

Oak Leaves

Vol. LXVI, Number 1

September 2023



Dear Congregation...

by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Jennifer and I have very mixed feelings about this month of September. We all knew that our time here in Rumson was temporary, but we were hoping to be with you until you had a clear path to your next permanent pastor. As I shared in an email to all of you, it is for personal reasons that we feel the need to move back to Florida at this time. Our experience here at Rumson Presbyterian was a blessed one, and there was nothing here that pushed us away.

As we leave, we are very aware of the anxiety that many of you are feeling. We all know that this church community has become very small, and many questions concerning its future are being asked. That has been true throughout our interim time with you. Our session meetings have been mostly focused on the need to think creatively, and differently, about future leadership models. These conversations are ongoing, and we don't have all the answers yet. The Coastlands Presbytery, through its Commission on Ministry, is in conversation with the session about different ways for this church to find the pastoral leadership it needs at this time in its life.

Even though those conversations are ongoing, there is one thing that this church does need: It is you. It needs your attendance, your involvement, your support, and your prayers. In the



days ahead, your church leaders will be sharing with you the options and ideas that have been evolving during the last several months. The session will also share with you the ideas and suggestions of the Presbytery. Together, you will discern the best path for the future. Be assured that you are not alone. The Presbytery is with you, and God is with you.

As the Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, he said some words to that congregation that express exactly what I would like to say

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to this congregation. So I quote him here as words to you: "I thank God every time I think of you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:3-5)

In God's Love,

Paul Kirbas

Worship



Worshipping Together in September

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Communion), Sept. 3, 2023 @ 9:15 AM

Sermon: "Teach Us to Pray" by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Psalm 26; Luke 11:1-4**

In the famous Lord's Prayer, Jesus is teaching us both HOW to pray and WHAT to pray. Today we will join the disciples who sat at his feet to learn all about each of these questions.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sept. 10, 2023 @ 9:45 AM

Sermon: "Community in the Wilderness" by Rev. Sue Smith

Scripture: **Exodus 12: 1-14; Psalm 119: 33-40; Matthew 18: 15-20**

The mainline church is in the wilderness. Is there anything we can learn from the Israelites as they began their wilderness journey, or from Jesus as he was doing his ministry?

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sept. 17, 2023 @ 9:45 AM

Sermon: "The Son of Man" by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Ezekiel 2:1-10; John 3:11-16**

Can you get the sense of a whole book from reading the first and last sentences only? If that doesn't work for novels, how can it work for Jesus Christ?

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sept. 24, 2023 @ 9:45 AM

Sermon: "Finally" by Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Psalm 105:1-6; 37-45; Philippians 4:4-9**

As the Apostle Paul closed out his letter to the Philippians, he gave them a lasting gift. What was it, and how did it give them guidance for the many days ahead?

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

Church School



Wow... the lazy days of Summer have come and gone too quickly! As school returns and we start our new routines, why not make Sunday's a family affair. Come to church and drop your children off with me in church school to enrich their spiritual growth in a fun and engaging way. 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.

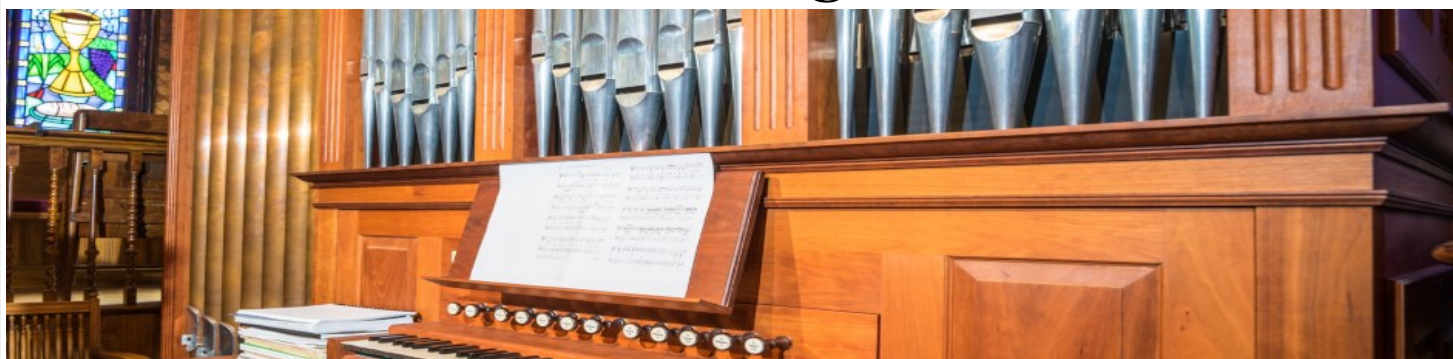
I look forward to hearing from you.

