THE REFORMED
CHURCH
OF FREEHOLD

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DEMONSTRATING GOD'S
RECONCILING LOVE

Dates to Remember

MAY		JUNE	
3 Sunday	Communion Worship, 10 AM Facebook Live	7 Sunday	Communion Worship, 10 AM Facebook Live
10 Sunday	Worship, 10 AM Facebook Live	9 Tuesday	Consistory, 6:30 PM Zoom Meeting
12 Tuesday	Consistory, 6:30 PM Zoom Meeting	12 Friday	Events at Freehold Reformed with Gramercy Brass Presents: Neil Berg & Rita Harvey in Concert
17 Sunday	Worship, 10 AM Facebook Live	14 Sunday	Worship, 10 AM Facebook Live
24 Sunday	Worship, 10 AM Facebook Live	21 Sunday	Worship, 10 AM Facebook Live
31 Sunday	Worship, 10 AM Facebook Live	28 Sunday	Worship,10 AM Facebook Live

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

MAY 1, 2020

News From the Pews

REFORMED CHURCH OF FREEHOLD
DEMONSTRATING GOD'S RECONCILING LOVE

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What Have You Been Up To?

Sunshine Schoolhouse-Dear Reformed Church Friends, We hope you are doing well. This has been an overwhelming time for all of us. Sunshine Schoolhouse is closed at the current time. We hope to open as soon as possible, but it seems that it is more than likely we will not be able to open until September 2020. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to resuming our partnership with you in the near future. With love and best wishes, Susan Frank, Lois Furlong and the Staff of Sunshine Schoolhouse

Bill Barth- I have been teleworking full time (40 hours per week) using my Army computer which I brought home from the office. On weekends I am on my own computer viewing online Facebook live streams of concerts from the Manhattan Chamber Players. Since all these musicians are isolated at home and have had all their gigs cancelled they have no income. So they are live streaming solo 10-minute performances from their homes, wherever that might be, and requesting donations.

Bill & Lori Starsinic- thank you to all my church family for their prayers and good wishes.

Lauren Redmond– Everyone is happy and healthy at our house. Jack is pretty bummed out because his travel baseball season was cancelled and he had just made the Barkalow Baseball Team just before the shut down. He was one of only two sixth graders to make it on the team too! Jules is loving homeschooling and I think I'll have a hard time getting her to go back to school in September. My husband is a teacher so he does a lot of Zoom meetings with students but mostly he just escapes to our basement to play drums. I have been doing a ton of cooking lately and Jules and I made an Easter Bunny Cake. I've also painted three rooms in my house and I'm planning on painting my deck next. Our favorite activity is roasting marshmallows together with our dog Belle.

Susan Fox- I've had the fun of participating in 3 birthday drive by parades and I made my first quilt from scraps I had on hand. I'm calling it my "COVID quarantine quilt"!

Pastor's Pen

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

People are asking if the virus is going to break us as a nation, as communities, and even as churches. Retailers are asking if this is going to be the final death stroke to the brick and mortar store. In the old days they said it only takes 2 Sundays away from church for someone to fall out of the habit of attending. Churches are facing challenges.

We can face these challenges. Frederick Buechner once said about the 23rd Psalm "[the shepherd] feeds the part of us which is hungriest and most in need of feeding. The shepherd never withholds himself, and **he** is what we want more than anything else." This might simply sound like a platitude. However, God sent his son to offer eternal life and not condemn the world but save it. Because he has journeyed with us, experienced suffering, betrayal, and brokenness, we can trust that Jesus knows our need and will respond to it.

Receiving love from an earthly parent is often enough to carry us through difficult times. Kathy Valentine, who was a part of the Go-Go's, was recently interviewed because of a new memoir that is out. She spoke about her childhood and not fitting in, and a mother who could not provide meaningful guidance, boundaries, and basic parenting to a young girl growing up. But Kathy says, I felt loved, which gave me the resilience I needed in life. Imagine If an earthly parent's love can do that for us, yes our heavenly parents love can give us what we need in life.

