

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



September 7, 2025

Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church

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

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

From the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 139.

O Lord you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. We praise God today whose hands have been at work in our lives before we took our first breath and will continue to shape and form us by the power of the Spirit.

*HYMN

Take My Life

697

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in
ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful
for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages
from thee, filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as
thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM:

Father, I Adore You

Coelho

Senior Choir

Father, I adore you. Lay my life before you. How I love you.
Jesus, I adore you. Lay my life before you. How I love you.
Spirit, I adore you. Lay my life before you. How I love you.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Barocha

Numbers 6: 24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you, and give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace forever.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Joe Sermane

God, you asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused. You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty. I closed them, for I did not want to see. You asked for my life that you might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get too involved. Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you, only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in places where it is safe for me to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross. 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

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Jeremiah 18:1-11

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes Cook

***HYMN** *Change My Heart, O God* **695**

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earths, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Offertory on Bread of Life* **Lathbury**

*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 DEDICATION

***COMMUNION HYMN** *Come to the Table* **508**

Come to the table, all you who praise God.
Laid in a stable, God's gift of love:
Jesus our Savior poured out his life's blood.
Our sins forgiven, God's gift of love.

Come eat this bread now, my broken body.
My vow remember: I am your Lord.
Drink of this wine, the cup of salvation,
for you are mine, and I am your Lord.

All is now ready, like the first table.
Pray for the Spirit; lift up your hearts.
Christ has arisen, our Lord and Savior.
With great thanksgiving, lift up your hearts.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

As a sign of hospitality we offer gluten free bread for communion.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...(Pastor continues)

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.

WORDS OF THE INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* **543**

God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
move my voice; God, be the strength to now uphold me:

O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses
enfold; prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning,
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of planet.
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to
light my way, and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE**

832

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

POSTLUDE

How Great Thou Art

Swedish Melody

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: Al Aquino

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Greeting: Jose & Della Irby

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

Linda Burroughs & Barbara Henning

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!

WELCOME BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you to our Sunday School teachers for starting the Sunday School year with our students today. After the blessing of the backpacks and song students are invited to join their teachers for Sunday School. We are excited for a new year!

SEPTEMBER'S SECOND SUNDAY

Next Sunday, **September 14**, members of the Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad will be coming to tell us about what they do, let us see their equipment, and teach us about the importance of First Aid! Be sure to bring a stuffie to use as your "patient"! The sign up sheet is on the information table in the front of the church.

FUNDRAISER BY OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our Confirmation Class is starting to sell mums as a fundraiser for their retreat at Johnsonburg Camp. The mums are \$10.00 each and make a wonderful decoration for your home. You may start picking up your mums at Best's Fruit Farm today, **September 7th** thru **October 13th**. Last orders will be taken on **September 21st**. Please consider purchasing one or two of these beautiful mums to help out our Confirmation class.

TODAY'S MUSIC

It is a pleasure to have our Senior Choir return to our service this morning. The composer of today's anthem, Terrye Coelho Strom, was born in California at Camp Roberts, a military training camp where her father was stationed. When driving home from Newport Beach one summer day, Terrye improvised the song that the choir will be singing this morning. It is a simple song, that can be sung as a round (remember your "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" days). The choir will sing it first in unison, then split it into a round, and then we'll be inviting the congregation to our experiment to see if together, we can all sing this simple, yet lovely, piece as a round!

CLOTHING DRIVE

Our Clothing Drive will be on **October 4th**, and drop off will be on **September 30th** - 5:30-7:00pm. As you gather your items please be aware of a change in what they will accept. They will no longer accept blankets, quilts, or comforters. Thank you in advance for your donations.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Nellie Creager would like to thank everyone who shared well wishes, phone calls, prayers, and cards as she grieved the loss of her sister.

KITCHEN TRAINING

If you have or have not worked in the church kitchen before and would like to assist with upcoming dinners, please meet with Ellen Bergman after worship today for a brief training session.

STEW'S CLUE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie, our stewardship mascot, last week? This week, he's hiding near a cross.

FYI-INFORMATION

8/31/25	In Person Attendance	70
	Virtual Attendance	108
	Offering	\$1,553.40

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

September 7-13, 2025

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
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	Deacon Meeting
Thursday	6:30-7:15 pm	FPCH Ringers rehearsal
Thursday	7:30-8:30 pm	Sr. Choir rehearsal

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - September 7-13, 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
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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