

A Note from Nick

Dear Friends,

Summer is now slowly creeping up and as my kids count down the end of the school year, I know that many of us are gearing up for summer trips and summer vacations. And so, with summer almost here, that usually means that I will write my annual letter for Branches describing how things will slow down at church for the summer. But as I begin to do so, I'm struck by how much is going on at AFPC this summer! Yes, choir and Sunday school will take a break, and yes, Session and Deacons do not meet over the summer . . . but otherwise there is a lot happening at our church this summer!

This summer the senior high youth group will depart for their mission trip to Wallingford, Connecticut. After a year of planning and fundraising, 14 youth and 5 adults will venture out together to serve God. It is an exciting time for the youth group and an occasion that is often monumental and life changing. We will commission our mission trip participants in worship on June 21st – please come out and help us send them off with lots of love and support!

Also, this summer, our church will be hosting Vacation Bible School (July 5-9). This year's VBS has a snow theme, and will undoubtedly be a great week of singing, playing, and learning together. VBS week is always one of my favorite weeks because of the joy exhibited on the faces of our youngest members – truly the Spirit is at work in the life of our church through this awesome ministry! If you haven't signed up your kids yet – please do so now! And share the info with friends and neighbors! It's also not too late to volunteer to help!

And of course there is weekly worship. Worship will happen all summer, with opportunities for special music, celebration of communion and fellowship (the Deacons provide cookies and juice on the first Sunday of the month – and there will be a special July 4th celebration on Sunday, July 5th).

It is my hope that even amidst the summer vacations and trips that we will continue to come together each week for worship. Yes, things slow down some . . . although, as you just read – not really!

Please plan to join us this summer as we worship God's together!

In Christ,

Pastor Nick



JUNE

Birthdays

2	Ryan Unkert	12	Shannon Fritsche	18	Dave Heinbach
5	Jack Skibinski	13	Cathy Rosswaag	20	Gino Vastola
5	Rebecca Sutton	13	Ryan Doyle	22	Heather Pardonner
9	Howard Jones	14	Juli Lyons	23	James Boganski
11	Jim Bush	18	Luke Bender		

Baptisms



Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible grace; the reconciliation of people to God. We rejoice with those who are celebrating their baptism anniversaries.

It was June that Kaylee Gunderman, Lainey Marei Johns, Jackson Davis Koeller, Cole Kenneth Kramer, Victoria Grace Kramer, Brayden Schneider, Ryan Unkert, and Timothy K. Unkert were baptized. Congratulations and blessings upon being a child of god!

May Flowers

May 3: given by the Bondor's to the Glory of Spring.

May 10: given by the Keefe's in celebration of their anniversary and Mother's day.



AFPC UPDATES

Please sign up ASAP so we can plan crafts, snacks, etc.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 6-JULY 10
9:00am - 11:30am



\$15 per participant - \$40 max per family
(Please send checks to AFPC)



Participants:
Preschool (potty trained) - Rising 5th graders
Volunteers:
Rising 6th Graders and Up!



WORSHIP

HAPPENING THIS MONTH

For all you do

Ministry Appreciation
Sunday June 7th

Thank You

Ministry Appreciation Day is our special opportunity to pause, reflect, and say a heartfelt thank you to the incredible individuals who pour their hearts into our church community. From our dedicated pastoral team and worship leaders to the quiet servants behind the scenes in tech, ushers, and children's ministries, our church thrives because of your hands and feet. We are deeply grateful for your spiritual leadership, countless hours of service, and unwavering commitment to Christ's mission in our neighborhood. Please join us for a special recognition during the June 7th Sunday service as we celebrate the diverse gifts that build up our congregation and honor the faithful servants who guide our spiritual journey.

EVENTS THIS MONTH

NEW

Book Study

**Sundays at 11:15am
in the Conference Room**

**Some books will be available or
order your own from thrift books or
from Frenchtown book store.**



*A personal & political
framework for understanding
love as a force for justice.*

Contact Marie Knapp or Lainey Johns for more information



Thursday June 24th



Join Us

**Bring your own Sandwich and
we will provide Chips and a Drink**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUMMER Sunday School

With Sunday school over for the year and summer beginning there is an opportunity to provide summer Sunday school for the kids/youth.

If you are interested in preparing and leading a **craft/lesson/story/game** on a Sunday please use the sign up genius link below.

