



The Friendly News

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights June 2018



Dear Friends,

One of the most important passages in the entire Bible is the one from Exodus, when God speaks to Moses in the burning bush.

Moses has been selected by God to return to Egypt, where he is a fugitive from justice, but he wants no part of the task. He finds every excuse he can. But God, as we all know, does not abide excuses.

Finally, Moses asks God what His name is. If he has to go back, at least he will be armed with something. And God gives Moses His name: "I am who I am."

Which doesn't sound like much of a name, but it certainly sounds like a good description of who God is and what He does. And that is more important than any label He might wear.

But that leads to another thought – one I picked up in a devotional book: The author of this devotional commented that one of the most popular phrases that has crept into our vocabulary is: "It is what it is."

It's the spoken equivalent of a shrug of the shoulders, an acceptance of a situation that seems to have no resolution in sight, and an almost depressing resignation to whatever "it" is that we are facing.

My guess is that we have all referred to something going on in our lives – something we would rather NOT have going on in our lives – as "it is what it is."

But what if instead of that self-defeating phrase, the author of this devotion asks, we said: "He is who He is."

What if, in a difficult situation, we turn to the one whose very name means "I am in charge; I am all that you need me to be; I am lord over all things; I am THE active presence with you in all you are facing?"

Somehow, that makes much more sense than "it is what it is."

Because He is who He is. And as long as we have the great "He is" by our side, is there anything that can defeat us? Except, of course, our belief that "it," whatever "it" is is all we will ever know.

Examine your "its." Measure them up against the "He" who is always with us.

Can any "it" be bigger than "He is," who used a cross to declare a victory that no one could possibly have thought would be a victory?

Could any "it" we face defeat us after all that "He is" has done and has yet to do for us?

True, "He is" might not make things happen right away, and "He is" might choose a path we never expected. But "He is" is bigger than any "it" we will ever face.

When tough times come, and they most definitely will, try saying to yourself: "He is who He is." And just watch what "He is" is capable of!

In Christ, John

Sermons for June

June 3: "The Platinum Rule"

June 10: "There Are Giants in the Land"

June 17: "Fatherhood: An Owner's Manual"

June 24: "Where Was Thomas?"

June Birthdays

2 – Natalea Zorio
 5 – Sophie Lynch
 5 – Douglas Sharp
 6 – Noah Davis
 6 – Joseph Martino III
 6 – Lori Taylor
 10 – Grace Antosky
 11 – Joy Love
 11 – Anthony Urion
 13 – Nick Sammacicci
 16 – Diane Belcher
 16 – Diane Kuehnafel
 18 – Brad Lynch
 18 – Sandra Lascio
 19 – Barbara Kratzer
 19 – Wendy Morrell-Baker
 20 – Justin Blaum
 20 – Danielle Guerra
 20 – Cameron Guerra
 22 – Gary J. Keedy III
 24 – Dominic Guerra
 24 – Nicholas A. Zorio
 26 – Beth Jones Sheehan
 27 – Liz Swanson
 30 – Andrew Reynolds
 30 – Carl Seidelmann

**July Birthdays**

3 – Erin Zorio
 4 – Lois Dirkin
 4 – Debbie Gould
 5 – Blake Reim
 7 – Jeanne Tice
 8 – Edgar Pizarro
 8 – Margie Blair-Thomas
 9 – Kayleigh Reim
 10 – Carol Martino
 10 – David Taylor
 11 – Annabelle Brenner
 11 – Richard Love
 12 – Tyler Eachus
 13 – Lauren Geserick
 13 – Kenneth Kratzer
 25 – Nancy MacDermott
 25 – Carl Seidelmann, Jr.
 25 – Hunter Seidelmann
 25 – Challen William Reim
 26 – Elizabeth Stinker
 26 – Janet Koehler
 26 – Kelly Sammacicci
 27 – William Reim
 27 – Carol String
 27 – Olivia Seidelmann
 31 – Robbie Urion
 31 – Joan Chessman
 31 – James Gould
 31 – William Packer

