

BRANCHES

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141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road
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<https://www.facebook.com/alexpres.org/>

ALEXANDRIA FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Note from Nick

Dear Friends,

On September 8th we will kick off our program year with Rally Day. This is a day to come back together after the summer and begin our program year at AFPC. This means that choirs, Sunday school, youth groups and ministry teams will begin meeting regularly again. Rally Day is also the day that we have our church picnic, are led in worship by our Youth Mission Trip Team and also fill out the Gift of Ministry Surveys.

Every year I get a couple of folks who will ask me, "I filled out a Gift of Ministry Survey last year, why do I need to fill out another one this year?" Well, the answer is simple, sometimes things change. Sometimes our address, phone numbers or emails need updating. And sometimes we feel called to serve in new ways! Just because you helped with one ministry last year doesn't mean that you want to serve with that ministry again this year, or maybe it means that you want to try and serve on an additional ministry, or a new ministry.

Yes, each Rally Day is a new opportunity to think about how we feel called to serve God and then respond! I want to challenge each of you to join a ministry team this year. Are you confused about the teams or what they do? Here are some quick answers:

What do ministry teams do? *They do the work of the church . . . planning events/worship, implementing curriculum and mission, proposing policy, carrying out special projects and so much more!*

What are the ministry teams? *Building & Property, Christian Education, Evangelism & Membership, Mission Interpretation, Worship & Music*

How often do ministry teams meet? *Some have regular monthly meetings, others meet less regularly as needed.*

Who can serve on a ministry team? *Members, non-members, young, old . . . anyone!*

Serving on a ministry team is a great way to not only serve God, but to get know other members of the church and be involved in the work of the church. When you serve on a ministry team you are more likely to feel a connection to the church and its ministry.

With our new session and deacon structure we have fewer elders and deacons which means that it is more crucial than ever that we have lots of at-large ministry team members. In order to make ministry happen, we will need everyone to participate!

So let's celebrate on Rally Day and also recommit ourselves to being disciples of Christ as we do the work of the church – come ready to be inspired by our Youth Mission Team and please prayerfully consider joining a ministry team when you fill out your Gifts of Ministry survey!

In Christ,

Pastor Nick

The Rev. Nicholas Hatch



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CHURCH FAMILY



- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jack Silliman | 15 Mackenzie Doyle | 24 Lyla Fritsche |
| 2 Doug Bondor | 16 Matthew Pardonner | 24 Charlotte Hatch |
| 3 Al Navarro | 16 Ashley Kunich | 24 Carol Van Norman |
| 4 Susan Kunich | 17 Margo Abelman | 25 John Solomon |
| 12 Tori Kramer | 19 Lois Bondor | 30 Maggie Purcell |
| 13 Don Bone | | 31 Shari Norgard |



- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Melissa Kramer | 9 Gayle Hatch | 25 Eleanor Fleck |
| 2 Abby Schaefer | 9 Ava Navarro | 27 Gary Knapp |
| 3 Anthony Vastola | 10 Joan Carroll | 27 Steve Pardonner |
| 4 Greg Hedden | 18 Pati Tiedeman | 28 Luke Abelman |
| 7 Robin Pulsinelle | 19 Marge Schade | 28 Glynn Skibinski |
| 7 Amelia Schaefer | 20 Cole Fritsche | 29 Craig Norgard |
| 8 Troy Tiedeman | | |

CHURCH FAMILY

HAPPENINGS



2 Emily Fennell
2 Alice Hansen
3 Scott Moran
4 Greg Hedden
11 LuAnn Keefe

19 Brian Johns
19 Roger Schneider
20 Darren Kluesner
23 Holland Fritsche
24 Barbara McLaren
24 Chris Stagg

25 Grant MacWilliam
26 Nick Hatch
26 Laura Strangfeld
27 Tyler Bender
27 Deb Czerna

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 anniversaries. It was July that Mackenzie Elizabeth Doyle, Wyatt Goldman, Alyssa Mary Schuetz and Brandon Scott Schuetz were baptized. Danica Lee Doyle celebrates her baptism in August. It was September that John Leslie McDowall and Matthew Joseph Par-donner were baptized. Congratulations and blessings upon being a child of God!

July/August Flowers

July 7: Given in memory of Susan Jenal by the MacWilliam family.

July 14: Given in the Glory of God by the Church Garden.

July 21: Given in the Glory of God by Barbara McLaren.

July 28: Given in celebration of Charlotte Hatch and Carol Van Norman's Birthdays.

August 18: Given in celebration of Gayle Hatch's Birthday.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

COMING UP

RALLY DAY

Our Rally Day this year will be September 8th. Please put it on your calendar and plan to come and join us as we kick off our program year! The Youth Mission Team will be leading worship and sharing about their mission trip to Ohio this summer.

