

February 2020



# The Presbyterian

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## Serving and Supporting the Church

Sometimes I use this space in the newsletter to encourage you to give more support to First Presbyterian Church. But not this time. Today, I'm appealing to you on behalf of the larger church.

For those of you who were raised in the Presbyterian Church, the words "per capita" are nothing new. Thankfully, we get new people in our pews all the time—people who were raised in other religious traditions, as well as people who were raised outside of any religious tradition. So, a little refresher is in order.

Every year, each congregation is asked to pay an assessment to the local presbytery. That assessment is based on the number of members in a congregation. This number includes every adult member, as well as youth who have been confirmed. For 2019 and 2020, the per capita has been \$40 per member. The amount that we are supposed to pay to Monmouth Presbytery is based on a two-year average of the number of members we report to the presbytery.

For 2019, we were asked to pay \$9,680, based on a membership of 242. We pledged to pay exactly \$2,500. That's right, we only paid one-fourth of what we actually owed! There are several problems with this.

First, we have about 110 members on the rolls. That's a big difference! It



# Mark your Calendar

**February 8**

All Shore Choral Concert

**February 10**

Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30AM

—Room A/B

**February 11**

Presbyterian Women 12:30PM—

Auditorium

**February 17**

Deacons' Meeting 7PM—CE Building

**February 18**

Session Meeting 7PM — Room A/B

**March 3**

Worship Committee 6PM—Room A/B

**March 4**

Lenten Soup Supper/Worship 6:30PM—  
Auditorium (weekly thru April 1)

**March 9**

Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30AM

—Room A/B

**March 10**

Presbyterian Women 12:30PM—

Auditorium

**March 16**

Deacons' Meeting 7PM—CE Building

**March 17**

Session Meeting 7PM — Room A/B

**Every Monday**

Community Bell Choir 7PM — Sanctuary

**Every Wednesday**

Koinonia 10AM—Room A/B

Koinonia 7PM—Room A/B

**Every Thursday**

Handbell Lessons 4PM-5PM—Room A/B

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7PM-8:30PM—  
Sanctuary

**Every Friday**

Special Choir Rehearsal 7PM-9PM—  
Rehearsal Room

**Every Sunday**

Chancel Choir 9AM—Sanctuary

Kirk Bell Ringers 11:30AM—Rehearsal  
Room

Chime Bells 11AM—Rehearsal Room

For a complete calendar please go to:  
[https://www.fpcfreeshold.org/events-  
calendar](https://www.fpcfreeshold.org/events-calendar)



means that we over reported our numbers for years. Which means that we were given an obligation that we could never live into. Fortunately, Monmouth Presbytery has based this year's assessment on our actual congregation of 110 members, for a total per capita of \$4,400.

Second, \$4,400 is a much more manageable number. But, if we only pledge the same amount that we pledged last year, \$2,500, then we're only covering about 57% of our obligation. That is not satisfactory. We need to meet our obligations. Period. If you can make an additional, one-time donation of \$40 for each adult member of your household, that would be great! Also, please let us know that this is for your per capita. If you would like a special envelope for this, we have them.

Finally, in addition to your per capita, Monmouth Presbytery needs your service! All of the work of the presbytery is done by committees. In theory, all of these committees are made of equal numbers of pastors and ruling elders. In practice, pastors are over-represented on these committees.

When I was ordained, I took a number of vows. Those vows included a pledge to "share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church." That includes my service to FPC and also my service to Monmouth Presbytery. Currently, I serve on the Mission Council, which is the executive committee of the presbytery, the Permanent Judicial Commission, and an Administrative Commission that is overseeing the affairs of the First Presbyterian Church of Long Branch. That's a lot, but it's vital work and it needs to be done. But you know what? Ruling elders take the same vow! We need you to serve the presbytery, too!

I realize that a number of you remember some contentious times between this congregation and Monmouth Presbytery. Some of you still carry the scars from those interactions. I get it. Some of the committees were very heavy handed. But the presbytery is like a moving stream. There's a lot of turnover among both the pastors and the elders on those committees; the people who are serving in 2020 are not the same as those who served ten years ago, or even five years ago. So, please, please, please, if you are an elder of this congregation, consider serving Monmouth Presbytery, too.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Alan



Would you like to set up a meeting with Pastor Alan? Call the office between 9-12 Monday through Friday and the secretary will be happy to put you on his calendar.

**Need to Talk to the Pastor**

Monday through Friday from 9am to 12 noon by appointment. (additional hours available if necessary)



Tel: 732-462-0234  
First Presbyterian Church of Freehold

**Email: [Alanalandolson@gmail.com](mailto:Alanalandolson@gmail.com)**

# Feel the Love

## Our Deacons and 2020 Confirmands



### **Thank you! Thank you!**

On Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, about 40-50 of us walked down to First United Methodist Church to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ, after their organ had been vandalized. Thank you, everyone! Thanks for walking with me and standing with them! I was so proud of all of you that day. My heart was filled with joy and gratitude for the way you all came through. By the time folks from First Baptist Church and the Reformed Church arrived (plus members and staff from many other congregations), the sanctuary was filled—I'd guess that there were 300 people or more in the church.

