



**UNITED  
REFORMED  
CHURCH**

# **InTouch**

## **INSIDE**

### **HAPPENINGS**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| A Thank You Note              | 3 |
| Baby Shower for Bonnie & Baby | 3 |
| Consistory Corner             | 5 |
| May's Social Event Rocked     | 4 |
| Music at United               | 5 |
| Sunday School News            | 3 |

### **INSPIRATION**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Scripture Passages | 7 |
| Parish the Thought | 2 |

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Birthdays and Anniversaries      | 7 |
| Church Calendar                  | 6 |
| Deadline for InTouch             | 7 |
| Food of the Month                | 3 |
| Habitat to Open ReStore          | 4 |
| Other Happenings                 | 2 |
| RSMA Annual Meeting              | 5 |
| Save the Date                    | 2 |
| SHIP's Galley II Summer Schedule | 4 |
| Summer Worship                   | 8 |
| Sunday Servers                   | 7 |
| Wanted: 2018 Grad. Announcements | 3 |
| Women's Book Club                | 7 |

Volume No. 40, Issue No. 6

June 2018

## **Bring Dad to Church on Father's Day Sunday, June 17**

Join us on Sunday, June 17 for worship, as we celebrate fatherhood, parental bonds and the influence fathers make in the lives of society. Following worship, a small gift will be given out to all men in attendance. As always, all are welcome!

### **A Brief History of Father's Day in the U.S.**

The tradition of celebrating "Father's Day", was the work of Sonora Dodd, a young woman from the state of Washington. In 1909, Sonora was inspired after hearing a Mother's Day sermon, and got the idea to have a special day to honor her father, William Jackson Smart.

Smart, who was a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife died while giving birth to their sixth child. He was left to raise the newborn, along with his other five children, by himself on a rural farm in Washington state. When Sonora reached adulthood, she realized the selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent. Sonora appreciated the many sacrifices her father made and saw him as a courageous, loving man. Since Sonora's father was born in June, she chose to hold the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington on June 19, 1910.

Just before Sonora's celebration, the idea of observing a day in honor of fathers was also promoted by Dr. Robert Webb at the Central United Methodist Church of Fairmont in West Virginia. It is believed Dr. Webb conducted the first Father's Day service in 1908. However, it was Sonora's efforts that eventually led to a national observance. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day, and in 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day. Six years later, the day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972.

Since then, the day has included everything from taking Dad out to a ball game, to garnishing him with ties and cigars, to grilling burgers in the back yard. So, here's a perfect opportunity to do something not only very meaningful, but also very traditional: bring dad to church for Father's Day!

**Lori Herpen**  
Administrative Assistant/Media Specialist

### **United Reformed Church "The Church on Main Street"**

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**#urcsomerville**

**Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.**

**Rev. Paul G. Janssen**

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## Parish the Thought

Each year for the past 211 years, the Reformed Church in America has held a “General Synod” meeting in June. “Synod” is a somewhat strange church-y word that simply means “together on the road.” So, for about one week out of every 52, representatives from across the US and Canada (and missionaries from around the world) gather and walk together. They take meals together, sleep in dorm rooms, consider important business, argue (and hopefully reconcile), and plow through 300 pages of preparatory material.

Most of the time we pay little attention to the meeting; it seems to have little effect on our life together in Central New Jersey.

This year, however, from June 7 - 12, United Reformed Church will be represented by both a minister and an elder. John Lane will be an official elder delegate to the meeting from the Classis of Delaware-Raritan. I will be attending to present the report of the Commission on Judicial Business (something like the Supreme Court of the denomination). David Kahler, the former pastor of the Griggstown Reformed Church, will be leading worship on the 10th of June.

If you're interested, you can find the workbook at: <https://rca.org/rca-basics/general-synod/general-synod-2018-workbook>

If you are REALLY interested, you can visit [rca.org](http://rca.org) between June 7 and 12, and follow links to a livestream of the meeting.

