

# First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ

March 8, 2026



PRELUDE

*Prelude on Morecambe*



THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

If you need good news,

**settle into this space. We have good news to share.**

If you need a word of hope,

**then trust us when we say, there is hope enough to go around.**

If you need a glimmer of joy,

**then you're in luck! We have resilient joy abounding.**

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

**then know that this is God's house.**

This is the good news of the gospel.

**God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move. Let us worship our with-us God!**

\*HYMN

*We Are One in the Spirit*

300

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;

we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,

and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;

we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,

and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;

we will work with each other; we will work side by side,

and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride;

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our  
love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

## **TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD**

**ANTHEM:**                                 *It is Well With My Soul*  
  FPCH Ringers

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Psalm 100:1**

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all the earth. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord. (Repeat)

Make a loud noise, and rejoice, sing praises, make a joyful noise unto the Lord. (Repeat)

## **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**

**Holy God, with you the impossible is possible. 5,000 can be fed. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope. With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that. We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done. We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd. We forget that you are always with us. Forgive our small-minded ways. Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come. But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved. The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news: **today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God. We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone. What good, good news. 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      Mark 6:32-44 & Ephesians 3:20-21**

## **SERMON**

**Rev. Erin Hayes Cook**

## **\*HYMN                      *Break Thou the Bread of Life*                      460**

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord to me,  
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea.  
Beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord.  
My spirit pants for thee, O living Word!

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, now unto me,  
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee.  
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall.  
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## OFFERING INVITATION

**OFFERTORY**                      *Pastorale on Ivory Palaces*                      **arr. Young**

### \*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.

### \*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                      *Amazing Grace*                      **649**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
grace my fears relieved. How precious did that  
grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I  
have already come. 'Tis grace has brought me  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his  
word my hope secures. He will my shield and  
portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright  
shining as the sun, we've no less days to  
sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

### \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

**\*RESPONSE**                      *For the Fruit of All Creation* vs. 1                      **36**

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For the gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are  
sleeping, future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Worthy is the Lamb*

### **Serving Our Congregation Today**

**Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook**

**Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |  
sanctifiedart.org**

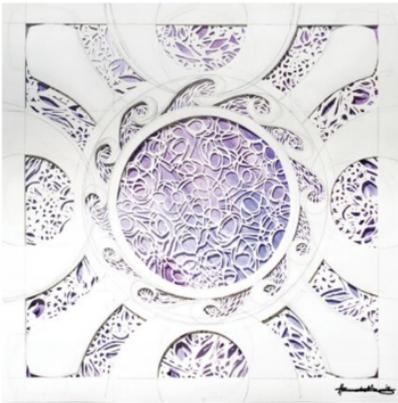
**Worship Leader: Pat Butts**

**Music Director: Lorinda Ravo**

**Video: Erin Roguso**

**Greeting: Jen & Al Aquino**

**The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:  
Jeff Newton & Fred & Sandy Sentner**



### **Scarce Abundance**

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Mark 6:32-44



### **Far More Abundantly**

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21

## **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 feel 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!

## **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? We will discuss our church, what it means to become a member and how you might become more involved.

### **LENT BIBLE STUDY - Not Too Late to Join**

Are you looking for a way to connect with God and each other this Lent? Join us for Bible study on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the conference room. We will be using the Tell Me Something Good Devotional booklets. Feel free to grab one from our info table.

### **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.

### **APRIL SECOND SUNDAY!**

April's Second Sunday will be held on **April 12** and we will be talking, learning, and creating about outer space! Please be sure to pre-register so that we'll have enough supplies for everyone.

### **ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER**

Our next Community Dinner is open to all! Saturday, **March 14th** at 5:30pm. On the menu is corned beef, potatoes and cabbage for St. Patrick's Day. If you would like to assist please contact Carl Erickson. Extra hands are always appreciated.

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

### **LENTEN/HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**March 15 - Fourth Sunday of Lent**, 10:00 am worship

**March 22 - Fifth Sunday of Lent**, 10:00 am worship

**March 29 - Palm Sunday** - 10:00 am worship

**April 2 - Maundy Thursday**, service with communion.

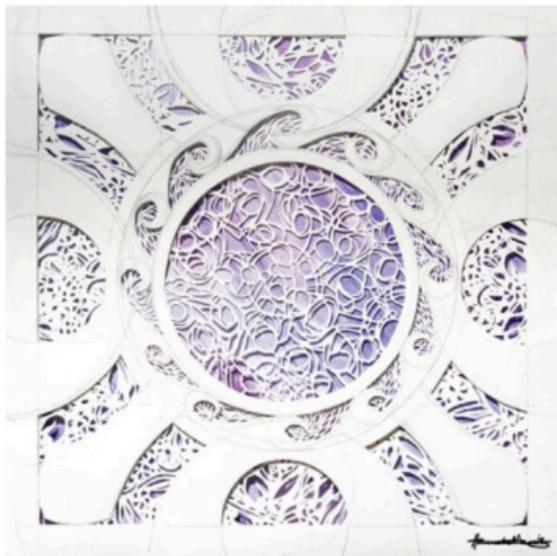
**April 5 - Resurrection Sunday**, 10 am worship, decorate the Easter flower cross, No Sunday School, kids' Easter worship bags provided.

