

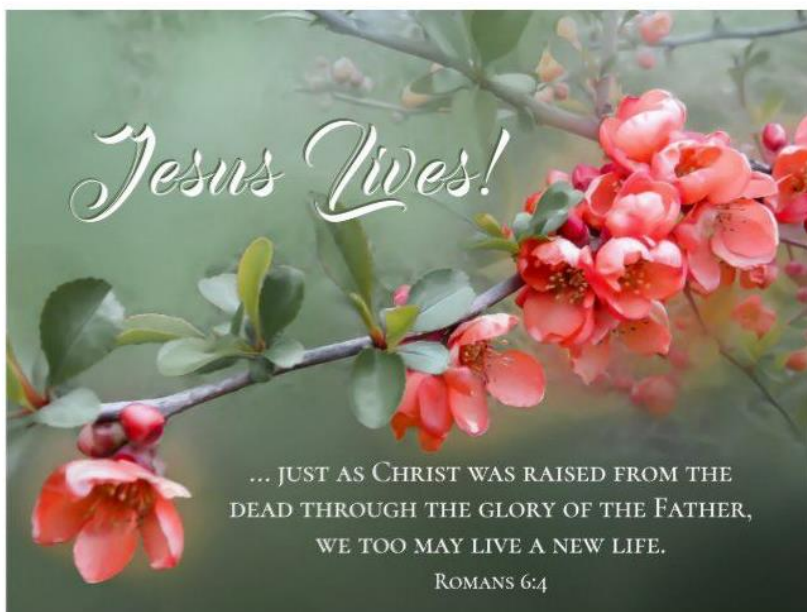


NEWSLETTER

May 2023



See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland. (Is. 43:19)





First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton

119 West Commerce St.
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
(856) 455 - 0809
www.fpcbridgeton.org

Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190

bridgetonfpcpastor@gmail.com

In office at FPC 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Monday thru Thursday

(other times available by appointment)

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9 am – 2:00 pm

May 2nd- **Office Closed**
work from Home Day



Memorial Day

May 29th- **Office Closed**

Admin. Assistant

Kimberly Whelan

fpcbridgeton@gmail.com



For regular updates and photos,
like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCbridgeton>

Please check the website
www.fpcbridgeton.org



Deacon Ministry

- The Easter Egg Hunt was an enjoyable time by all.
- The Yard Sale which will be held June 2nd & 3rd;
more info to come as to when we will be collecting
the items.



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to pray for you or a loved one, **call** the church office at 856-455-0809.

(Your concern will not go beyond the prayer team unless you request it be shared with others)

Synopsis of Session Meeting March 2, 2023

1. Session approved the installation of a "My Little Library" box on Church property as proposed by an Eagle Scout from Troop 1. The box will be placed on a single standing pole on the Giles Street side of the Church with the scouts from Troop 1 maintaining the box, and review of the contents being performed by a committee of the Church.
2. Live streaming of worship services will not start until the new web site construction has been completed, hopefully, by the end of the month. The new web site will only contain information that is two years old or later and will be kept current.
3. A proposal for the upgrading of the Church's sound system was reviewed, and has been approved. More information as to when this will be installed, to be determined at a later date.

REVELINGS

Welcome to the month called, "May." In many of our world's languages, this month's name is similar. Mai, mayo, mey, mayu, etc. This month has many ways to celebrate, and we remember God's goodness as we do. Why? Because all things come from our God who loves us so abundantly, each and every day!

Some interesting facts about "May Day" (yes it's a distress signal used by mariners, but for this revelings, we'll not explore this. We'll save it for another time.) from the www.almanac.com website:

May Day (May 1) celebrates the return of spring! Learn about the origins of May Day and fun traditions, from May Day baskets to the Maypole. Don't forget to wash your face in dew on the morning of May 1 for good luck. Here are 10 ways to "bring in the May."

Did you know that May Day has its roots in astronomy? Traditionally, it was the halfway point between the spring equinox and the summer solstice! In ancient times, this was one of the Celtic cross-quarter days, which marked the midway points between the (four) solstices and equinoxes of the year.

