

# **First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ**

**January 11, 2026**

## Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 11, 2026

## **PRELUDE**      *Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise*

# THE RINGING OF THE BELL

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# CALL TO WORSHIP

**Sing and bless God's name;**

**Tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.**

Proclaim God's glory to the nations,

## **God's marvelous deeds to all peoples.**

\*HYMN *Baptized in Water* 482

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King; heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our King; one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King; born of the Spirit, we are God's children, joyfully now God's praises we sing.

# OPENING PRAYER

**ANTHEM:** *Bell Peal on Old 100th*  
FPCH Ringers

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE / *I Will Sing of the Mercies*

*Psalm 89:1: I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.*

# 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 CONFSSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### Ministry Matters

God, we are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord. 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

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

## SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes Cook

### \*HYMN

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

688

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;  
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,  
and make me love thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,  
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,  
no angel visitant, no opening skies;  
but take the dimness of my soul away.

Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;  
all, all thine own, soul, heart and strength, and mind?  
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh.  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh.  
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,  
one holy passion filling all my frame;  
the baptism of the heaven descended Dove,  
my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Bruce Prewer

I believe in God who speaks through the prophets and lifts our gaze up to high and beautiful paths and peaks.

**I believe in Christ Jesus, free of corruption yet willingly numbered among the sinners, baptised in the waters of the Jordan.**

I believe in the Spirit who rested on Jesus like a dove, and who inspired him with such love as the world has not seen before or since.

**I believe that those who are baptised into Christ shall share his Spirit, his mission and his ultimate victory over sin and death.**

I believe that there is no human ability that cannot be enlarged, and no weakness that cannot be used by Christ to the praise of God.

**I believe that this believing is a gift from God, not to be used for self-gratification but for the building up of the church and for humble service the world**

I believe in myself as a baptised child of God, the recipient of a healing grace which precedes and supersedes all my efforts to be true.

**With the help of God, I will attempt to live my belief all the days of my life, and by his grace, dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen!**

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERTORY**   *More About Jesus*

## \*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 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* vs. 1-4 687

Our God, our help in ages past, our  
hope for years to come, our shelter from the  
stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy  
saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine  
arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or  
earth received its frame from everlasting  
thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are  
like an evening gone, short as the watch that  
ends the night before the rising sun.

## \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

### \*RESPONSE *O Christ, Surround 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.

## POSTLUDE *Wonderful Words of Life*

### *Serving Our Congregation Today*

*Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook*

*Worship Leader: Pat Butts*

*Music Director: Lorinda Ravo*

*Video: Pattie & Dennis Huff*

*Greeting: Erin & Chris Roguso*

*The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:  
Carol Spitzer & Jeff Newton (Kim's husband)*

## **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!

## **TODAY'S MUSIC**

This morning, our talented FPCH Ringers Chime Choir plays an arrangement of the tune *Old 100th*. You may recognize it as the response we sing each week following our offering: the Doxology. Next Sunday, our Senior Choir will be singing a new setting of *Dona Nobis Pacem: Give us Peace*. In addition, our Unity Chime Choir will be playing an original arrangement of the praise song *Emmanuel*.

## **NEWSLETTERS**

If you normally receive your Newsletter in the mail, please look in the basket on the front table and you will find your copy alphabetically by name. We are trying to be good stewards of our expenses and this will save us \$2.00 per copy if we mail it. Those that are not picked up this week will then be mailed out.

## **STEW'S CLUE!**

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hanging out by the bulletin board with the books of the Bible on it. Today, Stewie has moved, and your clue is candle.

## **CALL FOR THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

By order of the Session, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, NJ is called to meet for their annual meeting on Sunday, **January 25, 2026** after worship to conduct the following business:

- To receive the 2026 budget for information
- To receive the 2025 Annual Reports
- To elect elders to the Session, deacons to the Board of Deacons, members to the Personnel Committee and Nominating Committee, and a member to the Heaven Sent Board of Trustees.
- Vote on Terms of Call for Rev. Erin Hayes Cook for 2026

## **THIS YEAR'S PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT**

Several have asked about the amount for the 2026 Per Capita. The Presbytery of the Highlands has set this year's amount at \$44.00 per active member. If you receive offering envelopes, there is an envelope in your box specifically to use for your per capita offering.

## **CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION**

By order of the Session, the corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, NJ is called to meet directly following the congregational meeting on Sunday, **January 25, 2026**, to conduct the following business:

- Report of corporate officers
- Election of corporation officers for 2026

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

Donna Erickson  
Clerk of the Session

## **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? Then join us for new members class in January. You are invited to come to all three in person meetings. We will discuss our church, what it means to become a member and how you might become more involved. Join us today, **January 11, 18 and February 1**.

## **DEACONS COLLECTING HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES AND MITTENS FOR LITTLE HANDS**

During these cold winter months, the Board of Deacons will be collecting NEW gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves for children at Hatchery Hill, and Central School (Great Meadows) who don't have those items to keep themselves warm! The collected outerwear will be given to the school nurses for distribution to the kids who need them. If you are out shopping and spy kid sized hats, mittens, scarves and/or gloves, we'd love you to put them in the collection basket in coming Sundays. Thanks!

## **COMMUNITY DINNER**

The Community Dinner will be held this Saturday, **January 10th** at 5:30pm. If you would like to assist please contact Carl Erickson. Extra hands are always appreciated.

# what can I do with my STAR WORD?

- \*Find a scripture that anchors it
- \*Look up the definition and its synonyms
- \*Find books, podcasts, and articles that dive into your word and explore a deeper meaning
- \*Create a playlist of songs that reflect your word
- \*Start a journal (written, drawn, really any expression!) of how your word is showing up in your life

1/4/26

## FYI-INFORMATION

In Person Attendance	68
Virtual Attendance	89
Offering	\$5,286.43

## **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH**

**Jan. 11 - 17, 2026**

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	11:05 am	Joyful Noise Bells rehearsal
Sunday	11:20 am	Unity Chimes rehearsal
Sunday	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Second Sunday
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 - Jan. 11 - 17, 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](mailto:revehayes@gmail.com)

Call the church office at: 908-852-4011

Church email: [fpchnj@gmail.com](mailto:fpchnj@gmail.com)

Church Website: [www.fpchackettstown.org](http://www.fpchackettstown.org)