

# **First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ**



**August 3, 2025**

**Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church**

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

**PRELUDE**      *Wonderful Words of Life*

**THE RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalm 8**

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.

**Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

**what is humankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?**

You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

**You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:**

all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

**O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Let us worship God.**

**HYMN**      *O Lord, Our God, How Excellent*

**#25**

O Lord, our God, how excellent, how glorious is your name.

Your majesty surrounds the earth, and children sing your name.

The heavens shout your handiwork; we stand beneath in awe, to think the One who made all things should care for us at all.

Yet you have made us less than gods, surpassing all but you, with heart and mind, with strength and will, to search for what is true.

Into our hands you've placed all things: the earth, the sea; each place we're called to probe for secret gifts and venture into space.

O Lord, our God, how excellent, how glorious is your name, majestic in your holiness. We sing and praise your name.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

### **ANTHEM:**

*Amazing Grace*  
Kazimir Tang, piano

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Hallelu**

*Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah, praise ye the Lord. (Repeat)  
Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah, praise ye the Lord, hallelujah,  
Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord.*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God, we know that faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains. But we often let the seed of faith fall out of our hands. We yearn for community and love but we choose to climb up the mountain on our own with our backpacks filled with regret and our water bottles empty. Give us courage to ask for help. Help us surrender our lives to you so that we can cultivate community in a broken world. We leave our regrets, our mistakes, and our confusion to you. Lord clear a path for us by the power of your Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray, 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**

### **SERMON**

**Rev. Erin Hayes Cook**

**\*HYMN***God of the Fertile Fields*

# 714

God of fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:  
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
that all in every land be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;  
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care  
for people everywhere, that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need,  
so your reign grows. Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,  
no humble task refused your love bestows.

God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:  
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.  
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
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 More About Jesus****\*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, Let Us Eat*

**528**

*This hymn from Liberia is written in a call and response style. A soloist will sing the L (leader part), and the congregation will respond echoing the C (congregation's) bolded lyrics.*

L: Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread;

**C: come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.**

L: Our Lord's body let us take together;

**C: our Lord's body let us take together.**

L: Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured;

**C: come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.**

L: Jesus' blood poured, let us drink together;

**C: Jesus' blood poured, let us drink together.**

L: In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest;

**C: in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.**

L: In the presence of our Lord we gather;

**C: in the presence of our Lord we gather.**

L: Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word;

**C: rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.**

L: Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom;

**C: Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.**

**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**    *Will You Come and Follow Me*                      **726**

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

## **\*RESPONSE**

**#749 (Refrain)**

*We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*

## **POSTLUDE      *The Glory of God in Nature***

### **Serving Our Congregation Today**

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

***Worship Leader: MaryAnn Simmons***

***Music Director: Lorinda Ravo***

***Greeting: Al & Jen Aquino***

***Video:***

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

***Katy Groover & Brenda Zellars***

### **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!

### **CONFIRMATION STUDENTS**

You're reminded that following today's children's message, you will be going with your teachers to work on your Communion Banner.

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

Kids (and grown-up kids too), did you find Stewie last week? He was hiding by the baptismal font in front of the church. This week's clue is: sunflower.

### **THIS MORNING'S MUSIC**

Today, our anthem is provided by a member of our Sunday School program, Kazimir Tang. 10 year old Kaz recently completed 4th grade, and in September will be entering the 5th grade at the Flocktown-Kossman School in Long Valley. He began his lessons 2 years ago, and studies with Danielle Ingram at Serenata Studios in Chester. Kazimir now practices on his great-grandparents' piano that his family inherited when he began his lessons! We are grateful to Kaz for sharing his gift of music with us this morning.

Next Sunday, Ved Fernandez will be playing the violin for our anthem.

### **MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!**

At the end of this month on August 28, our adult music ensembles: the Senior Choir and the FPCH Ringers Chime Choir will begin rehearsals for their 2025-2026 "season". We welcome any and all, from Middle Schoolers through adults who would like to be part of our music program. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings ( Chimes 6:30-7:15, Choir 7:30-8:30). No experience is necessary, and you don't need to know how to read music. AND, we understand if you can't make every rehearsal or Sunday morning. Come and give it a try-you'll be very warmly welcomed!

### **AUGUST'S SECOND SUNDAY - Next Sunday, August 10th**

Oh my! It's time for our 4th annual "Super Soaker Sunday", the August Second Sunday event. Be sure to sign up in front of the church. Kids are welcome to bring their own water guns, but there will be plenty of soakers available to all participants. Be sure to wear swimsuits or other clothing that can get wet, and bringing towels is also advised! The sign up sheet is on the information and sign up table in front of the church.

### **2025 BACKPACK PROGRAM**

***NEXT SUNDAY WILL BE OUR FINAL DAY OF COLLECTION FOR OUR BACKPACK PROGRAM.*** We are in need of backpacks and notebooks (spiral-bound, 3-ring with filler paper, and composition books). Most of the children are in elementary and middle school, so we would appreciate that the notebooks and filler paper be wide-ruled. We will also be collecting rulers, glue sticks, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, zippered pencil bags or cases, crayons, colored markers, colored pencils, children's scissors, toothbrushes and toothpaste. The filled backpacks will be distributed to families involved with the NJ Department of Children and Families in Warren County. Any questions, call Donna Erickson.

### **FYI-INFORMATION**

7/27/25	In Person Attendance	73
	Virtual Attendance	202
	Offering	\$1,635.71

### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH**

**August 3-9, 2025**

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
	10:15 am	Confirmation class banner
Mon/Fri	9:00 am-12:00 noon	Church office open



## **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel -August 3-9, 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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