

Branches

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

“I am the vine, you are the branches.”

September 2018

**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,

I hope you have all had a terrific summer and have enjoyed the variety and diversity of different pastors who have filled the pulpit in my absence. I have enjoyed seeing your Flat Jesus pictures over the summer and I'm hoping that you have enjoyed seeing mine—it has certainly been an eventful summer for the Hatch family!

But as summer comes to an end, I look forward to returning to the church family I love so dearly. My first Sunday back will be September 2nd. On the 2nd I will be back at AFPC, but not yet leading worship or preaching . . . I'll be worshiping with you in the congregation (the Lilly Foundation recommends this as a way to transition back into leadership). The following Sunday, September 9th will be my first Sunday back leading worship—this Sunday is also our Rally Day! Please join us on September 9th as we officially kick off our program year and welcome back the choir and hear from our Senior High youth mission trip participants! We will also have our annual church picnic on the 9th!

Then on September 23rd we will have the *Connections* lunch. This lunch is an opportunity to hear about my sabbatical experience, see pictures and to tell your stories too. It will be an opportunity for all of us to *connect* together and reflect on the summer.

I can't wait to see all of you again soon!

Your friend,

Pastor Nick



*Flat Jesus visits the Hatch kids at
Mission Beach, San Diego*

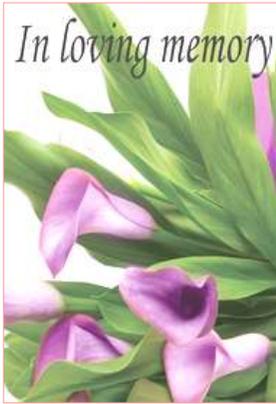


*Flat Jesus with Pastor Nick at the
Iowa Summer Writers' Festival*

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 Keith Mitchell Ferdinando, John Leslie McDowall, Tanner Ike McGuire, Matthew Joseph Pardonner, and Jenna Rose Schostkewitz became children of God through the sacrament of baptism. Congratulations and blessings!



Barbara Sherwood, a long-time member of Alexandria Church, passed away July 15, 2018 at Country Arch Care Center. She was 87. Barb was born February 19, 1931 in Binghamton, NY where she spent her young adult years and where she met and married her beloved husband Rexford. They raised a family in Suffern, New York before settling in Alexandria Township in 1984. Barbara sang in the choir and took part in a variety of church activities and Bible studies. An avid reader, she spent many years volunteering at the Holland Township Public Library.

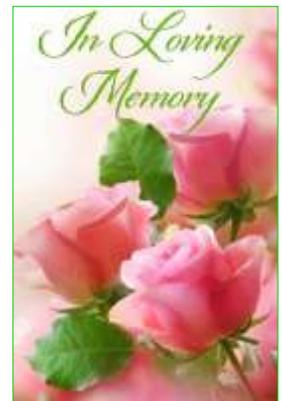
Barb is a daughter of Donald and Ethel (Hammett) Hull and is survived by her son Mark Sherwood, her three daughters Naomi Miner-Mahaffey, Rebecca Bordeaux, and Deborah. A celebration of life was held July 21 at Johnson Walton Funeral Home.

The family requests that memorial contributions may be made to the church's building fund. Our Christian sympathies are extended to Barb's family and to all those who loved her.

Dottie Erwin, a beloved member of Alexandria Church, passed away July 21, 2018 at her home. She was 88. Dottie was born December 21, 1929 in Everittstown and graduated from Frenchtown High School. She was the manager for Pinecrest Apartments and worked at Milford First National Bank. Dottie was an active member of the church for over 70 years where she volunteered as assistant financial secretary, Sunday school teacher, youth group leader, and Bible study participant. She was a member of the Presbyterian Women. She met her husband Keith at the church as teenagers when they both sang in the choir.

A celebration of the life of Dottie Erwin will be held at the church Saturday, September 8 at 11 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the church's capital campaign program.



