

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

Reception of God's Word

Gathering

PRELUDE *Traci Bopp, Musician*
WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION
Rev. Stacey Duensing Pearce, Pastor of Worship, Care and Strategic Leadership

Expansion of Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*
Welcome this day to a celebration of God's magnificent creation!
Thanks be to God the Creator who has loaned to us such a beautiful planet.
Welcome this day to a recognition of God's redeeming love!
Thanks to God the Redeemer who has given us God's only Son as our Example and Teacher, Our Savior and Redeemer!
Welcome this day to the joy of God's Holy Spirit of truth and power!
Thanks to God the Sustainer who walks with us every day, guiding and guarding our steps. AMEN.

*GATHERING SONG #68 *(Blue Hymnal)* "**We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer**"
Brooke Burgin, Song Leader

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(responsive)*
We confess this day, O merciful God, that we have not always acted in just ways nor sought justice for our friends and neighbors.
We have found it easy to turn our backs on problems rather than seeking to be a solution to them.
We have heard of the many ways in which you have demonstrated peace with justice through the ministries of your Son, yet we have given only sporadic attention to them.
Forgive us, Lord. Heal our selfishness and brokenness. Cause us to be witnesses to your great love as shown to us in Jesus Christ. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE May the peace of Christ be with you all! **And also with you!**

SPECIAL MUSIC "In The Garden" *arr. by Richard T. Heffler, Jr*
Chris Woods, Bass Clarinet

PREPARATION FOR READING

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scriptures. **Our hearts and minds are open.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)
8:30 a.m. Jessie Bundz; 10:00 a.m. Angela Kohle, Readers

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God**

MESSAGE "Are You In or Out?"
Dave Sippel, Pastor of Discipleship, Mission, and Outreach Leadership

Transformation of Our Lives

SONG OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE "**Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)**"
Song by Hillside UNITED

Verse 1
You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep my faith will stand

Chorus 1
And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine

Verse 2
Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sov'reign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now

Interlude

Oh and You are mine oh

Bridge

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour

Interlude

Yeah yeah yeah yeah
Oh Jesus yeah my God

Chorus 2

I will call upon Your name
Keep my eyes above the waves
My soul will rest in Your embrace
I am Yours and You are mine

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING & OFFERTORY (10:00 a.m.)

DOXOLOGY

Compassion For the World

*SENDING SONG #415 (*Blue Hymnal*) **"We Are Called to Be God's People"**

*BENEDICTION This time of worship has ended. **Let the service begin!**

*POSTLUDE

** Indicates to please stand, if able.*

*The altar flowers are offered in memory of Patricia Marie Hellyer given by
Mike, Amy & Phoebe Patterson and in memory of Walt Stelzenmueller given by the Mackey Family*



OUR VISION STATEMENT:

FRC stands at the intersection of faith and life in our community. Our mission is to create experiences that connect us with Christ and inspire us to serve. We do that through:

Open Doors:

Located at the intersection of faith and life, our congregation practices open doors, appreciating our differences, yet also valuing our oneness in purpose. We welcome all people regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, orientation or identity. We also welcome people with different cultural and political understandings. Our unity is found not in our uniformity, but in our desire to live and learn as followers of Christ.

Open Hearts:

We envision a community where every human being awakens to God's love, trusts this love, working in us, among us, through us, and even as us. Our path is Christ. We seek to live our lives loving others as he did himself, wholeheartedly and unconditionally. We gather regularly to open ourselves to further transformation in Christ, helping ourselves and others find deeper meaning and a clearer sense of purpose.

Open Hands:

Everything we do is through God's love. We intentionally partner with and serve the Pequannock Township area as agents of Christ's light, life and love in our neighborhoods and beyond. Our hope is to actively build a renewed, peaceful world here, that includes social justice and fosters peace through God's radical love for humanity.

