

# Oak Leaves

Vol. LXV, Number 11

July/August 2023



## *Dear Congregation...*

*by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas*

We find ourselves deep into the summer season. As we all know, summer seems like a slower time for church life, and in many ways, it is. Attendance is lower, our fellowship time after worship is not happening, and the fellowship hall is empty. In many ways, it may appear that the Rumson Presbyterian Church has slowed to a summer crawl. But in other ways, nothing further could be from the truth!

This summer, the session has been actively participating in a process of discernment about the future needs of the church and the appropriate pastoral search that would best serve those needs. We have considered several options, and are in prayerful discernment about the possibilities. We have visited with the leaders of local seminaries to discuss the current landscape of pastoral work and candidates.

We are also working on a draft of the mission study report, that will present the findings and the decisions of the session and other church leaders. Our goal is to have a final draft approved by the session and ready to share with the congregation by Labor Day.



I ask that you please be in prayer for your session during this important season of discernment. I also ask that you be ready to receive the report with open minds and hearts. It has been a long time since this church has been in a leadership transition. With the retirement of our most recent pastor, Rev. John Monroe, the church finds itself in a place that is not that familiar. We realize that times have changed. The world, and our church, are not the same as they were when Rev. Monroe came to us in 1998, and certainly not the same as when his immediate predecessor arrived in 1970. Recognizing these changes, and planning for the future of

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the church in light of them, is no easy task. It takes faith, courage, and hope. So much for an easy summer!

I hope to see you in church when you are in town this summer, and I pray that your summer excursions will be enjoyable and safe.

God Bless,

Paul J Kirbas

Interim Pastor

## *Worship*



### *Worshipping Together in July*

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Communion), July 2, 2023 @ 9:15 AM**

Sermon: "**The Light of the Body**" by Rev. Sue Smith

Scripture: **Psalm 72: 1-7; Luke 11:33-36**

On this Fourth of July long weekend, what does the Bible say about ensuring liberty and justice for all? What is our part?

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 9, 2023 @ 9:15 AM**

Sermon: "**4000 Miles**" by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Genesis 50:15-21; Acts 16: 6-15**

When one door closes, Does God open a window? Let's see the clues contained in our scripture readings for the day.

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 16, 2023 @ 9:15 AM**

Sermon: "**Poison Envy**" by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Exodus 20:1-17; James 3:13-18**

This summer, we all have to be very careful of poison ivy. But is there such a thing as poison envy?

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 23, 2023 @ 9:15 AM**

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Sermon: **"A Stethoscope Does Not Make One a Doctor"** by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Isaiah 44:1-8; Matthew 6:1-6**

Uniforms can be appropriate, but they can also be quite deceiving! Is it true that clothes make the person? What does Jesus say about that?

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 30, 2023 @ 9:15 AM**

Sermon: **"More Than Enough"** by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Joshua 24:14-15; John 6:1-13**

Does Jesus care about food waste? And if so, what would he say about our current time? A hidden clue can be discovered in the story of the feeding of the five thousand.

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

## *Church School*



Hello Summer!

Looking for support for your family over the summer? Send your children to 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.

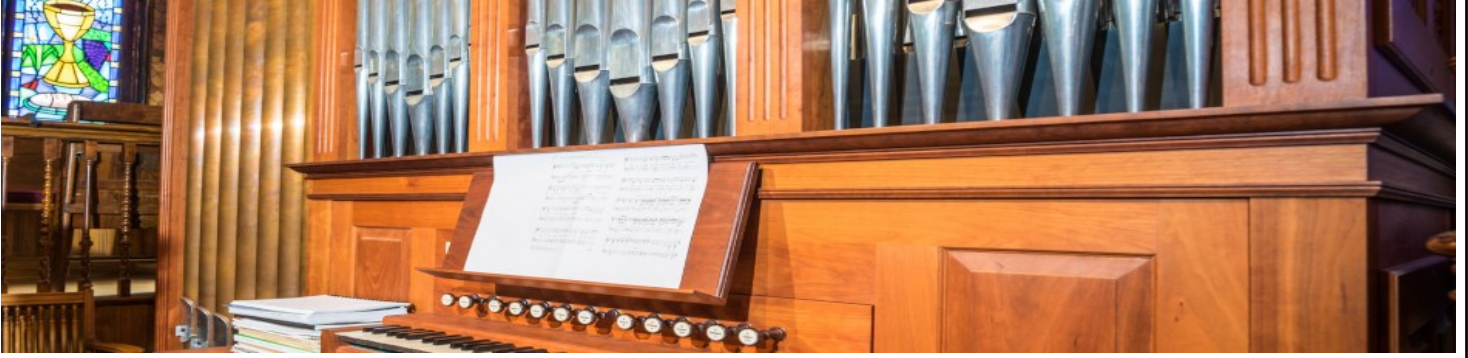
Thank You,

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 July, everyone.