As with many early holidays, May Day was rooted in agriculture. Springtime festivities filled with song and dance celebrated the sown fields starting to sprout. Cattle were driven to pasture, special bonfires were lit, and doors of houses as well as livestock were decorated with yellow May flowers. In the Middle Ages, the Gaelic people celebrated the festival of Beltane. Beltane means "Day of Fire." People created large bonfires and danced at night to celebrate.

May Day has a long history and tradition in England, some of which eventually came to America. Children would dance around the maypole, holding onto colorful ribbons. People would "bring in the May" by gathering wildflowers and green branches, weaving floral hoops and hair garlands, and crowning a May king and queen. (On May 6th the United Kingdom will have a "Coronation Day" for their new King and Queen Consort.)

Did you ever dance around the maypole as a child? Wrapping a maypole with colorful ribbons is a joyous tradition that still exists in some schools and communities.

Originally, the maypole was a living tree chosen from the woods with much merrymaking. Ancient Celts danced around the tree, praying for the fertility of their crops and all living things! For younger people, there was the possibility of courtship. If a young woman and man paired by sundown, their courtship continued so that the couple could get to know each other and, possibly, marry 6 weeks later on June's Midsummer's Day. This is how the "June wedding" became a tradition.

In the Middle Ages, all villages had maypoles. Towns would compete to see who had the tallest or best maypole. Over time, this Old English festival incorporated dance performances, plays, and literature. People would crown a "May Queen" for the day's festivities.

The strict Puritans of New England considered the celebrations of May Day to be licentious and pagan, so they forbade its observance, and the springtime holiday never became an important part of American culture as it was in many European countries.

Interestingly, from the late 19th century through the 1950s, the maypole dance and festivities became a rite of spring at some U.S. colleges. Seen as a wholesome tradition, this celebration often included class plays, Scottish dancing, Morris dancing, a cappella concerts, and cultural dancing and music



displays.

In the 1960s and 1970s, interest waned; the May Queen and her court became more of a popularity contest. Today, the maypole dance is mainly celebrated in schools (from elementary through college) as a fun spring activity.



Ever heard of the May baskets? People would leave a paper basket or cone containing spring flowers and sweets on each other's doorsteps, usually anonymously.

This tradition was popular through the 19th and 20th centuries, especially with children or sweethearts. The custom was to knock on the door, yell "May basket!" and then run. If the recipient caught the giver, he or she was entitled to a kiss.

Louisa May Alcott wrote about May Basket Day in the late 1800s. In the 1920s, some bold schoolchildren hung a May basket on the White House door for First Lady Grace Coolidge.

The May Day basket is still a cherished tradition for some Americans, although it's not well known today. To make a simple May basket, fold a piece of colored paper into the shape of a cone. Then fill it with wildflowers! If you don't have colored paper, roll up and secure (with tape or a staple) a paper plate. Draw on the plate with spring colors and fill it with flowers!



We Celebrate God's goodness which we can see, feel and experience all around us! Toward the end of the month, we'll celebrate the Day of Pentecost. A special day in our Church Year. In our Book of Common Worship concerning the Day of Pentecost, we can read;

" Pentecost comes from a Greek word, meaning "fiftieth day." On this day, the Holy Spirit came with wind and flame, empowering the disciples to proclaim the good news of the risen Lord to all people. Falling on the fiftieth day of the season of Easter, Pentecost represents the culmination of the church's seven-week celebration of Christ's resurrection. As the Lord's Day is sometimes called the "eighth day" of creation, Pentecost is a day of new creation—all things transformed and made new by the Word and Breath of the living God. On the Day of Pentecost, we give particular thanks for the gift of God's Holy Spirit, who gathers the church as the body of Christ and sends us to share in Christ's mission throughout the world.

The notion of Easter as a season of fifty days is patterned after the ancient Jewish period of seven weeks, that extended from the beginning of the barley harvest, after Passover, to the end of the wheat harvest at the "festival of Week" (in Hebrew, Shavuot). In Jewish tradition, Shavuot also marks the giving of the law to Moses at Sinai, a connection that may inform Paul's discussion of the law and the Spirit. The color associated with this day is red."

