

Welcome to  
**The First Reformed Church**  
of Pompton Plains



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

9:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship

10:30 a.m. Indoor Worship in Sanctuary



## OUR MISSION

*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 Live 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.*

# Welcome

## TODAY IN WORSHIP

Pastor Dave will share a message from the second chapter of Luke's Gospel. You might say, "Wait, isn't that the story of the birth of Jesus?" You would be right. As Jesus is presented at the Temple, we meet Anna. Anna the Prophet is an example for us in so many ways. Come hear of Anna's faithfulness and the hope that sustains her. The message is titled, "She Never Left."

## WELCOME GUESTS

We are grateful for your presence and would love to connect. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself. For more information about our church, fill out a connection card located on the table and visit our website: [www.firstreformedchurch.com](http://www.firstreformedchurch.com)

## WELCOME SPARK KIDZ

Activity packets for children to complete during the service will be provided. Nursery care is available during the 9 AM service throughout the summer in the Ministry Center Building for children age 4 & under. Contact Janet Chardavoyne [janet@frc-pp.org](mailto:janet@frc-pp.org)

## SUMMER FUEL YOUTH GROUP

The full calendar of summer FUEL events for middle school and high school youth is on our website. Our brand-new 6th graders are encouraged to attend, and our grads can keep coming over the summer, too. Contact Dave Sippel [dave@frc-pp.org](mailto:dave@frc-pp.org)

- August 19 – Pool Party, Cookout, and S'mores! 5:30 to 8:00pm.
- August 26 – Trivia Night and Memes!! 6:30 to 8:00pm.

## WEBSITE & LIVE STREAM OF SERVICE

When traveling, watch the service live at 9 AM on our website [www.firstreformedchurch.com](http://www.firstreformedchurch.com) or on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/frcpomptonplains>

## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS & ONLINE DONATIONS

| <i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>                      |                 |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                                                            | Week Ending     |               |
|                                                            | 8/9/2026        | 8/10/2026     |
| Sunday Collection                                          | \$ 2,393.00     | \$ 3,854.00   |
| Electronic Giving                                          | \$ 8,599.40     | \$ 8,020.31   |
| Total Weekly Contributions                                 | \$ 10,992.40    | \$ 11,874.31  |
| Yearly Collection Goal (BUDGET)*                           | \$ 717,863.84   | \$ 665,510.00 |
| Weekly Goal*                                               | \$ 13,805.07    | \$ 12,798.27  |
| Weekly Collection Surplus/Deficit                          | \$ (2,812.67)   | \$ (923.96)   |
| Year To Date Surplus (Deficit)                             | \$ (120,784.70) | \$ 19,945.00  |
| Communion Offering for last month to Market Street Mission |                 |               |
|                                                            | \$1,302.40      |               |



WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

*Rev. Dave Sippel, Pastor of Discipleship, Mission and Outreach Leadership*

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## Expansion of Our Hearts

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsive)*

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

**God is there.**

When Jesus is presented at the temple,

**God is there.**

When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

**God is there.**

When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

**God is there.**

This very morning,

**God is here.**

In the future we cannot see,

**God is there.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

**\*GATHERING SONG "Seek Ye First"**

*Brooke Burgin, Song Leader*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness

And all these things will be added unto you, Allelu, alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find

Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE** *(responsive)* (9:00 a.m.)

Merciful God, our fear of what is next consumes us. We long for security and lack faith. The impact has brought about suffering. You tasked us to be good stewards of your creation and we have fallen short. You challenged us to love God and love our neighbor, and we have failed to show that love. You promise to bring all people joyfully together in a house of prayer on your holy mountain. We find ways to stay apart.

**Bring us together, O Lord. Empower us with a spirit of love for you and love for all our neighbors. Help us live lives of service to you so that all your children will know your peace. Forgive us when we fall short and continue to transform your world, leading us to your promised kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE** (9:00 a.m.)

May the Peace of Christ be with you all! **And also with you!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** (9:00 a.m.) "Hold On To Me" *Char Milligan & Teagan Slufik, Vocalists*  
*words & music by Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan & Paul Mabury*

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# Reception of God's Word

## 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** Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)

*Sue Hellyer (9:00 a.m.), Reader*

*Joann Warner (10:30 a.m.), Reader*

*22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."*

*25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:*

*29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.*

*30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,*

*31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:*

*32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."*

*33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."*

*36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.*

*39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.*

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

**MESSAGE** "She Never Left"

*Rev. Dave Sippel, Pastor of Discipleship, Mission and Outreach Leadership*

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# Transformation of Our Lives

**SONG OF RESPONSE** (9:00 a.m.) **"Blessed Assurance"**

## Verse 1

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine  
O what a foretaste of glory divine  
Heir of salvation purchase of God  
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood

### **Chorus**

This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long

### **Verse 3**

Perfect submission all is at rest  
I in my Savior am happy and blest  
Watching and waiting looking above  
Filled with His goodness lost in His love **[CHORUS]**

## **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **INVITATION FOR CONNECTION & CONTRIBUTION**

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# **Compassion for the World**

### **\*SENDING SONG "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"**

#### **Verse 1**

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just to take Him at His word  
Just to rest upon His promise  
Just to know thus saith the Lord

#### **Chorus**

Jesus Jesus how I trust Him  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er  
Jesus Jesus precious Jesus  
O for grace to trust Him more

#### **Verse 2**

O how sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just to trust His cleansing blood  
Just in simple faith to plunge me  
'Neath the healing cleansing flood **[CHORUS]**

#### **Verse 4**

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee  
Precious Jesus Savior Friend  
And I know that Thou art with me  
Wilt be with me to the end **[CHORUS]**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

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

### **\*POSTLUDE**

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# Prayers & Concerns

## JOYS:

**Jo Bradford** celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday yesterday, August 15. Cards to 30 Andrews Pl. Pompton Plains 07444

## FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE:

**Johanna Clark**, Sharon Hollick's son-in-law's sister, passed away August 12<sup>th</sup>. Prayers for the family.

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

**Prayers for peace** in the Middle East, especially between the United States, Iran, Israel and Lebanon.

Prayers of protection for **US service members** who are deployed.

Prayers for **Rev. Linda** serving the hungry and homeless in Lebanon who are displaced due to war. Linda is connected in mission to us through our Classis and Ponds Reformed Church. Pray for her ministry

**Christine**, friend of Michele Crefeld, is starting colon cancer treatment. Prayers for her and for her husband and 13-year-old.

**Colleen Erickson**, niece of Rose and Frank Chara, undergoing cancer treatments. They found a small mass outside of her brain and she is awaiting discussion for next steps. Prayers for healing.

**Frank Chara**, treatments starting for non hodgkins lymphoma mid-August. Prayers for Frank during this process.

**Brenda**, Barbara Ball's daughter, is back at her facility now and is improving.

**Craig**, Joann Warner's brother, prayers of healing for health issues and for his children Sally and Andrew who are caring for him.

**Michael Johnston**, prayers for good health.

**Barbara Livingstone**, prayers for improved health.

**Jo Bradford**, broke her wrist. Prayers for healing. Cards to 30 Andrews Place, Pompton Plains 07444

**Dee Patrick**, awaiting test results and treatment plan. Cards to 31F Lancaster Court, Wayne, 07470

**Jane Young**, prayers as she begins the transition to Assisted Living in Care One.

Prayers for the son of **Pat & Charlie Cunningham** who is recovering from a roadway accident.

**William DeBell**, Susan's husband, improving while doing cardiac rehab.



### **LONG TERM CONCERNS:**

**Mary & John** (Linda Wilson), **Brian Farley**, **Katie Wilson**, cancer treatments, **Tom Larkin**, **Ann** (friend of Eileen Bundz), **Lois Wickham**, **Michael Angelucci** (son of Gail Trappe's friend), **Michele Brauman** (sister-in-law of Joanna Minassian & Meg Sturm), **Jamie Spillane** (college classmate of Karen & Tom Kamp), **Jennifer Carpentieri**, **Cindy**, **Anna Miller** (future daughter-in-law of Kathy & John Shea and future niece of Judy Shivy) **Joyce Gruzdis**, **Michael Clark** (Sharon Hollick's son-in-law), **Peggy Biondi** (friend of Amy Muller) receiving chemo, **Beverly Adams** (Jennifer Adams' mother) blood cancer, **Carol** (friend of LeeAnne Leck) pancreatic cancer, **Sue Rayner**, lung cancer, **Kristen**, vision issues, **Christopher Martin** (Pat Lento's relative) myocarditis, **Steven Janowicz** (son of former members Joyce and George), **Judy Napoli**, **Karen Milligan**, **Heather** (Tony's daughter-in-law), **Nancy Crefeld** (Pete's mom), **Kathryn Dontje** (Barbara Ball's daughter), **Judy Lento** (Pat Lento's sister in law), **Charles Cunningham**, **Jim**, (Lynn Rayner's brother), **Candace** (Jane Young's sister), **Amy Griffith**, **Adele Ebert** (Shell's mom)

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## **Announcements**

**JOIN OUR SPARK KIDZ TEAM:** As our program continues to grow in leaps and bounds, we are seeking additional volunteers for our younger classes this fall. Current needs include another teacher (to share the class) for our 3rd graders, and substitute teachers for our preschool and elementary classes. No experience is necessary, and you do not have to serve every week. If you feel God nudging you towards children's ministry, be sure to talk to Janet for more details. [janet@frc-pp.org](mailto:janet@frc-pp.org)

**VBS RECAP:** What an amazing week! Thank you to all our amazing Rainforest Falls VBS volunteers, everyone who supported our program behind the scenes, and everyone who donated supplies. Throughout the week, our 96 kids and 55 volunteers traveled through our colorful rainforest exploring the nature of God. The kids exceeded their offering goal by donating \$859 for Operation Kid to Kid, so Pastor Stacey, Pastor Dave, our summer intern Chloe, and our snack guys, all got to taste a little sloth "poo." "Wow, God!"

