



Branches

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

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

June 2017

141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road

Milford, New Jersey 08848

908-996-4333

Web: www.alexpres.org

Facebook: Alexandria First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant

A Note from Nick

Dear Friends,

With the month of June now upon us I reflect on all of the transitions that will soon be taking place. Before too long, school will break for the summer, teachers will pack up their classrooms, and kids will put away their backpacks. The weather will get warmer as pools open up and summer camps begin; families will go on vacation and relatives will visit. There are also some important transitions happening at church in the month of June. In June the program year at the church will come to an end and choirs and Sunday school will take a break for the summer. The session and deacons will also meet one final time in June before taking a summer break, and ministry teams will slow down for the summer. To mark the end of the program year and to celebrate all we have accomplished, we will have our annual *Ministry Appreciation Sunday* on June 4th. During this special worship service we will hear a report from each of our ministry teams and also take the time to thank everyone who participated in the life of our church this past year. After worship we will continue our celebration with cake and punch in Fellowship Hall.

Then on June 18th we will celebrate the ending of our capital campaign, "Renewing God's House: A Great Heritage, A Great Future." June 18th will be called "Celebration Sunday" and we will celebrate all of the work and thoughtfulness that went into the campaign and also give thanks for each of the pledges. We will also joyfully announce the total amount pledged, as well as the amount of money that was given on First Fruits Sunday (June 11th). We will celebrate all of this with an ice cream social in Fellowship Hall following our worship together.

I hope and pray that you will put both of these celebrations on your calendar and plan to be with us to help celebrate along with your faith family. But please don't think that these two endings and two celebrations mean that church is closed for the summer . . . *this is not the case!* We will continue to joyfully worship each and every Sunday over the summer. In addition to our regular worship, Jerry Phelps has been busy recruiting singers and instrumentalists to provide special music during worship (it's not too late if you want to do special music--see Jerry). We also have VBS to look forward to, mission opportunities, and summer Sunday school will be starting on June 11th. Yes, this summer we have much to celebrate, and much to be thankful for as we continue to live out our faith at Alexandria First Presbyterian Church!

In Christ,

Pastor Nick

Tending the Flock

Baptisms

We rejoice with those who are celebrating their baptism anniversary. It was in June that Ashley May Folmar, Alexis Rose Gunderman, James Monroe Hansen, Jr., Charlotte Taylor Hatch, Daniel Michael Iannacone, Lauren Elizabeth Lawson Koehler, Amelia Ann Schaefer, Keira Nicole Vogel, and Sarah Rose Wardach became children of God through the sacrament of baptism. Congratulations and blessings!

Sympathy

Christian sympathy and prayers are extended to Marion Pursell and family upon the death of her husband Gene. Gene passed away May 30. Visitation will be held on Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Johnson-Walton Funeral Home. A Celebration of Gene's life will be held after visitation at 12:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Interment will follow at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery.



Select a Hymn!



Is there a certain hymn you love to sing and can't get enough of?

Is there a hymn with a favorite melody or words that are particularly meaningful to you?



Is there a hymn that you want to sing but we haven't sung for a long time?

Well . . . now is your chance
to help Pastor Nick pick the hymns!



Email your favorite hymn (hymnal name and title or number) to Pastor Nick or the church office or use this tear off sheet and place it in the offering plate



Each week during the summer Pastor Nick will select one hymn suggested by a congregation member



Hymn Name or Number

Your Name

Reason why this particular hymn is meaningful to you

Pentecost

Sunday, June 4

For Christians, Pentecost is a holiday where we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church." Thus, from a historical point of view, Pentecost is the day the church was started. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it. Thus Pentecost is the church's birthday.

Join us in worship for this special day. The sacrament of communion will be celebrated, the church will be decorated to commemorate the day, The Lord's Supper will be served, and the Chancel Choir will offer the anthem. If you are able, please wear red to help celebrate.