September Birthdays

2 Emily Fennell	11 Arianna Scurti	24 Barbara McLaren	27 Joseph Bercaw
Alice Hansen	13 LuAnn Keefe	Chris Stagg	Deb Czerna
Ed Muztafago	14 Chris Vogel	25 Grant MacWilliam	28 Johanna Schooff
3 Scott Moran	19 Roger Schneider	26 Nick Hatch	30 Abby Ferdinando
10 Gillian Cascio	20 Meredith Oliver	Laura Strangfeld	
Romulus Fleming	23 Holland Fritsche	27 Tyler Bender	

Renewing God's House and Construction

Please be advised the sanctuary air conditioning has been turned off until further notice due to the construction. Worship will continue to be held as scheduled and every effort will be made for your comfort!

For your safety, do not enter the youth room area as it is an active construction site where obstacles and debris may cause harm. Restrooms in the youth room will remain closed until construction is completed. Restrooms by the Nursery on the lower level and those in Fellowship Hall are still accessible. If you have questions, please speak with Jim Hansen.

The pipe organ will be out of commission for several months. The blower, which supplies air to the pipes, has been disconnected due to construction in the basement.

Thanks for your understanding while we are "Renewing God's House."

Be a Caring Crafter

September 16 | 11:15 a.m.

Raise your hand if you're caring! The Caring Hands Crafters meet on the third Sunday of each month and our first meeting of the new program year will be September 16 at 11:15 a.m. in the conference room. Crafters are encouraged to bring any project in the works or have finished and join us for a fun time of "Show and Tell." We'll also be learning how to do loom knitting. Loom knitting is an easier way to knit than using needles allowing you to make hats, scarves, and blankets with this 2-step process. It's fun and it's friendly to both righties and lefties! We'll have 3 looms available to share and practice on or you can bring your own. So, if you've been meaning to come and check out what we do but haven't made it to one of our gatherings yet, this is a great time to see what it's all about. Please see Alice Hansen with questions.



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES SEPTEMBER 16!

New Programs Kicking Off



September 6 | Choir resumes

Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals at 7 p.m. on September 6 in the Choir Room. Chancel Choir is open to all high school-aged singers and above. Come and make a joyful noise with us as we prepare for this fall and our annual Christmas concert. Speak with Jerry if you have any questions.

September 9 | Rally Day

Join us as we kick off the new program year on Rally Day. A mission presentation, youth-led worship, and the anthem by the Chancel Choir will highlight the morning. Our annual church-wide picnic (see p. 11) follows worship. An opportunity to complete the Gifts for Ministry survey will also be available.

September 12 | Session resumes

Session recommences following its summer hiatus on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Any materials to be included in this month's Session packet should be in the church office before September 5. Please note that this particular meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. instead of the usual 7 p.m.

September 16 | Sunday school begins

Sunday school classes are available for children ages 3 through high school as an opportunity to grow their faith. Classes begin after the children's sermon at approximately 10:15 a.m. Special care has been taken to coordinate the curriculum with a sequence that follows the church calendar so conversations can continue at home. On the first Sunday of the month, we celebrate "family worship" where children remain in the sanctuary with their parents. Nursery care is available for our youngest children through the loving care of a dedicated nursery staff; toys and books are abundant. Audio speakers in the nursery allow parents visiting their children to hear the worship service too. Volunteers for our programs are always welcome!

September 16 | Commissioning

When a new ship is ready to set sail, it is "commissioned." Commissioning serves as a public declaration that the vessel is seaworthy and ready for voyage. It is the launching point of the ship's active service. A commissioning worship service is an important time for both those being commissioned as well as the church. Not only does it reaffirm commitments to each other, it provides a time to rejoice and give thanks together before the start of the program year. All teachers, small group leaders, and youth advisors will be commissioned during the worship service on the 16th.

Week of September 16 | Bible Studies Resume

- Mondays: Currently suspended; but stay tuned for news on when it will resume
- Tuesdays: Meets at 9:30 a.m. at the church but the venue may change after reconvening this month. The topic is focused on religion around the world and the leader is Stacy Butz
- Wednesdays: Resumes September 12 at 9:30 a.m. The topic is *Believe* and the leaders are Jeri Bone, Lainey Johns, LuAnn Keefe, and Flora Nielsen

You are warmly invited to join us on

Sunday, September 23

at 11:15 a.m.

in Fellowship Hall

as we officially welcome

the Hatch family's

return from sabbatical.