**SERVICE SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 13 @ 8:30 A.M:** What if, instead of attending a Sunday worship service, you could be the very hands of Jesus by serving others? On September 13, you and your family will have that opportunity. That Sunday, instead of returning to a regular worship schedule after the summer, we will combine Kick-Off Sunday with Service Sunday. We will begin that day with an early service at 8:30 a.m., shortened to about 15 minutes with a blessing and send off. Participants will have 3 hours to "serve" on the various service projects, returning to the church between 12 - 12:30 p.m. for a BBQ lunch. Projects are being identified by the Mission Team for people of all ages and abilities. There will be construction, sewing, gardening, clean-up and craft opportunities, to name a few. We are currently looking for project ideas. All projects will be listed on the FRC website where you can register for the one that interests you. Sign-up sheets will also be available in Friendship Hall during the month of August. Look for more information in the weekly bulletins. Contact Bob Nixon [robertnixon9@hotmail.com](mailto:robertnixon9@hotmail.com) or Bonnie Holmes [bonnie.l.holmes@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.l.holmes@gmail.com) if you have a project that you would like to have listed. This is an exciting opportunity for us to "be the church" and serve others!

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR SERVICE SUNDAY PROJECT FOR CHILDREN:** On Service Sunday, we would like our children & young people to participate by assembling hygiene kits for Bessie Green. By fulfilling basic daily needs, these kits improve physical health, boost self-esteem, and help remove social barriers to housing and employment. We need your help to make this project a

success. The Mission Team would like to collect the items listed below so that we can have a packing event on that day, when individual items are packed into kits to be delivered to Bessie Green and distributed to the community there.

**Small or Travel Size** items still needed are

- 2 ounce hand sanitizer – 30
- Small packs of tissues – 70
- Toothbrushes – 70
- Toothpaste (small or travel size) – 70
- Shampoo Small or travel size – 50

There is a collection bin by the church office, and one will be placed outside for the early summer service. If you have any questions about the collection, please reach out to Seth Burgin – [sburgin13@gmail.com](mailto:sburgin13@gmail.com)

**LOSS OF A SPOUSE GRIEF GROUP:** A one-day GriefShare Seminar will be held at The Chapel in Lincoln Park on Sunday, September 13 from 1-3 PM. This seminar will offer care, support and practical teaching for dealing with the tremendous loss of a spouse. Questions? Call Sue Breznak at 973-723-0465.

**LEAD REMEDIATION AT THE FRIENDLY MANSE:** Consistory has made the decision to remediate the extensive lead paint in the Friendly Manse for the health and safety of both the current occupants and any future pastors that will live in the Manse. The cost for the remediation and moving the family (all their belongings) is around \$125,000. These funds will be taken from the Dovey Fund (our endowment). At the same time, Consistory would also like to ask the congregation to give toward this project. To give you can go online to our website and select "Lead Remediation in the Friendly Manse". Please hold Pastor Stacey and her family in your prayers in this season of transition.

QR Code for  
Lead Remediation in the Friendly Manse



**AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH-SERVANT'S HEART MINISTRY:** Servant's Heart Ministry is based in Wyckoff, NJ. This non-profit organization renovates houses, homeless shelters, gymnasiums, churches, rehabilitation centers, and relief organizations' headquarters, with a growing number of volunteers. Their goal is to continue encouraging and equipping people to use their gifts to serve others; to create new partnerships with skilled professionals to complete more projects for organizations and churches in need; and to partner with more businesses in the trades industry to grow our giving to the community. To donate, you can mail in a check, place it in the collection kiosk during worship any week in August, or donate online securely through our website on the line item: "Mission of the Month." Make checks payable to FRC and note "August Communion" in the memo line.

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP & SUMMER SERVICE TIMES:**

**9:00 a.m. Outdoor Service in the Backyard of Friendly Manse (w/Livestream)**

**10:30 a.m. Indoor Sanctuary Service (Shorter Service, No Livestream)**

The first service will gather outdoors at 9:00 a.m. (livestreamed) in the backyard of the Friendly Manse. *(In the event of rain, to be held in the sanctuary)* Chairs are available, but you are also welcome to bring your own. During the first service, a simultaneous stream will run inside Friendship Hall. A second, shorter service will be offered in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:** We will be open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. This schedule continues through Labor Day.