

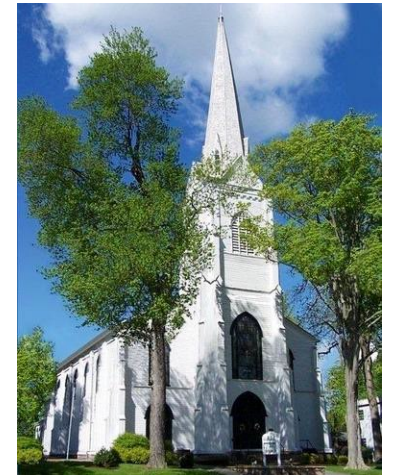
**First Presbyterian
Church
298 Main Street**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
298 MAIN STREET
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ 07840
REV. ERIN HAYES-COOK
OFFICE: 908-852-4011
e-mail: fpchnj@gmail.com
Church website,
<http://www.fpchackettstown.org>
Editor: MaryAnn Simmons
maryann.simmons3@verizon.net**

**FEBRUARY
2025**



*Light
from the*



Steeple

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ
CHURCH OFFICE: (908) 852-4011**

Pastor: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook
Choir Director/Organist: Lorinda Ravo
Treasurer: Al Ravo
Financial Secretary: Deborah Gulick-Shepherd
Head Usher: Kim Newton
Church Secretary: Pattie Huff

2025 SESSION

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Donna Erickson	Bill Cors	Michele Cameron
Diane Hull	Geof Gohlich	Pete Miller
Ray Sookhoo	Sharon Heil	MaryAnn Simmons

Clerk of Session: Donna Erickson

2025 BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Ellen Bergman	Jackie Hammel	Dennis Huff
Patricia Butts	Kathy Maier	Jose Irby
Carol Miller	Lorinda Ravo	Jean Zetterberg

Moderator: Ellen Bergman

2025 HEAVEN SENT NURSERY SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICE: 852-2006

Director: Jen Bujno

Pat Butts	- 2026	Pam Venturini	- 2027
Meghan DeCree	- HS Parent	Toni Fryer	- HS Parent
Sharon Heil - Session Rep			
Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook - Ex-Officio			

A NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

Hello, FPCH

Welcome back to our second edition of *Light From the Steeple*. I hope you are encouraged by all of the good things that are happening at our church. We have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to in 2025.

I ask that you consider how you can say YES to what we have to offer here at FPCH. Our missions are growing and we ask that you contemplate any opportunity you have to join in on those activities that arise. Think about how you can help with our popular Little Pantry, our clothing drives, or our community events. Perhaps you would like to join one of our newly formed committees or one that already exists. Maybe you would like to socialize at one of our gourmet groups - Men's or Ladies' Breakfasts, Ladies Who Lunch, PLEFF Dinners. Or perhaps you want to join our Adult Bible Study when that resumes. The opportunities are endless and we welcome all who wish to participate.

I have included in this newsletter some information regarding our Public Relations Committee, our news from the Deacons, and as always, the highlights from the previous month and the Second Sunday activities. Also know that I have introduced new members who joined us on January 26th (in case you were unable to attend that service) and I have provided information about some of the special collections that are going to take place during the 2025 liturgical year.

Lastly, kids, in honor of Valentine's Day this month, I have provided a fun activity for you regarding famous cartoon couples. See how many you know.

As always, thank you for your readership. If anyone has suggestions for future editions, please email me or chat with me after one of our Sunday services.

Until next month...

Yours in Christ,
MaryAnn Simmons

DATES TO REMEMBER - FEBRUARY 2025

- 02: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 02: Worship and communion - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 03: Court of Honor - Scout Troop - 7-8:30 PM
- 05: Yarn Girls - 1 PM in the Conference Room
- 06: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 08: Men's Breakfast - 8:15 AM - location to be determined
- 09: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 09: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Installation and Ordination of new officers; Sunday School; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 09: Second Sunday -11:30-1:30 PM in the Church -
- 11: Deacon's Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 13: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 15: Ladies' Breakfast - 9 AM - River Star Diner
- 16: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 16: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School
- 18: Session Meeting - 6:30 PM, in the Conference Room
- 16: Lehigh Valley Phantoms Hockey Game - 3 PM - PPL Center
- 20: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 22: Leadership Training for Elders and Deacons - TBD
- 23: Confirmation Class - 9 - 9:50 AM in the Conference Room
- 23: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School; New Member Sunday; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 24: Court of Honor - Scout Troop - 7-8:30 PM
- 27: Music Rehearsals - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 28: Ladies Who Lunch - 12 PM - Applebee's, Hackettstown, NJ

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Around this time three years ago I was joyfully unpacking boxes in the Manse, our new home. Or I should say, I was filled with joy to be here for our ministry and our home, but not to unpack boxes. I look back at the past three years with gratitude. When we embarked on this journey of ministry together I knew that God had brought us all together at the right time. I knew that many people prayed to bring the community and our families together.

