Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2026

Gathering

PRELUDE *(10:00 a.m.)* "How Firm a Foundation" *arr. Anna Laura Page*
Traci Bopp, Keyboard (8:30)
Hand Bell Choir; Kim Lampe, Director (10:00)

During the prelude, please take a quiet moment to prepare your hearts and minds for worship

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION
Rev. Dave Sippel, Pastor of Discipleship, Mission, and Outreach Leadership

Expansion of Our Hearts

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*
We gather today to experience renewal in God's presence.
God our Maker:
Re-form us with your love.
Jesus, the Living Word:
Re-form us with your truth.
Holy Spirit, ever-present guide:
Re-form us according to your way
This Reformation Sunday we pray:
Living God, we are ready for renewal. We offer ourselves to you today!

*GATHERING SONG **#2** *(blue hymnal)* **"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"**
Brooke Burgin, Song Leader

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE
God our shepherd,
You are always guiding us in your way. Sometimes you walk with us along familiar paths and sometimes you call us to new horizons.
We confess how slow we are to join in the work you are doing. Our minds and hearts focus on our own agenda. We doubt your voice. We hesitate when you call us to something new.
God of love, tenderly comfort us when we feel confused, afraid, or worried in the journey of following you. Forgive us for not trusting you. By your Holy Spirit, fill us with courage. So that we may yield to your way, and join in your work.
Amen.

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

(10:00 a.m. only) Children and youth are invited to leave for their classes

SPECIAL MUSIC *(10:00 a.m.)* "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" *arr. Linda R. Lamb*
Hand Bell Choir

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 LESSONS Acts 15: 6-15a, 19-20a, 23b-31 (NIV)
Eileen Bundz, 8:30 Reader & Reagan Karcher, 10:00 Reader

6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question. 7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. 8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9 He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. 10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? 11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

12 The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. 13 When they finished, James spoke up. "Brothers," he said, "listen to me. 14 Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. 15 The words of the prophets are in agreement with this...

19 "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead we should write to them....

23b...they sent the following letter:

The apostles and elders, your brothers,

To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia:

Greetings.

24 We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. 25 So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul— 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. 28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: 29 You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell.

30 So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. 31 The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message. This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks Be to God**

MESSAGE "Reformed and Always Reforming: When God works through Change"
Rev. Stacey Duensing Pearce, Pastor of Worship, Care and Strategic Leadership

Transformation of Our Lives

SONG OF REFLECTION & RESPONSE **#166** *(green book)* **"Gracious Spirit"** v. 1-4

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

DOXOLOGY **#815** *(blue hymnal)*

LITURGY OF BLESSING AND SENDING FOR PASTOR DAVE *(insert)*

Compassion For the World

*SENDING SONG **"Go Now In Peace"**

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe
Reach out too others so all the world can see
God will be there watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

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

*POSTLUDE

** Indicates to please stand, if able.*

Hearing assist technology is available during worship services. To find out how to connect your hearing aids or to borrow a hearing assist device, please see a greeter.

First Reformed Church
529 Newark Pompton Tpke
Pompton Plains, New Jersey 07444
(973) 835-1144
office@frc-pp.org
www.firstreformedchurch.com

LITURGY OF BLESSING AND SENDING FOR PASTOR DAVE

adapted from a liturgy of the Reformed Church in America

Consistory Member:

Our church family is ever changing. Loved ones are born into the family and loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in our church life.
It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we celebrate the gifts God has brought to us in Pastor Dave.

Pastor David Sippel, was installed as our pastor of Discipleship, Mission and Outreach Leadership on September 29, 2024, but we have seen his gifts and leadership long before that. Pastor Dave has served with us faithfully in ministry since August 9, 2015.

Pastor Dave, Consistory would like to present you with this gift, on behalf of the congregation, in gratitude for your faithful and faith-filled service and ministry among us.

(Gift is presented)

Pastor Dave:

I thank you, my sisters and brothers, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these past 11 years. I am grateful for the ministry we have shared together. With joy I recall what we accomplished with God's help.

People:

We celebrate all that God has accomplished among us. We are grateful for your ministry and for your influence on our lives.

Pastor:

I receive your gratitude.
And I release you from the vows and promises made at my installation.

People:

We release you from your promises to us, and we offer you our blessing as you leave to minister elsewhere.

