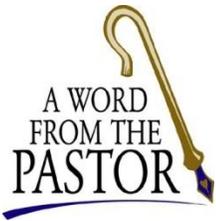


Good Tidings

The Newsletter of Brick Presbyterian Church

October 2016



Reclaim a Hidden Light – A Pastoral Message

Many people in America believe our great nation with its many freedoms and opportunities is based upon Judeo-Christian principals. There are those who think this nation is somehow different in some way(s) from other nations. Our past national leaders (both political and religious) used language which envisioned the United States as a beacon and a light unto other nations. This is a marvelous vision, when held humbly. But it must be without a spirit of condescension toward others who may not see things as we perceive life.

While in Scotland this summer I was asked by residents there: “What’s going on in your country?” The question referred to a multitude of things. Those asking the question were dismayed by the events that have unfolded in our great land – concerned about everything from the plague of gun violence – to the racial tensions that rippled forth from Ferguson, MO – to name calling, character attacks, and ethical inconsistencies by members of two major parties. My questioners were dismayed, as are many Americans, with the embrace and expressions of tribalism, divisiveness, and arrogance that is all too evident. This tribalism is expressed in thoughts suggesting that things have to be “my way or take the highway.” It’s seen in a fierce loyalty to particular ideologies that ignores their own weaknesses and faults, while blindly embracing perceived virtues.

We would like to think these are things that pertain to those others out there in the national headlines. “They” are the problem, we tell ourselves. But, as the Queen in Snow White viewed herself in the mirror, asking, “Mirror, Mirror, on the wall, whose the fairest of them all?” The expected answer is that it is the one looking in the mirror, and not someone else, like Snow White.

If we are to be viewed by others as a light that shines in the darkness (whether as a nation or as individuals) perhaps it’s time to revisit our spiritual roots and be claimed by the Scriptures. Perhaps we need to relearn from the Apostle Paul what it means to be transformed as he was from Saul who assaulted the love of Christ, to become Paul who spread the love of Jesus. The Lord who spoke through the prophet Micah to a people and nation of faith that had lost their way saying: “He has told, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8).

There seems to be so many different perspectives on what is just and fair – regarding what it means to be kind, for everyone does what is right in their own sight. But what does God’s justice and kindness look like? I believe it’s found in the Gospel narratives that reveal a Jesus, who though Lord of lords, took on the role of a servant – a Jesus who was confident without being arrogant – a Jesus who wasn’t focused on worldly success and status, or celebrity, but upon loving and embracing others as God in Jesus desires our love.

It has been suggested that what we see in the headlines can be a mirror reflecting the spiritual condition of what in less grandiose ways is at the heart of a society. All of this is to say there is a great need for a spiritual rebirth and awakening – not only in high places, but also at the grass roots where we live, and scratch out a living, and raise our children. It is to suggest that we are either walking with Jesus or trying to make Jesus look like ourselves. Jesus summed up the totality of religious teaching saying we are to “love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind and strength. This is the first great command. And the second is like it, we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.” If each of us strives to do these two things, the light of this nation might grow brighter once again both for ourselves and for the world to see and find hope in again.



***Take a Walk to
the Mission Fair on October 9th***

On Sunday, October 9th from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., you are invited to our Mission Fair in the Family Life Center. It's a great opportunity for you to learn more about the many ways in which our congregation strives to walk with Jesus as we bring God's love and care into our daily lives here and in the community near and far.

Come learn about all of the ministries and activities Brick Presbyterian Church provides to enhance our experience of faith and improve the lives of our members, those in our area, and the world at large.

Committees of the church as well as Groups from the community will have displays and information on what happens in each group. Please prayerfully consider joining one or more of these committees!

We look forward to seeing you at this special event in the Family Life Center on October 9th!

Sunday, October 16

Catch a friend bring 'em in
It's Coffee Hour Sunday so,
invite a friend to worship and have coffee with you!



Ever wonder what each of us can do to help end hunger? One answer is simple. Join together and participate in the CROP HUNGER WALK. The CROP HUNGER WALK succeeds in raising money to alleviate hunger in some part of the world. The walk is sponsored by Church World Services, a national charity. Church World Services works to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world. 75% of the funds raised will go to Church World Services for their world wide projects and 25% will stay in Ocean County to be used by the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Ocean County.

The CROP HUNGER WALK will take place on **October 16th**. The starting point will be at Toms River Presbyterian Church, where registration begins at 1:30PM. The walk will be approximately 3 miles around the Toms River Presbyterian Church neighborhood.

