

News From the Pews

Inside this issue:

What's New?

Pastor's Pen, Worship & Music

What's New?

Gramercy Concert, Interfaith Thanksgiving

Favorite Recipes

Church Info, Odds & Ends, Per Capita, Birthdays & Anniversaries

Education, Property

Dates to Remember

REFORMED CHURCH OF FREEHOLD
DEMONSTRATING GOD'S RECONCILING LOVE

What's New?

The Sanicola's-We've been busy making Halloween costumes with a Viking theme for us. The kids have been busy with virtual learning.



Susan Fox- Pastor David officiated the marriage of Elizabeth Fox (daughter of Michael & Susan) & Anthony D'Ambra on Sunday, October 4 in the Fox's yard. After canceling their big wedding back in April, they decided to have a micro wedding rather than postpone it any further. It was a glorious day!



The Redmond's- We decided to keep the kids home and do virtual school. So far it's been working out well and the kids usually have the afternoons off from school. We've been able to keep busy by apple picking, going boating with friends, and lots of baseball games. Jack even tried Stand-up Paddle Boarding for the first time and took right to it. We celebrated his birthday in October by taking him out for a lobster dinner and he even wore a tuxedo shirt, lol.



Pastor's Pen

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

There is a lot we don't know these days. Truthfully, there is always a lot we don't know. We never know what the next hour will bring. These days people wonder whether protests will erupt close to home, will bills be paid, when will the coronavirus fade away? There is heightened anxiety about safety. Where is it safe? How can I feel secure? There are faith and practical resources to help us in these times.

First, if there is a concrete danger it is important to seek help. There are many local programs available, including counseling through a New Brunswick Classis ministry. The Women's Ministry has generously offered to provide financial assistance.

Second, it is important at these times to realize you are not alone. Scripture is filled with the words of anxious and fearful people crying out for help. The book of *Lamentations* is devoted to grief over what has been lost following the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon. God wants to hear our fears and anxieties. We can name them in prayers, even using the words of scripture. It is also important to speak to trusted family and friends. Recognizing you are not alone normalizes the experience and welcomes wisdom from outside ourselves.

Third, we need time in order to find God's meaning in the events of our lives and history. As we quickly approach the waiting season of advent, remember the fear and patience of Mary when she learned she was expecting a child. The angel Gabriel appeared and her expected future disappeared. She held the events of Jesus' birth in her heart, and she was most likely still learning their meaning long after Jesus' resurrection. Too often we try to impose meaning on events prematurely. The prophets in Jeremiah's day wanted to offer assurance and so they said "all is well, all is well . . . when in fact nothing was well." (Jeremiah 6:14, CEB) While we know the victory of the resurrection, we are still waiting to know that day when we will all be caught up together into God's presence. Be patient with yourself and those around you. With time we will see more clearly that our lives are held in God's hand.

Peace,
Pastor David

Worship and Music

This fall it has been a pleasure working with Beth Moore and John Girvin, substitute musicians on Sunday mornings. While COVID is keeping the congregation from enjoying hymns, both Beth and John have made up for that with their musical selections. In addition, on Sunday November 22, 2020 at 4:30, Events@FreeholdReformed is hosting *Gramercy Brass and Friends in Reach for the Stars*, a benefit for the TownClock CDC and their work with Dina's Dwelling. Suggested donation for this online event is \$20 and the event will be streamed at www.eventsfreeholdreformedchurch.com. We hope you will be able to join us for this concert featuring members of the Gramercy Brass Principal Quintet, Dr. John Girvin, Dan McMillan and guest narrator, Brittany Rhodie.

PAGE 2

The Reformed Church of Freehold also hosted a beautiful wedding on October 10, 2020. We would like to send our congratulations to Jennifer (Morano) & Richie Zeoli and to all of their family!



What's New?

