

### A Note from Nick

Dear Friends,

As we prepare to begin our program year, I'm again reminded of how thankful I am for each of you. And you may be thinking, how can I be so thankful when I have been gone for 3 months? Well, for multiple reasons. First, it was because of your love and support that I was able to take a sabbatical. This time away for rest and renewal would not have been possible if not for your generous support and encouragement. So, thank you for the awesome gift of this past summer! It was truly a time of connection and renewal, and I'm looking forward to sharing with you what I did, where I went and the connections I fostered.

Secondly, I'm thankful, because I have already begun to hear all the amazing ways that you helped lead in my absence. I'm so thankful for all of the worship assistants, ushers, singers, and preachers that stepped up to offer leadership over the summer. I've also heard how when there were unexpected issues or challenges you rose to the occasion and pitched in to support one another! We are at our very best when we are working together as a church! Our church is blessed with so many dedicated and faithful disciples and when we come together, I'm convinced that there isn't anything we can't accomplish! Together with God all things are possible! (Matthew 19:26)!

I saw this firsthand on the Youth Mission Trip this summer. Our youth once again impressed me with their hard work and dedication. But what impressed me more than their work ethic at the job sites was how they came together as a group and grew as friends. Our youth did such a great job of including everyone and forming friendships as they grew as a group. Whether it was playing spike ball, or volleyball, or just hanging out in the cafeteria playing spoons they truly demonstrated Christ's love as they supported each other and bonded as a group.



This type of cohesion is what I'm praying for now as we begin our program year at AFPC. For the ministry and programs of our church will only be as successful as we are at working together. It takes all of us working as elders, deacons, Sunday school teachers, ministry team members, worship assistants, ushers, communion servers, youth leaders, choir members and so, so much more!

To get our year started we will hear from our Youth Mission Team as they lead us in worship on Rally Day. This special Sunday there will also be an opportunity to once again fill out a "Gift of Ministry Survey" and rededicate yourself to the mission and ministry of AFPC. I hope that each of you will not only be inspired by our youth, but that you will feel called to try new and exciting ways of participating and leading. Some of you tried new things over the summer while I was gone, and others saw new faces leading and preaching . . . how might you demonstrate your faith and grow closer to God? Begin praying about it now and come ready on September 7<sup>th</sup> to our Rally Day worship and sign up to participate in the life and ministry of our church!

In Christ,

*Pastor Nick*

# CHURCH FAMILY

## HAPPENINGS



2	Emily Fennell	19	Brian Johns	25	Grant MacWilliam
2	Alice Hansen	19	Roger Schneider	26	Nick Hatch
3	Scott Moran	20	Darren Kluesner	26	Laura Strangfeld
4	Greg Hedden	23	Holland Fritsche	27	Tyler Bender
11	LuAnn Keefe	24	Barbara McLaren	27	Deb Czerna
		24	Chris Stagg		

## 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 September that John Leslie McDowall and Matthew Joseph Pardonner were baptized. Congratulations and blessings upon being a child of God!

## July/August Flowers

**July 6:** Given by the Keefe family in celebration of Independence Day.

**July 13:** Given by the Bondor family in thanksgiving for the beauty of summer.

**July 20:** Given by the MacWilliam family in memory of lost Family and Friends.

**July 27:** Given by Nancy Schumann in memory of friends who recently passed.

**August 3:** Given by the Bondor family to honor the life of Lois's mother, Peg McConnell.

**August 10:** Given by Cindy and Joe Accardi in celebration of their families' August birthdays.

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

COMING UP

## RALLY DAY

Our Rally Day this year will be September 7th. 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

The Mission Team has been hard at work this summer with convening and coordinating support for the local food pantries. With your support they have been able to take multiple donations to each of the food pantries listed below along with donations to United Way.

They would like to THANK YOU for all your contributions, they make a difference for those suffering food insecurity and are in need.

## ON GOING GIVING CAMPAIGN

As we address growing needs of food insecurity in our local communities, below are some current wish lists:



## UNITED WAY

Diapers, Depends Adult Undergarments & Baby Wipes

## FRENCHTOWN FOOD PANTRY

## OPEN DOOR FOOD PANTRY

## MILFORD FOOD PANTRY

laundry soap, feminine hygiene supplies, spices, canned chicken and tuna, scalloped or au gratin potato mix, fruit in cans, ketchup, muffin mix, shelf stable, milk, mac and cheese, jelly, no sugar added juice, italian seasoning, cereal, taco, shells & seasoning, mustard, chicken/beef broth, chicken gravy, canned carrots

# 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!*

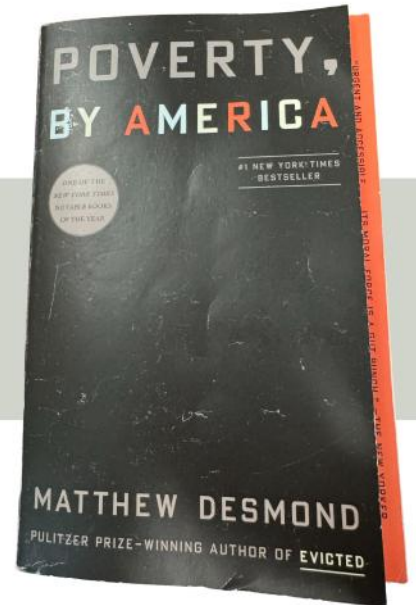
- Fresh meat is a rarity, consider donating.
- Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
- Sugar and flour are treats.
- Butter or margarine is nice too.
- Eggs are a real commodity.
- Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.
- Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni
- Spices or salt and pepper would be a real 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.

