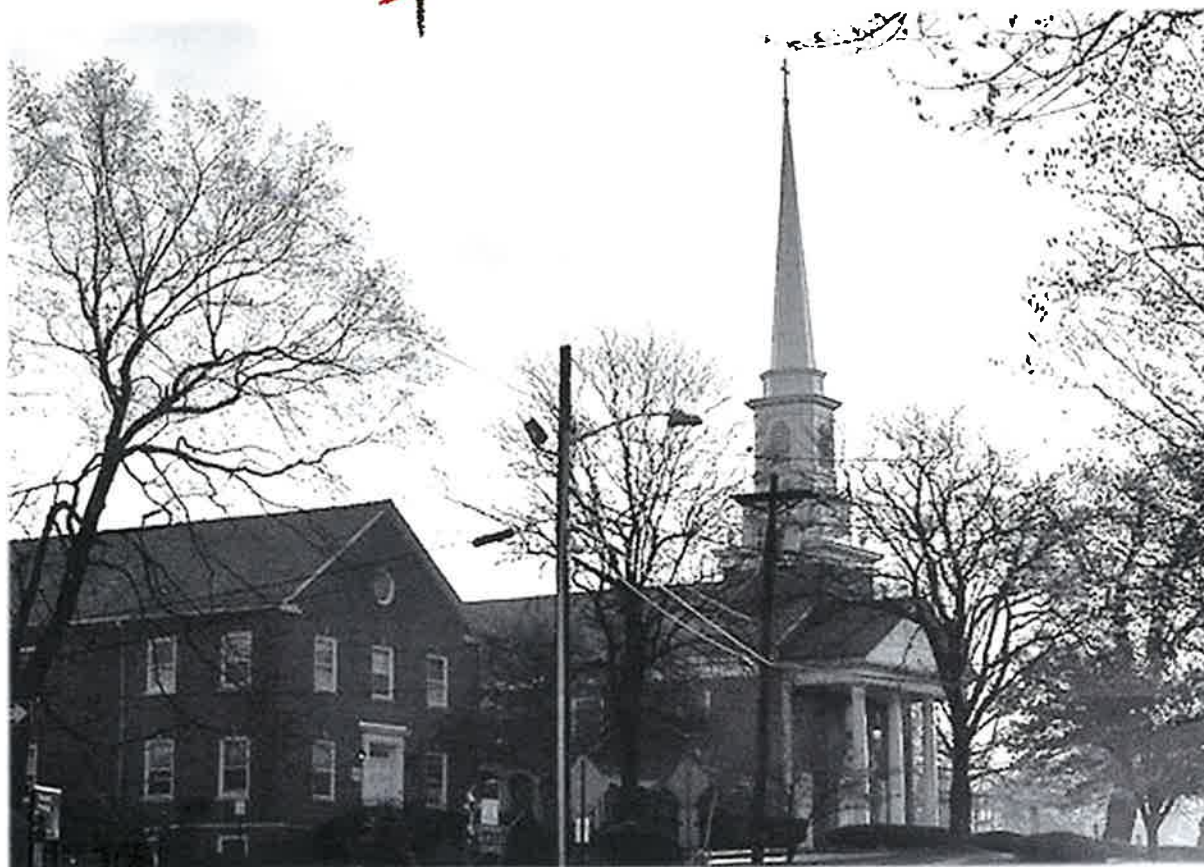




**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

April 14, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Easter

Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

www.fpcweb.org

(732) 491-2300



Senior Pastor and Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Robert A. Beringer
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas
Director of Music Ministries: Jordan Klotz
Minister of Music Emeritus: Brenda Arnold Day
Director for Christian Education: Nancy Leardi
Youth Director: Seminarian Hanna Halleck Richards

ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD

*Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ TIDINGS

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 71:1-6

Leader: In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

All: Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

*HYMN # 772

Live Into Hope

TRURO

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

God of mercy, who sets captives free, who brings sight to the blind, undoing bindings of oppression, you who bring good news to the poor give us courage to speak the truth; give us the hope to wait upon mercy; give us the wisdom of humility. In this we lay aside the arrogance of anger, the confidence of belligerence, and the devotion to vengeance so we may find a new way of living, a new hope for our future, a better path for all to find the kingdom of God. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN # 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 17:1-12

Drew McCulley

This is the Word of the Lord . . . Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa M. McCulley

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Following the message, all children Pre-K to 5th grade are welcome to a special puppet program in the library. Following the sermon, Grades 6-7th will meet with Mr. Bellisano in room 105.

