

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 62 NO. 9

November, 2013

“Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Matthew 6: 33

“Come into his courts with thanksgiving and into his house with praise. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him all the earth.”

Psalm 96: 8

Rick's Reflections

An uncredited piece appeared on a web site called “Bill’s Front Porch.” It is called, “Why I don’t go to church/football games.”

1. Every time I go, they ask for money
2. The people I sat next to didn’t seem friendly.
3. The seats were too hard and uncomfortable.
4. I went to many games and the coach never came to visit me.
5. The referees made decisions I didn’t agree with.
6. The game went into overtime and I was late getting home.
7. The band played numbers I had never heard before. That’s not my kind of music.
8. The games are always scheduled when there is something else I want to do.
9. Some of the people there were hypocrites. They weren’t really there to watch the game.
10. I was taken to too many games by my parents when I was growing up.

Do you attend worship services regularly? I know there are many of you who can answer that question yes. But there are also many who would have to say no. I wonder why that is?

There is never any pressure from us to attend worship. Trying to guilt people into coming would be a waste of time anyway. The real question is why do people come to worship at all.

It can’t be to be entertained. We are not in competition with football or Sunday morning talk shows or good tee times. There is something more significant here than just having a good time. There is a command from God that we should put God first on our priority list and that we should look forward to a chance to gather with others to offer praise to God. Nobody is strong enough spiritually

to walk the walk of faith alone.

There may be some very good reasons for you to miss worship. But there are also excuses (like the ones above) that come down to your desire to put God first in your life. Nobody is taking attendance. You won’t get a nasty letter saying shame on you. It’s really between your soul and the God who gives you life. Put God first and just watch as everything else falls into place. I’ll see you in church!

Blessings, *Pastor Rick*

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Elena Bird Zolnick,
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Tom Ewig
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Deacons

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Robyn Brown
Erin Castner
Fenton Chaney
Lisa Chapman
Sandy Finlayson
Barbara Gill
Nancy Gockley
Susan Morris
Sue Nobleman
Judith Shelton
Prudy Sweeney
Anne Thomas
Eileen Urban
Anne Waite

Christmas Donations

Morris County Correctional Facility

Drop off at Fellowship Hall by December 19

The following is a list of items that have been approved to be donated for the approximately 400 inmates' Christmas gift bags this year.

- ☐ Men's white crew neck t-shirts in lg, X-lg, 2X, and 3X
(no V-necks or pockets allowed)
- ☐ Men's white briefs
- ☐ Women's sports bras (white, no wire)
- ☐ White crew socks
- ☐ Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- ☐ Shampoo (medium to large sizes)
- ☐ Lotion (no pumps)
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Home-baked cookies—no metal tins, please

The above items are the **only ones** that will be accepted by security. Please **do not gift wrap** your donations.

The holidays are an especially difficult time for inmates and their families. This is a time when your generosity will truly touch the hearts of the men and women who are incarcerated at MCCF. Your acts of kindness may be seen by a prisoner as the brightest beacon of God's love.



No Time to Bake Cookies?

Nancy Barrett's young neighbor, who likes to bake, will bake cookies for the jail for \$20 a batch. Each batch is about 38 nice-sized cookies. If anyone would like to order cookies from her, you can contact Nancy Barrett at 973-425-1414. A small bag of sample cookies will be given to those who place an order.



OCTOBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The following are highlights from the October 22, 2013 Session Meeting.

The meeting began with Reverend Sweeney reading devotions.

Committee Highlights

Adult Education:

Jane Kendall will lead a program on the Myers-Briggs Personality Test after worship on November 3, 10 and 17.

Congregational Life:

The 2nd Annual Harvest Festival will be held on October 27 at 3 pm at Aimee Bloom's barn. Our Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 8 after worship.

Worship and Music:

An Evening of Opera will be performed on Saturday, October 26 at 7:30 pm. Elena, our Minister of Music, along with a few friends will be entertaining us. The times for the Christmas Eve services have been changed to 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm. This will hopefully allow for a more even distribution of attendees. The 5:00 service will still be our family service.

Mission and Outreach:

The Committee members visited Willow Tree and were very impressed! The dinner we hosted for the Mental Health Association of New Jersey on Tuesday, October 15 was a great success. The guests expressed deep appreciation and said they felt the environment was warm and welcoming. 37 church members were there to welcome and help serve 18 guests.