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** if you know someone who may be interested. The pay is \$25 per session or credit for volunteer hours.

Music Program



Happy September, everyone.

Hope that you've all had a beautiful summer! As we enter into our fall season at the church, please make note of the following:

- Sunday, September 10th: 9:45 am worship resumes.
- Choir will be singing at this service, returning from their summer break.

If you'd like to join us in singing with the choir, please let me know. We are a small but mighty

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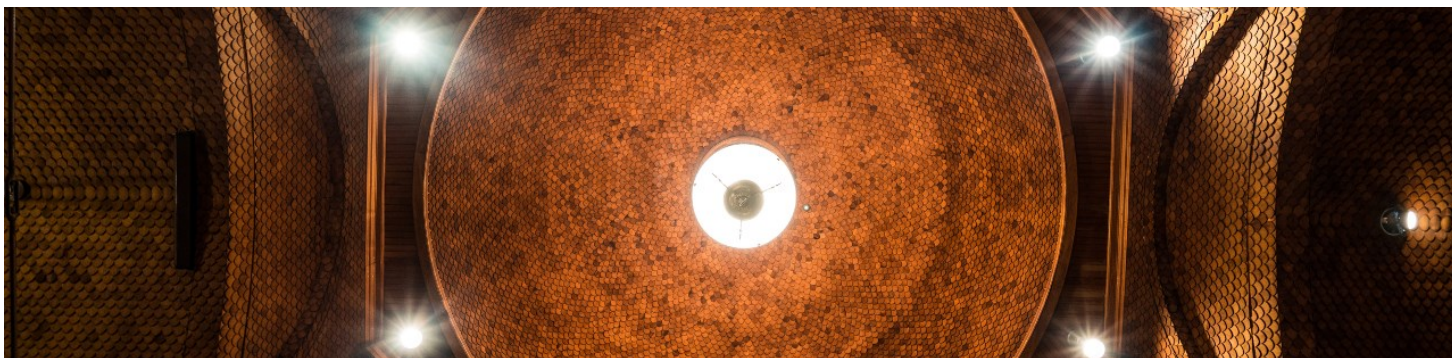
group that loves to create music together. We are close-knit, creative, and fun! The music is relatively easy to grasp, and we rehearse on Sunday mornings before service. Please reach out if this resonates with you.

See you in church!

Blessings,

Andreea Fegan, Director of Music

Mission News



Mission Commission took a brief hiatus for the month of July and met again last week to continue discussions about an event we are planning for January 2024 with an international hunger relief non-profit organization called Rise Against Hunger. Rise Against Hunger coordinates the packaging and distribution of food and other aid to people in developing nations. A representative joined our call to describe how a 10,000 meal packing event might work for our congregation – and we are very excited to plan community outreach for 30-60 volunteers to join us in this mission! This organization cites the benefits of food security as hope thrives alongside nutrition, learning increases with stability, and self-sufficiency leads to growth. The meal packing experience combines an assembly line process with an educational experience, “not only make a huge impact worldwide, but to touch the lives of those in your group.” The event can be open to a range of volunteers, making it suitable for families, high school students in search of community service credits and senior citizens alike. Lee Clay has experience with this organization and brought this idea forward. It seems well aligned to our desire to find ways to draw people into this magnificent community at Rumson Presbyterian in a time of transition. Stay tuned for additional updates on this topic!

We continue to collect for Lunch Break – so please bring donations to the church. You can stop by at your convenience to deposit donations in the bins in the narthex. Thank you for your continued support of this critical program.

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.

2023 Crop Hunger Walk



Rumson Presbyterian Church has registered! Walk. Give. Change the world.

We're participating in the 2023 CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. We're asking you to join us - with your steps and your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them,

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and greater food security in communities around the world.

Please visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/rumson-presbyterian-church-2> to join our team on October 16th, or if you can't join us, to support us by making a donation today! Thank you!

