

# Oak Leaves

Vol. LXV, Number 9

May 2023



## *Dear Congregation...*

*by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas*

It is wonderful to experience the spring season here in Rumson. The beautiful blooming of trees and plants brings the environment to life in colorful expression. It is a wonderful background to the liturgical season we are in. We continue to bask in the glow of the Easter news, of the promise of new life made possible through the risen Christ. As we move through the Sundays of May, we will also come to the liturgical day of Pentecost, when God poured out the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the Church was born. Pentecost Sunday is May 28.

May 28 also signifies an important moment in our interim period. It marks the 6-month moment in my interim pastor contract, which puts us at the halfway mark. Yes, there is the option for the contract to be renewed, but that is not a given. For that reason, it is important for us to begin conversations about the future of Rumson Presbyterian Church and begin moving into that future.

Together, we have worked on the history board, and celebrated the legacy of this church's past. We have also focused on identifying the existing core values of the church. We have been keeping records of church attendance numbers, and have compared them to the current membership list. All of these factors help identify where the church is in its current life and what that means for future pastoral relationships.



On Sunday, May 7, the session and the Transition Task Force will meet together as we discuss these items. These conversations will lead to the preparation of a Mission Study report, that we hope to complete by early fall. At that point, we will need to engage the presbytery in our conversations. All of this will offer the foundation for the beginning of a

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search for your future pastor.

In all of these processes, it is my hope that we will be open to the Spirit who was given to the church on that first Pentecost. It is my hope that we will be open to the living presence of the risen Christ, who calls us to follow him. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, the risen Christ may call us to fish differently; to cast our nets in a different direction; to fish in different waters. It takes courage to be open to that kind of change. But just look around at the beautiful vitality of springtime. God specializes in new life!

May this Spring be a time in which we sense seeds of new life in our spirits and in our church. Please keep the session and the transition team in your prayers as we begin the important work of planting those seeds. Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

In God's Love,

Paul J Kirbas  
Interim Pastor

## *Worship*



### *Worshipping Together in May*

**Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7, 2023 @ 9:45 AM (Communion)**

Sermon: "**The God of Second Chances**" by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Proverbs 4:10-18; John 21:15-17**

When someone has done something wrong, we often say "That's ok, don't worry about it." But is there a better way to respond? Let's see what real redemption looks like.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 14, 2023 @ 9:45 AM**

Sermon: "**Shoot Your Arrow!**" by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **II Kings 13:14-19; Hebrews 11:1-7**

Is it possible that our future can be limited by our own lack of vision? Some arrows in our Scripture story shows us the answer.

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**Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 21, 2023 @ 9:45 AM**

Sermon: "?" by **Rev. Linda Goeddel**

Scripture: ?

?

**Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 28, 2023 @ 9:45 AM**

Sermon: "**Now That's How to Tell a Story!**" by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Numbers 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-12**

Talk about an animated story! Hear what Pentecost does to the storytellers of the event, and how that can electrify our own witness!

For updates & more services, visit [rumsonpresbyterian.org/upcoming-services](http://rumsonpresbyterian.org/upcoming-services)

## *Church School*



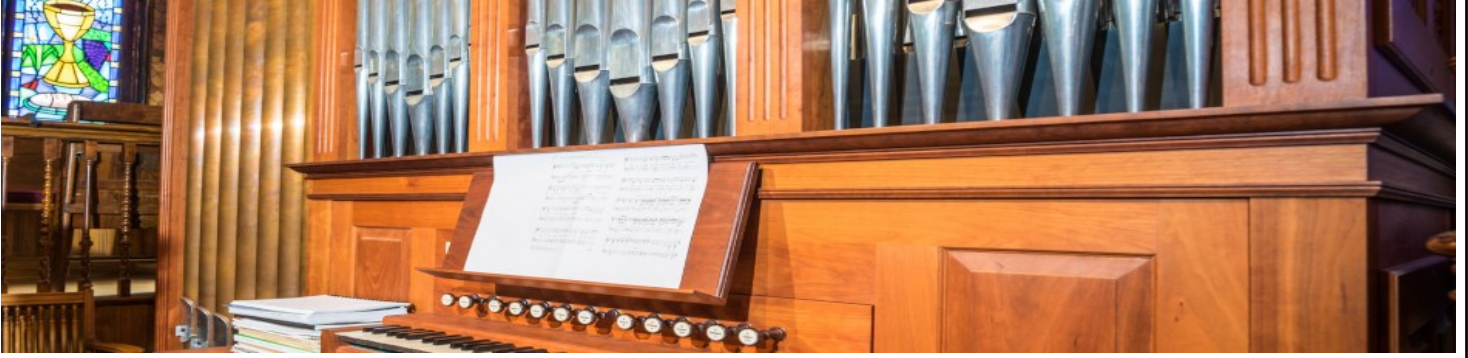
I can't believe May has crept up so quickly. Church School is in search of a service project for May. In the past we have made cards for local senior citizens, repurposed t-shirts into dog toys for the local rescues, made dish rags for the "Furniture People" collection, etc. Please reach out with a project big or small that you think we would be able to assist in any way. Feel free to contact me with any issues or requests at **(732) 768-9913** or **[churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org](mailto:churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org)**.

