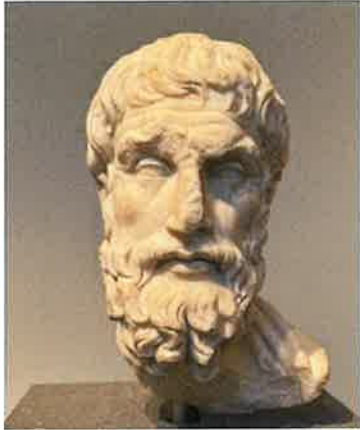




**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

January 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord

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
Associate Pastor: Rev. Khayla Johnson
Emeritus: Rev. Robert A. Beringer
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas
Indonesian Pastoral Supply: Rev. Leksmana Leonard
Director of Music Ministries: Jordan Klotz
Minister of Music Emeritus: Brenda Arnold Day
Director for Christian Education: Nancy Leardi

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

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Leader: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

All: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

Leader: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare, and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

**All: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

*HYMN 482 Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

Rev. Khayla Johnson

God of mercy, hear our prayer. May our petitions become like the water of baptism washing away all fear; may our adoration of you be born of the words you speak in baptism, "This is my beloved." May we trust these words and hold them with courage so we may give them away. Let our baptism be remembered in the fount filled anew. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD

ANTHEM Light of the World

Jubilee Choir

Michael Bedford

CHILDREN'S TIME

Nancy Leardi with the Puppeteers

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children Pre-K to 6th grade are invited to the GLOW room after the children's message for LEGO Sunday with Mrs. Fischer.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Youth Commission

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-22

Cameron Hayes-Durina

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

ANTHEM Walk in the Light

Senior Choir

Andre Thomas

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:7-9

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

SERMON

“Looking to Meet Jesus”

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN 480 Take Me To the Water

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Khayla Johnson

OFFERTORY

*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 OF DEDICATION

Rev. Khayla Johnson

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

PASTORAL 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 307 God of Grace, and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please rise in body or spirit.

*Today's greeters are the Teti family: Sarah, Steve, Jack & Julia, and the ushers are
Maggy Cook, Wendy Kukowski, and Beth Russian.*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given with love in honor of Ed Meyer on his 96th birthday
from his family who are so thankful for him.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

SCRIPTURE READER: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

PEOPLE: *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:7-9

Now Herod the ruler heard about all that had taken place, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the ancient prophets had arisen. Herod said, 'John I beheaded; but who is this about whom I hear such things?' And he tried to see him.

SCRIPTURE READER: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

PEOPLE: *Thanks be to God.*

January 12, 2025 WORSHIP HYMNS

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#482 BAPTIZED IN WATER

1- Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise -
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

2- Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

3- Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king;
born of one Father, we are his children -
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

*Text © 1982 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Pub. Co.)
Music Arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources*

#582 GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNES SHINES

1- Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

2- World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*Text Adapt. & Music © 2008 Paul M. Vasile. All rights reserved.
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#480 TAKE ME TO THE WATER

1- Take me to the water. Take me to the water.
Take me to the water to be baptized.

2- I love Jesus. I love Jesus.
I love Jesus, yes, I do.

3- He's my Savior. He's my Savior.
He's my Savior, yes, he is.

4- Glory hallelujah. Glory hallelujah.
Glory hallelujah to be baptized.

#307 GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

1- God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thy ancient Church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

2- Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

3- Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4- Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen has adopted a policy that individuals listed must grant permission for their names to be included on the weekly prayer list. 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 unless requested to keep for a longer period.