Every time I step into the pulpit and look out over the community I can feel the spirit at work. It's in the wiggly little ones in the pews, the looks of folks who come to the church for the first time, the nudges of teenagers in the balcony, the head nods of our more seasoned folks in the pews. I feel the spirit at work in each yes that you say to step up and do the ministry of Christ over and over again. Even when it calls something out of you that you could never imagine doing on your own, you keep moving. God gives us the capability to do far more than what is possible on our own. I have seen the Spirit alive here, and She gives us what we need to be God's people now.

These cold months force us to go inside both in body and mind. It is hard to avoid it when the darkness comes so quickly and the cold makes us want to snuggle in. I encourage you to hear these words from the book of Romans:

"Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. The Spirit you received doesn't make you slaves. Otherwise you would live in fear again. Instead, the Holy Spirit you received made you God's adopted child. By the Spirit's power we call God Abba. Abba means Father. The Spirit himself joins with our spirits. Together they tell us that we are God's children. As God's children, we will receive all that God has for us. We will share what Christ receives. But we must share in Christ's sufferings if we want to share in his glory" (Romans 8:14-18).

When we are led by the Spirit we have what we need to be free. Be encouraged siblings; God is at work. Let's continue on this journey together!

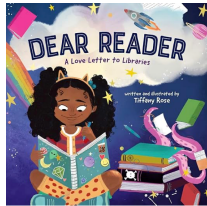
In Christ,
Pastor Erin



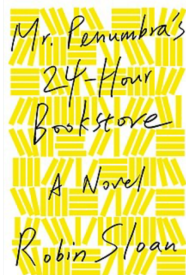
BOOKS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

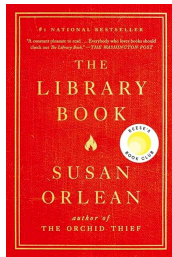
National Library Lover's Month in February is dedicated to the people who love whole buildings devoted to reading, housing, organizing, categorizing, finding, studying, and otherwise loving books. For all you book lovers, here is a list of titles about these topics.



Dear Reader: A Love Letter to Libraries by Tiffany Rose: A young girl writes her "love letter" to libraries and books, expressing the need for diversity and the importance of representation within stories. This is a perfect book for kids ages 4-8.



Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan: Clay Jannon is a laid-off Silicon Valley tech worker who begins working at a dusty bookstore with very few customers, and he discovers one secret after another. The mysterious old books, along with the store's owner, lead to a 500-year-old secret society. This is a great book for our tweens and teens.



The Library Book by Susan Orlean: On the morning of April 28, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. The fire was disastrous: it reached two thousand degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who?

I hope you consider one of these books for the month of February.
Happy Reading, all.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SET FOR FEBRUARY 9TH

In 1990, a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" was delivered to a small youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC led by Brad Smith, who was serving as a seminary intern at the time.

This gave birth to an idea. Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food and fun, to unite the nation for a higher good? Individuals and groups could collect dollars in soup pots and canned food for those in need and send every dollar and food donation DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

The first year, they invited 22 area churches to join the team and collected \$5,700 with 100% of donations distributed to local-area charities.

That was 1990. Since then, Tackle Hunger, with its signature Souper Bowl of Caring event has become a national, grass-roots, youth-inspired movement where ordinary people are doing extraordinary good. Over \$198 MILLION in dollars and food has been generated while benefiting thousands of soup kitchens, food banks, meal programs and other hunger-relief charities in local communities.



This year, FPCH will be participating for our 25th year as we encourage those attending church to wear apparel from your favorite team: high school, college, or professional. And then, resolve to bring at least one canned food item to church and/or donate at least \$1 as you leave worship on February 9. All proceeds will benefit our Little Pantry.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy these music highlights of our January worship services.



NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons wish to welcome three new members to their board: Dennis Huff, Jose Irby, and Jean Zetterberg and want to thank Pat Gohlich, Janette Hendershot, and Justin Simmons for their service over the past three years.

In news regarding the Little Pantry, we are considering purchasing metal locking cabinets this month since we are experiencing spoiled meat being left on the shelves and glass containers freezing and exploding. We are also thinking about creating a new sign stating that this pantry is run by FPCH and does not belong to others. We would like to keep it open 24 hours a day for people in need, but we are facing challenges. More information will follow after our meeting in February.

During the month of December, the congregation sponsored 97 Christmas Poinsettia Flowers at \$5 each, earning a profit of \$485.00. In addition, we sold 30 Christmas ornaments at a profit of \$300.00.

Throughout January, we collected hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. We have already delivered approximately 140 pieces to Hatchery Hill, Willow Grove, and Great Meadows schools and will distribute the rest of our donations in early February. Thank you to all who contributed to this mission.

We continue to visit our Homebound Members who cannot attend church so that they feel supported and a part of the congregation.

Finally, we will vote in February to allocate different percentages for Deacon Budget items. We will discuss Congregational Assistance, Outside Organizations, and Administrative line items.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our missions. If you have any questions or suggestions, please be sure to reach out to a Deacon.

DECEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

BY: AL RAVO

The Expenses Paid and Income amounts below do not include the funds transferred from the Endowment to meet the church operating expenses.

	OCTOBER	Year to Date
Income	\$19,886.17	\$195,132.73
Expenses Paid	\$22,162.70	\$224,471.18
Net Operating Income / (Deficit)	(\$ 2,276.53)	(\$ 29,338.45)
Amount of Schwab/Edward Jones funds used to pay operating expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 15,000.00
Amount Needed from Endowment	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Total amount of Endowment, Schwab & Edward Jones funds used to pay		

Operating expenses in 2024 \$ 3,000.00 \$ 30,000.00

Financial Comments / Observations:

- 1. \$15,000.00 was transferred from the Mass Mutual Endowment fund to pay operating expenses.
- 2. \$3,000.00 was used in December and the remaining \$12,000.00 is in the Designated Donations Account as Endowment funds.

The five largest operating expenses in December were:

- a. \$7,378.77 – Pastoral expenses (payroll, Board of Pensions, etc.).
- b. \$4,336.43 – Staff payroll & payroll processing expenses.
- c. \$2,542.00 – Worker Compensation Insurance.
- d. \$2,410.00 – Snow removal and salting (3 buildings).
- e. \$1,759.17 – Gas (3 buildings).

DECEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

3. The operating net income / (deficits) were (\$2,276.53) in December and (\$29,338.45) Year To Date

- The actual December operating expenses were \$2,829.37 above the average monthly budgeted expenses.
- The actual December operating incomes were \$3,052.84 above the average monthly budgeted incomes.
- The Year-To-Date operating expenses were \$7,528.82 below the average YTD budgeted amounts.
- The Year-To-Date operating incomes were \$6,867.27 below the average YTD budgeted amount.

4. In December, the value of the MassMutual Investment accounts decreased \$22,233.34 to \$346,431.76. The \$22,233.34 loss includes the \$15,000.00 transferred to the checking account to pay bills.

5. The total endowment fund at the end of December was \$361,442.50. The total endowment fund was down \$10,324.88 since the beginning of December and up \$21,776.87 since January 1, 2024.

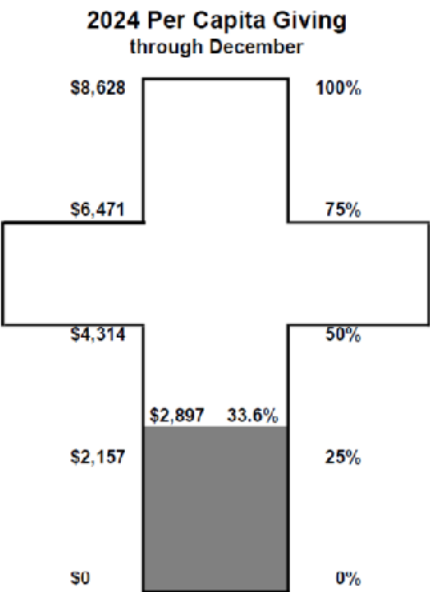
6. The December Community was not held. The total cost to the church for all community dinners since December 2021 is \$693.02.