Consistory Member:

Let us pray:

O God, you have bound us together for a time as co-pastor and people to work for your church in this place. We give you thanks for the ministry we have shared.

(Silence)

We especially thank you for your never-failing presence with us through these years, and for the deepened knowledge of you and of each other. We thank you for Pastor Dave and the gifts and leadership he shared with us as Pastor.

(Silence)

Now, we pray, be with Pastor Dave and with his family, and with this congregation. Grant that all of us, by drawing closer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

People:

Amen.

Consistory Member:

Please join me in offering Pastor Dave a blessing.

People:

Unto God's gracious mercy we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace, both this day and forever. Amen.



TODAY & THIS WEEK – OCT. 25, 2026

WELCOME TO FRC: Today is Pastor Dave's last Sunday worshiping and leading with us. In worship we will have a special liturgy blessing for Pastor Dave and praying for him and our church. Following worship at both services all are invited to join a coffee hour in Pastor Dave's honor. This Sunday is also Reformation Sunday. We will hear a story from Acts 15 when the early church encountered the Holy Spirit doing something new. Pastor Stacey's sermon is entitled "Reformed and Always Reforming: When God works through Change."

***TODAY* JOIN US TO CELEBRATE PASTOR DAVE:** Pastor Dave has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of Sycamore Community Church in Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ. Please join us during coffee hour to give God thanks for Pastor Dave and his 11 years of ministry at FRC.

***TODAY* CROP WALK 2026 OCTOBER 25 AT 11:30 A.M.**: We're participating in the 2026 CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk to support Church World Services and help families who are struggling with hunger. Join us today with your steps and donations to provide meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them and promote food security worldwide. Meet at 11:30 a.m. in front of Friendship Hall for a short blessing before the walk. A portion of the funds raised will support the Pequannock Food Pantry.

***FIRST ORDER DUE TODAY* GIFT CARD ORDERS WILL SUPPORT YOUTH MISSION:** Please consider supporting Youth Mission by ordering RaiseRight gift cards. Ordering just one card can make a difference! The first order will be accepted thru 10/25 and will be available for distribution on Sunday, November 8. A second option for ordering will occur between 11/1 and 11/29 with cards available for distribution on Sunday, December 13. Order forms and a list of available cards can be found on the kiosk in the Friendship Hall lobby, or in the Youth Mission box in the office. Additionally, a list of the available cards can be found at https://www.raiseright.com/brands Orders can be given to Eileen Bundz after the 8:30 a.m. worship service or left in the Youth Mission box in the office. Any questions, please contact Eileen Eileen.bundz@gmail.com or 973-476–2600) phone or text). Thanks for your continued support of First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains Youth Mission.

***THIS TUESDAY* FAREWELL CELEBRATION FOR ED ENGELBART:** As many of you know, Ed is a former councilman, mayor, and an incredible asset as township historian, as well as FRC church member since 1977! On Oct. 27, the historical society and township will host a farewell party. Join us in Friendship Hall from 3:00pm - 7:00pm. Light food/ beverages served. The gathering will be followed by a Township proclamation at council meeting at town hall " Questions call Joe Jorgensen 973 839 8031.

THINGS TO KNOW

SCAMMING AWARENESS PROGRAM: The Health and Wellness Team invites you to a program on SAFETY - SCAMMING AWARENESS, presented by Officer Juliano of the Pequannock Police Department. The program will be held on Monday November 9 at 7:00pm in the Music Room . Come and learn what we need to be aware of to protect ourselves from scammers! No cost but we need a head count. Look for signup sheet in Friendship Hall or call the office to RSVP.

***NEXT WEEK* ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1:** All Saints Sunday celebrates and honors all the saints from Christian history including the "saints" of our brothers, sisters, and family members who have passed on to glory. On All Saints Sunday, November 1, we will light candles in memory of those loved and lost. We will also read the names and ring a bell for all those who were a part of our faith community and have died since the last All Saints Sunday. If your loved one was not in our bulletin and you'd like them included, please forward the name to the office by Tuesday, Oct. 27.

