



Branches

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

October 2022

141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road

Milford, New Jersey 08848

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Web: www.alexpres.org

Facebook: Alexandria First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant

Dear Friends,

A Note from Nick

It is a new season at Alexandria Presbyterian Church! On Rally Day we started our program year as we welcomed our new director of music ministry, Stefanie Watson, heard from our Youth Mission Team and oh yeah, the chancel choir was back! We also had a terrific church picnic! Even though we had to move it indoors because of the rain, it was a joy to be back together for a congregational meal and fellowship – the first since 2019! And now as we move into the program year, Sunday School is in full swing and committees are busy planning and working.

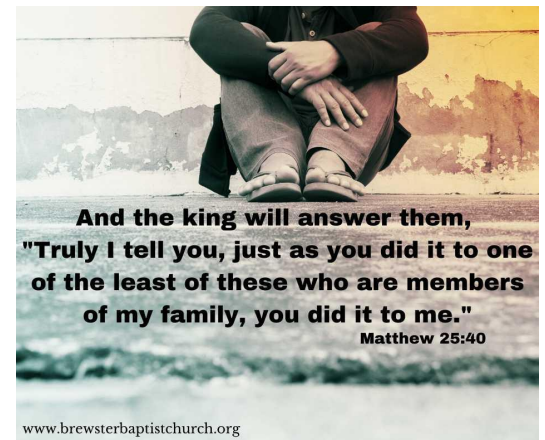
Our Deacons and Session are busy planning and leading ministry. Please be sure to look through this issue of Branches for more information about how you can participate. One specific area that our Session has been studying is the *Matthew 25* movement of our denomination.

What is the Matthew 25 movement? You may remember me talking about it in previous editions of Branches, but most basically it is a program that was started by the PC USA Mission Agency. This movement of our denomination asks each church to take seriously Jesus' commandment to care for the "least of these" and consider becoming a *Matthew 25 Church*. What does it look like to be a *Matthew 25 Church*? It means that a church pledges to engage in 1 or more of these areas of ministry: 1) Building Church Vitality 2) Dismantling Systematic Racism 3) Eradicating Systematic Poverty.

As I've said before, in many ways our church is already involved in all three of these areas. A case could be made that our current mission, study and church life already incorporate all three components . . . So what would change if we were to become a *Matthew 25 Church*? Well, on the surface, maybe not much. We would still worship and study together like we do each week. We would continue to care for each other and enjoy moments of fellowship and fun. We would remain faithful in giving and mission. But hopefully amidst all that we already do, we would look to bigger ways we can be a part of the solution, finding ways to be active in our community, fighting racism and working to end poverty.

Please keep our elders in your prayers as they are considering AFPC's participation with *Matthew 25* and if you would like more information about the *Matthew 25* program please go to

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/> or reach out to me. I pray that each of us will take seriously our call to discipleship and mission this year – and I can't wait to see how God will work through each of us – we are off to a great start!



Peace,

Pastor Nick

Tending the Flock

Baptisms

Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event: the reconciliation of people to God. We rejoice with those who are celebrating their baptism anniversary this month. It was in September that John Leslie McDowall, Tanner Ike McGuire, Matthew Joseph Pardonner, and Jenna Rose Schostkewitz were baptized. Congratulations and blessings upon being children of God!

October Birthdays

1	Kaylee Gunderman	10	Lolita Navarro	12	Keith Erwin	27	Gene Geissinger
2	Steve Cameron		Melinda Parsons	15	Karen Santangelo	31	Conor Goldman
	Charlie Tiedeman	11	Helen Jones	18	Nora Hatch		Meghan Kunich
4	Max Andreychak		Pat Keefe	25	Renee Navarro		Belle Sassaman
5	Jillian Moran	12	Matthew Butz	26	Andrew Meyer		



Sanctuary Flowers Given to the Glory of God

September 4 by the Cameron family in celebration of Matthew's Birthday

September 18 by the congregation to joyously celebrate the new Director of Music Ministry, Stefanie Watson

World Communion Sunday

October 2, 2022 | Observed Ecumenically Since 1936

Sharing in the Lord's Supper is at the heart of Christian worship. Its observance goes back to the upper room where Jesus met with his disciples on the eve of his crucifixion. At that moment, before he was taken prisoner, tried, and nailed to a cross, Jesus sought through vivid imagery and dramatic action to express the meaning of his life and the events in which he was involved.

Our communion table is located at a prominent place in the sanctuary, indicating the importance of the Lord's Supper in worship. Across the front edge of the table are the words "Do This in Remembrance of Me," calling attention to the unique purpose of this particular table. Remembrance is at the heart of the Lord's Supper. Simple and thoughtful expressions of grateful remembrance are offered, and Christ is known afresh each time this sacrament is observed in Christian churches throughout the world.