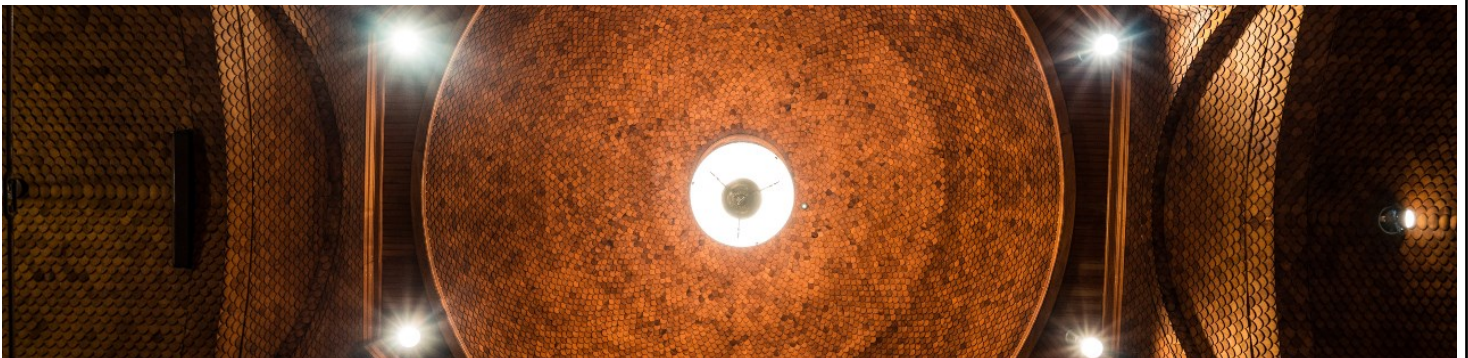
Choir is still on summer break, but we are welcoming soloists to come in and offer their musical gifts during Sunday worship. If you are interested in joining or offering, please reach out to me. I'm currently looking for vocalists and instrumentalists.

Hope you are all enjoying this beautiful summer. See you in church!.

Blessings,

Andreea Fegan, Director of Music

# *Mission News*



Mission Commission met in June and discussed some of the challenges our communities face when school is out of session. Food security challenges are more evident in summer months when schools are no longer providing lunches to children. We continued our quarterly commitment to Fulfill of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, taking advantage of a matching fund initiative in place now to encourage donations given the 70% increase in demand for nutritious food. Please note that Fulfill changed their name from "Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties" to Fulfill given their expanded program and partnerships to alleviate hunger and provide food security to all people.

Further, on the topic of food security, we will continue to collect for Lunch Break – so please bring donations to the church. You can stop by at your convenience to deposit donations in

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the bins in the narthex. Ray and Jodi Sackett brought our first haul to Lunch Break which registered a whopping 162 pounds! Thank you for your continued support of this critical program.

We also approved a funds for Love thy Neighbor, a faith-based initiative in Monmouth County “with a mission to mobilize the church to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ.” They provide a clearinghouse for calls coming into churches and agencies for services/support to validate and refer clients to resources that can help them. Love Thy Neighbor manages additional programs: Companions who Care, Christmas Connect, Furnished with Love and Cuts for Christ (yes, haircuts!).

We provided a donation to help sustain Westminster Presbyterian Church in their broad open and affirming ministry focused on several key topics including social justice, racial reconciliation, returning citizen support, and immigrant education and employment support. We are part of a sibling church consortium (14 churches in all ) participating during a matching funds period to maximize impact to this critical mission. Sue Smith connected us to this incredible church and mission. We encourage you to visit Westminster’s website @ [spctrenton.org](http://spctrenton.org) to witness the full scope of good works of this church in the city of Trenton and beyond.

We approved a donation to Mary’s Place by the Sea, a respite home for women who have been diagnosed with cancer operating in Ocean Grove. Their mission: Support women with cancer through integrative services which complement their medical treatment and empower, educate, and support their healing: mind, body, and soul.

Mission Commission meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30pm on the Church Zoom. Please join whenever you can – all are welcome!

Anita Waters. Mission Chair



## Other Church News



### Giving



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 July



## **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.

## **10 Year Anniversary Lac-Mégantic Rally/Press Conference** Thu., July 6 from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (Teaneck, NJ)

Join speakers from Lac-Mégantic and the East Palestine areas, first responders, rail workers, legislators, community advocates, and the Solidarity Singers as we rally to support preventative measures to enhance rail safety in New Jersey on the 10th Anniversary of the Tragedy of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

## **Wet, Wild and Wonderful Adventures at the Plainsboro Preserve** Mon., July 3, 9:00 AM - Fri., July 21, 3:00 PM

Join Waterspirit for a week full of daytime adventures at the Plainsboro Preserve. During "Wet, Wild and Wonderful." children will enjoy searching Devil's Brook for aquatic life, watching frogs in the pond, and visiting a real beaver lodge. We will enjoy water games and some wet and wild craft activities too.

## **August Rain Barrel Workshop with Waterspirit** Wed., Aug. 9 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Back by popular demand! We sold out of rain barrels so quickly when we hosted a workshop in March, that we were asked to do it again. Soooo, Take 2 coming in August. Families and friends will gather for this special workshop to learn how to make and use a rain barrel of your own.

## **Sacred Water in a Climate Changed Era** Thu., Aug. 17 from 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Join Waterspirit's Blair Nelsen at the 2023 Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago, IL. This event will feature an interfaith panel of unique and powerful women who will highlight threats to sacred water and human rights during the climate emergency.

## **Waterspirit's Book Club** Mon., Aug. 28 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (Virtual)

Join Waterspirit's Book Club for our Aug 28 meeting as we discuss the book Finding The Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest By Suzanne Simard.

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~

**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

**AUGUST 2023**

Aug 1	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	
Aug 8	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Aug 15	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Aug 15	Tue	Session	7:00 PM
Aug 22	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Aug 28	Mon	Mission	7:30 PM
Aug 29	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)