

**First Presbyterian Church
Hackettstown, NJ**

March 1, 2026



PRELUDE

Here I Am, Lord



THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tell me something good!

God loves you more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

This is good news indeed!

Let us worship our compassionate God.

***HYMN** *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound*

766

The church of Christ cannot be bound by
walls of wood or stone. Where charity and
love are found, there can the church be known.

True faith will open up the door and
step into the street. True service will seek
out the poor and ask to wash their feet.

True love will not sit idly by when
justice is denied. True mercy hears the
homeless cry and welcomes them inside.

If what we have we freely share to
meet our neighbor's need, then we extend the
Spirit's care through every selfless deed.

The church of Christ cannot be bound by
walls of wood or stone. Where charity and
love are found, there can the church be known.

Tell Me Something Good

ANTHEM:*Anthem of Fellowship***Jay Althouse**

Senior Choir with Harper Ravo, trumpet

To God alone our voices raise, to thee alone give thanks and praise. Where e're we seek thee, thou art found. Let anthems now resound.

Here in our waiting hearts proclaim the blessings of Thy holy name. We pray that our redeeming Lord may ever be adored.

We share Thy love and compassion. We sing with one accord. In fellowship we stand as one to praise the heavenly Lord. All praise to God who reigns above, who joins us with his grace and love. And in His service may we be throughout eternity.

In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no South or North, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

To God alone our voices raise, to thee alone give thanks and praise. Where e're we seek thee, thou art found. Let anthems now resound.

Here in our waiting hearts proclaim the blessings of Thy holy name. We pray that our redeeming Lord may ever be adored.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Psalm 100:1

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all the earth. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord. (Repeat)

Make a loud noise, and rejoice, sing praises, make a joyful noise unto the Lord. (Repeat)

CALL TO CONFESSION**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book? God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Faith family, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again. Thanks be to God for this unending love.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Luke 7:36-50 & Matthew 25:35-40

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes Cook

***HYMN**

Just as I Am, without One Plea

442

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage,

even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! 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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***COMMUNION HYMN** *A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar* (vs. 1 & 4) **201**

A prophet-woman broke a jar, by Love's divine appointing. With rare perfume she filled the room, presiding and anointing. A prophet-woman broke a jar, the sneers of scorn defying. With rare perfume she filled the room, preparing Christ for dying.

The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, by Love's divine ordaining, the friends we need, to serve and lead, their powers and gifts unchaining. The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, from women, men, and children, the friends we need, to serve and lead. Rejoice, and make them welcome!

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

As a sign of hospitality we offer gluten free bread for communion.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...(Pastor continues)
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.

WORDS OF THE INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN** *When the Lord Redeems the Very Least* **852**

When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice
When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice.
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice. All our days we'll
sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord restores the sick and weak, we will rejoice.
When the earth is given to the meek,
we will rejoice. We will rejoice with gladness.
We will rejoice. All our days we'll
sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice.
When the word of God fills every breath,
we will rejoice. We will rejoice with gladness.
We will rejoice. All our days we'll
sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord returns in victory, we will rejoice.
When we live in glorious liberty,
we will rejoice. We will rejoice with gladness.
We will rejoice. All our days we'll
sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE** *For the Fruit of All Creation vs. 2*

36

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbor's, God's will be done.

In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

POSTLUDE *In The Cross of Christ I Glory*

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

**Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |
sanctifiedart.org**

Worship Leaders: James Tischler

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Greeting: Carol & Pete Miller

**The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:
Jim Simmons & Charles Potter**



LL Cool J

by Nicolette Faison
Inspired by Luke 7:36-50



See You

by T. Denise Anderson
Inspired by Matthew 25:35-40

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 feel 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!

NEW MEMBERS

Would you like to officially join the church? Have you already been a part of the community and are ready to say yes to being a member? We will discuss our church, what it means to become a member and how you might become more involved.

LENT BIBLE STUDY - Not Too Late to Join

Are you looking for a way to connect with God and each other this Lent? Join us for Bible study on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the conference room. We will be using the Tell Me Something Good Devotional booklets. Feel free to grab one from our info table.

MARCH SECOND SUNDAY!

On March's Second Sunday, **March 8**, we'll be enjoying "Minute to Win it Games". Be ready to have some silly fun! Be sure to preregister on the sign up sheet on the information table.

COMMUNITY DINNER

Our next Community Dinner will be held on Saturday, **March 14th** at 5:30pm. On the menu is corned beef, potatoes and cabbage for St. Patrick's Day. If you would like to assist please contact Carl Erickson. Extra hands are always appreciated.

RAISE RIGHT GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Help support the mission of our church by purchasing gift cards. Over 700 of your favorite companies participate and FPCH gets a percentage of every gift card purchased (at no additional expense to you) with Raise Right. You can purchase online, with our coordination Geof Gohlich or via the app. For more information see our flyers in the sanctuary or Ray Sookhoo.

