

# Branches

**Alexandria First Presbyterian Church**

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

**November 2022**

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Milford, New Jersey 08848

908-996-4333

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## A Note from Nick

Dear Friends,

As we move into the month of November, I am reminded that my kids tend to think of each month in terms of what holiday occurs in that month. For example, October is Halloween month and December is of course the Christmas month. Some months are less exciting, like February is Valentine’s Day month and March is St. Patrick’s Day month. And November is of course the Thanksgiving month. Which means that November is the month we eat turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and pumpkin pie. It is the month where we gather with family and share a big meal and hopefully somewhere between the food, football, and family, we remember to give thanks. Yes, it is very easy to forget that Thanksgiving Day is not just another opportunity to eat a big meal, but also a day to give thanks. As Christians, our faithfulness is a response to God’s grace in our lives. For amidst all the pain and brokenness of our world, it is important to remember and give thanks for the grace and love that God has blessed us with through Jesus Christ. Our response to this grace is our discipleship. How we love our neighbors, work for peace, and share God’s love . . . for we have much to be thankful for!

I’m so thankful for all of the many ways that we are the church together. I’m thankful for our leadership; our Elders and Deacons. I’m thankful for our choirs and Sunday School teachers, for each ministry team, and all the many ways we serve God. And since COVID, I’m thankful that we can simply be together . . . to worship and give thanks to God together! For it wasn’t that long ago that we couldn’t even be in the building, and now we are singing, rejoicing, and worshiping God together each week!

As we think about moving into the month of November and celebrating Thanksgiving, I hope that we can move beyond one day of giving thanks and be continually thankful for all the ways that God has blessed us. To that end, I pray that you can find a new way to serve God this year. Find new ways to demonstrate your thankfulness for God’s grace in your life.

On November 20<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Consecration Sunday as we together give thanks for God and give back a portion of all we have received. On this Sunday, we will make our financial pledges to the church and demonstrate once again our commitment to being the family of Christ here at Alexandria First Presbyterian Church. In the coming weeks, you will hear more from the Stewardship and Finance team about our stewardship drive and consecration Sunday . . . but for now, as we look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving, let’s remember and give thanks for all of God’s many blessings! For our thanksgiving is not just one day or one month . . . it is a constant spiritual practice and a part of our faithfulness. So, let’s give thanks, not just on Thanksgiving . . . but let’s give thanks always!



Your friend in Christ,

*Pastor Nick*

## 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 November that Ryan Abelman and Heather Marie Pardonner were baptized. Congratulations and blessings upon being children of God!

### Memorial Gift Giving

Financial gifts often are given to the church in memory of a loved one via a check. Sometimes they are mailed in and other times they are placed in the offering plate. Our Memorial Fund secretary records each gift and sends an acknowledgement to the giver on behalf of the family. But sometimes a check is received without any note indicating in whose memory the gift was given. Please remember, it is essential that the memo section of the check indicates both the name of the loved one and that the check is a memorial gift. Without that information, we are unable to acknowledge the gift or correctly enter it in the proper church account. Thank you.

## November Birthdays

<b>2</b> Sue Gunderman	<b>6</b> Flora Nielsen	<b>14</b> Jake Maglio	<b>19</b> Laura Navarro
<b>3</b> Lainey Johns	<b>11</b> Alexis Gunderman	Emma Strangfeld	Scott Parsons
<b>4</b> Brandon Schuetz	Timothy Unkert	<b>15</b> Linda Thomas	<b>20</b> Ken Gregory
<b>5</b> Christine Hammerstone			<b>25</b> Carly Skibinski
<b>6</b> Elmer King			<b>29</b> Wyatt Goldman Joan Lentine



## Sanctuary Flowers Given to the Glory of God

<b>October 2</b>	by the Cameron family in celebration of Stephen's birthday, and to all of those that have October Birthdays
<b>October 9</b>	by the Keefes to the Glory of God
<b>October 16</b>	by the Hatch family in celebration of Nora's 12th birthday
<b>October 23</b>	by Stacy Kluesner in celebration of God's colorful creation of Fall
<b>October 30</b>	by the Croasdale family in celebration of Josalyn's 12 <sup>th</sup> birthday

## New Church Officers

It is a joyful day when we ordain and install officers to serve Christ by serving this congregation. On October 9<sup>th</sup> we ordained and installed our new church officers. Deacons installed were Karen Pardonner and Pati Tiedeman. Elders installed were Lois Bondor, Jim Hansen, and Lainey Johns. The Deacons ordained and installed were April Abelman and Christine Hammerstone.

Thank you for answering God's call to help lead our congregation!



## Consecration Sunday November 20

### This Year's Annual Stewardship Campaign

As we think about this year's stewardship campaign, we have an opportunity to remember God's blessings and to think about how we can, in turn, share those blessings.

