

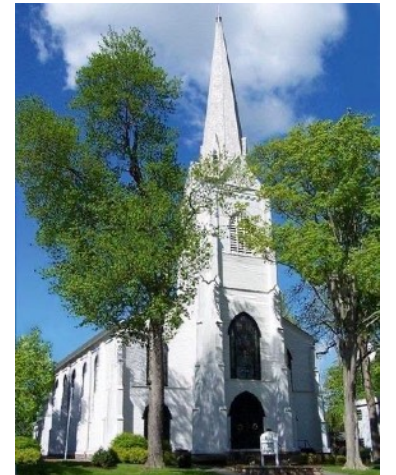
First Presbyterian
Church
298 Main Street

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

**MARCH
2026**

*Hello
March*

*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: Jackie Hammel
Financial Secretary: Deborah Gulick-Shepherd
Head Usher: Kim Newton
Church Secretary: Pattie Huff

2025 SESSION

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Bill Cors	Michele Cameron	Gilbert Anyangwe
Geof Gohlich	Pete Miller	Della Irby
Sharon Heil	MaryAnn Simmons	Rayman Sookhoo

Clerk of Session: Donna Erickson

2025 BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Jackie Hammel	Dennis Huff	Patricia Butts
Kathy Maier	Jose Irby	Karen Cramer
Lorinda Ravo	Jean Zetterberg	James Tischler

Moderator: Carol Miller

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 Members!

It is good to be back at church to see all of you in the sanctuary. I trust February has been a good month for you and we look forward to a fulfilled March and Lenten season.

I'd like to highlight the information found about our committees and ministries here at FPCH. We have a number of people who reach out to the congregation regarding the various activities that go on throughout the year with our many groups. To that end, please be sure to note the individuals who are our leaders for each group. If you have any questions or wish to be put on the email list, feel free to reach out to any one of those individuals OR ask Pastor Erin to direct you to another person who can assist with your questions or concerns.



Also, as you may know, Al Ravo has stepped down from his position as treasurer (a well-deserved retirement to spend more time with family and golf outings). Our new treasurer is Jackie Hammel, who has changed the format of her presentation to the church for the monthly newsletters. If you have any questions about her report, please see her before or after worship or email her at treas.fpchnj@gmail.com

For the next few months, I will provide brief biographies of the members of our Board of Deacons and Session. If you have any concerns regarding the missions of the church or the financial decisions, you can reach out to any of those members for clarification.

May you all enjoy a beautiful start of the Spring season. I look forward to seeing you in church each Sunday.

Yours in Christ,

MaryAnn Simmons

DATES TO REMEMBER - MARCH 2026

- 01: Worship and communion - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School & Confirmation class; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 02: Reading Across America/Dr. Seuss Day
- 03: PLEFF Dinner - 6:00 PM at Sizzle BBQ, Main Street, Hackettstown
- 04: Yarn Girls - 1 PM in the Conference Room
- 04: Bible Study - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 05: Music Rehearsal - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 08: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School & Confirmation Class; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 08: Second Sunday - 11:30 at the church - "Minute to Win It" games
- 10: Deacon's Meeting - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 11: Bible Study - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 12: Music Rehearsal - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 14: Community Dinner - 5-7 PM at the Chapel
- 15: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School & Confirmation class; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 17: Session Meeting - 6:30 PM, in the Conference Room
- 18: Bible Study - 6:30 PM, in the Conference Room
- 19: Music Rehearsal - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 21: Men's Breakfast - 8:15 AM - at the Chapel; Ladies' Breakfast - 9 AM - at the River Star Diner
- 22: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School & Confirmation Class; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship
- 22: Installation service of Rev Adrienne Poissant as Pastor of FPC of Branchville, 3-5 Wantage Ave, Branchville, NJ at 3 PM
- 24: Ladies Who Lunch - 12 PM at OMG Burgers, Schooley's Mountain Road
- 25: Bible Study - 6:30 PM in the Conference Room
- 26: Music Rehearsal - FPCH Ringers at 6:30 PM and Senior Choir at 7:30 PM, both in the Music Room
- 29: Worship - 10 AM; livestream through Facebook; Sunday School & Confirmation Class; Joyful Noise/Unity Chimes Rehearsal after worship

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

No matter how much I plan and pray Ash Wednesday always feels like it creeps up on me. I mean one week I am worried about whether all those random Christmas decorations are put away and the next I wonder if we have enough ashes for our worship service. This year felt different. Instead of gathering in the sanctuary we brought our Ash Wednesday service to the chapel. It was set up with our normal round dining tables, and the back of the chapel was fit with crockpots of homemade soups, salads, and desserts. There was a warm buzz in the air on a cold rainy night. Friends from our community and new ones ate and chatted over warm bowls of soup with the glow of lights in the background.

