

Oak Leaves

Vol. LXV, Number 5

January 2023



Dear Congregation...

by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Welcome to 2023! Now that the Holiday season is behind us, it is time to start thinking about the new year ahead. As you know, I have had the wonderful opportunity to have been settling in as your new Interim Pastor during the weeks of December, but as we return to Rumson after spending time with family at our home in Florida, my spouse Jennifer is now arriving for her first weeks here. Jennifer is also a Presbyterian Minister, and has both training and experience in Interim Ministry. Although her main work will be as the Provost and Administrator of the educational foundation that we lead together, Jennifer will also be involved in pastoral roles at our church. Jennifer's ministry passion is in pastoral care and in liturgical leadership. She is looking forward to meeting all of you!

Jennifer and I are very thankful for the plan to hold a welcome dinner for us on Friday, January 13. It will be a great time to become better acquainted. During this event, I have been invited to share the Interim Ministry plan and calendar that I presented to the session at the December meeting. This plan outlines the steps that will be taken to help prepare this church for its next era of ministry and to identify the characteristics and qualities that you will be looking for in your next installed pastor. This will be an important time to help all of

us to be fully informed about the path before us in the year ahead. I hope you will plan to attend this dinner gathering.

One of my first goals in this interim work is to listen. I would like to hear from each of you. What are your fond memories of this church? What is your history of involvement here? What are your hopes for its future? What are your concerns? I will be reaching out to members, beginning with the current church leaders, to ask for some time to visit. If you would like to get on this listening schedule, please let me know. You can reach me at my church email,

Continued on next page...

...Continued from previous page

bas@rumsonpresbyterian.org.

Welcome again to 2023. May this be a year of blessing and spiritual growth for the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson. Jennifer and I are delighted to be with you on this part of your fruitful journey!

In God's Love,
Paul J Kirbas

Worshipping Together in January



First Sunday of Christmas, January 1, 2023 - NO SERVICE!

Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 8, 2023 @ 9:45 AM (Communion)

Sermon: **"Washed in the Waters"** by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Isaiah 42: 1-9; Matthew 3:13-17**

On this Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we look at the two ingredients that go into the water to make Baptism the perfect dish. Different churches seem to add more of one than the other, but both are needed for a successful recipe.

Second Sunday after Epiphany, January 15, 2023 @ 9:45 AM

Sermon: **"One New Humanity"** by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Isaiah 49: 1-7; Ephesians 2:11-22**

As we celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday this weekend, we hear an important lesson from a past president and see how it aligns with the words of the Bible itself.

Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 22, 2023 @ 9:45 AM

Sermon: **"Morning by Morning"** by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Isaiah 43: 16-21; Revelation 21:5-7**

The ancient Hebrews had an answer that was becoming less and less helpful, but the problem was that when it came to the past, they were supposed to remember the "who", not the "what".

Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 29, 2023 @ 9:45 AM

Rev. Jennifer Kirbas

For updates & more services, visit rumsonpresbyterian.org/upcoming-services

Church School



Hello everyone!

I want to thank everyone who attended the First Annual Christmas Crafts and Coffee Hour. It was so great to see everyone coming together and enjoying themselves while getting in the Christmas Spirit!

I am wishing you all a happy and healthy 2023! As we embark on this new journey together, I want you to know I am here to support your family in any way you need, I look forward to strengthening your child's faith in a fun yet informative way.

Please email me directly at churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org with any questions or concerns.

Warm Regards,
Sandi Van Cleve, Director of Christian Education

As always, looking for “volunteers” for the Nursery. Please reach out to me at churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org or (732) 768-9913 if you know someone who may be interested. The pay is \$25 per session or credit for volunteer hours.

Music Program



Happy New Year, everyone!

I'd like to take a moment and thank the choir, guest musicians, youth, parents, Christmas

Continued on next page...

...Continued from previous page

memory readers, preachers, and the many staff members of our wonderful church that made December so memorable. So many wonderful moments took place, memories made, and to-do tasks crossed off, there are too many to name. But none of them could have been possible without the people of this church. I'm full of gratitude to you all. We make an amazing team!