7. The Men’s breakfast was held at River Star Diner.

The 2024 Per Capita is \$42.50 for each of the 203 members of our Church. (The number is the membership of FPCH on December 31, 2022.) The total amount due in 2024 is \$8,627.50 or \$718.96 monthly. In December, \$85.00 was received for Per Capita bringing the total received in 2024 to \$2,896.78 or 33.6% of the amount due. A payment of \$85.00 was sent to the Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ in December bringing the total sent in 2024 to \$2,896.78 or 33.6% of the total amount due.

The 2025 Per Capita amount is \$43.50 for each congregation member.

Please contact Al Ravo for questions or to discuss the Church’s operational finances, the Endowment Funds, Per Capita or the Building On Generosity Capital Campaign.

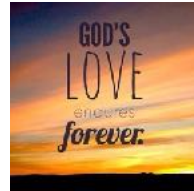


CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -DECEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Pastor Ralph Lamar on December 22, 2024. He was residing at Heath Village at the time of his death.

Rev. Lamar was a Presbyterian Minister associated with PCUSA for over 30 years and was a friend of FPCH and the Hackettstown community. He also served our country as a Chaplain with the US Navy. Our Presbyterian family will value his legacy. All services were held privately.



We give thanks to the God of the Resurrection whose love brings us hope everyday.

BUILDING ON GENEROSITY (BOG) CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The following highlights the December BOG Campaign.

- Donations received during December, **\$1,197.00.**
- Total donations received from church members, non-members and anonymous from September 2019 (the BOG Kickoff dinner) through the last day of December 2024, **\$649,733.02.**
- Expenses paid using the BOG funds in December, **\$0.00.**
- The total available BOG funds are **\$16,132.26.** The breakdown is **\$10,882.26** for the next BOG project with an additional **\$2,500.00** designated for parking lot pavement and **\$2,750.00** designated for the Chapel range hood replacement.
- Donations breakdown by source:
 - **5.3% - \$34,519.76 from nonmembers**
 - **86.0% - \$558,927.05 from members**
 - **8.7% - \$56,286.21 from anonymous & dinners**
 - **100.0% - \$649,733.02 Total**

Please contact Al Ravo for questions or to discuss the Church's operating finances, the Endowment Funds, Per Capita or the Building On Generosity Capital Campaign.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS SET FOR 2025

As you all are aware, our Mission and Outreach Ministry holds special collections throughout the liturgical year that are sponsored by the Presbytery of the Highlands. They are outlined below for you.

Presbyterian Disaster Relief for the California Wildfires: this will occur in the month of March this year as a special collection to support those afflicted by the fires that have been ravaging the Los Angeles and surrounding areas in California.

One Great Hour of Sharing: held between March 5-April 20th. All money collected is divided among three programs - The Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Self-Development of People.

Pentecost Offering: held between April 21-June 8. It supports at-risk children, youth, and young adults. 50% is retained by the church and goes toward scholarships to Camp Johnsonburg; 50% supports ministries with youth and young adults; 10% supports child advocacy/children at risk.

Peace and Global Witness: held between Sept 7-Oct 5. This offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. 25% is kept to support local efforts; 25% is kept by mid-councils to support regional efforts; 50% supports peacemaking, reconciliation, and global witness.

Christmas Joy Offering: held between Dec 1-Dec 21. This offering supports Presbyterian church workers and their families in times of need. 50% goes toward the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions; 50% goes toward Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Be sure to check the newsletter each month to learn more about these special offerings when they are scheduled. Please consider these worthwhile opportunities to assist those in need.

FEBRUARY GREETERS

- FEB 2: Della and Jose Irby
- FEB 9: Kathy Maier and Bev Saunders
- FEB 16: Carol and Pete Miller
- FEB 23: The Tischler Family



SAVE THE DATES: SPECIAL DAYS IN FEBRUARY

Please note that we will conduct the ordination and installation of our new officers on February 9, 2025. We hope you will be able to attend our worship service on this day.

Also remember to bring a canned soup item for the Souper Bowl of Car-ing on Feb 9th.

In addition, Pastor Erin has designated February 22 as a day of training for our church Deacons and Elders, from 10AM to 1 PM at the Chapel.

FEBRUARY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1

MUSIC NOTES

Music for the month of February will be:



- Feb. 2: All Good Gifts Senior Choir
- Feb. 9: Thank you God, for Loving Care: Joyful Noise Bell Choir
- Feb. 16: Great is Thy Faithfulness: FPCH Ringers
- Grace Alone: Senior Choir
- Feb. 23: On Wings of Love and Prayer: Unity Chime Choir
- Kyrie: Little Lights Sunday School Choir

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?

