory of a loved one or event, please sign up on the Flower Chart in the lobby.

The cost is \$20. Please make checks payable to: “Reformed Church of Freehold” and write “flowers” in the memo.

### Secretary’s Hours

Our secretary’s hours are Thursdays, from 8-11:30 AM. She will continue to check emails during the week. In case of emergency Lauren’s cell number is 732-766-5147.

## Education

Over the Summer, the Sunday School enjoyed crafts connected to Pastor David’s sermons. For the Fall, we will resume our studies from the Whirl Bible. We are in need of people willing to teach Sunday School. If you are available, please contact Sharon. To the right is a photo of the children enjoying making paper.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### SEPTEMBER

3 Melissa Polifka  
4 Amy Craven  
9 Ann Serafin  
21 Michael Polifka  
16 Eric Tiedemann III  
24 The Uchno’s  
29 Nicole Ringwald

### OCTOBER

2 The Carrig’s  
4 Jackson Redmond  
5 Bill Barth  
9 The Seifert’s  
10 Rebecca Seifert  
13 Michael Murphy  
17 Catherine Delhagen

24 Jill Moore  
31 Jean Krohn



**THE REFORMED  
CHURCH  
OF FREEHOLD**

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Website:

[www.freeholdreformed.org](http://www.freeholdreformed.org)

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RECONCILING LOVE

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## Dates to Remember

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM  
Sunday School
- 11 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
Sunday School  
Fellowship Hour  
Lay Dinner Sign Up Deadline
- 15 Thursday Consistory Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall & Zoom
- 18 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
Sunday School
- 25 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
Sunday School

### OCTOBER

- 2 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM  
Sunday School
- 9 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
Sunday School
- 15 Saturday FOODSTOCK, 1-6 PM, Freehold Twp.  
Firehouse, Stillwells Corner Road
- 16 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
Sunday School  
Fellowship Hour  
CROP Walk, 1 PM Registration
- 21 Friday Lay Recognition Dinner  
Imperia Hotel, 6:30
- 23 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
Sunday School
- 29 Saturday Gramercy Brass Strings Day, 10 AM
- 30 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
Sunday School