You can lead your class in Fellowship Hall or in one of the Sunday School rooms or even outside (weather permitting). Summer Sunday school is intended to be a opportunity for all ages . . . truly a "one room" Sunday school class, so please be sure to invite all kids/youth to attend on a week that you are leading!

Remember: the intention is to give our amazing Sunday School Teachers a break over the summer - so please sign up!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Nick or Athena McDowall (chair of the Christian Ed Team) at: athenamc8@gmail.com



[Click here for link](#)

Mission Trip Clothing Drive

Items Accepted

- Men's clothes
- Women's clothes
- Children's clothes
- boots
- shoes
- sneakers
- belts
- purses
- jewelry
- outerwear
- children's toys
- games
- books
- sports equipment
- bedding (good condition)

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

***For arrangements to pick-up reach out to:
Karen Pardonner
(908) 797-2941
Email: kpardonner@gmail.com***



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

The clothing Drive has raised \$264.54 since January 1, 2026! THANK YOU for your generosity!

MAY WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

With the end of the season of Easter, our confirmation class took down the cross. Great job guys!



NEW

REHEARSAL SCHEDULES

New and Returning Ringers are Welcome!



Chime Choir

Now - (including) June 30th
Tuesdays 7:15 - 7:40PM
in the sanctuary



Chancel Choir

Now - June 9th
Tuesdays 7:40 - 8:40PM

No Rehearsals June 9 - August 31
Resume Rehearsals September 1st



Mission Trip Commissioning

Sunday June 21st
Worship 10:00am



The last Sunday before our Youth Group & Leaders leave for their Mission Trip in Connecticut



MAY WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Pentecost - Confirmation Sunday

On Sunday, May 24th, our church family celebrated a beautiful milestone as Ryan, Wyatt, and Samuel confirmed their personal faith in Jesus Christ. In the Presbyterian tradition, confirmation marks the meaningful moment where young people publicly claim their baptismal vows and step into full, active church membership. We are incredibly proud of these three young men for their months of study, thoughtful questions, and dedication to growing in Christ. Following the worship service, our congregation gathered for a joyful reception to honor them and celebrate this new chapter in their spiritual journeys. Please continue to keep Ryan, Wyatt, and Samuel in your prayers as they use their unique gifts to lead and serve within our community.



The Rev. Nick Hatch, Samuel Shalom, Ryan Abelman, Wyatt Goldman, Athena McDowall (top from left to right) Doug Bondor, Jim Hansen and John Solomon



Wyatt, Ryan & Samuel

Congratulations to our confirmation class- your church family is very proud of you!!

MISSION TEAM NEWS



MATTHEW 25



In the last few Branches, we have been reviewing and summarizing the important points of Matthew Desmond's *Poverty, by America*.

His THIRD Poverty Point:

"Welcome affordable housing developments.

Support and advocate for affordable housing projects in your community. Desmond emphasizes that access to safe, stable housing is a fundamental step toward reducing poverty and preventing cycles of instability."

Many people wonder what they can do to help create real and lasting change. The truth is, transformation often begins with something quite simple: opening ourselves to learn.

When we take the time to understand the challenges before us, we become people who carry light into the world. And with every conversation, every shared insight, every moment of courage, we plant seeds of change that can grow far beyond us.

Change doesn't always start with a movement. Sometimes it starts with one awakened person who chooses to share what they have learned.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code for an inspiring story about affordable housing in Colorado.



The four local food pantries that we support can always use the following:

Brownie or cake mix

Italian seasoning and other

Spices

Jelly

Laundry soap

Feminine hygiene supplies

Salt

Sugar

MISSION TEAM NEWS



Where Faith and Recovery Collide

<https://www.r-hub.org/>



This beautiful ministry is in Holland Township. Several of our members were at their farm on Clean Up Day May 23rd to help in any way they could.

On June 13th they are seeking volunteers to help at their fundraising banquet.

If you are interested contact Marie Knapp

Strengthen you faith: You can [sign up](#) for Daily Readings and more at the PC USA website



Click the link or scan the QR code



Coming up: In our July Branches issue look for information about collecting backpack supplies for the United Way.

Thank you for your generosity and continued commitment to our mission work!