As has happened nearly every year for the past three decades, one of the major issues at hand will be the matter of how much the church welcomes and embraces LGBTQ Christians as they are (rather than trying to convert them to heterosexual orientation). This issue has caused splits in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. And that may happen in the RCA as well.

Several years ago, our congregation became a rostered member of “Room for All,” which is an organization that advocates for the full inclusion of LGBTQ Christians at every level in the denomination. Our Mission Statement says that we welcome all, regardless of sexual orientation.

But we may well be in the minority, as a good deal of the RCA farther west is quite a bit more “conservative” than most Eastern congregations are. It will be a very interesting General Synod to witness – especially for a first-timer like John. (I’ve been to 8 or 9 over the years.) Keep us in your prayers; we’ll need them. What’s more, if the church is going to keep walking together for even another 10 years, the whole church will need your prayers.

Peace,  
Rev. Paul G. Janssen  
Pastor

## Other Reformed Church Happenings

### Clover Hill Reformed Church Yard Sale

Saturday, June 2

7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: 888 Amwell Rd., Hillsborough

### Blawenburg Reformed Church Blue Pomegranate Spring Concert

Thursday, June 21

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Location: 424 Rt. 518, Blawenburg

Admission is free, donations encouraged

## Save the Dates

### United Way Tools For Schools School Supply Drive

August 20 , 21, & 22

### CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 21



## Join Our Family!

Have you been attending worship with us and are interested in becoming a member?

We'd love to have you as part of our family!

Please contact Pastor Janssen or call Lori in the church office to schedule new member classes.

**All are welcome!**



## Sunday School News

On May 13th, the youth handed out 75 bouquets of white and pink carnations in celebration of Mother's Day. In addition, the Sunday School and Youth Group were recognized for all of their activities and community service projects this past year. The kids achieved a total of 32 community service hours this year. The youth also serve the church by ushering, being a lay reader, helping with the nursery, helping with Fellowship Hour and participating in the hand bell choir. We are a small but mighty group. Amy, Carol, Annette, and I are so proud of our youth who are fulfilling our mission to "Love all Serve all". Sunday School will resume in September after labor day. Have a safe and fun summer.

**Linda Hayes**  
Sunday School Coordinator

## Food of the Month

For the month of June, the Food Bank would like us to collect picnic items such as: **canned beans, iced tea mix, salad dressing, condiments, etc.** All donations help to stock the shelves of the Food Bank Network of Somerset County, which distributes food every Saturday from Fellowship Hall to their clients. Many thanks to everyone for providing donations on a regular basis, as we help provide groceries to our neighbors in need.

## A Thank You Note

I want to express my sincere appreciation to my church family for the Williamson Scholarship. This will be a tremendous help to cover costs of books and other related costs for the fall semester. I have many fond memories of growing up in United Reformed Church and will treasure them forever. I hope to stay active in college participating in clubs, etc. Thank you for laying a great foundation that I can carry with me into adulthood.

**Jocelyn Hayes**  
Williamson Scholarship Recipient

## Wanted: 2018 Graduation Announcements!

Our July issue of InTouch will include graduation announcements. All are welcome to acknowledge family members' and friends' special achievements. Please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the church office by June 20. Feel free to include photos!

## Baby Shower for Bonnie & Baby Madison



"A baby makes love stronger, the days shorter, the nights longer, savings smaller, and a home happier." A gathering of family and friends surprised Bonnie Burris with a baby shower on Saturday, May 12. Amidst laughter, telling stories, good food, and fun games the room was filled with best wishes and many gifts for Bonnie, Baby Madison, and there were even a few gifts for big sister, Savannah. There can be no doubt, Madison will be the most fashionable baby around! Among the most lasting gifts shared by all present is the celebration of a new life, support for Bonnie's growing family, and the joy in being part of the family of God. Congratulations Bonnie!

A special thank you to Fran Wise and Michelle Davis for all of their help with the planning, and to our support team; Nancy Maggio, Carol Davis and Jocelyn Eckardt.