June Anniversaries

7 – William and Nancy Zane
 13 – John and Kathy Pedicone
 19 – Phil and Carol String
 24 – Richard and Barbara Daugherty
 24 – Terry and Kristine Lott
 29 – John and Dottie Shedwick
 29 – David and Lori Taylor

July Anniversaries

3 – Charles and Karen Bagnell
 3 – Paul and Julia Gramm
 8 – Joe and Michelle Martino
 9 – Steve and Heather Antosky
 30 – David and Megan Geserick
 31 – James and Debbie Gould

Sue Reim chosen as our Woman of the Year

Sue Reim, a church member and Sunday School teacher for many years, has been chosen Woman of the Year by the ladies of our church.

She was honored during the annual Women's Association dinner in Cooper Hall on May 9. Sue is also the vice-moderator of our deacons.

Approximately 60 women attended the dinner, which was prepared and served by the men of the church. The event featured former Miss New Jersey

Erica Scanlon Harr, a Pitman native and veteran theater performer.



Our sympathy is expressed to the family of **Bette Murphy**, who entered God's kingdom May 22. Bette was a longtime member of our church, an elder, a deacon, and active in the Women's Association and the Prime Timers.

Get-well wishes to **Norm Bramble**, who was recently hospitalized, and to **Amy Peterson**, who was also in the hospital.

Congratulations to our graduates: From Clearview High School: **Tyler Eachus**; from GCIT: **Arin** and **Sydney Sheehan**; from the Antonelli Institute: **Rachel Eachus**; from the University of Scranton: **Rachel Outten**. God bless you all!

Pray for our reps: The 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church will meet June 16 to 23 in St. Louis.

Please pray for our West Jersey commissioners who will represent us at the Assembly. They are Sandi Shaner, Diane Curtis, Will Boer, Ginny Magness, Rev. Dr. Debby Brincivalli.

JUNE 2018



“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

-- Jeremiah 29:11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship, 10 am	4	5 Esther Circle dinner, 6 pm	6	7 Calendar meeting, annex, 9 am Quilters meet, 10 am	8	9 Men's group breakfast, Piston Diner, 8:30 am
10 Worship, 10 am Graduates honored during potluck lunch, 11:15 am	11 PrimeTimers, lounge, noon	12	13 Race Relations discussion, W.H. firehouse, 5:30 pm	14 Quilters meet, 10 am	15	16
17 FATHER'S DAY Worship, 10 am	18	19	20 Mission meets, 6:30 p.m. Session meets, 7:30 p.m.	21 Quilters meet, 10 am	22	23
24 Worship, 10 am	25	26 Deacons meet, 6:30 pm	27	28 Quilters meet, 10 am	29	30



JULY 2018

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

-- Galatians 5:13

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship, 10 am	2	3	4 Independence Day Office closed	5 Quilt group, 10 am	6	7
8 Worship, 10 am	9 Prime Timers meet, noon	10	11	12 Quilt group, 10 am	13	14
15 Worship, 10 am	16	17	18	19 Quilt group, 10 am Race relations discussion, 7:15 pm, W.H. firehouse	20 Deadline for mid-summer newsletter, 5 pm	21
22 Worship, 10 am	23	24	25	26 Quilt group meets, 10 am	27	28
29 Worship, 10 am	30	31				

DEACONS CORNER: Next meeting 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, 2018, annex



NEWS:

Food collection for May: 47 items collected; for the year: 355. Thank you!

Suggested food items for June: Potatoes (boxed or canned); rice, pasta, pasta sauce. Remember that these are only suggestions and all nonperishable foods are welcomed.

Visitations: The deacons made 37 visits in May.

Greeting cards: Fifty cards were sent in May. This includes birthdays, anniversaries, get well, sympathy, special member, thank you and happy retirement cards.

Flower Fund: The deacons and flower chairperson Erin Zorio are requesting the congregation's help in purchasing/dedicating altar arrangements for each week in 2018. These arrangements are given to shut-ins and other people the deacons visit. Please look for order forms in the bulletins.

