

# News From the Pews

REFORMED CHURCH OF FREEHOLD  
DEMONSTRATING GOD'S RECONCILING LOVE

Inside this issue:

<i>Fellowship, Pastor's Pen</i>	1
<i>Pastor's Pen, Giving Tuesday</i>	2
<i>Education, Holly Berry Worship, Hospitality</i>	3
<i>CACF, Missions</i>	4
<i>Church Info, Odds &amp; Ends, Thanksgiving, Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</i>	5
<i>Dates to Remember</i>	6

## Fellowship

Who would have thought that we would still be talking about the garden in this newsletter? Certainly not me. But our giving garden kept going strong into October! Over our season we ended up with a total of 7 trips to Open Door. For which they were always appreciative. Our garden must have had great conditions for growing cucumbers since we had close to 40 in total. Not to mention one that was hiding deep in one of the cherry tomato plants. Maybe I was the last to notice? It was a very impressive 14 inches long and almost 3 inches across when I finally did. In any case, we are grateful for this big surprise as well as all the other blessings that came from the garden this season.



Please save the date. We are looking forward to a fun all ages activity on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27 after worship. Susan Vilagi and Pastor David will guide us in decorating Christmas wreaths, which will then be yours to take home! Yummy snacks will also be provided. We thank Thrivent for supporting this Action Team Event. For more information please contact the church office at 732-462-1717 or office@freeholdreformed.org

## Pastor's Pen

With this issue of *News from the Pews* we come to the end of the church's yearly cycle of seasons. First, let me say a word about the seasons in the church year. These seasons are a teaching device to guide us through a faith journey that anticipates Christ's arrival, recalls his ministry, and trains faithful disciples. We begin with Advent, followed by Christmastide, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and conclude with a celebration of Christ the King Sunday.

Second, this gives us some special days to look forward to in November. The month begins with the observation of *All Saints Sunday*, remembering those we have lost in the past year, celebrating the ways they have blessed us, and reflecting on the communion we still have with all those who have moved into the company of all the saints in light. Later in the month we celebrate the *Christ the King Sunday*, which celebrates Christ who gave up heaven to

reveal a kingdom of love and justice. The language of kings and queens may not be relevant to us today, but it invites us to celebrate that Christ is the consummation, the full realization, (continued on next page)

## Pastor's Pen

of what it is to be human faithfully living in covenant with our creator, and that all life is subject to Christ's standard. Whatever may distract us here, Jesus the Christ is our role, our model, the completion of who we are.

Third, the secular holiday of Thanksgiving arrives just before the first Sunday of advent. Let me offer the following exercise recently taught to me by a Catholic friend as a tool for giving thanks for each day. It can also be used to reflect on the year. Ignatius of Loyola was guided by God to pause during his day and his day with a spiritual exercise called The Examen. It consists of five simple steps:

1. Pause and become aware of God's presence
2. Review your day with gratitude
3. Pay attention to your emotions as you review the day
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it
5. Look toward tomorrow.

I have found it a helpful tool to quiet my mind at night. It can also be a helpful tool to center us in gratitude at the end of the Christian year and look again toward the coming of Christ.

Peace,  
Pastor David

## Giving Tuesday- Gramercy Brass

Giving Tuesday is an opportunity to make our community stronger one act of giving at a time. We are happy to announce that Thrivent Financial has chosen Gramercy Brass Orchestra as a charitable partner for this year's Giving Tuesday initiative! Visit our organization's Giving Tuesday donation page <https://bit.ly/GramercyDonate> on Tuesday, November 29, and make a special contribution to support our mission. Thrivent will amplify your impact by matching \$1 for every \$2 raised. Plus, all online processing fees will be covered by Thrivent, meaning 100% of your gift will go right to GBO! Share photos, messages of gratitude, and inspiration from your encounters with the GBO, GBBC or CACF on our donation page <https://bit.ly/GramercyDonate>. For each photo or message posted on this page between November 22 and November 29, Thrivent will donate an additional \$1 up to \$500 for our organization! If you are in the New York area, join us at Holy Trinity Church , 3 West 65th Street on November 15th at 7:30 PM for a Kick off the Holidays concert with Gramercy Brass Quintet and Friends. A reception will follow.

To attend: Register<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gramercy-brass-holiday-concert-hosted-by-thrivent-tickets-443271566187>

## Education

The children will be practicing for the Christmas pageant. The Christmas pageant will be on December 18, 2022 on the topic of Angels. Practices will be December 4th, 11th during Sunday school and a dress rehearsal date to be determined. There are some adult roles and music as well, so if you wish to be a part of the children's play, please contact Sharon Sanicola. Also, here is a picture of some of our church children participating in this year's Crop Walk this past October.



