



Pompton Reformed Church
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Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
973-835-0541
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Hello Friends!

We are headed back to the sanctuary and worshipping inside starting September 12! Because of the increased cases of the Covid-Delta Variant, the increased number of hospitalizations, and to protect our kids at church (most of whom are too young to be vaccinated), our consistory has decided that masks are required at all indoor worship services and meetings, for unvaccinated and vaccinated people. Thank you again for your flexibility and understanding during this difficult time.

In my sermon on July 25, I talked about The Gospel and we walked through this document together. My hope is that this summary becomes as meaningful to you as it is to me.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share not only the Gospel with you, but our lives as well. -1 Thessalonians 2:8

The Gospel: For you. In you. Through you.

For you

God has done something for you. Something that you did not deserve and could never earn. In the death and resurrection of Christ, God has set you free. He has brought you from death to life and you are no longer owned by your past. You have a new life and a new future. There is nothing you can do to make God love you more and there is nothing you can do to make God love you less. You are simply and beautifully, loved.

In you

God is doing something in you. When you follow the way of Jesus, you begin a deep inner journey. You pay attention to what is going on in your heart and mind. You start to lean away from what makes you resentful, bitter, and indifferent and you lean towards what brings out compassion, justice, peace, hope and love. You look toward building a better world instead of your own world and you look for things that last instead of things that fade. What you want in life begins to change. God begins to prompt you, invite you, and call you. Your heart begins to beat in rhythm with God's heart for the world.

Through you

God is doing something through you. You are not a bystander or spectator to what God is doing in the world. God is present and active in the world and he works through people. You have a part and a purpose in this life and God is inviting you to join him in the ongoing restoration of the world. You have gifts, talents, and passions and you can bring them to the table.

God has done something for you. He is doing something in you. He is doing something through you. This is The Gospel.

Where is the sweater weather?

By Elaine Peacock

I'm so through with the summer, enough with the heat and humidity already – I'm looking forward to sweater weather. Every time I go into my closet for something to wear I'm positive I hear my sweaters saying pick me, pick me. Sorry sweaters it's a bit too soon for you to come to the front of the closet.

I'm so ready for colored leaves, apple picking, apple cider donuts and all the great things that go with fall. I know, I know don't rush the season but I'm hoping that God gives us an early fall and maybe this year lets it run bit longer. I don't know about anyone else but I can handle a longer fall – especially the apple cider donut part.

I hope all the kids out there study hard but also find time to enjoy all the beauty that God surrounds us with every day. Whether you are 6 or 60 or somewhere in between or older take time to shuffle through the leaves, enjoy God's beautiful handy work and don't forget to wear your sweater. Happy fall everyone.



Kristen Warner
Caroline Winter

Memorials

From	In Memory of	designated for
JoAnn Sisco	Lena Sambataro	Garden Flowers.

*In
Loving
Memory*

Scholarship News

Scholarships 2021

On Behalf of the Scholarship Committee and the entire congregation, scholarships were presented to the following members as they pursue a higher education:

RYAN ALMEIDA

SKYLER HANISCH

JACKSON HAYES

KAITLYN HOLLAR

While we hope these scholarships will help ease the financial burden of obtaining a higher education – it is also important that each of the recipients know that we offer an even greater gift – that gift is the blessing, prayers and support from the entire congregation as they pursue their individual educational goals.

In Christ’s Service,
The Scholarship Committee

I would like to thank Janine and the bell choir (past and present) for your generosity, kindness and love in memory of Cindi.



I am truly blessed with your love, friendship and support you have given me during this difficult and new journey.

With love and thanks to all of you.
Valerie Petrides

Anna Gordon, a daughter of PRC who is now serving as a hospital chaplain in the Midwest, sent this update for the church family. If you missed church on 8/22 her message is reprinted here:

Philippians 4:4-7--

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. **5** Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **6** Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Today is Thursday, August 12, 2021(or at least it was when I wrote this!). This morning mom asked me to write a short update for her to share with the church congregation about the last year... So much has happened since I saw everyone more than 2 years ago. While

there have been many events to rejoice over since I left NJ in Aug. 2019 there has also been fear, sadness, anger, and almost every emotion I know.

Today I came into work, and for the first time in almost 6 months I started my day by putting on green scrubs. Our COVID special precautions unit reopened on Monday, August 9th. Today is my first day working a shift as the dedicated covid chaplain. Wearing Scrubs, a PAPR, carrying a different pager, and responding to all the patient and staff needs on the unit.

