

THE PREAKNESS TOWER

PREAKNESS REFORMED CHURCH

131 Church Lane, Wayne, NJ 07470 Phone: 973-694-5481 Website: preaknessreformed.org

Easter



Blessings!



New Life Experiences

Over the past couple of months, I have seen and experienced so many signs of new life at PRC. I hope you did, too! ***“Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”*** (Romans 6:4a)

We all experience the newness of life in the springtime here in North Jersey. It is always a joy to say goodbye to winter and to welcome spring. Springtime brings warmer weather, flowers and trees start to bloom and the green grass grows. We spend more time outdoors and enjoy the beauty of God’s creation.

PRC has enjoyed “signs” of new life, literally. We were excited to have 3 new signs installed outdoors on our property. There is now a large sign in front of the sanctuary on Church Lane. We also have a new sign at the entrance of the cemetery and in the back of the parking lot by Fisk Road. Unfortunately, our old signs were worn, weathered and even falling apart. ***“Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”*** (II Corinthians 5:17b) We are also grateful to have our lighting fixed outside our sanctuary. Our steeple/cupola is now lit up at night. ***“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”*** (Matthew 5:17)

And speaking of good works, it was a blessing to see so many experiences of giving and blessing others throughout these past couple of months. Thank you to all of you who donated coats and clothing to Bessie Green out of the North Reformed Church in Newark. We also continue to serve lunches out of the North Reformed Church in Newark every other month. Thank you for your donations to CASA’s Open Door Store. We were blessed to have Missionary JJ TenClay who is our RCA Refugee Ministries Coordinator speak to us after worship. Then we were able to bless JJ TenClay by giving our Easter Offerings to support her important work. Our Deacons were also able to bless families in the lower part of Wayne affected by the floods of December in 2023.

Pastor Kim and I would like to thank all of you who helped plan, led, participated in and served during this season of Lent and Holy Week to make everything so special here at PRC! I am not sure what it was, but this Easter seemed different than our previous Easters. This was the first time in 8 years that Wayne schools did not have Spring Break during Holy Week. On Easter Sunday, March 31st, we welcomed a nice crowd for our outdoor service, enjoyed a wonderful breakfast and then experienced a full crowd with amazing music at our 11am worship service. This Easter felt like new life for PRC! After Jesus rose from the dead he said to his disciples, ***“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.”*** (John 20:21-22)

Join me in thanking and praising God for our new experiences and new Spirit at PRC,

PASTOR ERIC

ALL GOOD THINGS...



**Helping Hands Lunch
at Maggie's Tavern**



**JJ Tenclay, RCA Missionary, spoke
about her mission to help refugees at
our last Second Hour Conversation.**



Women's Night Out at French Oak Inn



It's a good sign.



**All hands on deck for
Bread of Life Mission!**



Let there be light!

PRC Giving and Outreach

*“I have found that among its other benefits,
giving liberates the soul of the giver.”*

- Maya Angelou

Lasagna Love in December—Many thanks to the group of PRC members who made 10 lasagnas in the PRC kitchen and delivered them to families in need of a hot meal. Lasagna Love’s mission is to “feed families, spread kindness, and strengthen communities.” You can learn more about their good works and how to get involved at lasagnalove.org.

Our Thanksgiving offerings were given to the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, whose mission is to provide New Jersey families faced with pediatric cancer a place to turn for comfort and relief through free supportive services. With your generosity, PRC was able to contribute \$2015 to their mission!

With the generosity of our congregation, PRC contributed \$3730 in Christmas offerings to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA/Humanitarian Relief Fund to help them in their efforts to provide medical aid, supplies, and logistical vehicles to those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

Our CASA collection was a great success! Pastor Eric and Pastor Kim delivered over 30 bags of donations to stock their Open Door Store!

PRC is proud to be an ongoing supporter of the Wayne Interfaith Food Pantry— It was a true group effort as 91 bags of food were collected from members by our youth and delivered to WIN by Helping Hands.

PRC was pleased to partner with Pompton Food Recovery Program to provide \$4000 in ShopRite gift cards to Wayne families who experienced extreme flooding in December.

April Birthdays

Lois Bender	3
Eric Finale	4
David Demsey	7
Talbot Weston	7
Andrew Finale	8
Justin Finale	8
Judith Donovan	15
Sophie Melissant	16
Hope Weston	16
Patricia Ratcliffe-Lee	18
Bob Anderson	19
Kelly Curtin	22
Dennis TeBeest	22
Lisa Ullman	22
Caleb King	23
Cindy Van Lunen	23
Robert Lefelar	26
Olivia Monisera	26
Nicolas DeRissio	29
Christina Gaboda	29
Michael Servideo	29
Jacob Ullman	29

May Birthdays

Effie Stern	1
Karen Baum	3
Chris Parish	5
Heather Kroll	7
Brian Tanis	9
Devin Ullman	9
Amanda Pellechia	10
Carol Galatioto	10
Donna DeBlock	18
Frank Minutolo	20
Frankie Mazzie	21
Rita Janney	22
Nancy Carlucci	25
Renee Panzitta	28
Carol Mott	29
Richard Corbo, Jr.	31

June Birthdays

Jessica Amato	1
Jasmeekah Dunkin	1
Gibson Nichols	3
Ophelia O'Brien	6
Anthony Galatioto	7
Daniel Van Lunen	11
Jerry Deplet, Jr.	12
Glenn O'Connell	15
Carter Graf	16
Maxwell Graf	16
Matt Graf	22
June Nienhouse	22
Michael Kudrik	23
Lynne Lefelar	23
Domenick Carofine, Sr	25
James McHugh	25
Meryl Ryan	25
Holly Ryan	25
Kathleen Carroll	26
Warren Hughes	28
Rick Van Lunen	30

Thank you
SO MUCH!