Come and join the walk. Together, step by step, we walk to give hope to those in need. Remember, by taking a small step, you are taking a big step to stop hunger. For more information, go to www.crophungerwalk.org.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Friday, October 21, 2016
6:30pm in the FLC
Watch for details in the bulletin!

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to everyone who supported our **mum sale** last month and a special thank you to the **Towlen Family** for once again organizing this successful event. Advance orders were taken for Christmas wreaths and poinsettias so look for more information on this in the coming weeks.

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS EVENT



We are now selling Boscov's Department Store's Friends Helping Friends 25%-off passes for the event on **Tuesday, October 18 from 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.** The \$5.00 pass entitles you to refreshments, entertainment and a chance to win prizes in addition to 25% off your purchase. The pass can be used multiple times at multiple locations throughout NJ, NY, PA, MD, DEL and OH.

CRAFT FAIR

We will once again be holding a craft fair in the Family Life Center. The date is **Saturday, November 19 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** Come check out the many crafters and vendors and do some early Christmas shopping! Admission is free and there will be many door prizes. Also, the first 25 kids receive a free gift!

STREAM ENERGY

Winter, spring, summer or fall, Stream Energy continues to make monthly donations to Brick Presbyterian Church. Sign up now and you will not only see a savings yourself but will also be part of the donation made to our church. For additional information you can contact **Patrice Law** @ 732-779-7242 or patricealaw@gmail.com.



VETERANS DAY LUNCH

November 13th
after the 10am service
in the FLC

Flu & Pneumonia Vaccinations

On Sunday, **October 2, from 10a.m. to 12 noon**, we will again be offering these vaccinations in cooperation with the Ocean County Health Department in our Family Life Center. Influenza and Pneumonia vaccinations are **free** if enrolled in Medicare Part B (\$20 if not enrolled). Please remember to bring your Medicare card.

Specific vaccines this year will include: **High dose Influenza* (trivalent vaccine), **Regular, Preservative-Free Influenza* (quadrivalent vaccine), **Intradermal, Preservative-free Influenza* (quadrivalent vaccine), **Pediatric, Preservative-Free Influenza* (quadrivalent vaccine), **Pneumonia23 Pneumococcal vaccine*.



Flu season & winter are coming so be prepared and get vaccinated!

Junior High Youth Group News



The Youth Groups will be out once again Flamingo Flocking on October 2nd, if you should receive a Flamingo on your front lawn please make sure he is returned back at church to join his flock with a donation to support our "Earn your Wings" project.

The Junior High will be going out to Von Thun's Corn Maze on October 16th for a fun day of solving the corn maze, hay rides and corn shooting.

The Youth Groups will have their Bake Sale on October 23rd to raise funds for the "Earn your Wings" project. Please come over and purchase a baked good for a good cause.

October 30th both groups will meet make Christmas Ornaments that will be handed out in December with every donation towards our "Earn your Wings" project.

All members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we are all baptized into one body. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Save the Dates for Senior High Youth Group – *more specific details to follow*

October 2 nd	6pm Flamingo Flocking
October 16 th	Regular Meeting 6-7:30
October 23 rd	Bake Sale/Coin Counting (between services)
October 30 th	6 pm Creating Ornaments
November 13 th	Yard Clean Up (afternoon)
November 20 th	Regular Meeting 6-7:30
December 3 rd	Christmas Festival (afternoon)
December 4 th	Earn Your Wings Donations (between services)
December 9 th	6pm Lock-in
December 10 th	Christmas Caroling (afternoon)





PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

SETTING THE TABLE OF PEACE

Every day, we are witnesses to conflict. We read news stories of violence and supposedly irreparable divides. Angry rhetoric fills our airwaves, inboxes, and social media feeds. We see conflict tear apart communities, families, even people we know. Surrounded by this strife, it's easy to see the world through a dark lens of discord. We may even come to share the doubt expressed in Psalm 78:19: "Can God spread a table in the wilderness?"

Yet our faith tells us despite our doubts, sins, distrust, or even anger, God not only sets a table, but invites us to join it and partake in an abundance of peace.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering challenges us to look at the world not as a place where conflict is inevitable, but where Christ's peace is possible. The programs supported by the Peace & Global Witness Offering help bring people to tables of peace, justice, and reconciliation even in the wilderness of war, violence, and division. In places of abiding conflict, the Peace & Global Witness Offering supports the work of Presbyterian mission co-workers to bring together former enemies and begin healing the spiritual wounds of war. In congregations closer to home, support from the Offering enables efforts to turn back the tide of gun violence that claims too many American lives. In other communities, it's facilitating a transformative dialogue about the difficult subject of race to find new common ground. And everywhere, this Offering supports witness, because by sharing the abiding love and mercy of Christ, more people can find their way to a seat at God's table.