Warmest regards,
Marie Knapp

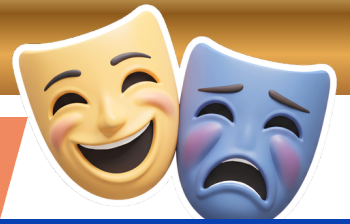




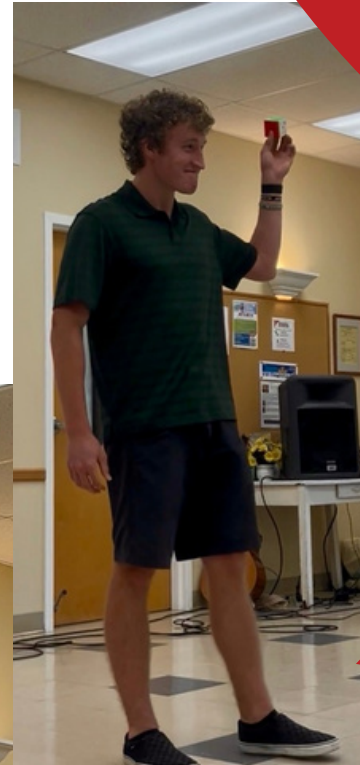
May 31

TALENT SHOW





TALENT SHOW



BEYOND THE PEWS

We have several graduating seniors this June!

As our high school seniors prepare to graduate, our church family looks back with deep gratitude and forward with immense hope. In our Presbyterian tradition, we recognize graduation as a significant milestone of God's faithfulness and the beginning of a exciting new chapter of discipleship. These young adults have grown up in our pews, participated in our youth groups, and enriched our congregation with their unique gifts and perspectives. As they step out into college, trade schools, military service, or the workforce, we send them forth with our love, blessings, and unwavering support. No matter where their journeys lead, we pray they always feel anchored by the foundation of faith built right here at home.



Luke Abelman
Kylie Croasdale
Owen Hatch
Christian Shebchuk
Emma Strangfeld
Marlena Vastola



Our faith doesn't stop when we leave the sanctuary on Sunday. We are a family that walks together through every season of life, and we want to celebrate the joys and milestones you're experiencing in the world!

Please email the office if you have any joys to celebrate at churchoffice@alexpres.org

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Our Junior High Youth Group donated their time to help out at the Flemington Food Pantry on Saturday May 16th.



On Saturday, May 16th, our Presbyterian Junior High Youth Group put their faith into action by volunteering at the Flemington Area Food Pantry. Our energetic middle schoolers spent the day sorting donations, stocking shelves, and packing grocery bags to support neighbors experiencing food insecurity in Hunterdon County. By stepping outside the church walls to serve, these youth lived out the Matthew 25 message in a tangible way. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, team spirit, and dedication to serving our local community.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Summer Special Music Series

Share your musical talents with us
and participate in worship!

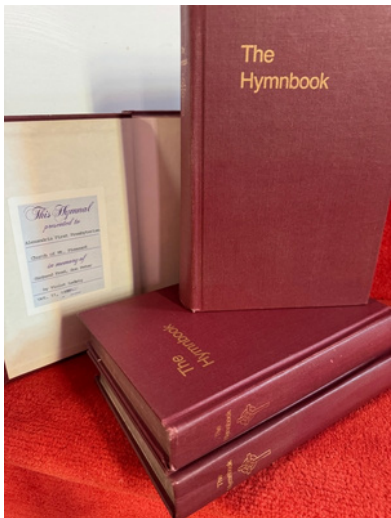
Solos, Duets, Trios, Small Group,
Vocalists, or Instrumentalists

Sign up sheet in
the Narthex



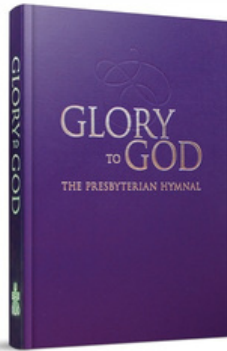
Questions?
Email Stefanie Watson at
musicdirectorafpc@gmail.com

Retirement of the Red & Blue Hymnals



We are deeply grateful for the years of music and ministry held within our red & blue hymnals as they transition out of our pews. We know many of these books hold special meaning, including personal dedications to loved ones. If you would like to keep a hymnal with a family dedication, we invite you to look through them in the Fellowship Hall and take home those that hold a place in your heart.

