



Summer 2024: Issue #3

The Presbyterian

SIX YEARS!

I love history. I love anniversaries.
I love dates.

Would you believe that I missed my own anniversary here at FPC?

I did.

My first Sunday in the pulpit was July 8, 2018. It seems like an eternity. It also seems like the blink of an eye. The Covid pandemic has done funny things to our perception of time.

Coming here was a great leap of faith for me. I knew no one in Freehold. I had no social support structure. Yet I'd had some great interactions with the Pastor Nominating Committee, so I decided to take a chance and accept their invitation to come to Freehold as the nominee to be your next Pastor.

I remember that weekend vividly.

On Friday afternoon, I met with a realtor. She took me to see a bunch of apartments. I found one I really liked and signed a lease. (Later, that landlord backed out of the lease, but that's another story.) That night, I was invited to dinner with the Fitz-Kelly family, which, of course, included Yvonne Delgado-Lindner. I was overwhelmed by their hospitality.

On Saturday night there was a potluck supper at the church. I'd guess there were at least 30 people there, maybe more. All of the Elders and Deacons and most of their spouses attended. I think most of the Property Commission was there, too. Again, I was impressed with your hospitality. I had a good feeling about all of you and our possible future together.

Then came Sunday morning.

I was more than a little surprised.

I counted the number of people in attendance. (I always count the attendance!)

80.

When I applied for this position, the congregation's Ministry Information Form said that the congregation had 220 members.

Where was the congregation?

Even more surprising, only 60 people stayed for the congregational meeting. What was I walking into?

After worship, I left the sanctuary while you all had a congregational meeting to elect me as your next Pastor. The meeting was moderated by a Ruling Elder who served on the Commission on Ministry (COM) for the Presbytery of Monmouth. During that meeting, our PNC presented my terms of call to the congregation. The motion before the congregation was: Shall we call Rev. Alan Olson to be our next installed Pastor at the terms of call that the PNC negotiated with Rev. Olson?

Someone was concerned that we couldn't afford my initial salary and housing allowance, so a motion was made to split the vote into two questions. First was: Shall we call Rev. Olson to be our installed Pastor? That vote was unanimous: 60-0. The second question was: Shall we call Rev. Olson at the state terms of call? That vote was 59-1. The elder from COM should not have allowed the question to be split.

I didn't realize at the time that this congregation had a huge mortgage.

I understand why one of you got nervous that this congregation couldn't afford me—that \$62,000 a year, plus benefits was too much! But I wasn't concerned that one person had voted against my terms of call. I was concerned that Elder who moderated that meeting allowed the question to be split.

I accepted your nomination, then later, Bev Dame took me out for lunch. I asked her if she was surprised by the attendance. She said she thought it was a good turnout. I asked her how many members she thought FPC had. I can't repeat her answer in the newsletter, but I told her I thought it was 220. Bev almost spit out her Coke when I told her that number.

At lunch, Bev promised to go back through the rolls and find a more accurate number. A few weeks later she called me and said, we think the real number is 110. Half of what I thought it was when I applied!

I didn't think you were lying to me. I know that congregations are often slow to remove people from the rolls. I chose to trust that the Holy Spirit led us to come together. I chose to trust the feelings I had when I spoke with the PNC. I sensed that you are a spirited bunch and that the Spirit was with you.

God finds ways to make the broken pieces fit together.

Jesus fed 5,000 people with just five small loaves of bread and two fish.

I'm glad that I saw your spirit more than I saw your numbers on paper.

Over the last six years, we've paid off that mortgage and we've added new members. Our current number is around

150 members and I expect we'll be adding more members very soon. Our budget still has a deficit, but it's a manageable number. Everything is trending in the right direction.

I'm so glad I accepted your invitation to serve as your Pastor! I have learned so much and grown so much, and in so many unexpected ways. Coming here was one of the biggest choices in my life. It was also one of the best choices I've ever made. Thank you all so very much!