Thank You,  
Sandi Van Cleve, Director of Christian Education

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



# *Music Program*



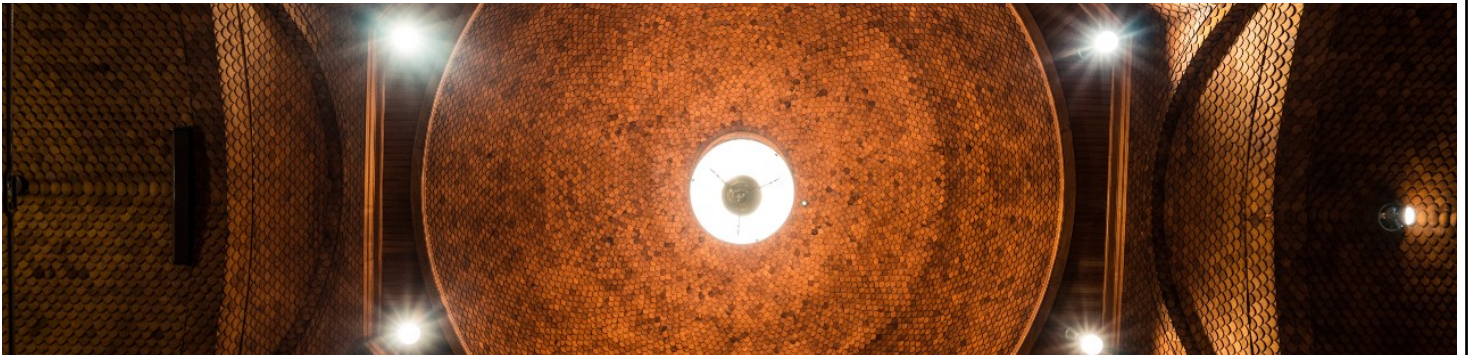
Happy May, everyone.

I wanted to thank everyone who participated in the lenten and holy week services, especially the choir and special music guests. I had great joy in celebrating Easter Sunday in music and community with the church, thank you all for that.

As always, please consider joining the choir in the last few months of the season before our summer break. We meet early on Sunday mornings to rehearse and offer our music in church. All are welcome!

Blessings,  
Andreea Fegan, Director of Music

# *Mission News*



An abundance of April showers has not dampened the zeal of our congregation's mission activities. We conclude collections for two local organizations, The Furniture Bank (FB) of the Holy Lutheran Church of Manasquan and the Blessing Bag Brigade (BBB) with outstanding results! We collected 425 items in total, 400 for BBB and 25 for FB with the breakdown shown below. Special thanks to all who found a moment to donate to these groups and to Jody Sackett who completed the inventory shown below! We also provided capstone financial donations to both organizations this month to further convey our commitment to their enterprise.

We will now start a drive to collect food for Lunch Break. Lunch Break is a remarkable com-  
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munity organization located in Red Bank that works to alleviate hunger for underemployed families and individuals who are struggling to make ends meet. Lunch Break offers a place for a daily hot lunch, along with life's basic necessities of food (through a Food Pantry), clothing, through Clara's Closet clothing donations at St Anthony's Parish Center in Red Bank), shelter (by partnering with Family Promise), and life skills (a job readiness initiative). They also offer social service programs, mentoring, and fellowship to financially insecure individuals and families. They are thrilled to have us collect food for them. Bins are in the lobby for donations. Items requested by Lunch Break are listed below.

Mission donations in April centered on sanctuaries and seas. Introducing a new category to our giving themes, we provided small donations to Runaway Farm in Bayville, an organization that operates a pet hospital and offers sanctuary to rescued animals; and, Popcorn Zoo, an Associated Humane Societies organization that rescues stray and homeless animals, both domestic and wildlife, and provides quality care and sanctuary until loving homes can be found. The Popcorn Zoo also provides low-cost veterinary care and humane education to promote responsible pet guardianship throughout New Jersey. We also donated to SPUR (Special People United to Ride), an organization that works in conjunction with the Monmouth Country Park System to bring proven benefits of therapeutic horsemanship to individuals with disabilities.

