



THE TOWER

First Presbyterian Church

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IPNC/ PNC Update

I am happy to announce that through the interview process I mentioned last month. The IPNC after thoughtful consideration of the 4 strong candidates identified the Reverend Jen Van Zandt as our top candidate. Rev Jen's credentials include being the Head of Staff at the First Presbyterian Church of Boonton since 2007. In meeting with Rev. Jen, her passion for fostering church vitality through intergenerational relations, creative worship services and meaningful stewardship education spoke loudly to the committee and the challenges we are facing. She is not only an ordained minister but was a successful President/ CEO of her own coaching and training organization before deciding to become a minister. Her excitement for what she could already envision as we described our community and thoughts on how we wanted to see ourselves was contagious and invigorating. Rev. Jen's guidance and support will help unify our voice as we move forward in defining what we want this church to be in the future and what we are looking for as we continue the journey to find the next permanent Installed Head of Staff. I am personally very excited for you all to meet Rev. Jen.

-Kris Ruebling-Jass, Chair

Meet Our New Bridge Pastor, Rev. Jen Van Zandt



Jen Van Zandt has been the Head of Staff at the First Presbyterian Church of Boonton since 2007. She is passionate about church vitality through intergenerational relationships, creative worship and meaningful stewardship education especially for generations X, Y and Z. She is a former Chair of the Presbytery Stewardship Committee, was the Presbytery Moderator (2010) and also served as a Presbytery trustee for 6 years. Jen offers training and coaching for churches and Presbyteries on Generational Stewardship Strategies. She is also a seasoned retreat leader for small groups, church-wide and women's retreats. Before her ordained life in ministry, Jen was Pres/CEO of Bullseye Training, Inc., a coaching and training organization. Jen has a BA in Speech Communication and a Minor in voice from Ithaca College and an M Div. from

Princeton Seminary.

Distortion Band Will Play Sunday, June 11th

Due to a schedule change for June, the Band will play on June 11th and the Choir will sing the other Sundays.

Father's Day Is June 18th

Please join us as we celebrate Father's Day Sunday with Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Sushama Austin-Connor. A small gift will be presented to all men in attendance that day, thanks to Lisa Guida and the Outreach Committee. This is also the first Sunday that Rev. Jen will be with us, so please be sure to introduce yourself!

Vacation Bible Study – "Babylon": Daniel's Courage in Captivity



Calling all students and friends! Come, and enjoy VBS!

Wednesday, June 28th through Friday, June 30th - 9am-Noon

Please see Mrs. Guida to register for this fun event.

Bring a Bathing Suit and towel for some water fun at the Parish House. Each day includes a Bible Story, themed activity, craft and healthy snack.

Our Bridge Pastor is Coming

“And to some, the gift they were given is that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors, and teachers. These gifts were given to equip fully the holy ones for the work of service, and to build up the body of Christ—until we all attain unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Only Begotten of God, until we become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”.

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

After months of diligent work, interviews, much reading and discernment, the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC) has selected the Rev. Jennifer Van Zandt, M.Div. as the Bridge Pastor for the Springfield Presbyterian Church. Please take a moment to thank Kris Ruebling-Jass and the other members of the IPNC for their incredible work. The IPNC’s recommendation was approved unanimously by Session and ratified by the Presbytery and now we can all rejoice that the Holy Spirit sent us Pastor Jenn.

Rev. Van Zandt first day will be June 13th and her first Sunday is June 18th. She is a Presbyterian minister with an MDiv from Princeton Seminary, and with an impeccable and impressive resume covering ministry at the parish and Presbytery level, as well as training and coaching in the private sector. Please read the announcement that Kris wrote as chair of the IPNC where she discusses Rev. Van Zandt’s background.

Pastor Jenn and I will work side by side to serve the congregation, our larger community, to equip the church for the work of service, and to build up the Body of Christ. If you had a chance to hear the sermon on Ascension Sunday (May 21st) you heard me quote St. Teresa of Avila and remind us that Jesus has no body on earth but ours, no hands to do good, no feet to walk the extra mile, no eyes to see the needs, but ours and ours alone.

So, this is my invitation to the congregation. Welcome Pastor Jenn as our teacher, our minister, and our guide. Welcome her with open arms as the partner in ministry this church needs right now to lead us to where we have not been before, which is tomorrow.