MINI TERRARIUM MAKING CLASS - Monday, Nov. 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall:
Join members of the Congregational Life Team for the experience of making a little world in a bowl. Everything will be provided from containers, real and imitation plants, soil, critters, and fairy dust. Feel free to gather your own tiny plants. The fee will be $7 per person to be collected at the event. Questions? Catch us at church or by email. Contact Carolyn Connerton at c.connerton@gmail.com or Susy Kerber at sjkerber@optonline.net

NEW EXHIBIT IN FRC-PP ART GALLERY: Our children have created collages to depict the beauty of GOD's Autumn season. Please stop by and view their creations.

MISSION/OUTREACH/SUPPORT

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: *Indicates most needed
*Pasta sauce, *Tomato Paste
*Packaged milk, especially 1% and 2%, *Rice and Pasta Sides, *Pancake syrup, *Paper towels, *Tissues
*Coffee – regular, decaf, and instant, *Tomato Paste
*Corned beef hash, *Pickles and Olives in jars
*Hot chocolate / cocoa mix, Dinty Moore stew
Toilet paper, Napkins, Brownie and Cake mix, Icing
Pancake Mix, Ketchup and Mayonnaise
Cranberry sauce, Canned or pkg fruit especially apricots & pears , Compleat meals or Microwavable meals, esp. Nissen bowls, Pudding and Jell-O cups
Dish detergent, Boxed rice white and flavored Jelly (variety), Canned Chicken
Vienna sausages, Snacks, especially chips, pretzels and crackers, Nuts and dried fruits, Glucerna

COAT DRIVE: The Mission Team will once again sponsor a coat drive through December 13. As always, the coats will be shared with Market Street Mission and Bessie Green. All sizes are needed. Please bring clean coats on hangers and place them on the coat rack in Friendship Hall. Thank you again for your generosity.

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER: The mission of the month for October will support Church World Services *CROP Hunger Walk*. *CROP Hunger Walks* are community-based walk events held in cities and towns across the United States, raising funds to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. To donate, you can mail in a check, place it in the collection kiosk during worship any week in October, or donate online securely through our website on the line item: "Mission of the Month." Make checks payable to FRC and note "October Communion" in the memo line.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

FUEL YOUTH GROUP: Middle school and high school youth are invited for snacks, activities and a lesson to get growing. FUEL meets in Friendship Hall every Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friends are always welcome! Contact Pastor Dave with any questions dave@frc-pp.org

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

WITH SYMPATHY:

Colleen Erickson, niece of Rose and Frank Chara, passed away on Oct. 17. *"On behalf of her family and us, we are ever so grateful for all your prayers and concerns during the past two and a half years. We all are very grateful."* In Christian Love, Rose & Frank Chara

WITH APPRECIATION:

"I want to thank everyone who has been praying for my brother Craig. He has shown slight improvement and has been moved to a nursing facility. We appreciate continued prayers for healing and adjustment to these new living arrangements. With gratitude for the FRC church family." Joann Warner

JOYS:

Jess Stupski married A.J. Comly this weekend and celebrated with a reception. Cards to Mr. & Mrs. Comly 1 Sheridan Dr., Sicklerville, NJ 08081

Julia Cucci, Passed the National Board Examination for Occupational Therapy and is now a Registered Occupational Therapist!! *"I am so thankful for all the prayers and support I have gotten leading up to the exam and I cannot wait to start my new career."* Thank you! Julia Cucci. Cards to 5 Munson Drive, Pompton Plains, 07444

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

Prayers for **Elaine,** the sister of Lorraine Nichols, who is hospitalized

Charles Cunningham, who has been hospitalized. Cards to 3 Lockwood Ave, PP

Anita Daniel, prayers for healing after surgery**.**

Colby Douglas, hospitalized this past week, following up with hand specialist for treatment. Cards to 14 Second St, Pequannock

George Douglas, prayers for heart health.

Katie Wilson recovering from a procedure last Friday. The family would appreciate your prayers for recovery and no pain.

Joyce Forde Muller, recovering from knee replacement surgery. Prayers for healing. Cards to 10 Arundel Rd, PP

Prayers for **Linda Rossow**, Frank Chara's sister, undergoing treatments for chronic leukemia.

Prayers for **Chip Hallock**, recovering from two surgeries and is doing well.

Prayers for **Diane,** (who works with our Spectrum for Living friends). She is looking for housing after a fire.

Paul, Susan DeBell's brother, will be going to Mayo Clinic in November for testing. Prayers for good test results.