The Uchno's– Before school started we took a day trip up to Sussex County to visit the Space Farms Zoo and Museum and drove over to High Point State Park afterwards for a scenic view of NJ, PA, and NY. The first day of school looked and felt very different this year. Wearing masks, keeping a 6 foot distance, hand sanitizer before entering the building and lugging a much heavier back pack since supplies can not be left at school are all part of the new routine. But the kids have adjusted well. They have been excited to get back to the school they hadn't been allowed to enter since April and seeing their classmates after so long has been a plus too. Fingers crossed, so far so good! However, it was really hard for us to say good bye to the summer. We spent the day off from school for the Jewish holiday at the end of September hiking around Hartshorne Woods Park in the Atlantic Highlands and then down at Sandy Hook so the kids could dip their feet in the ocean. The picture below was taken before Matthew "accidentally" fell into the ocean up to his neck!

Bill Starsinic– I thought the following hymn, *Till the Storm Passes By*, would be meaningful at this time in the world.

*In the dark of the midnight have I oft hid my face
While the storm howls above me, and there's no hiding place
'Mid the crash of the thunder, Precious Lord, hear my cry
Keep me safe till the storm passes by*

*Till the storm passes over, till the thunder sounds no more
Till the clouds roll forever from the sky
Hold me fast, let me stand in the hollow of Thy hand
Keep me safe till the storm passes by*

*Many times Satan whispered, "There is no need to try
For there's no end of sorrow, there's no hope by and by"
But I know Thou art with me, and tomorrow I'll rise
Where the storms never darken the skies*

*Till the storm passes over, till the thunder sounds no more
Till the clouds roll forever from the sky
Hold me fast, let me stand in the hollow of Thy hand
Keep me safe till the storm passes by*

*When the long night has ended and the storms come no more
Let me stand in Thy presence on the bright peaceful shore
In that land where the tempest, never comes, Lord, may I
Dwell with Thee when the storm passes by*

*Till the storm passes over, till the thunder sounds no more
Till the clouds roll forever from the sky
Hold me fast, let me stand in the hollow of Thy hand
Keep me safe till the storm passes by*



Lorraine Yoncak: Both my neighbors gave me oak trees in September, so my exercise for the month has been splitting wood for the wood burning stove. Rich estimates I have enough split to last until January 2022. The split and stacked wood is about 60 ft. long and 5 ft. high, a new fence! Turns out the gift was unusual but kept me fit, busy and will keep me warm for a long time.

On the rainy days I helped make 50 bags for the School Kits for Chirch World Services. It was nice to be sewing again. When we can get together again I'd like to teach basic sewing to some of those who wish to learn. Please let me know if you have any interest.

EVENTS AT FREEHOLD REFORMED PRESENTS

REACH FOR THE Stars

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 - 4:30PM



GRAMERCY BRASS AND
FRIENDS IN CONCERT
TO BENEFIT

TOWN CLOCK

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Providing permanent housing
for survivors of domestic violence

**WATCH
ONLINE!**



BRITTANY RHODIE
Artist in Residence
NJPAC Guest Narrator

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$20
eventsfreeholdreformedchurch.com

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Interfaith Thanksgiving

Please join the Greater Freehold Clergy Association for our annual *Community Thanksgiving Worship Service* on November 22, 2020 at 7 PM. The event will be held at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, 16 Georgia Road in Freehold. You may attend via Facebook or YouTube at: Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine or attend via Zoom by emailing jschlameuss@strobert.cc. You may also attend in person by sending an RSVP to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/e/freehold-interfaith-thanksgiving-service-tickets-127366168639>. A collection will be taken to benefit for the Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program (EHAP).

