

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



May 25, 2025

Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church

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

PRELUDE

Patriotic Medley

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM:

American Medley

FPCH Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit of the living God is here with us!

May we feel her in our body and spirit.

The voice of God still speaks to us today.

May we listen to her come alive in worship today.

The heart of God rests in the people.

May we see the face of Christ in each other.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

20

Refrain

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.**

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings. **(Refrain)**

The purple headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky. **(Refrain)**

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. **(Refrain)**

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. **(Refrain)**

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM: *America, The Beautiful*

Congregational Choir

O beautiful, for spacious skies for amber waves of grain. For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America, America, God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife. Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years. Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears! America, America, God shed his grace on thee. And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea. From sea to shining sea! America!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *As the Wind Song* **292**

Indonesia and New Zealand

As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze, so it is with the Spirit of God. As the heart made strangely warm, as the voice within the storm, so it is with the Spirit of God. Never seen, never known where this wind has blown bringing life, bringing power to the world....

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

Dear God, the bells do not ring across the nation for all of us. Forgive us for believing that our story and privilege are a way to disregard those of our brothers and sisters for whom this country has been heartache and pain. Forgive us for glorifying violence and forgetting the sacrifice of your heart. We confess that freedom to live an abundant life has not been offered to all in our country. We know that in you we begin our foundation for freedom, hope and a bountiful life. Give us the courage to claim it. Forgive us when we hold on tightly to what we have in fear of others trying to take it. Give us abundant hearts. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's grace is a gift freely given to us. Thanks be to God!

***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 67
Acts 16:9-15**

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes Cook

***HYMN**

Be Still, My Soul

819

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *A brief statement of faith, PCUSA*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments. we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

***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** *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** *Lord, Be Glorified* **468**

In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified, In your world, Lord, be
glorified today.

POSTLUDE *God of the Ages*

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: Bill Cors

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Greeting: Della & Jose Irby

Video: Erin Roguso

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

Katy Groover & Barbara Henning

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!

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Tomorrow is the day! If you would like to march in the parade we will meet on Washington and Valentine Streets at 9:15 am. Stop by and lend a hand to help us sell various iced drinks and breakfast sandwiches. We will set up around 8 am. Our open house begins at 9:00 am.

TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning, our FPCH Ringers play "American Medley", a piece that combines "America, the Beautiful", "God of the Ages", and "My Country 'Tis of Thee". Our Senior Choir, enhanced by congregation members sings our traditional Memorial Day anthem "America, the Beautiful".

STEW'S CLUE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding by the Unity Chime Choir folders. Today, Stewie has moved to a new hiding place. The clue he's giving us is flag. Hope you find him!

JUNE'S SECOND SUNDAY

On Sunday **June 8**, from 11:30-1:00 pm, we'll be making our very own fidgets! Be sure to preregister on the sign up sheet in the church so that we can have enough supplies for everyone.

SAVE THE DATE!

At 3 pm on Saturday, June 7, the Stone Soup Symphony Orchestra will be presenting their annual FREE spring concert right here in our sanctuary. All are welcome to attend!

FYI-INFORMATION

5/18/25	In Person Attendance	70
	Virtual Attendance	0
	Offering	\$2,466.40

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

May 25 - 31, 2025

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	11:05 am	Joyful Noise Bells rehearsal
Monday	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Church office closed
Monday	9:00-10:00 am	Church Open House
Monday	8:30 am	Breakfast sandwiches sale
Tues/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Church office open
Tues/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Heaven Sent Nursery School

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - May 25 - 31, 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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