What is Rally Day? By the end of summer, we all need a renewal of spiritual energy which is hard to do on our own. We set aside one day to “rally” together and seek the Holy Spirit’s power to energize us for worship, prayer and service.

Rally Day marks the beginning of the church year and the registering of students for Sunday school. Our youth will present a slide show of highlights from their mission trip. We also launch a new Bible study and reconnect with friends who were gone over the summer.

After join us for our annual church picnic in the grove. Tons of food and great fun await!!



MISSION TEAM NEWS

Thank you to everyone that donated items for the Tools 4 Schools drive the mission group held in August. All these school supplies and backpacks will be welcomed items for the children of Hunterdon County! Another successful drive and a way to lovingly give back to our communities.



**UNITED WAY OF
HUNTERDON COUNTY**



**TOOLS 4
SCHOOLS**



What is Tools 4 School? Every year United Way of Hunterdon collects school supplies for children on the free and reduced lunch program in school districts within Hunterdon County.

MISSION TEAM NEWS

PANTRY FOOD



HELPFUL TIPS

Some tips and guidance if you donate to food pantries derived from feedback by those who use them:

Most people buy what they think food pantry users want, but have never asked them. If you help families, single people, foster youth and the homeless, this list can help better tailor your donations!

- Fresh meat is a rarity, consider donating.
- Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
- Sugar and flour are treats.
- Butter or margarine is nice too.
- Eggs are a real commodity.
- Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.
- Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni
- Spices or salt and pepper would be a real gift.
- Tea bags and coffee make it feel like you care.
- Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. *They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.*
- **Boxed milk** is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
- Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti.
- Add a can opener unless you donate pop top canned veggies and soup.
- Fresh produce donated by farmers, home hobbyists and grocery stores are GREATLY appreciated.
- Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
- While many donations are peanut butter and jelly, usually sandwich bread is not included.
- Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
- Dish Soap / Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
- Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will greatly appreciate them.
- Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



2024 Vacation Bible School at AFPC was super-hero-tastic!!!!



Some of our wonderful volunteers and helpers!

Snack time!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



More fun
at VBS on
crazy hat day!!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS was enjoyed by all, what a wonderful week!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

PRAYER GROUP MEETINGS

Intercessory Prayer Group

YOU ARE INVITED!

**LET US GATHER TOGETHER
IN PRAYER!**

Are you feeling down...sad...helpless in the face of the current state of the world?

This is the question posed last year as we were preparing for our annual Lenten Study which focused on prayer. In the firm belief that "Praying together has the power to transform you and the surrounding world", (Carolyn Carney), a prayer group was initiated during Easter-tide. Members met twice a month to participate in corporate intercession, applying a variety of approaches to prayer. We raised heartfelt prayers for both personal joys/sorrows and then focused on the cares of the world. Being in conversation with God proved to be a moving experience for participants.

We took a hiatus during the summer months, but have plans to resume our meetings in September, tentatively set for the first and third Sundays of each month between 8:30-9:15.

In an effort to deepen the prayer life of AFPC and attract more participants, we are extending an invitation for you to participate in introductory prayer sessions during the month of August.

Requirements: NONE (no preparation or sign-up necessary)

When: Sundays, Sept 1 and 15th (attend one or both)

Time: 8:30—9:15am

Where: Gathering Room

Questions? Please Contact Nancy Schumann.

Intercessory Prayer Group

All are welcome!

No preparation is required

No special skills are needed

Attend any or all of the sessions.

No membership requirements

No sign-up required.

WHERE: AFPC Gathering Room

**WHEN: Sundays, Sept. 1 & 15th
8:30-9:15am**



2024 MISSION TRIP

YOUTH GROUP

Departure



Our welcome



Mission Assignments



Free time shenanigans and our fun filled Fourth of July!



Headed Home!



Our Youth did phenomenal work on their Mission Trip this year! Join us on Rally Day September 8th where you can see and hear more about their trip this year!

HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING & PROPERTY



We want to thank the many special people for tending to our grounds during the summer. Weeding, watering, mulching, and all things garden. The grounds have been showing off it's multi colored blooms!



If you are aware of any senior citizens that are experiencing food insecurity, please share the following information. Food Stamps for Seniors guide, a great meal program that is available to low-income households to encourage healthy food choices:

<https://www.retireguide.com/social-security/benefits/food-stamps-for-seniors/>

DRIVERS NEEDED

Drivers will pick up AGAR produce from Greenwich Shop Rite (more popularly known as Phillipsburg Shop Rite) between 8:45-9:00am and deliver to the Catholic Charities facility on Main Street (Old Route 22) in the town of Phillipsburg on Friday mornings.

If we have 4 volunteers a rotating schedule will average out to about 1 run per month per driver.

Training can be provided if needed.