Our God comes to us to offer us the bread we need for life. And then, around bread and wine, He gathers a community, and sends them out to share that love with others. We have the opportunity to create the beloved community. It can be expressed in the gathering of food. It can be expressed in sharing resources to supplement income for those in need.

I find it amazing and miraculous that God works through "flawed pastors, jaded teachers, worn-out secretaries, over-worked government officials, exhausted parents, senior citizens and the like. God chooses these and many other unlikely candidates through whom to work, even when they don't suspect it."

We celebrate a God who feeds our true hunger gift of eternal life which we taste hear and now, through ordinary bread and wine as we celebrate the gift that **God also uses each of us** to accomplish God's will and work in God's world. No, we won't be broken. We have the bread of life, which will keep us going.

Peace,
Pastor David

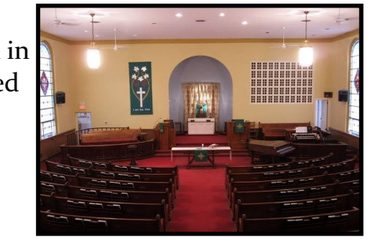
Church Website

A Big Reformed Church Thank You goes out to Casey Moore. Casey did an amazing job creating the new church website. The site includes information about the history of our congregation, upcoming events, missions, RCW news, and our worship services. You can even watch video of previous services and read our newsletter! Please check it out at www.freeholdreformed.org.

Service Listing

	Reader	Ushers	Coffee Hour Hosts
MAY 17	B. Barth	J. Murphy & B. Barth	L. Newland &J. Murphy
24	M. Jacobus	M. Polifka & M. Polifka	M. Jacobus & B. Lyon
31	R. Ojo	R. Ojo & T. Bateman	J. Perez & D. Ringwald
JUNE 7	L. Yoncak	T. Bateman & B. Barth	L. Yoncak & J. Krohn
14	S. Sanicola	J. Murphy & R. Ojo	S. Sanicola & J. Murphy
21	M. Jacobus	M. Polifka & M. Polifka	M. Jacobus & G. Uchno
28	B. Barth	B. Barth & T. Bateman	J. Perez & D. Ringwald
JULY 5	L. Yoncak	J. Murphy & R. Ojo	L. Yoncak & J. Murphy
12	B. Barth	B. Barth & T. Bateman	D. Ringwald & B. Lyon
19	M. Jacobus	M. Polifka & M. Polifka	M. Jacobus & G. Uchno
26	R. Ojo	R. Ojo & B. Barth	J. Perez & J. Krohn

Property



We're keeping the grass mowed, the yard spruced up and making things look good for those that drive by in hopes many will be back in the building soon. Some cleaning projects that have been completed this past month include cleaning the sinks, drain traps, recycle buckets, Sunday School Rooms, kitchen counters, and bathrooms.

The building takes on an eerie personality when it is so empty, I think it misses being useful and a home to us all.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

MAY

1 Paul Yoncak
3 John Statesir
6 Casey Moore
7 John Carrig
16 Eric Tiedemann
17 Candi Weinberg
18 Edward McKenzie
21 Tom Moore
21 Michael & Melissa Polifka
24 Aidan Seifert
26 Thea Perez
27 Hunter Tiedemann

June

10 Donna Jacobus
13 Glenn Jacobus
14 Lori Starsinic
15 Bill & Ada Freeman
16 Addison Seifert
26 Joshua Weinberg

(Some birthdays and anniversaries are omitted by request)

Reformed Church of Freehold

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

Pastor–David Groeneveld
dkgroeneveld@comcast.net
Organist/Choir Director–Bill Starsinic

Secretary–Lauren Redmond
office@freeholdreformed.org
Treasurer–Joe Perez

CONSISTORY 2020

Lorraine Yoncak– V.P., alt. Classis Delegate
Bill Barth–Classis Delegate

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

Bill Barth– Missions & Benevolences
Barb Lyon–Fellowship
Gabrielle Uchno–Education
Michael Polifka– Worship & Music

Odds and Ends

Food Certificates

An easy way to support the church is by buying food gift certificates and it won't cost you a dime! The church earns 5% on every dollar you spend. It's a win-win. We have cards for ShopRite and Stop and Shop. See Susan Vilagi after church or stop in the office.