I shared the story about Jesus's parable from Luke 11, when he talks about the host of a banquet. This host invited all his friends and they sent in their regrets, which sounded like excuses. He laid out the best food and drink, the best tablecloths, and they said no. He sent people out to grab people who were at first strangers and they all came! This story is a glimpse of God's kingdom, the imagination of God's welcome that reaches to people who would at least expect the invitation to God's presence.

And around those tables we laughed about what it felt like to receive an invitation to some place special, and what we needed to let go of this Lent.

A flicker of joy and good news spread around the room when we shared the good news of our lives right now. Each of us even got flowers to take home and share with someone else. I believe we practiced the kingdom of God right there at 291 Main Street. Yes, we remembered we are dust and to dust we shall return and we are children of God. We claimed the Good News together. I pray that you might find ways to do that this Lent. Keep praying. Keep studying. Keep searching for God at work, for the Good News of Jesus, all are invited.

Yours in Christ,

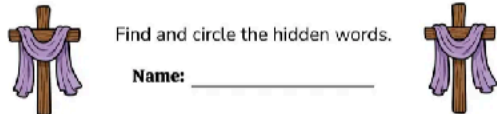
Pastor Erin

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING A HUGE SUCCESS

Many thanks to all who participated in this year's annual Souper Bowl of Caring. Not only did we receive scores of donated food items for our pantry, but the congregation also entered into the competition to see if we could predict the winner of the big game by voting with our cash donations. The big winner of the day was our Little Pantry which now has an additional \$429.00 to use to provide food for the insecure in our community. And in case you're wondering: FPCH voted almost 2 to 1 that the Seahawks would win this year's Super Bowl football game.



LENT WORD SEARCH



Find and circle the hidden words.

Name: _____

F	A	G	S	N	C	A	Z	I	Q	U	L
A	S	H	E	S	D	F	E	W	N	O	F
I	B	H	J	T	H	U	M	B	L	E	O
T	A	P	A	P	U	R	P	L	E	K	R
H	J	R	H	A	L	O	V	E	H	O	T
S	E	A	W	L	X	G	C	N	O	G	Y
H	S	Y	A	M	O	E	D	T	L	I	S
J	U	E	I	S	U	N	D	A	Y	V	K
K	S	R	A	B	V	E	S	W	R	I	L
O	T	A	L	H	F	V	P	X	S	N	A
E	Q	A	M	U	Y	H	N	V	A	G	D
I	F	A	S	T	S	E	R	V	I	C	E

- Fast
- Faith
- Ashes
- Purple
- Lent
- Love
- Palms
- Forty
- Sunday
- Giving
- Jesus
- Alms
- Prayer
- Holy
- Service
- Humble

Hey, kids. I know this word search looks small, but see if you can still find the words listed below the puzzle to understand the importance of Lent which leads us to Easter Day, the resurrection of Jesus. I know you will learn something from completing this activity. Enjoy and have fun.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

This month and next month, our Confirmation students will be attending meetings of the Session and the Board of Deacons in an effort to learn about the financial decisions of the church and the missions and outreach that occur with each governing body. To that end, their observations at the meetings will allow them to gain an understanding of what it takes to be and Elder or a Deacon within the Presbyterian Church, something they can become a part of once they are confirmed in May.



Next month, we will highlight students in Pre-K through first grade.

MARCH WALL WORDS FOR ST. PATTY'S DAY

After seeing a bulletin board that said "We're not lucky, we're blessed!", we decided to make a St. Patrick's Day themed wall this month and asked the Sunday School kids what's something that they're blessed by? Be sure to check out their answers on the wall by the ramp entrance to the church.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR KIDS

Each month, our Sunday School kids have been memorizing a Bible verse, and in March the verse comes from Psalm 139:14 - "You are fearfully and wonderfully made." Adults, you too should be prepared to learn this verse during the Children's message at worship each week.