Finance:

The roof and foundation of the sanctuary are in serious need of repair.

Stewardship:

Pledges are coming in. If you haven't done so please get your pledge in as soon as possible. Thank you!

Buildings & Grounds:

There will be some minor repairs made to the Manse. Because an oil tank was removed from the property years ago, the State of NJ requires us to install a ground well water monitor.

Nominating Committee:

They are preparing the new slate of Elders, Deacons, Auditing and Nominating Committee members to be voted on by the congregation at the Congregational Meeting in December.

Personnel Committee:

Sadness has been expressed in reaction to the news about Gordon leaving at the end of the year. Staff evaluations are currently being done.

Communion will be served on Sunday November 3.

A joint meeting with Session members and Deacons was held on Tuesday, October 22 at 6:30 pm.

Reverend Sweeney adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Coyle, Clerk of Session



Youth Calendar for Nov-Dec

Hi, folks! Here's a glimpse at our youth and family calendar from November 3 through December 31, 2013. Additional events will be added to this schedule or changed via announcements in *The*

Pipe Organ, worship announcements, Sunday bulletins, Coffee Hour displays, and/or E-mail.

- Sun. Nov. 3: 10:00 am – 11:00 am A-V Ministry
- Mon. Nov. 4: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Dinner & Cookie Ministry
- Wed, Nov 6: Kentucky collection ends
- Thu, Nov 7: 2 pm – Community Soup Kitchen Mission Project
- Fri, Nov 8: 1 pm – Kentucky Mission Project Shopping Trip for Adopted Family
5:30 pm – Youth Dinner
- Sat, Nov 9: 8:30 am – Jersey Shore Mission Trip
- Sun, Nov 10: 10 am – Youth Group Worships Together
- Sun. Nov. 10: 10:00 am – 11:00 am A-V Ministry
- Sun. Nov. 17: 9:00 am – 9:30 am Confirmation Class
10:00 am – 11:00 am A-V Ministry
1:30-3:00pm – Faith and Fitness hike at Hacklebarney Park
- Sun. Nov. 24: 10:00 am – 11:00 am A-V Ministry
10:00 am – 11:00 am Youth Service
- Sun. Dec. 1: 10:00 am – 11:00 am A-V Ministry
- Wed. Dec. 4: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Dinner & Cookie Ministry
- Sun. Dec. 8: 9:00 am – 9:30 am Confirmation Class
10:00 am – 11:00 am A-V Ministry
- Sun Dec. 15: 10:00 am – 11:00 am A-V Ministry
- Sun. Dec. 22: 10:00 am – 11:00 am A-V Ministry
- Tues. Dec. 24: 5:00 pm, 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Services
- Sun. Dec. 29: 10:00 am – 11:00 am A-V Ministry

2013 Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 8



This year the Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 8 during worship. Our pageant will be a simple retelling of the Christmas story. No lines will need to be learned for any of the roles, but a few songs will be sung. Information will be shared with students during Sunday School classes beginning Sunday, November 10 through Sunday, December 1. Please see Susan Fischer in church or contact her at shfischer@verizon.net if you have a child who would like to participate in the pageant.

Attention All 8th-12th Graders

Shop, Ship, and Shore Weekend!

In lieu of our Mission trip to Kentucky this year, we have prepared a weekend full of mission projects! If you're off from school on Thursday and Friday, join us for activities each day. If you're not off from school, join us for dinner on Friday and Saturday's trip!

Thursday, November 7: Community Soup Kitchen Mission Project

Meet at Fellowship Hall at 2:00 pm and bring \$10 of your own money. We'll go shopping for supplies and return to the Church to assemble Breakfast-to-Go bags for the guests of the Community Soup Kitchen.

Friday, November 8: Kentucky Mission Project

Meet at Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm and bring \$20 of your own money. Compete on teams to shop for members of our adopted family! We'll return to Fellowship Hall to pack up all the boxes and prepare them for shipment to Lotts Creek.

Group Dinner

We'll gather at 5:30 pm to go out for a group dinner for some serious carb-loading in preparation for Saturday's shore trip!

Saturday, November 9: Jersey Shore Mission Trip

Meet at Fellowship Hall at 8:30 am. We will be heading down to the Jersey Shore to assist with some ongoing relief efforts with our partners from the Toms River Presbyterian Church. Lunch will be provided. We'll return to the Church by approximately 5 pm.

