



The Church Mouse

Newsletter

The First Presbyterian Church of Maywood
401 Maywood Ave, Maywood, NJ 07607

August 2021

August Message:

The most frequently heard comment this summer is weather related, e.g., too hot/humid or when will it end or I don't remember any summer like this before. If we think back to a while ago maybe the phrase the "Dog days of Summer" will pop up in our memory.

These dog days of summer were explained by ancient astrologers' eons ago by noting that the hottest days of the season the sun is in the same part of the sky as **Sirius A** aka, the **Dog Star** which is part of the constellation **Canis Major**, the great Dog. Sirius is the brightest star visible from earth and these ancients thought it's shine contributed to the heat of the sun, leading to stretches of warm weather like we are tolerating now.

This period goes by the Latin title, "**dies caniculares**" for "**dog days**" and the phrase has stuck through all these years. I can't help but wonder what the ancients have planned for this winter. But be careful what you wish for, just maybe the blizzards of next winter will replace the sizzling events of this summer. Only time will tell.

Since about mid-May of this year, I have been receiving calendars for 2022 and in some cases 2 or 3 per envelope. While looking them over (they do have beautiful pictures and quotes of interest) I've noticed that for the most part the month of August is relatively free of reminder dates. The exception is the calendars sent by Veteran Organizations, which usually list anniversary dates of battles, victories, etc. The "civilian" organizations list important dates of major holidays.

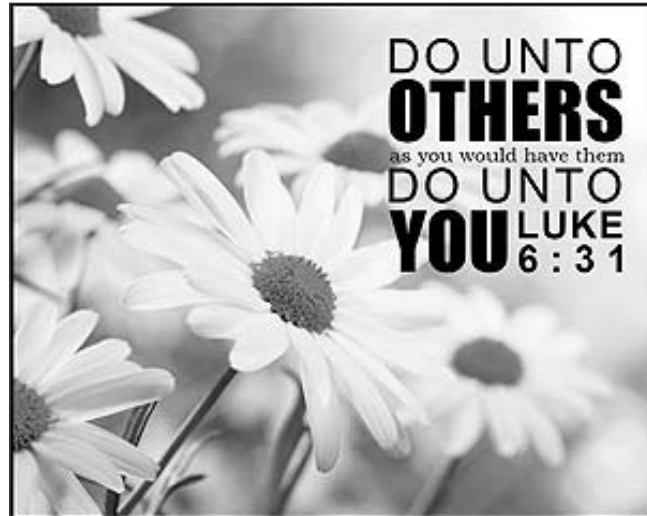
However, for reasons I don't know or can't explain, the month of **August is blank**. Therefore, I like to think that each empty calendar date block gives all of us **an opportunity to fill these spaces** with meaningful ideas or suggestions of things we can do as **disciples of God**, or Father and His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Take your calendar and begin to fill in these empty squares, starting now. Don't wait for the new year to begin.

We can list how to share God's love with others by:

1. Contacting a friend or neighbor, this would help to break periods of isolation. Use the phone or email
2. Write a note to someone, see #1 for an explanation
3. Offer to go shopping, especially for food items
4. While doing #3, pick up something for our CFA food collection
5. Share a book with someone
6. Share some of your garden crops with others. Do the same with any baked goods
7. And certainly not last or least in your endeavors, Pray. **PRAY** for those with special needs of mind, body and soul

By doing this you can use your special talents and time as an opportunity to put an emphasis on **God's love** with those we encounter. **I John 4:17** says "**We love Him, because He first loved us**". By knowing this, let us now remind ourselves of "**The Golden Rule**" with Bible reference. **Luke 6:31** "Do unto others as you would have them do to you".

To God be the glory, AMEN & AMEN....**Betty**





The Clerk's Corner

Hello, Church Family,

I hope that everyone is well and enjoying the summer.

Communication is improving in my little corner! We have had a request to use the **newer hymnal, the blue one, more often**. We have started to do this, and I reported the request in church. What else can we do to make our church more welcoming and friendly?

Our current membership stands at a tiny nineteen, and some of our long-time and devoted members are too elderly and frail to join us at worship services. We also have some very devoted friends of the church, and we appreciate you very much. We need to see more friendly faces and to hear more ideas if our beloved church is going to sustain itself in moving forward. As always, any friends of the church are welcome to become members by reaffirmation of faith. **Please see me, any member of Session, or Betty if you are interested in joining.**

At Session meetings we have been discussing how to make our church more accessible to the community. When the pandemic is essentially over (not yet!) we want to plan some family- and community-friendly ideas to show off our church to the Maywood area. We have thought of an Open House tour of our **beautiful stained-glass windows** with refreshments to follow, and a **coffee house-type event** with music and perhaps a poetry reading. We are looking for more ideas! We are also seeking suggestions on making worship more family-friendly and culturally sensitive. All ideas are welcome and will be considered. Thank you!