PC(USA) News

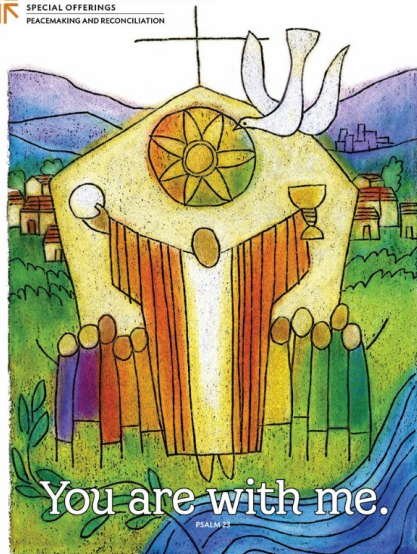


PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Our work of peace and reconciliation is supported by gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. These gifts also unite us with Presbyterian peacemakers across the country and the world who are active, not passive; who are doing, not waiting. Our Mission Commission strongly supports this offering.

25% of this Offering stays with our congregation for our own ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation. We use it each year primarily to provide scholarships for local students doing peacemaking work in their schools and communities.

 **PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



25% of this Offering will go to joining with other congregations in our area to support peacemaking work in our region.

50% of this Offering supports programs and ministries working actively for peace and justice around our nation and the world.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world. Together we are building God's household of peace where everyone is welcome; where all can find compassion, peace and justice.

Many congregations receive this offering throughout A

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Season of Peace — beginning Sunday, September 3, and culminating on World Communion Sunday, October 1. (For RPC, there is an envelope labelled "Peacemaking" (September 17, 2023) in our offering envelope booklet.) Sign up to receive a daily email during A Season of Peace on the Practices of Building Peace at pcusa.org/subscribeSOP (look under Advocacy and Social Justice).

We are the peacemakers. We are the Church, Together. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

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

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

Waterspirit Event Calendar for September



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

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minutes.

10 Step Eco-Anxiety Support Group Info Session Tue., Sept. 5 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Virtual)

Register for this informational meeting that will outline what this 10-week support group entails, explain the course's suggested donation, and answer any questions you might have prior to committing. The group will meet on Zoom from 9/12-11/14 at 2-4 p.m. ET.

Eco-Friendly House Party Thu., Sept. 14, from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Join Waterspirit for an eco-friendly house party! Learn tips for how to kick fossil fuels to the curb with a guided tour of a stunningly beautiful all-electric home on the NJ shore. Exact location in Monmouth County will be shared with registrants the week of the event.

March to End Fossil Fuels Sun., Sept. 17 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Join the March with Waterspirit! We aim to focus our advocacy in New York City with coalition partners and individuals alike.

Autumn Equinox Fri., Sept. 22 from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Celebrate the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" with Waterspirit! Join us for an evening of eco-spiritual prayer, contemplation, and music that explores the deeper meaning of autumn.

Waterspirit's Microplastics Beach Survey Thu., Sept. 28 from 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Join Anne Price at Snug Harbor in the Highlands to survey the beach for Microplastics.

Environmental Education Outdoor Conference Fri., Sept. 29 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Register to join Waterspirit at this amazing conference at Duke Farms, where The Alliance for NJ Environmental Education (ANJEE) is hosting their 7th annual outdoor conference.

Beach Clean-up Sat., Sept. 30 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join Waterspirit and Save Coastal Wildlife at the Monmouth Beach Bathing Pavilion as we protect our beautiful ocean.

All are welcome. Please visit their website (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 for calendar updates~

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sep 4	Mon	Labor Day	
Sep 5	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Sep 10	Sun	Resume Regular Worship Hours	9:45AM
Sep 11	Mon	Patriot Day	
Sep 12	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Sep 19	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Sep 19	Tue	Session	7:00PM
Sep 22	Fri	Fall Equinox Celebration*	7:00PM
Sep 23	Sat	First Day of Autumn	
Sep 25	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30PM
Sep 26	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM

OCTOBER 2023

Oct 1	Sun	World Communion Sunday	
Oct 3	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Oct 9	Mon	Columbus Day (Observed)	
Oct 10	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Oct 15	Sun	Red Bank Crop Hunger Walk	
Oct 17	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Oct 17	Tue	Session	7:00PM
Oct 23	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30PM
Oct 24	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15PM
Oct 29	Sun	Reformation Sunday	
Oct 31	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