Grace & Peace,



Pastor Alan

**FORWARD
TO
THE FUTURE**

**GRATEFUL
FOR
THE PAST**

PER CAPITA: WHY WE PAY

A Theological Dialogue

Rev. Dr. Alan Olson

Ruling Elder Bill Canning

Alan: In the May newsletter I stated that the Presbyterian Church is a connectional church. That is, we're not an island. We're intimately connected to all of the congregations in our presbytery, the Presbytery of the Coastlands. We're also connected to every other congregation in the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). It can be difficult to see those connections, especially if you don't go to presbytery meetings or serve on committees of the presbytery. This is where our annual Per Capita payments come in.

Bill: Per Capita provides the means to strengthen the connections and participations between nearly all of the 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the PCUSA in order to share in the work of the wider church. All Presbyterians are called to take part in the ecclesiastical and administrative work shared by the whole church through per capita giving.

Alan: The PCUSA is a really big organization. We have the Office of the General Assembly of the PCUSA, which is headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, and it provides structure, guidance, and administrative support for all of the 10,000 congregations and all of the mid councils of the PCUSA. That structure and guidance comes from paid staff members.

Mid councils are the synods and presbyteries across the country. In our presbytery, the Presbytery of the Coastlands, we have four staff members, including a Relational

Co-Leader, an Administrative Co-Leader, a bookkeeper, and an administrative assistant.

Bill: Per Capita is not a mandated payment, but it is a responsibility of each member of the congregation to support one another through per capita giving. Per Capita funds are the primary source of support for the Presbytery of The Coastlands and General Assembly, who provide support, guidance, collaboration, and other opportunities. Through sharing the financial responsibility, Per capita allows congregations equal access to resources and support of the Presbytery without regard to the financial capacity of a church. The leaders of the Presbytery and General Assembly should not be thought of as just church bureaucracy, but as leaders who have the skills and resources to help congregations function when needed.

Alan: Our Relational Co-Leader is Rev. Mary Westfall. In many presbyteries, her position would be called Executive Presbyter. Mary has many responsibilities. She works with all of the congregations in the presbytery to form a vision for the presbytery. Mary is also the pastor to all of the pastors in the presbytery. I couldn't do my job without having Mary to support me.

Jean Woodman is our Relational Co-Leader. Jean is a lay person who has dedicated a great deal of time to the church. She's served as a Ruling Elder and as a Clerk of Session. She also has an MBA. She understands the business of running churches and she's our local expert on Presbyterian polity—the rules of the church. And we love our rules in the Presbyterian Church!

Mary Westfall and Jean Woodman help all of the congregations in this presbytery to work together. They also spend a lot of time

putting out fires. I couldn't do my job without their support.

Bill: Per Capita is included in our budgeted expenses. We didn't always do it this way. We used to ask you to make an additional donation to cover your amount. We are now committed to paying our Per Capita in full, regardless of whether or not you make an additional gift to cover your Per Capita. We are projecting a budget deficit of nearly \$9,500 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. One way that you can help to reduce that deficit is to make an additional gift to cover your Per Capita.

Per Capita is an annual set amount a congregation pays to its presbytery on behalf of each of its members. Currently the annual per capita apportionment is \$40.00 per member. The per capita can be paid to FPC of Freehold any time during our fiscal year from July 2024 to June 2025. Whenever you have the chance to contribute your per capita please note it on your check or envelope. If paying online, please note it on the information line.

Alan: This is really important to me. I want us to be good stewards of the presbytery. I'm very active in this presbytery and I want my words and my actions to be consistent. I want to show the presbytery that FPC Freehold is committed to the larger community.

Bill: Per capita is about community. It is about committing to connection and support between all members of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is about joining together and being one body, the body that is Christ's church in the world.

Alan: When I came to this church, I got bad information about the size of this congregation. I included those details

because that's an example of what happens when there are problems in the relationship between a congregation and a presbytery.

I know that some of you are still angry at the former Monmouth Presbytery for how that presbytery treated this congregation. (Reminder: that presbytery no longer exists!) Many of your complaints are valid. There was also a deeper structural problem: Monmouth Presbytery lacked leadership.