Sunday, November 10: Worship Service

Join us for Sunday worship. We'll all sit together in the balcony for the 10 am service.

It's Time To Brighten a Child's Life

Christmas Is for Children 2013

Christmas Is for Children, Inc. is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing all children the love, care, and joy that comprise the spirit of Christmas. Since 1991, CIFIC has supported over tens of thousands of local, underprivileged children dealing with poverty, AIDS, domestic violence, and substance-abusing parents.

Local social agencies such as Children on the Green, Homeless Solutions, Eric Johnson House, Chabad, Good Shephard, and Interfaith Council for the Homeless help to identify those children in our community who are most in need of assistance this holiday season.

On **Sunday, November 24**, two representatives from CIFIC will be present at Coffee Hour to hand out gift wish lists to anyone who would like to sponsor a local child this Christmas.

To learn more about Christmas Is for Children, log onto www.NJChristmasIsForChildren.org or contact Susan Fischer at 908-204-0820.



Outreach Hosts a "Social Club Dinner"



On Tuesday, October 15, Outreach sponsored a Social Club Dinner for the clients of the Mental Health Association of Morris County. Thirty-seven members of our congregation worked together to make this event a memorable one for everyone. We all enjoyed a delicious meal, incredible desserts, fabulous entertainment, and meaningful conversations. Our guests have called or sent notes with the following comments: *"You made me feel so special and welcome. I have never had more fun at a dinner party;"* *"I have never been to a Broadway show, but I can only imagine that this is what it would be like;"* and *"It was such a fun evening that I hope you will invite us again!"*





Thank you to Nancy Burrows and Bonnie Gannon for sharing these photos of the Social Club Dinner.

FPCNV Book Club

November's Book, Meeting Dates, and Book Selections



Leading psychologist Charles Fernyhough blends the most current science with literature and personal stories in *Pieces of Light: How the New Science of Memory Illuminates the Stories We Tell About Our Pasts*.

A new consensus is emerging among cognitive scientists: rather than possessing fixed, unchanging memories, they have found that we create recollections anew each time we are called upon to remember. According to Fernyhough, remembering is an act of narrative imagination as much as it is the product of a neurological process.

An NPR and *Psychology Today* contributor, Dr. Fernyhough guides readers through the fascinating new science of autobiographical memory, covering topics such as: navigation, imagination, and the power of sense associations to cue remembering. Exquisitely written and meticulously researched, *Pieces of Light* brings together science and literature, the ordinary and the extraordinary, to help us better understand our powers of recall and our relationship with the past.

Where: PCNV Library When: 7:30 pm

NOV 12	<i>Pieces of Light: How the New Science of Memory Illuminates the Stories We Tell About Our Pasts</i> by Charles Fernyhough
DEC 10	Café Beethoven
JAN 14	<i>The Girls of Atomic City</i> by Denise Kiernan
FEB 11	<i>Inferno</i> by Dan Brown
MAR 11	<i>Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain</i> by John J. Ratey and Eric Hagerman
APR 8	<i>The Fish That Ate the Whale: The Life and Times of America's Banana King</i> by Rich Cohen
MAY 13	<i>And the Mountains Echoed</i> by Khaled Hosseini
JUN 10	<i>House of Spirits</i> by Isabel Allende

EXPLORE YOUR UNIQUE PERSONALITY PREFERENCES ~ 3-PART WORKSHOP

Workshop Facilitator: Jane Kendall, a Certified MBTI Practitioner.

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

Nov. 3, 11:30 am-1:30 pm

SESSION 2

Nov. 10, 11:30 am-12:45 pm

SESSION 3

Nov. 17, 11:30 am-12:45 pm

Adult Ed is offering a unique program on exploring your "personality preferences." This 3-part program, appropriate for participants 14 and older, will help you learn about yourself and others, facilitating your ability to work effectively with people with different basic personality preferences. It will use the Myers Briggs Type Indicator as a resource, a powerful tool used worldwide for:

Self-development
Career-development

Teaching Styles
Team Building

Parenting approaches
Academic counseling

Couples Coaching

Not able to make the Introductory Session on Nov. 3? There is an alternate session scheduled for Monday, Nov. 4, from 7-9 pm. *You must take the first session to participate in one or both of the follow-up sessions.*

If you have taken the MBTI and feel comfortable with your preferences, we encourage you to attend sessions 2 and 3 which will give you much more in-depth knowledge than you currently have.