Choir will start back up in January. If you'd like to join us, please let me know. It's a small but incredibly talented group of members, and we have so much fun together.

Wishing you all a blessed and fruitful 2023!

Andreea Fegan, Music Director

Mission Commission News



The Mission Commission moved through 2022 with great energy to expand the reach of our mission to local and global organizations addressing a variety of issues including health, wellness, social justice, environment, climate, food security, education, housing, and community and social services. We continue to support the Presbyterian Church USA in the outstanding work dispatched through their global network of mission and emergency aid activities. We adorned the Christmas trees in the sanctuary and Wilson Hall to showcase the extraordinary impact that this Church has had in supporting 52 different organizations over the past three years, not including private petitions for aid. We solicited ideas throughout the holiday season and will be collecting your suggestions left in the 'Giving Tree' in the sanctuary. We paused our giving campaign in August to permit a reassessment of church finances and will be operating in 2023 with more of a focus on hands-on activities for our communities in need. We thank you in advance for your suggestions, engagement and welcome newcomers to the Mission Commission meetings which will commence in the New Year! All are welcome!

Blessings to you and your families,
Anita Waters, Mission Chair

Other Church News



Repast and Roadmap

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER



Please join us Friday, January 13th @ 6:00 PM for lasagna and a presentation by Pastor Kirbas titled "Roadmap for the Interim Period". Approved by the session, this is a six phased plan that will guide us through the period of preparing for the calling of our next installed pastor. It is important for all of us to

be fully aware of the steps and the timing of this period, so that our church can have a successful preparation for the new era of ministry awaiting us. Your attendance at this dinner is very important.

To RSVP to the dinner, please contact the church office at 732-842-0429. and leave your name, the number of attendees, and a phone number where we can contact you.

Poinsettias



The Poinsettia's in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve were given to the glory of God.

Given By

The Clay Brown Family

The Buchanan / Waters Family

Suzanne Parmly

Daughters, Lysbeth & Dorothy

In Loving Memory of

Patrick Byrne

Loved Ones

John & Jean Parmly & Family

John & Jean Watson & Family

Gladys & Arthur Pauels

Giving

GIVEPLUS⁺

YOUR CHURCH GIVING APP

Rumson Presbyterian Church is excited to partner with the Presbyterian Foundation and Vanco Payment Solutions to bring you our GivePlus Online Giving page (<https://rumsonpresbyterian.org/giving/>).

We are also listed in the GivePlus Mobile App, which can be downloaded to your smartphone, making Online Giving even easier. This YouTube video explains how to get and use the App. In addition, here are links to two more documents about the service and the App: "Vanco GivePlus Church FAQs for Donors" and "Vanco GivePlus Church How it Works".

Note: 2% of your GivePlus donation will be retained as an administrative fee by the Presbyterian Foundation.

Community News



Early Risers



If you want to stop drinking call: 1-908-687-8566
or (toll free from NJ area codes): 1-800-245-1377
24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

For a list of other local A.A. meetings, visit www.nnjaa.org/#
For information about A.A. visit www.nnjaa.org

Meetings: Fri. from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM at Rumson Presbyterian Church

Waterspirit Event Calendar



Meditation for Earth Every **Tues.** from **12:15 PM - 12:45 PM**

Please join Waterspirit for a “Meditation for Earth.” We read a short blessing, followed by an excerpt from Hal Borland’s ‘12 moons of the Year’. Then we lead a simple meditation followed with silence, for a flourishing Earth. The meditation and silence is approximately 30 minutes.

Green Amendment Advocate Training **Wed., Jan. 11** from **6:00 PM - 7:45 PM** (Virtual)

Want to learn how to become an advocate for the New Jersey Green Amendment? Join our NJ Green Amendment Advocate training. The training will cover an overview of the NJ Green Amendment, its status in the legislature, as well as insights for getting decisionmakers on board, using social media to advocate, passing municipal resolutions, Q&A and more!