**Annette Janssen**



## May's Social Event Rocked!

Good vibes were felt on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> as a large group gathered to enjoy fellowship and pizza at *Il Forno Restaurant* in Branchburg, before heading over to the Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium. We enjoyed singing along to the Classic Rock songs during the Laser Light Show, which featured a variety of classic rock songs such as "Touch of Gray" (Grateful Dead), "House of the Holy" (Led Zeppelin), "Another One Bites the Dust" (Queen), "You Took the Words Right Out of My Mouth" (Meatloaf), "Come Sail Away" (Styx) and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" (Beatles) and more.

It was a great evening and flash back to the past. Thank you to Beth Cassidy for organizing this well received event. The social events will start up again in September so stay tuned so you do not miss out!

Amy Stires

## Habitat for Humanity To Open ReStore

Exciting news! Our friends at Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity are launching a Habitat ReStore, which will increase their capacity to build more homes! If you've got the time and the heart, they have a variety of opportunities to volunteer.



Help is needed Mondays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and/or 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., picking up and moving donated furniture and household goods. If you are interested, email Habitat's Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca Maier at [rmaier@rvhabitat.org](mailto:rmaier@rvhabitat.org) or call (908) 704-0016,

## SHIP'S Galley II Summer Schedule

SHIP's Galley II, The Tuesday/Thursday Soup kitchen that takes place in Fellowship Hall, will be closed during the summer (June through Labor Day). Instead, picnic style lunches will be served at "Tic Tock's Grove", a picnic area located on SHIP's premises at 87 East High Street.



If you would like to make a donation to SHIP of picnic essentials, the following list includes items that are always appreciated;

- Hamburgers (pre cooked) and hotdogs, (boiled)
- Sausage & peppers (pre cooked and ready to be served or heated & served)
- Sandwiches (25 to 50)
- Baked beans, corn on the cob
- Chips & pretzels / dips
- Green salads / side salads
- Potato salad, macaroni salad, etc.
- Fresh fruit / watermelon
- Cookies, cakes, pies and brownies
- Soda and other beverages
- Paper goods & supplies

# Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics (RSMAt) Annual Meeting

On Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> RSMAt held its annual meeting at Pompton Reformed Church. The RSMAt is comprised of four classis Delaware-Raritan (ours), Greater Palisades, New Brunswick and Passaic Valley. Delegates include Elders and Ministers from each of the classes.

Following a communion worship service, business proceeded with the report of the outgoing president, The Rev. Ursula Cargill, PhD. She stressed several programs and initiatives of the RSMAt over the past year, including the first multicultural ministry conference, collaboration with the New York Synod on emerging adults in faith communities, improved communications through ZOOM, and Synod Foundation funding for “green energy” by installing solar panels at churches.

Other business included reports from the various standing and special committees, subsidiary corporations (Reformed Church Home in Old Bridge, NJ, Warwick Conference Center in Warwick, NY, and the Synod Foundation which makes grants and low cost loans to churches within the RSMAt. (Current assets \$3.2 million)

James Thompson, Treasurer outlined the proposed budget for 2019. His report included a graph showing the regional synod membership decline from 26,586 communicant members in 1987 to 9,607 members in 2017. As he put it, a loss of 16,979 souls.

The meeting concluded with the elections and installation of new officers for the coming year: Christopher Heitkamp, President; Claudette Reid, Vice President; James Thompson, Treasurer; and Steve Eckert, Stated Clerk. For more information contact me, review the meeting work book located in the church office, or check the website: <http://rsmat.squarespace.com/>

**Thomas Dibble**  
Great Consistory

## Consistory Corner

At its most recent meeting on May 22nd, the Consistory reviewed the following items:

- Monitored the progress of three persons who have expressed interest in joining United;
- Reviewed, added to, and approved the Job Description for a Director of Music;
- Received an update on the performance of investments year-to-date;
- Heard good news of a corporate sponsor for the 2019 Twelfth Night - Boar's Head Festival;

The next meeting of the consistory will take place on Tuesday, June 26th at 7:15 p.m, in the lounge.

