

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ

January 18, 2026



PRELUDE

Emmanuel
Unity Chime Choir

arr. Ravo

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Siblings in Christ, rejoice. We live sustained by God's presence and love.

Thanks be to God.

As we mourn the wounds of God's children,

God weeps with us.

As we struggle for justice,

God struggles with us.

As we strive for peace,

God strives with us.

As we work to build the beloved community.

God works with us.

As we offer our gifts to all,

God blesses us.

Siblings in Christ, rejoice.

Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.

***HYMN**

Just As I Am

442

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy
blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me
come to thee, (Refrain)

Refrain

O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a
conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears
within, with out, (Refrain)

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome,
pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise
I believe, (Refrain)

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken
every barrier down; now to be thine, yea,
thine alone, (Refrain)

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM: *Grant Us Peace/Dona Nobis Pacem* **Perry**
Senior Choir

Dona nobis, dona nobis dona nobis pacem. Dona nobis, dona nobis
dona nobis pacem.

Let the light within us shine; clear and bright with hope for humankind.
Let understanding and kindness be our stay; so in the world true peace
will find the way.

Dona nobis, dona nobis pacem. Grant us peace. Dona nobis pacem.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *I Will Sing of the Mercies*

Psalm 89:1: I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

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

Most Holy and merciful God: we have condemned racial justice, yet we cling to the privileges derived from social inequities. All too often we are blind to our complicity in maintaining systems of oppression and deferring the hopes and dreams of the oppressed for freedom. Give us the courage to name our sin, give us the strength to claim responsibility for our actions. Give us the grace to pay the price for changing our behavior. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

There is no chasm too great, no wound too strong for the healing power of God's forgiveness. Rejoice with me for once we were lost and now we are found. **We are forgiven children of God! 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

**Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11
John 1:29-42**

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes Cook

***HYMN** *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* **353**

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. (Refrain)

Refrain

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. (Refrain)

When he shall come with trumpet sounds, O may I then in him be found, dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. (Refrain)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

edited Belhar Confession

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

The Open Bible

***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**

***CLOSING HYMN** *We Are Marching Light of God*

853

We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God. We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching, we are marching in the light of God. (Repeat)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE** *O Christ, Surround 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.

POSTLUDE *Blessed Assurance*

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: Al Aquino

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Video: Erin Roguso

Greeting: Carol & Pete Miller

***The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our friends:
Ruth Barth & Katy Groover***

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!

TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning, our Unity Chime Choir plays an original arrangement of the praise song *Emmanuel*. This piece was written in 1976 by Robert McGee when he was an associate pastor at a Seattle, Washington church. On this Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, our Senior Choir sings Dave and Jean Perry's anthem, *Grant Us Peace* which includes the words *Dona Nobis Pacem*. The timeless Latin *Dona Nobis Pacem* text is set seamlessly with an English verse singing of understanding, kindness and hope for humankind. Next Sunday, our Joyful Noise Bells and Little Lights Sunday School Choir will be providing our special music.

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.

STEW'S CLUE!

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding by the Christ candle on the dais. This morning, he has moved, and if you look closely, you'll be able to see Stewie by crayons.

CALL FOR THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

By order of the Session, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, NJ is called to meet for their annual meeting next Sunday, **January 25, 2026** after worship to conduct the following business:

- To receive the 2026 budget for information
- To receive the 2025 Annual Reports
- To elect elders to the Session, deacons to the Board of Deacons, members to the Personnel Committee and Nominating Committee, and a member to the Heaven Sent Board of Trustees.
- Vote on Terms of Call for Rev. Erin Hayes Cook for 2026

CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

By order of the Session, the corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, NJ is called to meet directly following the congregational meeting next Sunday, **January 25, 2026**, to conduct the following business:

- Report of corporate officers
- Election of corporation officers for 2026

Public notice of this meeting will be posted to two consecutive Sundays.

Donna Erickson
Clerk of the Session

THIS YEAR'S PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Per capita connects PC(USA) congregations and mid councils with the work of the wider church. Per capita is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of moving the church forward in the 21st century. The work of the PC(USA), and in particular the work of the General Assembly, is only possible because members of the church have said they are "all in" and committed to connection through per capita support. It is about joining together as a community and being one body, the body that is Christ's church in the world. The Presbytery of the Highlands has set this year's amount at **\$44.00** per active member. If you receive offering envelopes, there is an envelope in your box specifically to use for your per capita offering. Thank you for being part of the larger mission of the church!

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? Then join us for new members class in January. You are invited to come to all three in person meetings. We will discuss our church, what it means to become a member and how you might become more involved. Join us **today** and **February 1**.

DEACONS COLLECTING HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES AND MITTENS FOR LITTLE HANDS

During these cold winter months, the Board of Deacons will be collecting NEW gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves for children at Hatchery Hill, and Central School (Great Meadows) who don't have those items to keep themselves warm! The collected outerwear will be given to the school nurses for distribution to the kids who need them. If you are out shopping and spy kid sized hats, mittens, scarves and/or gloves, we'd love you to put them in the collection basket in coming Sundays. Thanks!

NEWSLETTER - LAST CHANCE TO PICKUP

Your December Newsletter is ready for you to pick up at the signup table (if you have your Newsletter printed). We are trying to be good stewards of our finances, so please pick up your Newsletter today and save the church \$2.00 per copy by not having to mail it. Thank you!

FYI-INFORMATION

1/11/26	In Person Attendance	80
	Virtual Attendance	76
	Offering	\$3,649.84

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

Jan. 18 - 24, 2026

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	11:05 am	Joyful Noise Bells rehearsal
Sunday	11:20 am	Unity Chimes rehearsal
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 - Jan. 18 - 24, 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

Call the church office at: 908-852-4011

Church email: fpchnj@gmail.com

Church Website: www.fpchackettstown.org