



## PREAKNESS REFORMED CHURCH

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## THE PREAKNESS TOWER WINTER 2025

### Did you go to Church? You are the Church? Churching?

I am sure you have heard this phrase before, “We don’t go to church” but rather, “We are the church.” I also had a New Testament professor who used to say, “The Gospel is in the verbs!” Meaning the Gospels didn’t just simply declare that Jesus is the Son of God or that Jesus is the Messiah, but rather the Gospels share the stories and actions of Jesus. In the Gospels we see and experience Jesus teaching, healing, listening, blessing, feeding, praying, forgiving, suffering, dying, resurrecting, reaching across boundaries, and making God’s love real in people’s difficult lives. So maybe the church is not a noun, it’s not a place, maybe the Church is a verb?

In this newsletter you will see pictures and hear stories of Preakness Reformed Church...churching. Is “churching” a real verb and word? Not sure, but thank you for not just *going* to church but rather *being* the church. Listen to all these verbs in the next paragraph. Thank you to our ushers for ushering, thank you to our coffee servers for serving and thank you to our repass team for offering such great hospitality. Thank you to our musicians for making beautiful music, thank you to our liturgists and worship hosts for speaking and leading in worship. Thank you to our tech team for livestreaming our worship services, weddings, and funerals. Thank you for giving to the RISE Fundraiser, for giving to the Thanksgiving Collection, for giving to the Christmas Offering and for being generous to PRC in 2024. Thank you to our deacons for “deeking,” to our elders for “eldering,” and to our Care Team for “caring.”

As we have entered into this new year, I wanted to ask you, “How will you be churching?” What verb action will you be involved in when it comes to being the church? For we all have been given gifts, and no matter who we are, we all can offer something. If you need help with this, I encourage you to read the Gospels and look for the verbs. I am sure you will find verbs like these: pray, rejoice, encourage, offer, remember, imagine, love, share, embrace, give, rest, be. When you find a verb in the Gospels, ask yourself, “Can I engage in this kind of action?” I hope and pray we all do!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Eric

*“Don’t tell me what you believe; tell me what difference it makes that you believe.”*

*Teacher and Theologian Verna Dozier*

## Risingville Community Cider and Donuts Fundraiser



Thank you to all who ordered cider and donuts in support of the Risingville Intercommunity Service Effort. Your orders raised funds that will sustain their mission to work and serve members of the community.

*Pictured:*

*Brian Tanis, Risingville board member;  
Dan O'Connell, PRC Youth Leader;  
Miss Meagan, RISE ministry*

## PRC Special Offerings

Once again, the PRC congregation gave generously in support of two special causes last year.

Our Thanksgiving offerings of \$1898 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.

Our Christmas offerings of \$4000 were given to the Red Cross—North Carolina Region in support of continued relief efforts in Asheville and surrounding areas that experienced severe damage to their infrastructure and over 1000 homes.

## Some news from the Passaic Valley Classis...



Rev. Dr. Karyn Ratcliffe who grew up in PRC was inspired to be a minister by watching and looking up to the Rev. Mary Marcus. Rev. Dr. Ratcliffe was ordained in the Preakness Reformed Church and went on to serve at the Packanack Community Church and as a Chaplain at Cedar Crest. It came full circle when Preakness Reformed Church hosted the Classis meeting on October 22, 2024; in the same sanctuary where Karyn was ordained, Rev. Ratcliffe was declared officially retired by the Classis. Thanks be to God for Karyn's years of service to the church!



The Passaic Valley Classis held another meeting on January 28, 2025, at the Reformed Church in Kinnelon. During the worship service, the Classis installed our very own Rev. Kim Pavlovich as President. Please say a prayer of blessing for Kim as she serves as our Pastor and as President of the Classis.

In other news, the Preakness Reformed Church will be hosting the Regional Synod of Mid-Atlantics Annual Meeting on Saturday May 10, 2025.



Soup's on! We held our Annual Congregation Meeting and Soup Luncheon on November 17, 2024. Many thanks to our speakers and luncheon organizers for a wonderful gathering.



January was a time of thanks for our hard-working and dedicated Helping Hands crew. Bill and Marty Mariniello pulled out all the stops and provided an excellent breakfast that was appreciated by all.





*Tis!  
The  
Season*



# Birthday Blessings

## January Birthdays

Dave Panzitta	4
Patricia Lynch	6
Kenneth Vander Pyl	7
David Vanderbush	9
Chuck Donovan	10
Carol Lukacs	10
Juliette Panzitta	13
Lauren Tiers	13
Linda Ullman	13
David Bach	15
Douglas Finale	15
Nancy Pier Sindt	15
Andrew Graf	16
Bruce Hinners	20
Linette Bley	21
Tania Janney	25
Hannah Kudrik	27
Michael De Block	31
Hazel Hinners	31

## February Birthdays

Ellen Contino	1
Carol Huff	9
Christopher Andersen	10
Roger Miller	10
David Monisera	13
Kylee Nichols	13
Tania Gill	15
Erica Andersen	16
Juliana Struyk	16
Parker Weston	19
Suzanne Schadel	21
Carl Mazzie	22
Erin Ryan	22
Andrea Andersen	24
Mary Marcus	26
Nicholas Walker Post	26
Cathy Tanis	26
Barbara Baum	28

