

# Oak Leaves

Vol. LXV, Number 10

June 2023



## *Dear Congregation...*

*by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas*

Welcome to the summer season! Please be reminded of some important events coming up. On Sunday, June 4, we will celebrate the sacrament of baptism with a family, and we will install our 2026 class of elders. On Sunday, June 11, we will hold our annual church picnic. Then on Sunday, June 18, we will begin our summer schedule with the worship service time at 9:15 AM.

As your current pastor, I was invited to represent our church in two community events on Memorial Day. I offered prayers at the Rumson Memorial Day Parade and I offered prayers and readings at the Oceanic Fire Station for their Memorial Day observance. I could tell that there is great respect for our church out in the community.

I know that many of you will be here and there through the summer, but whenever possible, please make a commitment to be present in worship as you can. We are deep into the interim year, and your participation and involvement are very critical.

Speaking of the interim period, we are at the point of developing our Mission Study Report.



This report will share the past, present and expected future of First Presbyterian Church. The transition team and the session have been in conversations about what the study has revealed about our current status and what that means for our future pastoral leadership. We are investigating different models of what that can look like, and are in the process of contacting leaders in our presbytery and the seminaries within our general area to seek their guidance and opinions.

When this report is finished and approved by the transition team and the session, it will be presented to the entire congregation.

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The next step is to bring it to the presbytery's Committee on Ministry for their approval, and to seek approval to form a Pastor Nominating Committee. Depending on the particular model of pastoral ministry that is decided upon, the actual work of the search committee and its approval processes can differ. We wish to remain open to the Spirit as we seek to be the church of today. It has been a long time since this church has had to recognize the changing field of ministry, and it is both challenging and sometimes threatening to consider options. We may have different opinions, but our goal is united: To find the best and most stable pastoral leadership for the next era of ministry here.

I wish you a very blessed summer season, and will look for you in church as you are able to attend.

God Bless,

Paul J Kirbas  
Interim Pastor

## *Worship*



### *Worshipping Together in June*

**Trinity Sunday, June 4, 2023 @ 9:45 AM (Communion)**

Sermon: "**Our Triune God**" by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Genesis 1:1-27; Matthew 28:16-20**

On this Trinity Sunday, how can we begin to understand the mystery of One God in Three Persons? Even more intriguing, the Bible says that we are created in God's Image. Perhaps the Trinity has something to say about us as well!

**Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 11, 2023 @ 9:45 AM**

**(Church Picnic immediately following the service)**

Sermon: "**The Sparrow**" by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Psalms 33:1-12; Luke 12:4-7**

As you watch the little birds fly through the sky, remember these words: His eye is on the

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Sparrow, and I know he watches me!

**Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 18, 2023 @ 9:15 AM**

**Note: Earlier summer start time begins**

Sermon: **"The Apple of My Eye!"** by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Psalm 17:1-8; Luke 12:22-31**

On this Father's day, who do you think is the Apple of our heavenly father's eye? The answer might surprise you!

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 25, 2023 @ 9:15 AM**

Sermon: **"The Unexamined Life"** by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Psalm 116:12-19; Luke 12:54-56**

Socrates once said that the unexamined life is not worth living. But what about an unexamined world? Jesus calls us to wake up and look around.

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

## *Church School*



Hello Summer!

School is out, sports are on break... What better way to spend a beautiful Sunday morning than hanging out and learning at Church School!! Nature walks and projects, making fun summer snacks, engaging lessons, and lots of fun memories. If you are new to the program please reach out at (732) 768-9913 and I will be more than happy to chat about any questions or concerns. I look forward to enriching your child's relationship with religion in a fun and engaging way.

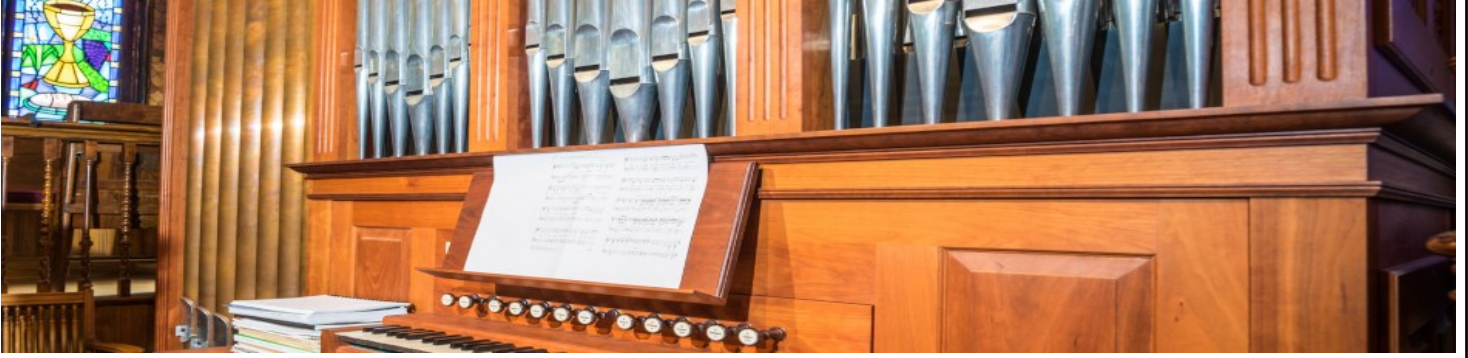
Thank You,

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 June, everyone.

