

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



August 24, 2025

Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church

Strengthening families;
Sowing friendships;
Serving community;
In the name of Jesus Christ

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

PRELUDE

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Ray Palmer

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise God's holy name.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all God's benefits

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

God made known God's ways to Moses, God's deeds to the people of Israel:

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. Let us worship God.

***HYMN**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

65

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside. Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

***OPENING PRAYER**

ANTHEM:

I Will Come to You

David Haas

Lorinda, Torey, and Harper Ravo

I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.

I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.

(REFRAIN) Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in share. All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.

(REFRAIN)

I am the Word that leads all to freedom; I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now and walk and live! (REFRAIN)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy*

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart. Down in my heart. Down in my heart. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart. Down in my heart today.

I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart...

I've got the wonderful love of my blessed redeemer down in the depths of my heart....

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Merciful God, We confess to you our forgetfulness. We confront today our waywardness. We accept, Lord that we are sinful. To turn to our past is to recall both your great acts of love and kindness, as well as many moments and situations where we know we failed you. Even still, your love remains. And so in humility and brokenness we pray. We ask you to forgive. We ask, Lord, that you would heal. Buy us back, Lord, redeem us from our slavery to ourselves and our own way. Crown us again with your acceptance and care. Satisfy the real thirst of our soul. Renew us with the strength that only you can give. Reveal yourself to us again as a God of grace. Rich in mercy, patient with our wandering.

As far as the rising sun is from the setting sun, remove our sin from us. Our lives are dust. Our existence is temporary. Our breath, a gift from you. Today, Lord, and together, Lord, we declare our affection, our adoration and our praise for you. In the holy and loving name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***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

Jeremiah 1:4-10 & Isaiah 58:9-14

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes Cook

***HYMN** *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* **816**

If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hopeful
heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what e're
betide thee, to bear thee through the evil days, Who trusts in
God's unchanging love builds on the rock that nought can move.

Only be still, and wait God's leisure in cheerful
hope, with heart content to take what e'er thy Keeper's
pleasure and all discerning love hath sent. No doubt our
in-most wants are clear to One who holds us always dear.

Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine
own part faithfully. Trust the rich promises of
grace, so shall they be fulfilled in thee. God never
yet forsook at need the soul secured by trust indeed.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Calvin Institute for worship

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—which some seek to control, but which others view with despair—we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God! From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until God's kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever. Our world belongs to God! God is King! Let the earth be glad!. Hallelujah! The Spirit is at work, renewing creation. Praise the Lord!

We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living. As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the Holy One's world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears. Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Seek Ye First

Karen Lafferty

*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

Response: Deliver us and set us free

***CLOSING HYMN** *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

303

God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-sped
flame and hovering dove, breath of life and
voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
give to those who lead your people fresh
anointing of your grace; send them forth as
bold apostles to your church in every place.

Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, Word made
flesh, Love crucified, teacher, healer,
suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
in your tending may all pastors learn and
live a shepherd's care; grant them courage
and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.

Great Creator, life bestower, truth beyond
all thought's recall, fount of wisdom,
womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all:
as you know our strength and weakness, so may
those the church exalts oversee its
life steadfastly, yet not overlook its faults.

Triune God, mysterious being, undivided
and diverse, deeper than our minds
can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse:
help us in our varied callings your full
image to proclaim, that our ministries
uniting may give glory to your name.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE** *Come! Live in the Light!* **749** (Refrain)
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are
called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

POSTLUDE *Blessed Assurance* **Fanny Crosby**

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: MaryAnn Simmons

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Greeting: Pat & Dennis Huff

***The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:
Barbara Zellars & Carol Spitzer***

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, 3 generations of the Ravo family team up to provide our anthem.
Lorinda, Torey, and Harper will be singing David Haas' beautiful hymn of hope
and faith, "You are Mine". Next Sunday, we'll have our final "Name that Hymn" of
the summer for our anthem.

SERVICE FOR NELLIE CREAGER'S SISTER

Laurel A. Ogurkis, sister of Nellie Creager, passed away on Thursday, August 14, 2025. A service of Witness to the Resurrection and celebration of Life will be held on Monday, August 25, 2025 at the United Presbyterian Church of Belvidere, 224 Mansfield Street, Belvidere, NJ, with her friend and Pastor the Reverend Doctor Pamela Szurek officiating. Visitation will be held at the church from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. The funeral service will begin at 11:00 am followed by a burial at Stewartsville Lutheran Cemetery.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 7TH

Children and youth bring your backpacks to worship on **September 7** as we will bless them and you for the new school year. We will pray for our teachers as they welcome you back to Sunday School this year. We will also give out Bibles to our children. We will have classes for Pre-K through confirmation/middle school each Sunday.

FUNDRAISER BY OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our Confirmation Class will be selling mums beginning next Sunday. More information will be shared next Sunday, but be ready to decorate your home with one or two of these beautiful mums.

STEW'S CLUE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding by the pantry collection box. This week, Stewie is trying to hide, but here's a hint: look for a picture with children in it.

SEPTEMBER'S SECOND SUNDAY

Kids, be sure to sign up for the September Second Sunday on September 14th. We are very excited that members of the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad will be coming to share information about what they do, and help us learn about the importance of knowing about First Aid. The sign up sheet is on the information and sign up table in front of the church.

FYI-INFORMATION

8/17/25	In Person Attendance	72
	Virtual Attendance	119
	Offering	\$2,801.40

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH - August 24-30, 2025

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Church office open
Thursday	6:30-7:15 pm	FPCH Ringers
	7:30-8:30 pm	Senior Choir

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - August 24-30, 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
	6:30-7:15 pm	FPCH Ringers rehearsal
	7:30-8:30 pm	Senior Choir rehearsal
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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