

# News From the Pews

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 6  
NOVEMBER 2024

REFORMED CHURCH OF FREEHOLD  
WELCOMING ALL, BUILDING COMMUNITY, FOLLOWING CHRIST

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## Worship and Music

October was a significant month for us as we celebrated Pastor Appreciation Month. On October 20, we came together for a special luncheon following the service to express our gratitude. We want to extend

a heartfelt Thank You to Pastor David, not just for his dedication in October but for his unwavering support and hard work throughout the year. We also appreciate

all the church members who attended and

brought items to share. Your presence and contributions made the celebration truly special.



Readers and Greeters are still sought for Sunday services. Would you consider signing up for one of these jobs? Contact Lauren in the church office if you would like to participate. The organ repairs are currently stalled due to an electrical problem. While the organ tuner/repair person searches for a suitable solution, we still enjoy Andrew Rosenkilde playing piano weekly for our services. Thank you, Andrew!

## Building Note

Thanks to Fred Fiorentino for completing repairs to the exterior roof over the Fire Exit Emergency stairwell off Fellowship Hall. A motion sensor light has also been installed at the base of the stairwell.

## CROP Walk



Thanks to everyone who participated in the CROP Walk through walking, fundraising, or donating. This year's walk was sponsored by the NY Giants and a Representative from their office attended the event. Contributions so far come to \$26,488. CONGRATULATIONS, you did a great job! Freehold Area Open Door and the Emergency Housing and Assistance Program count on this support. It makes a difference for them! CROP Walk organiz-

ers extended a special thanks to Freehold Reformed for hosting. THANK YOU for your faithful commitment to feeding our neighbors. If anyone is interested in helping organize the CROP Walk next year, please let Pat Medley know.

## Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, "Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement. ... get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed." When I read it while sitting quietly in a comfortable chair and a cup of coffee I say, "Yes, Amen." When I run across it in the middle of a hectic and frustrating day I think, "he didn't mean a day like this!" How can anyone be amazed at bills, budgets, difficult colleagues, grumpy family members, and all those things we wish were different on any given day? I am working on being amazed each day, or at least on the lookout for amazing things. A local Freehold officeholder is helping me shift my perspective. He recently said that he appreciates all those people who make his job difficult. This included the clergyperson who he had just been debating. He was sincere. Through our differences, he is convinced, we arrive at better solutions.



Henri Nouwen had a similar observation when he wrote "my whole life I have been complaining that my work was constantly interrupted until I discovered that my interruptions were my work".

Looking at the world expecting to be amazed helps me hear Paul's words in Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always," as an invitation and not an impossibility. Looking for God even in frustrations can help to embrace the struggles and still say, "Thank you" as each day ends.

Peace,  
Pastor David

## December's Mission: OPEN Door

Each Holiday Season, Open Door distributes dinner boxes to our neighbors in Freehold and surrounding areas. Last year 575 dinners were distributed for Thanksgiving alone, and Open Door expects to serve even more this year. They can't do this without your help! The following items are needed: mashed potatoes, stuffing, canned vegetables, canned cranberry, turkey gravy, corn muffin mix, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate, juice 64 oz, pasta and pasta sauce (no lasagna or shells please), aluminum turkey roasting pans. Items can be left in the bin in the church lobby. If you would like to make a monetary donation please make checks payable to the Reformed Church of Freehold and put OPEN Door in the memo. If sending in cash please write OPEN Door on the envelope. Thank you for your continued support.



## Freehold Reformed Cares

Freehold Reformed Cares will host a “Kids' Movie Night So the Parents can go Shopping or Whatever Night.” Parents you can drop your kids at church on December 13 at 6 PM for dinner and a movie and pick them up again by 9:30 PM. Take the night to go Christmas shopping or just to have a meal with your spouse. Please let the office know if your kids are coming and let us know about any food allergies.



Manasquan Reservoir hike

## Thrivent: Feed the Northeast Challenge



We participated in the Thrivent Feed the Northeast Challenge. Open Door received some much needed staples. With the Thrivent seed money and congregational and CROP Walk donations, we collected over 300 items but missed the 500-item goal. Maybe next year.

## Freehold Clergy: Thanksgiving

The Freehold Clergy Association's Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be hosted by Foundational Truth Bible Study Ministries and Jerseyville United Methodist Church at The Jerseyville Church, 8 Howell Road, Freehold, NJ, Sunday, November 24, 3 PM.

## Reformed Church Women

The Reformed Church Women will have their **Holly Berry Boutique** on Saturday, November 16, from 10 -2 PM. We will be selling Christmas crafts, gifts, decorations, homemade baked goods, soup, and many other items.

The soups this year will be Italian Wedding, Pasta Fagioli, Beef Barley, Chili, Butternut Squash, and Tomato. They will sell at \$7.00 a pint and \$13.00 a quart. Please order the soup by November 10, there will be a sign up sheet in the lobby, you can call the office or email the office at [office@freeholdreformed.org](mailto:office@freeholdreformed.org).



The **Fall Yard Sale** was a beautiful day to spend selling, visiting and repurposing tons of items. Thank you to all who donated items and to those who helped on that day. We made \$450.00 which we will use for our charitable donations.