As the choir gets ready for summer break, I wanted to take a moment and thank them for all of their hard work and dedication. Suzanne, Anita, Doug and John, I don't know what I would do without your talents and generosity. We make such a wonderful team! I'm honored and grateful to work with you.

## **A few dates to keep in mind for June:**

Sunday, June 11th: last Sunday for the choir before summer break

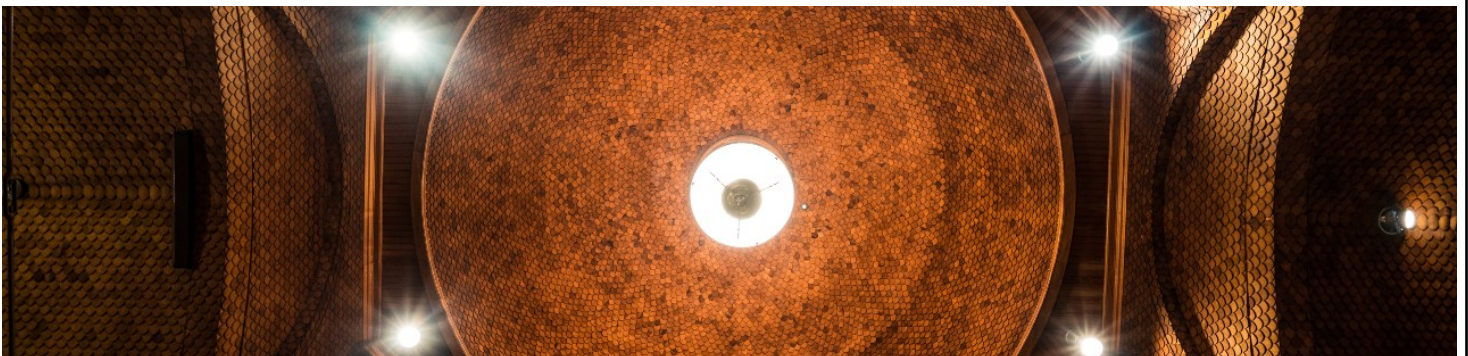
Sunday, June 19th: Workshop hours change to 9:15 on Sundays

See you in church.

Blessings,

Andreea Fegan, Director of Music

# *Mission News*



With the promise of summer just beyond the Memorial Day holiday, the Mission Commission concentrated on organizations providing summer and year-round services to children and young adults, many of which we have supported in the past. The pandemic curtailed camp and summer enrichment activities for children, highlighting all the more how im-

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portant these experiences are to community and well-being. Mission made donations this month to Big Brother Big Sister of Monmouth County, Boys and Girls Club of America with a chapter here in Red Bank, The Fresh Air Fund and the Horizon Enrichment Camp of Jersey Shore operating from the Rumson Country Day School. We also continued our support of the Ocean's Harbor House, an organization in Toms River providing safe-haven and care for at-risk youth ages 10 – 21 with emergency shelter, transitional living, case management, crisis intervention and prevention services.

Many of us drive past the curious white building adjacent to the train tracks on White Road on a regular basis and might have wondered what happens in that space. The Saint Joseph's Workshop was started by a neighbor of the Sackett's with little woodworking experience but a belief that underutilized furniture in people's homes, garages, and storage facilities, once restored, would be of great use to families in need. The workshop refurbishes furniture for distribution, working with Habitat for Humanity, 180 Turning Lives Around and various organizations to identify individuals and families in need. It is a great option for items that might need a little love before heading to a new home. We approved a donation to assist with this local mission.

Rumson Presbyterian is again sponsoring a water stop for the Red Bank Crop Hunger Walk on October 15th, which is the 4th largest event in the nation raising over \$134,000 and providing 17,000 pounds of food to local pantries last year. Our CROP Coordinating team members, Ivone Venture and Sue Smith, have spent countless volunteer hours for this event over the years. We will talk further about gathering participants as the date approaches. Rain or shine, it is a worthwhile and fun event!

We also provided donations to the Rumson First Aid Squad and the Rumson PBA Local #345 in response to their fund drive for their services to the community.

We will continue to collect food for Lunch Break – so please continue to bring donations to the church.

The Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest sponsored by Clean Ocean Action and the Rumson Environmental Commission will be held at Victory Park on June 3rd. Join this free celebration of the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers featuring river seining, eco-friendly crafts and more. The Rumson Environmental Commission is partnering with the American Littoral Society to host a free Rain Garden Ambassador Training Workshop at Forrestdale School on June 21st. Materials and training are also available on their web site.