Favorite Recipes

Copycat Olive Garden Pasta Fagioli-Submitted by Lauren Redmond

1 pound of ground beef
1 TBS. vegetable oil
1 chopped onion
8 ounces shredded or finely chopped carrots
3 stalks of celery diced
3 cloves of garlic minced
2 -14.5 oz. cans diced tomatoes
1 can small white or white kidney beans

1 can small red or red kidney beans
1 quart of beef broth
1 TSP. dried oregano
1 TSP. pepper
1 TSP. Tabasco sauce
1 jar of marinara sauce
1 & 1/2 cups of uncooked ditalini pasta
3TSP. Chopped fresh parsley

1. Cook beef in the oil in a large stockpot, breaking it up until it starts to brown. Add the onion, carrot, celery, garlic, and diced tomatoes and simmer for about 10 minutes.
2. Add the beans, beef broth, oregano, pepper, Tabasco, and marinara sauce. Simmer until the carrots and celery are tender, about 45 minutes. Add the pasta and simmer until it's cooked.
3. Stir in the parsley before serving and garnish with parmesan cheese if desired. If you want to freeze the soup omit the pasta and make fresh pasta when you plan to serve it.



Easy Cranberry Brie Bites- Submitted by Lauren Redmond

1 tube of crescent dough 1 can (whole) cranberry sauce
1 large wedge of brie cheese some sprigs of fresh rosemary

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Spray a mini muffin tin with cooking spray. Spread a little flour on your counter and then roll out the dough and press the seams together. Cut the dough into 24 equal sized squares and place them into the muffin tin slots. Cut brie into small pieces and place inside the dough squares. Top with a generous spoonful of cranberry sauce and a little sprig of the rosemary. Bake until the dough is a light golden brown (about 15 minutes). Then serve warm. (You can also use puff pastry sheets or substitute the cranberry sauce and rosemary for caramelized onions and finely chopped walnuts.



Easy Apple Pie-Submitted by Helen McKenzie

1 refrigerated pie crust (14.1 oz. package)
1 egg white lightly beaten
3/4 cup sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch

2 teaspoons cinnamon
4 medium tart apples (ex. Granny Smith),
sliced thinly (about 4 cups)
1 teaspoon sugar

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Unroll the crust and place on a foil lined pizza pan. Smooth out any folds or creases. Brush crust with half of the beaten egg white. Mix 3/4 cup of sugar with cornstarch and cinnamon in a medium bowl. Add apples and toss. Spoon into the center of the crust and spread to within 2 inches of the edge. Fold 2 inch edge of crust up over the apples, pleating or folding the crust as needed. Brush crust with the remaining egg white and sprinkle with 1 teaspoon of sugar. Bake for 20 minutes or until apples are tender. Cool slightly before serving.

Reformed Church of Freehold

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

Pastor–David Groeneveld
dkgroeneveld@comcast.net
Organist/Choir Director–Bill Starsinic

Secretary–Lauren Redmond
office@freeholdreformed.org
Treasurer–To be named

CONSISTORY 2020

Lorraine Yoncak– V.P., alt. Classis Delegate
Bill Barth–Classis Delegate

Barb Lyon– Hospitality & Congregational Care
Lorraine Yoncak–Buildings & Grounds
Lee Ann Newland–Worship & Music
Wilfred Ojo– Human & Financial Resources

Bill Barth– Missions & Benevolences
Helen McKenzie–Fellowship
Gabrielle Uchno–Education
Michael Polifka– Worship & Music

Odds and Ends

Food Certificates

An easy way to support the church is by buying food gift certificates and it won't cost you a dime! The church earns 5% on every dollar you spend. It's a win-win. We have cards for ShopRite and Stop and Shop. Please call the church office to schedule a time to purchase gift cards.

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 9 AM –12:30 PM 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.

