

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



February 25, 2024

Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church

Strengthening families;
Sowing friendships;
Serving community;
In the name of Jesus Christ

PRELUDE

Blessed Assurance

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,
the courageous and the fearful,
the hungry and the hopeful,
the impatient and the reserved.

God welcomes the young and the old,
the poets and the prophets,
the faithful and the tired,
the curious and the convicted.

Wherever you are on your journey,
wherever your boat is at sea,
there is room for all to gather here.

This is God's house.

Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

***HYMN**

Amazing Grace

649

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I
once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures. He will
my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM: *How Great Thou Art*
Unity Chime Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *"Know that God is Good"* **659**
(Phonetic pronunciation) Mun-gu Nim weh mah (Repeat 2X)
Nim weh mah, Nim weh mah.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, There are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

So hear and believe this good news: God's love is stronger than any storms.

On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward you. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***RESPONSE** Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by the help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 22:23-31
Matthew 14:22-33

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

***HYMN** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* **837**

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting
arms. **REFRAIN:** Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in the pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting
arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the
everlasting arms. **REFRAIN**

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting
arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near; leaning on the
everlasting arms. **REFRAIN**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage.
I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.
I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.
I believe in a God who knows my name.
I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid.
Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

What makes you doubt?

***CLOSING HYMN** *I've Got Peace Like a River* **623**

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain.....

I've got love like an ocean.....

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE** *Go with Us, Lord* **748**

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

POSTLUDE *On Eagle's Wings*

Liturgy by A Sanctified Art | Rev. Sarah Speed | www.sanctifiedart.org

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: Jessica McDonagh

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Video: Geof Gohlich

Greeting: Pat Butts & Kathy Maier

The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:

Brian & Jaclyn Turney & Ruth Barth

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

Interested in joining our church as a member? We would love to talk more with you about our ministry here. Feel free to fill out a visitors card and hand it to one of our ushers or Pastor Erin and we will make sure to reach out to you!

TODAY'S MUSIC

Today, The Unity Chime choir plays an arrangement of "How Great Thou Art". These young musicians have continued to grow both musically and in their faith! Next Sunday, our Senior Choir sings "Look to the Cross" and our Little Lights Sunday School Choir will be singing "Mungu Ni Mwema", a song in the Shona language from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

STEW'S CLUE and MORE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding on the worship leader's chair. This week's clue to find Stewie is fishnet. Can you find him? And Pastor Erin has hidden this week's symbol for our Lenten study somewhere in the sanctuary. It looks like waves on a red background-have you seen it?

CURRENT EVENTS

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Lenten Bible Study on Mondays at 10 am (starting February 26) and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (starting February 21). We will use the study from Wandering Heart, no book to purchase.

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flower order forms are available in the front and rear of the sanctuary. Please see one of today's greeters if you'd like one.

DID YOU KNOW.....

.... that our chapel is "home" to many groups and organizations, including several scout troops, a number of 12 step self-help groups, the Stone Soup Symphony, the Swing Time Jazz Band, the Colonial Musketeers Fife and Drum Corps, Vitalant (blood drive organization), Second Sundays, Deacons' pantry storage, free community dinners, Mens' Breakfast group, and of course, our Little Pantry.

LOOKING AHEAD

CHOIR CONCERT ON MARCH 11

Pastor Erin's alma mater, Albright College's Chamber choir will come to our sanctuary to share a concert on Monday, **March 11** at 6:30 pm. It is open and free to all!

MARCH SECOND SUNDAY

On March 10, we'll be enjoying a Movie Matinee as we watch the animated film "Lion of Judah". (Rated PG) We'll have our "bagel time" lunch, and then see the movie, so if you'd like, bring along a blanket, pillow, stuffie, and we'll provide the popcorn! Be sure to register on the sign up sheet in front of the church.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday Thursday, March 28, 2024, 7:30 pm, service with communion

Resurrection Sunday, March 31, 2024, 10 am worship, decorate the Easter flower cross, No Sunday School, worship bags provided

FYI-INFORMATION

2/18/24	In Person Attendance	92
	Virtual Attendance	168
	Offering	\$1,900.18

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	11:05 am	Joyful Noise Bells rehearsal
Sunday	11:20 am	Unity Chimes rehearsal
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Church office open
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Heaven Sent Nursery School
Monday	10:00 am	Lenten Bible Study
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lenten Bible Study
Thursday	6:30-7:15 pm	FPCH Ringers rehearsal
Thursday	7:30-8:30 pm	Sr. Choir rehearsal

February 25 - March 2, 2024

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - February 25 - March 2, 2024

Monday	10:30-11:30 am	AA Step by Step
	7:00-9:00 pm	Jazz Band
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 158
	7:00 pm	Girls Troop 143 BSA
Tuesday	7:30-9:00 pm	NA Change or Die
Wednesday	7:30-9:00 pm	Stone Soup Symphony
Thursday	10:30-11:30 am	AA New Beginnings
Friday	Storage use only	Colonial Musketeers



FOR PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook Cell:908-963-8341
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