ANTHEM

Christ's Own Body

Senior Choir

Margaret Tucker

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:14-30

This is the Word of the Lord . . . Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Use and Abuse of Anger”

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN # 486

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

KINGDOM

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY # 609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . *And also with you.*

ELDER’S PRAYER AND THE 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; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and let us not fall into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN # 625

O Lord My God

HOW GREAT THOU ART

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

Today’s greeter is Ann Behrens, and the ushers are Betty Kopetz, Gilly McKie, and Nikki Walter,

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Greg Hale by his family,
and in loving memory of Ira Lacson, a dotting husband to Noemi and caring father of Tara.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 17:1-12

Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the Lord the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.' The word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'Go from here and turn eastwards, and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.' So he went and did according to the word of the Lord; he went and lived by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the wadi. But after a while the wadi dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.' So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, 'Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.' As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, 'Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.' But she said, 'As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.'

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:14-30

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about Him spread through all the surrounding

country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

April 14, 2024 WORSHIP HYMNS

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#772 LIVE INTO HOPE

1- Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's own jubilee!

2- Live into hope! The blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear--
a vision of our God brought near.

3- Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.

4- Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

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#581 GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

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.

#486 CHILD OF BLESSING, CHILD OF PROMISE

1-Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.

2- Child of love, our love's expression,
love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
into joy and laughter lead.

3- Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are; from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you:
live as one who bears Christ's name.

4- Child of God, your loving Parent,
learn to listen for God's call
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.

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609 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Praise God, from whom all blessings, flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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#625 O LORD MY GOD

1- O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"

2- When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze,

[Refrain]

3- And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin. **[Refrain]**

4- When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"
[Refrain]

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OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, NJ has adopted a policy in compliance with the enactment of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) agreeing that a member has the right to have their health and personal information kept private and secure. This means that an individual must give permission to have their name publicly shared with the congregation. PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE – 732-491-2300 to add a person to the prayer list. Persons requested to be on the prayer list will remain for one month and then be removed. If you wish to have a loved one on the prayer list for a longer time, please contact Vicky Lacson (vlacson@fpcweb.org) in the Church Office.

Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)
Peggy Anastos (*friend of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
James Angley (*Lynne Angley's son*)
Marilyn Avery
The Bellini family (*friends of the Brennan's*)
Gemma Bertelsen (*Sister-in-law of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
Abigail Bilworth (*Granddaughter of Marcia Archer*)
Alliyon Blair (*Marcia Archer's granddaughter*)
Anna Cackowski (*daughter of Al & Helen Burr-Cackowski*)
Natalie Charles (*cousin of Tom Messina*)
Giovanni Colon and his family (*family of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
Kaghere Covin, Jr. (*Chris Van Pelt's grandson*)
*Beverly Cummings
Bob Cushing (*friend of Cathy Wolpin*)
*Mary Kay Dangremond
Lisa De La Fuente (*friend of the Kozo/Mollison family*)
Robert Doeg (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)
*Tracy Donahue
*Ruth Endicott
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)
Carol Franklin (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
*Marie Freeman
Leah French (*Sue Harmon's cousin*)
Lane Gibson (*friend of Bill Nann*)
Garrett Glass (*Julie Bourne's brother*)

*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)
*Margaret Hathaway
*Tara Jusinski (*Sue Harmon's daughter*)
Elizabeth Mack (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
Dennis Maiuro (*Colleen Walker's brother-in-law*)
Patricia Maktal (*friend of Messina Family*)
Michael
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
Ricardo Mollison (*Caitlin Mollison's brother*)
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Deanna Rogers (*cousin of Dawn Adam*)
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehler*)
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
Paula Schwalje (*Mark Haulenbeek's sister*)
Robert (*son of Karen Sorensen*)
Richard Watson (*Nancy Gurzo's friend*)
Ginny West (*related to June Keehler*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong
Michael Zambri (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT

for the family of Dee Bonner, an active member for 75 years who served as a deacon and moderator of the Presbyterian Women. Dee passed away on March 27.