I spoke with many of the members of the Methodist church that day. They were all deeply moved by our gesture. Fear and anxiety can lead to feelings of isolation. That's even more true after a break-in and an act of vandalism. On that day, we showed solidarity and we let the saints at the Methodist church know that they are not alone; they are loved. We relieved their fears and anxiety.

Sometimes it's difficult to do the right thing; sometimes we don't even know what the right thing is. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the right thing to do was obvious and it was easy to do. Thank you all for standing with us (in body or in spirit) on that day. I hope that we have more opportunities to stand with our brothers and sisters in Christ here in Freehold, though not under those circumstances. — Rev. Alan Olson

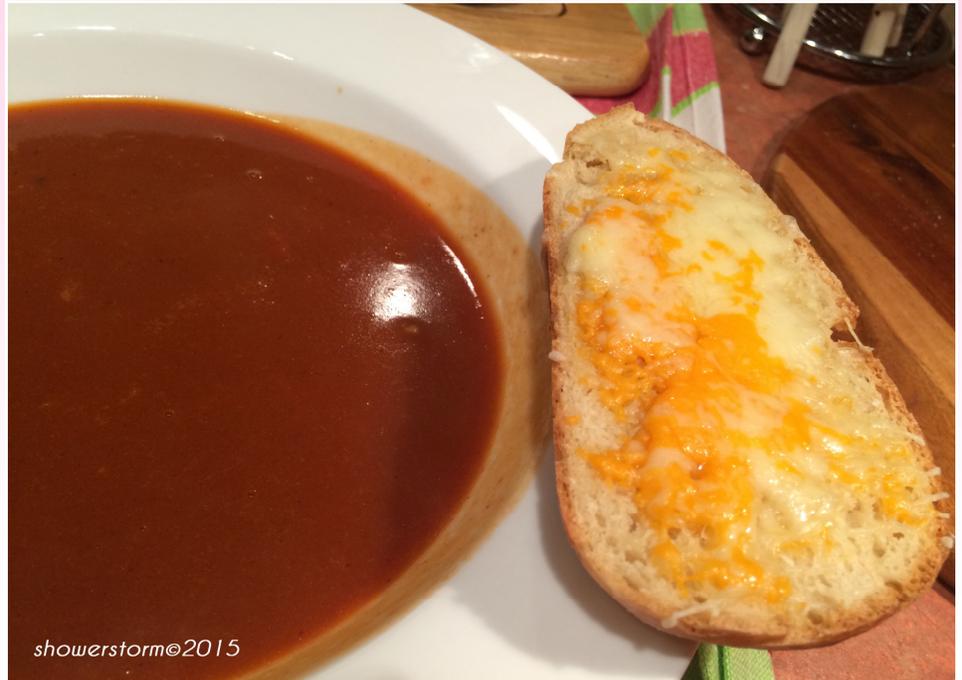
# Lenten Soup Supper

**Please join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for an informal soup and bread supper and Lenten service.**

**When: Wednesdays, 6:30pm, March 4-April 1**

**Where: Christian Education Building Auditorium**

**If you can contribute a soup and/or bread for one of the evenings please sign up on the form in the Narthex.**



**All are welcome!**

## **Check Our Doors!**

As great as it was to stand with our brothers and sisters in Christ at the First United Methodist Church, let's not give the other congregations in Freehold an opportunity to console us. Please make sure that all doors to the sanctuary and the Christian Ed building are shut tightly and locked after worship or any other congregational event.

Yes, there are people who sign up to open and close the church every Sunday. (Thank you, thank you!) But it's up to all of us to pay attention to open doors and windows. Also, some of our outside doors don't always close tightly. If you find a door that's open, after worship or an even has ended, please find a member of the Property Commission or someone else who's in a leadership position and let them know that a door or window needs to be shut and locked. Thanks! — Rev. Alan Olson

# Freehold Clergy Association

## Lenten Lunch and Prayer



*Join us Wednesdays in Lent and Good Friday for Christian fellowship and prayer. Lunch will be served Wednesdays at 12:00 noon, followed by prayer at 12:30, and lunch offered again at 1:00 pm.*

### **March 4**

**Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine, 61 Georgia Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728**  
**Guest Preacher: Rev. Dirk C. Reinken, Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

### **March 11**

**Bethel AME Church, 3 Waterworks Rd., Freehold, NJ 07728**  
**Guest Preacher: Bishop Fred Rubin, Pastor of Community Refuge Church of Christ**

### **March 18**

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold, 91 W Main St., Freehold, NJ 07728**  
**Guest Preacher: Rev. Jonathan Elsensohn, Pastor of First Baptist Church**

### **March 25**

**First Presbyterian Church of Freehold, 118 W Main St., Freehold, NJ 07728**  
**Guest Preacher: Msgr. Sam Sirianni, Pastor of Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine**