A number of years ago, the presbytery decided it couldn't afford to pay the salary of a full-time Executive Presbytery (EP). The former Presbytery of Monmouth decided to work with the former Presbytery of New Brunswick and share an EP. That worked for a little while, but the woman they hired died from complications from surgery.

The Presbytery of Monmouth adopted what it called a shared leadership model. In that structure, the committees of the presbytery did all their normal work, but without the guidance of an EP.

What was lost in that shared leadership model was a paid staff person who knew all of the congregations of the presbytery. If the former Monmouth Presbytery had had an EP in 2017, that EP might have asked our PNC, "Do you really have 220 members?" An effective EP would have a sense of what's going on in every congregation in the presbytery, including the size of each congregation. An effective EP can reduce turnover among the pastors of a presbytery. That's how your Per Capita keeps us connected to the larger church.

Thank you,

Bill Canning
Treasurer

Alan Olson
Pastor

CALENDAR NOTES**The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated for:**

Capri Troncoso, daughter of Juan Carlos Troncoso and Alyssa Scardelli-Troncoso, on Sunday, August 11th.

Worship Calendar:

Pastor Alan will be away August 11th through August 17th. The pulpit will be filled by the Rev. Dr. Jefferson Hatch on Sunday, August 11th. If you have a pastoral emergency while Pastor Alan is away, please contact the church office. Pastor Alan will be back in the pulpit on August 18th.

Annual Session Retreat:

Sunday, August 18, 2024
The meeting will be held at the home of Chuck & Mersene Stapp.

Labor Day:

Monday, September 2, 2024
The church office will be closed.

September Communion Date:

Communion will be celebrated on September 8th, as the first Sunday in September falls on Labor Day weekend.

Church Office

Telephone: 732-462-0234

Email: fpcsecretary2@gmail.com

Church Picnic:

Sunday, September 8, 2024
Please join us Sunday, September 8th for a picnic lunch following worship.

Book Club:

Monday, September 9, 2024
2:00 PM in Room A/B
Contact: Robin Fox

Presbyterian Women:

Tuesday, September 10, 2024
1:00 PM in Room A/B
Contact: Marie Schlechtweg

Koinonia:

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

- Morning Koinonia
10:00 AM in Room A/B
- Evening Koinonia
7:00 PM via Zoom

Contact: Pastor Alan

Sunday School:

Sunday, September 15, 2024
Grades K–12
9:00 AM class start time
Contact: Vera Musser

Unity Club:

Thursday, September 19, 2024
12:30 PM in Room A/B
Contact: Marie Schlechtweg

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, September 8, 2024



Please join us Sunday, September 8th for a picnic lunch following worship.

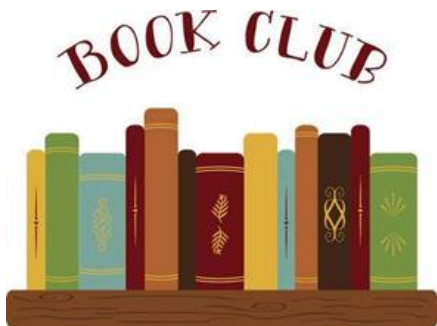
Looking forward to seeing you there!

BOOK CLUB

The FPC Book Club meets the first Monday of each month from September to June at 2:00 PM in Room A/B.

Since the first Monday in September is Labor Day, the next meeting will be **Monday, September 9th**. The book to be discussed is *The Engineer from Brooklyn* by Carole Kane.

Please join us for some fellowship and an always interesting discussion about the book we've read. All are welcome!



If you would like additional information regarding the Book Club, please speak with Robin Fox or email Robin at Beachwalker127@yahoo.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Scripture asks us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

As such, *Presbyterian Women* looks to nurture faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the

mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, to build community, and witness to the promise of God's kingdom.

The circle meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 1:00 PM in Room A/B; March through June and September through December. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 10th**.

If you are interested in joining Presbyterian Women, please contact Marie Schlechtweg or the church office.

KOINONIA



Koinonia resumes on **Wednesday, September 11th**.