EASTER FLOWERS

Sunday, April 5, 2026 marks the anniversary of Jesus' Resurrection! In celebration the Deacons are asking you to help fill the sanctuary with the colors of spring by sponsoring a silk Easter flower.

Sponsorships are \$5.00 per plant and may be *In Thanksgiving* for anyone dear to you or *In Memory of* friends or family that have enriched your life.

Please make checks payable to *The Deacons* and mail to First Presbyterian Church, c/o The Deacons, 298 Main St, Hackettstown, NJ 07840 or you may drop off your forms and payment in the church mailbox.

All forms and payment must be received no later than Sunday, March 22nd.

Please return the bottom portion with your payment, if you need additional space you may use the back of this form or submit on an additional piece of paper, thank you!

Sponsor:

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving for:

Plants Sponsored:

Amount Enclosed:

Have questions? Need more information?
Please contact: Pat Butts – 908 391-2006
or Karen Cramer – 201-572-2084

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

By PAT BUTTS

Thank you all for the continued support of our Little Pantry which has become such an important mission for our community. The food, personal care items, and pet care, along with monetary support make a difference every day. Your donations have filled the shelves many times over this winter. Around 30 people a day shop at our Little Pantry; you have helped them all. Thank you! If you are out Bargain Hunting we do have a few items we could use: tissues, toilet paper, shampoo/creme rinse, canned pasta (Spaghetti, Beef-a-roni etc), soup, cereal, canned fruit, bread, and because everyone deserves a treat, cookies! Please remember NO GLASS JARS, as they freeze and break in the cold weather. We were also blessed with the donations from our annual Souper Bowl of Caring which contributed \$429 to our Pantry.



Deacon Ministry

Our collection of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves was also a success thanks to all of you. We collected 154 items which were distributed to Hatchery Hill and Mt. Olive schools and also the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad. Many children will be a lot warmer this winter.

You will find an order form in this newsletter to sponsor Easter Flowers to decorate our beautiful sanctuary on Easter Sunday April 5th. Forms will also be available on Sundays in March until Sunday, March 22nd. You can sponsor a plant in memory of or thanksgiving for anyone special in your life for \$5 per plant. The money will be used by the Deacons for various mission projects.

In closing, we would like to thank our outgoing Deacons Ellen Bergman (Moderator) and Carol Miller (Corresponding Secretary) for all their hard work and devotion to the Deacons. They will be missed!

JANUARY 2026 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

BY: JACKIE HAMMEL

As the new treasurer of FPCH, I have decided to simplify my report for the newsletter. Below you will find the information which outlines the most important finances relevant to church income and spending.

Operating Income\$25,828.18
Endowment Fund\$20,000.00
Total Income\$45,828.18
Operating Expense ...(\$33,525.81)
Gain/Loss \$12,302.37
Gain/Loss without Endowment **-\$7,697.63**



FAQs and Answers:

What are my Building Fund Donations used for?

Building Fund donations cover the expenses for Repairs, Maintenance, Snow Plowing, JCP&L, Elizabethtown Gas, and Trash Collection to name a few.

In January the **Building Fund** covered the cost of JCP&L @ \$672.89, Elizabethtown Gas @ \$4,186.92, Snow Plowing @ \$5,650.00 and Direct Waste @ \$141.45. Remember, these figures represent costs for three buildings: the Church, the Chapel, and the Manse. Your Building Fund Donations are appreciated and used wisely.

THANK YOU!

Contact Jackie Hammel if you have any questions or would like to discuss the Church's operating finances or the Endowment Funds.

FPCH KICKS OF LENTEN SEASON WITH ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT CHAPEL

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

Everyone knows the start of Lent is Ash Wednesday, and this year, Pastor Erin extended an invitation to members of the congregation to gather at the Chapel for an informal meeting of prayer, fellowship, and light refreshments.

Many in attendance gathered around tables and conversed with members of the church and the community before Pastor Erin opened the service with prayer. After a brief reading from the Gospel



of Luke 14:15-24 and a blessing of the soups, salads, and desserts which members of the church provided, people enjoyed a light dinner and conversation. After dinner, all used prompts from "A Sanctified Art" Lenten Series to reflect upon the upcoming Lent season. Then Lorinda Ravo played a hymn on the piano as Pastor Erin distributed ashes to those present.