A catered luncheon

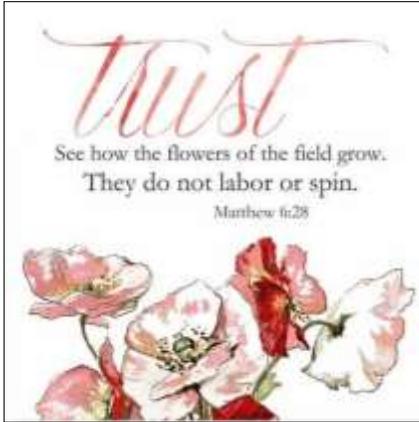
and a slide presentation

will be the highlight of the afternoon.

Your RSVP by way of the sign-up sheet

in the narthex is greatly appreciated.





July and August Flowers

- July 15** Flowers were given to the glory of God by the Bondor family
- July 22** Flowers were given to the glory of God by Barb McLaren in memory of her husband Mal on his birthday
- August 12** Flowers were given to the glory of God by the Torrey family in celebration of Matthew's 23rd birthday

Thank You Note

I wanted to say Thank you again for coordinating the lunch after my mother's memorial service. My family and I really appreciated your help during a difficult time. Would you please send a big thank you to all who sent desserts and who helped with set up and clean up.

In Christ,
Rebecca Berdeaux

from Barb Sherwood's daughter

Mission Interpretation

It's What We Do

Help and support for Frenchtown fire victims:

<https://frenchtownboro.com/statement-from-united-way-of-hunterdon-county-on-frenchtown-fire-relief/>



COME PLANT WITH US!

AMERICA'S GROW-A-ROW planting opportunities are back!

You've heard us talk about AGAR, one of Hunterdon County's local mission treasures (www.americagrowarow.org to learn more).

WE HAVE DATES! Please sign up on the hallway bulletin board to come out to the fields Saturday, September 15, 2018 (8:45 a.m.-noon-ish) and/or Saturday, October 13, 2018 (8:45 a.m.-noon-ish). For questions please see any Mission Team member or call Lainey Johns.

SHOP RITE GLEANING NEEDS YOUR HELP . . .

If you have 90 minutes one Thursday morning a month, MI would love your help! We pick up approximately 6-12 boxes of donated produce from Clinton Shop Rite's back door and deliver them to the Branching Out Food Bank in Phillipsburg (NEW FACILITY! EASY ACCESS!) Our sign-up sheet is on the hallway bulletin board, or see any Mission Teamster for more info!

THANK YOU ALL ! 45 CWS HYGIENE KIT BAGS DONATED !

Mission Interpretation would like to thank all who donated and bagged up 45 hygiene kit supply bags for the 2018 CWS Hygiene Kit Project this summer. On August 5th after Sunday service, volunteers gathered, prayed on, and bagged up the supplies you so generously provided over the summer months. These kits go worldwide, providing daily basic needs (combs, toothbrushes, soap, & more). THANK YOU ALL!



UPCOMING...???



Peace & Global Witness Offering – Sunday, October 7, 2018

submitted by Lainey Johns

News from Presbyterian Church USA

In an isolated part of Brazil on the evening of October 4 1957, John Stout looked at the skies and took the first photographs of the earth-orbiting Sputnik satellite. In fact, he took 400 photographs with equipment that cost only \$10. At the time of the launch, John Stout was a Presbyterian missionary and a professor in charge of the Analytical Chemistry and Engineering Design Department at the University of Lavras. He was that rare individual skilled in both the scientific and spiritual realms. A World War II minister, Stout held degrees in Petroleum Engineering and in



Chemical Engineering. He and his wife Helen had followed a call to missionary work for the Presbyterian Church in the United States. The then-Senator Lyndon Johnson asked Stout to conduct surveillance on potential Soviet space activity when a Soviet satellite was scheduled to pass over his remote area of Brazil. On that October night in a dark Brazilian forest, Stout's homemade camera caught the first images of Sputnik ever recorded in the West. Upon their return to the United States, Stout was offered a position at Pan American Airways Guided Missile

Ranch Division in Cape Canaveral, Florida. There his reputation grew to the point where he was offered a position as senior information scientist at NASA. Stout took the job under one condition: he would also work as the administration's volunteer chaplain. During his time at NASA, Stout started the Apollo Prayer League, which at its peak had a membership of 40,000. The league spearheaded the creation of the "Lunar Bible," a packet of 100 microfiche/microfilm versions of the King James Bible placed on the moon by Apollo 14.

