

News From the Pews

REFORMED CHURCH OF FREEHOLD
DEMONSTRATING GOD'S RECONCILING LOVE

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Pastor's Pen

For the first time in two years the consistory met in person last night. (Members were given the chance to join by Zoom as well.) The last time we shared a room together was March 2020. It was wonderful to be in the same room together. We wore our masks. We asked folks to repeat what they said instead of asking them to unmute their zoom connections. We attended to the work of the church.

One item up for discussion was a potential new tenant. If all goes well, you will hear more about it as we get further along in the arrangement and all goes well. In the meantime, we all had many questions, questions that couldn't be answered without more information: "What will happen to the insurance?" "How will the utilities be affected?" "What if the trash doesn't go out?" They are all excellent questions that couldn't be answered without more information. A team was appointed and we will begin to work it all out. Our task is to "begin the work." As I opened a Lenten resource this morning, I was reminded of Haggai chapter 2. It says, "Take heart . . . begin the work, for I am with you . . . and my spirit is present among you. Have no fear." Our call is to begin the work.

I am reminded again and again that as Christians we begin the work with prayer. Back in seminary days while leading a summer work project in Jersey City, I brought a mother, her five kids, and few others into Chinatown one afternoon. At one point we realized the 14-year-old son was missing. He was on a mission to buy something and we weren't facilitating it quickly enough. As we realized he was not to be found we also realized we were standing outside of a police station. My instinct was to go inside and ask for help. The Pastor said, "No, we start with prayer." We formed a circle and prayed. As our prayer ended, the determined teen found us on the street. Prayer is not always answered so fortuitously. Regardless, we need to begin with prayer.

This Lent can you begin each day with five minutes focused on the prayer "I belong to God"? Can you end the day focused for five minutes on "I am grateful for . . ."? As Lent proceeds you might add a psalm reading, scripture reading or two. Let's begin the work with prayer.

Peace,
Pastor David

Property

Over the years, tree roots from a tree on the parsonage front lawn damaged the parsonage sewer line. We hired, Tree Wise Men, to remove that tree from the front lawn in January. This was in preparation for the new parsonage sewer pipe replacement which was completed in February by plumber, Fred Fiorentino. We're looking forward to replacing this tree by planting a new one in a different location with smaller roots in the spring with the help of our Sunday School children.

Reformed Church of Freehold

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67 W. Main Street, Freehold, NJ 07728
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Pastor–David Groeneveld
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Organist/Choir Director–John Girvin

Secretary–Lauren Redmond
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Treasurer–Jill Moore

CONSISTORY 2022

Lorraine Yoncak– V.P., alt. Classis Delegate
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 is in the office from 8:15 AM –11:45 AM on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. 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

While you are Spring Cleaning, please remember you can donate items to the RCW Spring Yard Sale which will be on Saturday, May 14. Items can be brought to church and left in room 7 down stairs. Please bring large items the week prior to the sale so they do not have to be taken up and down the stairs for storage. We will also have a bake sale that day. Please come out to help, shop and enjoy the fellowship. Proceeds of the sale will be used for charitable causes and or the purchase of front doors for the church. We hope to see you there!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

MARCH

2 Louise Beams
5 Andrea Tiedemann
7 Janet Murphy
9 Lynne Morano
10 Lois Furlong
12 Lauren Redmond
21 Brain Ringwald
21 Michael Polifka
23 Sharon Sanicola
29 Carol Jean Biddle
29 Lee Ann Newland

APRIL

1 Susan Frank
1 Donna Ringwald
8 Rebecca Barth
14 Gerrie Biddle
17 Beth Schupsky
20 Joann Antal
24 The Krohn’s
28 The Morano’s
30 The Moore’s



Lenten Prayer Series

The **Freehold Clergy Association Lenten Prayer Services** will begin on Wednesday, March 9, at 12:30 PM. The first service will be held at First Assembly of God, 272 Jackson Mills Road, Freehold, with Father Jim Conover preaching. This service will be available for live stream. The following list of Lenten Prayer dates and locations are tentative so please confirm with the church office before you plan to attend. For more information please contact Jen at jelsensohn@strobart.cc or call 732-462-7429, extension 141.

Date	Location	Preacher
March 9	First Assembly of God	Rev. Jim Conover
March 16	St. Rose of Lima	Reverend Alan Olson
March 23	Bethel AME	Reverend Wil Wilson
March 30	Co-Cathedral St. Robert's	Rev. David Groeneveld
April 6	First United Methodist Church	Msgr. Sam Sirianni
April 15 (Good Friday)	First Baptist Church	Rev. Bernadette Cataline

Community Arts Center of Freehold

As the warm weather approaches and things are beginning to open up again, the Community Arts Center, housed at the Reformed Church of Freehold, has some new events to look for in the next few months! First, in partnership with Freehold Open Door, the Arts Center will sponsor a free Instrument Try-out day and instrument drive on March 19, 2022. In addition, there will be a six-week free instrumental lesson course following this event for students. Dates will be announced shortly. The CACF plans to host a four-day arts camp during the Freehold schools Spring Break. And we look forward to presenting two Jazz performances in late spring/early Summer. You can find information for all of these events at our new website: www.CommunityArtsFreehold.com or our Facebook page.

Recipes

Authentic Pasta Fagioli- submitted by Lauren Redmond

3 15 oz. cans cannellini beans	3 cups beef broth
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil	3 cups chicken broth
1/2 medium onion, chopped	1 cup crushed tomatoes
2 cloves garlic, chopped	1 1/3 cups ditalini pasta, uncooked
4 oz. pancetta or 4 strips of bacon, diced	1 tsp kosher salt

Drain ONE can of beans and set aside. In a large soup pot, heat oil. Add onion and pancetta and sauté for about 5 minutes. Add garlic and rosemary and sauté for an additional 4 minutes. Transfer ingredients to a blender or use an immersion blender and add the TWO cans of beans undrained and puree until smooth. Add the mixture back to the pot along with drained beans, chicken and beef broth, salt, and crushed tomatoes. Bring to a boil. Once boiling add the pasta and cook until al dente, stirring occasionally. Serve with crushed red pepper and parmesan cheese if you like.

**THE REFORMED
CHURCH
OF FREEHOLD**

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Freehold NJ 07728

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Website:

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DEMONSTRATING GOD'S
RECONCILING LOVE

Dates to Remember

MARCH

2 Wednesday Ash Wednesday

6 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School

8 Tuesday Consistory Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

13 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School

20 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School

27 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School

APRIL

3 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School

10 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School

12 Tuesday Consistory Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

14 Thursday Maundy Thursday

15 Friday Good Friday

17 Sunday Easter Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School

24 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School