Upon closing, as a reminder of the upcoming Spring season that Lent foreshadows, all enjoyed an

opportunity to take home some fresh cut flowers Pastor Erin brought to the service.

Thank you, Pastor Erin, for a beautiful way to introduce the Lenten season.



FPCH FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

February was a busy month of wonderful celebrations: music events, installation and ordination of Elders and Deacons, Super Bowl of Caring, and Ash Wednesday.



DO YOU KNOW YOUR MINISTRY AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS?

Below is a list of the various ministries and committees we have here at FPCH. If you have any questions regarding any of these groups, feel free to reach out to the individuals listed.

Building and Grounds	Diane Hull
Christian Education	MaryAnn Simmons
Church Historian	Deborah Gulick-Shepherd
Clerk of Session	Donna Erickson
Community Dinners	Donna and Carl Erickson
Corporation and Chapel Use	Diane Hull
Deacon Board	Lorinda Ravo
Fellowship and Nurture	To Be Determined
G.R.O.W. Team	Bill Cors and Rayman Sookhoo
Heaven Sent Nursery School	Jennifer Bujno (and Sharon Heil)
Internet and Social Media	Al and Lorinda Ravo
Ladies Who Lunch	Sharon Heil
Little Pantry	Jackie Hammel
Men's Breakfast	Bruce Bergman
Missions and Outreach	To Be Determined
Music Director	Lorinda Ravo
Newsletter	MaryAnn Simmons
Nominating Committee	Jackie Hammel
Personnel	Sharon Heil
PLEFF Dinners	Jan Courtright
Public Relations	Michele Cameron
Scout Troops Liaison	Geof and Jonathan Gohlich
Second Sunday	Lorinda Ravo
Security	Pete Miller
Women's Breakfast	Donna Erickson
Worship Committee	Della Irby
Yarn Girls	Deborah Gulick-Sheperd

FPCH NEWSFLASH: VISIT OUR NEW INSTAGRAM PAGE

FPCH is moving up in the world of social media. For those who do not have a Facebook account, you can now follow us on Instagram. Check out our new account at **firstpresbyterian-hackettstown**. (that's all one word; no hyphen)

Similar to our website and our Facebook page, this account will provide a portrayal of our weekly activities, ranging from Second Sunday events, postings about snow cancellations, our music featured during worship, and other social activities like our community dinners, gourmet groups and their meetings, and any anticipated future events.

Check us out and be sure to see Lorinda Ravo or Pastor Erin if you have any suggestions for posts.



TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO PRAY

What to do during the Lenten Season

Hello Parents of our school aged children at FPCH. Since I have exhausted the ideas taken from Traci Smith's book *Faithful Families*, I have decided to make use of the website: Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry. To that end, the site provides a list of ideas regarding practices you and your child/children can engage in during the season of Lent leading up to Easter Sunday. Here is the link to the site so that you can choose the activities you would like to explore: <https://pcfm.org.nz/the-season-of-lent/>

I hope this helps you discover new ways to help your children learn about this important season of the church.

MaryAnn Simmons

MUSIC NOTES

BY: LORINDA RAVO

Our anthems during the month of March will be:

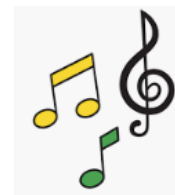
March 1: Anthem of Fellowship-Senior Choir
Harper Ravo, trumpet soloist

March 8: It is Well with My Soul-FPCH Ringers

March 15: You Raise Me Up-Senior Choir

March 22: More Precious Than Silver-Unity Chime Choir

March 29: Entry Into Jerusalem-Senior Choir
Make A Joyful Noise-Little Lights Sunday School Choir



IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

As we head into the winter weather season, we want to let everyone know that should we need to cancel church services, there are many ways that you can find out. Cancellations will be posted on the church Facebook page and on the church website. In addition, Pattie Huff will send out an email via Constant Contact. You can also call the church office at 908-852-4011 where the answering machine will have a message about the status of church services. Let's hope we have a mild winter so we don't need to cancel.

Sharing God's Bounty

“A young man dressed in a white robe . . . said, ‘You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter . . .’” (Mark 16:5-7).

“Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid” (Mark 16:8).

Who wouldn't tremble and be afraid! You go to anoint a body to prepare it for a proper burial, but the body is missing. Then some ethereal creature tells you the body isn't there because it is no longer dead but alive. Who could take it in? *“Don't be alarmed”* the man in white said. Yeah, right!