The Presbyterian Historical Society

Capital Campaign Update

What's New in September?

- Construction is on-going . . . stay tuned for more news and be sure to look at the church's Facebook page for pictures. Exciting stuff is happening!!
- Session will resume meeting this month and we will keep you posted on any financing or construction decisions that are made.
- The Capital Campaign is nearing the halfway point and half the pledged amount has been received to date. This is truly wonderful news that will allow us to obtain a lower loan amount to be approved by the congregation early this fall!
- And remember . . . the air conditioning in the sanctuary has been temporarily disconnected because of the construction . . . so dress appropriately!





It's Time to Smile

Our church will be publishing an updated photo directory this fall with the help of Lifetouch Family Photography. We hope each and every member and friend of our church family will participate. The dates that the photographer will be on site to take photos are Wednesday October 10, Thursday October 11, and Friday October 12, from 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. each day. Please mark your calendars now. Look for inserts in the bulletins during the month of September. You will be able to sign up

for a time slot online or after church beginning September 9. Each person, couple, or group being photographed will receive a free 8" x 10" photo. Additional photos and packages will be offered for those who wish copies for Christmas cards or gifts. You may even include your small pets (sorry, no horses in the Fellowship Hall). Your extended family members, friends, and neighbors are also welcomed to come have their pictures taken and receive a free 8" x 10" photo but they will not be included in the finished church directory. Please direct any questions you may have to Lois Bondor.

Session Highlights

The Session

Regular Session Meeting | June 3, 2018

- Reverend Hatch opened the meeting with a prayer
- Deacon Carol Van Norman reported on recent activities of the deacons including the luncheon for Reverend Jim Morris and the start of cookies and lemonade in the courtyard on communion Sundays. She characterized the past year as a great year with the deacons
- Reverend Hatch asked for prayers for our new treasurer Elder Robin Vogel as she works to become familiar with financial situation of the church
- Clerk Jim Bush reported the average Sunday worship attendance was 97 in May. Two baptisms were performed on May 20 for Lyla Virginia Fritsche and Tyler Magee Unkert. Five confirmands, Jason Czerna, Lyla Fritsche, Jake Maglio, Tyler Unkert, and Keira Vogel, were received into membership by Affirmation of Faith on May 20
- The following recommendations were approved:
 - The Membership and Evangelism Team for approval to plan and publish a new photo directory in the fall of 2018
 - The Building and Property Team for approval to award the parking lot paving contract to Hick's Paving for a total of \$52,700. This will be for 2/3 of the lot at approximately 18,200 square feet
 - The Mission Interpretation Team for approval to recruit volunteers and participate in AGAR planting sessions on September 16 and October 13, 2018, 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.
- Reverend Hatch introduced and welcomed the new members of Session and thanked those who were going off Session
- Session will recess until September. The September meeting will include elder training. The October meeting will be the joint meeting of the Deacons and Session including dinner
- Reverend Hatch reviewed some of the details during his upcoming sabbatical: If Session needs to call a meeting, several of our guest ministers are in our Presbytery and could serve as moderator.
- Reverend Hatch will return from his sabbatical on the first Sunday in September and will begin leading worship on the following Sunday, September 9



Join us as we
CONNECT
 our families

Please be a part of our new family directory program—we need YOU to make our new family album complete!

Let's put names with faces. We have chosen to partner with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our members and tell our story.

Convenient

Lifetouch will photograph at our location.

In your one-hour session you will:

- Check-in
- Be professionally photographed
- Immediately view your portraits
- Have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits

When was the last time you or your family had a professional portrait taken?

Portraits are valued family keepsakes. Watch for more information coming soon about the opportunity to schedule your portrait session.