# MISSION TEAM NEWS

## **NEW** Book Study INFO Session

**September 14th**  
(Following worship)

Refreshments and kid's activity will be provided.



We have some copies of the book in the office. Please come by the Church Office or call or email the office that you need one.

You can order your own. Scan the QR code

Or click this link:

<https://bookshop.org/p/books/poverty-by-america-matthew-desmond/21003293?ean=9780593239933&next=t>



# 2025 MISSION TRIP

YOUTH GROUP



141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road  
Milford, NJ 08848

7

Web: [www.alexpres.org](http://www.alexpres.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/alexpres.org/>

908-996-4333

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2025 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road  
Milford, NJ 08848

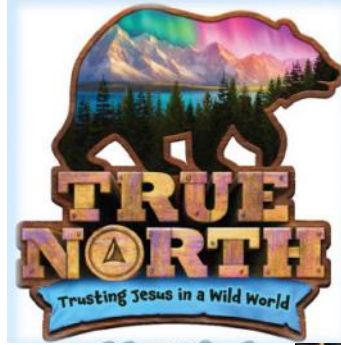
8

Web: [www.alexpres.org](http://www.alexpres.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/alexpres.org/>

908-996-4333

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2025 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road  
Milford, NJ 08848

Web: [www.alexpres.org](http://www.alexpres.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/alexpres.org/>

Thursday Sept. 18th

# LUNCH BUNCH



*Join Us!*

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



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!



## DRIVER NEEDED

Driver will pick up AGAR produce from Greenwich Shop Rite (more popularly known as Phillipsburg Shop Rite) and deliver to a local charity on Friday mornings.

**Email or Call Lainey Johns for more info or if you have interest in volunteering.**



*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/>

# 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 with us.

*Thank you for sharing your talents with us!*

*Summer Special Music* 

*Greg Hedden  
Jeri Bone  
Doug Bondor  
Brad Bondor  
Christina Marshall*

# OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

FUNDRAISING

*Thanks to your generous donations, the clothing drive has raised **\$1173.26** since January 1, 2025 to support the Youth Group Mission Trip.*



## YOUTH MISSION CLOTHING DRIVE

**CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS TO HELP FUND THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

*Thanks to your generous donations, the clothing drive has raised **\$1173.26** since January 1, 2025 to support the Youth Group Mission Trip.*

**Drop off your donations  
M-F between 9am-12pm  
or Sunday's after worship  
in Sunday School Room 6**

*Karen can also arrange  
pick-ups at your home.*

**Please reach out to Karen for details:  
KAREN PARDONNER  
(908) 797-2941  
Email: [kpardonner@gmail.com](mailto:kpardonner@gmail.com)**

### Items Accepted:

Men's, Women's,  
Kid's clothing,  
boots, shoes,  
sneakers, belts,  
purses, jewelry and  
outerwear.  
Children's toys,  
games, books and  
sports equipment in  
great condition.

Stop in at **We Kids** and  
**The Consignment Shop** in  
Flemington and **Country Chic**  
in Frenchtown to thank these  
businesses for their support.

# ALEXANDRIA FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## SERVICES

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**Sept 7** RALLY DAY  
**Sept 14** Lois Bondor  
**Sept 21** Brad Bondor  
**Sept 28** Robin Pulsinelle

### USHERS

**Sept 7** RALLY DAY  
**Sept 14** Barbara Pedersen & Sue Lawson  
**Sept 21** Laurie Gregory & Jeri Bone  
**Sept 28** Sue Lawson & Carol VanNorman

### COMMUNION

**Sept 7** Brad & Lois Bondor, Jeri Bone,  
and April Abelman

### CHURCH OFFICERS

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

### CHURCH STAFF

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

### MINISTRY TEAMS

#### BUILDING & PROPERTY

(E) Jim Hansen\*  
(E) Marty Gunderman\*  
(D) Doug Bondor  
(D) Jack Bender  
(A) Jack Silliman  
(A) Craig Bender

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(E) Athena McDowall\*  
(D) April Abelman  
(A) Mary Goldman  
(A) Barbara Pederson  
(A) Julie Lyons

#### EVANGELISM & MEMBERSHIP

(A) Lois Bondor\*  
(D) Carol Van Norman

#### MISSION & INTERPRETATION

(E) Marie Knapp\*  
(E) Lainey Johns  
(D) Evelyn Cameron  
(A) Laurie Gregory  
(A) Kelsey Pardonner  
(A) Pati Tiedeman

#### NOMINATING

(E) Marty Gunderman\*  
(D) Carol Van Norman  
(A) Flora Nielsen  
(A) Lois Bondor

#### PERSONNEL

(A) Joan Carroll\*  
(E) Lainey Johns  
(D) Karen Pardonner  
(A) Flora Nielsen  
(A) Laura Navarro

#### STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

(E) Craig Bender\*  
(D) Brad Bondor  
(D) Tammy Unkert

#### WORSHIP & MUSIC

(A) LuAnn Keefe\*  
(A) Jeri Bone\*  
(E) Greg Hedden  
(D) Karen Pardonner  
(A) Flora Nielsen  
(A) Tammy Sassaman  
Stefanie Watson - *Dir. Music Min.*

(\*) denotes chair or co-chair  
(E) Elder (D) Deacon (A) Member At Large

# Alexandria First Presbyterian Church 2025



Deacon of the Month: Evelyn Cameron

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