

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ

February 22, 2026



1st Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

PRELUDE *Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The good news of the gospel is:

**manna in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss,
forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:

**release for the captive, hope for the hopeless, mourning turned
to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in. There's no time to waste!

**This surprising good news is here for you. Let us worship this
good-news God.**

***HYMN** *Come Sing, O Church, In Joy* **305**

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify the Crucified!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD!

ANTHEM:

Tallis Canon

arr. Ravo

Joyful Noise Bell Choir



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *This is My Commandment*

John 15:12

Little Lights Sunday School Choir

This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full. This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full; that your joy may be full. That your joy may be full. This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

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

Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door. But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours? We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising. God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be:

of course, of course, of course.

This is the good news of the gospel.

Thanks be to God! 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 LESSONS

John 2:1-11 & Matthew 13:31-32

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes Cook

***HYMN**

Make a Joyful Noise to God!

54

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

Come and see what God has done, great the blessings to the just:
walked the chosen through the sea, brought their enemies to dust.
Let us lift a thankful voice for God's mercies, and rejoice!

Bless the Lord, our refuge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!
By whose justice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt deferred.
When our life's sure end shall come, bring us to your heavenly home.

***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

Decius

***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** *Jesus Loves Me* **188**

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me".
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* **Rathbun**

Serving Our Congregation Today

***Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook
Worship Leaders: James Tischler
Music Director: Lorinda Ravo***

Video:

Greeting: Pattie & Dennis Huff

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

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



There Is Still Room

by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Luke 14:15-24

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 STARTS 2/25

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 and read the first week before our time together.

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

February 22 - First Sunday of Lent, 10:00 am worship

March 1 - Second Sunday of Lent, 10:00 am worship

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? He was hiding in purple flowers in front of the church. This week, maybe you can spy him near the piano.

First Sunday in Lent
the good news is... so good it catches us by surprise



Messianic Secret

by T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by John 2:1-11

14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

The Wedding at Cana is my favorite text because there is a lot of humor in it. There's humor in a mother approaching her son and telling him to do something without ever actually telling him to do it. There's his pouty resistance to his mother's non-demand while she completely ignores him and paints him in a corner. There is humor in a raucous wedding reception where the people are so "lit" that the wine has run out. And, for me, it's particularly humorous that there's this huge, beautiful secret of which only a few people are aware.

Those people include Jesus' mother and the select servants who help him pull off the miracle that inaugurates his ministry. Servants are normally

meant to be inconspicuous, so I wanted to focus on the servant who goes to the chief steward^s with a cup full of what, as far as he's concerned, is water.

If Jesus—whose ministry has not started, so there haven't been any wonders associated with him yet—tells you to fill jars with water and draw from the jar to give to the chief steward, what is going through your mind at that moment? I invite the viewer to focus on this servant and all his curiosity and expectation, and think of a time when you were surprised by something God did. What actions preceded the miracle? Did it make sense? What did you know, and what was hidden from you? What "secrets" might God be keeping from you now as God works clandestinely on your behalf?

—Rev. T. Denise Anderson

Look

Imagine you are the servant in the image.

How do you feel as the chief steward tastes from the cup and realizes it is wine?

FYI-INFORMATION

2/15/26	In Person Attendance	86
	Virtual Attendance	128
	Offering	\$12,988.64

Tell Me Something Good

2/18/26	In Person Attendance	23
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

February 22 - 28, 2026

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

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - February 22 - 28, 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