

# Perspective

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church  
of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

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First Presbyterian Church  
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania  
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## From the Pastor

### Genesis 41

<sup>28</sup> It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. <sup>29</sup> There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt. <sup>30</sup> After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land. <sup>31</sup> The plenty will no longer be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, for it will be very grievous. <sup>32</sup> And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about. <sup>33</sup> Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning and wise and set him over the land of Egypt. <sup>34</sup> Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years. <sup>35</sup> Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. <sup>36</sup> That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine."

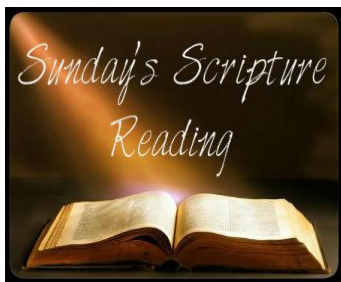
There were, in the time of Pharaoh as in every time, years of plenty and lean years. If one was able to predict the coming lean years, it was a huge advantage, because it would be easier to plan for them. Pharaoh is given a dream that only Joseph could interpret properly as a way to not only care for Egypt but also care for Joseph and the Hebrew refugees as well, because the famine would extend beyond Egypt (the breadbasket of the ancient world) to affect its neighbors. If the Hebrews alone had stored up food for the famine years, Egypt and other more powerful neighbors would just have come and taken it, but with Egypt storing up for the famine, it and its neighbors could survive.

As we continue to work to address the financial challenges FPC is facing, the Session has been meeting with Rev. Dr. Rose Niles from the Presbyterian Foundation. The Foundation is one of the six branches of the PCUSA General Assembly, along with groups like the Board of Pensions, the Mission Agency, and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Rev. Dr. Niles' speciality and area of expertise is in helping churches facing hard financial times - which, right now, includes most churches. Fifty years of diminishing attendance and the additional shock of COVID have meant that, as a congregation facing financial challenges, we are quite average, in Donegal Presbytery and around the US. Rev. Dr. Niles is helping us reimagine our relationship to our resources, and the way that we ask for support from the congregation. More than anything else, she is encouraging us to link how we use our resources directly to our vision and mission for the congregation as a whole. Through something like our budget, we should be able to tell a story of who we are and what we value. This year, the Session is taking this challenge on as we work on the budget for next year, which means changing the way we have done things for well over a hundred years. Not easy.

It's much easier to survive and thrive if we have a powerful story. Imagine if Pharaoh had just imposed a 20% grain tax throughout his empire, just in case there are lean times ahead. There would have been widespread bitterness and resistance, and it would have made surviving the lean times much more tenuous. But instead, what Pharaoh has is a story. This foreigner, Joseph, betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery, is the only one who could interpret prophetic dreams that Pharaoh was having. These dreams are a warning sent by Joseph's god, predicting seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. His brothers conspired, saying "We shall kill the dreamer, and see what becomes of his dreams." And then here is their answer - the survival of nations in a time of famine.

That's a powerful story - so powerful that, while I imagine very few of you can name a single Egyptian story from the time of the Pharaohs, we know this story of Joseph from a people so insignificant that they didn't yet have a name. So, in the second half of this year, the Session plans to work with Rev. Dr. Niles and the congregation as a whole in learning to tell our story more effectively. What do we value as a congregation? Why do people volunteer when and where they do? Why are we still here after 175 years, and what do we want to do in the coming years? Because surviving, and thriving, often depends on our story.

Sincerely,  
*Pastor Doug*



### Upcoming Scripture Readings

- June 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Acts 10:44-48; 1 John 5:1-6
- June 9<sup>th</sup>:** Psalm 1:1-6; 1 John 5:9-13;
- June 16<sup>th</sup>:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-18
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Isaiah 6:1-8; John 3:1-10
- June 30<sup>th</sup>:** 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 1 Samuel 19:1-7, 1 Samuel 20, 1 Samuel 20:16-17, 1 Samuel 20:41-42; 2 Samuel 1:17-27

**July 7<sup>th</sup>:** 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

**July 14<sup>th</sup>:** 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

**July 21<sup>st</sup>:** Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**July 28<sup>th</sup>:** Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

### Pastor's Schedule

Sundays Away	Guest Preachers
June 23	Rev. Charlie Gross
July 7	Sue Casey
July 14	Sue Casey

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## From the Clerk of Session