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Codyann Archer with the 215 peacekeeping soldiers in the Middle East (*Marcia Archer's daughter*)
MSgt. David Hansen, USAF (*son of Elaine Hansen*)
EM3 Cody Harmon, U.S. Navy, Hawaii (*Sue Harmon's nephew*)
MC1 Kevin Leitner, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Sue Harmon's cousin*)
Lt. Cmdr. Krista Marquard, U.S. Public Health Service, Lawrence, KS (*Bill & Susan Marquard's daughter-in-law*)
Major Matthew McQueeney, Pilot, USAF – Lakenheath AFB, UK (*son/stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano*)
LT John Alexander Petr, U. S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Pennix Family friend*)
*CPT Bradley Shaver, U. S. Army – Ft. Carson, CO (*brother/son of Greg and Julie Walton Shaver*)
CPT Julia Harris Switzer, MD USAF (*granddaughter of Grace Hammesfahr*)
Petty Officer 1st Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard (*Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew*)

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

And by appointment for other times

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.
 APNC – Room 204 10:45 a.m.
 Pancake Breakfast – Dining Room 10:45 a.m.
 Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, APRIL 15

Set-up Rummage Sale – Social Center . . 9:00a.m.- 5:00p.m.
 DBSA Support Group – Room 109. 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Set-up Rummage Sale – Social Center . . 9:00a.m.- 7:00p.m.
 Jubilee Choir – Choir Room. 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
 Personnel Meeting – Office Conf. Room 7:30 p.m.
 AA Support Group – Room 109 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Set-up Rummage Sale – Social Center . . 9:00a.m.- 5:00p.m.
 Bible Study (Pericopes of Luke) – PW Lounge . . . 10:30 a.m.
 Westminster Choir – Choir Room 6:15 p.m.
 Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 6:45 p.m.
 Finance Meeting – Office Conf. Room 7:00 p.m.
 Prayer Shawl Circle – Session Room 7:00 p.m.
 Youth Group – Room 201. 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Set-up Rummage Sale – Social Center . . 9:00a.m.- 3:00p.m.
 Concord Ringers – Bell Loft 9:30 a.m.
 Junior Choir – Choir Room 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.
 Joy Ringers – Bell Loft 5:00 – 5:30 p.m.
 Junior Club – Room 109 5:30 p.m.
 Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.
 Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Spring Rummage Sale – Social Center 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 Women’s AA Support Group – Room 109. . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Spring Rummage Sale– Social Center . . . 9:00a.m.–3:00 p.m.

COMING SOON

Apr 21 2nd Hour: Composting – Chapel – 10:30 am
 Apr 21 APNC – Room 104 – 10:30 am
 Apr 22 Youth Commission – Zoom – 10:45 am
 Apr 23 Habitat Planning Com. – Office Conf. Rm. – 7:30 pm
 Apr 24 Men’s Breakfast – Dining Room – 7:30 am
 Apr 24 Lunch & Games – Dining Room – Noon – 3:00 pm
 Apr 25 Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium – 7:00 pm
 Apr 28 2nd Hour: FPC Cemetery – Chapel – 10:30 am
 Apr 28 APNC – Room 104 – 10:30 am
 Apr 28 Sunday Book Club – PW Lounge - 11:00 am
 May 1 Scrubbies Making – PW Lounge – 1:00 p.m.
 May 3 Presbyterian Queer Fel. – PW Lounge – 7:00 pm
 May 4 Cemetery Clean-up – 9:00 am
 May 5 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 5:00 pm
 May 6 Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge – 7:00 pm
 May 6 Social Justice – Office Conf. Room – 7:30 pm
 May 7 Deacons Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
 May 14 Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm

TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received April 7

2024 Pledge	\$ 7,805
Non-pledge	\$ 265
Cash	\$ 240
OGHS	\$ 60
Per Capita	\$ 40
Special Offering	\$ 320
Special Funds	\$ 342
Food Pantry	\$ 25

TOTAL: \$ 9,097

Other Receipts: \$620

(Flowers, Building Use & Parking)

HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

- Direct** Cash or check in the plate are always welcome!
- Online** From our website fpcweb.org/give, click on the **Give Online** button. This will redirect you to the Vanco app to set up your donation.
- Text** Text to give using this number: (855) 964-5393, and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your generous support!

PASTORAL CARE:

If you or someone you know needs our support, or is in the hospital, please feel free to contact Rev. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, or by appointment.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 23 – 28, 2024

Mon—Thurs 9:00-11:45,
Fri 9:00-10:30 am



This summer, come for a week of fun, faith, and more in a cosmic space adventure. Invite friends to double the fun!

If you have a child entering K – 6th grade in the Fall, you may register them for VBS.

Registration forms are available from FPC's website, the church office, and CE office. Only one form is needed per family. Submit the completed forms with your payment to the Church office. It's that simple!

Cost: FPC members \$25/ child, maximum \$50/family
Non-members \$25/child

Checks should be made to FPC-Metuchen.