LENTEN/HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 8 - Third Sunday of Lent, 10:00 am worship

March 15 - Fourth Sunday of Lent, 10:00 am worship

March 22 - Fifth Sunday of Lent, 10:00 am worship

March 29 - Palm Sunday - 10:00 am worship

April 2 - Maundy Thursday, service with communion.

April 5 - Resurrection Sunday, 10 am worship, decorate the Easter flower cross, No Sunday School, kids' Easter worship bags provided.

STEW'S CLUE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? This week, Stewie thinks you should look around the piano





Second Sunday in Lent

the good news is... great love for God and neighbor



LL Cool J

by Nicolette Faison

Inspired by Luke 7:36-50

12"x24" Acrylic, marker, paper collage on canvas

Ladies love Cool Jesus. For real. Women absolutely loved Jesus, and the woman with the alabaster jar is a great example of that. Who else shows up to an event unannounced with expensive oils to not only anoint someone's feet but to then offer their tears and use their hair to wipe the feet clean? I don't think people comprehend the drama within that part of the story. This was an act of love, admiration, and prophecy. To me, this interpretation of the story gives the woman the attention she deserves.

When I thought about the theme, *Tell Me Something Good*, I realized I had spent much of my year guest preaching at classic church buildings with stained glass windows which told the parishioners the good news of Jesus. It felt most appropriate to bring the concept of stained glass into my art. Instead of the maximalist collage approach that I often use, I chose to let the paint tell the story. The color choice is both bright and vibrant yet softer than other pieces. I selected the yellow purposely to contrast the purple hair. In an attempt to clearly separate the blue sky glass from the rest of the piece, I layered patterns with a red/pink color scale to make the art pop, emphasizing the distinct glass shapes one could find on a church window.

Several aspects of the piece are deconstructed, such as the woman's head and the foot of Jesus, both detached from bodies. I intentionally emphasize these elements to not distract us from the core of the story. The woman was intimately entwined with the feet of Jesus, her hair entangled with his leg. She released tears that would nourish his toes as the rich oil replenished his skin. To be cared for, to be seen, to be loved, that is something good. —Rev. Nicolette Faison

Look

In the artwork, notice how deconstructed details are entwined together. What parts of the image draw your attention the most?



See You

by T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by Matthew 25:35-40
14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

Throughout Matthew's Gospel, Jesus uses diminutive language to refer to people of importance⁷ and describes small, humble things (like sheep, lilies, and sparrows) as precious. He uses a mustard seed in a parable about faith,⁸ and tells his disciples to be like children.⁹ For Matthew's Jesus, little is a big deal!

For that reason, we should pay attention to Jesus' use of the word "least" in this text. In a book where Jesus talks about little things being loved, the word "least" here takes on new meaning: most loved. Indeed, God loves everyone, but there are certainly those for whom God has a special affinity. As the Confession of Belhar states, "God is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged."¹⁰

As I meditated on this scripture, the image of a doorway kept emerging, perhaps because the text wrestles with the notion of who is in and who is out. This piece shows an excerpt of the text and the word "least" is, ironically, the largest. Next to it is a door that is partially open, and there is some ambiguity intended in that. Is the door being opened or closed? For whom is the door opening or closing? From the viewer's perspective, on what "side" of the door do they find themselves? Are they being invited in or kept out? Are they doing the inviting or the excluding? In the same way Jesus asks the nations to consider where they will be in his eschatological vision, I invite the viewer to consider where they are relative to where God is. Where does the Savior see you? Where does your neighbor see you? —Rev. T. Denise Anderson

Look

Contemplate the paint drips in the artwork. What meaning or feelings do the words convey to you?

7 For example: Matthew 11:11, 11:25

8 Matthew 13:31-32

9 Matthew 18:1-14

10 The Belhar Confession is a statement of faith originally professed by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa in 1986 during the struggle against apartheid. It has since been adopted by several churches and denominations globally. Read the confession here: pcusa.org/resource/belhar-confession

FYI-INFORMATION

2/22/26	In Person Attendance	n/a
Snow Storm	Virtual Attendance	84
	Offering	\$264.15

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

March 1 - 7, 2026

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	11:05 am	Joyful Noise Bells rehearsal
Sunday	11:20 am	Unity Chimes rehearsal
Sunday	3:05 pm	L.V. Phantoms hockey game
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Church office open
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Heaven Sent Nursery School
Thursday	6:30-7:15 pm	FPCH Ringers rehearsal
Thursday	7:30-8:30 pm	Sr. Choir rehearsal

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - March 1 - 7, 2026

Monday	10:30-11:30 am	AA Step by Step
	7:00-9:00 pm	Jazz Band
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
	7:00-9:00 pm	Colonial Musketeers Sr.
	7:30 pm	GA Meeting
Saturday	7:00 pm	12 Steps



FOR PASTORAL CARE,

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

Email: revehayes@gmail.com

Call the church office at: 908-852-4011

Church email: fpchnj@gmail.com

Church Website: www.fpchackettstown.org