### **STEW'S CLUE!**

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

### **EASTER FLOWERS**

The Deacons are now taking orders for your Easter flowers that decorate our beautiful sanctuary. You can order flowers in memory of someone or in honor of someone. Any questions, please see Pat Butts or Karen Cramer.



## Scarce Abundance

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Mark 6:32-44

18"x18" Paper lace with watercolor

In this account from Mark, Jesus had compassion.<sup>11</sup> This word, *splagchnizomai* in Greek, comes from the root *splagchnon* (meaning "bowels") which has a sense of a visceral, gut-level form of compassion. It intrigues me that this deep, embodied compassion prompted Jesus to teach.

Leading up to this moment, Jesus is trying to get away, to rest. His disciples row him toward the people; however, he is compelled by compassion to teach. As he is teaching, I imagine the crowd turning to one another—*What did he say?*—

repeating his words, passing them along.

In this artwork, the elements of the story are framed in a stained glass window design. Centered, the people gather in circles, passing the scarcely abundant food to one another. Waves encircle the crowd, representing the twelve disciples. The outer architectural elements portray the twelve baskets full of pieces of bread and fish—a representation of abundance from scarcity, powered by collective belief.

Jesus did not have a microphone. It was the people in the front who passed the still, small voice of God back to those behind them. It was the people in the front who passed more than enough food back to those who were hungry. In our propaganda-filled global information system, we must remember: God is not holding the mic. God is present in the still, small voice and in the smallest offerings, multiplying one by one. The message, the compassion, the corners of bread, and the pieces of fish all return in abundance. —Hannah Garrity

## Look

*In the artwork, waves represent the twelve disciples.*

*Why do you think the artist rendered the disciples this way?*

<sup>11</sup> Mark 6:34



## Far More Abundantly

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21

11"x14" Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper, with gold leaf detail

I read this Ephesians text alongside the feeding of the five thousand. I placed Jesus at the center of the image,<sup>12</sup> but he did not feed the crowds alone. He asked his disciples to offer what they had. They responded with meager resources, yet those small gifts were enough.

Through the lens of Ephesians, if Jesus were to ask us today what we have to give, our answer would be:

*We have the power you have given us to do the impossible. The same power that turned five loaves and two fish into a feast for thousands—with leftovers—empowers us “to accomplish far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine.”*

Do we allow this truth to settle into our bones and animate our actions?

I’ll admit, I tried to avoid this passage because it felt overly optimistic in light of today’s world. People still go hungry. Wars rage. The earth groans under our misuse. Yet if we reimagine the systems we created, studies show it is possible for every human being to have what they need.<sup>13</sup> That would require massive restructuring, international cooperation, and the reallocation of resources—but not more than we already possess. We don’t need a miracle of multiplication. We simply need to use what we’ve been given.

In a world convinced of scarcity, this is astonishingly good news. We already have enough. And as my mentor used to say, “*Enough is abundance.*” What will we do with this abundance? Is it too lofty to dream of a world that sustains all of life? Perhaps. Yet I believe it is God’s own desire that all may have life, and have it abundantly.<sup>14</sup> This is the work before us, accomplished through the power at work within us, through Jesus Christ. Amen. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

## Look

**Consider the archway and what it could symbolize. Do you see a table, a tablet, a boat, a door, a tomb—or all of these things or something else?**

<sup>12</sup> In the center of the image, Jesus raises his arms and breaks bread. Above Jesus’ hands is a mustard seed. Surrounding the baskets are thin line carvings of mustard flowers. Like the seed, we may be small, but we hold so much potential inside of us. Surrounding the archway are twelve baskets of seven loaves or fish which take on the shape of flowers. The number twelve represents community, and seven represents wholeness. When everyone has what they need, the community is whole.

<sup>13</sup> [globalcommonsalliance.org/news/new-research-reveals-path-to-prosperity-for-planet-and-people-if-earths-critical-resources-are-better-shared/](https://globalcommonsalliance.org/news/new-research-reveals-path-to-prosperity-for-planet-and-people-if-earths-critical-resources-are-better-shared/)

<sup>14</sup> John 10:9-11

## **FYI-INFORMATION**

3/1/26	In Person Attendance	88
	Virtual Attendance	85
	Offering	\$10,835.58

### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH**

**March 8 - 14, 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
Thursday	6:30-7:15 pm	FPCH Ringers rehearsal
Thursday	7:30-8:30 pm	Sr. Choir rehearsal

### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - March 8 - 14, 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)