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## Fellowship

It's hard to believe another summer season has quickly come and gone. The garden grew nicely and blessed us for another year. A big thank you to our faithful waterers and harvesters. We were happy to share many harvests with Open Door, CALM Academy, church members and staff and at fellowship hour. Even though we didn't come close to the bumper crop of cucumbers that we had last year, we had a great crop of tomatoes, bush beans, radishes, eggplant and herbs. Take a visit to see the garden before it is gone. We even have a tiny watermelon that is trying it's hardest to grow. It is much easier to spot now that the bush beans have been removed. Also, I was very excited to see a butterfly visiting one day and was even more excited to capture it on camera.



Fellowship is a special time and our hope is to be able to offer coffee hour twice a month. Thank you to Lee Ann, Helen and Amy for making this possible this fall. We are still in need of someone to host Sept 24th. I, Gabrielle, will continue hosting once a month as well. Baked goods are also most welcome and appreciated. If you would like help by hosting or baking a treat, there are sign up sheets in the lobby. Thank you in advance.

## Reformed Church Women

On Saturday October 7 we will be having our fall yard sale from 8-1. We hope you all have some time in September to do some fall cleaning and donate some useful items to our collection. We will also be selling baked goods so if you want to donate some cookies, breads or small cakes that would be appreciated.

The Holly Berry Boutique will be held on Saturday, November 18. We will again have many Christmas crafts, gifts, decorations and our Soup and Baked Goods sale. We will be meeting on Tuesdays at 10am to prepare for this starting September 26 in the Fellowship room. The soup sale order forms will be available in early October. Both activities are to raise money that we then donate to worthy charities so please support these events. Thank you for any help you can give with our efforts.

## Pastor's Pen

At the beginning of July, I had the pleasure of traveling to the Netherlands for a continuing education seminar. Students in the classroom were from the Netherlands, Hungary, Korea, and The United States of America (which included folks from Michigan, New York, and New Jersey). All of us would be labeled "Reformed" Christians, yet within this small group of maybe 40 folks we had a wide range of understandings of what it means to be Christ followers. While our topic was the Church's Role in Times of Polarization, some thought the church should be a reconciling force, others thought it needed to become more pious and separatist in our faith, and others thought it needed to more boldly proclaim God's call for justice and welcome. This gathering embodied a small portion of the diversity within Christ's body. It calls to mind Romans 12 when Paul says, "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." The Holy Spirit shows up in many ways and places calling Philip to witness to an Ethiopian official, summoning Peter to the home of Cornelius, and sustaining the faithful Jewish followers of Jesus in Jerusalem. In the end, God will sort us out and make things right. We can trust that when that day comes God will act with the heart of a loving parent.

Peace,  
Pastor David

## Community Arts Center of Freehold

On August 15, the Community Arts Center directors welcomed nine young people from our church, with a few friends, for three days of musical study. The students worked on technical studies such as rhythm, using bucket drums and small percussion instruments. Additionally, everyone played a brass instrument to learn Kumbayah. This small introduction to instrumental study for the youngest of the group, along with learning team building and mentoring skills was meaningful not only to the students but to the adults involved as well. Stay tuned for a presentation during a worship service in the near future!



The Community Arts Center is also planning Spring Break and Summer of 2024 camp programs to welcome more children and families from the community to the Reformed Church of Freehold. String day is in the works for a Winter string intensive program presented by the Madison String Quartet, as well as continuing community performances by the Principal Quintet of the Gramercy Brass, an evening of Jazz, and a performance by the Princeton University Chapel Choir.

Thank you to the Reformed Church of Freehold, Freehold Area Open Door, and our sponsors for continued support of these outreach programs.

## Celebration of the Life of William & Lori Starsinic

William and Lori Starsinic were a beloved part of the Reformed Church of Freehold. Bill was our organist for over 50 years and Lori was a dear friend and visiting choir member. Sadly, we lost Bill and Lori in recent years. Bill and Lori's daughter, Lisa Starsinic Gilmore, is planning a Celebration of their lives on Saturday, October 28 at 11 AM. The Women's Ministry will be serving a luncheon in Fellowship Hall following the celebration of life.



## Backpacks

The Mission Committee thanks you for your support of the backpack collection for local students in cooperation with Freehold Area Open Door. Thirty-three backpacks were delivered to Open Door on August 21. They were very grateful. Volunteers were thrilled to have such a wide variety of backpacks. One Open Door staff person commented, "Unicorns! Someone just asked for a unicorn backpack." It is always wonderful to be able to give the children something they were hoping for. Donations totaling \$175 were collected for the purchase of backpacks as well.

A big THANK YOU to the children and teachers of Calm Academy for helping load up Pastor David's car.



## Senior Picnic

Please join us for a senior picnic on Wednesday, September 13 at noon. We will gather at the Lake Topanemus pavilion. You are welcome to invite a neighbor, friend, or relative. Any favorite picnic dish you would like to bring is also welcome. If anyone needs a ride, we have volunteers to assist you. Please let Barb Lyon or the church office know if you are coming, whether you are bringing a guest, what dish you would like to bring, and if you would like a ride.



## Tubing Trip



On Saturday, August 19, fourteen brave souls floated down The Delaware River. The water was high and the river flowed quickly which made for a fun ride. It also meant we had to keep a keen eye out for landmarks and the exit stairs tucked away in the trees. After tubing, our adventurous group gathered at Frenchtown Park for a picnic lunch and some playground time. A great time was had by all!



# 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 will be in the office from 8:15– 11:45am on Thursdays. She will continue to check and answer emails during the week. In case of emergency, Lauren’s cell number is 732-766-5147.

## Missions

Our Mission of the Month for September is Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministries. Begun in 2000, RPCM has been an ecumenical presence on campus. Over the years, RPCH has welcomed Rutgers students to a place where they can gather, share a meal, have good conversations, and engage in local outreach and ministries. Campus ministry plays a key role in connecting a student to a community of faith at a time of being challenged by new ideas and new experiences. RPCM gives each student a place to feel at home among others who are also seeking and searching. Donations can be made to our monthly missions by using your “mission” envelope, TITHE.LY online account, or delivering it to the church office. Please mark your donation “September Mission”. Thank you for your anticipated support.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

**SEPTEMBER:** 3 Melissa Polifka, 4 Amy Craven, 9 Ann Serafin, 21 Michael Polifka  
24 The Uchnos, 29 Nicole Ringwald

**OCTOBER:** 2 The Carrigs, 4 Jack Redmond, 5 Bill Barth, 9 The Seiferts, 10 Rebecca Seifert,  
13 Michael Murphy, 17 Cathy Delhagen, 24 Jill Moore, 31 Jean Krohn



**THE REFORMED  
CHURCH  
OF FREEHOLD**

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DEMONSTRATING GOD'S  
RECONCILING LOVE

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## Dates to Remember

### SEPTEMBER

3 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM  
10 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
13 Wednesday Senior Picnic, Noon  
Lake Topanemus Park  
14 Thursday Consistory ZOOM Meeting, 7 PM  
17 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
24 Sunday Worship, 10 AM

### OCTOBER

1 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM  
7 Saturday Church Yard Sale, 8 AM- 1PM  
8 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
12 Thursday Consistory ZOOM Meeting, 7 PM  
15 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
22 Sunday Worship, 10 AM  
28 Saturday Bill & Lori Starsinic Celebration & Luncheon, 11 AM  
29 Sunday Worship, 10 AM