With hugs and prayers,
Sheryl



MEMBER UPDATES

Sheryl Heffernan-Winkler, our Clerk of Session and Music Director, is scheduled to have **shoulder replacement surgery on August 4th**. Please pray for her successful procedure and for a speedy recovery!

Chris Yang and Jackie Ryou will be getting **married this Labor Day!** Chris is a member of the **Giving Church** and is Pastor Kevin's brother in law. Chris always shares a friendly smile and lends a helping hand! We are very happy for Chris and Jackie and extend our heartfelt congratulations in wishing them a very happy wedding day and a wonderful future together!

We are pleased to report that **Steve Aletti** is recuperating really well following his heart procedures..he and **Nancy** have even been out to Church since! Terrific!

*Is there something you would like placed in this area of The Church Mouse Newsletter?
email: CarrielWerner@aol.com

Upcoming Event! The Parish Nurses Program is honoring **Rev. Dr. Peter Carey** with a luncheon on **October 16th** to be held at the **Wallington Exchange**. **Rev. Dr. Peter Carey** is the current minister at the Wallington Presbyterian Church and has served our church and assisted us in the difficult time following the passing of our minister **Rev. Dr. James Fennelly**. For more information please speak to CLP **Betty Fetzer**.

Throughout **August** we are **collecting women's and children's toiletries** to benefit **The Center for Hope and Safety**. This organization helps survivors of domestic violence. They are located in Rochelle Park and can be found on the internet at www.hopeandsafetynj.org Donations should be comprised of **new** items (**full size, not sample size**) **Toothpaste and toothbrushes, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, ladies disposable razors, bar soap, body powder, deodorant, mouthwash, body lotions or creams!** Please place your donations in the bin on the **stage**. **Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness. We continue to collect food items for the Center for Food Action too! And spare change in our Coin Jar!**

KNIT OR NOT fellowship is resuming on **September 7th from 2:30 to 4:30** in the **Church Conference Room!** So get your needles and yarn in gear! Knit or Not is a welcoming group of women comprised of members of **our church** and of our **sister churches in Moonachie and Lyndhurst** as well as friends in the **Maywood community!** You don't have to be a knitter to come by and enjoy this fun time together!



We will be receiving Communion during our Service on August 13th--and additionally, we will celebrate World Wide Communion on October 3rd. World Wide Communion Sunday is a great time to receive new members...interested? We hope so! Please speak with CLP Betty Fetzer.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

George Steger – August 5th (98 years young!)

Lise Schianchi – August 6th

Pastor Kevin Kwon – August 28th

Wishing you all a wonderful day and a great year ahead!

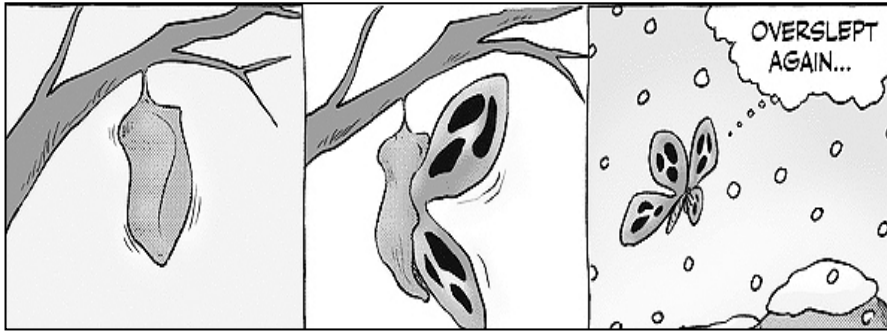
Hip Hip Hooray!! Coffee Hour has officially been reinstated effective immediately! Please remain after our Church Service to enjoy some goodies and to chat with each other! We will be hanging a signup sheet for those who will volunteer to take a turn bringing some d-lish treats on future Sundays! ☺



A very special thank you to the **very special young people** in our Church who gathered together and did a spectacular job of cleaning out our flower beds, weeding and replanting...no easy task! We're **blessed** to have you!



☺ Just for laughs ☺



Question: What do you call a *wandering Nun*?

Answer: A *roamin'* Catholic!

Thought for the month:

"The more you are motivated by love, the more fearless and free your action will be."

... Dalai Lama

