

# Branches

**Alexandria First Presbyterian Church**

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

**October 2019**

**141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road  
Milford, New Jersey 08848**

**908-996-4333**

**Web: [www.alexpres.org](http://www.alexpres.org)**

**Facebook: Alexandria First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant**

Dear Friends,

## A Note from Nick

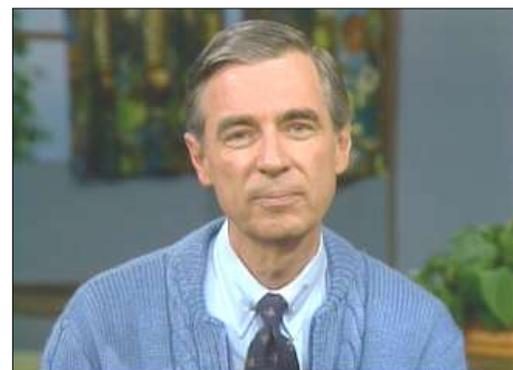
This past Sunday I began a sermon series titled "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" This sermon series is focusing on the importance of loving our neighbor . . . connecting Christ's call to love with the simple faith and wisdom of Mr. Rogers. Together over the next few weeks we are exploring the loving message displayed on the banner in front of our church and looking at what it means to truly follow Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors.

Fred Rogers certainly had a thing or two to say about how to be good neighbors. To begin this series on Sunday I lifted up the quote below from Mr. Rogers. This quote reminds us of how difficult it is to love. It *is* challenging to love. It *is* sometimes a very real struggle to love. And so loving takes work . . . loving someone is an active process of struggling. It is not easy to love even those that love us, much less our neighbors. But just as God loves us for the broken, sinful people we are, let us also try to love without prejudice or judgment. It's not up to us to fix anyone or change anyone . . . Jesus tells us to simply love each other, to accept each for whom they truly are . . . children of God.

I hope you will come and struggle with me as we challenge ourselves with what it means to love our neighbors with no exceptions! The remaining sermons will be on September 22 and October 6, 13, and 20.

Peace,

*Pastor Nick*



"Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like struggle. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, here and now."

—Fred Rogers

## 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!

### Sympathies

Christian sympathy and prayers are extended to Sue Wernersbach and family upon the death of her husband, Ray Wernersbach, who passed away on September 4, 2019.

Prayers are also extended to Charlie Tiedeman upon the passing of his mother, Anna Yates Tiedeman, on September 3, 2019.

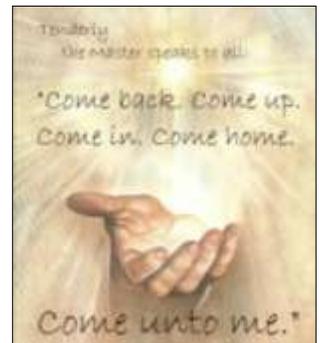
May the Lord comfort those who mourn.

## October Birthdays

<b>1</b> Kaylee Gunderman	<b>10</b> Lolita Navarro	<b>12</b> Keith Erwin	<b>25</b> Renee Navarro
<b>2</b> Steve Cameron	Melinda Parsons	<b>15</b> Karen Santangelo	<b>26</b> Andrew Meyer
Charlie Tiedeman	<b>11</b> Helen Jones	<b>16</b> Bruce Hunt	<b>27</b> Gene Geissinger
<b>4</b> Max Andreychak	Pat Keefe	<b>18</b> Nora Hatch	<b>31</b> Conor Goldman
<b>5</b> Jillian Moran	<b>12</b> Matthew Butz	<b>23</b> Betty Macaulay	Meghan Kunich
			Belle Sassaman

## Come Home

Falling leaves, cooler nights, crisp walks, firing up the BBQ one last time. But fall is not just about last things. It's also about new things—like a new place to meet friends, connection with your community, and spiritual growth. At Alexandria Church you'll find those new opportunities along with relevant messages, meaningful music, great youth and children's programs, and a come-as-you-are atmosphere. Join us for worship at 10:00 a.m. There's a place for you here. Come home, start the new season with us!



## Sanctuary Flowers Given to the Glory of God

**September 22** by Barbara McLaren in celebration of the changing seasons

**September 29** by Cindy Accardi in honor of all our service men and women

## World Communion Sunday

**October 6, 2019 | 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 6**

October 6 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 peace-makers, to be witnesses and advocates for compassion, peace, and justice. To seek "peace in all times in all ways."