There is a \$15 fee for this workshop. For more detailed information, pick up a handout at Coffee Hour, or download the information sheet at: <http://www.pcnv.org/images/PersonalityPreferences.pdf>



Christmas Concert

Wednesday, December 11

7:30 pm

As you are aware, the music ministry will be performing a Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 11, at 7:30 pm. This will include the adult Chancel Choir, the Children's Choir, and several instrumentalists and smaller ensembles. It is a chance for the congregation and community to enter into the Advent and Christmas spirit by actively participating in the concert! There will be brief scripture passages read, as well as fun carol sing-alongs.

We would like to make this event available to as many people as possible and open it to the community. There will be alternative rehearsals for those who are unable to make the Chancel Choir's normal Thursday, 7:30-9:00pm meeting time. (This choir is open to those 13 years and older.) For those who have demanding schedules but are still hoping to participate, there will be recordings of voice parts available online.

For anyone who has or knows children who would like to join the Children's Choir, rehearsals will be held from 11:20-11:50am on Sundays following worship. However, in order for us to serve you, we must first know your needs. If you have questions or are interested in joining, please contact me at elenatbird@gmail.com or call (907) 953-0128.

I hope that, regardless of your ability to participate, you will come and enjoy this special event!

An Evening of Opera ~ A Hit!

On Saturday, October 26, Elena Theresa Bird brought us a delightful evening of opera, operetta, and Broadway favorites with her friends, NYC emerging talents: Theresa Dunnigan, Kristin Gornstein, and Fiorella Velez.

Comments have reached the Church Office proclaiming the event: *"Fabulous and fun! Splendid voices singing great opera!"* and *"The evening was a treat!"*, *"The artists were a talented and engaging group with a wide range of vocal styles singing traditional arias, and pieces from contemporary musical theater"* and *"The acoustics in Fellowship Hall were exceptional."*



Performers, left to right:

Fiorella Velez, mezzo-soprano
 Kristin Gornstein, mezzo-soprano
 Lois Buesser, pianist
 Elena Theresa Bird, soprano
 Theresa Dunigan, soprano

Adult Education

ALL HALLOWS EVE CELEBRATION in the Celtic Tradition

Friday, November 1, 2013 ~ 6-8 pm



All Hallows or All Saints Day is the origin of today's Hallowe'en celebration. For the ancient Celtic Christians, it was a time to affirm the bond, in Christ, between the living and the departed. Join us for this deeply meaningful celebration, which begins with Hallowe'en fun, moves into our historic cemetery to affirm Christ's victory over death, and ends in the Church remembering those whom we love but see no more. In past years, many members of the Church have found this celebration life-affirming and spiritually moving. The evening will be led by The Rev. Robert Corin Morris.

The Rev. Robert Corin Morris, an Episcopal priest, is the former Executive Director of Interweave Center, an ecumenical and interfaith center for wellness, spirituality, and the common good at Calvary Church in Summit. He is a trained spiritual director and the author "Provocative Grace: The Challenge in Jesus' Words" and two other books.



**The Congregational Life Committee
Invites you to attend the**

The 2013 Christmas Luncheon

**Sunday, December 8
Immediately following Worship
In Fellowship Hall**

We will celebrate the Advent Season once again with a congregational luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

We welcome all members, new or seasoned, who would like to join the Congregational Life Committee. This group enhances the life of our congregation With numerous events during the year.

Meg Richardson will be coordinating the luncheon this year.

Come and enjoy the spirit of the Christmas Season with each other.



Stewardship Campaign for 2014

Raise the Roof!

The Stewardship Campaign, “Raise the Roof!” has been under way for several weeks, and the participation of the Church membership has been inspiring! In order to plan for and meet our financial goals for the coming year, we are reminding every member who has not yet made a pledge for the coming year to do so at this time.

One thing I have learned in my first year as your Stewardship Chair is that **stewards come in all sizes!** In that regard, we are asking all members prayerfully to consider their obligation to this church and to be wise with the blessings of God. We hope every member makes a pledge and, if you are a regular giver, to increase your pledge by 3% over last year’s amount.