TODAY – SEPTEMBER 22, 2024



WELCOME! Our journey to live into the FRC vision statement continues this week. We will hear a reading from Matthew 28:16-20. Pastor Dave will teach on the Great Commission and these comforting words of Christ - "I am

with you always." The door is wide open to come into God's house. Are we heeding the words of Jesus as we exit the house of God to return to our homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TOMORROW SEPT. 23:

Before the installation of the solar panel system, some work has to be done to improve the stability of our current connections to the JCP&L power grid. Power will be shut down to the Ministry Center and Friendship Hall during working hours on Monday, September 23rd. We have been assured that the work will end by 3:00 p.m. on that day and power will be restored. Power will only be shut down in the Ministry Center and Friendship Hall, but, all of our buildings will be impacted by this outage. We will not have any phone service, fire alarm,

wifi or internet, server, or keyless entry system. Wi-Fi will not be available in the Sanctuary, Grace Chapel, the Ministry Center, Friendship Hall, or the Cemetery Office. **No one will be permitted to enter any of the buildings on our campus during the day.**

DISCIPLESHIP STUDY: "DEEP STEEP: LISTENING WITH THE SPIRIT SPEAKING IN SCRIPTURE" - 11:30 A.M. IN THE BLUE ROOM:

Meeting each Sunday after the second worship service, the study will dive deeper into listening and learning about the scripture passage. This Bible Study is open to everyone: first time bible readers and seasoned bible enthusiasts alike. Feel free to drop in for one study or for all of them. We will meet in the Blue Room on Sundays from 11:30 am –12:30 pm through Nov. 24th. Grab your coffee/tea after worship and join us.



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT – TODAY AFTER THE 10 AM SERVICE:

Join us at 11:15 a.m. in Friendship Hall for a family friendly community service event! We will be packaging bags for "Hope One" who gives out "blessing bags" to people in need in Morris County. ALL ages are welcome to join us as we assemble bags. Thank you to all who have donated to this over the last month!

EVENTS/THINGS TO KNOW

FALL CEMETERY WALK - OCTOBER 6TH: Come take a walk through our cemetery on Sunday, October 6th. (rain date October 20th) This will be a walk to learn about the cemetery's history. Ed Englebart will lead this after each service. Meet at the back door of Friendship Hall and wear comfortable shoes.

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH - WEAR PINK OCTOBER 6TH:

As is our tradition, we will **wear pink on the first Sunday of the month, October 6th**. Also look for our lattice ribbon in front of the church near the little library. You will have the opportunity to honor or remember a loved one. Just take a ribbon out of the little library: a light pink ribbon is in memory of someone and a dark pink ribbon is to honor someone. Write their name on the ribbon, then tie it onto the lattice.



CHANGE IN SCHEDULE FOR KNIT & CROCHET GROUP STARTS IN OCT:

The group has decided to meet as usual on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. and change the meeting for the fourth Monday. On the fourth week, they will meet at 1 p.m. Both sessions are still in Keator Parlor.

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP WELLNESS FAIR - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH AT 7:00 P.M. IN FRIENDSHIP HALL:

Join us for a night for all ages focused on mindfulness, wellness and mental health! Come kick-off a week of wellness and World Mental Health Day! Visit

community resources and participate in discussion with Lori Phelan, MSW, LCSW about challenges students face in the digital age.

FALL FISH & CHIPS DINNER OCTOBER 17TH: Women's Ministry along with "Tastefully British" will be holding a fall Fish & Chips dinner on October 17th in Friendship Hall. Grab the order form enclosed in your bulletin this week and fill it out! Online registrations are also available on our website. If you would like to help out, contact Nancy Grimbilas at ngrimbilas@optonline.net. It's a 2-hour event and a fun way to get involved.

