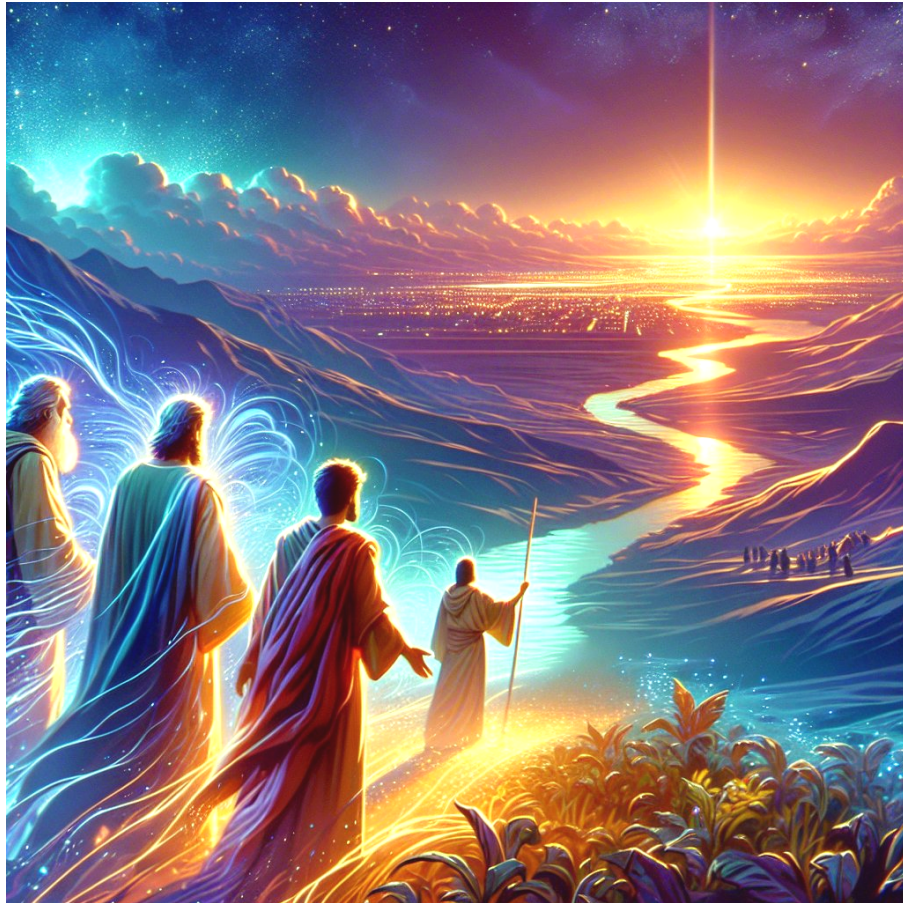


First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



January 5, 2024

Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church

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

PRELUDE

As With Gladness, Men of Old

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace in this new year.

We will bless God who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

We have been redeemed as God's own people. Praise be to God!

***HYMN**

Here in This Place - Gather Us In

401

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of your name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us to drink with wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, Light years away: here in this place the new light is shining; Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for the blessing in his hand.
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage born to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood. He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Ore poriaju vereko* *Paraguay*
(Phonetic pronunciation:) O-ray por-yah-you vare-ay-ko Nyan-day jah-ra. (Repeat)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love and compassion, you have come into the world and yet we have not recognized you. Forgive our lack of insight and open our eyes to see you here and now, that we may receive your grace through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

HYMNHe Came Down***137**

He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah forever more.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earths, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION**OFFERTORY***La Nativite****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** *Come to the Table***508**

Come to the table, all you who praise God.
Laid in a stable, God's gift of love:
Jesus our Savior poured out his life's blood.
Our sins forgiven, God's gift of love.

Come eat this bread now, my broken body.
My vow remember: I am your Lord.
Drink of this wine, the cup of salvation.
For you are mine, and I am your Lord.