## Holly Berry & Soup Sale



The Reformed Church Women will be hosting the Holly Berry Boutique and Soup Sale on Saturday, December 3, 2022. We will have homemade crafts, baked goods and Christmas treasures. There will also be soup for purchase. The prices are \$5 for a pint and \$10 for a quart. This year's soups include beef barley, tomato, butternut squash, creamy chicken gnocchi, Italian wedding, and chili. Please email the church office by 12/1 to pre-order your soups.

## Worship & Music

Barbara Piercy is joining us as guest musician for the next few months. She comes to the Reformed Church of Freehold with an abundance of experience. Barb and her husband, Noel, are recently retired from the First Presbyterian Church of Caldwell, where they created a varied music ministry. Please stop by the piano to say hello to Barb!

As Christmas Eve is on a Saturday this year we will have one Christmas Eve Service at 4 pm. The hope is that this will allow more of our congregation to attend the Christmas Eve service.

## Hospitality & Congregational Care

A picnic was held for our Reformed Church "Seniors" on September 28. We met up at Lake Topanemus and it was a beautiful warm fall day. The food was delicious, as always ,and we had a much welcomed afternoon of fellowship. We all had a splendid time. We look forward to hosting more social outings in the future.

We have begun sending out a biweekly mailing containing activities and devotionals for those on our care and concern lists and to those who are unable to attend church in person. If you would like to start receiving theses or have them emailed to you, please contact the church office.

## CACF

The CACF has been busy! On October 29, the Madison String Quartet was the guest ensemble, coaching amateur string players in a day of Chamber Music. This event was sponsored by the Association of Chamber Music Players.

On November 10, please join the friends and family of Bill Starsinic and Terrance Fullam as we celebrate their lives with music and art. Terrance and the Fullam family were good friends of Bill Starsinic. This will be a fun evening in celebration of both their lives. The concert begins at 7 PM. A free-will offering will be received to help support CACF programs and the Reformed Church of Freehold.



## Missions

Each December, the Reformed Church of Freehold has set out an Angel Tree with gift tags, each representing a gift to be bought for one of the residents of the Reformed Church Home in Old Bridge. Due to Covid we switched things up a bit last year. We contacted the Home and they said they were in need of particular unwrapped items for those living in the Isolation and Rehabilitation Units. They have requested personal small radios, women's button down sweaters in large or extra large, men's body wash kits, men's extra large zipper front sweatshirts, and religious items such as crosses, books, figurines, etc.

Items can be dropped off in the Narthex or the church office. You can also give monetary donations. Please make checks payable to the *Reformed Church of Freehold* and mark *Angel Tree* in the memo. Please have all donations in by 12/11, we will then purchase the items and deliver them. The staff and residents were so thankful for our donations last year. Lets make this year's collection even bigger!



# Reformed Church of Freehold

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

Pastor—David Groeneveld  
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Treasurer—Jill Moore

Secretary—Lauren Redmond  
office@freeholdreformed.org

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

## CONSISTORY 2022

Wilfred Ojo—Vice President  
Bill Barth—Classis Delegate

## 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’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.

## Freehold Clergy Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Please join the Greater Freehold Clergy Association for our annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Worship Service. The event will be held Sunday, November 20, 2022 at 7 PM, in-person at Temple Shaari Emeth, 400 Craig Road, Manalapan. The service can also be viewed at [bit.ly/FreeholdClergyThanksgiving](http://bit.ly/FreeholdClergyThanksgiving).



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### NOVEMBER

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 4 John Lambert    | 20 Justin Moore     |
| 4 Ray Ojo         | 23 Julianne Redmond |
| 9 Lorraine Yoncak | 25 Barb Lyon        |
| 17 The Murphys    | 25 Sue Vilagi       |

### DECEMBER

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2 The Sanicosas | 18 Florence Ojo |
| 5 Richard Krohn | 8 Michael Ojo   |



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OF FREEHOLD**

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Phone: 732-462-1717

Email:

office@freeholdreformed.org

Website:

www.freeholdreformed.org

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RECONCILING LOVE**

## Dates to Remember

### NOVEMBER

6 Sunday	Communion Worship, 10 AM Sunday School
10 Thursday	Consistory Meeting, 7:00 PM Fellowship Hall & Zoom
13 Sunday	Worship, 10 AM Sunday School
20 Sunday	Worship, 10 AM Sunday School
	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, 7 PM, Temple Shaari Emeth
27 Sunday	Worship, 10 AM Sunday School Wreath Craft

### DECEMBER

4 Sunday	Communion Worship, 10 AM Sunday School
8 Thursday	Consistory Meeting, 7:00 PM Fellowship Hall & Zoom
11 Sunday	Worship, 10 AM Sunday School
18 Sunday	Worship, 10 AM Sunday School
24 Saturday	Christmas Eve Service, 4 PM
25 Sunday	Merry Christmas!