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 mark it "flowers".

Secretary's Hours

Our secretary is here from 8:15 am -11:15 am Thurs., and Friday, Hours are subject to change as needed. As always, please feel free to contact Lauren at the office ahead of time to arrange to come in.

Reformed Church Women

The Reformed Church Women have voted to set up a fund from our RCW treasury to financially help our congregation. If you have a need, please contact Pastor David as he will be the only one that will know the name of recipients. We have been blessed to build up a little savings from our Yard Sales and Holly Berry Boutique and feel this is a good time to share. So if you have less income then normal and the bills for necessities are coming in please contact Pastor David with your request.

I suspect that many of us are getting extra cleaning and sorting done during our stay at home time. Please save items in good shape to donate to our next yard sale, we will announce that date when social gatherings are allowed.

Please keep a positive attitude and a smile on your face, they are also very contagious!

What Have You Been Up To?

Irma & Hans Krohn- Well, Hans and I were just doing our usual thing staying at home, but it felt different when you are told to do this by the President of the United States and our Governor of NJ. What we miss the most is our family visiting especially our granddaughter, Amanda and her 3-year-old son, Nicolas, the sunshine of our lives. We are blessed having Richard and Jean living next door, looking after us. I miss going to church and seeing my church family. I have been so thankful for Pastor David and the Sunday Church Service and the church bulletin to follow along. I have enjoyed all the phone calls from our family and friends even some we had not heard from for a long time. Oh yes, I am thankful I can get to our doors and see Richard and Jeans chickens and hear Charlie, the rooster! Did I do anything new? Well, I brought pictures up from the basement with good intentions of putting them in albums and I will bring them in and share with anyone who might like to see them! I am sorting my box of favorite recipes and discovering I most likely won't cook them again, but I hate throwing them away.

Gabrielle Uchno– We look forward to seeing you all again soon. For now we have been busy building forts, sleeping in indoor tents and roasting marshmallows. Following tradition, we planted broccoli and carrots on Earth Day. I finally hope to find the time now to work on Julia's baby album because it's never too late!

Lee Ann Newland & John Lambert- all is well in Neptune and we are hoping everyone is staying home and staying safe!

Madeline Jacobus– I've been doing everything I normally do but I haven't been to the stores as often. I've been doing some yardwork, crocheting , and some big puzzles. I plan to paint my deck when the weather gets decent and I've called many members of the church to check in on them. Thank God we're all still healthy and I hope everything stays well at your homes!

Amy Craven & Dean Gephardt- Hello Everyone! We're so thankful for Pastor David's weekly Zoom Church Service and all of the work that everyone has done to make it so meaningful! I've been keeping busy; working from home, continuing to get my exercise every day with online workouts sent from my gym & walking. Dean and I have also been riding bikes (with masks) on nice days! Here's a picture of Dean's Bike, a 1950's Vintage Schwinn Black Phantom that he bought several years ago and while we've been home, he did a thorough detailing of it and got it ready to take on the road! Also, here is a picture of my vintage 10-speed that Dean restored and custom painted for me awhile back…it's "Amy's Squan Cruiser" and, of course, it's PINK! We're sending lots of positive thoughts and peace from Lawrenceville!

Helen McKenzie– I have been checking in with our Church members, personally we've accomplished a lot of early Spring yard work on our property and have been organizing our basement. We hope everyone is safe and healthy, and look forward to seeing our Church family soon. Best wishes to all.