Hymnal Dedications



In Honor of

Alexandria First Presbyterian
Church

Barbara Sherman

Nicholas & Micki Abbatiello

The Hatch Family

The Chancel Choir

Rev. Nicholas C. Hatch, Gayle T.
Hatch

In honor of Albert Navarro

Owen Hatch

Nora Hatch

Charlotte Hatch

Marion Pursell

Dedicated to all the altos who have
raised their voices with me

Craig & Mary Hatch

Carol & Douglass Taylor

Martha Harrison

Art Pfefferle

Rev. Tom Jones

Dr. Howard Jones

Cheryl Iannacone

Nerva Altino

Jean Altino

Robenson Altino

Stefanie Watson

Seuli Koo

Jerry Phelps

Evelyn Michaels

Linda Lockart

Anna Mae Bondor

Stefanie Watson

Matthew & Troy Tiedeman

Carol Van Norman

In Memory of

Anne Thomas

Alex Pretti

Ann Marie Deutsch

Arlene Bellis

Arthur C. Pfefferle, Sr.

Austin & Henrietta Bender

Bastian and Jeanette Beversluis

Bertha & Tom Buzalski

Bill & Beulah Stamets

Carol Ann Waxmundksy-Szymanski

Curtis Appelt

Dale Van Norman

Dave & Jan Pardonner

David Lockart

Dolores Herrington

Ed & Eileen MacWilliam

Elmer N. King

Frank S. Bondor

Gene & Sally Hedden

Grace & Joe Castellano

Hank & Shirley Hampton

Howard W. McConnell

Isabel & John Silliman

Janet Silliman

Joe & Polly Stroman

Joseph Babinsky

Karl Nielsen

Keith & Dottie Erwin

Liam John Bigelli

Lu Henley & Clyde Branson

Margaret W. McConnell

Matt Hedden

Michael, Florence, Edward and Kathleen McGuire

My dear friend Mary Ann Vogt

Ora Marie Bone

Oscar Philkill Jr.

Paul & Edna Froehlich

Phil Kopf

Phylis Kinney

Ralph Hansen

Renee Good

Ruth Kopf

Shirley J. Molnar

Stuart & Irene Heinbach

Sue Jenal

The Solomon & Whitman family members who have
gone before us.

Will Michael Herrington

William M. Bowers

William Schubert



IT'S A 250TH BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR THE USA! Sunday July 5th



After worship we will have special treats and a church family kickball game. Bring your lawn chairs and stay for a little fun and fellowship to celebrate our nation's big birthday.

We will also welcome back the Mission Trip kids and celebrate the start of Vacation Bible School too!



Wear Red, White and Blue to worship!

ALEXANDRIA FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICES

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

June 7 Lois Bondor
June 14 Jim Hansen
June 21 Lainey Johns
June 28 Jim Hansen

USHERS

June 7 April & Margo Abelman
June 14 Laurie Gregory & Barbara Pederson
June 21 Lois & Doug Bondor
June 28 Greg & Peggy Hedden

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..... Karen Pardonner

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
 (D) Tammy Unkert
 (D) Stacy Kluesner
 (A) Nora Hatch
 (A) Ann Marie Palotas
 (A) Pati Tiedeman

MISSION & INTERPRETATION

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

NOMINATING

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

PERSONNEL

(E) Jim Bush*
 (E) Lainey Johns
 (A) Karen Pardonner
 (A) Flora Nielsen
 (A) Laura Navarro

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

(E) Craig Bender*
 (D) Brad Bondor

WORSHIP & MUSIC

(A) LuAnn Keefe*
 (A) Jeri Bone*
 (E) Greg Hedden
 (A) 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

June

2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
10am Worship Ministry Appreciation Sunday 11:15 Book Study	7	8	7:15pm - Chime Choir 7:40pm - Chancel Choir	9 10 7:00pm - Session Meeting	11	12	13
10am Worship 11:15 Book Study	14	15	7:15pm - Chime Choir	17	18 12pm - Lunch Bunch	19	20
10am Worship Mission Trip Commissioning 11:15 Book Study Father's Day	21	22	7:15pm - Chime Choir	24 7:00pm - B&P	25	26	27 Mission Trip (Departs for Connecticut)
10am Worship 11:15 Book Study	28	29	7:15pm - Chime Choir	1 Mission Trip Away	2	3	4 Mission Trip (Returns from Connecticut)