Beginning in January, we'd like to help you celebrate your birthday by playing your favorite hymn during the worship service: it might be the prelude, offertory, or the postlude on the Sunday closest to your birthday! Please use this short form, and give it to Lorinda. She'll be happy to play your favorite for you!

Name _____
Birthday (day/month) _____
Favorite hymn _____

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN

If you've been thinking about being a part of any of our music ensembles here at FPCH - Senior Choir, FPCH Ringers (adult chimes), Joyful Noise Bells (for young ringers) or Unity Chimes (for kids grade 3 and up) - please be sure to speak with Lorinda for more information!



People are welcome to come in and give it a try at any time throughout the year.



Sharing God's Bounty

Each household has its own routine. We go to work; we help the kids with their homework and attend their events; we make the meals, clean the house, and do the laundry. Our days are full – sometimes too full. So full that time for the Lord is abbreviated or omitted altogether. Then comes Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It's just what we need to get back on track. We gather together for worship. We hear again about Jesus' ministry, about the events that eventually lead up to his crucifixion, about his zeal for the Lord's house. We hear his prayer for his disciples and his words of comfort and preparation to them.

Our hearts are turned to Christ instead of toward ourselves. We ask for grace to love and serve as he did, sacrificing self for the good of others. *"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13). Paul comments, *"Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:7-8). God loved and chose us, the unlovely, to shed his grace upon. We are reminded that, *"since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another"* (1 John 4:11).

"Love one another." Not just our close friends or those who agree with us, but *"one another."* We can't do it, can we? Some people are just too hard to love. Some people are not deserving of our gifts and our attention. Some people aren't interested in the love we have to offer. The command remains: *"Love one another."*

Now is a good time to read John 15. Here we find the secret of loving and serving. Here we find the source of love, of faith, of everything we need. That source is Jesus. He is the Vine. He sustains and nurtures us, the branches. He enables us to bear fruit, to *"love one another."* He calls those who obey him. His friends and tells us he will give us whatever we ask in his name. So we pray, Lord, let us *"love one another."*

Too often we fail to understand that Christian instruction about money is one of the best opportunities we have to teach our children about God's love for us, and his ownership of all things.

The way we use money is the extension of our personal characteristics.

By teaching our children the Christian use of money, affording them control of money and the need to make decisions about money, we also confront them with the meaning of discipleship and Christian stewardship.

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TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE TO BE CREATED

Are you technologically savvy? Are you good with computers, iPads, cameras, or videography? If you are, then you are the perfect person for the FPCH newly formed Technology Committee.

Please consider joining this group to develop technology that will better serve our congregation. Your expertise and experience are greatly appreciated. If interested, see Pastor Erin or any member of the Session during the month of February.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKING ADDITIONAL MEMBER

Do you have the gift of writing? Of public speaking? Of letting people know the news about important events and activities? If you do, then the Public Relations Committee needs your talents.

Help us to creatively reach beyond our church walls and inform the community around us about the great things that are happening at First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown. Please contact Michele Cameron at 908-813-0293 or by email at ML-Cameron@comcast.net for more information.

In truth, every congregational member of The First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown is on the Public Relations team and we always appreciate when you spread the word of Sunday services and events. FPCH has a lot to offer, so don't forget to share!

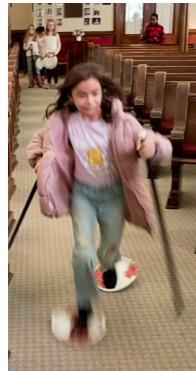


SECOND SUNDAY RECAP



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
LORINDA RAVO.

In January, we all enjoyed our first ever FPCH Winter Olympics. The kids made their own Olympic torches, chose the country they wanted to represent, enjoyed a parade of nations, learned about the sport of curling, and even participated in a “Biathlon” in the church!



Check out the church facebook page, for pictures

and videos from the day.

On February 9, our Second Sunday program will be “Stained Glass with Mr. Gohlich” who will be showing us how he creates stained glass works of art. We’ll check out both pieces that he’s made as well as closely look at the stained glass windows in the church. Art projects will include stained glass like creations! Be sure to sign up so that we have enough supplies for all.