Prayer: Holy One, your Holy Spirit has been active in our faith community, leading the decisions and pointing the way. Give us the strength to follow the lead, to renew our commitment to be the Body of Christ in this particular place at this precise time. Amen

A Moment For History

June 23, 2022 is the 242nd anniversary of the Battle of Springfield which was literally fought on the church's front lawn! As we recall each year, 1500 Continental Soldiers and local militia thwarted the 5000 British and Hessian Soldiers who were attempting to reach Washington's Army in Morristown. The resistance was unexpected by the British Commander and orders to retreat to Staten Island kept the enemy from reaching their objective. Unfortunately, as was their practice, the British burned what they could as they retreated, leaving only 4 homes standing in Springfield. They attempted to torch the Parsonage, but the flaming furniture was thrown from the home and extinguished. The church, which was used to store supplies for the army, was burned down to its stone foundation. Worship was moved to the barn behind the parsonage prior to the battle, and continued there until the church was rebuilt in 1791.

Most local residents are familiar with the historic recounting of the battle, which includes Rev. James Caldwell of Elizabethtown, who was a Chaplain and Quartermaster in Washington's Army, collecting the Isaac Watts Hymnals from the church, tossing them to the soldiers to use for musket wadding, shouting, "Give 'em Watts, boys! Put Watts into them!"

There is a famous painting by John Ward Dunsmore in Fraunces Tavern in NY that depicts this scene. A copy of it, along with an Isaac Watts Hymnal (author of "Joy to the World" and many other familiar hymns) and original key to the church is on display in the case behind our AV equipment in the sanctuary.

We recount this story each year, not only because of the historic value, but also because this community and this congregation showed resilience and persevered to rebuild their homes, community and house of worship instead of giving up and moving away. This church is the icon of the community! She stands tall to welcome all!



Photo courtesy of Fraunce's Tavern

June Birthdays

2 – Ken Bogden, Sue Bogden
5- Angela Ruebling- Jass
6- Gladys Gieser
14- Deborah Biber
15- Helmut Grimm
20- Jack Tyler Bliss
21 – Theresa Werner

July Birthdays

1- Avery Sarno
2- Linda Jurczak
7- Ken Bogden, Jr.
9- Danielle Guida Priest
10- Karon Williams
12- Amy Donnelly
26 – Carol Johannsen
29 – Gloria Southward



Three 50 Year+ members prepare to cut the celebratory cake with Rev. Fois on May 21st.



June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	2	3
4 Communion Wor- ship 10:15am-Rev. Fois	5	6	7	8 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	9	10
11 Worship Service 10:15am—Rev. Macari	12	13 Welcome, Rev. Jen Van Zandt!	14	15	16	17
18 Worship Service— 10:15am—Rev. Dr. Austin-Conner	19	20	21	22 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	23 243rd Anniv. Of the Battle of Springfield	24
25 Worship Service— 10:15am—Rev. Dr. Kirk Johnson	26	27	28	29	30	
			Vacation Bible Study Wed—Fri, 9am– Noon—Parish House			

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*No Matter who you are or where you are in
 your life's journey, You are welcome here!*





Beloved children

God our heavenly Father loves us so much that he calls us his.

Directions: Follow the instructions below. Then read the remaining words, going across the rows from left to right, to complete 2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV.

- Cross out the opposite of blessings.
- Cross out the opposite of found.
- Cross out the disciple who betrayed Jesus.
- Cross out a word for disobeying God.
- Cross out the opposite of love.
- Cross out an animal.
- Cross out a word for jail.
- Cross out a place.
- Cross out what happened to Jesus.
- Cross out a book of the Bible.
- Cross out the opposite of friends.

I	enemies	will	be	Judas
hate	a	Father	to	serpent
you	and	you	will	crucified
cursings	be	my	sons	and
sin	Golgotha	daughters	says	the
Lamentations	prison	Lord	Almighty	lost

Answer: "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV

THE FIRST CONGREGATION
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT SPRINGFIELD
37 CHURCH MALL
SPRINGFIELD, NJ 07081

stamp

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE LABEL HERE

**No matter who you are,
or where you are in your life's journey,
you are welcome here.**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRAYS - We meet via Zoom for 20-30 min to pray for each other, the needs of the world, our country, state, county and town and for any other good reason. Meeting ID: 869 4129 7429 Passcode: 411879 One tap mobile +13092053325,,86941297429#,,,,*411879# US Please join us via video or phone **each Monday at 8:00am and Friday at 4:00pm.** **Prayer Works!**

The link for the meeting is as follows:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86941297429?pwd=bkxBTzNSVk1yT09TdWZxTXFSS0dGdz09>