Your support of the Peace & Global Witness Offering acknowledges that a wilderness of conflict may surround us, but we are not abandoned there. If we open our eyes to the possibilities of peace, we see God has set a table for anyone willing to take a seat.

This special offering will be taken on **October 2nd**, Worldwide Communion Sunday. Offering envelopes will be available in the pews on September 25th and in the bulletin on October 2nd. ***Please give generously.***

- *presbyterianmission.org*

Knit4peace

Ladies if you knit or sew, the mission needs our help. Not only other parts of the world, but right here at home. Chautauqua country in NY needs booties, bibs, mittens, baby blankets, and peace pals. Lori Evans has patterns for booties, bibs and baby hats.

*Thanks for working on this!
PW of Synod of the Northeast*

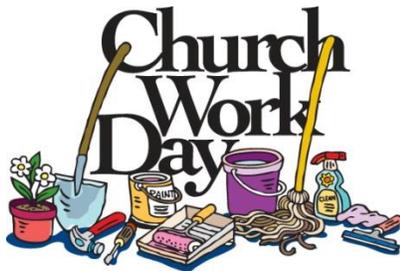
Sunday School Volunteer Staff 2016/2017



Child Care: Joan Horan and Miranda Auriemma
Pre-k/kindergarten: Merri Schick, Ryan Fortier and Lauren Dyke
1st/2nd: Donna Solly and Susan Pacitti
3rd/4th: Tammi Spinelli and Kelly Kraynick
5th/6th: Lauren Towlen, Aiden and Brad Schlatter
7th/8th: Donna Schlatter
Confirmation Class: Vic Erickson and Pastor Chase

Additional volunteers who help with substituting, classroom support,
office tasks, and the youth music program:

Kindra Slater
Mike Slater
Kathy Kraynick
Drew Trautweiler
Chris Lanigan



Church Clean Up Day

The Buildings and Grounds Committee will be hosting a “Work Saturday” on **October 1st from 8am till noon**. Coffee and donuts will be provided as well as job assignments for both inside and outside jobs. Bring your work clothes and some “basic” hand tools, along with your enthusiasm, to help maintain our Church and property adjoining it. If you have any questions, contact **Frank Mizer**.

Deacons Update

The Board of Deacons would like to thank the congregation for their continued support of our Food Pantry. Thanksgiving, followed by Christmas, will be here before we know it, and many families in our community will be in need of holiday meals. Please continue to bring in non-perishable food items. Our Food Pantry requires re-stocking, as we are looking ahead in the hopes of being prepared for the holidays. Thank you so much for your generous donations.

Suggested food pantry items are:

canned vegetables
canned fruit
spaghetti sauce
macaroni and cheese
rice
pasta
soup
Jello
corn bread mix
Bisquick
tea bags
coffee
powdered juice/milk
cereal
tuna fish
mayonnaise
peanut butter
jelly
gravy
stuffing



Mission Fair – Learn More About the Deacons

Mark your calendar: The **BPC Mission Fair** will be held on **Sunday, October 9th**, beginning at **10:00 a.m.** in the FLC, **and the Deacons are participating.** Please stop by and view our table display highlighting the duties and services provided by the Deacons. Hope to see you there! God bless you all, and have a wonderful month!

Prayer in the Garden

The **Evangelism and Outreach Committee** invites you to join us for Prayer in the Garden. Through the end of October, we will continue to meet on **Wednesday evening from 6:00 – 6:45 pm.** No sign up needed – just show up! If you have any questions, please speak with **Christy Tompkins** or **Lori Evans**.

Missionary Update



A year has passed since we hosted Missionary Mark Hare at our church. We enjoyed meeting him and learning about his mission life. He and his wife Jenny Bent have spent the last year in the US raising mission awareness, planning mission work, and enjoying well deserved time with family and friends. Mark and Jenny are now back in the Dominican Republic to continue mission ministry, with quarterly trips to Haiti. World news continues to follow Haiti's political unrest. In addition to their mission work, they are homeschooling their two daughters. Please pray for their ambitious, important work and their safety.

"The word of God is living and active" Hebrews 4:12

For more information please check our church's website.

From your Stewardship and Mission Committee