## March Birthdays

Christa DeRissio	6
Peggy Carroll	8
Gwen Kievit	9
Brian Carlucci	11
Daniel Kudrik	12
Charles Schmitt	12
Marty Mariniello	15
Brandon DeLeonardo	16
Elizabeth Finale	18
Peter Kudrik	18
Gayle Reed	18
Lyla Graf	21
Florence Heiser	19
Dan O'Connell	22
June Jesch	21
Sadie Nichols	23
John Kievit	24
Madison Servideo	24
Brodie Tanis	27



The PRC Care Team is a dedicated volunteer group that focuses on living out their faith through caring for those in our midst. Our members stay connected with fellow parishioners throughout the year, offering good wishes of support and encouragement and let them know they are loved and in our thoughts. The team also checks in to see if members need assistance from the church, such as meals, a helping hand, or spiritual support. Through their kindness and outreach, they help foster a strong sense of community and faith within the congregation. If you'd like to get involved, contact Pastor Kim at [kim-prc303@gmail.com](mailto:kim-prc303@gmail.com) or 973-694-5481.

## STATEMENT OF OUR STEWARDSHIP – YTD DECEMBER 31, 2024

The statement of Our Stewardship for the year ended December 31, 2024, reflects a surplus of \$10,137 compared to the Budget of \$9,322. We were favorable to Budget of \$815 primarily attributable to higher Current Year Offerings offset in part by higher payments made on the Fire Alarm installation this year. Thank you for your faithful giving and generosity.

### CLASSICAL ASSESSMENT

For 2025, we must fund approximately \$17,725 to the Classis of Passaic Valley budget. Classical Assessment is \$100 per each *confirmed* member of your family, i.e. for a married couple and a confirmed child, the total amount would be \$300. There is a yellow Classical Assessments envelope available to members; if you later contribute 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 per confirmed family member and write the total amount of the check on the envelope. This year’s Consecrating Stewardship theme “Do Not be Afraid to Give” is an opportunity to give to help others as an act of faith and an act of love. God knows and loves us and wants us to do the right thing by keep giving. “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. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” *2 Corinthians 9:7-8*

Ken De Berry, Treasurer

	ACTUAL RESULTS	APPROVED BUDGET	YTD ACTIVITY			FAV (UNFAV)
			2023	2024	Dec - 23	
<b>OFFERINGS:</b>						
Current Year Pledges	\$ 408,348	\$ 385,000	\$ 408,348	\$ 398,071	\$ 385,000	\$ 13,071
Loose & Other Unrestricted Offerings	2,332	2,000	2,332	4,341	2,000	2,341
Classical Assessment	8,335	8,500	8,335	7,444	8,500	(1,056)
Special Offerings	7,505	5,500	7,505	10,237	5,500	4,737
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>426,520</b>	<b>401,000</b>	<b>426,520</b>	<b>420,093</b>	<b>401,000</b>	<b>19,093</b>
Rental Income	122,014	120,176	122,014	120,896	120,176	720
Other Income -Interest	12,799	4,000	12,799	4,000	4,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 561,333</b>	<b>\$ 525,176</b>	<b>\$ 561,333</b>	<b>\$ 544,989</b>	<b>\$ 525,176</b>	<b>\$ 19,813</b>
<b>PROGRAM COSTS :</b>						
Worship	\$ 166,980	\$ 171,099	\$ 166,980	\$ 171,017	\$ 171,099	\$ 82
Music	71,120	72,101	71,120	73,180	72,101	(1,079)
Christian Education	39,515	40,828	39,515	40,307	40,828	521
Parish Life	1,266	1,500	1,266	1,726	1,500	(226)
Care Team	-	200	-	54	200	146
Outreach	101	500	101	-	500	500
Properties	130,656	124,215	130,656	139,749	124,215	(15,534)
Administration	57,315	59,867	57,315	59,634	59,867	233
Finance	2,252	1,920	2,252	2,143	1,920	(223)
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>\$ 469,205</b>	<b>\$ 472,230</b>	<b>\$ 469,205</b>	<b>\$ 487,810</b>	<b>\$ 472,230</b>	<b>\$ (15,580)</b>
Deacons/Benevolences	49,925	53,394	49,925	57,881	53,394	(4,487)
Appropriation for Benevolences	5,000	(5,000)	5000	(4,750)	(5,000)	(250)
Appropriation for Major Repairs- Parking lot	30,000		30,000			
Unused CE Grant		(1,045)		(842)	(1,045)	(203)
Appropriation for Church Signs	3,725	(3,725)	3,725	(3,725)	(3,725)	0
Appropriation for Safety Protocol equipment	(3,540)		(3,540)	(1,522)		1,522
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 554,315</b>	<b>\$ 515,854</b>	<b>554,315</b>	<b>\$ 534,852</b>	<b>\$ 515,854</b>	<b>\$ (18,998)</b>
<b>Current Year Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 7,018</b>	<b>\$ 9,322</b>	<b>\$ 7,018</b>	<b>\$ 10,137</b>	<b>\$ 9,322</b>	<b>\$ 815</b>



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1798—2025