

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



March 17, 2024

Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church

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

PRELUDE *O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer*

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

I see it! You're in the right place! This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

We see that in you! You're in the right place. This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Let us worship God.

Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

***HYMN**

This Is My Father's World

370

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. O, let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems off so strong, God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world. The battle is not done:

Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM:

Whisper a Prayer
Joyful Noise Bell Choir

arr. Ravo

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lift High the Cross

826

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

Till all the world adore his sacred name.



CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, We long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you “Rabbi, Teacher.” Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, “How many times should we forgive?”—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

You are forgiven. You are loved. You are invited to serve.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE

Come Thou Fount vs. 2

475

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

ANTHEM:

O Love of God Most Full

Senior Choir

O Love of God most full, O love of God most free, come warm my heart, come fill my soul, come lead me unto thee.

Warm as the glowing sun, so shines thy love on me. It wraps me 'round with kindly care, it draws me unto thee.

The wildest sea is calm, the tempest brings no fear. The darkest night is full of light, because thy love is near.

O love of God most full, O love of God most free. Thou warms my heart, thou fills my soul, with might, thou strengthens me.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 119:9-16
Matthew 18:15-22

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

*HYMN

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

707

Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.

Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;
come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;
help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
use us to make the earth like heaven above.

Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all;
We hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

“How many times should I forgive?” “Jesus, where are you going?” “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

“Where does it hurt?” “What do you need?” “How can I help?”

We believe that God is a teacher.

“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.” “Here I am.” “Send me.”

We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,

with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

One Great Hour of Sharing

OFFERTORY

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

***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 FOR THE PEOPLE and DEDICATION

Leader: We come together as a people of faith to bless these shawls, lap robes, and baptismal blankets made by hand with love.

People: Lord, bless them.

Leader: They are each a tangible sign of our caring for others.

People: Lord, let those who receive them feel our love.

Leader: The shawls and lap robes will be given to those who are in need. There are those who have lost loved ones.

People: Lord, give them comfort as they mourn.

Leader: There are those who have lost their health.

People: Lord, give them strength.

Leader: There are those who have suffered other losses in their lives.

People: Lord, give them peace.

Leader: May each baptismal blanket be a reminder to the parents and child that their family also has a loving and giving church family.

People: May we be a positive influence on these new lives.

Leader: May each member of our congregation be blessed: in the making, in the giving, in the receiving.

All: May we all be blessed by God, the Great Healer and Comforter. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Help Us Accept Each Other*

754

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;

teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.

Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe

we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life

we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.

Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,

to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE** *Go with Us, Lord* **748**

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming
day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

POSTLUDE *Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord*

Liturgy by A Sanctified Art | Rev. Sarah Speed | www.sanctifiedart.org

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: Pat Butts

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Video: Geof Gohlich

Greeting: Ellen & Bruce Bergman

The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:

Rose Green & Katy Grover

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 music will be provided by our Senior Choir and our Joyful Noise
Bell Choir. Next Sunday, our Senior Choir, accompanied by members of our
chime choir, will be providing special music for our celebration of Palm Sunday.

STEW'S CLUE and MORE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding by one of the hymn boards. This week's clue to find Stewie is **FLOWERS**. Can you find him? And Pastor Erin has hidden this week's symbol for our Lenten study somewhere in the sanctuary. It looks like an open book and it's on a red background-have you seen it?

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 24

In the season of lent, we follow Jesus' example; walking alongside the most vulnerable to partner in repairing the harm inflicted upon them. We are the church, together; and we are there with those who need us. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs ~ Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

CURRENT EVENTS

EASTER FLOWERS - Last Chance to Order!

Easter flower order forms are available in the front and rear of the sanctuary. Please see one of today's greeters if you'd like one.

APRIL SECOND SUNDAY

On **April 14**, we invite kids and their friends to join us in the chapel from 11:30-1:30 for a "Music, Music, Music" day. We'll be decorating bolan gu drums, and then using our creativity and imaginations to make musical instruments out of random recyclable "stuff". Be sure to pre-register on the signup sheet in front of the church.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 28 - Maundy Thursday, 7:30 pm, service with communion.

March 31 - Resurrection Sunday, 10 am worship, decorate the Easter flower cross, No Sunday School, kids' Easter worship bags provided.

DID YOU KNOW.....

.....that our Men's Breakfast group who meet on the Second Saturday of each month has been getting together in the chapel for 32 years? Founded in January, 1992 during Rev. Bob McCleod's time as our interim pastor, this monthly gathering welcomes all men and boys (and friends!) of FPCH. And when it began, they met at 6:30 am on Tuesday mornings!

FYI-INFORMATION

3/10/24	In Person Attendance	75
	Virtual Attendance	82
	Offering	\$1,990.15

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

Sunday	10:00 am
Sunday	11:05 am
Sunday	11:20 am
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon
Monday	10:00 am
Tuesday	6:30 pm
Wednesday	6:30 pm
Thursday	6:30-7:15 pm
Thursday	7:30-8:30 pm

March 10 - 16, 2024

Worship
Joyful Noise Bells rehearsal
Unity Chimes rehearsal
Church office open
Heaven Sent Nursery School
Lenten Bible Study
Session meeting
Lenten Bible Study
FPCH Ringers rehearsal
Sr. Choir rehearsal

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - March 10 - 16, 2024

Monday	10:30-11:30 am	AA Step by Step
	7:00-9:00 pm	Jazz Band
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 158
	7:00 pm	Girls Troop 143 BSA
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



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