Looking out to our beloved ocean, we donated for the first time to the American Littoral Society, an organization founded in the 1960's by Dr. Lionel Walford of the Sandy Hook Marine Lab to be a bridge between science and the public. The good works of the organization include working to win passage of the NJ Wetland Act of 1970 to halt dredging and filling of tidal wetlands, spearheading NJ Coast Area Facilities Act to control land development in coastal regions and battling for the intervening decades to stop dumping of sewage, sludge, chemicals and other pollutants in our coastal waters and rivers. Take a look at what this organization continues to do to protect our waters through education, conservation, restoration, advocacy and fish tagging, working in Sandy Hook, Barnegat Bay, Delaware Bay, Jamaica Bay and even Sarasota Bay in Florida!

Mission Commission meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7:30pm on the church zoom number. All are welcome!

Anita Waters. Mission Chair

### **Collection Results**

#### **Blessing Bag Brigade (400 items)**

45 Toothbrushes

21 tubes of toothpaste

65 pairs of socks

22 disposable razors

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128 granola bars  
25 regular bars of soap, 20 small bars, and 3 bottles of body wash  
12 bottles of body lotion  
9 bottles of shampoo  
16 bottles of conditioner  
12 deodorants  
6 chapsticks  
10 boxes of dental floss  
2 bottles mouthwash  
2 hand sanitizers  
1 bottle toner, 1 shower cap

**Furniture Bank (25 items):**

4 sets of bed sheets  
6 cloth napkins  
2 rugs (one large, one small)  
2 quilted bedspreads (1 maroon, 1 grey & white)  
Cooking utensils  
2 kettles  
1 toaster  
Bath towel  
1.5 quart pot  
Silverware set for 8  
Coffee Maker  
Furry blanket  
1 frying pan

We'll need to check with Steve to see if there are any big furniture donations.

**Lunch Break | Here's What to Donate:**

*Food:* Peanut Butter & Jelly, Raisins, Dried Cranberries, Apple Sauce,  
Canned beans (low sodium), Canned Soup (low sodium) ,  
Canned Meals (Spaghetti, Ravioli, Chili); Canned Chicken, Tuna,  
Canned Vegetables: Corn, Green Beans, Carrots, Peas,  
Cereals , Oatmeal, Pasta, Rice, Mac & Cheese,  
Shelf Stable Almond or oat milk (plain not flavored)

*Personal Hygiene Items:* Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Shampoo, Body Wash

*Household Items:* Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent (smaller bottles, so not too heavy for clients to carry)

# *Other Church News*



## Easter Lilies



**The Lilies in the Sanctuary on  
Easter Sunday were  
given to the glory of God.**

### **Given By**

*Ed & Sarah Pomphrey*

*The Buchanan-Waters Family*

*Daughters Lysbeth & Dorothy*

*Rebecca Dorn*

*Suzanne Parmly*

### **In Loving Memory of**

*Our Beloved Son Austin*

*Our Pomphrey and Higgins Family  
Loved Ones*

*Our Loved Ones*

*Gladys and Arthur Pauels*

*Loved Ones!*

*John and Jean Parmly & Family*

*John and Jean Watson & Family*

## **Church Picnic!**

**June 11th!**

**Save the Date!**

This year our annual church picnic will take place on Sunday, June 11th immediately following the service. Congregational Life has once again decided to have Brennan's cater this year's picnic. Side dishes and desserts are still welcome, but are no longer essential. If you have any questions, contact the church office at [sbuchanan@rumsonpresbyterian.org](mailto:sbuchanan@rumsonpresbyterian.org) or 732-842-0429.





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.