Like I hear so often in the hospital over the last 18 months, "this is not what I signed up for..." Over the last year I have experienced ongoing change and uncertainty in my job as a hospital chaplain.

Philippians 4 is taped to the wall of my office. Sometimes when I see it, the words give me hope and encouragement, other days I read it and laugh, some days I read it and cry. Over the last year my emotions seem to be all over the place, but in a way I would be worried if that wasn't true. Learning to be a hospital chaplain while also learning to navigate a global pandemic hasn't been easy.

The words of Paul sometimes feel comforting, other days they feel like an unattainable goal: "Rejoice in the Lord always... Do not worry about anything... the peace of God... will guard your hearts."

Officially, I am the staff chaplain for Inpatient Behavioral Health, Outpatient Addiction Treatment, Labor and Delivery, Pediatrics, NICU, PICU, and Medical Specialties (a dual diagnosis unit for people with physical and mental illness). I run spirituality groups, baptize babies, provide communion, and emotional and spiritual support to patients and staff. Unofficially, I go where I am needed, and serve anyone who requests assistance. While my favorite floors are where I am assigned, I am also often overseeing palliative care patients, organ donations, and traumas in the ER.

During the last year I have responded to more deaths than I care to remember. I have sat and prayed with patients who were alone and scared in the hospital. I have spoken on the phone to family members unable to come to the hospital because of visitor restrictions. Everyday I sit and hear the fears and worries of my community.

Despite that I wouldn't change my job. While covid has made the work more challenging I am doing what I love, providing support and encouragement to people who are feeling lost and alone. During all this I helped mentor three new chaplain residents, 1 who just accepted a job in Alaska, 1 who is a military chaplain, and 1 who has accepted a 2nd year residency in order to learn more about chaplaincy and working in behavioral health.

On Monday, (tomorrow) the new residency starts. I will meet 4 new students and begin the process all over again. I don't know what the next year will look like but I am excited to live out the words of Philippians 4 with our patients, staff, and fellow chaplains.

everyone. The Lord is near. **6** Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Blessings to my church family.

Anna

Anna may be contacted at anna.e.gordon@gmail.com

September- Here we come

FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship Committee will resume serving weekly refreshments in September. There will be a simple snack and beverage offered. The committee will accept donations of any individually wrapped snack or beverage from our church family.

Fellowship would also like to invite anyone who wishes to celebrate an occasion by bringing and serving a cake after service. If you wish to bring a cake, call the church office 973-835-0541 or Rick Pierce 973-513-9353.

Pompton Day- Sunday, Sept. 5, rain date Sept. 6. PRC is manning a table. If you are able to take a shift, please call the office. Do stop by to say hello!

Sunday School Resumes!

September 12 is the day to hear the happy sounds of children returning to Sunday School! Sunday School will be provided for prek3- K in Children in Worship and Grades 1&2. Grades 3-HS remain in church with their families.

Pompton Lakes Town Wide Garage Sale

September 25- no permit needed.

Upcoming Activities

The Fellowship Committee is still sponsoring a trip to the Sight and Sound theater to see "Queen Ester!" Many of you may or may not realize that our trip that was scheduled for Oct. 2020 was in fact rescheduled to 2021 due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The date is Saturday, October 2, 2021.

We have a few openings available to join us on this wonderful and fun day, so if you would like to join us- let us know as soon as possible, as time is now limited.

Call, text*, or email Rick Pierce

973-513-9353 home

973-800-3499 *cell

Richardpiercesr@optonline.net

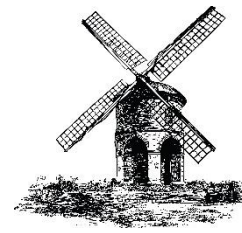
Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch Social Club will be having a luncheon on October 14 at Lina's in Bloomingdale. Please contact Jo-Anne Sisco if you are interested in attending. Lunch Bunch meets Thursdays (2nd & 4th) at noon for lunch and socialization. Everyone is welcome to come by any Thursday that you can make it.

Autumnfest, 2021

We will have Autumnfest!

Planning is underway. Save the date: October 16, 2021



PRC families took part in a fun day of white water rafting in July. 27 PRC folks, 23 adults and 4 children, had a blast on a beautiful day on the Delaware River. Maybe this will be an annual event! Here are a couple pictures.



October Newsletter submissions are due by
Sunday, Sept. 26. Please email to khuysers@msn.com