PASTOR DAVE'S ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION - SEPTEMBER 29TH AT 4:00 PM: Dave will serve as "Pastor of Discipleship, Mission, and Outreach Leadership". All are invited to attend Pastor Dave's service of Ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the RCA and his installation as a pastor at FRC. The service will be held in FRC's Sanctuary on September 29, 2024 at 4pm with reception to follow. *If you would like to give a gift toward Pastor Dave's Ordination, there is a tile for giving on FRC's website. Donations will cover the cost of Pastor Dave's robe, stole(s), and other elements of the celebration.*

CROP WALK 2024 - OCTOBER 20TH AT 11:30 A.M. We're participating in the 2024 CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk to support Church World Service (CWS) and help families who are struggling with hunger. Please join us with your steps and your donations. We will walk a 3-mile loop that will begin and end at FRC. Meet us at 11:30 a.m. on October 20th in front of Friendship Hall where we will share a short blessing before we walk. A portion of the monies raised from this walk support the Pequannock Food Pantry. Register at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/first-reformed-church-of-pompton-plains> or contact Eileen Bundz for more information or to support a walker. eileen.bundz@gmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGING THE HISTORY OF ENSLAVEMENT & LIBERATION IN PEQUANNOCK: This program will be a community dialogue and public history event. It will be held on Oct. 26th from 1-3 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Who worked these lands? Who built these historic structures? Join this group of committed community history advocates to discuss and consider the next steps in acknowledging our shared past.

FALL SENIOR TEA - OCTOBER 27TH AT 1:00 P.M. IN GRACE CHAPEL: FRC's Pastoral Care Team will be celebrating our 75+ Seniors with a Tea on October 27th. It will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. in Grace Chapel. Please save the date and RSVP after receiving an invitation. Plan to join us for this time of fellowship!



TABLES AVAILABLE FOR OUR FALL CRAFT FAIR: Save the date for our fall Craft Fair on November

23rd – 9:30 am – 3:00 pm in Friendship Hall If you'd like to be a vendor, applications are on the website or contact the office at office@frc-pp.org

CHILDREN & YOUTH

FUEL YOUTH GROUP: FUEL Youth Group is back. Middle school and high school youth gather on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Please reach out to Pastor Dave if you need any assistance or support. dave@frc-pp.org

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

CONCERNS:

Peace in our world

William (Bill) Erickson, Frank and Rose Chara's brother-in-law, recovering from surgery. Prayers for healing

Joe Testa, prayers for continues wellness. Cards to 5103 Tudor Drive, Pompton Plains 07444

Please pray for **Pastor Zach Pearce's** church, who is considering a merger. The official vote is scheduled for world communion Sunday, October 6, 2024

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Mark Halliday, **Steven Janowicz** (son of former members **Joyce and George**), **Emma Patrimonio's** friend **Ann**, **Tom Brown** (friend of Frank & Rose Chara), **Frank Scangarella**, **Colleen Erickson** (niece of Rose & Frank Chara), **Lorraine Nichols**, **John De Falco**, **Judy Napoli**, **Karen Milligan**, **Heather** (Tony's daughter in law), **Michael Bozza** (friend of Gloria Krueger), **Brandi** (friend of Ann Marie Ziffer), **William (Bill) Erickson** (brother-in-law of Frank and Rose Chara), **Nancy Crefeld** (Pete's mom), **Holly Campbell** (Lori Osborne's friend), **Kathryn Dontje** (Barbara Ball's daughter), **Brenda** (Barbara Ball's daughter), **Logan Boncek** (Gloria Krueger's cousin's grandson), **Judy Lento** (Pat Lento's sister in law), **Charles Cunningham**, **Dee Patrick**, **Dolores Garritano** (Gloria Krueger's sister) **Peter Garritano & Jim Jenkins** (family of Gloria Krueger), **Jim**, (Lynn Rayner's brother), **Candace** (Jane Young's sister), **Patti Moffa** (Alyse Cafasso's friend), **Amy Griffith**, **Adele Ebert** (Shell's mom), **Paul** (Susan De Bell's brother), **Michael Clark** (Sharon Hollick's son in law)

FINANCIALS



HOW TO DONATE TO FRC:

Give Electronically: Have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church

account safely and electronically. You can also scan the QR code to donate or visit our website at

www.firstreformedchurch.com and choose the blue "Donate" button. **In Person:** Drop your check at the office or place it in kiosk or the offering during worship.

COMMUNION OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER WILL

SUPPORT COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR HOPE: If you would like to donate, make your check out to "First Reformed Church" and note "Sept Communion Offering." You can also donate securely online.