Morning Koinonia meets weekly on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in Room A/B.

Evening Koinonia meets weekly on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

If you are interested in joining either morning or evening Koinonia, please speak with Pastor Alan or contact the church office.

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Growing in God's Love



**Sunday School begins September 15th
for Grades K-12 and runs through
Sunday, June 8, 2025.**

Classes start at 9:00 AM and are open to both FPC members and non-members' children. If you are interested in registering your child for the 2024-2025 school year, please contact Vera Musser or the church office. You can also meet our teachers and register your children for Sunday School at the church picnic on Sunday, September 8th.

UNITY CLUB

Unity Club meets the third Thursday of each month, September through June, at 12:30 PM in Room A/B for lunch and refreshments. It's a great time to meet other members for fellowship, friendship and good conversation.

Unity Club next meets on **Thursday,
September 19th.**

If you are interested in joining the Unity Club, please contact Marie Schlechtweg or the church office. All are welcome!

A VISIT WITH...

In July, Pastor Alan visited with **Ed Chan** at Monmouth Crossing. Ed's daughter, Pam, shared this photo.



Also In July, Peggy Guttormsen and Pastor Alan spent some time with **Ginny Yanchus** at Preferred Care in Wall. Peggy shared this patio photo.



CELEBRATING
THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

What a joyful day!

During the July 14th worship service, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for

Lucia D'Ambrosio, daughter of Keith-Michael & Kaitlin Marie D'Ambrosio.



The following week during the July 21st worship service, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for

Avery Hope Gill-Manfredi, daughter of Richard James Manfredi and Amanda Paige Gill.

Another joyful day!



And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)



FROM MISSION/OUTREACH

Thank you 

Thank You to all who donated to the Summer Mission Project!



On August 7, your Mission/Outreach Commission delivered these brand-new items to **Interfaith-RISE** in Highland Park:

- 51 Twin sheet sets
- 31 Pillows

Plus, a complete comforter set and a fluffy blanket!



We are overwhelmed by your generosity and kind hearts. We remember the Matthew 25 passage; the question **“When did I see you hungry and feed you?”** always comes to mind, as we provide food donations to **Casa Freehold**.



But our Summer Mission Project also reflects these words, **“When did I see you a Stranger and Welcome you?”**

Our sheets and pillows will furnish single beds for children and single refugees, real strangers arriving from horrendous situations around the globe.

The very first night they arrive in this country, their bodies will find rest and relaxation snuggled in the pillows and sheets you provided so lovingly.

Thank You, dear friends!

Mission/Outreach Commission



This reminder can be seen on an outside wall of The REFORMED CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK

MUSIC MINISTRY:**Join Us for an Evening of Celestial Sounds:
'Snow Angel' Concert**

This season brings a special musical treat that I'm thrilled to invite you to attend. Immerse yourself in the ethereal sounds of "Snow Angel," a major choral work by Sarah Quartel, featuring an evocative blend of cello and piano accompaniment. This concert also includes performances of pieces by Buxtehude, Bruckner, Hailstork, Betinis, Rossi, and more, along with the East Coast premiere of Joe Gregorio's "Unbounded Angels."

About 'Snow Angel' "Snow Angel" is an enchanting five-movement choral work that delves into themes of love, rebirth, and beauty, as seen through the eyes of children and their guardian angels. The composition includes a captivating cello line and a vibrant djembe in the fourth movement, transforming the mystical atmosphere into an emphatic anthem with an African influence. This concert is not just a performance; it's a storytelling journey.

Concert Details:

- **Date:** December 8, 2024
- **Time:** 3:00 PM
- **Location:**
The Presbyterian Church in Morristown
57 East Park Place
Morristown, NJ
- **Admission:**
In advance: \$30;
students / teachers \$25.
Day of: \$40;
students / teachers \$35.