A ♪ from Jerry

Summer Special Music

We are in summer preparation mode and we'd like as many of you as possible to participate in worship with a variety of special music performances: solos, duets, quartets, instrumentalists, etc. Please email Jerry to let him know you're interested in doing something this summer. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

Ministry Celebration Sunday

June 4 | 10 a.m.

Ministry Appreciation Sunday is a time where we lift up in celebration the many ministries of Alexandria Church. It is our most fervent hope that the Holy Spirit will move within us as we celebrate the joys and goodness of the works of our ministry teams, elders, and deacons.

The Session has called a congregational meeting to occur on June 4 during our Ministry Celebration Sunday for the purpose of hearing and receiving ministry team reports as we celebrate a year of ministry together.

May Flowers

- May 7** given to the glory of God by Millie and Bruce Hunt in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary
- May 14** given to the glory of God by Cathy Torrey in thanks for birth mothers everywhere
- May 21** given to the glory of God by the MacWilliams family in celebration of Alexander's graduation
- May 28** given to the glory of God by the Cameron family in celebration of the new baby girl in the family





News from PCUSA

<http://www.history.pcusa.org/>

The Presbyterian Historical Society has announced the opening of *Presbyterians and the American Revolution*, an in-house exhibit at 425 Lombard Street in Philadelphia. The new exhibit features 60 items from the Revolutionary War, its build-up, and its aftermath. Original manuscripts, rare publications, digitized images, and evocative artifacts fill the PHS lobby. A related hallway display remembers Presbyterian celebrations of the centennial and bicentennial. As with past PHS exhibits, *Presbyterians and the American Revolution* draws heavily on the Society's permanent collections, displays of handwritten sermons by influential and historical ministers, records that detail damage to churches and the lives of worshippers, and art objects connected to celebrated Loyalist and Patriot Presbyterians. A prominent new feature for this exhibit comes from outside PHS: loan materials from PCUSA churches that were active during the revolution.

Summer Sunday School

Begins June 11 | following the Children's Sermon

Summer Sunday school will return this summer starting on June 11. It will continue through August. As is our tradition on the first Sunday of each month, children will remain in the sanctuary for family worship. Summer Sunday school will meet all other Sundays and is open to all children Pre-K through 5th grade. For more information please contact Julie Lyons. Volunteers welcome!

June Birthdays

1 Jillian MacKinnon	6 Michael Folmar	12 Shannon Fritsche	20 Robin Schostkewitz
2 Ryan Unkert	Ben Giuliano	12 Ryan Doyle	22 Heather Pardonner
5 Chris Andreychak	9 Howard Jones	13 Cathy Rosswaag	25 Jenny Scheier
Jack Skibinski	10 Janet Silliman	14 Julie Lyons	30 Ramon Rosswaag
Rebecca Sutton	11 Jim Bush	18 Luke Bender	Troy Stagg
6 Gail Ferdinando	Chris Scheier	Dave Heinbach	

Caring Hands Crafters

Our Caring Hands Crafters group sent 19 caps, 3 blankets, and 2 PICC line covers off to Knots of Love in California to be distributed to hospitals all across the country. Our new Knots of Love donation count is now 229 items!

Caring Hands will not meet over the summer but will reconvene on Sunday, September 17 at 11:15 a.m. Our "challenge" over the summer is to learn a new pattern or stitch and to use it in a cap or blanket.

We wish to thank everyone in our congregation for their prayers, suggestions, donations, and interest this past program year as our group has grown, learned, and prayed for those who are ill.



Confirmation Class of 2017

We are pleased to welcome our newest members to the life and ministry of Alexandria Church: Our Confirmation Class of 2017!



Confirmands and Their Mentors

Top row: Pastor Nick Hatch, Laura Strangfeld, Nancy Schuman, Alice Hansen, LuAnn Keefe, Meredith Oliver, Shari Norgard, Carol Moran, Renee Skibinski
Middle row: Madison Butz, Tori Kramer, Brianna Giuliano, Emily Norgard, Cyndi McDowall
Bottom row: Gayle Hatch, Emilie Serrone, Gillian Cascio, Ashley Folmar, Abby Schaefer, Sarah Wardach, Rebecca Sutton

High School Class of 2017

Let us join together as a church family to share in the joy and celebration of the following high school seniors:

Veronica Christ	Alyssa Schuetz
Rachael Czerna	Audriana Stag
Sean Lessig	Timothy Unkert
Jamie Maglio	Alexander Wardach

May God bless them as they continue on their journey.

