

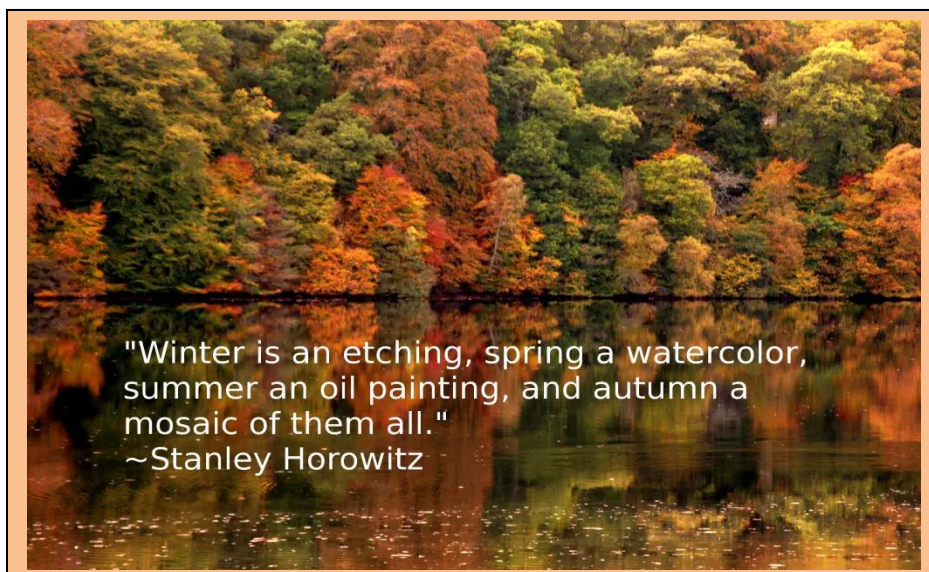
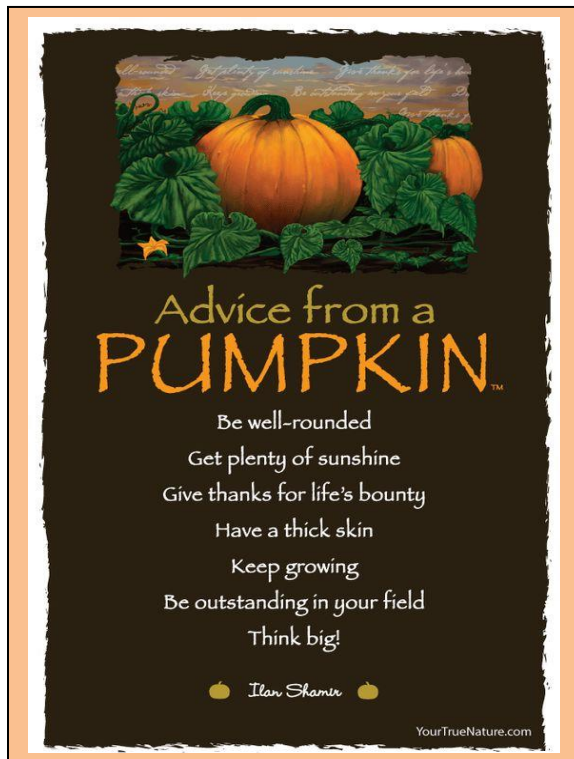
THE NEW LEAF



Newsletter for First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton



OCTOBER 2023





THE NEW LEAF

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

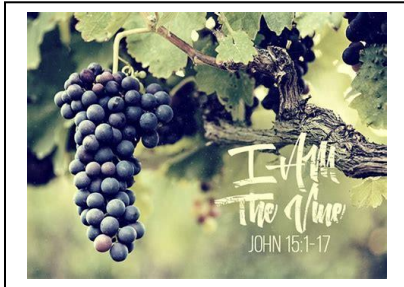
In office at FPC 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Monday thru Thursday

(other times available by appointment)

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9 am – 2:00 pm



Christine Sever
Admin. Assistant

fpcbridgeton@gmail.com



For regular updates and photos,
like us on Facebook

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

Please check the website
www.fpcbridgeton.org



If you or a family member or close friend needs prayer,
please contact the church office or one of the deacons.



Deacon Ministry

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who signs up to host fellowship time after worship. Thanks also to Amy who usually makes the coffee. If you haven't already volunteered, please look for the sign-up calendar on the kitchen counter.

The Deacons have been busy helping clean up the basement. They ask that items intended for the yard sale not be brought in until next May. The room needs to be thoroughly cleaned and organized.

Busy in the Basement

The church basement is starting to breathe a sigh of relief. You know how you feel when you've overeaten Thanksgiving dinner! The rooms in the basement have been the recipient of STUFF for decades. Thanks to the members who have spent countless hours purging all the "hiding" spaces of unneeded things. Thanks to Howard for obtaining a dumpster to take it all away!