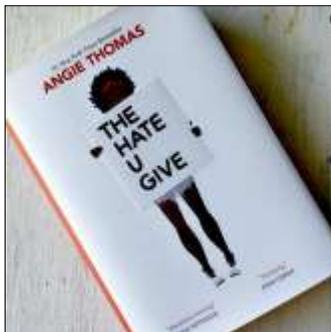
On World Communion Sunday Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, invites us to the table. It is a big table and we share it with many. We share our table with those around the nation and the globe. Our P&GWO supports a multitude of ministries and programs on the local and national level. 25% of our P&GWO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

## Book Discussion



**November 3 | 11:15 a.m.**

What is our Christian response to racism? How can we do better? What role should our community of faith have in responding to racism? We will begin to study these questions as a church in a series of meetings over the next year. Our first meeting will be on November 3 following worship. We will meet to discuss the book *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas. This book is a great way to introduce the topic. Please grab a copy, read it, and join us! (You can obtain a copy of the *Hate You Give* at Amazon.com, your favorite bookstore, or local library.)

## Mission Interpretation

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

**OR:**

In your web browser address bar, type smile.amazon.com and click “Enter.”

If your Amazon account does not already have you logged in, go ahead and log into your account.

Click “Supporting” under the white Amazon search bar for drop down menu, then type in Alexandria First Presbyterian Church in the box. Click “Search.”

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church will appear (Milford, NJ), click “Select” and start shopping!

GROCERY STORE GLEANING

America’s Grow-a-Row’s program of grocery store gleaning continues year-round and would love your help. Join the AFPC volunteers and drive Clinton Shop Rite’s donated produce to the *Phillipsburg Branching Out Food Pantry*. Sign-ups are posted on the bulletin board or see any Mission Team member.



CARING HANDS CRAFTERS

**October 20 | 11:15 a.m.**



Imagine being desperately ill, your hair falls out by the handful, you don’t feel or even look like yourself. And you’re fighting cancer. It’s a terrible place to be and some of us have even experienced this first hand.

We at Caring Hands Crafters pray over each piece of handmade crochet or knitted item as we create them and pray over them again just before they are shipped out to hospitals across the country. Our goal is to provide physical and emotional comfort for those who are undergoing the fight of their lives. Would you like to help us?

For those who have never joined a Caring Hands Crafters gathering before, we are an extremely causal group that shares a dual passion for crafting and mission. Are you new to fiber arts? We can teach you how to make a cap and supply you with the tools you’ll need. Please—reach out and take our caring hands.



***Hayride & Pumpkin Pickin'***  
**Sunday, October 20**  
**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.



**Autumn Clean-up Day**  
**Saturday, October 26**  
**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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.





## Do You Speak a Different Language?

**World Communion Sunday | October 6**

Maybe Spanish, or French? Or maybe Mandarin or Italian? If you speak any language (other than English) and would be willing to read John 3:16 in worship as a part of our World Communion Sunday, please contact the church office or Pastor Nick and let us know what language you speak. Thanks!

## PCUSA News

### Given the Chance, This Women Is Proving Her Mettle

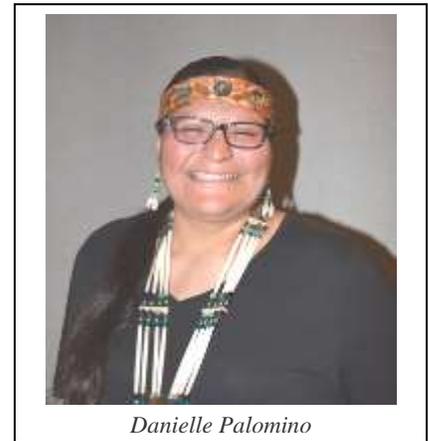
Women are playing increasingly pivotal roles at every level in the Presbyterian Church USA. From moderators to stated clerks at the middle governing body, women are at the forefront. And not to be excluded from this wave of women leadership are Native American women.

Danielle Palomino is an emerging Native American leader. She grew up in the Church of the Indian Fellowship on the Puyallup Reservation in Washington State. As a fifth-generation Native and Presbyterian, Palomino said she was expected to be involved in her church as a youth.

She most recently served on the committee that organized the Native American women's gathering held in Suquamish, Washington. "When we heard about the Presbyterian women, we jumped at the chance to get involved," she said. "We wanted everyone included. I was one of seven women who worked on the committee."

At the gathering, Palomino was voted co-moderator of the Native American Presbyterian Women beginning in 2021. Palomino has recently been nominated for a national PCUSA committee.