Father's Day Blessing

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
 The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
 The lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.*



It's What We Do: Mission Interpretation Highlights

- Sunday, June 4** Last day to donate CWS Hygiene Kit supply items. Please see the tag cross on the table in the Fellowship Hall for items still needed
- Sunday, June 11** Mission Team members invite anyone who would like to join them pack up the Hygiene Kit supplies into Ziplocs immediately after church service
- Saturday, June 17** 9 a.m. - noon America's Grow a Row. As farming is weather dependent, details for location and job will be forthcoming days prior to June 17th via a MI Team member calling you. The program starts at 9 a.m. but groups are encouraged to arrive as early as 8:30 if they want to bring coffee and snacks. Dress for the weather and come "rain or shine" unless otherwise notified (thunderstorms or too much mud).



Don't forget our end of summer harvest date with America's Grow a Row on Saturday, August 26, from 9 to noon. A sign-up sheet is available on the Fellowship Hall mission bulletin board. Call Lainey Johns at 996-7053 with questions.

Little Dresses for Africa

June 24 | 9:30 a.m.

www.littledressesforafrica.org

Come join us on Saturday June 24 to make simple dresses to donate to *Little Dresses for Africa*. This non-profit group distributes free dresses through orphanages, villages, and schools to orphaned young girls throughout continental Africa and beyond.



We're not just sending dresses,
we're **HOPE**
Sending

We will use our share of this year's Global Peace Offering to buy the materials and pillowcases needed to create the colorful little dresses. Dresses will provide relief, as well as plant the seed of worthiness in the hearts of God's most vulnerable: little girls. The dresses offer the girls a feeling of worthiness and hope. They also create a sense that the girls belong and are cared for by others.

Details:

We will hand- and machine-sew, iron, and decorate little dresses made from pillowcases from 9:30 to 12:30. All skill levels are welcome and will be put to work!

Also, we are collecting lace, ribbons, and appliqués to add style to our creations. Any donations you have may be placed in the bag on the mission bulletin board outside the choir room.

Additionally, we are in need of some sewing machines, ironing boards, and irons. If you can bring any of those on the 24th please put your name on the signup sheet in the narthex



Hygiene Kits

June 11 | 11:15 a.m.

The congregation is invited to join in creating 20 hygiene kits to be distributed by Church World Service. The kits mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families caught in a natural disaster, in violence, or in poverty. Each kit will contain a hand towel, wash cloth, comb, fingernail clipper, bar of soap, toothbrush, and 10 band aides. If you'd like to donate please pick up an item tag from the cross in Fellowship. Collection boxes are located in Fellowship Hall and narthex. We will meet to assemble the kits on June 11, immediately following the Sunday service. Please see any member of the Mission Team with questions.



Clothing Drive Results

The results are in! A whopping 80 large bags of donations were collected during our clothing drive! At the end of the drive, the youth group sorted through the collection and culled out items suitable to send to the thrift shop. There, any sold items they donated will yield a small consignment fee which will be put toward their summer mission trip expenses. All in all, your thoughtful donations assisted 4 separate groups: our youth, the people they will work with on their upcoming trip, the clients of the Rescue Mission, and SAFE in Hunterdon's consignment shop. Thank you on behalf of them all!