Email Lainey Johns johnsfam@ptd.net if you have interest in volunteering.

ASSISTANCE REQUEST

Alexandria Cemetery is looking for Trustees

Please contact Bob Bachman at (908) 996-6672 if you are interested.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

SUMMER SPECIAL

On behalf of the congregation, the Director of Music, Stefanie Watson and the Worship & Music Team we would like to extend our gratitude for a very successful summer music program. The volunteers sang, played and brightened the summer months with their gifts! If you missed them, you can watch the recordings on Facebook. Please thank the members below for sharing their talents

Summer Special Music

DATE	Name	Music Type
June 23	Vacation Bible School	VBS Songs
June 30	Nancy Schumann, Jeri Bone & Robin Pulsinelle	Trio
July 7	Sharon Soloman & Others	God Bless America
July 14	Jeri Bone	Solo
July 21	Sharon & Greg	Duet
July 29	Greg Hedden	Solo
August 4	Doug, Lois & Brad Bondor	Trio
August 11	Karen Pardonner & Brad Bondor	Duet
August 18	Nora & Charlotte Hatch	Duet
August 25	Greg Hedden	Solo

FALL DAILY BREAD



The new quarterly issue of the daily personal devotional Our Daily Bread is available in the narthex or by the offices for each family. Please check the brochure rack and take a copy home with you to study. The daily devotional can also be found on line at www.odb.org. Both versions are available at no cost to you.

Thursday Sept. 19th

LUNCH

BUNCH



Join Us!

Bring your own sandwich and we will provide chips, a drink and dessert

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Congregational Meeting – July 28, 2024

The purpose of the meeting is to hear and act on reports of both the Nominating Team and Auditing Team.

Approval: Both reports of the Auditing team were approved, and the slate presented from nominating was approved. Two spots still remain unfilled for Session.



Congregational Meeting – May 5, 2024

The purpose of the meeting was to act on the recommendation by Session to amend AFPC Bylaws regarding the number of elders and deacons per class. (Reminder all changes to the church bylaws must be voted on at a congregational meeting).

Approval: The new structure consists of 9 elders (divided into 3 classes of 3 elders). Likewise, the new structure consists of 9 deacons (divided into 3 classes of 3 deacons).

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



Nominating Team Called as Disciples

Are you interested in serving as a Deacon or an Elder? Do you know someone that you would recommend to the Nominating Team?

As the Nominating Team begins their work this spring, please pray about your calling to serve and reach out to Craig Bender (craigbender@gmail.com) or Nick Hatch (pastornickhatch@gmail.com) if you would like to recommend yourself or someone else.

Nominating Team

The Nominating Team is hard at work and would like your help in discerning the leadership of our church. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please complete this slip and place it in the offering plate

I am recommending the following person(s)
for Church Leadership:

Name(s): _____

Circle One:

Elder

Deacon



AFPC SERVICES



141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road
Milford, NJ 08848

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

- Sept 1 Nancy Schumann
- Sept 8 Youth
- Sept 15 Jeri Bone
- Sept 22 Lois Bondor
- Sept 29 Robin Pulsinelle

USHERS

- Sept 1 LuAnn & Pat Keefe
- Sept 8 Youth
- Sept 15 April Abelman & Julie Lyons
- Sept 22 Jeri Bone & Flora Nielsen
- Sept 29 Carol Van Norman & LuAnn Keefe

COMMUNION

- Sept 1 Pat & LuAnn Keefe
Flora Nielsen & Steve Cameron

CHURCH OFFICERS

- Clerk of Session Nancy Schumann
- Treasurer Steve Pardonner
- Asst. Treasurer Jim Hansen
- Financial Recording Sec. Steve Cameron
- Asst. Financial Recording Sec. Martha Harrison

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Nicholas C. Hatch, *Pastor*
Stefanie Watson, *Director of Music Ministry*
Marci Nardone, *Administrative Specialist*

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Alexandria First Presbyterian Church 2024



Deacon of the Week

September 1: Karen Pardonner

September 8: Tammy Unkert

September 15: Carol Van Norman

September 22: Karen Pardonner

September 29: Laurie Gregory

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30—9:15 Prayer Group 10:00 Worship COMMUNION	2 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	3 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Chancel Choir	4	5	6	7
8 10:00 Worship RALLY DAY CHURCH PICNIC	9	10 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Deacon Meeting 7:30 Chancel Choir	11 7:00 Session Meeting	12	13	14
15 8:30—9:15 Prayer Group 10:00 Worship Teacher Commissioning	16	17 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Chancel Choir	18	19 12:00 Lunch Bunch	20	21
22 10:00 Worship	23	24 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Chancel Choir	25 7:00 B&P Meeting	26 9:00 June Branches Deadline	27	28
29 10:00 Worship	30					