

News From the Pews

MAY 2023

REFORMED CHURCH OF FREEHOLD
DEMONSTRATING GOD'S RECONCILING LOVE

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Community Arts Center of Freehold

A week of arts camp was held April 10-14. Students were engaged in music, games, and food projects. Students were also invited to learn more about playing an instrument.

Summer Arts camp will take place August 14-19. You can follow us on our website, www.communityartsfreehold.com, or on Facebook. Thanks to all for this partnership with the Reformed Church, Gramercy Brass, and Freehold Area Open Door.

On May 21, 2023, at 3 pm, you can hear members of the Gramercy Brass Principal Quintet perform on the lawn of our church for the Freehold Boro PORCHFEST. This will be a free event. Bring your lawn chair! In the event of rain, the concert will take place in the sanctuary. Porchfest runs from 12- 5 throughout the Boro, culminating in a concert in front of the Hall of Records. Maps will be available soon. See John Lambert or Lee Ann Newland for more information. If you would like to volunteer to sell water and snacks at our venue, all proceeds will come back to the CACF youth programs.



Fellowship



We had a nice crowd for the Easter celebration after worship. Thank you to those who contributed a delicious dish to the covered dish brunch. It was a special time for good food and fellowship.

Movie night was a fun time too! It was nice to see so many different ages come out and enjoy a heart warming, comical adventure and not to mention visually stunning movie together.

Our next coffee hours will be on May 14th, Mother's Day and June 18th, Father's Day. We hope you can stay and join. A big thank you to those who have been contributing baked goods to share. They have been very much enjoyed. We always welcome them!

Spring is in the air and summer is right around the corner, which means it is time to start planning the garden. Have you noticed? Last year's strawberries are already starting to blossom. We have used the church's grow-light to start cherry tomatoes and basil from seed. We will plant some and share some. We plan to experiment with a few new choices for the garden this year too. We pray our giving garden will be blessed and look forward to helping our community through donations to Open Door again. Come join us for our planting day, Memorial Day weekend after worship on May 28th and help kick off our season!

Pastor's Pen

For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12)

I love the joy captured at the thought of mountains bursting into song while trees clap their hands. Creation itself celebrates what God is doing in our world. I write this on earth day as spring is arriving with budding trees and flowers pushing through the earth. It is wonderful to see new leaves on the Japanese maple in front of the parsonage. The church's vegetable bed will be yielding produce soon. Creation is bursting forth to celebrate God's amazing gift of life.

This world is an amazing gift, given to us by God. As with any gift the giver trusts us to care for that which is given. In Genesis God repeatedly calls this world good, and in conclusion, calls on the creatures of the Earth (Eve and Adam) to care for creation. The phrase is most often translated have "dominion over," which rings true to the original language and culture. Some translations have tried to shift the emphasis by using language such as "rule over," "govern," or "be responsible for." Word choices do matter. Too often we have used the word "dominion" to mean "do whatever we want with creation." The truth is to have dominion over something is to have responsibility for it.

Our world is a precious gift we are called to care for and watch over. Just as creation celebrates God's activity, creation can also grieve our failure to care responsibly for this gift. Romans 8:22-23 tells us "The whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves." Our lives and the life of creation are bound together in solidarity through God's creating work. Earth Day is a call to celebrate God's creation, reflect on this gift and our responsibility to it, and to resolve to make a difference. Let us join with creation in praising God's name and caring for one another.

Peace,
Pastor David

Community Arts Center of Freehold

The Mission of the Month for May 2023 is Cypress Missions, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization overseen by Freddie Fiorentino, that helps expedite the humanitarian needs to rebuild distressed or impoverished areas during relief work. Their goal is to facilitate aid and initiate rebuilding through small community leaders, who in turn reach out to others and serve as a base for the community. Their work is community based and they collaborate with other nonprofits and organizations, such as retired military vets, food banks, churches, preschools, community volunteers, and residents on local, national or global projects. Donations can be made to our May 2023 Mission project by using your "mission" offering envelope, marked: "Cypress Missions;" TITHE.LY online account, or delivering it to the church office. To contact Cypress Missions, their phone number is (732) 278-3797, and their email is info@cypressmissions.com or freddie@cypressmissions.com

Reformed Church of Freehold

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CONSISTORY 2023

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
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’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.

Worship & Music

The organ repair is nearing completion! It has been quite a while since the sanctuary has been filled with the sounds of the organ. Over the next few weeks, our faithful repairman will be tweaking the final computer issues, and we hope to have the organ back online shortly. Stay tuned for more information!

Greeters are also needed for Sundays, beginning in May. Two greeters are needed to welcome members and guests on Sunday mornings. Parents and children can volunteer to work together. This would be a great way to introduce the young people to some more aspects of the worship experience. Please email the office if you would like to greet.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

MAY: 1 Paul Yoncak, 6 Casey Moore, 7 John Carrig, 7 Connie Carrig, 17 Candi Weinberg
21 Tom Moore, 24 The Polifkas, 24 Aidan Seifert, 28 The Bateman’s

JUNE: 10 Donna Jacobus, 13 Glenn Jacobus, 16 Addison Seifert,
26 Joshua Weinberg



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Dates to Remember

MAY

- 7 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
- 11 Thursday Consistory Zoom Meeting, 7 PM
- 13 Saturday Church Yard Sale, 8-2 PM
- 14 Sunday Worship, 10 AM, Sunday School
Coffee Hour
- 21 Sunday Worship, 10 AM, Sunday School
PorchFest, 3 PM
- 28 Sunday Worship, 10 AM,
Planting Day!

JUNE

- 4 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
- 8 Thursday Consistory Zoom Meeting, 7 PM
- 11 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
- 18 Sunday Worship, 10 AM, Sunday School
- 25 Sunday Worship, 10 AM, Sunday School
Coffee Hour