Deacons Highlights

Regular Meeting | May 2, 2017

- Deacon Alicia Apgar led the opening devotions using *Developing a Godly Life Style* which focused on not conforming to the ways of the world
- The cares and concerns of the congregation were shared
- Ministry Team reports:
 - Christian Education: Summer trip to Norristown Pennsylvania: 13 youth and 4 adults; Confirmation – 10 8th graders; Sunday school has ended for the summer
 - Evangelism and Membership: Easter egg hunt went well; Confirmation Sunday is May 21 and parents will provide refreshments; June 4 is Pentecost and Reformation Sunday
 - Mission Interpretation: Clothing Drive is May 7 to 15
 - Stewardship and Finance: Capital Campaign is beginning
 - Worship and Music: Choir members are reporting satisfaction with Jerry
- Communion was provided to our shut-ins
- Easter baskets were delivered to 6 shut-ins
- Summer post-worship refreshments (cookies and lemonade) will be provided in the courtyard on July 2, August 6, and September 3



Celebration Sunday!

Come help us celebrate the close of our capital campaign
"Renewing God's House: A Great Heritage, A Great Future"

We will announce the total money pledged
and the total from the First Fruit offering

as we **celebrate** all we have accomplished

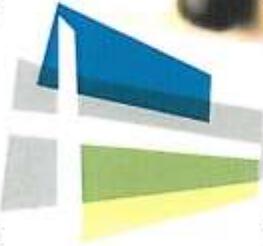
TOGETHER

over ice cream sundaes!

June 18

right after the worship service

RENEWING GOD'S HOUSE



A Great Heritage, A Great Future



Session Highlights



Regular Meeting | May 10, 2017

- The Session met with the elders, confirmands, parents, and mentors after sharing dinner and hearing the confirmands' statements of faith
- Elder Lainey Johns led devotions with comments and prayer citing Thessalonians 5:16
- The deacons reported they are continuing their work with the local shelter and reaching out to families in need
- Elder Karl Nielsen reported receipts to date are \$70,612.09 and expenses are \$67,442.80 with a deficit of \$4,681.
- A lighthearted sample motion regarding serving liver at congregational meetings was presented by Pastor Nick and discussed as a way to demonstrate the workings of the Session to the confirmands. The motion was defeated
- Approved ten confirmands to be received into membership on Sunday, May 14

Confirmand

Brianna Giuliano
Sara Wardach
Tori Kramer
Gillian Cascio
Emily Norgard
Emilie Serrone
Madison Butz
Rebecca Sutton
Ashley Folmar
Abby Schaefer

Mentor

LuAnn Keefe
Flora Nielsen
Cyndi McDowall
Alice Hansen
Meredith Oliver
Shari Norgard
Gayle Hatch
Carol Moran
Nancy Schumann
Laura Strangfeld

- Capital Campaign financial updates will now be part of the treasurer's report
- A recently completed Capital Campaign video is online for those who have not had the opportunity to view it.
- Packets of updated campaign information are available for anyone who was unable to attend the home gatherings
- 50 family units out of 110 families invited attended the recent home gatherings
- Elder Marty Gunderman noted that after some delays regarding the contract, the new lighting will be installed soon. Clean-up Saturday is scheduled for May 13
- Christian Education will hold summer Sunday school for pre-K through 5th grade June 11-August 27
- Evangelism and Membership will have balloons available for the Pentecost Sunday celebration on June 4
- Elder Lainey Johns reported that the clothing drive was a great success; a Hygiene Kits product list sign-up is available in Fellowship Hall; AFPC will join the Grow-a-Row planting day June 24; garments for Little Dresses for Africa will be created on Saturday, June 14; donation of buttons, trim and money are appreciated
- Elder Laura Navarro noted that yearly personnel reviews will begin soon
- Elder Karl Nielsen reminded us that plans for the annual fall Stewardship campaign are underway
- Noted that Jerry Phelps has been warmly received as the new Director of Music Ministry
- Pastor Nick reminded team leaders that the church year calendar for 2017-2018 should be reviewed and items added as soon as available.

Session Highlights continued p. 10

Session Highlights *continued*

Special Meeting | May 14, 2017

Confirmands Abby Schaefer and Ashley Folmar were introduced who then proceeded to read their faith statements. A motion was made to approve Ashley and Abby for confirmation, pending their affirmation of faith in worship on May 21, 2017.