## Community Arts Center of Freehold

There has been a lot of activity with the youth programs over the past few months! First, Sarah Groginsky has taught free community dance classes to youth ages 4-14 on Tuesday evenings. The dance program's Session 1 runs through December 3, and Session 2 will begin in January. If you have young people who would enjoy dance classes, contact Lee Ann Newland for a registration form.



Community Potluck and STEM classes have returned for a mini-session. Three classes run by Mallory Kilroy began on October 11 and will conclude with the November 1 session. Stay tuned for a more extended STEM session to return in the winter months.

Reformed Church of Freehold/Community Arts Center Programs have been chosen as a host site for a National Institute of Health/Hospice Foundation of America grant and research morning! While this does not involve the congregation, working with these two organizations to host the New Jersey research event is an exciting opportunity. Details are still being formalized as of the writing of this article.

The Narthex area transformation continues! While we await the floor installation, please remember to step carefully.

## November's Mission- Reformed Church Home

Each December, the Reformed Church of Freehold contacts the Reformed Church Home in Old Bridge for their Christmas Wish Lists. This year they said they need certain unwrapped items for those living in the Isolation and Rehabilitation Units. They have requested 6 men's body wash kits, 6 women's body wash kits, small personal radios for their rooms, and cozy blankets. Items can be dropped off in the Narthex or the church office. You can also give monetary donations which we will use to buy some gifts specifically requested by some of the residents. Please make checks payable to the Reformed Church of Freehold and mark Angel Tree in the memo. Please have all donations in by 12/10, we will then purchase the items and deliver them. The staff and residents were so thankful for our donations last year. Let's make this year's collection even bigger!



## Reformed Church of Freehold

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VOLUME 10, ISSUE 6

Pastor–David Groeneveld  
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Secretary–Lauren Redmond  
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### CONSISTORY 2024

Lee Ann Newland– Vice President  
Barb Lyon–Hospitality & Congregational Care  
Helen McKenzie–Buildings & Grounds  
Lee Ann Newland–Worship & Music  
TBD–Human & Financial Resources

Bill Barth–Classis Delegate  
Bill Barth–Missions & Benevolences  
Gabrielle Uchno–Fellowship  
Sharon Sanicola–Education  
John Lambert–Building & Grounds

### Odds and Ends

#### Communion Offering

On the first Sunday of the month we collect items for **Open Door** which can be left in the church Narthex. Monetary gifts are accepted at any time and can be placed in the offering plate. Please mark “Open Door” on your envelope.

#### Flowers

If you would like to have flowers given in honor or memory of a loved one or event, please contact the church office. The cost is \$20. Please make checks payable to: “Reformed Church of Freehold” and write “flowers” in the memo.

#### Secretary’s Hours

Our secretary is in the office Fridays from 8:15-11:45. She will continue to check and answer emails during the week. In case of emergency, Lauren’s cell number is 732-766-5147.

### Latino Coalition

When a lawyer asked Jesus which neighbors he needed to help, Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan. Upon finishing the story of a foreigner who helped a person in need, Jesus asked, “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” The lawyer said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus final words to him were, “Go and do likewise.”

On November 23 the Mexican Consulate will be set up in our Fellowship Hall. They will be helping our Mexican neighbors with a range of concerns including receiving tax ID numbers so they can work and pay taxes and their concerns with unfair employers and landlords. This is part of the work of the Latino Coalition. The Consistory is pleased that in this way our congregation can bless the neighbors God has given us and “do likewise.”

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### NOVEMBER:

4 John Lambert, 4 Ray Ojo, 9 Lorraine Yoncak, 10 Kathy Bibby, 17 The Murphys  
20 Justin Moore, 23 Julianne Redmond, 25 Barb Lyon, 25 Sue Vilagi,  
29 M. Virginia Becker, 30 Dee Piatkowski

#### DECEMBER:

1 The Sanicolas, 5 Richard Krohn, 8 Michael Ojo, 18 Florence Ojo,



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## Dates to Remember

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Friday STEM Night, 6 PM
- 3 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
- 5 Tuesday Dance Classes, 5:30 PM
- 10 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
- 12 Tuesday Dance Classes, 5:30 PM
- 16 Saturday Holly Berry 10 AM-2 PM
- 17 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
- 19 Tuesday Dance Classes, 5:30 PM
- 19 Tuesday Consistory Zoom Meeting, 7 PM
- 24 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
- 24 Sunday Interfaith Thanksgiving, 3 PM  
at Jerseyville United Methodist  
Church
- 26 Tuesday Dance Classes, 5:30 PM
- 28 Thursday **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

### DECEMBER

- 1 Sunday Communion Worship, 10 AM
- 3 Tuesday Dance Classes, 5:30 PM
- 8 Sunday Worship, 10 AM,
- 13 Friday Kids Movie Night/Parents Night Out, 6PM
- 15 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
- 22 Sunday Worship, 10 AM
- 24 Tuesday Christmas Eve Service, 4 PM
- 25 Wednesday **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- 29 Sunday Worship, 10 AM