All is now ready, like the first table.
Pray for the Spirit; lift up your hearts.
Christ has arisen, our Lord and Savior.
With great thanksgiving, lift up your hearts.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* **543**

God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to

Move my voice; God, be the strength to now uphold me:

O Christ, surround me: O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses
enfold; prophets, apostles, angels witness:

O Christ, surround me: O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning,
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of planet.

O Christ, surround me: O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to
light my way, and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me: O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that
Hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me: O Christ, surround me.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE** *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

POSTLUDE

We Three Kings

arr. Young

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leaders: Jen Aquino

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Video: Pam Venturini

Greeting: Al, Jen, & Veronica Aquino

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

Shirley Roe & Nancy Lawlor

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!

TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning, our Senior Choir sings a Joel Raney arrangement of the hymn "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence". From Hymnary.org: "Evidence suggests that the Greek text of "Let All Mortal Flesh" may date back to the fifth century. The present text is from the Liturgy of St. James, a Syrian rite thought to have been written by St. James the Less, first Bishop of Jerusalem. It is based on a prayer chanted by the priest when the bread and wine are brought to the table of the Lord."

STEW'S CLUE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding by the piano. This week's clue to find Stewie is **Peace**. Hope you find him!

CALL FOR THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

By order of the Session, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, NJ is called to meet for their annual meeting on Sunday, **January 19, 2025** after worship to conduct the following business:

- To receive the 2025 budget for information
- To receive the 2024 Annual Reports
- To elect elders to the Session, deacons to the Board of Deacons, members to the Personnel Committee and Nominating Committee, and a member to the Heaven Sent Board of Trustees.

THIS YEAR'S PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Several have asked about the amount for the 2025 Per Capita. The Presbytery of the Highlands has set this year's amount at \$43.50 per active member. If you receive offering envelopes, there is an envelope in your box specifically to use for your per capita offering.

CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

By order of the Session, the corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, NJ is called to meet directly following the congregational meeting on Sunday, **January 19, 2025**, to conduct the following business:

- Report of corporate officers
- Election of corporation officers for 2025

Public notice of this meeting will be posted to two consecutive Sundays.

Donna Erickson
Clerk of the Session

DEACONS COLLECTING HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES AND MITTENS FOR LITTLE HANDS

During these cold winter months, the Board of Deacons will be collecting NEW gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves for children at Willow Grove, Hatchery Hill, and Central School (Great Meadows) who don't have those items to keep themselves warm! The collected outerwear will be given to the school nurses for distribution to the kids who need them. If you are out shopping and spy kid sized hats, mittens, scarves and/or gloves, we'd love you to put them in the collection basket in coming Sundays. Thanks!

COME AND SUPPORT THE HHS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM!

We will be (informally) attending the Hackettstown High School Boys' Basketball team, coached by our own Mike McDonagh on Saturday, Jan 11. The game is at 1 pm in the gym at HHS, and we'd love to have any and all meet in the gym and provide support and encouragement to our local team and their coach!

JANUARY SECOND SUNDAY

Next Sunday, **January 12**, we'll be holding our own Winter Olympics from 11:30-1:30 with crafts, games, contests and plenty of fun! Be sure to pre register by signing up in church or calling Pattie in the office.

FYI-INFORMATION

12/24/24	In Person Attendance	163
	Virtual Attendance	169
	Offering	\$3,452.00
12/29/24	In Person Attendance	45
	Virtual Attendance	N/A
	Offering	\$1,386.27

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

Jan. 5 - 11, 2025

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
Thursday	6:30-7:15 pm	FPCH Ringers rehearsal
Thursday	7:30-8:30 pm	Sr. Choir rehearsal
Saturday	1:00 pm	HHS Boys' Basketball game HHS Gym

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - Jan. 5 - 11, 2025

Monday	10:30-11:30 am 7:00-9:00 pm	AA Step by Step 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 7:00-9:00 pm 7:30 pm	Colonial Musketeers Colonial Musketeers Sr. 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