Special projects: The deacons will be hosting a graduation potluck on Sunday, June 10. A sign-up sheet for food donations is in the Narthex. All are welcome. The deacons will serve at a summer coffee hour after worship on Aug. 12.

Chancel: The next communion will be Aug. 19; the deacons will be serving.

*Please continue to put your donations to the deacons in the **green** offering envelopes! And most importantly: Please tell Rev. Shedwick of anyone in need of help, a visit or a prayer*

God Bless - In Christ's service, your Board of Deacons:

Steve Antosky, Nolan Becker, Kris Brenner, Nancy Butler, Madison Kratzer, Nancy MacDermott, Carol Martino, Joan Mullin, Kayleigh Reim, Sue Reim, Andrew Reynolds, Peg Schoen, Dottie Shedwick, Ada White, Liz Billings, moderator



May meeting

PrimeTimers fill calendar with summer, fall events

The Prime Timers enjoyed lunch at Charlie Brown's on Monday, May 14.

President Paul Milio opened the meeting with a grace and conducted business with patience and good will. The group planned its monthly activities and will meet next month in the lounge for brown-bag lunches and a dessert provided by Nancy MacDermott and Janet Koehler.

In August, the group will car-pool to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pa., to see the stage production "Jesus." The PrimeTimers will picnic at National Park in September and visit the Presbyterian Historic Society in Philadelphia in October.

Happy Birthday was sung to Barbara and Dick Daugherty, and happy anniversary to Nancy and Jesse Butler. The luncheon was excellent and the service was friendly and good.

Discussions around the table were varied but included pride in our graduates, the new Bible Museum in D.C. and Jerusalem. As always, the camaraderie was cordial, and the afternoon ended with friends bidding each other "adieu, until we meet again!"

Highlights from the May meeting of Session

Your Session met in the annex on Wednesday evening, May 16. Devotions were presented by elder Bonnie Dawson, and the minutes from the April meeting were amended and approved.

History Committee: Clerk of session and committee member Denise Pitchford read a letter to the Session in which three members of the commission – Denise Pitchford, Carol McDaniel and Janet Koehler -- all announced their resignations. Rev. Shedwick said he had someone in mind whom he thought would step in and continue the commission's work. The grant for which the commission applied in April is still pending.

Pastor's report: Rev. Shedwick distributed more information on Presbyterian polity (government) to the elders. His vacation request for June 28 to 30 and July 27 to Aug. 6, which includes Sundays July 29 and Aug. 5, was approved. The study leave he planned to attend in May was canceled, and no payment was made. In April, the pastor drove 296 miles on church business, which included 14 home visits, four hospital visits, one counseling session, and three funerals. The ushers for June are: Jake Mangano (June 3), Jeanne Mangano (June 10), Denise Pitchford (June 17) and John Pitchford (June 24).

Mission Committee: A meeting to discuss the particulars of this fall's CROP walk was set for May 31. ... Cindy Corell, the missionary we support, is supposed to return from Haiti this fall. The committee hopes she will visit our church on Mission Sunday and update us on what she's doing.

Building and Property: Our new sextons, Jim and Debbie Gould, started their jobs May 1, and church members have commented on the great work they're doing. ... Carli Bernato has contracted to use the lounge and Sunday School area of our church for five weeks to give music lessons to young children on Monday evenings, starting July 16. ... Cooper Hall is being rented out for \$300 for a private graduation party on Saturday, June 16. ... Session has agreed to entertain bids from landscapers for work on the gardens by the sanctuary doors, in front of the brick wall where the sign board is and for Memorial Garden. The work would include cutting in and lining the gardens as well as recommending new shrubs, trees and flowers as well as possibly upgrading the front lawn.

Christian Education: The Sunday School closed with "A Minute to Win It" game day on Sunday, May 20. The children played a series of games in the nursery and Sunday School areas. ... Children who participate in the Children's Message each Sunday presented church member Janet Koehler with a thank-you card for the many things she has given them.

