

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



May 26, 2024

Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church

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

Memorial Day Sunday

May 26, 2024

PRELUDE

Medley of Patriotic Songs

arr. Larson

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends of God, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, we are the beloved!

May the truth of this great love story shine through our worship today, and renew our sense of calling.

So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements;

come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings;

come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy.

Come, in friendship to God and to each other,

and in friendship to the world, to listen for God's Word to us,

to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling. Friends of God, let us worship!

***HYMN**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

451

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.

Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee ready my God thy will to see. Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.

And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee ready my God thy will to see. Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.

Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee ready my God thy will to see. Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM

American Medley
FPCH Ringers

Anna Laura Page

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Kwake Yesu Nasimama (Kenya)*

**Kwa kay Yesu nasi mama, (n) dee ya (m)wamba nee sah la mah.
(n) dee ya (m)wamba nee sah la mah. (n) dee ya (m)wamba nee sah
la mah.**

Here on Jesus Christ I will stand, He's the solid rock of my life.

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

**O God of Comfort and God of Challenge, we come to you this
morning the way the Israelites did, full of complaints and
dissatisfaction. Nothing is enough; we do not recognize your
blessing at work in our day to day lives. Forgive us when we
become so comfortable that we moan and groan about the most
insignificant details of our lives. In our complaints, challenge us as
you did the Israelites, to consider the bigger picture of oppression,
injustice, and inequality around us. Forgive us when we close our
eyes for fear of what you might show us; keep sending loving and
compassionate leaders to open our eyes until we see what you see
in our world.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**You are blessed because God's image resides deep within each of
you. We are forgiven, thanks be to God!**

***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.**

ANTHEM: *America, The Beautiful* R. Schram

Memorial Day Choir - Harper Schneider, signing

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain. For purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain. America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years, thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears. America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea. From sea to shining sea. America!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 29
John 3:1-17

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

***HYMN** *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* **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: (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN

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: (REFRAIN)

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: (REFRAIN)

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. (REFRAIN)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Bruce Prewer

This have come to know, this is what we have heard: the Eternal is an everlasting God, creator of heaven and earth, who does not grow weary or faint; whose wisdom is unsearchable, giving energy to the meek and strength to those who have none. Even youths shall faint and grow weary, young athletes shall fall exhausted; but those who love the Lord Jesus and patiently put their trust in God, shall renew their strength; they shall soar with wings like eagles, they shall run and not weary, they shall walk and not faint.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

***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

***CLOSING HYMN** *We've Come This Far by Faith* **656**

We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord,
trusting in the holy Word; God's never failed us yet.
O, can't turn around, we've come this
far by faith. We've come this far by faith.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE** *Go to the World! v. 2* **295**

Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace. Go seek God's presence
in each time and space. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *God of the Ages*

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: Pat Butts

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Video: Jan Courtright & Pam Venturini

Greeting: The Tischler Family

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

Barbara Hall & Ruth Barth

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!

STEW'S CLUE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding on the organ pipes, tucked in by the red balloons. Did you find him? This week, Stewie has moved again. The Stew's Clue is Swahili.

CURRENT EVENTS

TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning, our Senior Choir ends their "season" with their tradition of singing "America the Beautiful", and this year, we've invited congregation members to join the choir in this moving hymn. Harper Schneider will be interpreting the song in ASL during the performance. The FPCH Ringers will be playing an arrangement titled "American Medley" which combines "God of our Fathers", "America the Beautiful", and "My Country 'Tis of Thee" as they also end their "season" this morning. Next Sunday, Torey Ravo will be our featured soloist, singing a song chosen for our confirmation students.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Each year we count it a blessing to represent our church in Hackettstown's Memorial day parade. Join us tomorrow and if you can, march with us and share in a special event for the community. There is a sign up sheet on the table by the `dais, or let Michele Cameron know if you would like to join in the fun.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Join us next Sunday, **June 2** as we will welcome our confirmation students to a life with Jesus and a member of our church. Their mentors will introduce them to our community as we pray with and for them.

DID YOU KNOW?

On this Memorial Day weekend, we have a reminder that this church was dedicated on August 14, 1862. On the same evening, the Hackettstown Military Co. was addressed and commended to the God of Battles during the Civil War. Thanks to FPCH Historian Deborah Gulick-Shepherd for this memory of our church's rich history.

FYI-INFORMATION

| | | |
|---------|----------------------|------------|
| 5/19/24 | In Person Attendance | 105 |
| | Virtual Attendance | 211 |
| | Offering | \$3,985.09 |

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday | 10:00 am | Worship |
| Sunday | 11:05 am | Joyful Noise Bells rehearsal |
| Sunday | 11:20 am | Unity Chimes rehearsal |
| Monday | 9:00 am-12:00 noon | Office Closed |
| Tues/Fri | 9:00 am-12:00 noon | Church office open |
| Tues/Fri | 9:00 am-12:00 noon | Heaven Sent Nursery School |

May 26 - June 1, 2024

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - May 26 - June 1, 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 |
| | 7:00-9:00 pm | Colonial Musketeers Sr. |
| | 7:30 pm | GA Meeting |



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