Jesus said, “Give and it will be given to you.” We can all experience the joy of giving according to God’s word and Christ’s example. Your support is needed now to “Raise the Roof!” in 2014.

Jonathan Shelby,
Stewardship Chair



The Church in Your Will

Have you considered adding the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon to your will?

A charitable bequest is one way everyone can give, may provide estate tax benefits, and can be in any amount. By adding FPCNV to your estate plan, you can leave a legacy that will benefit our Church community.

Blessing of the Animals ~ October 19



Thank you to Tom Ewig for sharing these pictures of the Blessing of the Animals Service.

Help!

The Session needs your help. The committee that was called Administration is now the Administration and Communication Committee. We need any and all people who have even a little knowledge about computers and audio-visual equipment to form a group that will help our church be more effective in communication.



This is not a request to join a committee and attend meetings. This is a working group where people will be asked to do certain tasks from time to time. These tasks might include things like helping with power point presentations, setting up the announcement board in Fellowship Hall, assisting with the sound board and recordings for the worship services or Adult Education offerings. You don't have to be an expert. If you are willing to give a little of your time once in a while, your help would be greatly appreciated.



We are also looking to develop a photo team. Anyone with a camera is asked to be on a list of people who might be asked to take pictures at a Church event. If we all pitch in, no one person will have too much to do, and we will be a better church because of your involvement. Just let Pastor Rick or the Church Office know if you are willing to be on one or both of these lists. Thanks in advance for your help.

Save the Date!

Christmas Tree & Hall Decorating December 1

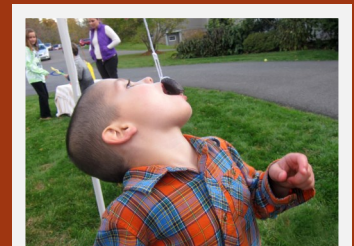
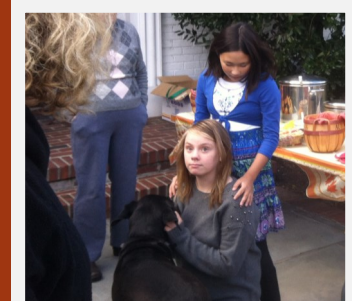
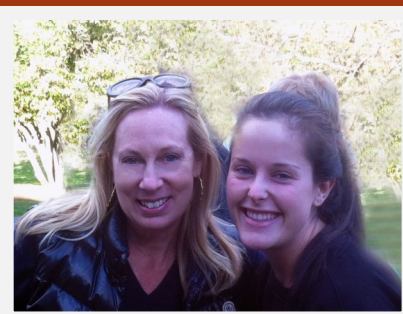
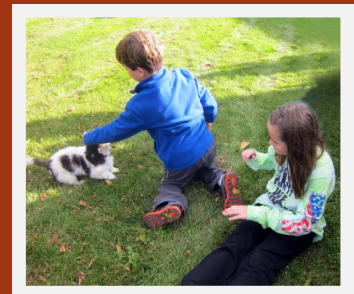
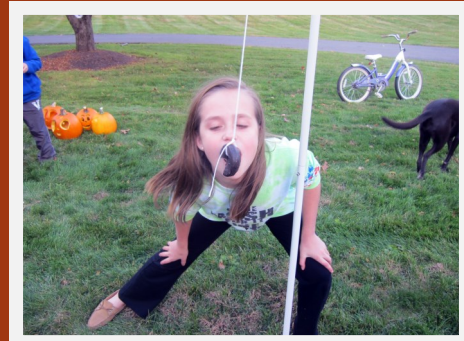
Please plan on attending the PCNV Christmas Tree and Hall decorating party after Church on December 1. There will be Christmas crafts and a festive spirit as we gather to celebrate the start of Advent.



Harvest Celebration at Aimee Bloom's Barn

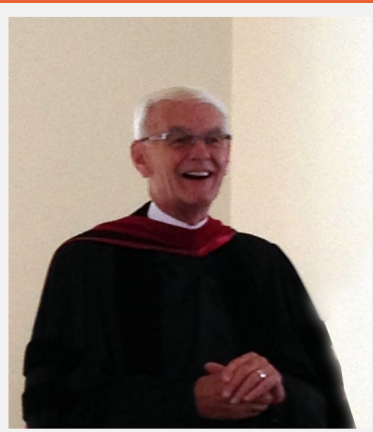
October 27, 2013





Thank you to Aimee Bloom for hosting the Harvest Celebration and to the Congregational Life Committee for all the work involved in making this a wonderful family event. A good time was, indeed, had by all! Also thank-you to Bonnie Gannon, Prudy Sweeney, and Kathy Sheeleigh for capturing these moments and sharing them with us.