## Rumson Presbyterian Scholarship Fund

### College, Camp or Seminary Scholarship Application



Any student who is interested in applying for the Rumson Presbyterian Scholarship can submit the application form, found on the next page or downloadable from the Forms & Files page of our website (<https://rumsonpresbyterian.org/forms/>). Please fill out, sign and return the application to:

**NURTURE COMMISSION**

c/o Church Office

Rumson Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 399

Rumson NJ 07760

***All applications are due back by June 1st***

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## Rumson Presbyterian Scholarship Fund COLLEGE, CAMP OR SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Applying for: Camp Johnsonburg \_\_\_\_\_ College \_\_\_\_\_ Seminary \_\_\_\_\_

Other Faith-Based Summer Camping Program (*please explain*) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant confirmed member of Rumson Presbyterian Church: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Attends Church School

**For Camp Scholarship: Check off Church activities which apply to child/youth:**

- ☐ Attends our youth group
- ☐ Participates in music program
- ☐ Performed or participated in church services
- ☐ Attends church services with some degree of regularity
- ☐ Has officially represented our church in performing a community service
- ☐ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**For College/Seminary Scholarships:**

Please attach a one-page essay on the following topics:

**Entering Freshman:** What faith-based activities have you participated in while in high school? What leadership responsibilities have you held in these activities? How have these activities been meaningful to you in your faith journey? How do you plan to continue your faith journey as you enter college?

**Upper Class:** What faith-based activities have you participated in college? What leadership responsibilities have you held in these activities? How have these activities been meaningful to you in your faith journey? If you were responsible for providing opportunities on your campus to reach out to students struggling with their faith, what would you do?

We will meet with each seminarian from Rumson on a case-by-case basis.

**PLEASE FILL OUT APPLICATION, SIGN IT, AND MAIL IT TO:  
NURTURE COMMISSION**

c/o Church Office Rumson Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 399 Rumson, NJ 07760  
All Scholarship applications are due back by June 1st

# 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 information about A.A. visit [www.nnjaa.org](http://www.nnjaa.org)

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

## Waterspirit Event Calendar for May



**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.

**Journey of the Universe Film Screening** Wed., May 3 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Join Waterspirit as we screen Journey of the Universe An EMMY® Award-Winning Film for Best Documentary, exploring the human connection to Earth and the cosmos.

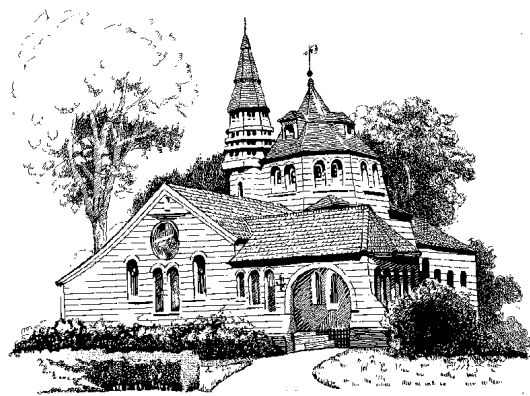
**Universe Walk** Wed., May 10 from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Join Waterspirit as we walk our way through the great emergence of the universe, the evolution of Earth, the birth of humankind and the formation of civilizations.

**Waterspirit's Book Club** Mon., May 22 from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Join Waterspirit's Book Club for our May 22 meeting as we discuss the book Zen and the Art of Saving the Planet by Thich Nhat Hanh.

All are welcome. Please visit their website ([waterspirit.org](http://waterspirit.org))  
for more information about these events.





**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](http://www.rumsonpresbyterian.org) for calendar updates~

<b>MAY 2023</b>				<b>JUNE 2023</b>			
May 2	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM	Jun 4	Sun	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	9:45 AM
May 4	Thu	<b>National Day of Prayer</b>		Jun 6	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
May 8	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00 AM	Jun 10	Sat	Joys of the Sea Celebration*	2:00 PM
May 9	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM	Jun 11	Sun	<b>Church Picnic</b>	11:00 AM
May 14	Sun	<b>Mother's Day</b>		Jun 13	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
May 16	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM	Jun 14	Wed	<b>Flag Day</b>	
May 16	Tue	Session	7:00 PM	Jun 18	Sun	<b>Father's Day</b>	
May 18	Thu	<b>Ascension of the Lord</b>		Jun 18	Sun	<b>Begin Summer Worship Hours</b>	9:15 AM
May 22	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00 AM	Jun 19	Mon	<b>Juneteenth</b>	
May 22	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30 PM	Jun 20	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
May 23	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM	Jun 20	Tue	Session	7:00 PM
May 28	Sun	<b>Day of Pentecost</b>		Jun 21	Wed	<b>First Day of Summer</b>	
May 29	Mon	<b>Memorial Day</b>		Jun 21	Wed	Solstice Celebration*	7:00 PM
May 30	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM	Jun 26	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30 PM
				Jun 27	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM

*\*Waterspirit sponsored event. All are welcome.  
Please visit the Waterspirit website ([waterspirit.org](http://waterspirit.org)) for more information.*



[www.rumsonpresbyterian.org](http://www.rumsonpresbyterian.org)