Worship & Music

Good News! June 12, 2020 at 7 PM, Gramercy Brass of New York and The Reformed Church of Freehold will present Neil Berg and Rita Harvey Live in Benefit for The Monmouth Habitat For Humanity. While the Covid-19 Virus has everyone staying home to stay healthy, what better way to raise money for our local Habitat for Humanity by watching a live in home concert by husband and wife duo Neil Berg and Rita Harvey. Broadway veterans, they will present an hour long concert from their home in Nyack in support of our Freehold Community. If you would like to contribute to this concert, please go to www.eventsfreeholdreformedchurch.com or www.gramercybrass.org Checks may also be made payable to Gramery Brass of New York. If you would like to sponsor our concert series, please reach out to Pastor David about how you can do this! Two additional dates, November 15, and Dec 19 (changed from Dec 18) are still being planned.

What Have You Been Up To?

The Seifert's- Having everyone home for many weeks, even Grandma has been wonderful. We have balanced the children's school work between mornings and afternoons, allowing for creative and open playtime for them. Everyone home has allowed for many fun activities. We have played games, kept up our karate lessons via zoom, built a hut, raced cars, made bread, and went on a nature hunt to name a few. Daddy takes us outside to get recreations time as well. In spite of being confined to home, it is wonderful spending this time together.

Candi Weinberg- In these crazy times I am lucky to still be working (although it's on an every other day alternating schedule). I have had time to do many things around my house. This is the earliest I've ever had this much spring yard work done. Not so sure my back thinks it's a good thing though. I've been able to catch up on my reading and am on book #4 and though everyday feels like I'm waking up in the movie "Groundhog Day" and I have to keep checking the calendar to see what day it is and if I'm supposed to be at work or not, we're healthy and doing well. It's great being able to catch up on all my HGTV shows and see my neighbors over the fence at a socially acceptable distance, ride my bike and cook more than ever! I've always cooked but lately I'm doing so much more. But one thing I've been doing that has taken up many, many hours while watching those tv shows, is helping a friend and co-worker. Along with working full time in the same office as me she is a very talented seamstress. She has been sewing for most of her life and decided to try her hand at making masks when the need presented itself. To date she has made well over 200 masks and as she said, "be careful what you tell someone in conversation that you like to do, because you may be asked for help." Well, one day a while back it came up in a lunchtime conversation that I iron (a lot!) and anyone who knows me knows I always iron. She asked if I would mind pressing seams in some masks and I've been doing that and ironing whatever parts she makes to get these out to the people that need them. We've been exchanging bags of ironed pieces with bags that need to be done whether at work on our rotating days or in parking lots or front porches. It's become "a side job" of sorts but fills many hours in my "off" time. I am looking forward to the time when we will no longer need masks and can get back to whatever our "new normal" will look like. But until then, I'm cooking, doing yard work, biking, reading, working and ironing, always ironing.

Family Activities

Shelter in place + active kids = major stir craziness. Here are some activities that reduce boredom, help you bond as a family and share God's love too. Perhaps you already have these tricks up your sleeves or maybe you can add something new to your list!

Surprise someone by making something for them to help remind them that God (and your family) loves them.
Make crafts from recycled items. https://www.highlights.com/parents/crafts/31-kids-crafts
Make your own clay with four simple ingredients. https://www.highlights.com/parents/crafts/homemade-clay
Build a fort.
Make a pizza together: https://www.mykitchenlove.com/homemade-pepperoni-pizza-cooking-with-kids/
Make an origami: www.origami-instructions.com/
Have a dance party. Glow sticks make this even more fun.
Explore what God's creatures, great and small, are up to all over the world through live cams at explore.org
Play a board game or challenge your family to make one up.
Make an obstacle course.
Try GoNoodle at https://www.gonoodle.com. These videos offer movement, yoga and mindfulness, which help homeschoolers get back on track after sitting too long.