Come help us celebrate all of our blessings on November 20<sup>th</sup>! In the weeks leading up to the 20<sup>th</sup>, we will highlight this year's campaign in worship with special Minutes for Missions. The final celebration will be on Consecration Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> when we bring our pledge cards forward as generous stewards of God's amazing love and generosity and in appreciation for his many blessings



### Grab a Rake!

Saturday, November 5

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Can you spare a few hours to help tidy up the grounds for winter? If so, join us at the church between 9 and noon on the 5<sup>th</sup> to rake leaves and do a few repairs.

Bring your rake, leaf blower, and tarp if you have them.

Thanks for your part in making the Lord's house tidy.





## The First Unitarian Universalist Church

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: November 20 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm  
Join in with your Muslim, Jewish, and Christian neighbors as we give thanks together for all that we have.

### Deacons' Thanksgiving Boxes

Coupons for free turkeys abound!! Cranberry sauce and stuffing are on sale! Thanksgiving Day must be near! Our deacons are beginning their annual food collection to help fill Frenchtown Food Pantry's turkey dinner boxes for local families in need. Look for the needed items in the narthex.

Needed are fresh or frozen turkeys or turkey breasts that are 10 lbs. or less. All non-perishables may be dropped off in the narthex or in the Christian Education wing by the church offices. Please have your donations delivered to the church by 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Frozen turkeys should be delivered on November 19<sup>th</sup> before 8:30 a.m. Someone will be in the parking lot to receive them at that time. Donation sign-up sheets are in the narthex and Fellowship Hall.

Our deacons will be assembling and delivering turkey boxes to the Frenchtown Food Pantry early on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all for your continued prayers and generosity that support this vital mission. If you have questions, please contact any deacon.



Canned Veggies (corn, mixed, or carrots)

Frozen Turkeys (10 lbs. or under)

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Mashed Potatoes (instant)

Canned Pumpkin-Pie Mix

Gravy (canned or packet)

Turkey Broth (canned)

Muffin or Biscuit Mix

Cake or Brownie Mix

Evaporated Milk

Cranberry Sauce

Yams (canned)

Fruit Cocktail

Piecrust (box)

Applesauce

Stuffing Mix



## Let's Bowl!

Everyone, including Jr High and Senior Youth Groups, as well as children and adults of all ages will meet at **Warren Lanes** on Route 22 in

Phillipsburg at 2 pm

**Sunday,  
November 20**

**\$5/person**

All are welcome!



Sign up in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall so we can be sure to book enough lanes!

## DON'T MISS THE FUN!

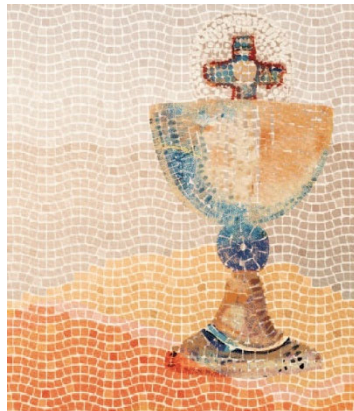
## Mission Interpretation

### A Worldwide Thanks to All who Donated!

October 2<sup>nd</sup> marked one of three AFPC 2022 Presbytery USA annual offerings, the Peace and Global Witness Offering (P&GWO). This fund strives to reach worldwide basic needs and AFPC answered

with over \$400.00 donated toward this cause. The unique part of this one offering is AFPC is allowed to keep 25% of that total to use toward a mission project recommended by your church Mission Team.

We are currently discussion various local mission projects to dedicate our share of the P&GWO. The hope is to use this offering as a seed to grow a sustainable resource for local mission needs.



### THANK YOU, GOD FOR CONNECTING US.

Thank you for neighbors, each with needs and gifts to share, and for our church, the Whole Church, together, and for Jesus Christ, Amen.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

9/4-  
10/2  
2022



# Let Heaven and Nature Sing!

## Christmas Concert Rehearsals

Calling all who love to sing! Calling all levels of singing ability! Calling all who love the Lord! You are all whole-heartedly invited to make beautiful music with the Chancel Choir for the Christmas concert. The concert will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. Christmas music is being rehearsed on Thursday nights at 7:30, with the exception of Thanksgiving. Speak with our Director of Music Ministry, Stefanie Watson with any questions.

### Rehearsal Schedule: 7:30 pm

- Nov. 3
- Nov. 10
- Nov 17
- Dec 1



### Children's Choir rehearsals:

- Nov 10 6:50 pm
- Nov 17 6:50 pm
- Nov 20 9:30 am (Consecration Sunday performance)
- Dec 1 6:50 pm
- Dec 9 6:30-7:15 Christmas Concert dress rehearsal

There will be a dress rehearsal on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm in the sanctuary for the chancel choir.

## Spread the Word

### December 11 | 3 p.m. Followed by a reception

Planning for Alexandria First Presbyterian Church's Christmas concert is underway! Under the direction of Stefanie Watson, Minister of Music, *Let Heaven and Nature Sing* will take place on Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 3 p.m. There will be guest musicians, youth choirs, Chancel Choir, and some surprises in store. Please mark your calendars and invite family and friends to join us to celebrate the Christmas Season!





# POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



Orders for Christmas poinsettias that decorate the sanctuary during December are now being collected. Poinsettias may be taken home following the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Mail your completed form along with your payment or place it in the large envelopes marked "Poinsettia Orders" found on the narthex and Fellowship Hall bulletin boards. Payment must accompany your order. Checks may be made out to Alexandria First Presbyterian Church, noting "poinsettia" in the memo section.

*The last day to place an order is Sunday, December 4, 2022*




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 **Please Print Clearly** 

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ *In Memory of (insert name)*

Your Phone \_\_\_\_\_ *In Honor of (insert name)*

QUANTITY	COST/POT	SUB-TOTAL
_____ 6.5" pot (15" tall, 1 plant, 5-7 blooms)	\$ 8.50	\$ _____
_____ 7.5" pot (18" tall, 2 plants, 10-12 blooms)	\$ 13.00	\$ _____



**ORDER TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Services

- Nov 6** Pat Keefe  
**Nov 13** Lois Bondor  
**Nov 20** LuAnn Keefe  
**Nov 27** Jim Hansen



- Nov 6** Tammy Sassaman  
**Nov 13** Cindy Accardi  
**Nov 20** Steve Pardonner  
**Nov 27** Marty Gunderman



## Communion

- Nov 6** Laurie Gregory



## Special Dates

*Also see the main calendar on page 9*

- Nov 5** Church Clean-up Day  
**Nov 6** First Sunday Fellowship/no Sunday School  
**Nov 15** Lunch Bunch  
**Nov 20** Consecration Sunday/ Bowling  
**Nov 26** Church Holiday Decorating  
**Nov 27** First Sunday of Advent



## Coming Up

- Dec 11** Christmas concert  
**Dec 18** Christmas caroling  
**Dec 18** Lessons and Carols service  
**Dec 20** Blue Christmas service  
**Dec 24** Christmas Eve services  
**Dec 25** Christmas Day Service

## Our Ministry Team Officers

**Building and Property** Jim Hansen (E), Larry Cascio (E), Marty Gunderman (E), Doug Bondor (D), Tammy Unkert (D)

**Christian Education** Mary Goldman (E), April Abelman (D), Athena McDowall (D), Barbara Pedersen (D)

**Evangelism/Membership** Christina Heilig (E), Lois Bondor (E), Karen Pardonner (D), Carol Van Norman (D), Christine Hammerstone (D)

**Mission Interpretation** Marie Knapp (E), Larry Reinfeld (E), Lainey Johns (E), Laurie Gregory (D), Pati Tiedeman (D)

**Nominating** Jeri Bone (E), Craig Bender (E)

**Personnel** Flora Nielsen (E), Karen Pardonner (D)

**Stewardship and Finance** Craig Bondor (E), Robin Vogel (E), LuAnn Keefe (E)

**Worship and Music** LuAnn Keefe (E), Flora Nielsen (E), Jeri Bone (E), Liz McMahon (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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 Alexandria First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant

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 Office: 908-996-4333

**THE STAFF of ALEXANDRIA CHURCH**  
 Reverend Nicholas C. Hatch  
 Pastor

Stefanie Watson  
 Director of Music Ministry

Magic Robinson  
 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

## November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid white;"> <p><u>Deacon of the Week</u></p> <p>Nov 6 Barbara Pederson</p> <p>Nov 13 Carol Van Norman</p> <p>Nov 20 Liz McMahon</p> <p>Nov 27 Tammy Unkert</p> </div>		1	2	3	4	5	
		7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Deacon Meeting	9:30 Mission Meeting  7:30 Chancel Choir Christmas Concert rehearsals			9-12 Church clean-up Day	
<p><b>Daylight Savings</b> <b>No Sunday School</b></p> <p>10:00 Worship, communion First Sunday Fellowship 11:15 Refreshments 5-6 pm Jr High Youth Group 6:15- 7:30 pm Sr. High Youth Group</p>			9:00 Bulletin deadline	<p>10 Christmas Concert rehearsals 6:50 Children's Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>			
<p>13</p> <p>10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school</p>		<p>15</p> <p>12:00 Lunch Bunch 5:45 Presbytery 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 7:00 Session</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 December <i>Branches</i> Deadline Christmas Concert rehearsals 6:50 Children's Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>		<p>19</p> <p>Frozen turkey donation deadline</p>	
<p>20</p> <p><b>Consecration Sunday</b> <b>Kids' Choir performance</b></p> <p>9:30 Kids' choir rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school After worship: Worship &amp; Music Meeting 2:00 Bowling</p>		<p>22</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin Deadline 7:00 Building &amp; Property meeting</p>	<p><b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p>26</p> <p>Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas</p>	
HAPPY THANKSGIVING							
<p>27</p> <p><b>First Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p>10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 Cub Pack 114</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin Deadline  First Advent Bible Study</p>				