Stewardship and Finance: The commission has interviewed 11 church members as potential replacements for outgoing current-expense treasurer Steve Elliott without success. Interested people should contact Ollie Lambert, Jesse Butler or Nick Zorio Jr. ... The utility bills for the sanctuary, annex and manse were nearly \$10,000 over the budgeted amount for January through April. An audit has been done to find out why, and our fuel-oil costs and electrical usage at the manse will come under further study by Buildings and Grounds. ... Church members can now donate to our church when they are out of town by clicking buttons on the cover page of the website and Facebook page. ... The church is breaking even on its finances, in relation to the budgeted amount, through May.

Worship and Program: A committee continues to look for a replacement for Music Director Quint Lerch, who retired at the end of May. It's possible those duties may be divided among two or more people. ... Brad Gilmore will fill in for the vacationing Rev. Shedwick on Sunday, July 29. ... Nancy Butler will direct a three-part discussion this summer on race relations. The dates are June 13, July 19 and Aug. 21.

Communication and Outreach: With help from elder Arin Sheehan, the commission facilitated church communication by implementing Remind 101, which allows Rev. Shedwick to reach multiple people simultaneously with important church announcements and reminders. Remind 101 is already in use, and those who haven't signed up should plan to do so. ... With a big assist from our deacons and our Youth Group, the commission has conducted a new talent survey and is working at compiling results, which will be distributed to the pastor, elders and deacons. Approximately 60 people filled out surveys.

Membership and Fellowship: Bring A Friend Sundays, after which refreshments are to be served, have been set for July 15 (elders to bring food) and Aug. 12 (deacons to bring food).

Deacons: Approximately a dozen people attended the annual Sunshine Luncheon on May 2, which made it a success. ... Our graduates will be honored during a pot-luck luncheon after worship on June 10.

New business: The Session and deacons held a joint meeting after worship on May 20 to discuss areas of concern brought to light by the every member visitation report. ... Possible solutions were taken under advisement. ... The church is working the Division of Youth and Family Services on a July program focusing on child abuse. DYFS will set up the event in our parking lot. The particulars are being worked out.

Quint Lerch thanks us after his final Sunday as our music director

To all the members of First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your generous gifts, a myriad of well-wishes, and 11 happy years of providing music for your worship experience.

It's been a wonderful journey getting to know you and claiming you as some of my dearest friends.



I will never forget the Christmas pageants, the choir festivals, the Christmas Eve services, Easter, Palm Sunday, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday tenebre services.

But as I said at my final worship service, the most important thing I will remember is your friendship and unwavering support for the music program and for me.

If I had not felt that support, I could not have accomplished my job to the best of my abilities.

I also offer my deepest thanks to my colleagues John and Dottie Shedwick.

We supported one another, and complemented each other's ministry in ways that is rare for church staffs.

John taught me what it is to be an ultimate pastor to his congregation and to me. I will never forgot that.

Finally, I would be remiss not to offer my thanks to Carrie Flynn for her friendship, support and willingness to help me do my job, learn people's names and teach me the family histories of long-time members -- even if I had to occasionally bribe her with chocolate and jam cakes.

As you transition from one music professional to the next, I wish you all the best, and I know whoever replaces me will be afforded the same generosity.

Yours in Christ,
Quint

Race Relations Discussions

The First Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights invites the public to participate in our journey to peace, understanding, harmony and uniting communities

Session 1:

Speak Up and Address Fears

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 13
WOODBURY HEIGHTS FIREHOUSE
500 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights, N.J.

Session 2:

Listen with Your Heart and Gaining Understanding

7:15 p.m. Thursday, July 19
WOODBURY HEIGHTS FIREHOUSE
500 Elm Ave., Woodbury Heights, N.J.

Session 3:

Taking action and uniting communities

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28
WEST DEPTFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
400 Crown Point Road, West Deptford, N.J.

