

The First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



September 14, 2025

Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church

Strengthening families;

Sowing friendships;

Serving community;

In the name of Jesus Christ

PRELUDE

Just as I Am

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Holy One is here with us today,

God has lifted us up, out of the mud and mire; God set our feet on a rock and gave us a firm place to stand.

God will put a new song in our mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in God.

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,

who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

Many, Lord my God, are the wonders You have done, the things You planned for us.

None can compare with you; we lift up praises for You each day, your blessings are too numerous to count. We trust in Your name.

***HYMN**

Standing on the Promises

838

Standing on the promises of Christ my king,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

Refrain:

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

***OPENING PRAYER**

NAME THAT HYMN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: *Barocha*

Michael Card

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Numbers 6: 24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you, and give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace forever.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A Sanctified Art

God of new life, you call us into unknown places,
and we bury our heads in the sand.

You promise all the stars in the sky,
and we doubt it can be true.

You speak of new life in the Spirit,
and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.

Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.

Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine. No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven. Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, we are made new.

Join me in saying: We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We are made new. 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

Genesis 12:1-8, 1 Peter 2:4-10

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes Cook

*HYMN

Faith Begins by Letting Go

684

Faith begins by letting go, giving up what
had seemed sure, taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure: pilgrimage both
right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's
roots alive so that hope may bear its fruit;
promise-fed, our souls will thrive, not through merit
we possess but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds,
enlarging hearts, sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts; till we find the
common-place ripe with witness to God's grace.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Trust and Obey

*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

Fight the Good Fight

846

Fight the good fight with all thy might.
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;
lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.
God's boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.
God changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE** *Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand* (refrain) **832**
Here on Jesus Christ I will stand. He's the solid rock of my life.
He's the solid rock of my life. He's the solid rock of my life.

POSTLUDE *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: Pat Butts

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Greeting: Mark & Winnie Slachetka

***This week the cards on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:
Ruth Barth & Deb Shepherd Gulick***

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!

CALL FOR A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

By order of the Session, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, NJ is called to meet on Sunday, **September 28, 2025** after worship to conduct the following business:

- To amend Pastor Erin Hayes-Cook's terms of call from designated pastor to installed pastor.

No other business will be conducted.

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

Donna Erickson - Clerk of the Session

STEW'S CLUE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding by the mosaic cross that Mr. Gohlich made. This week, Stew's clue is: baptism.

SEPTEMBER'S SECOND SUNDAY

TODAY, members of the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad will be coming to tell us about what they do, let us see their equipment, and teach us about the importance of First Aid! Be sure to bring a stuffie to use as your "patient"! The sign up sheet is on the information table in the front of the church.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know...?

You can donate specifically to the church building fund!

The church has a specific fund dedicated to buildings and grounds?

- Occasionally, building emergencies happen and there is not always time to wait and collect the funds for repairs
- Donations made to the building fund are used to maintain all our facilities and help with any unexpected building emergencies
- These funds also help cover the cost of snow removal, heating of our buildings, and other various building needs

Consider donating today!

Visit FPCHackettstown.org for more information.



Did You Know...?

Anyone can join the adult senior choir!

The adult senior choir leads music during worship. They sing multiple Sundays each month (except in the summer), during special services (Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, etc) and on special occasions. They rehearse on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm, in the music room, September through May. Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 4th



Consider donating your talents today!

Contact Lorinda Ravo for more information



CLOTHING DRIVE

Our Clothing Drive will be on **October 4th**, and drop off will be on **September 30th** - 5:30-7:00pm. As you gather your items please be aware of a change in what they will accept. They will no longer accept blankets, quilts, or comforters. Thank you in advance for your donations.

FUNDRAISER BY OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our Confirmation Class is starting to sell mums as a fundraiser for their retreat at Johnsonburg Camp. The mums are \$10.00 each and make a wonderful decoration for your home. You may start picking up your mums at Best's Fruit Farm today, **September 7th** thru **October 13th**. Last orders will be taken on **September 21st**. Please consider purchasing one or two of these beautiful mums to help out members of our Confirmation class who will be available in front of the sanctuary following worship.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

We have begun our adult music ensembles rehearsals: the Senior Choir and the FPCH Ringers Chime Choir have begun rehearsals for their 2025-2026 "season". It's not too late to join us - we welcome any and all, from Middle Schoolers through adults who would like to be part of our music program. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings (Chimes 6:30-7:15, Choir 7:30-8:30). No experience is necessary, and you don't need to know how to read music. AND, we understand if you can't make every rehearsal or Sunday morning. Come and give it a try-you'll be very warmly welcomed!

JOYFUL NOISE BELL CHOIR AND UNITY CHIME CHOIR

The Joyful Noise Bell Choir, for kids ages Kindergarten and up will begin rehearsals immediately following Sunday School today. We meet in the music room. The Unity Chime Choir, for kids ages 3rd grade and up meets following the Joyful Noise Bells, also in the music room. All kids are welcome, even if they've not had experience before! Come and give ringing a try.

FYI-INFORMATION

9/07/25	In Person Attendance	95
	Virtual Attendance	119
	Offering	\$7,378.40

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	11:05 am	Joyful Noise Bells rehearsal
Sunday	11:20 am	Unity Chimes rehearsal
Sunday	11:30-1:30	Second Sunday-First Aid Squad
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Church office open
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Heaven Sent Nursery School
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Session Meeting
Thursday	6:30-7:15 pm	FPCH Ringers rehearsal
Thursday	7:30-8:30 pm	Sr. Choir rehearsal

September 14-20, 2025**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - September 14-20, 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

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