As always, thanks for allowing your kids to take part in this worthwhile monthly event to learn about the Bible and enjoy a fun craft to help make the lesson remain in their minds.

CAN YOU SHARE AN INTEREST OR TALENT WITH SOME TERRIFIC KIDS?

This year, 2025, we are celebrating three years of our Second Sunday program. Do you have a talent or an interest or a hobby that you’d like to share with kids? We’ll help you develop an event showcasing your talent and providing an experience for and with our kids. Please speak with Lorinda if you’d like to be part of the fun.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL EVENTS

Did you know that each month, we have special things happening for our Sunday School students? From photo stations, to holiday themed goodie bags, to our “wall questions” each month, to our Christmas play in December, there is always something to look forward to at FPCH’s Sunday School. One of the things that helps us get to know our kids are the “wall questions” on the ramp. Each month, we ask our kids to answer a question or complete a prompt, and their answers appear on a decorated wall by the entrance ramp. Take some time to stop by and read their charming and insightful responses.

KIDS AROUND THE WORLD

Each month, during the music portion of our children’s message in church, the kids of our congregation “visit” a different country. So far during this 2024-25 Sunday School year, the kids have stayed in the USA, learning about the Muscogee Creek Nation and singing “Heleluyan”, then traveled to Nigeria and learned “Wa Wa Wa Emimimo”. Next we were off to Zimbabwe to learn about the country and sing “Jesu, Tawa Pano”, and in December, we were in England as we learned “The Friendly Beasts.”



January saw us “fly” across the Atlantic to Paraguay and sing “Ore Poria Ju Vereko” in the Guarini language. Now, in this month of February, we’ll be on our way to Greece and learning to sing the “Kyrie”. We love letting our children know that kids (and their grown-ups) across the world worship the same God that we do here in Hackettstown, even if the language sounds different than the English that we sing!



TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO PRAY

Wind Prayers for the World

Many cultures and countries have the custom of having flags in the wind. The image is a reminder that as the wind blows, the prayers are carried away with it and everyone who is touched by the wind benefits from the prayers. Flags are left up, even when they are weathers and worn, and, then, eventually burned. In this prayer, the family makes their own prayer flags together and hangs the outside. For Christians, a prayer flag is a way to talk about the presence of the Holy Spirit. Evidence of the Holy Spirit's work is all around us, even if we cannot see it at times.

DESIGNED FOR AGES 6+

Materials:

- 1. 5x10 inch squares of fabric
- 2. Hot glue gun or fabric glue
- 3. Yarn
- 4. Fabric markers, or fabric paint and paint brushes

Time Investment: 30-60 minutes

How To:

- 1. Explain the prayer flags saying, "This prayer is special because we will write or draw it on our prayer flag and hang it outside. Then, when we look at our prayer flags outside, we will see them moving in the wind and remember how the Holy Spirit always hears our prayers. We can imagine that our prayers for the world will be spread around the whole earth, just like the wind."
- 2. Ask each family member to answer the question, "What is one thing that you hope for our world?"
- 3. Give each family member a fabric square and fabric markers (or paint) and say, "Let's draw a picture of what our prayers would look like or write a word to represent our prayer."
It is easiest to orient the rectangles vertically. When the flags are completed, the top two inches will be folded over the string to hand, making a fine inch by eight inch rectangle. Instruct family members follow this room at the top for the flags to be folded over.
- 4. After designs are complete and dry, hang the flags. Cut a piece of yarn long enough to hold all of the flags with 2-3 inches of room between each. Fold the top of each flag over the yarn and secure it with hot glue or fabric glue.
- 5. Find a place outside to hang your flags.

"This practice is excerpted from the book *Faithful Families: Simple Practices for Daily Family Life* by Traci Smith, published by Challice Press, 2017, All rights Reserved. Used by Permission.



IDENTIFY THE CARTOON COUPLE

Hi, kids. In honor of Valentine's Day in February, I have decided to provide you with the first half of a cartoon couple. You now need to fill in the blank with his or her partner. Good luck and let me know how you do when you see me in church.

