



Pompton Reformed Church
59 Hamburg Turnpike
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
www.pomptonreformed.org



2022

This month I bring you the true story of a miraculous event. It is written by the mom of my ex-daughter-in-law's one time boyfriend. If this seems far-fetched, I met her at my granddaughter's 5th birthday and kept in touch via facebook despite the relationship ending and no further interaction than the birthday party. God is great!

God's Perfect Plan –

"What happens when God chooses someone so ordinary to do something so extraordinary?"

In 2015 when my daughter was a senior in high school, she texted me saying she wanted to donate a kidney to a girl in her class who was suddenly struck down with complete irreversible kidney failure. Before she could pursue this, the young girl (Madison) received a kidney from a deceased donor. Several years later, the kidney failed, and my daughter texted me again saying she wanted to donate a kidney. I love my daughter's heart, but she works over 50 hours a week as a manager at a restaurant. Since I work less hours at a more sedentary job, I said I would do it. When I realized the requirements were no high blood pressure or obesity, I sadly I thought I'm not good enough and dropped the idea. Some time passed, and I noticed that even though Madison received a lot of public attention, she still hadn't gotten a kidney. I went online to read the update and realized I have the same blood type that she has. Again, the self-doubts crept into my head. I prayed about it and told God that if He wanted me to move forward with this, I would need a clear answer from Him. Then I waited. I didn't have to wait long. A couple of days later my Echo Show randomly started to play an Adam Sandler movie. I began yelling at Alexa to stop playing the movie. It took a few minutes for her to listen to me. Before she did, the movie switched to advertisements. When the Echo finally paused, the only thing left on a black screen were the words "I need a kidney". I immediately knew that was my answer from God. I met with the Kidney Transplant team in early March to begin the process. My weight wasn't an issue, but I immediately started a weight loss program and a daily walking routine. I lost nearly 30 pounds and brought my blood pressure under control. Physically as well as mentally, I feel better than I have in years. After months of visiting different specialists and having many tests, it was determined that I am a perfect match! No surprise there. What God sets in motion, He will surely bring to pass. On June 15, 2022 a team of specialists met to determine if it would be totally safe for me to have the surgery. I received approval that afternoon. Later that evening while on my Facebook page a memory popped up from June 15, 2021. It was Madison's original post seeking a kidney. After scrolling through a year's worth of texts from Paige (her daughter), I found her texts from June 15, 2021. That was, indeed, the date she texted me saying she wanted to donate a kidney! As soon as I began the process on March 8th, I began seeing the name "Madison"

everywhere. First it was a street sign in Newport. Then we had a server named Maddie. Then while picking out engagement invitations for Paige, Madison was on the samples. Yesterday I went to the pre-op testing and to meet Madison for the first time. On the drive there, this truck



was driving next to us. While I am overwhelmed by the positive response by everyone, I give all the credit to God. He chose me for a reason and He will bring both Madison and me through this. I know that God's plan is perfect!" Cathy Heller

I asked if I could use this for our church newsletter and the author was very happy to spread the word. The surgery occurred and both are doing fine.

September Thoughts

By Elaine Peacock

I must admit I have been thinking September thoughts for a while now. Every hot day we have had this summer has me dreaming of cooler weather and changing leaves. I kept thinking one less day of hot weather one step closer to September. I'm hoping for beautiful leaves of every color as we get deeper into the fall season. God gives us beautiful days in the spring with beautiful flowers of every color. He gives us "beach days" so we can enjoy days at the shore and walks along the ocean's edge. He gives us cold days in the winter so we can enjoy a cozy fire and snowball fights, but the best season of all is the fall season and I think God saves all those colors of orange, red, yellow and brown for fall so we can enjoy crispy days of walking in the leaves, finding that special pumpkin, hayrides and all the yummy treats that are popular in the fall. So don't let fall pass you by get out there and enjoy whatever fall has to offer that way you will have enough September thoughts to last you until next September.

September 2021 we were just coming out of the pandemic and hoping for a bit of normal. It didn't happen quite as we wished but this September finds us in a much better place. Happy September 2022!

Birthdays

Chrissy Warner
Caroline Winter
Michael Warner
Oliver Willard



Memorials



<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
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Erica Herz Jennifer Zechmeister	Bill Herz William Francis Hackett	Building Fund Food Pantry
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In memory of Warren and Madge Schlapfer who spent almost 70 years as part of the PRC family given by the "Schlapfer Girls - Joanne, Lynn, Jaine, and Nancy."

Congratulations to Stuart and Anisha Carroll who were married in Seattle on July 16th 🥰

My apologies to Marge Hubert...there was only one Madge and there is only one Marge...lc

In Honor Of.....

In honor of Evan Maletsky's 90th birthday from Lynn and Emil Scarmazzo (designated - Music)

In honor of Linda Iraggi's birthday from the Snowes

Eleanor Haling sends her best wishes to her friends at PRC - she has very fond memories of her time here.

I want to say thank you for all the cards and notes I received upon the passing of my husband, Bill. They were a great comfort for me and my family during this time of our loss. I truly felt your support.

Erika Herz

From the Pastor's Desk

Hello Friends!

