

**MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER** – *May is one of my most favorite months. The trees and shrubs are starting to bloom, flowers are popping up, and the birds are chirping...our Technicolor world is once again brightening our skies. What a gift He has given us....*

**APRIL RECAP...**

**April brought us three impressive coffee hours....the Price/Conti family regaled us with a beautiful Easter brunch!** Having the Easter Bunny hop by was a special joy to so many... especially to the children who joined us that special day.



**OUR KEYS FAMILY ONCE AGAIN ENHANCES OUR SUNDAY SERVICE ON APRIL 12<sup>th</sup>** and delights us with an energized and fun coffee hour! Key's proudly showcased their office space by hosting our coffee hour. A miniature display was set up showing Key's progression from a closet in Newark to their classroom at our church today!!



A work of art made up of small pictures from the Key's network captures our **Onya** in her youth.



## **APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> WE CELEBRATE EARTH DAY**

Our Stewards of the Earth committee took the lead in this celebration and did an impressive job of honoring our earth. Julie had printed out many articles that support this mission of honoring and respecting this wonderful world we are blessed to share with others. Victor delivered a beautiful sermon that spoke to this and our Stewards brought this all to life with their coffee hour presentation.

## **NEW PROVIDENCE LAUNCHES FIRST ANNUAL REVEREND CALDWELL DAY on April 18<sup>th</sup> with 22 charities, record donations and a town that showed up!**

It was a borough-wide-day of giving...we had 12 locations, hundreds of donors, 50 letters were writted to our troops, three people who donated their hair to reuse in wigs for cancer patients and a community that proved what's possible when it comes together.

**LINC** was set up in the pool parking lot with **Claire, Pat, Nicole and Victor** manning the table. Many donations were graciously accepted by our team of volunteers.



## LINC UPDATE

Aidan Barth recently sent out a newsletter that we thought was worth repeating in our newsletter.

*Dear LINC Friends & Community,*

*2026 is off to a great start! Since January, we have seen a significant uptick in new clients and a rapidly increasing need, and the tread has yet to slow down. Just within this quarter, we have registered almost as many new client families as we did in all of 2025!*

*Through we are excited to expand our efforts and support a greater population, such quick growth in so little of a time frame puts a major stain on our resources.*

I still remember that Church Council meeting where Abi and Aidan presented their idea and execution for LINC. To see it grow into what it represents today is pure joy and a strong sense of pride for both Aidan & Abi.

Well done!!

## MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Those of us of “a certain age” never heard the term “mental health” until we were “seasoned” adults. In today’s world, our youth already know this term and many struggle with their mental health...as do people of all ages.

To raise awareness to this crisis, we partnered once again with the township of New Providence by displaying green ribbons and mental health signs around our property. We thank **Lynn & Tom Franklin** for saving the signs & ribbons year after year. They were at church this week putting out the signs and tying the ribbons around trees and whatever else they could find. *WE SO APPRECIATE THEIR TIME SPENT ON THIS MISSION!*

**Pat Kennedy** gave me an article several months ago that I felt was worth saving for this month. *“Novel Trends in Mental Health” explores how fiber arts like knitting, quilting and weaving can benefit your brain and mental health. The why behind this statement...1) improves and-eye coordination and fine motor skills 2) builds patience and focus thorough working on detailed patterns 3) teaches problem solving when you make missetakes 4) reduces stress through repetitive motions 5) creates a mindful, meditative stae similar to meditation.* Who knew

that while we were creating our prayer shawls, we were also enhancing our mental health!!

### **HONORING ARBOR DAY BY LYNN FRANKLIN**

Friday, April 24, was celebrated as Arbor Day. Numerous municipalities, foundations, organizations, civic groups and school systems held ceremonies in honor of this environmentally friendly day.

To honor this day, I would like to offer any congregant a “baby” Japanese cut leaf maple sapling to plant as a house plant or as a tree outdoors.

These “baby” plants have been spawned from my own Japanese cut leaf maple tree which has grown in my front yard for about 30 years!

Please contact me at [lmkfranklin@verizon.net](mailto:lmkfranklin@verizon.net) or 908-755-6276 (answering machine, 24/7) if you want me to deliver a plant to you.

Lynn Franklin

### **PLANTING OF OUR GIVING GARDEN STARTS ON MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

#### ***BOTH PASTOR ALLEN'S SON ISAAC AND CLAIRE'S NIECE STEPHANIE ARE INSTRUMENTAL IN GIVING OUR GARDEN A BOOST***

Isaac has already planted hydroponically grown lettuces, kale, Swiss Chard, and spinach in our garden...



Stephanie has done something similar with our tomatos and other plantings. We are so blessed with our Giving Garden and those that contribute to it and maintain it!