Education

The Coronavirus has changed life as we know it, Sunday School included. One of the things that has remained constant and provided comfort to our children during these uncertain times is the youth message during the service. Thank you Pastor David. Parents have been given resources from the Sparkhouse curriculum including a copy of the Bible story, teaching guides, leaflets and activities to aid with teaching at home. But we look forward to the time when Sunday School rooms are filled again with teachers, learning, fun and friends!

We have spent many weeks apart and a lot has happened in these young lives. Here are some of the things that the children are excited to share with their teachers and church friends.

Julia & Matthew– Julia lost her first tooth and the tooth fairy left a gold coin! Matthew is shocked and excited to share that a huge limb fell off our maple tree onto our driveway during one of the big wind storms. Fortunately no cars or people were hurt.

Jack & Jules– Jack has been doing social distancing bike rides with one of his friends and unfortunately wiped out! He's got a bit of road rash on his face but luckily he has no where to go so no one will see it! Lol. Jules loves homeschool and never wants to go back to school again. Eek! She's really used technology to her advantage and has a few online playdates every day!

Sarah, Bethany, and Alex– Have been doing lots of crafts including Legos, making face masks, and chalk art.

Addison & Aidan– Have been working hard keeping up with their karate lessons on ZOOM!

Roast Beef Dinner

How lucky are we that our Roast Beef Dinner was in the beginning of March, rather than later in the month with the COVID-19 pandemic?!

We did very well, we made a profit of $2800 and served 260 people. We also had more orders for take-out this year. We wish to thank one and all for everything that our volunteers did to make the Roast Beef Dinner a success. Every job, no matter how big or small, helps to make everything run smoothly. We are also grateful for the students from the Freehold Boro High School Culinary Program for their help. Great job everyone!

Quarantine Fun

Pinkie Pie by Julia Uchno

Bethany, Sarah, and Alex have been making cards for people effected by the Quarantine.

Matthew "the News 12 anchor" providing weather and Coronavirus stats updates. Is this a sign of the times or was mom watching way too much news on TV?

Sarah sewed her very own Coronavirus mask.

Jack got a new pair of rollerblades to keep active since baseball season was cancelled.

What Have You Been Up To?

John Carrig- "A well composed book is like a magic carpet on which we are wafted to a world we cannot enter in any other way." *Anonymous.*

I've been an aficionado of good books as far back as I can recall, and indeed a well composed book can transport me vicariously to some far off place and era "[I] cannot enter in any other way." I have no favorite author or favorite book, to me at least a half a dozen authors and their works would be on a par with each other. One of those authors is John Steinbeck and he is helping me get through the pandemic: I have more than a few of his books on hand and I decided to reread, e.g., *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Tortilla Flat*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Short Reign of Pippin IV, Cannery Row*, and so on, and I'm about to embark on *East of Eden* for the first time. After he finished *East of Eden* he responded to his editor who had encouraged him to write another book: "*...I asked you what you wanted, and you said a box... to put things in. What things? Whatever you have, you said. Well here's your box. Nearly everything I have is in it, and it is not full. Pain and excitement are in it, and feeling good or bad and evil thoughts and good thoughts – the pleasures of design and some despair and the indescribable joy of creation. And on top of these are all the gratitude and love I have for you. And still the box is not full."*
Beautiful, his box gave me an idea: I have created a proverbial box of my own and put things in it, a long list of things, not unlike John Steinbeck, [and] still the box is not full. It never will be.

Lorraine Yoncak– I'm trying to look at the silver linings and the rainbow during this storm. I have been enjoying the meaningful phone conversations that we now have time for. I look at the sharing that I see going on around our community and am thankful to be part of it. I hope we all change for the better after this time in our lives and all become more thankful for what we have been blessed with.

Catherine Delhagen– I have been keeping busy using crafting materials I have on hand. I have also been making miniature flowers out of three slices of bread. https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Flowers-from-Old-Bread

Ann Serafin– I haven't been doing to much since I can't get out of the house but when this is all over my family will celebrate all the missed birthdays party's during one big party.