### **April 1**

**Reformed Church of Freehold, 67 W Main St., Freehold, NJ 07728**  
**Guest Preacher: Rev. Alan Olson, Pastor of First Presbyterian**

### **Good Friday, April 10 at 12:00 Noon**

**First Baptist Church, 81 W Main St., Freehold, NJ 07728**  
**Guest Preacher: Chaplain Sharon Douglas, CentraState Hospital**  
*No lunch on Good Friday.*

*For more information contact Jen at: [jperry@strobert.cc](mailto:jperry@strobert.cc) or 732-462-7429, ext. 141.*

# God's Mission Matters

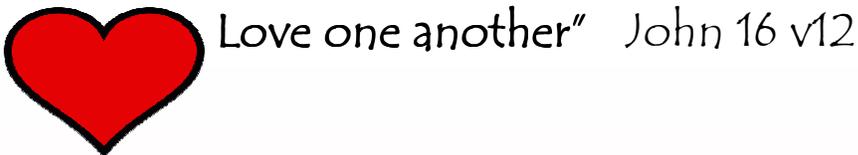
## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Next meeting March 10 9:30-11am Room A/B (behind the Sanctuary)

Need a prayer shawl for a friend going through a tough time? Just call 732 462-0234.

Want to learn how to knit or crochet? Just ask! You don't have to be a member.

**Next meeting** of this Ministry is **March 10** at 9:30am in Room A/B. Beginners are welcome!! We have everything you'll need... especially patience.



[This Photo](#) by

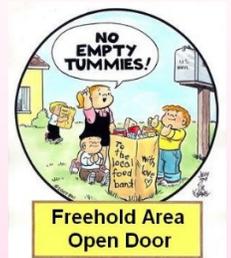
## OPEN DOOR FOOD PANTRY



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

to all the generous souls who brought **CANS OF SOUP** to feed the hungry clients of **OPEN DOOR** & to celebrate **SOUPERBOWL. WIN-WIN!!**

What fun day in church!



In February our featured item will be cans of SOUP.



[This Photo](#) by

# God's Mission Matters

## LOCAL MISSION SANCTUARY PROGRAM SOUP KITCHEN



**Prepare & Serve a free lunch**

**WHEN: Saturdays only until Mar 14, 2020 (*Pick one date!*)**

**WHERE:** First United Methodist Church, 91 W. Main St. Freehold, NJ 07728

**TIME: 10am – 12:30 (Serve our neighbors in need & clean up)**

“Let us consider how to provoke one another to **LOVE** and **GOOD DEEDS**, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but **ENCOURAGING** one another” Hebrews 10 24-25

# CHURCH-WIDE MISSION FOR Everyone 2019 – 2020

## CLEAN WATER PROJECT

We're still collecting for this mission project through [presbyteriangifts.org](http://presbyteriangifts.org)



Please bring your generous monthly offering to Worship on **Feb 16** & on **3<sup>rd</sup>**.  
**Sunday** of each month. *LOOK FOR OUR YOUTHFUL HELPERS.*

(We also encourage all groups to give **\$1 per person** whenever they meet)

Our goal is to provide a **CLEAN WATER WELL** for our brothers & sisters  
without a safe water supply, at a cost of **\$1,500**.

As of the end of January, you've given around **\$600**. We're getting there – and will  
get there with God's blessing, your donations & your prayers.

# Other News

## Financial Snapshot

### 2019

#### September

	Attendance	Member Giving
01-Sep	50	\$ 2,692
08-Sep	64	\$ 1,642
15-Sep	75	\$ 1,874
22-Sep	95	\$ 2,574
29-Sep	54	\$ 2,748
Total Member Giving		\$ 11,530
Budget		\$ 15,000

#### October

	Attendance	Member Giving
06-Oct	66	\$ 3,635
13-Oct	87	\$ 2,120
20-Oct	59	\$ 4,948
27-Oct	53	\$ 1,185
Total Member Giving		\$ 11,888
Budget		\$ 15,000

#### November

	Attendance	Member Giving
03-Nov	80	\$ 2,242
10-Nov	70	\$ 2,750
17-Nov	103	\$ 3,104
24-Nov	82	\$ 6,422
Total Member Giving		\$ 14,518
Budget		\$ 15,000

#### December

	Attendance	Member Giving
01-Dec	58	\$ 2,008
08-Dec	71	\$ 2,046
15-Dec	94	\$ 2,480
22-Dec	79	\$ 2,370
29-Dec	59	\$ 3,137
Total Member Giving		\$ 12,041
Budget		\$ 15,000

### 2020

#### January

	Attendance	Member Giving
05-Jan	84	\$ 3,570
12-Jan	72	\$ 3,186
19-Jan	67	\$ 1,475
26-Jan	78	\$ 2,580
Total Member Giving		\$ 10,811
Budget		\$ 15,000

#### February

	Attendance	Member Giving
02-Feb	85	\$ 3,069
09-Feb	84	\$ 2,636
16-Feb		
23-Feb		
Total Member Giving		\$ 5,705
Budget		\$ 15,000