## **KEYS2SUCCESS HAS 2 BIG EVENTS ON OUR MAY CALANDER**

**On Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm** our church will host the Junior League statewide Kits of Care Packing Event. This event will benefit Covenant House, an organization that serves young people experiencing homelessness across our state. This is the capstone event of the year for the Junior League of New Jersey, bringing together all eight Junior League chapters for one afternoon of service, connection and impact.

The event is also part of a broader statewide campaign raising awareness about human trafficking and youth safety in advance of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

We are happy to share that some of the assembled kits will be made available for **LINC**.

**On May 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:00pm** Keys will be performing at the New Providence Library. It will be a participatory music making event so those of us with hidden musical talents (like me!!) can finally “strut their stuff!”

Here’s the link for the event: <https://newprovidence.librarycalendar.com/event/concert-keys-success-2188>

## **GENTLE REMINDER**

Should you have any of the baskets that we loan to you for your Sunday service flowers or any of the vases we send you home with can you please return them on your next visit to our church? We are running low on them and rather than replace them we thought a reminder would work. I still remember Leslee returning over 20 that somehow Leonard had accumulated!

We put a large white basket under one of the tables in the new room which will be used to collect both the baskets & vases going forward...thank you!



## **SEWARDS OF THE EARTH BY JULIE LISTER**

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“We support policies that develop alternatives to chemicals used for growing, processing and preserving food . . .”

“ ..we are committed to approaching creation, energy production and especially creation’s resources in a responsible, careful and economic way.”

On Sunday we celebrated Earth Month with a special service and coffee hour. The Stewards of the Earth Committee served a colorful and tasty spread featuring tasty snack “trees” and rice cake “Earths!” Victor delivered an inspiring message urging us to consider our actions related to caring for Earth’s beauty and bounty. Our themes focused on the use of pesticides and the damage to our communities resulting from climate change. Information related to these topics was on display in the New Room.



The Serenity Garden Spring clean-up has started. Julie and Cathy cleared all the debris with Ruben’s help. There is still much to be done however. Volunteers are needed to help with the removal of plants that are growing in the paths and others that have sprouted where they are not wanted! Many of these will transplant easily so if you are looking for some beautiful native plants for your garden please come and help us remove them. If you can help please call the Church Office to leave your name and number and one of the Stewards of the Earth Committee members will contact you.

Thank you, Julie Lister

## REMEMBER TO CHECK OUT OUR NEW SHOWCASE DISPLAY ON SUNDAY!

The Franklin's once again hit the mark with their spring showcase that pays tribute to our wonderful, lovable dogs!!



### EXCITING NEWS

Mark your calander's for May 9<sup>th</sup> when the Salt Box Museum will hold it's annual Craft Fair from 9:00 – 3:00. The fair will also include a plant and bake sale...a fun family activity!

And **DON'T FORGET THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE on May 25<sup>th</sup>** when the parade will stop in front of our church a few minutes after 10:00am and our Pastor will do the Memorial prayer....

### MORE EXCITING MAY NEWS...

We just installed a "high rise" toilet in our new room bathroom!! Please welcome "TOTO" (manufacturer name) who's certain to help those knees of ours!!



Before I sign off I wanted to share a quote I recently read that I feel is worth repeating...."You don't need a title to lead. You just need to care. People would rather follow a leader with a heart than a leader with a title" ....

Blessings

Linda

### MAY CALENDAR

<b>MAY 2 11:00am</b>	<b>Judy Chauncey Celebration of Life</b>
<b>May 3 5-8:00pm</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall Summit Dance Group</b>
<b>May 4 9:30am</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Conversation with Pastor Lee</b>
<b>May 5 11:00am</b>	<b>Lounge – Thrift Sale</b>
<b>May 5 6:30-8:00pm</b>	<b>New Room – PAL meeting</b>
<b>May 9 1:00-4:00</b>	<b>Summit Junior League Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>May 11 6:00pm</b>	<b>LINC Sort Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>May 12 7:00pm</b>	<b>Lounge – Trustee Meeting</b>
<b>May 13 6:00pm</b>	<b>LINC - Lounge</b>
<b>May 13 7:00pm</b>	<b>CSA New Room</b>
<b>May 14 6:30pm</b>	<b>WIF Lounge</b>
<b>May 16 10:00am</b>	<b>Giving Garden Planting</b>
<b>May 20 7:00pm</b>	<b>Ad Council – Lounge</b>
<b>May 24 4:00pm</b>	<b>Faith Lutheran – Patriotic Songs</b>
<b>May 25 10:00am</b>	<b>New Providence Parade</b>
<b>May 27 6:00pm</b>	<b>LINC- Sort Fellowship Hall</b>

<b>May 29</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>LINC – Set Up</b>
<b>May 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>LINC Distribution</b>

### **BIRTHDAYS**

<b>Noah Franco</b>	<b>May 3</b>
<b>Linda Twill</b>	<b>May 5 Cinco de Mayo Party</b>
<b>Betty McDonough</b>	<b>May 11</b>
<b>John Gill</b>	<b>May 12</b>