

News From the Pews

JULY 1, 2022

REFORMED CHURCH OF FREEHOLD
DEMONSTRATING GOD'S RECONCILING LOVE

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Fellowship

Our church garden has been setup and planted and is now growing! A big thanks to our many helping hands and our generous donations for making this all possible. We hope you take a moment to visit it. With God's hand at work, there is always something new and amazing to see, such as new leaves, new blossoms. If you are interested in helping out with watering, the sign up sheet is in the lobby.

We will continue with Fellowship Hour after church on the front lawn. Our next dates are July 10 and August 21. Lemonade and cookies will be served. We hope you can join us. Thank you to Helen and Amy who donated a welcome addition of tasty homemade treats in June.

We are also looking forward to a couple of fellowship gatherings outside of church this summer. Please save the dates! Sunday, July 10 we will meet at 2 pm for a bike ride at the Manasquan Reservoir. Thursday, August 18 we are planning a Blue Claw's game outing. Stay tuned for more information.



Community Arts Center of Freehold

It's hard to believe that Summer is upon us. After a successful Spring Break Arts Camp, it's time to add a week of Theater intensive for our community. As of this writing, there are already sixteen students registered. We are happy to welcome Tieisha Thomas to the CACF staff to lead our students in a week of various aspects of acting Tieisha comes to the CACF with Broadway/Off-Broadway and Television and film credits. She is a SUNY Buffalo graduate. Stay tuned for information about the end-of-week finale performance on August 19th. All children in the congregation are invited to participate in this theater program. All students attend CACF programs at no cost thanks to our generous supporters.



Community Arts Center of Freehold is a partner organization with the Reformed Church of Freehold, The Freehold Area Open Door Food Pantry, and Gramercy Brass of New York.

Pastor's Pen

This summer we will explore some of Jesus' parables that are found in the gospel of Matthew. Parables are engaging, intriguing, and memorable. Jesus' parables have a personal style, clarity, simplicity, and masterful construction. Parables make us think. They pique our curiosity. They are meant to provoke questions.

Why are laborers paid the same regardless of how long they worked?

Why are the irresponsible bridesmaids not allowed in?

Why sell everything for a single pearl of great value?

While the Greek word for parable means to compare, Jesus would have used the Aramaic word for parable, *mathla*, which can mean both parable and riddle. Jesus wants listeners to think about God's kingdom.

I am told that Jesus himself asked 307 questions and that 183 questions were asked of him. One source said he answered 3 of those questions, another suggests it was 8. At times those answers still leave us asking questions.

As we look at parables this summer, we will wonder about what Jesus is teaching regarding the kingdom of heaven. How might our understanding of the kingdom of heaven change the way we live now? In *Rediscovering the Parables* J Jeremias writes, "Jesus is full of joyful confidence: God's hour is coming, and will bring with it a harvest of reward beyond all asking and understanding. . . God brings from hopeless beginnings the glorious end that ... has [been] promised." If we are certain the kingdom of heaven will arrive, as a mustard seed produces a sheltering bush, as yeast causes bread to rise, as seed on good soil produces a harvest beyond measure, how might we live differently? How might we make God's kingdom come and God's will be done here in Freehold?

Peace,
Pastor David

Missions

The Mission of the Month for July 2022 is Mission Partners India (MPI). Mission Partners India's sole purpose is to see the rural poor and marginalized people in South India transformed to their full potential in God's image and empowers families to rise above poverty. MPI operates several programs: Geegh Nursery School - provides tuition grants and essential needs for 220 children ages 1½ to 6 years old; Hope English Medium School - tuition grants for 106 children grades 1 through 10 that are Geegh Nursery graduates and a music teacher; Banyan Tree Tailoring Program - training, sewing machines and supplies (trains and equips women with the skills needed to provide sustainability for their families through home-based micro-enterprises and mentorship program); Give-a-Cow Program - provides women with a sustainable income for their families; Church Plants (village gathering places). For further information please see: missionpartnersindia.com. Donations can be made to our July Mission project by using your "mission" envelope, TITHE.LY online account or delivering it to the church office. Note: The name Geegh comes from Mary Geegh who served as Reformed Church in America (RCA) missionary to South India in the former Arcot Mission region for thirty-eight years from 1924-1962.

Reformed Church of Freehold

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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 will be out of the office for the summer, but she will return on Thursdays from 8-11:30 AM in September. She will continue to check emails and voicemails. In case of emergency cell number is 732-766-5147.

Education

Hello friends! This summer for Sunday School, we have some fun activities planned that correlate to sermons Pastor David will be preaching all in the subject of seeds, planting, building, and growing. Let us grow in faith together as we share in the fun activities. Please be aware, there will be no Sunday School on July 24. We are still in need of teachers, so if you are willing to help, please contact Sharon Sanicola.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

JULY

1 Tom Bateman
2 Wyatt Tiedemann
4 Michael Murphy
13 Kevin Goetz
16 Eric Tiedemann III
23 Ashley Biddle
27 The Lambert/Newland’s

28 Joel Uchno
31 Carol Bateman

AUGUST

1 David Groeneveld
3 Hans Krohn
13 Missy Dey

20 Joyce Ojo
22 Kyle Dey
22 Ethan Tiedemann
23 Sarah Sanicola
25 Bill Biddle



**THE REFORMED
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OF FREEHOLD**

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DEMONSTRATING GOD'S
RECONCILING LOVE

Dates to Remember

JULY

- 3 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
- 7 Thursday Consistory Meeting, 6:30 PM
Fellowship Hall & Zoom
- 10 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
Fellowship Hour
- 17 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
- 24 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
No Sunday School
- 31 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School

AUGUST

- 7 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
- 14 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
- 18 Thursday Blue Claws Game
(see sign-in sheet in lobby)
- 21 Sunday Easter Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School
Fellowship Hour
- 28 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School