A motion was made to pay a portion of George Erlandson's psychological testing as mandated by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of the Presbytery of New Brunswick. This portion amounts to \$467 from the church. George will also pay \$467 and the CPM will pay the remaining \$467.

Both motions were passed.

Vacation Bible School

July 31 to August 4

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church



Vacation Bible School

Hosted by Alexandria, Frenchtown,
and Milford Presbyterian Churches

DATE: July 31 to August 4

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: Alexandria First Presbyterian Church
141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road (Route 519)

REGISTRATION: Available at www.alexpres.org



Worship Assistants

- June 4** Charlie Tiedeman
June 11 Glynn Skibinski
June 18 Shari Norgard
June 25 Flora Nielsen

Ushers

- June 4** Kunich family
June 11 Navarro family
June 18 MacWilliam family
June 25 Carroll family

Communion Servers

- June 4** Steve Cameron, LuAnn Keefe,
Meredith Oliver, Charlie Tiedeman



Special Dates

Also see the main calendar on page 12

- June 4** Pentecost, communion
June 11 Trinity Sunday
June 18 Celebration Sunday
June 24 Little Dresses for Africa,
mission trip begins

Coming Up

- July 4** Office closed
July 16 Baptism
July 31 Vacation Bible school begins



Our Ministry Team Officers

Building and Property Doug Bondor (D), Marty Gunderman (E),
Jim Hansen (E)

Christian Education Jim Bush (E), Barbara Pederson (E),
Alicia Scurti (D)

Evangelism/Membership Lois Bondor (E),
Cyndi McDowall (E), Cathy Torrey (D), Carol Van Norman (D)

Mission Interpretation Brad Bondor (E), Steve Cameron (D),
Lainey Johns (E), Alice Hansen (D)

Nominating Jim Bush (E), Joan Carroll (E)

Personnel Joan Carroll (E), Helen Jones (D), Laura Navarro (E)

Stewardship and Finance Pat Keefe (D), Denis Goldman (E),
Karl Nielsen (E), Eric Strangfeld (D)

Worship and Music Jeri Bone (E), Evelyn Cameron (D), Howard
Jones (E), Tammy Sassaman (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

**ALEXANDRIA FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**
141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road
Milford, NJ 08848
Web: www.alexpres.org
Office: 908-996-4333

THE STAFF of ALEXANDRIA CHURCH

Reverend Nicholas C. Hatch
Pastor

Jerry Phelps
Director of Music Ministry

Pati Tiedeman
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 Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><u>Deacon of the Week</u></p> <p>June 4 Cathy Torrey</p> <p>June 11 Carol Van Norman</p> <p>June 18 Pat Keefe</p> <p>June 25 Evelyn Cameron</p>					<p>1</p> <p>3:00 Staff</p> <p>7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Pentecost Ministry Appreciation</p> <p>10:00 Worship, communion</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:30 Bible study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline</p> <p>6:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 Men's Bible study</p> <p>9:00 Session materials due</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	
<p>11</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Trinity Sunday</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>10:15 Summer Sunday school</p> <p>11:00 Assemble hygiene kits</p> <p>2:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>5:45 Presbytery</p> <p>6:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Session</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3:00 Staff</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 America's Grow-a- Row see p. 6</p>	
<p>18</p> <p style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">Celebration Sunday Father's Day</p> <p>10:00 Worship, commissioning, high school seniors recognized</p> <p>10:15 Summer Sunday school</p> <p>11:00 Ice cream social</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 B&P</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline</p> <p>6:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 Men's Bible study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 July/August <i>Branches</i> deadline</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 Little Dresses for Africa see p. 6</p>	
<p>25</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>10:15 Summer Sunday school</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline</p> <p>6:30 Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:00 M.I.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00 Men's Bible study</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Mission Trip</p>	
<p>Mission Trip</p>	<p>Mission Trip</p>	<p>Mission Trip</p>	<p>Mission Trip</p>	<p>Mission Trip</p>	<p>Mission Trip</p>		