Our Easter offering this year is going to support JJ TenClay's ministry. JJ is our RCA Missionary Refugee Ministries Coordinator. We collected \$4189, which JJ has said will push her into a fully funded ministry for 2024 and is the single largest one-time donation that she has ever received!

Dear Friends of Preakness Reformed Church,

Thank you for inviting me to join you for a Second Hour Conversation earlier this month to share stories about my work as a missionary for RCA Global Mission, working with refugees and displaced people worldwide.

In our world today there are more than 130 million people forcibly displaced from their homes and in search of protection, a number that has grown by more than 60% in the past ten years. Now is the time for us, as Christ-followers, to put love into action for those seeking refuge—whether they live in our own communities, or live thousands of miles away. If you're interested in learning more about my work as a missionary, please visit my RCA Global Mission page at: www.rca.org/tenclay.

Thank you again for your hospitality, and may God continue to bless you and your community.

*In Deep Gratitude,
JJ TenClay, Missionary & Refugee Ministries Coordinator—RCA Global Mission*

Statement of Our Stewardship – YTD March 31, 2024

Statement of Our Stewardship for the three months ended March 31, 2024, reflects a deficit of <\$22,653> compared to Budget of \$9,466. Unfavorable to Budget of <\$32,119> is primarily attributable to payments of the Fire Alarm installation of approximately \$23,000 that was spread over the budget year plus lower pledges than budgeted. We expect pledges to catch -up next month and capital improvements to normalize.

Classical Assessment

For 2024, we must fund approximately \$17,894 to the Classis of Passaic Valley budget. Classical Assessment is \$100.00 per each confirmed member of your family so, if you and your spouse have a confirmed child – (the total amount owed is \$100.00 x 3 = \$300.00). You do not have to make the contribution in one payment even though there is only one colored envelope for the contribution. If you later make a contribution after using the colored envelope, just simply mark the envelope “Classical Assessment” so the counters know. *If you have not made your contribution towards the Classical Assessment yet, please do so by using the classical assessment envelope and contribute \$100.00 per confirmed family member and write the total amount of the check on the envelope.*

This year’s Consecrating Stewardship theme “**Thanks for Giving**” is an opportunity to give to help others as an act of faith and an act of love. Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. We give because of God’s love and promise to take care of us that we can share with others. “**Thanks for Giving.**”

Ken De Berry, Treasurer (973) 216-7365 - cell

	ACTUAL RESULTS	APPROVED BUDGET	YTD ACTIVITY		BUDGET	FAV (UNFAV)
			2023	2024		
OFFERINGS:						
Current Year Pledges	\$ 408,348	\$ 385,000	\$ 90,252	\$ 88,884	\$ 97,000	\$ (8,116)
Loose & Other Unrestricted Offerings	2,332	2,000	596	950	450	500
Classical Assessment	8,335	8,500	6,508	5,644	7,900	(2,256)
Special Offerings	7,505	5,500	500			
Total Offerings	426,520	401,000	97,856	95,478	105,350	(9,872)
Rental Income	122,014	120,176	29,106	29,986	29,970	16
Other Income -Interest	12,799	4,000	700	999	999	
Total	\$ 561,333	\$ 525,176	\$ 127,662	\$ 126,463	\$ 136,319	\$ (9,856)
PROGRAM COSTS :						
Worship	\$ 166,980	\$ 171,099	\$ 40,441	\$ 44,433	\$ 41,525	\$ (2,908)
Music	71,120	72,101	18,178	19,516	18,412	(1,104)
Christian Education	39,515	40,828	10,174	10,472	10,957	485
Parish Life	1,266	1,500	333	846	200	(646)
Care Team	-	200	-	-	0	0
Outreach	101	500	-	-	50	50
Properties	130,656	124,215	33,522	49,955	33,760	(16,195)
Administration	57,315	59,867	13,743	16,367	15,000	(1,367)
Finance	2,252	1,920	1,210	778	200	(578)
Total Programs	\$ 469,205	\$ 472,230	\$ 117,601	\$ 142,367	\$ 120,104	\$ (22,263)
Deacons/Benevolences	49,925	53,394	11,180	15,224	10,474	(4,750)
Appropriation for Benevolences	5,000	(5,000)		(4,750)	0	4,750
Appropriation for Major Repairs- Parking lot	30,000					
Unused CE Grant		(1,045)				
Appropriation for Church Signs	3,725	(3,725)		(3,725)	(3,725)	0
Appropriation for Safety Protocol equipment	(3,540)					
Total	\$ 554,315	\$ 515,854	\$ 128,781	\$ 149,116	\$ 126,853	\$ (22,263)