## Music at United

The Congregational Forum held on May 20th showed that, in large part, those who attended were positive about the following statement:

*“We see music at United developing in a varied and blended direction that reflects the diverse desires of the congregation. While the foundation of congregational singing at United will continue to be hymns accompanied by an organ, music at United will increasingly include a range of musical styles accompanied by additional instrumentation.”*

The main thing that the Search Committee had assumed – and so forgot to include in the document – is the continuing prominent place of the choir. That has been added to the document. As noted in Consistory Corner, the Job Description for a Director of Music has been finalized and published in the appropriate online locations, as well as sent to Westminster Choir College and the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers. It is our hope that, as applications arrive, we will be able to review them in consultation with the personnel committee, and at the appropriate point schedule an audition for the most preferred candidate with the committee and the choir. If all is well at that point, the personnel committee will work out the specifics of an employment agreement, and all will be sent to the Consistory for final approval. It is our hope that we will be able to name a new Director of Music by August 1. However, if we are unable to meet that mark, Paul Dickey has graciously agreed to stay on, pending his availability, until such time as we are able to name a new Director.

**Rev. Paul G. Janssen**  
Pastor

# June 2018

| June 2018 |    |    |    |    |    |    | July 2018 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su        | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|           |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 1         | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 3         | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 8         | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 10        | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 15        | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 17        | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 22        | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 24        | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 29        | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY                                      | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY                           | SATURDAY  |
|--|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| May 27   | 28  | 29   | 30   | 31   | Jun 1                            | 2   |
|  |   |  |  |  | 10:30am Food Bank<br>Set-Up (FH) | 10:00am Food Bank<br>Distribution (FH)                              |
| 3  | 4   | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8                                | 9   |
| 9:00am Sunday<br>School (Rm o)<br>10:00am Worship<br>(S)<br>11:00am Fellowship<br>1:00pm Brownies<br>3:00pm PDC<br>4:00pm Party<br>7:30pm PDC-Coffee | 10:00am ESL Class<br>(K)<br>7:00pm Boy Scouts<br>(B)                  | 10:00am ESL Class<br>(Room o)                | 6:30pm PDC<br>Worship (S)<br>7:00pm Marketing<br>(L) | GENERAL SYNOD  |                                  |   |
|  |   |  |  | 10:00am ESL Class<br>(Room o)<br>7:30pm Choir<br>Rehearsal (B)<br>8:00pm AA (FH) | 10:30am Food Bank<br>Set-Up (FH) | 10:00am Food Bank<br>Distribution (FH)                              |
| 10   | 11  | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15                               | 16  |
| GENERAL SYNOD  |   |  | 6:30pm PDC<br>Worship (S)                            | 7:30pm Choir<br>Rehearsal (B)<br>8:00pm AA (FH)                                  | 10:30am Food Bank<br>Set-Up (FH) | 10:00am Food Bank<br>Distribution (FH)<br>1:00pm JK Recital<br>(FH) |
| 10:00am Worship<br>(S)<br>11:00am Fellowship<br>Hour (FH)<br>3:00pm PDC<br>Worship (S)<br>7:30pm PDC-Coffee<br>(K)                                   | 7:00pm Boy Scouts<br>(B)  | 7:00pm A&F<br>Meeting (Office)               |  |  |                                  |   |
| 17   | 18  | 19   | 20   | 21   | 22                               | 23  |
| Father's Day (United<br>States)<br>10:00am Worship<br>(S)<br>11:00am Fellowship<br>Hour (FH)<br>3:00pm PDC<br>Worship (S)<br>7:30pm PDC-Coffee       | 7:00pm Boy Scouts<br>(B)<br>7:30pm Court of<br>Honor (FH)             | 7:00pm Boy Scout<br>Monthly<br>Committee (B) | 6:30pm PDC<br>Worship (S)                            | 8:00pm AA (FH)   | 10:30am Food Bank<br>Set-Up (FH) | Paul D Vacation<br>10:00am Food Bank<br>Distribution (FH)           |
| 24   | 25  | 26   | 27   | 28   | 29                               | 30  |
| Paul D Vacation  |   |  |  |  |                                  |   |
| 10:00am Worship<br>(S)<br>11:00am Fellowship<br>Hour (FH)<br>3:00pm PDC<br>Worship (S)<br>7:30pm PDC-Coffee<br>(K)                                   | 7:00pm Boy Scouts<br>(B)<br>7:30pm Scouts<br>Annual<br>Committee (FH) | 7:15pm Consistory<br>Meeting (L)             | 6:30pm PDC<br>Worship (S)                            | 8:00pm AA (FH)   | 10:30am Food Bank<br>Set-Up (FH) | To Jul 5 →<br>10:00am Food Bank<br>Distribution (FH)                |