Volunteers are the heart of VBS. Make a difference by sharing your time – before, during, and after camp. Use the QR codes for the forms to register your child or to sign up as a volunteer.

Campers Form:



Volunteers Form:



Questions? Contact Nancy Leardi
nleardi@fpcweb.org or call (732) 491-2264

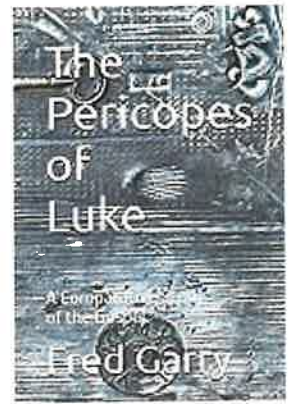
SECOND HOUR FORUM The FPC Cemetery April 28th, 10:30 am Chapel

Join Pete Bellisano, Laura Draper, and Karen Keithler.

- Discover a little history of the cemetery and about some of the interesting persons who are interred in this beautiful space.
- Learn about tombstone cleaning in preparation for our cemetery Clean-up Day on May 4th.
- Be the first to hear about *Graveyard Tales*, a new book about our cemetery by Pete Bellisano.

PASTORAL BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays
10:30 am
PW Lounge
with Rev. Garry



Rev. Garry's weekly Bible study is back. You can still join and therein gain a devotion to the teachings of Jesus. Get a free copy of the book from the foyer of the church office.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

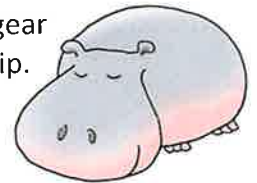
TODAY, April 14

After worship in the Dining Room

Suggested donation: \$10 Adults
\$ 5 Children, 12 & under

Support our Youth group as they gear up for another summer mission trip.

(Pet hippos eat FREE – must be leashed.)



Prayer
Shawl
Ministry



April 17, Wednesday

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Session Room

Are you currently a knitter or crocheter - or have you always wanted to learn how? Please join our Prayer Shawl Circle on Wednesday, April 14th, from 7:00 to 8:30, in the Session Room for fellowship, knitting and crocheting. Our goals are to create more beautiful shawls for FPC's Prayer Shawl Ministry - and to make new connections with our FPC community. Directions on how to make prayer shawls, yarn, and basic knitting and crocheting instructions will be provided. Bring your enthusiasm, current projects, as well as needles (sizes 11, 13, or 15) or hooks (sizes M, N or P) to the meeting. Please reach out to Gilly McKie at gilly@mckie.com or Jennifer Thompson at jenni4_thompson@yahoo.com with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there! Bring a friend or two! Future meetings are planned for May 15 and possibly in the summer, too.

Presbyterian Women 2024 SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, April 19th
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm



Saturday, April 20th
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Yes, it's that time of the year! Start cleaning out your closets—
it's time for the Spring Rummage Sale!

**WE WELCOME YOUR DONATIONS! PLEASE NOTE NEW
DROP-OFF TIMES WHEN THEY WILL BE ACCEPTED:**

April 15-17 Monday & Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tuesday only, 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

April 18 Thursday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM ONLY

PLEASE NOTE: Old TVs and computers will NOT be accepted;
please contact your local Department of Public Works for
correct disposal. We welcome hangers and shopping bags.

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?

Like all previous rummage sales, your donations and your time as volunteers contribute to the success of PW's rummage sales. There are many opportunities before, during, and after the sale. But there are also perks to enjoy such as being able to shop early, enjoy the Friday dinner and Saturday lunch, and the time of fellowship!

CONTACT US: Cindy O'Neill mimabook@aol.com or Lori Kellner lgkellner@gmail.com

SECOND HOUR FORUM

Waste Erased
April 21st 10:30 am
Chapel

Food scraps are valuable materials that if properly collected and composted can help reduce pollution and improve overall quality of life. Come to learn about food waste and composting. Find out what our church is doing, and how you can participate. There will be three prizes raffled off including a home composter for those attending the forum.



The red Pew Pads are back!

Whether you are here to worship with us for the first time, visiting, or have been with us for years, we want to stay connected. Please fill out the pads as it is passed along the pews. The ushers will be collecting these at the end of the service.



With spring now on us, Mission Volunteer Night is all about packing supplies for spring cleaning buckets for the Food Pantry clients. We'd love for you to help, or donate needed supplies.

Email: foodpantry@fpcweb.org