Synopsis of SEPTEMBER 2023 Session Meeting

1. The need for the development of Memorial Fund guidelines was discussed with plans for a subcommittee to be formed to review examples from other resources and compose an applicable document for use at our Church.
2. Session approved the changing of the normal hours for the Administrative Assistant to 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM.
3. Session approved Paige Pillsbury to be the leader of the technology for the Church as of January 2024.
4. Session approved the addition of having communion on October 29th – Reformation Sunday.
5. Session approved the Worship Committee planning joint activities with the Greenwich Church congregation when the opportunity arises.
6. Session approved the board nominations submitted by the Nominating Committee. These nominations will be presented at the October Congregational meeting for approval. All positions will be open for other nominations from the floor. Nominating Committee submitted the following:
 - Session: Marie Dunham – 3 years; Howard Thorn – 3 years; John Ambrose – 3 years; Frank Pampuch – 2 years; Albert Fooks – 2 years; Marion Carll – 1 year.
 - Deacons: Darlene Freitag – 3 years. There are three 3-year positions with no nominations.



October 1st we will celebrate Communion with churches around the world.

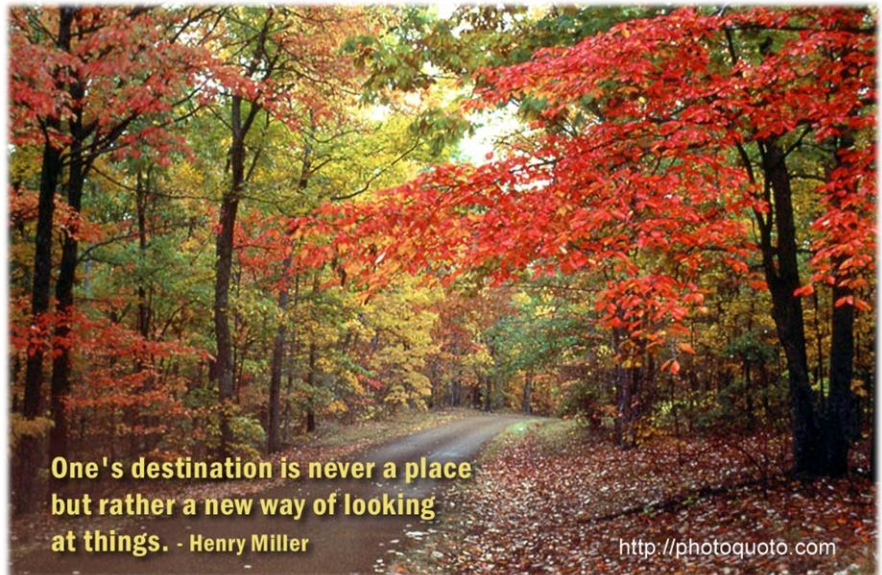
Communion will also be a part of the worship service October 29th when we observe Reformation Sunday.

Usher teams have been revised. There will now be three ushers per team.



In September the children and youth brought their backpacks to be blessed.

I have a confession to make. It's simply this, I've always loved the season we call "Fall." Perhaps it's the cooler weather, the pumpkin spice in everything, bonfires, beautiful tree colors, the awesome walks through the woods, the reflections on the lakes. It also reminds me that sometimes we accumulate some differing types of baggage we should and perhaps must let go of. One of my favorite Old Testament Readings is Eccles. 3:1-8. Here it is in the Message Translation (www.biblegateway.com):