The Sanicola's– We have been making driveway chalk art, building with Lego's, and making face masks. The girls have been studying hard with home schooling.

A Poem by Bill Starsinic

A turn of fate that
Brings this pestilence
Of vengeful Nature
She takes revenge
And sweeps earth's cities
With her deadly scourge
Then waits to see
What man will do.

And man does do
By turns wicked and evil
Recklessly inhumane
But then we see
The kinder souls appear
To take command
The gentle hands of women
The strong backs of men
Defend the gates
To save the future
Of our race...

Image credit | Sara Paglia

"What a piece of work is a man,
how noble in reason,
how infinite in faculties,
in form and moving how express and admirable,
in action how like an angel,
in apprehension how like a god!
the beauty of the world,
the paragon of animals."
(Last stanza, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*)

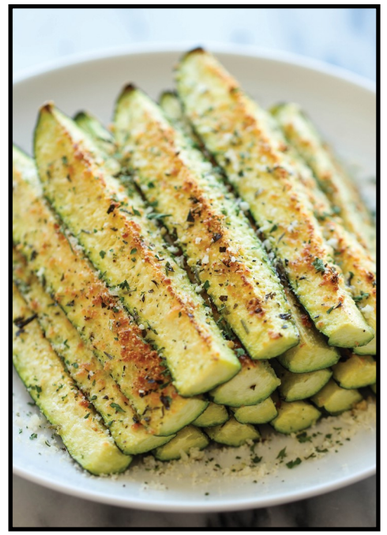
What Have You Been Up To?

Janet Murphy- it's very hard being distanced from family and social events but we've been keeping busy by walking our development, ALOT!!!! Also I have been meeting up with a group of women in the development whom I've become good friends with. We will meet up in the parking lot, social distanced of course, to chat. Most recently we have even played bingo.

Jean & Richard Krohn– Not a whole lot has changed. I have to think a little bit more about shopping. We're still working since refrigerators and freezers for the stores still need repair. Not quite as busy with calls but still enough to do. I was able to put down new carpet in our office because Andrea took Easter week off. It was only sitting in our shop since October. Thankful we are working, so many are not. I like the internet services. We shop for Hans & Irma. Thankfully they are healthy. Take care.

Favorite Recipes

Baked Parmesan Zucchini
Submitted by Gabrielle Uchno
From damndelicious.com



- 4 zucchini, quartered lengthwise
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

Directions:
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Coat a cooling rack with nonstick spray and place on a baking sheet; set aside. In a small bowl, combine Parmesan, thyme, oregano, basil, garlic powder, salt and pepper, to taste. Place zucchini onto prepared baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with Parmesan mixture. Place into oven and bake until tender, about 15 minutes. Then broil for 2-3 minutes, or until crisp and golden brown. Serve immediately, garnished with parsley, if desired.

Broccoli Rabe, Orecchiette, and Sausage
Submitted by Lauren Redmond

- 1 Bunch of Broccoli Rabe
- 1 small package of thin coiled Italian Sausage
- 1/2 box orecchiette pasta
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 cup of chicken broth
- 1/4 cup of grated parmesan cheese
- 1 pinch of crushed red pepper flakes
- Olive oil

Directions:
Trim the hard end off the broccoli rabe and dice the remaining stalks into 1 inch pieces. Par boil for 2 minutes and drain on a paper towel and set aside. Boil the 1/2 box of orecchiette according to the package details. Meanwhile slice the sausage into 1/4 inch pieces (you can keep or remove the casing) Cook in 2 tablespoons of olive oil until no longer pink. Remove and drain on a paper towel. Add the minced garlic and red pepper flakes to the pan and saute for 30 seconds then add the rabe and the sausage to the pan. Add the chicken broth and parmesan cheeseand cook for a few minutes or until sauce thickens. Add the pasta to the pan and cook for 1 more minute. Serve with fresh grated parmesan.