Peace & Global Witness Offering



Offering Will Be Received October 2nd

October 2nd is World Communion Sunday which celebrates our oneness in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world. It's perhaps the most appropriate day of the year to receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering (P&GWO)—to think about what it means to be peacemakers, to be witnesses and advocates for compassion, peace, and justice. To seek “peace in all times in all ways.”

On World Communion Sunday Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, invites us to the table. It is a big table, and we share it with many. We share our table with those around the nation and the globe. Our P&GWO supports a multitude of ministries and programs on the local and national level. 25% of our P&GWO will stay with Alexandria Church for local mission.

We share our table with those seeking refuge and reconciliation arising from conflict. Our P&GWO allows us to work for Christ's peace on local and regional levels, as well as to extend their witness to more distant and war-torn places.

We open our doors. We answer God's call expressed in Thessalonians to seek “peace at all times in all ways.” And we do this with open hearts. We do it together. On World Communion Sunday we think about all those with whom we share our table—with all those with whom we share a commitment to “peace at all times in all ways.” Please give generously to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Pew offering envelopes are in the pew racks.

Mission Interpretation



Amazon.Smile gives .5% of your eligible purchases to charity of your choice!

Click <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-6034637>

OR:

- 1) In Web Browser address bar, type smile.amazon.com & click Enter.
(If your Amazon account does not already have you logged in, go ahead and log into your account.)
- 2) Click “Supporting” under white Amazon search bar for drop down menu. Type in Alexandria First Presbyterian Church in the box and click search.
- 3) Alexandria First Presbyterian Church will appear (Milford, NJ), click select... *start shopping!*
- 4) **Remember:** As stated on their website, purchases made only at smile.amazon.com generate donations. Using www.amazon.com or the mobile app will NOT generate donations to your chosen charity.



THE
VILLAGE
FOOD
PANTRY

We are collecting items for the
Milford Food Pantry! Items are due
by the 23rd

Items needed: sugar, Italian
cooking spices, feminine hygiene
supplies, kitchen sponges, and
cleaning supplies.

Milford

Presbyterian

Church Food

Pantry



Hayride & Pumpkin Pickin'

Sunday, October 23rd

1:30 p.m.

Trauger's Farm Market
Kintnersville, PA

Cider and gingersnaps provided

Pumpkins, apples, other items available for purchase

Be sure to look for the kettle corn stand!

Sign-up is requested.

Forms are in the narthex and Fellowship Hall.

The cost is \$5pp.

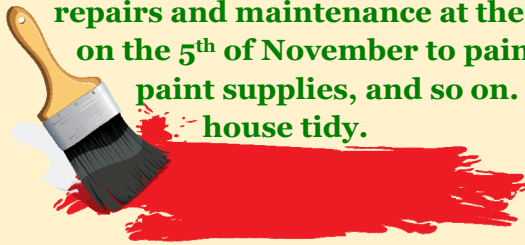


Save
the
Date

Autumn Clean-up Day
Saturday, November 5
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Can you spare a few hours to tackle several items on our punch list of repairs and maintenance at the church? If so, join us between 9 and noon on the 5th of November to paint and do a few repairs. Bring your tools work gloves, paint supplies, and so on. Thanks for your part in making the Lord's house tidy.



What Is Lunch Bunch?

Next Gathering | October 18, 12 p.m.

In 2018, we started a new monthly fellowship time called Lunch Bunch. The idea is simple: Instead of eating alone, once a month, you can bring your sandwich or salad to Fellowship Hall to meet friends and enjoy the conversation. We provide drinks, chips, and usually a homemade dessert made by our very own baker, Carol Van Norman. It's a warm and wonderful way to see members of our church family. It's also a great opportunity to ask a friend out to join us. All are welcomed! This month's Lunch Bunch will be Wednesday, October 18th at noon.



A Wonderful Tradition

Traditions mean so much: they are the relied upon events of our lives; the tried-and-true opportunities for involvement; and the proven methods for success that we love. Our deacons love tradition too and will be carrying on a great one next month!

Beginning soon, the deacons will collect your donations of various foods needed to fill Thanksgiving food boxes that will be donated to the Frenchtown Food Pantry. They, in turn, will

donate them to families in need in our immediate area. So, start saving your rewards points at the groceries for those free turnkeys and pick up a few non-perishables you think would make good fixin's for the boxes. A complete list of needed items will appear in upcoming bulletin inserts.

Thank you in advance for your loving support of our traditions!

Gifts for Ministry Form

You still have the chance to review a list of ministry opportunities for the coming program year. In recognition of God's love and gifts, please check the ministries on the form where you sense God has given you a gift and you may be willing to serve. We ask that every adult and every teen of each family—members and regular visitors alike—complete their own form. Completed forms may be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office. We thank you in advance for your help in considering these opportunities for ministry.