There's a Right Time for Everything

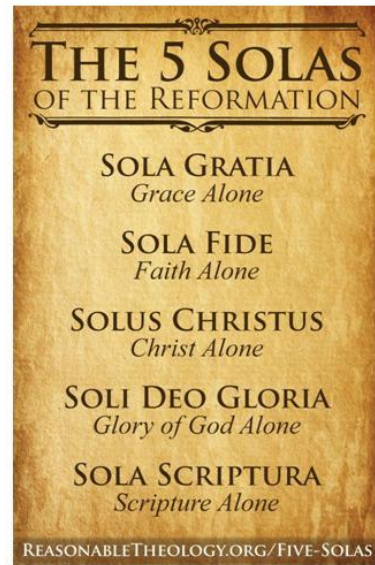
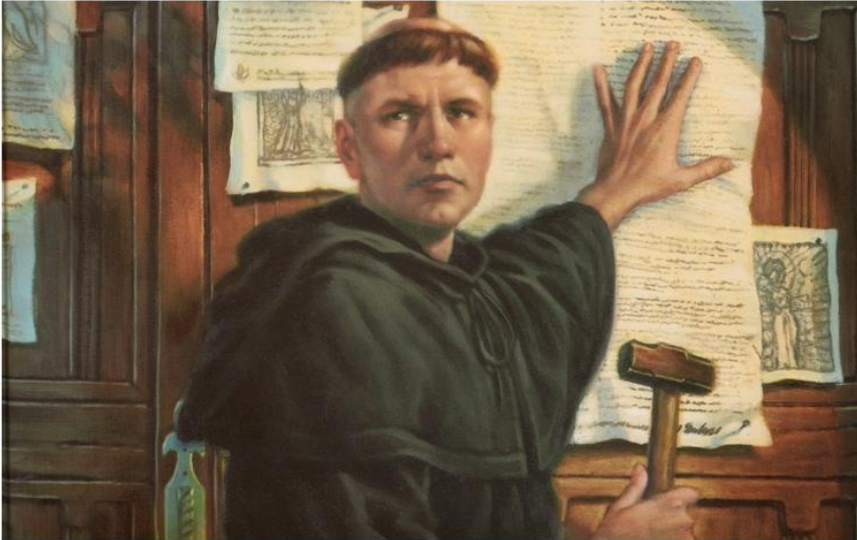
3 There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth:

2-8 A right time for birth and another for death,
A right time to plant and another to reap,
A right time to kill and another to heal,
A right time to destroy and another to construct,
A right time to cry and another to laugh,
A right time to lament and another to cheer,
A right time to make love and another to abstain,
A right time to embrace and another to part,
A right time to search and another to count your losses,
A right time to hold on and another to let go,
A right time to rip out and another to mend,
A right time to shut up and another to speak up,
A right time to love and another to hate,
A right time to wage war and another to make peace.



As we continue to move through this month of October together, let us be mindful of what is intended for us to learn from God's Holy Word. Let us be mindful as we approach the Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and New Year's season, to take the time to do some spiritual house cleaning in our lives. Our destination is heaven. We're on the journey there now. The road can be long, with many twists, turns, and the "unexpected" surprises along the way. Yet our Lord Jesus walks with us on our journey. As we walk this road together as First Presbyterian Church, may we remember to prayerfully consider our two questions: "Where are you leading us O God?" and "How is God calling us to be faithful?" Blessings to everyone. May you "fall" in love with our Triune God, in new and surprising ways! Happy Fall Y'all! Faithfully, Rev. Norlita

(Below: Martin Luther Nails his 95 Theses (Reasons) to the Wittenburg Kirche Door)



Causes of the Reformation

Social	Political	Economic	Religious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Renaissance values of humanism and secularism led people to question the Church. The printing press helped to spread ideas critical of the Church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerful monarchs challenged the Church as the supreme power in Europe. Many leaders viewed the pope as a foreign ruler and challenged his authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European princes and kings were jealous of the Church's wealth. Merchants and others resented having to pay taxes to the Church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Church leaders had become worldly and corrupt. Many people found Church practices such as the sale of indulgences unacceptable.



John Knox (Left) John Calvin (Right)

(Above: Two Rev. John's. Calvin-Reformer in France/Switzerland and Knox who went to study with Calvin, beginning the Presbyterian Church in Scotland.)




Reformation in England

- Political, not religious motives for reform
 - Henry VIII – King of England
 - Needs a male heir to carry on the Tudor Dynasty
 - Married Catherine of Aragon (Aunt of Charles V, HRE Emperor)
 - Have a daughter, Mary
 - No son, so Henry wants a divorce!
- In the Catholic Church, you need an annulment, granted by the Church. The Pope grants it for a King.



Protestant Reformation Chart

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Reformer / Group	Dates	Country	Writings	Key Ideas / Significant Actions
 Martin Luther (Lutherans)	1483-1546	Wittenberg, Germany	95 Theses (Grievances with the Catholic Church and arguments against the selling of indulgences)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sparked the Reformation by protesting against indulgences (and corruption of the Catholic Church) Wanted to reform the Catholic Church, not create a new church Taught justification by faith alone Taught authority of scripture (Bible) alone, not authority by pope or clergy Birth of the Protestant church (Protestant = those who protested the Catholic Church)
 John Calvin (Calvinists)	1509-1564	France, Geneva, Switzerland	Institutes of the Christian Religion (introductory textbook on the Protestant faith - set forth Calvin's religious beliefs and explained how to organize and run a Protestant church)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preached Predestination – God chooses in advance which souls are to be saved and which are to be damned Reformed the church in Geneva, Switzerland and set up a theocracy (a government run by religious leaders) Expansion of the Protestant movement
 Henry VIII (Anglicans)	1509-1547	England		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Catholic king who opposed Luther's beliefs Wanted his marriage to be annulled (divorce) so he could marry a woman who could give him a male heir (the pope refused) Dismissed the authority of the pope in England Act of Supremacy (1534) – broke with the Catholic Church and became the supreme authority of the Church of England

John Wesley (1703-1791) and Methodism

"The will of man is by nature free only to evil. Yet... every man has a measure of free-will restored to him by grace." "Natural free-will in the present state of mankind, I do not understand; I only assert, that there is a measure of free-will supernaturally restored to every man, together with that supernatural light which 'enlightens every man that comes into the world.'"