Aang and _____	(Avatar: The Last Airbender)
Aladdin and _____	(Aladdin)
Anastasia and _____	(Anastasia)
Anna and _____	(Frozen)
Ariel and _____	(The Little Mermaid)
Belle and _____	(Beauty and the Beast)
Blu and _____	(Dragonball Legends)
Cinderella and _____	(Cinderella)
Cosmo and _____	(Fairly Odd Parents)
Donald and _____	(Donald Duck)
Eep and _____	(The Croods: A New Age)
Ellie and _____	(Up)
Homer and _____	(The Simpsons)
Lady and _____	(Disney)
Mickey and _____	(Mickey Mouse)
Muana and _____	(Muana)
Mufasa and _____	(Lion King)
Mulan and _____	(Mulan)
Pocahontas and _____	(Pocahontas)
Shrek and _____	(Shrek)
Simba and _____	(The Lion King)
Tarzan and _____	(Tarzan)
Timon and _____	(The Lion King)
Wall-e and _____	(Wall-e)
Woody and _____	(Toy Story)

I hope you have fun with this activity!!!

FPCH WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Although FPCH has been the home of worship for a number of people each Sunday, the church officially welcomed its newest members into the congregation on January 26th. Please be sure to introduce yourselves to the following people the next time you see them sitting in the pew next to you.



Gilbert and Martha Anyangwe reside in Budd Lake and have two daughters and a son, Blessing (a high school senior at Mount Olive HS), Angel (an 8th grader at MOMS), and Achiki (a 5th grader at Sandshore Elementary School). They come to us from Prospect Presbyterian Church in Maplewood.

Danielle Meussig and her husband Doug have two teenagers, **Alex** and Douglas III. Danielle is a 4th grade teacher who, when not spending time with her family, enjoys cycling, reading, and gardening. She says, “Alex and I have received such a warm welcome from this congregation and are looking forward to becoming more involved in the future.”

Dale Pritchett and his wife Lynn live in Panther Valley. He was a member of the FPC in Cranford and Lynn was a member of St. Michael’s Church in Cranford. They have four adult boys who live in either NYC or NJ. Dale is a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church and has enjoyed serving as a Deacon, Elder, and Trustee.

Sarah Tang is married to Alpha Tang and they have two children, Kaz and Zeke. Sarah was a bilingual teacher for many years before taking time off for her family. They all enjoy participating in many of the church’s activities. When not spending time with her family, Sarah enjoys hiking and reading.

Emily Tischler has two daughters, Violet (10) and Audrey (6), who attend Cucinella Elementary School and they love attending church! Emily lived in NYC and pursued a career in fashion design and now lives in Long Valley. She began teaching Sunday School here and is in her second year as a choir member.

James Tischler, father of Violet and Audrey, is employed at the Gap in NY, creating apparel graphics. He currently lives in Budd Lake and enjoys spending time with his family, cooking, the outdoors, rec softball, and volunteering with *God’s Love We Deliver* in New York. His father was the minister at First Presbyterian Church of Mahanoy City. There, James was active in the youth group and the children’s choir.

We welcome you all into our church and hope you will all become involved in the many ministries here in Hackettstown.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Anaelle Djongang
- 5: Blair Gulick
- 6: Shaun O’Brien
- 9: Henry Butts
Kyle Gulick
- 11: Andrea Sobolewski
- 13: Mary Brodt
Jose Irby
- 14: Brenda Zellars
- 18: Dan Gardner
- 19: Joan Grover
- 20: Alexis Bravakis
- 21: Jim Simmons
- 23: Christian Cochran
- 26: Lorinda Ravo
- 26: Heather Alfano-DeRosa
- 28: Shane Butts



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 17: John & Sharon Wojcicki

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Bunnell family
- Rod Cameron, father-in-law of Michele Cameron
- Eugenie Chetangie
- Churches throughout the U.S.
- Jan Courtright and her family
- Displaced families due to California wildfires
- Families of recent DC plane tragedy
- FPCH and Friends of FPCH
- Dan Gardner
- The Family of Rose Green
- Dick Gregory
- Terry Gretchen
- Joan Grover
- Barbara Hall
- Jeanette Hile
- The Family of Ralph Lamar
- Carol Levine, mom of Michele Cameron
- Maikuu congregation, Kibwezi Kenya
- Members of the Armed Forces
- Barbara Pace, niece of the Prestopines
- Alice Phoebus
- Pam Sampson, sister of Jan Courtright
- Mark Slachetka (and Winnie)
- Carol Spitzer
- Muriel Stellingwerf
- Gail Thompson, cousin of Diane Hull
- The food insecure
- The homeless
- Those struggling with addictions and mental health
- Those recovering from surgery
- Richard Westby
- Barbara Yankiv