I want to let you know about a few things that are happening this fall!

RCA Retreat From August 28-September 11. Our denomination gave out grants for pastors to take a mini-sabbatical retreat for 2 weeks during the year. I will be at a retreat in Maine for a week and then spending time as a family near Bar Harbor for a week. We are really thankful for the generosity of the RCA and the support of the consistory to make this happen. If you have any pastoral needs during that time, please contact the church office. Tom Bartha will be preaching on September 4th and Phyllis Palsma will be preaching on September 11.

Nursery and Sunday School Starts on September 18th!

We are looking for nursery volunteers! Our goal is to find 8 volunteers who are willing to serve once a month in our nursery. If you are interested, please contact pastor John

Our Free Monthly Dinners Will Continue This Fall!!

If you can believe it, we have been doing our free monthly dinners for almost a year! You can mark your calendars for September 22nd, October 27th, November 17th, and December 15th. I just want to thank all of you. We have received so many donations and so many people have stepped up to volunteer. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you everyone and have a great end of the summer!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor John

Coming Up!

Save the date:

AUTUMNFEST/CRAFT FAIR 2022!

Saturday, Oct. 15, 10 am to 3 pm.

- Over 30 vendors
- West Milford Heritage Quilters
QUILT DISPLAY
- Dot's Corner—our traditional popular Bakery
- Angelo's Pizza—food truck
- Sam's Ice cream—truck
- 50/50 drawing
- Lunch, and much more!

A fun day for the whole family!

A dark orange rectangular graphic with white text. The text reads "AUTUMNFEST" in a large, bold, serif font, followed by "CRAFT FAIR" in a slightly smaller, bold, serif font, and "Oct.15" in a large, bold, serif font at the bottom.

AUTUMNFEST
CRAFT FAIR
Oct.15



ATTENTION WILLING BAKERS!

We are asking for your help in making our wonderful and popular “Dot’s Corner Bakery” at Autumnfest/Craft Fair 2022—the most successful ever! The bakery was missed last year due to the pandemic, so we expect it to be well received this year! With your help we can make it happen! Cakes, pies, breads, brownies, cookies, cupcakes—the more items we have—the more money we will make for PRC! The date for Autumnfest is Saturday, October 15, 10 am to 3 pm. Look for the sign up sheet in or near Fellowship Hall.

Consistory News

Dear Friends,

We are beginning the process of nominating new members of the consistory. The consistory is made up of elders, deacons, and the minister and together they provide spiritual and organizational leadership for our church community. We gather together for a monthly meeting to discuss and decide matters ranging from worship services and spiritual formation to annual budgets and short-term operational matters. Members of consistory need to be comfortable with process. Some decisions happen quickly while other decisions require discussions, deliberation, and voting. When we are not in our monthly meetings, the consistory cares for people both inside and outside our church.

Elders lead our community into a deeper life with God. They serve communion, care for the sick, and desire to see each person connected to life-giving relationships within the church. Their gifts and passions range from leadership, administration, discipleship and evangelism to faith, pastoral care, and prayer.

Deacons lead our community into the world to be the hands and feet of Jesus. They encourage generosity among our members and care for the poor and marginalized. Deacons are prophetic critics of injustice and are compassionate for those in need who are both inside and outside the church. Their gifts and passions range from generosity, stewardship, and administration to mercy, hospitality, and helping.

We are inviting all of you into a time of discernment as we enter this process. We will all be praying for our church and for the Holy Spirit’s leading during this time. This is a great time to have conversations about the future of our church and the people we need to lead us. Talk with others about what it means

to be an elder and a deacon and encourage people who you think have these gifts and passions. **If you think someone may be a great elder or deacon, please nominate that person and tell us the gifts you see that would make them a good deacon or elder.** If you have these gifts and passions and would like to be nominated, then share this with others in our community during this discernment process so that they can nominate you.

Per the church bylaws, Lorna Carroll has been chosen as the member-at-large on the nominating committee. Please submit your nominations to her with spiritual gift descriptions by September 19. She will present them to the rest of the committee.

This is an exciting time and we are excited to see who joins us in leading Pompton Reformed.

Grace and Peace,

The Consistory of Pompton Reformed Church

August 2023

Food for thought by John Mark

Submitted by Eddie Van Schaack

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We live together.

The church needs you.

And you need the church. 🏰❤️🙏

And Eddie's submission made me think of this...

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building;
the church is not a steeple;
the church is not a resting place;
the church is a people.

Thank You.....

I just wanted to reach out and thank you for continuing to give me a scholarship which better allows me to further my educational goals. I am looking forward to graduating in May.

Sincerely,
Kaitlyn Hollar



Hello, I just wanted to thank you for giving me a scholarship. Thank you for allowing me to further my education in an area I am incredibly passionate in.

Sincerely,
Jared Hollar

Food Pantry

The food pantry is always in need of staples; Parmalat milk, cereal, rice, beans, pasta, spaghetti sauce, etc, as well as toiletries. They can be left in the bin in Fellowship Hall.

October Newsletter submissions

Are due by Sept. 25. Please email

To khuysers@msn.com

Or drop in the mailbox in the church office.

