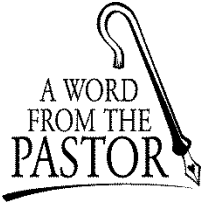


Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

May 2017

May the Force of the Resurrection Be with You! – A Pastor’s Reflection



Are you tired and anxious because of news headlines? Do reports of escalating violence and threats of violence leave you fearful? Does uncertainty about what tomorrow may bring imprison you? Have the forces of unbridled rage, fear, and divisiveness left you feeling like Darth Vader and the “Dark Side” is in control of life? It is all so very understandable.

When Jesus was crucified, dead and buried in the tomb, the men and women who had followed Jesus thought that the “Dark Side” had won. Even after they heard reports of Jesus’ resurrection, many of his followers still hid out behind locked doors. That too is understandable if you can’t embrace the reality of Christ Risen – if you won’t allow yourself to be embraced by the reality of Christ Risen from the tomb – victorious over the “Dark Side” of sin and death and human evil.

In Star Wars, Luke Skywalker had a difficult time embracing what was known as “The Force.” He was tempted to cave in to unchecked anger and go over to the “Dark Side.” But when he let “The Force” take hold in his life, “The Dark Side” was no longer able to control or overtake him.

So I say to you brothers and sisters, May the Force of Christ’s Resurrection Be with You!” When we allow and make the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our reality we have a power that can inspire us – empower us – liberate us to be Christ’s real disciples in the world.

When Jesus’ first disciples let the power of the Risen Lord embrace their lives, they came out of hiding and began to transform the world. They didn’t fear death, for they knew death was not the last word, for Christ had overcome death. Thus, the Apostle Stephen would pray for Saul who oversaw Stephen’s execution, paving the way for Saul’s conversion later.

When the Force of Christ’s Resurrection is with a person, one can stand up to the forces of evil, not fearing prison or death, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, when he challenged the rule of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi’ movement.

When the Force of Christ’s Resurrection is with a person, one can dare to hide and provide sanctuary for Jews seeking escape from the Nazi Holocaust, as Corey Ten Boom and her Dutch Christian family did during World War II.

When the Force of Christ’s Resurrection is embraced by someone, there is courage to stand up to anti-Semitism – to racism – to oppression.

When the Force of Christ’s Resurrection is with us – within us – and embraced by us we are empowered to make the worship – the fellowship – the service and – the outreaching inclusive nature of Jesus Christ’s love the central point around which our personal lives revolve.

How do those dwelling in the darkness of loneliness see the light of a new day? Where do those who have been written off by an uncaring world find God’s redemptive love? How does someone going through some personal dark night of the soul experience find hope and new life? It’s when those who claim Jesus Christ let Jesus Christ claim their lives to bring the love, support, compassion, and life changing grace into those lives. Where do you and find the strength to break out of the tombs of darkness and despair that at times engulf us? We find it in embracing the One who was and is and forever shall be the light that shines in darkness, which the darkness has not and cannot overcome. May the Force of Christ’s Resurrection Be with You!



Urban Coalhouse Fundraiser

We will be having a Restaurant Fundraiser at **Urban Coalhouse** (formerly Tommy's Coal Fired Pizza) at 515 Route 70 in Brick on **Monday, April 24, Tuesday, April 25 and Wednesday, April 26** from 12 Noon - 9:00PM. Bring a flyer and 10% of your bill will be donated to Brick Presbyterian Church.

PB&G Needs Your Help.....

We are planning a Saturday work day at the church. Basic clean up of the building and grounds, replacing light bulbs, cleaning up various storage areas, painting and other small jobs. We are seeking volunteers, we will provide 'on the job training', no experience necessary; plus we will provide coffee and donuts. *The date: Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 8:00 AM to noon.* Tools, gloves and all supplies/materials will be provided. **Our goal is to continue to keep our church looking the best!**



Please come out and support the church appearance and help PB&G.

ANTIQUe APPRAISAL EVENT



Please join us for this **new event** at Brick Presbyterian Church!! On **May 20, 2017**, from **11:30-4:30** we will be hosting an Antique Appraisal Event in the FLC. Bring your treasures to be appraised by “**Legacies Old and New**”. There will be a limit of 2 items per person @ \$5.00 per item. An art expert will be available for advice and appraisal. Lunch will be available for purchase.