Psalm 104:30,35 tells us, "The Spirit of God renews the earth. Bless the name of the Lord!"

With so much to experience and celebrate, how can we not praise God? As we get ready to experience the gifts of Summer to come, perhaps some trips to "the Shore" during this month, May God's Love Surround You. So, here's an Irish Blessing to guide us:



Easter Sermon Series "Through Peter's Eyes"

Date	Sermon/Reflection	Readings
5/7 - 5 th Sunday in Easter	"Living Stones"	1 Peter 2:2-10
5/14 - Honoring Women Sunday	"The Hope In You"	1 Peter 3:13-22
5/21 - 7 th Sunday of Easter	"The God of Grace"	1 Peter 4:12-14 5:6-11



Worship Committee

Come and Worship

Your Worship Committee hopes the congregation enjoyed the little differences in our Holy Week observances. We've received positive feedback on Holy Week and especially on "Holy Humor" Sunday.

On Mothers' Day, we will honor all women during the worship service. Similarly, on Fathers' Day, the worship service will honor all men.

Pentecost, which falls on Memorial Day weekend this year, we will celebrate the Church's birthday with cake, candles and ice cream during fellowship time.

The committee welcomes feedback on how we can help make worship a meaningful time for all.



Sunday May, 14th, We will be **Honoring All Women** during our Worship Service. It's always good to be "inclusive" in our times of worship and being church, especially for some secular celebration days that are on our calendars. We hope that as many women as possible, will be able to join us for this service!



Sunday, May 28th, we will celebrate the **Day of Pentecost** in our Worship Service. We're inviting everyone to **wear something "Red"** that day, to help us in our celebration. Though it may fall during the Memorial Day Weekend, please join us to **celebrate the birthday of the Church Universal!**

“As You Go Through Life” by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Don't look for the flaws as you go through life;
And even when you find them,
It is wise and kind to be somewhat blind
And look for the virtue behind them.
For the cloudiest night has a hint of light
Somewhere in its shadows hiding;
It is better by far to hunt for a star,
Than the spots on the sun abiding.

The current of life runs ever away
To the bosom of God's great ocean.
Don't set your force 'gainst the river's course
And think to alter its motion.
Don't waste a curse on the universe--
Remember it lived before you.
Don't butt at the storm with your puny form,
But bend and let it go o'er you.

The world will never adjust itself
To suit your whims to the letter.
Some things must go wrong your whole life long,
And the sooner you know it the better.
It is folly to fight with the Infinite,
And go under at last in the wrestle;
The wiser man shapes into God's plan
As water shapes into a vessel.



Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919) shares valuable advice about life and shows that trying to make things go your way is futile. She encourages that instead of fighting against the reality of life being difficult at times, allow yourself to be shaped into God’s plan. A lot of her poems have a spiritual element to them. This poem is made up of octaves (eight-line stanzas).

News You Can Use

Sunday, May 14: **Honoring Women**
 Thursday, May 18: **Ascension of the Lord**
 Sunday, May 28: **Day of Pentecost -wear RED to worship**

UPCOMING APRIL MEETINGS

Thursday, May 4: **Session Meeting** in the Bonham Hall at 6:30 P.M.
 Sunday, May 7: **Worship Meeting** in the Bonham Hall after worship
 Monday, May 8: **Deacons Meeting** in Bonham Hall at 7:00 P.M.
 Tuesday, May 9: **Counters Meeting** in the office at 1:00 P.M.
 Monday, May 15: **Trustee Meeting** in Bonham Hall at 7:00 P.M.