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

Anita Waters. Mission Chair

## *Other Church News*



### 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.

### Peacemaking Awards



This year we have four recipients of the Peacemaking Award. These students have shown commitment to promoting the ideals of and goals put forth in our mission statement. These goals include, but are not limited to, tolerance of diversity, empathy for others, social justice for all, and protection of the earth.

Ella Heal, who is graduating from Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School, is our first recipient. She will be attending NYU Silver School of Social Work in the fall. For a senior project, Ella received a social media marketing internship in Red Bank. It focused on spreading the word about the free food and healthcare services of the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Kitchen and Parker Family Health Clinic through social media. She has also help collect for Blessing Bags, where items are collected for veterans in need. Among her other activities she has served dinners, worked with kids from Aslan Ministeries, and taught Vacation Bible School.

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The second recipient is Mary Jodry. She will graduate from the Communications High School and Monmouth University in the fall. Mary created the Neptune City Giving Box in December 2020. This "Box" was on her front lawn filled with personal hygiene products, cleaning products, baby products and "other necessary Covid 19 items often forgotten about in large "pantry" organizations." She is also a junior board member on the Board of Directors for One Life to Love- a non-profit orphanage in India for children with mental and/or physical disabilities. Mary has been to India to visit One Life to Love and has held benefit concerts to raise funds for them.

Ah'Janae Williams is our third recipient. She will graduate from Asbury Park High School and attend Montclair State University. As a member of the Dream Academy program, she will receive an Associate's Degree from Brookdale Community College. Ah'Janae was a mentor to an 8th grader as part of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. She also tutors her peers and younger students. Volunteering at her local elementary schools allowed her to teach the students about the idea and importance of community. She, also, volunteered at Oyster Fest, which is held in Asbury Park.

Our final recipient is Tysion Murchison. He is graduating from Asbury Park High School and will attend Seton Hall University. He is a member of the Dream Academy program at Brookdale Community College and will receive an Associates Degree. Tysion is active with Clean Ocean Actin and participates win their Beach Sweeps. He volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

Congratulations to each of the students and we wish them well as they set out on the next leg of their life's journey.



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 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 June



**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.

**Joys of the Sea** Sat., June 10 from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

This year's celebration will commemorate Waterspirit's 25th anniversary, so it will be bigger and better than ever! More information about our honoree (Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim), our sponsors, our silent auction, and how to buy tickets is available on our website.

**Summer Solstice Celebration** Wed., June 21 from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join Waterspirit's Summer Solstice Celebration. Through music, movement & ritual, we honor the earth, sun & water working in harmony to bring us the gifts of summer. On this, the summer solstice, we celebrate the light, energy and warmth of the sun.

**Lament With Earth: Via Positiva** Thu., June 22 from 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM (Virtual)

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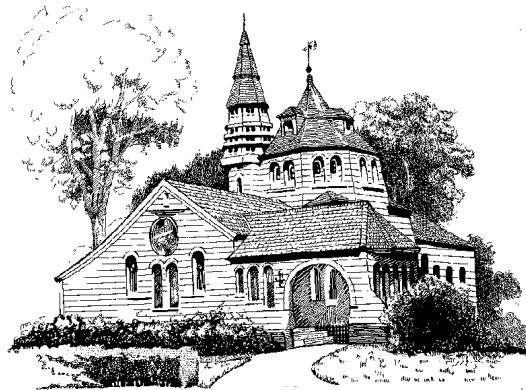
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Waterspirit is co-sponsoring this event. We invite you to join us for an evening to explore our ecological grief in community at our June Lament with Earth offering.

**Atlantic Sturgeon's Last Baby Shower** Thu., June 29, 10:00 AM — Fri., June 30, 2:00 PM

Waterspirit is joining Delaware Riverkeeper Network in holding this event because it could very well be the LAST season we will see our genetically unique population of Atlantic Sturgeon spawn.

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~

**JUNE 2023**

Jun 4	Sun	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	9:45 AM
Jun 6	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Jun 10	Sat	Joys of the Sea Celebration*	2:00 PM
Jun 11	Sun	<b>Church Picnic</b>	11:00 AM
Jun 12	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00 AM
Jun 13	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Jun 14	Wed	<b>Flag Day</b>	
Jun 18	Sun	<b>Father's Day</b>	
Jun 18	Sun	<b>Begin Summer Worship Hours</b>	9:15 AM
Jun 19	Mon	<b>Juneteenth</b>	
Jun 20	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Jun 20	Tue	Session	7:00 PM
Jun 21	Wed	<b>First Day of Summer</b>	
Jun 21	Wed	Solstice Celebration*	7:00 PM
Jun 26	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30 PM
Jun 27	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM

**JULY 2023**

Jul 4	Tue	<b>Independence Day</b>	
Jul 11	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Jul 18	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Jul 25	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.rumsonprebyterian.org](http://www.rumsonprebyterian.org)