Evangelism/Outreach

May 21st is catch a friend bring 'Em in Sunday.
Invite a friend to have coffee with you





PAINT PARTY

There will be a Paint Party to benefit the "EarnYour Wings" project that brings Christmas gifts to the less fortunate children in our community, hosted by the Youth Groups.

The event will be held in the **Family Life Center on May 21st** from **2:00pm to 4:00pm**. *The cost is \$25.00.*

The Youth Groups are taking reservations with payments starting in the Narthex.

Paint Parties are all the craze these days, it's a fun and easy way to be creative. A **professional artist** will come in and show us step by step how to make our own creative original painting to take home and display.

Refreshments and baked items will be provided free of charge by the Youth Groups. *Space is limited so make sure to get your reservations in early!*

National Day of Prayer
is May 4th
Let's pray for world peace!



Saturday, June 3rd
BPC Annual Blessing of the Pets
10 am in the Memorial Garden

*All creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all*

Remember - all dogs must be on a leash and cats in a carrier. Rabbits, turtles and hamsters are welcome. If your pet cannot attend the service for any reason, bring a picture with you to hang on our special board designed just for them! Please include your name & address on the back of the picture.

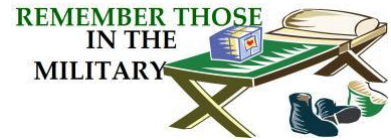
And....even if you don't have your own furry friend to bless, **please consider making a contribution that will bless the animals at Jersey Shore Animal Shelter**. Please watch for items to donate for the Jersey Shore Animal Shelter in the bulletin.

GREETINGS FROM THE DEACONS



The Board of Deacons would like to thank the congregation for their support of our food pantry. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide 55 food baskets to members of our community for the Easter holiday. Currently, our pantry is greatly depleted, and we ask that you send in donations so that we may continue to meet the needs of the community.

We would like to remind the congregation that the Deacons support our Active Military by collecting donations of personal items that are then distributed to our service men and women as “care packages.” Please continue to bring in items. A list of suggested items may be found on the church web site.



ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Help save a life... Give blood! The Deacons will welcome the Central Jersey Blood Center on May 10th, and there will be a sign-up sheet at church to schedule your donation appointment **beginning Sunday, April 23rd**. For questions and further information, you can contact **Joan Erickson** at 732-833-2977 or email jmerick112@yahoo.com. Also, please view our Posters on display in the narthex and lobby.



BLOOD DRIVE

Brick Presbyterian Church

Family Life Center

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Thank you for giving the gift of life!

Stream Energy

Stream Energy continues to make monthly donations to Brick Presbyterian Church if you sign up with them for savings on your gas and/or electric bills. See Patrice to find out how you can save money!



ATTENTION GRADUATES!

Are you or someone in your family graduating from high school, college, graduate school or vo-tech this spring? If so, please let us know so we can share the news with your church family. Please include the name, where they're graduating from, and future plans (*if known*).



BLANKET SUNDAY



When we think of warmth, we can't help but think of blankets. Their importance is essential, because no matter who you are, or where you live, you need a blanket to keep you warm. For many in the world, something like a blanket is nearly impossible to come by. As are the essential elements of life, like water and food. In a world filled with so much turmoil, it is important that we continue to do our part as Brick Presbyterians to step up and help to alleviate some of the suffering in this world.

One way we do this every year, is our support of the Church World Service on Blanket Sunday. This year, on Mother's Day, May 14th, we will collect funds to support CWS. The mission of CWS is help the neediest people on Earth and we should heed that call. For only \$10, you can give a blanket that can provide warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy, and healing and hope wherever God's people may need care. These blankets might be the best gift you ever give and you can change a life all at the same time. Special offering envelopes will be available in the pews on May 7th and May 14th.

The Importance of Per Capita Funding

Why is per capita so important?

Per Capita brings all Presbyterians together – literally!

Per Capita makes it possible for Presbyterians to govern ourselves the way we have and continue to do.

Per Capita in simpler terms is a set amount per member that congregations are asked to pay each year to support the operations of the larger church organization.

“Per Capita” for 2017 is \$36.00 per member. You will find in the box of your offering envelopes an envelope marked “Per Capita”. Your faithful support is deeply appreciated.

Per capita
is part of
the glue
that holds
Presbyterians
together

Security Notice from PB&G:



When using the facility please ensure that all doors are locked and all lights are turned off as you leave the church. This will help to keep our utility bills low and ensure that our church is secure.