Yet, looking back, perhaps the women remembered the thousands he had fed with only two fish and five loaves of bread (Matthew 14:15-21). Maybe they thought again about the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11:38-44). After all, he was the one who had stilled the raging sea (Mark 4:35-41).

Somewhere, sometime, that trembling and bewilderment turned to joy and faith, for they did go tell his disciples and Peter (Matthew 28:8). And Jesus met them and greeted them, and they worshipped him. *“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers . . .’”* (Matthew 28:9-10).

Jesus' last command is the same as this one: Don't be afraid. Go and tell. We can understand the fear of the women at the empty tomb. What are we afraid of? Trouble? Or hardship? Persecution? Or famine? Nakedness? Or danger? Or sword? There is no fear in these things! *“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us”* (Romans 8:35, 37). We have the benefit of history. The women at the tomb couldn't fathom the outcome, but we have God's Word that assures us of our victory in Christ. We have his promise, *“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20). So don't be afraid! Go and tell!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! **Alleluia!**

Ask yourself: Do you ever find time for the work of God? There is a wide choice of things which you can do for God and neighbor, in and through your church community - if you have the good will. With goodwill you also will find the necessary time for such projects, even though you may have to cut and pare in other directions.

CONGREGATION DONATES 150+ HATS AND GLOVES TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

Each year the Deacons sponsor a hat, gloves, and scarves drive for the local children who attend the elementary and middle schools in our surrounding area and this year we are proud to announce that the children have received these items in early February. Our congregation is always generous with this mission outreach and we are happy to say that the schools and the Hackettstown

First Aid and Rescue Squad were extremely appreciative of our generosity.

Thank you for keeping the less fortunate children from our local towns warm during these frigid temperatures. Your kindness is recognized by many.



MARCH GREETERS

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| MARCH 1: | Pete and Carol Miller |
| MARCH 8: | Al and Jen Aquino |
| MARCH 15: | Beverly Saunders and Jan Courtright |
| MARCH 22: | Jose and Della Irby |
| MARCH 29: | Pam Venturini and Carol Miller |

† GREETER

FEBRUARY SECOND SUNDAY

VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS DISTRIBUTED TO HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD RESIDENTS

In February, Mrs. Ratti helped us get ready for Valentine's Day by showing us how to make emergency hugs. The kids also made Valentine Cards that were distributed to residents of House of the Good Shepherd, and then everyone made heart shaped paper chains. Checkout the photos below which capture the activities.

Now it's time to move on to March when everyone will enjoy some silly fun playing "Minute to Win It" type games. Can you use a birthday party blower to move plastic cups across the table? How about trying some curling, like we all watched during the Olympics? Have you ever heard of cup stacking? It's trickier than it looks! Those games and several more will be on the agenda for March 8.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
LORINDA RAVO



If you have a hobby, talent, or interest that you'd like to share with some very fun and cooperative kids, please see Lorinda Ravo. And if you'd like some help to plan an event, we can do that too!

MEET YOUR DEACONS AND ELDERS

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

For the next few months, I would like to introduce you to your Deacons and Elders who make decisions about church ministry and finances. We have nine members on each board and they each serve a three year term. I will provide you with a small bio so that you can reach out to them at any time throughout the year.

This month, meet **Lorinda Ravo** (Board of Deacons) and **Sharon Heil** (Session Elder), both from the class of 2026.



Lorinda Ravo first started working in the music department of FPCH in January, 1983 as the choir director and in 2001 also became organist. In that time, she added a Chime Choir for adults and several vocal and instrumental ensembles for children in the church. She is an ordained Elder and Deacon

in the PCUSA, and currently serves as Moderator of the Board of Deacons. Lorinda currently enjoys creating activities and programming for the Second Sunday program that FPCH began in 2022. In 1988, she was a co-founder of Heaven Sent Nursery School and served as Director and teacher until her retirement in June, 2015. Lorinda and her husband Al are the parents of 3 children, Nat (Stacey), Torey, and Cassie (Nathan) and grandparents to Harper, Lucas, and Addy, in addition to many foster grandchildren.