Pastor Emeritus Service for Rev. Dr. George Chorba



**Rev. Dr. George E. Chorba
Pastor Emeritus**



Sunday, October 27, a celebratory induction service and time of fellowship .

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, November 6, 7:30 am Minute Man Restaurant

The men's prayer breakfast will now meet once a month. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday November 6 at 7:30 am and we will meet at the Minute Man Restaurant on Rt. 202.

Going forward, we will meet on the first Tuesday of each month for breakfast, reflection, discussion, and prayer. During our last two meetings, we read scripture and discussed what it means to be a man and what it means to leave a spiritual legacy.

All men are welcome.



Christmas Eve Services Donations for Sanctuary Decorations

To include a dedication in the Christmas Eve Bulletins, please fill out the form below and make sure it gets into the Church Office with your donation by Monday, December 21.

Christmas Eve Decoration Donation Form

Your Name: _____

I would like my donation to be dedicated as follows:

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of

NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 AA Meeting noon Celtic Tradition All Hallows Eve -Bob Morris 6-8 pm	2
3 Communion Family Sunday no Sunday School Personality Preferences Workshop I 11:30 pm in library	4 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Youth Group Dinner & Cookie Ministry 6-8 pm Personality Preferences Workshop I (Make-up Date) 7-9 pm	5 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 am	6 Adult Ed. 5 pm Membership 5:30 pm	7 Bible Study 8:30 am Youth Group Soup Kitchen Project 2 pm Nominating 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	8 AA Meeting noon Youth Group 1 pm Kentucky Shopping Trip 5:30 pm Youth Group Dinner	9 Youth Group Jersey Shore Mission Project 8:30 am-5 pm
10 Youth Group in Balcony for Worship 10:00 am Personality Preferences Workshop II 11:30 pm in library	11 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Madison Garden Club 11 am -3 pm Deacons Meeting 7:30 pm	12 Book Club 7:30 pm-Library	13 	14 Bible Study 8:30 am NV Garden Club 9:00 am Staff Meeting 4:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	15 AA Meeting noon	16
17 Confirmation Class 9:00-9:30 am Personality Preferences Workshop III 11:30 pm in library Faith & Fitness Hike Hackelbarney Park 1:30-3:00 pm	18 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Madison Garden Club 11 am -3 pm Finance Com. Mtg 7 pm	19 Session Mtg 7 pm	20	21 Bible Study 8:30 am Choir 7:30 pm	22 AA Meeting noon	23
24 Youth Sunday	25 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	26	27	28 No Bible Study Happy Thanksgiving <div>Church Office Is Closed</div>	29 AA Meeting noon	30 

NOVEMBER Worship at FPCNV, 2013

Sunday, November 3

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Communion

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: Prudy Sweeney

Sermon: *Just Wait*

Text:

Luke 19: 1-10

Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4

Sunday, November 10

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: Jane Coyle

Sermon: *Can You Hear Me Now?*

Text:

Ezekiel 12: 1-4

Mark 7: 31-37

Sunday, November 17

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: Eileen Urban

Sermon: *Imagine*

Text:

Thessalonians 3: 6-13

Isaiah 65: 17-25

Sunday, November 24

Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Youth Sunday

The Pipe Organ

First Presbyterian Church
2 Lee's Hill Road, PO Box 218
New Vernon, NJ 07976-0218

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Nov 3, 10, 17

Personality Preferences Workshops
Details on page 8

November 7-10

Youth Group Shop, Ship, Shore Weekend!
Details on page 5

November 24

Christmas Is For Children at Coffee Hour

Oh give thanks
to the LORD,
for he is good
for his steadfast
love endures
forever!

—Psalm 107:1

E-mail Addresses

The Church Office is still collecting and correcting e-mail addresses from our members. If you would like to be included in various e-mail mailings, please e-mail Office@pcnv.org or call 973-538-8394.

CHURCH OFFICE

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