"I was asked to serve on this committee because they wanted to include a voice for Native Americans," she said. "If there are other groups or committees that have a calling for Native American participants, I would be more than honored to sit on these committees and to have input on how to implement positive change and to pave a wider path for more women and Native people to be a part of these committees."



*Danielle Palomino*

*by Gail Strange | Presbyterian News Service*



## What Is Lunch Bunch?

**Next Gathering | October 16, 12 p.m.**

Last year 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 our welcomed! This month's Lunch Bunch will be Wednesday, October 16 at noon.

## Calling All Nursery Volunteers

Do you have an interest in helping out with the church nursery? We are in need of nursery care providers to assist us on Sundays and for special events several times a year. If you are interested, please sign up for a time slot using the below link and leave us your name and email address so we can reach out (especially if you have not volunteered for nursery care before as we need to complete some steps before you can be up and running).

When helping out, please arrive at the nursery by 9:50 a.m. so that families can drop children off before the service starts. Plan to stay to clean up afterwards until approximately 11:30 a.m.

Let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Reach out to Mary Goldman or to Cyndi McDowall. Their contact info is in the church directory or you are welcome to call the church office.

Here's the link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080544ABAE2AAAF58-nursery>



## 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 several dozen Thanksgiving food boxes which 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.

Thankyou 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. To print a survey, visit our website at the "Forms & Downloads" tab.

**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

Contact Renee Skibinski | 908-246-7516

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 13 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 11 freshman college youth as well as some suggested items to provide for the packages in Fellowship Hall.

## Why Bother?

A church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastor is wasting his by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the letters to the editor column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"



*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.*

## Worship Assistants

- Oct 6** Tammy Sassaman  
**Oct 13** Flora Nielsen  
**Oct 20** Robin Pulsinelle  
**Oct 27** Al Navarro

## Ushers

- Oct 6** Steve Pardonner, Howard Thomas  
**Oct 13** Fritsche family  
**Oct 20** Barbara Pedersen, John Solomon  
**Oct 27** Tiedeman family

## Communion

- Oct 6** Brad Bondor, Doug Bondor,  
 Evelyn Cameron, Helen Jones



## Special Dates

*Also see the main calendar on page 10*

- Oct 1** World Communion  
**Oct 9** Session/Deacons  
**Oct 20** Hayrides

## Coming Up

- Nov 3** Book Discussion  
**Nov 17** Roller skating, Frenchtown  
**Nov 19** Lunch Bunch



## Our Ministry Team Officers

**Building and Property** Craig Bender (E), Jim Hansen (E)

**Christian Education** Mary Goldman (E), Laurie Gregory (D),  
 Cyndi McDowall (E)

**Evangelism/Membership** Lois Bondor (E), Karen Pardonner (D),  
 Sharon Solomon (D)

**Mission Interpretation** Stacy Butz (D), Steve Pardonner (E),  
 Howard Thomas (E)

**Nominating** LuAnn Keefe (E), Cyndi McDowall (E)

**Personnel** Joan Carroll (E), Helen Jones (D), Flora Nielsen (E)

**Stewardship and Finance** Pat Keefe (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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.alexpres.org)

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**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](http://www.alexpres.org)
- Via his email: [nhatch@alexpres.org](mailto:nhatch@alexpres.org)

# Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

## October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Deacon of the Week</b> Sept 29 Sharon Solomon Oct 6 Helen Jones Oct 13 Stacy Butz Oct 20 Laurie Gregory Oct 27 Pat Keefe		<b>1</b>  9:00 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>2</b>  9:00 Session Materials Due 9:30 Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>  <b>World Communion Sunday</b> 10:00 Worship Communion 11:15 Refreshments	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  9:00 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 Bible Study 5:45 Presbytery, Dayton 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>9</b>  9:30 Bible Study 6:00 Joint Session	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>  10:00 Worship Ordination and Installation 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Refreshments	<b>14</b>  <b>Columbus Day</b>	<b>15</b>  9:00 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>16</b>  9:30 Bible Study 12:00 Lunch Bunch	<b>17</b>  9:00 November Branches Deadline	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>  10:00 Worship Baptism 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Refreshments 11:15 Caring Hands Crafters 1:30 Hayride	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  9:00 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Building and Property Team	<b>23</b>  9:30 Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  9:00 Clean Up Day See page 5
<b>27</b>  <b>Reformation Sunday</b> 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Refreshments	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  9:00 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts	<b>30</b>  9:30 Bible Study	<b>31</b>		