# Sunday Servers For June

| Date | Ushers                          | Fellowship Hour                                 | Altar Guild     | Counters                          | Lay Reader     |
|------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 6/3  | Steve Rus<br>John M. Colligas   | Parish Life<br>Sundae Sunday                    | Alice Gunzelman | Bill Everett<br>Bev Colligas      | Beth Cassidy   |
| 6/10 | Lyn Van Gorder<br>Fran Wise     | Fran Wise,<br>Lyn Van Gorder<br>Annette Janssen | Sandy Dibble    | Mark Cannizzo<br>Sue Elgard       | Nancy Maggio   |
| 6/17 | Len & Charlotte<br>Marcinkowski | <b>Open</b><br><b>Can you host?</b>             | Michelle Davis  | Jim Phillips<br>Mary Ann Ferrante | Tom Dibble     |
| 6/24 | Sandy Dibble<br>Carol Davis     | Alice Gunzelman<br>Barbara Schwarz              | Fran Wise       | Mark Cannizzo<br>Diny Buchanan    | Michelle Davis |



## Scripture Passages

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### June 3 Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:5-12 Mark 2:23-3-6

### June 10: Third Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-11 Psalm 138  
Genesis 3:8-15 Mark 3:20-35

### June 17: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34-16;13 Psalm 20  
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 Mark 4:26-34

### June 24: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:(1, 4-11, 19-23) Psalm 133  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41

### Birthdays

June 1 Helen Cantlay, Annette Janssen  
June 2 Alexandria Stires  
June 5 Shannon Cassidy, Angela Stires  
June 6 Cliff Nagle  
June 7 Sam Mendleson  
June 9 Kathy Phillips  
June 13 Connie Osinski, John M. Colligas  
June 21 Laurie Holcombe  
June 25 Emily Hayes  
June 27 Tara Rose Cassidy, Fran Wise  
June 28 Nancy Aliberto  
June 30 Phyllis Kennette  
John Lane

### Anniversaries

June 1 John & Michelle Lane  
June 11 Dan & Alleda Radziewicz  
June 14 Bill & Ellen Everett  
Jim & Sharon Thompson  
June 20 Craig & Amy Stires  
June 21 Karl & Aija Banks  
June 26 Sam & Cynthia Mendelson  
June 30 Michael & Patricia Doyle

## Women's Book Club



The current book selection is "The Picture of Dorian Gray", by Oscar Wilde. Jocelyn Eckardt will host the next meeting of the Women's Book Club on Wednesday, June 27th, location to be determined. Please check the Sunday bulletins for updates. For more information about the Women's Book Club, please contact Nancy Maggio.

**InTouch is produced by**  
**Lori Herpen, Administrative Assistant**

Deadline for the July Issue is

**June 22, 2018**

Please submit articles, news and photos to:  
[admin@urcsomerville.org](mailto:admin@urcsomerville.org)



Beginning Sunday, June 10th  
worship will take place in  
Fellowship Hall  
for the summer, so that we may  
enjoy the air conditioning.  
As always, all are welcome!  
10:00 a.m.

*"He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely"*  
(from Proverbs 10)

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*Love All - Serve All*