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

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

LONG TERM CONCERNS:

Craig Warner, brother of Joann, health issues, **Frank Chara,** treatments for non- lymphoma, **Christine,** (friend of Michele Crefeld) colon cancer, **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)

FINANCIALS

HOW TO DONATE TO FRC:

In Person: Drop your check at the office or place it in kiosk or the offering plate during worship.

Give Electronically: You can have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church account safely and electronically. Visit our website www.firstreformedchurch.com and choose the blue "Donate" button. You can also scan the QR code



Interim Support in the FRC Pastoral Transition

With thanksgiving to God, FRC's Consistory would like to introduce the following individuals who will be joining FRC's staff part-time in the pastoral transition period:

- ***Rev. Linn Berry*** will be joining FRC as an Interim Youth Minister, working to support our youth program through pastoral leadership, administration, and programing for weekly youth group and retreats. Rev. Linn will also grace our pulpit on occasion.
- ***Rev. Mary Marcus*** will join FRC as preacher and liturgist in the interim season.
- ***Rev. Zachary Pearce*** will join the staff 1-2 hours a week to support systems of pastoral care, with special focus on not only supporting Pastor Stacey and Roland in hospital and homebound visits but also equipping congregation members to join in visits to the homebound or elders to bring communion.

Pastor Stacey will continue to preach 60% of the Sundays (the rotation set in the co-pastorate model) and will continue to participate in pastoral care along with Roland Petit, (Visitation Pastor on FRC staff). In the co-pastorate model, Pastor Stacey shared pastoral care duties with Pastor Dave and bringing Pastor Zach on will support our systems of pastoral care during the pastoral vacancy. The total compensation for all 3 interim ministers falls under the current budgeted salary for Pastor Dave. Join us in giving thanks to God for these ministers joining our church in leadership during this pastoral transition and God's guidance in bringing them to us. Their support will give Consistory and the congregation space to discern what is needed and where God is calling us in terms of a long-term, permanent position. Consistory continues to ask the congregation to hold our church in prayer in this season of change and discernment. Please take a moment to read below about each minister joining us in the interim.



Rev. Linn Berry was born and raised in Pompton Plains and attended the Franklin Reformed Church in Nutley, New Jersey. She attended Hope College in Holland, Michigan, where she studied psychology and youth ministry. Before graduating from New Brunswick Theological Seminary, she served youth in the Holland area through AmeriCorps. After graduation, she served as Children's Ministry Director at Third Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan, Minister of Camps at the Warwick Conference Center, Youth Program Director at the Lakeland Hills YMCA, and currently works as a school secretary with Orange Ulster BOCES in New York. Linn has been involved in youth ministry since 2009 when she became a counselor at Camp Warwick and throughout her years at Hope and beyond with youth at Third Reformed Church. Since her Ordination in 2022, she has been helping with pulpit supply and enjoying getting to know the churches in the NY/NJ area. In her free time, Linn enjoys reading, being outside, cooking, and spending time with her spouse and cat.



Rev. Mary L. Marcus has served in Presbyterian and Reformed churches in northeastern New Jersey, where she loved synthesizing arts, faith, and the wisdom of Hebrew/Christian Scripture. In 2021, she retired from Preakness Reformed Church as minister *emeritus*. Since then, Mary has attended FRC with her husband, Mark Convoy, a lifelong member here. Mary takes particular pleasure in reading, gardening, singing in our choir, and sitting on her front porch watching the seasons unfold. She delights in being part of a ministry team during this season of transition.

Rev. Zachary K. Pearce holds an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, M.P.A. from Marist College, and a B.A. in political science from Bloomsburg University. Zach has previously served as Pastor of Ellenville Reformed Church and First Presbyterian Church of Port Jervis. He is currently the Inaugural (founding) Pastor of United Presbyterian & Reformed Church of Port Jervis, the fifth RCA-PCUSA congregation in existence, as well as an Adjunct Professor in the Religion Department at Misericordia University. Rev. Pearce has also served on numerous boards and committees, and as Vice-President, President, and finally Stated Clerk of the Classis of Orange. “Zach,” as you can call him, looks forward to walking with the saints of FRC during this interim period. Feel free to ask him about his current continuing education journey toward becoming a certified Spiritual Director in the Ignatian (Jesuit) tradition!