Appointments Available

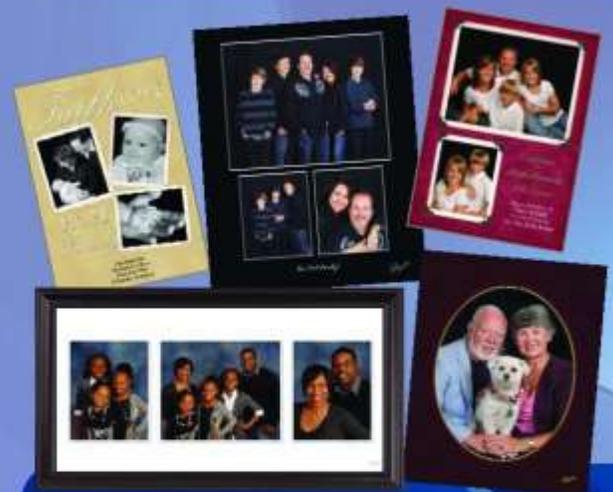
Wednesday, October 10 from 2-9 p.m.

Thursday, October 11 from 2-9 p.m.

Friday, October 12 from 2-9 p.m.



Each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating



Exciting products turn your portraits into cherished memories

Products may vary



CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, September 9, 2018

11 a.m.

Church Grove

**Bring a Salad, Side Dish, or Dessert to Share
Sign up Sheets Are in Fellowship Hall and Narthex**

!! This Is a Rain or Shine Event !!

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church
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Worship Assistants

- Sept 2** Lainey Johns
Sept 9 Youth
Sept 16 Rick Carroll
Sept 23 Pat Keefe
Sept 30 Pat Keefe

Ushers

- Sept 2** Lainey Johns
Sept 9 Youth
Sept 16 Rick Carroll
Sept 23 Pat Keefe
Sept 30 Pat Keefe

Communion

- Sept 2** Craig Bender, Jim Bush,
Shari Norgard, Tammy Sassaman

Special Dates

Also see the main calendar on page 13

- Sept 2** Communion, Rev Williams preaches
Sept 3 Labor Day, office closed
Sept 4 Pastor Nick returns from sabbatical
Sept 9 Rally Day, church picnic,
Pastor Nick preaches
Sept 16 Sunday school resumes
Sept 23 *Connections* luncheon and slide show

Coming Up

- Oct 7** World Communion Sunday
Oct 10-12 Church directory photo appointments



Our Ministry Team Officers

- Building and Property** Marty Gunderman (E), Jim Hansen (E)
Christian Education Alicia Apgar (D), Mary Goldman (E),
Cyndi McDowall (E),
Evangelism/Membership Lois Bondor (E), Howard Jones (E),
Sharon Solomon (D), Carol Van Norman (D)
Mission Interpretation Stacy Butz (D), Evelyn Cameron (D),
Lainey Johns (E), Howard Thomas (E)
Nominating LuAnn Keefe (E), Cyndi McDowall (E)
Personnel Joan Carroll (E), Helen Jones (D), Flora Nielsen (E)
Stewardship and Finance Laurie Gregory (D), Robin Vogel (E)
Worship and Music LuAnn Keefe (E), Flora Nielsen (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

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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
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Deacon of the Week

Sept 2	Tammy Sassaman
Sept 9	Carol Van Norman
Sept 16	Helen Jones
Sept 23	Stacy Butz
Sept 30	Laurie Gregory

<p>2</p> <p>10:00 Worship, communion 11:00 Refreshments</p>	<p>3</p> <p style="color: red;">Labor Day Office closed</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 6:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 Session materials due 6:30 Audit Committee</p>	<p>6</p> <p>2:30 Staff 4:15 Worship and Music 7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:00 Celebration of Life</p>
<p>9</p> <p style="color: red;">Rally Day 9:00 Christian Ed team meeting 10:00 Worship, mission presentation 11:00 Church picnic</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Bible study 5:45 Presbytery, Hamilton Square 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 Deacons</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Bible study 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 Session, elder training</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:45 to 12 America's Grow-a-Row</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10:00 Worship, commissioning 10:15 Sunday school 11:15 Caring Hands Crafters</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Bible study 6:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 Bible study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 October Branches deadline 2:30 Staff 6:00 Junior Choir 6:30 Youth Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school 11:15 <i>Connections</i> lunch and slide presentation 5:30 Den 4</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Bible study 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 B&P 7:00 Mission Interp.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 Bible study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school</p>						