Explore Our Collaborative Playlist**Announcing "Great Organists / Great Pipe Organ Music from Around the World"**

<https://urlgeni.us/youtube/playlist/GreatOrganists>

I'm thrilled to share a new collaborative playlist featuring some of the finest organ performances from talented organists around the world. This collection includes masterpieces by Bach, Widor, and more, performed by:

1. Paolo Giacone
M. E. Bossi, Stunde der Freude, Op. 132 N. 5
2. Mark Andersen
Fantasie in F Major (his own composition)
3. Eddie Zheng
Charles-Marie Widor - Toccata from Symphony No. 5
4. Manuel Böhm
Nearer My God to Thee
5. Pavla Salvová & Jan Rotrekl
Denis Bédard: Variations sur un thème original - ORGAN DUO
6. Mark Andersen
Litany (his own composition)
7. Paolo Giacone
J.S. Bach, Preludio e Fuga in Sol maggiore, BWV 541
8. Steven Maxson
Prelude on Bread of Heaven, Cockroft
9. Isabelle van Rensburg
Toccata on 'Nun danket alle Gott' (Homage à Charles-Marie Widor) by Theo van Wyk

10. Joseph Goody
In Christ Alone
11. Sean Ryan Baran
Fantasy on Themes by Koji Kondo,
composed by Sean Baran
12. Jefferson Ribeiro
VII Versos - Magnificat - del cuarto
tono, Antonio de Cabezón
13. John Cavicchio
Arrangement of Wer Nur Den Lieben
Gott (Neumark)



Calling All Music Enthusiasts!

Inspired by our music? Join our Chancel Choir or Handbell Choir and be a part of creating beautiful music together. Rehearsals for the Chancel Choir are on Thursdays at 7:00 PM, and the Handbell Choir meets Sundays after the worship service. We also welcome volunteers to assist with various aspects of our music ministry—come see me if you're interested.

Blessings,

John Cavicchio
Director of Music
732-558-7525



A NOTE OF THANKS
From Carol Matino...

To:

Sandra Whitehill,
Marie Schlechtweg,
Berwin & Peggy Guttormsen,
Sue Craig,
Susan Beaton,
Susan Pascullo,
and
John Cavicchio

A heartfelt thank you to all of the Worship Commission members. You all make my job easy! I am so honored and blessed to work with such a dedicated group of people. I can't thank you all enough!

Sincerely,
Carol Matino

Thank you!



*And whatever you do,
in word or deed,
do everything in the name of
the Lord Jesus, giving thanks
to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 3:17

HISTORIC RECORDS COMMITTEE

The Historic Records Committee maintains the display case in the back of the sanctuary. The committee changes the display each month or by the liturgical season.



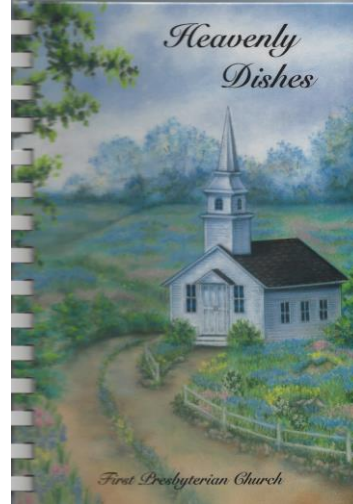
Historic Records Summer 2024

During the hot days of July and August, our theme is church organizations. The Presbyterian Women are pictured from a 'Tea in the Basket' fundraiser as well as an award given for their assistance with 'Family Promise' (a ministry to the homeless.) A community Retirees Group of Freehold was run by a former pastor in the 1970's and there is a picture of 50-year members from 1988. There are also some pictures of a Christian Clowning Ministry and a little brown book labeled "TUXIS girls' group. It is believed that Charlie Lloyd's mom led this group and some research hints that it stood for "Training Under Christ in Service." Finally, there are some pictures from a church picnic in 1998.

Susan Croft

Please check out the display case next time you are in the sanctuary. If you have any questions about the display case items or you are interested in joining the Historic Records Committee, please speak with Susan Croft or Barbara Lloyd.

RECIPE CORNER



In 2011, Presbyterian Women published **Heavenly Dishes**, a cookbook dedicated to all FPC members past and present who so generously supported PW over the years. Here, we'll look to share a recipe or two from that cookbook.