If you do not feel called to ministry at the present time, we do ask that you complete the member information section of the form so that our church records can be updated accurately.

Thank you.

College Freshmen Care Packages

Our Christian Education and Youth Ministry Team and our deacons will again join forces to provide care packages to our freshmen college students. We will fill each package with many goodies, crafts, cards, and a few treats too! Each of you is invited to be a part of this loving ministry.

Please consider adding your own personal note or adding a small treat to show our youth that we are thinking about them while they are away. If you plan to add something to a box, please be sure it is in Fellowship Hall prior to October 16th to be included in the packages.

I know how much our youth appreciate receiving mail from their church family. Please consider encouraging our youth in this simple and loving way. There is a list of our six-freshman college youth, as well as some suggested items to provide for the packages in Fellowship Hall.



*In the fading of the summer sun,
the shortening of days, cooling breeze,
swallows' flight, and moonlight rays—
we see the Creator's hand.
In the browning of leaves once green,
morning mists, autumn chill,
fruit that falls, frost's first kiss—
we see the Creator's hand.*

Sunday Service

- Oct 2** LuAnn Keefe
Oct 9 Flora Nielsen
Oct 16 Al Navarro
Oct 23 Brad Bondor
Oct 30 Lainey Johns



- Oct 2** Pat Keefe
Oct 9 Tammy Sassaman
Oct 16 April Abelman
Oct 23 Martha Harrison
Oct 30 Laura Navarro



Communion

- Oct 2** LuAnn Keefe

Special Dates

Also see the main calendar on page 8

- Oct 2** World Communion
Oct 9 New Member Class/Ordination and Installation
Oct 16 New Member Class
Oct 18 Lunch Bunch
Oct 23 Accept new members/Hayride



Our Ministry Team Officers

Building and Property Jim Hansen (E), Larry Cascio (E), Marty Gunderman (E), Doug Bondor (D), Tammy Unkert (D)

Christian Education Mary Goldman (E), April Abelman (D), Athena McDowall (D), Barbara Pedersen (D)

Evangelism/Membership Christina Heilig (E), Karen Pardonner (D), Carol Van Norman (D), Chrstine Hammerstone (D)

Mission Interpretation Marie Knapp (E), Larry Reinfeld (E), Lainey Johns (E), Laurie Gregory (D), Pati Tiedeman (D)

Nominating Jeri Bone (E), Craig Bender (E)

Personnel Flora Nielsen (E), Karen Pardonner (D)

Stewardship and Finance Craig Bondor (E), Robin Vogel (E), LuAnn Keefe (E)

Worship and Music LuAnn Keefe (E), Flora Nielsen (E), Jeri Bone (E), Liz McMahon (D) (E: Elder, D: Deacon)



The vision of Alexandria First Presbyterian Church is to gather in God's grace and to be led by the Holy Spirit. We joyfully worship, prayerfully seek, and gratefully share as a loving family growing in Jesus Christ.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF BRANCHES IS THE 3rd THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

Branches is a publication of Alexandria First Presbyterian Church (USA), 141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road, Milford, NJ 08848. The newsletter is published monthly—except during August—to inform members and friends of church programs, news, and events. *Branches* is online in the "News/Our Newsletter" tab at

www.alexpres.org

Editor: churchoffice@alexpres.org

 Alexandria First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant

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THE STAFF of ALEXANDRIA CHURCH
 Reverend Nicholas C. Hatch
Pastor

Stefanie Watson
Director of Music Ministry

Magic Robinson
Administrative Assistant



How to Reach the Pastor

Rev. Nick Hatch

- Through the church office Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 908-996-4333
- By the church's website on the "contact us" link: www.alexpres.org
- Via his email: nhatch@alexpres.org

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Deacon of the Week Oct 2 Athena McDowall Oct 9 Pati Tiedeman Oct 16 April Abelman Oct 23 Karen Pardonner Oct 30 Chris Hammerstone						1
2 World Communion Sunday 10:00 Worship Communion 11:15 Refreshments No Sunday School	3	4 9:00 Bulletin Deadline 7:00 Boy Scouts	5	6 7:30 Chancel Choir	7	8
9 10:00 Worship Ordination and Installation 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Refreshments, New Member Class	10 Columbus Day	11 9:00 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts	12 7:00 Session	13 7:30 Chancel Choir	14	15
16 Care Package Donations due 10:00 Worship Baptism 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Refreshments, New Member Class	17	18 9:00 Bulletin Deadline 12:00 Lunch Bunch 7:00 Boy Scouts	19	20 9:00 November Branches Deadline 7:30 Chancel Choir	21	22
23 Food Pantry Donations due 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Refreshments 1:30 Hayride	24	25 9:00 Bulletin Deadline 7:00 Boy Scouts	26 7:00 B&P	27 7:30 Chancel Choir	28	29
30 Reformation Sunday	31					