

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ

April 26, 2026



PRELUDE *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

It starts with a sound out of the depths of our heart, "Thank you, God," rises to the surface.

We whisper, we shout, thank you God for this beautiful life you gave us.

Then the cracks in our hearts surrender to the overwhelming love of God.

Now we know we are whole. We praise you healer for being our source and strength!

***HYMN** *O Christ, the Healer* **793**

O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed; yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.

How strong, O Lord, are our desires, how weak our knowledge of ourselves! Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.

In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease; our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind?

TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD

ANTHEM: *On Wings of Love and Prayer*

Unity Chime Choir

If you listen closely, you will hear that this piece is a creative combination of two hymns: Sweet Hour of Prayer, and Oh, How I Love Jesus.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Servant of All* **Matthew 20:26**

If you want to be great in God's kingdom, learn to be the servant of all.

If you want to be great in God's kingdom, learn to be the servant of all.

Learn to be the servant of all, learn to be the servant of all. If you want to be great in God's kingdom, learn to be the servant of all.

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

Sarah Speed

Gracious God, We admit that there are things we sweep under the rugs-shame, self-doubt, mental health struggles, and our own insecurities. We know that is not what you want for us, for Jesus loved the healthy and the sick parts of everyone. With Jesus, there was no stigma, fear, or bias. God of creation, help us to love and live in the same way. Forgive us when we hate ourselves or distance ourselves from others, simply for being human. You long for better, and we long for you. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We have been set free, 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 LESSON

Psalm 24
Mark 5:1-20

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes Cook

*HYMN

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

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“Come to me, O weary traveler; come to me with your distress;
come to me, you heavy burdened; come to me and find your rest.”

“Do not fear, my yoke is easy; do not fear, my burden’s light;
do not fear the path before you; do not run from me in fright.”

“Take my yoke and leave your troubles; take my yoke and come with me.
Take my yoke, I am beside you; take and learn humility.”

“Rest in me, O weary traveler; rest in me and do not fear.
Rest in me, my heart is gentle; rest and cast away your care.”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Sarah Speed

I believe in God, the Great Sewer—who weaves us together in community, collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging. I believe in the Holy Spirit—who hems us in before and behind, catching us when we fall and writing us into God’s holy narrative. And I believe in Jesus Christ—who loved and claimed the people society had thrown out, refusing to disregard anyone as scrap. I believe God has woven part of God’s self into the fiber of our being, making us inherently worthy of love and belonging. I believe the fabric of my life is weak, that I am prone to error and need God’s handiwork to remind me of love. I believe in the Church, and that like a quilt of different fabrics, she is designed to be as diverse and beautiful as God’s creation. And I believe that when life unravels, God is there to stitch my wounds together, to hold me in the palm of God’s hand, to tell me of love, and to invite me into a new journey. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

The Scripture

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preaching: Rev. Erin Hayes Cook

Worship Leader: Gabe Roguso

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Video: Pattie & Dennis Huff

Greeting: Pattie & Dennis Huff

***The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:
Alan & Joanne Risko & Brenda Zellars***

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!

HACKETTSTOWN COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

TODAY, **April 26** at 3pm in the sanctuary, The Hackettstown Community Band will be returning and performing a free concert. We are excited to have them back! The special performance will feature a lively mix of popular music from film and stage along with beloved patriotic tunes celebrating Spring and our nation's 250th anniversary. The afternoon promises to be an inspiring and entertaining program, celebrating community, creativity and gratitude for those who have served our nation. Admission is free and freewill donations are gratefully accepted.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Everyone loves a parade, right? Well, this year, FPCH will once again participate, but we need your help in one of four ways:

1. March in the parade - carry one of our banners or distribute our flyer about our church and its missions
2. Help take orders and serve customers who purchase our breakfast sandwiches, drinks, or baked goods
3. Collect money from our customers
4. Volunteer to provide homemade baked goods, water bottles, or other goodies

If interested, please sign up for any of these activities on the sheet located on the table next to the dais. You can work a shift of one hour, you can work the entire time we are there, you can help set up tables in the morning, or you can just drop off your donation. ANY ASSISTANCE IS GRATELY APPRECIATED. We hope to see you at the parade on **May 25th**, rain or shine. Questions? See Michele Cameron or any member of the Public Relations Committee. Thank you.

CLOTHING DRIVE

The Deacons are hosting a Clothing Drive on Saturday, **May 2nd** and will be accepting donations on Tuesday, **April 28th** from 5:30 - 7:00pm in the parking lot.

STEW'S CLUE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? This week, Stewie thinks you should look around crayons.

MAY SECOND SUNDAY!

There is no Second Sunday in the month of May because it falls on Mother's Day. We'll be meeting again on **June 14th**.

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 coordinator Geof Gohlich or via the app. For more information see our flyers in the sanctuary or Ray Sookhoo.

FYI-INFORMATION

4/19/26	In Person Attendance	83
	Virtual Attendance	160
	Offering	\$4,439.57

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

April 26 - May 2, 2026

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
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
Thursday	6:30-7:15 pm	FPCH Ringers rehearsal
Thursday	7:30-8:30 pm	Sr. Choir rehearsal

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - April 26 - May 2, 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

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