For this issue, we shine the recipe spotlight on **Tomato Feta Salad** and **Peach Crumble**. Enjoy!

TOMATO FETA SALAD

3 pt. cherry tomatoes	¼ c. olive oil
¾ lb. feta cheese	1 tsp. kosher salt
1 sm. red onion, chopped	½ tsp. freshly ground pepper
3 T. white wine or Champagne vinegar	2 T. minced fresh basil leaves
	2 T. minced fresh parsley

Cut the cherry tomatoes in half and put in a large bowl. Dice the feta in ¼ inch pieces, crumbling it as little as possible. Add the feta to the tomatoes, then add the chopped onion, vinegar, oil, salt, pepper, basil, and parsley. Toss carefully and salt to taste. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Sfirin K. Platt

PEACH CRUMBLE

1 c. sugar	9 in. pie shell
1½ c. flour, divided	½ c. butter
½ tsp. cinnamon	½ c. brown sugar
4 c. peaches, unpeeled and cut up	

Mix together 1 cup sugar, ½ cup flour, cinnamon, and peaches. Put into the pie shell. Mix the remaining 1 cup flour, butter, and brown sugar together until ingredients are crumbly. Add this mixture to the top of the filling in pie shell. Bake at 425° for 35-40 minutes.

Janice Mundy



WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Welcome to our word search puzzle! Words are found in a straight line horizontally, vertically or diagonally – and may read either forward or backward. Take a moment to read and reflect on the prayer, and then find the words on the list below the puzzle. The answers will be in the next newsletter! Enjoy!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

F	D	E	B	T	S	H	E	A	V	E	N
Z	A	A	P	O	L	T	A	U	G	I	H
D	X	T	C	E	J	M	R	O	L	G	I
E	F	L	H	K	O	Q	T	R	S	A	B
B	A	F	O	E	Y	C	H	O	E	R	S
T	W	R	I	B	R	E	A	D	Y	U	M
O	P	E	T	T	A	M	E	S	Y	A	R
R	B	W	Y	P	F	O	R	G	I	V	E
S	L	O	R	A	W	J	U	R	G	O	Y
Y	E	P	O	H	E	T	N	P	A	N	A
N	K	D	L	D	F	O	R	E	V	E	R
K	I	N	G	D	O	M	Q	V	E	D	P

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| PRAYER | FORGIVE |
| FATHER | DEBTS |
| HEAVEN | DEBTORS |
| KINGDOM | POWER |
| EARTH | GLORY |
| BREAD | FOREVER |

Summer 2024: Issue #2 - Puzzle Solution

T	H	A	N	K	S	A	F	H	O	Z	R
A	R	B	Y	E	I	C	R	G	N	O	E
L	T	E	P	T	F	M	C	S	T	I	D
E	L	F	A	J	U	O	R	E	I	V	E
N	W	E	E	S	T	O	E	C	M	G	E
T	B	P	L	A	U	S	A	Q	E	O	M
S	U	M	G	O	R	R	T	D	F	E	S
B	X	L	O	V	E	D	E	U	R	I	X
U	R	G	D	T	O	N	S	C	N	T	P
L	E	A	D	S	E	K	Y	H	R	K	A
W	H	I	Y	M	L	T	A	M	I	E	S
Q	G	R	A	C	E	L	S	Y	P	W	J



SESSION	
Bill Canning	Finance Commission (Co-chair, Rick Baptista)
Berwin Guttormsen	Clerk of Session
Julie Heinsohn	Personnel Commission
Carol Matino	Worship Commission
Larry Moran	Property Commission
Vera Musser	Christian Education
Susan Pascullo	Worship Commission
Chuck Stapp	Mission/Outreach Commission
Sandra Whitehill	Mission/Outreach Commission, Nominating Commission

Board of Deacons:

- Judi Cavicchio
 Lenora Chu
 Robin Fox
 Peggy Guttormsen
 Barbara Jean Keune
 Jean Pennett
 Marie Schlechtweg
 Michele Williams