- ❖ Average Sunday morning attendance:
  - April we had an average of 72 worshipping in person and an average of 13 households viewing the 10:30am YouTube premiere with 4 *chatting*.
  - May we had an average of 71 worshipping in person and an average of 16 households viewing the 10:30am YouTube premiere with 4 *chatting*.
- ❖ The Life of the church
  - Death:
    - Kathryn Grocki (member/Elder/Deacon) passed on April 1, 2024. Memorial service was held on April 10 in the sanctuary. Internment at Valley Forge Chapel immediately following the service. A reception followed in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Hagler officiated.
  - Baptism:
    - Penelope Hagler received the sacrament of Baptism on Pentecost. Poppy is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Doug Hagler.
  - Roll changes
    - New members received on Pentecost:
      - By Letter of Transfer - Jim and Judith Davidson from The Community Presbyterian Church, Ringwood, NJ.
      - By Reaffirmation of Faith – Angela Carles and Cory Bardsley
      - Confirmands by Affirmation of Faith – Dahlia Gulden, Penelope Hagler, Evan Lewis, Grant Murphy, Tim Murphy, and Luke Walker.
  - Current membership is 170.
- ❖ Communion was celebrated:
  - Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> Pentecost when approximately 75 people were served.
- ❖ Session Meeting Information
  - From the March 26<sup>th</sup> Stated Session Meeting:
    - Motion from MAC Committee Listen In Event on June 1. Approved with 1 abstaining.
    - Motion from MAC Committee to have QQR Code for giving in the pews. Approved with one abstaining.
    - Approval for baptism of Carter Hobbins. Approved unanimously.

Jewell Baker, Clerk of Session

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## People to People MaxSold Auction

There is a new auction up and running **now through Wed. June 5th**. The auction can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/P2PMay2024Auction>, or scan the QR Code. The inventory includes quilts, cookware, entertaining supplies, electronics, toys, clothing, decorations, jewelry and much more! Pick up is Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 - 11:30 AM at the church or by special arrangement. Thank you for your support by looking often and bidding. All proceeds benefit our feeding and clothing ministry at the church.





## Sunday School

The final regular Sunday School classes for the current school year were held on May 5.

On May 12, Sunday School children played an active role in the worship service, providing readings and prayers, plus serving as greeters and ushers. The kids did a fabulous job “running the show.” Thanks to all who participated and to parents who helped children prepare their readings.

May 12 was also Teacher Appreciation Sunday. Our teachers were recognized and presented with flowers as tokens of appreciation for all of their amazing work as part of the education program (for both children and adults) at First Presbyterian Church.

Confirmation of new members took place on Sunday, May 19. In addition to a group-led Affirmation of Faith, each confirmand shared a personal Statement of Faith which was prepared as part of the year-long Confirmation Class. In their statements, our new members expressed some impressive insights and goals for their on-going participation in the life of our church.

Upcoming events for both children and adults:

- Board Game Night on Friday, May 31: <https://bit.ly/MayGameNight2024>
- VBS Drama Workshop from June 24 to June 27 (6 to 8 p.m. each evening): <https://bit.ly/vbs-drama-workshop>
- Family Outing (picnic, games, hiking, etc.) at Charlestown Township Park on Sunday afternoon, July 21.
- The MAC Committee is coordinating a Bread for the World “Listen In Session” for Saturday, August 3 (10 a.m. to noon), which will include activities and advocacy opportunities for children. The overall focus will be on ways that we, as a Christian community, can act and advocate on behalf of our poor and hungry neighbors. Stay tuned for more information and sign-up instructions.

Additional events will be planned for the summer months, with details to follow.

A key factor contributing to the success of our Sunday School program is our talented and energetic crew of Sunday School teachers. So, whenever you get a chance, **thank a teacher!**

If you have any questions about Sunday School, contact Jeff McLaughlin at [fpcchildrenandyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fpcchildrenandyouth@gmail.com). Also, we will be looking for additional volunteers to help with the program in the fall.\* Again, contact Jeff McLaughlin at the email address above.

\* ... and this includes dads!

*Jeff McLaughlin, Children & Youth Coordinator*

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# Parish Life

Save the last Sunday of the month for after church fun!



The Parish Life Committee is working on bringing back the Strawberry Festival, hosting an Olympic style event sharing your favorite French cuisine, having an after church Hot Dog Party on the lawn, and the return of September Salads, Oktoberfest, and a Pot Luck dinner! Caroling and Cocoa will be back on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Hope you will join us!

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## Prayer Chain & Prayer Requests

Please send any prayer needs to Sandy Schrack at [fpcprayerchain2@gmail.com](mailto:fpcprayerchain2@gmail.com). Your request will be distributed to FPC's prayer angels. Their silent efforts will be put to work to lift you up. The same email address can be used for anyone wishing to join the prayer team.