Per Capita

A word from Human and Financial Resource Committee: We have been asked about the Per Capita (Assessment) offering envelopes. The first two quarters of our denominational assessments were forgiven, but the final two have been paid. Please, use those offerings to contribute to the per capita denomination assessment. Thank you.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

4 John Lambert
4 Ray Ojo
9 Lorraine Yoncak
9 Rich & Gerrie Biddle
17 Janet & Michael Murphy

20 Justin Moore
23 Julianne Redmond
25 Barb Lyon
25 Sue Vilagi
27 Rich & Lorraine Yoncak

DECEMBER

1 Sharon & Daniel Sanicola
3 Kelsey Mallow
5 Rich Krohn
8 Michael Ojo
18 Florence Ojo
18 John & Audrey Statesir

Education

Our new Sunday School year got off to a great start on Zoom at the end of September. It was wonderful to see everyone! We enjoyed listening to the book *The Creation* by James Weldon Johnson. This was followed by an activity, which involved recreating a few simple drawings of God's creation on a paper plate while it was on top of our heads. As you may notice from the results in the picture, it's much harder than you think! We also had a fun time playing a couple rounds of Creation and Bible bingo.

We are now back to following the Sparkhouse curriculum. The younger class has been meeting on the first and third Sundays of the month and the older class has been meeting on the second and fourth Sunday of the month on Zoom. November 29 is a fifth Sunday, which means both groups will meet together. We surely hope the weather cooperates so we can have an in-person meet up outdoors! We look forward to doing an Advent activity since this will be the first Sunday in Advent.

Families will be receiving a quarterly periodical from Spark Family. Each issue of Spark Family is based on seasons and themes from the Bible and has fun activities for the whole family. We hope our families will find it a useful resource for nurturing faith at home (or on the go) during this very different kind of year.

Thank you to all who have donated to our Church World Service (CWS) school kit project. Through everyone's generous donations and Thrivent Action Team money, we have enough supplies for 50 kits. A big thank you to Lauren for sorting out and keeping track of the supplies. Also a special thank you to Lorraine and Sharon who sewed all 50 bags needed to hold the supplies. We plan to assemble the school kits on November 21 at 2 pm in the church parking lot outside using socially distant precautions. We hope you can join us! CWS distributes kits throughout the year to children in need. We look forward to getting ours to children in difficult circumstances and helping ensure they have the tools they need to succeed in school.



Property



Our building is looking better and better each week. The new side door has been installed. The window trims, doors, railings, foundation and down spouts have been fixed and painted. Our new front sign has been installed and it looks fantastic. Thank you to Kevin Goetz for all of his hard work. Some more projects are in the works and hopefully will be done before weather stops us.

It's fun to look and see what has changed since the last visit. Thank you to all that donated money to the building fund so that we could get some of these necessary projects completed.

THE REFORMED
CHURCH
OF FREEHOLD

67 W. Main Street
Freehold NJ 07728

Phone: 732-462-1717

Email:

office@freeholdreformed.org

Website:

www.freeholdreformed.org

DEMONSTRATING GOD'S
RECONCILING LOVE

Dates to Remember

November

- 1 Sunday** Communion Worship, 10 AM
All Saints Day
Sunday School Zoom, 1 PM Younger Class
- 8 Sunday** Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School Zoom, 1 PM Older Class
- 10 Tuesday** Consistory Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoom Meeting
- 15 Sunday** Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School Zoom, 1 PM Younger Class
- 21 Saturday** CWS School Kit Assembly, 2 PM
- 22 Sunday** Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School Zoom, 1 PM Older Class
Gramercy Concert, 4:30 PM Online
www.eventsfreeholdreformed.com
FCA Thanksgiving Service, 7 PM
At St. Robert's Church and online
- 26 Thursday** **Happy Thanksgiving**
- 29 Sunday** Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School Zoom, 1 PM Group gathering

December

- 6 Sunday** Communion Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School Zoom ,1 PM Younger Class
- 8 Tuesday** Consistory Meeting, 6:30 PM
Zoom Meeting
- 13 Sunday** Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School Zoom, 1 PM Older Class
- 20 Sunday** Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School Zoom ,1 PM Younger Class
- 24 Thursday** **Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 PM**
- 25 Friday** **Merry Christmas!**
- 27 Sunday** Worship, 10 AM
Sunday School Zoom, 1 PM Older Class
- 31 Thursday** **New Year's Eve**