Program leader: Nancy Butler

For more information: Call the church office Tuesday through Friday mornings, (856) 845-0139



Children from our Sunday School attempt to blow cups across a table during the "A Minute to Win It" closing program on Sunday, May 20.

Photo: Barrie Dawson

Sunday School ends with games

Our Sunday School has concluded another great year! For our closing program this year, we had several different games set up for our children. A fun time was had by those in the nursery class through the sixth grade.

We thank the parents for all their support during the year, and a big thank you goes out to our teachers! We so appreciate what you do.

Have a great summer, and we will see everyone back in Sunday School on Rally Day – 9:30 a.m. Sept.9.

-- Bonnie Dawson and Jeannie Mangano

Final facts, figures from our 2018 chicken barbecue

By Joyce Woodrow

Thank you to all who made the chicken barbecue a success once again this year! It was great to see some new faces help, too! This church family is awesome!

Here are some interesting facts:

Profit: \$3,382.30, to be used for the Women's Association's charities. The profit was approximately \$200 more than last year, primarily because take-out containers did not have to be purchased this year and fewer cans of food were used because we served fewer meals.

Pre-sold tickets: There were approximately 100, down from 135 in 2017.

Ticket prices: Even though the cost of barbecued chickens goes up every year, our ticket prices have not increased since 2014.

Chickens ordered: 450 – 50 fewer than last year. All chickens were sold -- 430 on the day of the BBQ and 20 at the leftovers sale.

Monetary donations: We took in \$60 less than last year. These donations offset the cost for supplies and food not donated, such as take-out containers, gingham tablecloths, applesauce, green beans, some ingredients for potato salad, rolls, etc.

My "shadow": I am happy to announce that I will have a "shadow" for next year. The "shadow" will learn how to coordinate the BBQ for some time in the future. That shadow is Kristen (Woodrow) Lynch -- the best daughter anyone could ask for!

Save the date: Saturday, April 27, is the date for our 2019 chicken barbecue. Easter falls on April 21, 2019. Please try to work your vacations around that date!

New date added to our Cathedral Kitchen lineup

In early May, Maria McKeon from Mary's Place by the Sea spoke to our congregation about this special respite for women with cancer.

If you get a chance, go to their website, marysplacebythesea.org to learn more about this special place and to view their very moving introduction video. Many thanks to those who donated toiletries and other items.

Our next Cathedral Kitchen date is Monday, June 18. Please contact Mary Kay Reynolds at (856) 803-4068 if you would like to volunteer.

Looking ahead to August, we have added a new date: Saturday, Aug. 18. This is an opportunity for people who can't volunteer during the work week to serve.

Cathedral Kitchen serves lunch on Saturdays, so the hours are from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Perhaps some of our youth would like the opportunity to help. Servers must be at least 16 years old. Hope to see some new volunteers!

For 118 years our church has survived – and thrived

How does a small town church come into being and not only survive, but thrive, for more than 118 years? The answer is revealed when one reads our church historical accounts.

Several businessmen had the vision to establish a community and organize a local church. The women of the time made the church an extension of their homes. The children and young people contributed their joy and exuberance.

Generations later, our church continues to preach the Bible, promote missions and encourage Christian fellowship. Hard work, dedication, inspired leadership and the blessings of God always ensure a vital church.

"In the Beginning" and "To Be Continued With God's Grace" are the titles of the two large Narthex cabinet displays. Each contains pieces of our history. The center section contains a plain white church and a glass cross, given to us by the estate of Bob Peterson. The framed poem reminds us all that God has a plan for our lives and our service.

Our small church has had many ordinary disciples. The current display features evidence of the extraordinary work done by John and Henrietta Mayhew, our other founders and those loving members who worked industriously and gave freely of their resources and assets.

Below the cabinets is a framed collage of our 100th Anniversary Celebration and another with pictures of our past choir leaders and organists.

Looking through our historical artifacts, we can read the names and the accomplishments of our members. Because God lives, more names and contributions are added constantly.