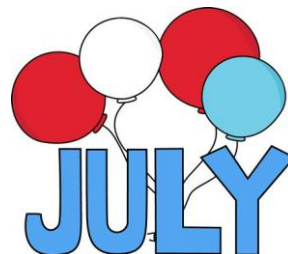
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## Stewardship Committee Notes

### Scrip Gift Cards

Orders for gift cards must be received by the following **Mondays, June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to place an order, please call or text Lynne Williams at 610-955-4749 (cell), or send an email to [brettdrew@comcast.net](mailto:brettdrew@comcast.net). Retailer lists are available in the narthex and the church office. We will complete the order forms for you. Please make checks payable to “**First Presbyterian Church DR**”. As always, a percentage of each card benefits our church. **Thank you** for continuing to support this program!

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## Worship and Music Notes

### Music

You have two pick up choir opportunities in June. They are June 2 and 23. Just be at the piano in the sanctuary at 9:45 AM to practice.

The Praise Team has a different look with a summertime shake-up. Rehearsals have started. They are on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM for that following Sunday only. No long term commitments are necessary. Newcomers can choose to lend their talent for just one week or many weeks. Please reach out to Sarah at [sarahsjs14@gmail.com](mailto:sarahsjs14@gmail.com) if you are interested, or meet to practice in the sanctuary on an upcoming Wednesday at 7:00 PM.

Our Music Director, Diane Legnini, will be away during July and August. We are grateful that Cathy Walker and Ken Brown will be sharing their musical talents in Diane's absence.

### Worship

Instead of Communion being served on the first Sunday in June, our shared meal will be celebrated on Sunday, the 16<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the recognition of Juneteenth. After that, the next Communion Sunday will be August 4<sup>th</sup>.

In June, Pastor Doug will be away on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Rev. Charlie Gross will return as our guest preacher that day. Then, in July, Sue Casey will lead worship on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

If you are in town on a Sunday, come over to worship in our cool sanctuary. If you are not in town, look for a church to visit where you are.

See you in church!

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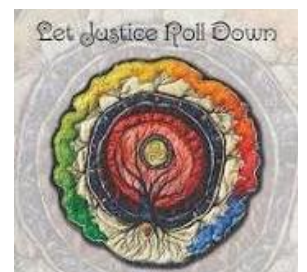
### Men's Group

Join the Men's Group on the 3rd Sunday of each month after church for lunch and discussion.

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### Presbyterian Women's Circle

In September we and will begin the 2024-2025 study *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. All women are invited to attend Circle meeting on the third Sunday each month beginning in September. 2024-2025 Study guides will be ordered in July so please see Jewell Baker if you would like one.



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### Personnel Committee

The Personnel committee is interested in receiving feedback from the congregation about our staff's performance. Please feel free to email Jean Osterhoudt ([jeanoster@comcast.net](mailto:jeanoster@comcast.net)) or any committee member with your thoughts. Matters could be voiced at an upcoming meeting. The next one is set for Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

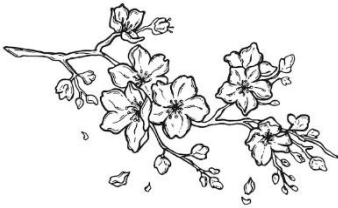


## The Deacons' Dialogue

[From *Our Daily Bread*] Sweetly fragrant cherry tree blossoms flood Japan with pale and vibrant pinks every spring, delighting the senses of residents and tourists alike. The short-lived nature of the blossoms cultivates a keen awareness to savor the beauty and scent while they linger; the very brevity of the experience heightens the poignancy of it. They call this deliberate enjoyment of something that will change quickly “mono-no-aware”.

As humans, it's understandable that we'd want to seek and prolong feelings of joy. Yet the reality that life is riddled with hardship means we must cultivate the ability to view both pain and pleasure through a lens of faith in a loving God.... Joy comes when we ask God to help us “know wisdom” and learn to observe “all that God has done” (Ecclesiastes 8:16-17) in both beautiful seasons and in difficult ones, knowing that neither is permanent on this side of heaven.

*Dear Father, thank you for being the source of beauty and joy in my life.*



Your deacons wish you a summer full of joy and beautiful experiences with family, friends and loved ones. And as a reminder, our sanctuary flowers are available to share beyond our congregation; please tell a deacon if you know someone whose spirits would be lifted with a bouquet and we'll prepare it for you!