Sharon Heil is a current member of Session and in that capacity, she serves as the chair of the Personnel Committee and is the Session representative for the Heaven Sent Board of Trustees. As a congregational member she serves on the Christian Education Committee, sings in the choir, and is in charge of "Ladies Who Lunch." Quilting, golfing, doing yoga, bowling, reading and gardening are her special interests and keeping up with them seems to fill her days. Of course, she always finds time to 'do lunch'!



Thank you, Lorinda and Sharon, for your service to the church.

G.R.O.W. TEAM NEWS

BY: BILL CORS and RAY SOOKHOO

This month, we wish to highlight information regarding the Raise-Right Program.

Did You Know...?

You are now able to purchase gift cards from hundreds of different retail stores and restaurants with a portion of the sale going to the church.

- No extra cost to you.
- No link to your Bank account required.



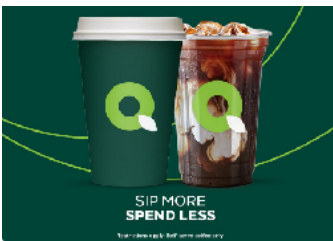
You can purchase QuickChek gift cards thru the church at no extra cost to you while the church earns 2%?

Use the cards to purchase gas and earn 3 points per gallon. Redeem the points for free food at QuickChek.



How it Works

- ❖ Down load the QuickChek App and sign up for the rewards program
- ❖ Purchase your QuickChek gift cards from the church Co-Ordinator (Geof Gohlich)
- ❖ Provide your telephone number at the pump or get a code from the App then use the gift card to buy gas and earn the points
- ❖ Use the App to view your earned points to determine what is available at that time for free from your available points
- ❖ Go Shop in the store and redeem your points at the register
- ❖ The church will earn 2% from your gift card purchase
- ❖ There is no additional cost to you.



If there are any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the GROW Team (William Cors, Rayman Sookhoo, Ryan VanOrden, and Geof Gohlich).

The G.R.O.W. Team

A REQUEST FROM THE G.R.O.W. TEAM

BY: BILL CORS

The First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown has been in existence for about 263 years! That is incredible and food for thought as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America in 2026. With this in mind, it is a time to reflect on what is important to each one of us as a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown. Is it a beautiful and safe space to worship? Does the music resonate during each service? Is Christian education relevant to your child or children? What do you think about the missions serving our community with food and raising funds with our clothing drives? Do you appreciate the chapel where we can reach out and have community groups gather and meet in a comfortable and welcoming space?

The G.R.O.W. Team will be reaching out shortly to find out what really matters to our congregation, and just as importantly,

how we can fund and sustain the missions of this congregation. When we reach out to get your input, we would appreciate your time to share your ideas and thoughts so that we can plan accordingly how best to nurture each other, to help you grow in your faith, to identify and grow the resources (financial and human)



necessary to sustain a thriving and viable organization for the next 263 years. Thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any questions, please see any member of the G.R.O.W. Team (William Cors, Rayman Sookhoo, Ryan VanOrden, and Geof Gohlich).



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2: Myles DeCaro
- 3: Donna Erickson
- 5: Whitney Dartnell
- 6: Peggy Russack
- 7: Maddox Fucetola
- 10: Chris Kshatri
- 14: Mike McDonagh
Al Aquino
- 16: Pam Venturini
- 18: Samantha Gardner
- 19: Richard Clegg
- 22: MaryAnn Simmons
- 23: Alisa Dartnell
Mark Slachetka
- 24: Sean Gilmore
- 25: Morgan Dartnell
- 29: Alice Phoebus
- 31: Tom Dartnell

**WE CELEBRATE
YOUR DAY WITH
YOU!**

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 2: Dennis and Pattie Huff
- 9: Bob & Jackie Hammel
- 15: Chris & Sara Kshatri

PRAYER LIST

**Please keep the following
in your prayers:**

Centenary University Staff
and Students
Eugenie Chetangie
Churches throughout the U.S.
Our Confirmation Class
Pam Covert
Shirley DeLoia, sister of Phyllis
Prestopine
FPCH and Friends of
FPCH
FPCH Sunday School Teachers
Dan Gardner
Terry Gretchen
Joan Grover
The Hackettstown
Community
Barbara Hall
Maikuu congregation,
Kibwezi Kenya
Members of the Armed Forces
Barbara Pace, niece of the
Prestopines
Alice Phoebus
Jim Simmons
Carol Spitzer
The food insecure
The homeless
Those struggling with
addictions and mental health
Those recovering from surgery
Those traveling