First Presbyterian Church was well represented at the Sunshine Luncheon by several of our members! Well Done Ladies!



Sep. 2023 Highlights of the September Meeting of the Presbytery For Southern NJ

- Celebrated that Rev. Diane Curtis will be our Interim Stated Clerk until June 30th.
- Celebrated the ordination anniversaries of our pastors including Rev. Dr. John T. Ash III (60th).
- Dedicated our offering to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Voted to hold per capita for 2024 and approved a new compensation policy.
- Voted to approve the sale of Christ Presbyterian Church in Marlton.
- Nominating Committee issued a call for applications for 1 Ruling Elder, 1 Teaching Elder and one YAAD to apply to be a commissioner to the 226th General Assembly in Salt Lake City in 2024.
- Met the Rev Jonathan Seitz (via a video on Zoom) who along with his wife Emily have been missionaries in Taiwan since 2009.
- Mission Committee is asking for congregations to discuss mission giving. Thank you for all you share with others.
- Approved an Interim Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee and allocated resources for their ministry. Please keep them in prayer.
- Personnel Committee reported that all staff are in compliance for boundary training, and we are searching for a new Administrative Associate.
- Heard beautiful music from Rev. Norlita Kaul and RE Rebecca Neindorff.

Mark Your Calendars

Special Fellowship Time
October 1
Welcome Christie Sever

OCTOBER MEETINGS

Session Thurs, Oct 5 @6:30
Deacons Mon, Oct 9 @7:00
Trustees Mon, Oct 16 @7:00

Sunday, October 8th

Congregational Meeting

Election of 2024 Officers; By-law changes

Potluck Luncheon to follow; Deacons providing drinks and paper products; please bring food to share

SERVING IN OCTOBER

DATE	USHERS	COUNTERS
October 1	Team 1: Curtis H, Debbie H, Frank P	Team 1: Debbie F, Sherry M
October 8	Team 2: John A, Bruce C, Ken F	Team 2: Marion C, Heather N
October 15	Team 3: Marie D, Joyce I, Heather N	Team 3: Yvonne C, Debbie Homan
October 22	Team 4: Bruce H, Howard T, Bill F	Team 4: Marie D, Joyce I
October 29	Team 5: Ron S, Beth S, Kahlil W	Team 5: Volunteers

OCTOBER WORSHIP FLOWERS

October 1: Debbie Boykin-Greenberg
October 8:
October 15:
October 22:
October 29: Rev. Norlita Kaul

FELLOWSHIP IN OCTOBER

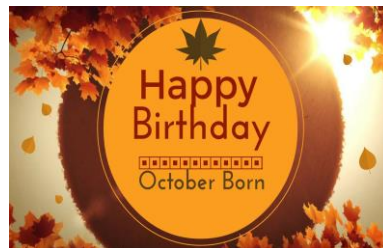
October 1: Debbie Boykin-Greenberg
October 8: Potluck luncheon
October 15:
October 22:
October 29: Anne Sheppard

Blank spaces for flowers and fellowship? Would you consider helping us to fill them in? It takes a village...Thanks!

Time Out Tuesday

Date: October 17, 2023
Time: 12 Noon
Place: Caroline Owens' Home

Please RSVP to the office (856)455-0809
by October 10, 2023



10/11 – Marge P.
10/13 – Connie C.
10/17 – Heather N.
10/25 – Molly F.
10/27 – Alaina P.

Thank You!

OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service 10 AM Worldwide Communion Peace Offering	2	3	4 No Choir Practice 🎵	5 Session Mtg 6:30 PM	6	7
8 Worship Service 10 AM Congregational Meeting 11 AM Lunch to follow	9 Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples Day Deacons Mtg 7:00 PM	10	11 Choir Practice 7:30 🎵	12	13	14
15 Worship Service 10 AM	16 Trustees Mtg 7:00 PM	17  TOTs Caroline's home 12 Noon	18 Choir Practice 7:30 🎵	19	20	21
22 Worship Service 10 AM	23	24	25 Choir Practice 7:30 🎵	26	27	28
29 Reformation Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Communion	30	31 Happy Halloween 	November 1 All Saints Day			

**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 fbcbri@comcast.net or 856 455 0809, to notify us