### BOARD OF DEACONS

#### Class of 2024

Kristin Craven

Gail Landazuri

Mona Sabia

OPEN

#### Class of 2025

Paulette Mark

Lucinda Parrish

Lynne Williams

OPEN

#### Class of 2026

Rebecca Barkley

Jen Johnson

Amy Mincavage

Gail Schnaedter



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<i>P2P MaxSold Auction</i> 1 9:30a Zumba
<i>P2P MaxSold Auction</i> 2 <i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 8:30a Bible Study <b>10:30a Worship</b> 12:00p Deacons' Mtg	<i>P2P MaxSold Auction</i> 3 <i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 6:30p Zumba 7:00p Queer Circle	<i>P2P MaxSold Auction</i> 4 <i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i>  6:30p Zumba	<i>P2P MaxSold Auction</i> 5 <i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 11:00a Music Ministry 12:30p Jazz Rehearsal 2:00p Trumpets 7:00p Praise Team	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 6 9:00a WIC 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 10:00a People to People Food Ministry	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 7 9:00a WIC	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 8 10-11:30a P2P Auction Pick-Up 9:30a-5:00p Mosaic Music Recital 12p-5:00p Pride Fest
<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 9 8:30a Bible Study <b>10:30a Worship</b> 12:00p Worship & Music 7:00p Pub Theology	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 10 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 6:30p Zumba 7:00p Finance Meeting	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 11  6:30p Zumba 7:00p Personnel Meeting	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 12 10:00a MAC 11:00a Music Ministry 12:30p Jazz Rehearsal 2:00p Trumpets 7:00p Praise Team	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 13 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 10:00a People to People Food Ministry 7:00p Compassionate Friends	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 14 10:00a Grant Writing 11:00a Church Growth	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 15 9:30a Zumba
<i>Father's Day</i> 16 <b>10:30a Worship with communion &amp; Juneteenth Recognition</b> 12:00p Men's Group	<i>Father's Day</i> 17 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 6:30p Zumba	<i>Father's Day</i> 18  6:30p Zumba 7:30p Property Meeting	<i>Father's Day</i> 19 11:00a Music Ministry 12:30p Jazz Rehearsal 2:00p Trumpets 7:00p Praise Team	<i>Father's Day</i> 20 9:00a WIC 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 10:00a People to People Food Ministry	<i>Father's Day</i> 21 9:00a WIC	<i>Father's Day</i> 22
9:45a Pick-Up Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30a Worship- Guest Preacher: Rev. Charlie Gross</b>	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 24 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 6:00p-8:00p VBS/Drama Workshop 6:30p Zumba 7:00p Queer Circle	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 25  6:00p-8:00p VBS/Drama Workshop 6:30p Zumba	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 26  6:00p-8:00p VBS/Drama Workshop 7:00p Praise Team	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 27 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 10:00a People to People Food Ministry 6:00p-8:00p VBS/Drama Workshop	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 28	<i>Ann's Heart Food Drive</i> 29
<b>10:30a Worship</b> 30						

July 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 6:30p Zumba	2 6:30p Zumba	3 7:00p Praise Team	4 <i>Independence Day</i> 9:00a WIC	5 9:00a WIC	6 9:30a Zumba
7 <b>10:30a Worship with Sue Casey</b>  7:00p Antiracism Book Club	8 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry  6:30p Zumba 7:00p Finance Meeting	9 6:30p Zumba 7:00p Personnel Meeting	10 10:00a MAC  7:00p Praise Team	11 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 10:00a People to People Food Ministry 7:00p Compassionate Friends	12 10:00a Grant Writing 11:00a Church Growth	13
14 <b>10:30a Worship with Sue Casey</b>  7:00p Pub Theology	15 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 6:30p Zumba	16 6:30p Zumba 7:30p Property Meeting	17 7:00p Praise Team	18 9:00a WIC 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 10:00a People to People Food Ministry	19 9:00a WIC	20 9:30a Zumba
21 <b>10:30a Worship</b> 12:00p Men's Group Time TBD: Picnic Outing at Charlestown Park	22 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 12:30p Staff Meeting 6:30p Zumba 7:00p Queer Circle	23 6:30p Zumba 7:00p Session Meeting	24 7:00p Praise Team	25 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 10:00a People to People Food Ministry	26	27
28 <b>10:30a Worship</b>  7:00p Antiracism Book Club	29 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 6:30p Zumba	30 6:30p Zumba	31 7:00p Praise Team			