Restorative Reiki Yoga **Sat., Jan. 14** from **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Start your New Year off with Waterspirit as we welcome Reiki Master Liana Urban and Yoga Instructor Michele Tagliomonti for this very special event. Reiki is a Japanese energy healing technique which means universal life energy. The practitioner is attuned to the reiki energy and is trained to channel this energy. Reiki is a gentle and non-invasive practice to promote healing. Participants of this Restorative Reiki Yoga event will experience reiki assists to release blocked energy and guided meditations to calm the mind and encourage the release of stress and anxiety. Restorative yoga is a gentle practice that promotes relaxation and rejuvenation. The movements are mellow and calm.

Alliance for NJ Environmental Education Winter Conference **Tue., Jan. 17** thru **Sun. Jan. 22**

Waterspirit’s Program Manager, Anne Price, is offering an outdoor experience at the conference. On Saturday, Jan 21, Anne will be educating educators in a program at Sandy Hook National Recreation Area. The program is titled, Can a Maritime Forest Survive Climate Change.

Seal Monitoring at Sandy Hook **Sat., Jan. 21** thru **Thu. Mar. 9**

Join Waterspirit’s Program Manager, Anne Price, as she monitors seals at Sandy Hook.

All are welcome. Please visit their website (waterspirit.org)
for more information about these events.

Caring for God's Earth



Submitted by **Diane Burke** and **Sue Smith**

A Note from Jenny Oldham of the Presbyterian Hunger Program



Merry Christmas, Earth Care Congregation!

The 12 drummers might be doing all the drumming, the geese doing the laying, and the swans focusing on swimming. But when their actions join with the pipers, the maids, the turtle doves, and the others – all the others – we get The 12 Days of Christmas. The carol has been sung for more than a hundred years.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program has partners of many kinds. Some offer meals and other food relief in their local communities. Many offer financial support for hunger action around the world. (While it's not pear trees and partridges, some of the work this year has included the propagation of fruit trees; and dairy goats will be provided in the coming year!) Others focus on promoting laws and policies so that creation can thrive as intended, and so that families and communities are treated with respect and equity, allowing everyone to have enough to eat and have their basic needs met. Many individuals and groups are involved in more than one way, making an immediate difference and also speaking up for lasting change.

We are grateful for many partners that God has allowed us to join with in the mission of alle-

Continued on next page...

...Continued from previous page

viating hunger and eliminating its underlying causes. Earth Care Congregations, Hunger Action Congregations, Joining Hands networks, Hunger Action Advocates, financial supporters, grant partners in the United States and around the world, ecumenical groups that share common goals, individuals, congregations, presbyteries and synods – all have a place in this work we are called to do. Thank you for your part in this mission with us.

May your Advent season be filled with hope, your Christmas be filled with light, and your upcoming year be filled with joy and purpose. We are thankful to God for Christ's birth among us, that we may have all these good gifts.

Merry Christmas
from the Presbyterian Hunger Program.



First Presbyterian Church of Rumson NJ
P.O. Box 399
East River Road at Park Avenue
Rumson, NJ 07760

Nonprofit Organization

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED

~Please check our website at www.rumsonpresbyterian.org for calendar updates~

JANUARY 2023

Jan 1	Sun	New Year's Day	
Jan 3	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 6	Fri	Epiphany of the Lord	
Jan 8	Sun	Baptism of the Lord	
Jan 9	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00AM
Jan 10	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 13	Fri	Church Dinner	6:00PM
Jan 16	Mon	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
Jan 17	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 17	Tue	Session	7:00pm
Jan 18-25		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
Jan 22	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00AM
Jan 23	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30PM
Jan 24	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Jan 31	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM

FEBRUARY 2023

Feb 2	Thu	Groundhog Day	
Feb 7	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Feb 13	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00AM
Feb 14	Tue	Valentine's Day	
Feb 14	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Feb 19	Sun	Transfiguration Sunday	
Feb 20	Mon	Presidents' Day	
Feb 21	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Feb 21	Tue	Session	7:00pm
Feb 22	Wed	Ash Wednesday	
Feb 27	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00AM
Feb 27	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30PM
Feb 28	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM

**Waterspirit sponsored event. All are welcome.*

Please visit the Waterspirit website (waterspirit.org) for more information.



www.rumsonpresbyterian.org