

First Presbyterian Church Hackettstown, NJ



November 16, 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

Iroquois-Matilda Pastoral Exchange

This is a time for giving thanks; a time to be mindful of the good that encircles us.

Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

Friends and family encourage and care, and this community shows us God's loving ways.

Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

We find a home in God's creation and the earth gives us good food to make us grow.

Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

The seasons change. Sunshine comes and goes, yet your loving care for us is eternal.

Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

***HYMN**

Now Thank We All Our God

643

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keeps us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given;
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be ever more.

OPENING PRAYER

ANTHEM

Surely It is God Who Saves Me

White

Senior Choir with Karen Cramer, flute

Surely it is God who saves me; trusting him, I shall not fear. For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near. So rejoice as you draw water from salvation's living spring; in the day of your deliverance thank the Lord, his mercies sing.

Make his deeds known to all peoples; tell out his exalted Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his might proclaim. Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell, in your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel.

Surely it is God who saves me; trusting him I shall not fear. For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near. So rejoice as you draw water from salvation's living spring; in the day of your deliverance thank the Lord, his mercies sing.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

This is the Day

Psalm 118:24

This is the day **(echo)** that the Lord has made **(echo)**, we will rejoice **(echo)**, and be glad in it **(echo)**.

(ALL TOGETHER) This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day **(echo)** **(ALL TOGETHER:)** That the Lord has made.

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

God, it is easy to pretend our worthiness is in what we can accumulate. We want more cars, more stuff, more clothes without realizing that we won't find what we truly need inside of them. Forgive our selfish attachments. Please convict us of our inadequacies and exchange them for the abundance of your grace. Help us to hold everything lightly as to be ready to give when you ask. 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 LESSON Myth- More is Better **Matthew 6:24-34**

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

***HYMN** *Why Should I Feel Discouraged?* **661**

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him; from care he sets me free:
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Howard Thurman*

I must let go. For so long I have held to the habit of holding on. Even my muscles are tense; deeply fearful are they of relaxing lest they fall away from their place. I cling clutchingly to my friends lest I lose them.

I live under the shadow of being supplanted by another. I cling to my money, not so much by a wise economy and a thoughtful spending but by a sense of possession that makes me depend on it for strength. I must let go—deep at the core of me I must have a sense of freedom— A sure awareness of detachment— of relaxation.

I must let go of everything. I must let go of pride. It may be that I must let go my dependence upon triumphing over my fellows, which seems to give me a sense of security in their midst.

I cringe from my pain; I do not relish the struggle of life but I do not want to let go because the hurt and the tension of contest feed the springs of my pride.

They make me deeply aware. But I must let go of everything. I must let go of everything but God. "Teach me, O God, how to free myself of dearest possessions, So that in my trust I shall find restored to me all I need to walk in Thy path and to fulfill I Thy will. Let me know Thee for myself that I may not be satisfied with aught that is less."

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Offertory on Nun Danket

***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 FOR THE PEOPLE

***CLOSING HYMN**

Great God of Every Blessing

694

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***RESPONSE** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* **Card**
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.

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All our God* **Rinkart**

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preacher: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: James Tischler

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Video: Jean Zetterberg

Greeting: Pat & Geof Gohlich

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

THANKSGIVING BRUNCH- TODAY

Come to the chapel right after worship today- for some yummy brunch treats from our friends at On Call Catering. We would like to thank you for all you do to support our church. During our time we will have an opportunity to hear what we are thankful for and find out what adventure we hope to journey on next! Everyone is welcome! Remember to bring in your pledge cards on next Sunday, **November 23rd.**

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 by the communion table. Did you find him? This week, Stewie has moved again. The Stew's Clue is turkey.

HACKETTSTOWN COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

Today at 3:00pm - The afternoon promises an inspiring and entertaining program celebrating community, creativity and gratitude for those who have served our nation. Admission is free and freewill donations are gratefully accepted.

NEWSLETTER - LAST CHANCE TO PICKUP

Your November 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!



DECEMBER'S SECOND SUNDAY

Get your Christmas on! On **December 14**, Mrs. Shepherd will be helping us make a special Christmas ornament, and Miss Winnie will be bringing her delicious Christmas cookies for participants to decorate. Please be sure to sign up to help us prepare for both lunch, and to have enough supplies for all who want to be part of the fun.

TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning, our Senior Choir sings *Surely It is God Who Saves Me*, a setting of Isaiah 12: 2-6, composed by David Ashley White. The choir is accompanied by congregation member Karen Cramer on flute. Karen is also a member of the Hackettstown Community Band which will be playing a FREE concert here in our church at 3:00 pm. The concert features popular music compositions from film and stage, patriotic songs, and a special tribute to Veterans.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Calling All Angels - Bible Study will begin on Monday, **December 1st** at 7:00pm. An Advent study of fearlessness and strength with the book called *Calling All Angels*. We will have 10 copies of the book, please let Pattie know if you would like a book.

ADVENT EVENTS

November 30 - Worship with the Chrismon Service

December 7 - Worship with Advent Candlelighting

December 13 - Wreaths Across America at 12:00 (noon)

Stone Soup Concert at 3:00pm

Community Dinner at 5:30pm

December 14 - Worship, Advent Candlelighting, Christmas Sweaters, Ties, Cookies and Cocoa

This is your invitation to break out that Christmas sweater, shirt, or tie (festive or ugly!) and wear it to church. We'll also have a Christmas photo station where confirmation students will happily use your own phone to take photos of your friends and family to celebrate the outfits. There will even be a hot cocoa bar after worship, and we hope that if you can, you'll bring a dozen or two of your Christmas cookies to share too! Let's have some Christmas fun here at FPCH!

December 20 - Jazz Band Concert at 2:00pm

December 21 - Children's Christmas play, Advent Candlelighting.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship with candlelight at 7:30 pm

The entire community is invited to worship with song, scripture and candlelight.

FYI-INFORMATION

11/9/25	In Person Attendance	80
	Virtual Attendance	86
	Offering	\$1,767.40

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH

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

November 16 - 22, 2025

Worship
Joyful Noise Bells rehearsal
Unity Chimes rehearsal
Church Office Open
Heaven Sent Nursery School
Session Meeting
FPCH Ringers rehearsal
Senior Choir Rehearsal

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel - November 16 - 22, 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 Cell:908-963-8341

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Call the church office at: 908-852-4011

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