SERVING IN APRIL

DATE	USHERS	COUNTERS
May 7	Team 6 Ron Schultz, captain; Beth Schultz	Team A Debbie Fooks & Sherry Macpherson
May 14	Team 7 Ken Freitag, captain; Heather Newkirk	Team B Marion Carll & Heather Newkirk
May 21	Team 8 Franz Pampuch, captain; William Freitag, & Frank Pillsbury	Team C Yvonne Custis & Debbie Homan
May 28	Team 1 Debra Homan, captain; Curtis Homan, & William Conway	Team D Marie Dunham & Joyce Ireland

MAY WORSHIP FLOWERS

May 7: Debbi Boykin-Greenberg
 May 14: Howard Thorn
 May 21:
 May 28: Rev. Norlita Kaul

FELLOWSHIP IN MAY

May 7:
 May 14:
 May 21:
 May 28: The Worship Committee



Dear FPC Family-For all your help with our Installation Service on April 29th, there are few words to convey my deep thanks and appreciation in the fullest way possible. I will cherish this gift always—and my relationship with you. Your generosity is an inspiration to me and so many others. Your gift made me do a happy dance! Bless y'all always! Rev. Norlita

Lunch Bunch



When: May 16, 2023
 Where: Dilisi Restaurant
 Time: 12:00 P.M.

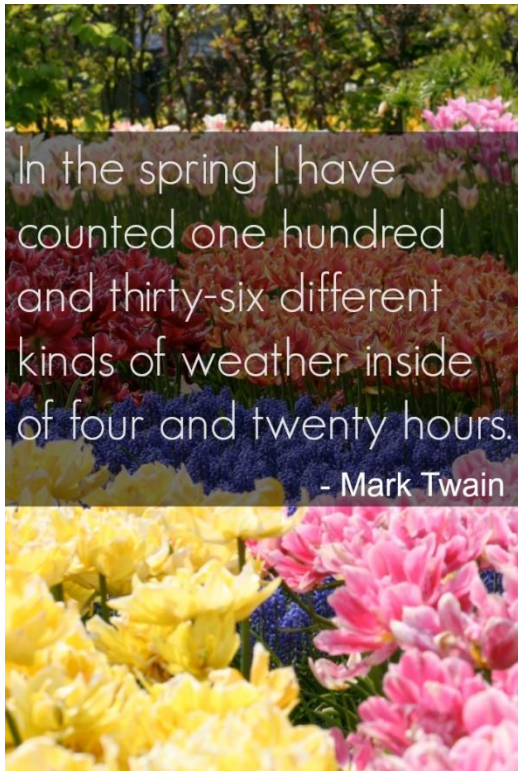
Please RSVP to the church office by 5/15/23

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Office Closed Work from Home	3 Choir Practice @ 7:00 P.M. 	4 Session Meeting @ 6:30 P.M.	5  Paige Pillsbury	6  Harriett Weber
7th Sunday of Easter Worship @ 10:00 A.M. Mission Meeting after worship	8 Deacons Meeting @ 7:00 P.M.  Robert Dragotta	9 Counters Meeting @ 1:00 P.m.	10 Choir Practice @ 7:00 P.M.  Sandra Torres 	11  Merry Woodruff	12	13  Bill Freitag
14th Sunday of Easter Worship @ 10:00 A.M. Honoring Women Day	15 Trustee Meeting @ 7:00 P.M.	16  Lunch Bunch Dilisi Restaurant (Carl's Corner) @ Noon	17 Choir Practice @ 7:00 P.M. 	18 Ascension of the Lord	19	20
21st Sunday of Easter Worship @ 10:00 A.M.	22	23	24 Choir Practice @ 7:00 P.M.  Ron Schultz 	25	26  Jane Hankins	27  Melanie Ernest
28 Day of Pentecost- Wear Red Worship @ 10:00 A.M.  Katlyn Smith 	29  Memorial Day Office closed	30	31 Choir Practice @ 7:00 P.M. 			

**First Presbyterian Church
119 West Commerce St
Bridgeton, NJ 08302**

Return Service Requested



Regular Sunday Schedule
10:00 am Worship Service

Pastor's Office Hours
At FPC

Mon thru Thurs
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Appointments also available
as need/desired

Church Office Hours
Monday -Friday
9:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Pastor's Sabbath
Friday and Saturday
(in emergencies, please call/text
Pastor's cell #)

Our newsletter is available electronically by email.
Please contact the church office at fpcbriidgeton@gmail.com or 856-455-0809, to notify us.