

# **First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ**

**August 10, 2025**

**Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church**

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

**PRELUDE**    *God of Great and God of Small*

**THE RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We have come here seeking to worship the God of all Creation.

**We have come to stand on holy ground!**

We have come to sing God's praises, as trees and plants sing God's praise with their blooming.

**We have come to sing praises to our Creator!**

We have come to experience the mighty rush of the Spirit like our surrounding flowing waters.

**We have come to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit! All: We have come to experience the God of Creation is this sacred space.**

**\*HYMN**                      *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*                      **32**

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty  
skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.  
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.  
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced  
them good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my  
eye, if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy  
throne, while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,  
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**ANTHEM:**

*Hallelujah*

*Leonard Cohen*

Vedanira Fernandez, Violin  
Joan Kiedes, Cello  
Lorinda Ravo, Piano

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:**   *Whole World In His Hands*

He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the whole wide world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me brother in His hands.....

He's got you and me sister in His hands.....

He's got everybody in His hands.....

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, We confess that for many of us the history of how we came to be here is more complex than we understand. We confess that we have lost our connection to our local habitat—to the names of the birds of the air, and the fish of the waters, and every crawling thing that you have created.

**We confess that we are a people who have lost our connection to the dirt under our feet. The very substance into which you breathed life. Transform us, O God, and give us roots.**

Empower us to discover the history of this sacred place where you have called us.

**Embolden us to reconcile with all children of God who called this place home, and to honor their care for the land. Help us to learn the seasons of this sacred place—to learn the native flowers and trees, native birds and wildlife.**

Open our eyes to the seeds that have been sown here for millennia and the intentional care you have taken in crafting our habitat.

**May we be rooted and grounded in the family of God in our midst. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

There is nowhere that we can run to escape God's love and compassion. In the generous gift of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, we have been forgiven. As Children of God, we are invited into the meaningful work of following faithfully after Jesus here, in this place. **Amen.**

## **\*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 LESSON**

**Psalm 104**

## **SERMON**

**Rev. Erin Hayes Cook**

## **\*HYMN**

*The Earth Belongs to God Alone*

**715**

The earth belongs to God alone; hard  
clay, rich soil, fine sand. Give thanks wherever  
food is grown on borrowed holy land.

The fertile ground through years of toil has  
cried for Sabbath rest - a time of peace for  
worn-out soil so land can be refreshed.

All life belongs to God alone in  
wilderness and fields. From fallow land, or  
plowed and sown, God gives the good it yields.

Till God endows the earth once more with  
Eden's state of grace, may we endeavor  
to restore all land as sacred space.

## **OFFERING INVITATION**

## **OFFERTORY**

*Offertory on Manoah*

## **\*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 THE PEOPLE**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**     *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*     **406**

We are standing on holy ground,  
and I know that there are angels all  
around; let us praise Jesus  
now; we are standing in his  
presence on holy ground.

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*RESPONSE**     *Come! Live in the Light!*     **749** (Refrain)

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are  
called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

**POSTLUDE**     *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

**Serving Our Congregation Today**

***Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook***

***Worship Leader: James Tischler***

***Music Director: Lorinda Ravo***

***Greeting: MaryAnn Simmons & Bev Saunders***

***This week the cards on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:***

***Carol Spitzer & Bruce Tischler***

**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**

This morning, we have the incredible blessing of having Ved Fernandez, violinist  
and Joan Keides, cellist, combine to play the beautiful *Hallelujah* by Leonard  
Cohen. Ved, a long time member of this church, is a teacher at Willow Grove  
School, and plays violin in the Stone Soup Symphony. Joan also plays with the  
Stone Soup Symphony, and has taught strings to her students for many years.  
She and Ved have enjoyed playing together for nearly 20 years, not only in Stone  
Soup, but also in the Chester Baroque Orchestra and the Colofonia Trio and  
Ensemble. They both love having the opportunity to share their love of music as  
they teach and support their students.

Next Sunday we'll be enjoying another round of "Name that Hymn" for our  
anthem.

### **NEW MEMBERS CLASS**

If you want to learn more about becoming a member here at FPC we would love to host you for a new member's class. You will meet with Pastor Erin, get to know people in the congregation, and find out where God is leading us together. It will be right after worship today. Can't make it today? Join us next week after worship or **September 7**. Our hope is for you to come to two sessions. We are looking to welcome people to membership in September.

### **AUGUST'S SECOND SUNDAY - TODAY!**

Oh my! It's time for our 4th annual "Super Soaker Sunday", the August Second Sunday event. Even if you didn't have a chance to preregister, we still have room for anyone who would like to be part of the fun. We'll start with lunch upstairs after church, and then head outside for water-filled hijinks. Parents are welcome to stay, or come on back at 1:30 to pick up your soggy Second Sunday participant.

### **2025 BACKPACK PROGRAM**

Many thanks to all who were able to donate to this year's backpack program. Your contributions will help many kids in our county to begin school with a backpack filled with all they need for a successful start to their year. We'll be assembling them in the coming week and will let you know how many backpacks we donated. The filled backpacks will be distributed to families involved with the NJ Department of Children and Families in Warren County.

### **MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!**

At the end of this month, on August 28, our adult music ensembles: the Senior Choir and the FPCH Ringers Chime Choir will begin rehearsals for their 2025-2026 "season". We welcome any and all, from Middle Schoolers through adults who would like to be part of our music program. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings ( Chimes 6:30-7:15, Choir 7:30-8:30). No experience is necessary, and you don't need to know how to read music. AND, we understand if you can't make every rehearsal or Sunday morning. Come and give it a try-you'll be very warmly welcomed!

### **STEW'S CLUE!**

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding in the sunflowers by the door at the front of the church. This week's clue to find where Stewie' hiding is TREASURE CHEST.

### **FYI-INFORMATION**

8/03/25	In Person Attendance	78
	Virtual Attendance	157
	Offering	\$4,639.40

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH****August 10-16, 2025**

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
	11:30 am - 1:30 pm	"Super Soaker" Second Sunday
Mon/Fri	9:00 am - 12:00 noon	Church office open
Tues	6:30 pm	Deacons Meeting

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - August 10-16, 2025**

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

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