Dey Adam (*Dawn Adam's sister*)

*Mary Ann Eide

Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)

James Angley (*Lynne Angley's son*)

Marilyn Avery

The Bellini family (*friends of the Brennan's*)

*Agnes Bertelsen

John Bertelsen (*Brother of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)

Pat Byrne (*Sue Harmon's brother-in-law*)

Anna Cackowski (*daughter of Al & Helen Burr-Cackowski*)

Cassidy family (*Marty Brennan's relatives*)

Natalie Charles (*cousin of Tom Messina*)

*Beverly Cummings

Bruce Dangremond (*brother of Mary Kay Dangremond*)

*Mary Kay Dangremond

*Henry and Rita Dengah

Lisa De La Fuente (*friend of the Kozo/Mollison family*)

Darla Dimatteo

Robert Doeg (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)

*Ruth Endicott

Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)

*Marie Gale

Lane Gibson (*friend of Bill Nann*)

*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)

*Margaret Hathaway

Marion Kovacs (*friend of June Keehler*)

*Susan Kozo

*Donald Lambdin

Elaine LeSter (*Lorraine LeSter's sister*)

MacArthur family (*Allison Brennan's cousin and family*)

Patricia Maktal (*friend of Messina Family*)

***Jan Margolis**

Michael

Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)

Joan Murray (*Allison Brennan's mother*)

Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)

Carol Roberts (*friend of Jane & Ed Meyer*)

Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehler*)

*Dave Ryder

Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)

*Deb Sorensen

Sarah Abed Van Pelt (*Chris Van Pelt's daughter-in-law*)

Richard Watson (*Nancy Gurzo's friend*)

Crystal Smith Williams (*friend of the Food Pantry*)

David Wong

*Lynn Hendricks Wong

Sylvia Zaroni (*Mother-in-law of Wendy Kukowski*)

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT

for Karen Kowalski and her family on the passing of her mother, Carol Kowalski, last December 30.

PASTORAL CARE:

If you or a family member is in the hospital, please contact the pastors: Rev. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Khayla Johnson at (843) 312-7288. **The hospitals no longer contact clergy when a parishioner is admitted, nor do they keep a list of patients by denomination.** The only way the pastors will know if you or a loved one are in the hospital is if you contact us. We are more than ready and glad to visit. Please contact us even if it is to pray for you. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours.

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

David Garry, Coast Guard Cutter Bear, Portsmouth, VA (*Son of Fred & Kathy Garry*)

MSgt. David Hansen, USAF (*Son of Elaine Hansen*)

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 & DO, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho (*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, JANUARY 12

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.

Confirmation Class – Room 203 10:30 a.m.

Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

Worship & Music – PW Lounge 12:00 p.m.

DBSA Support Group – Room 109 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge 11:00 a.m.

Jubilee Choir – Choir Room 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel 7:30 p.m.

AA Support Group – Room 109 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

Pastoral Study: Pericopes of Luke – PW Lounge 10:30 a.m.

Westminster Choir – Choir Room 6:30 p.m.

Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.

Finance Meeting – Office Conf. Room 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Shawl Circle – Session Room 7:00 p.m.

Youth Group – Youth Room 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Concord Ringers – Bell Loft 9:30 a.m.

Junior Choir – Choir Room 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Joy Ringers – Sanctuary 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Junior Club – Social Center 5:30 p.m.

Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.

Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Women’s AA Support Group – Room 109 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

COMING SOON

Jan 19 Winter Community Dinner – Dining Room – 5:00 pm

Jan 20 Mitzvah Day of Service – Social Center – 9:30 am

Jan 21 Personnel Meeting – Office Conf. Room – 7:30 pm

Jan 22 B & G Meeting – Office Conf. Room – 8:00 am

Jan 25 Elijah’s Promise Sandwich Making – Auditorium
9:00 a.m.

Jan 25 Elder Care – PW Lounge – 11:00 am

Jan 26 2nd Hour: Facility Master Plan – Chapel – 10:30 am

Jan 29 Lunch and Games – Dining Room – Noon – 3:00 pm

Feb 1 Indonesian Women Fellowship – 4:00 pm - TBA

Feb 2 Candlelight Concert – Sanctuary – 6:00 pm

Feb 3 Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge – 6:00 pm

ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Scan the QR code or click <https://bit.ly/4emWby6>

to access the FPC’s website calendar
for more details of what’s happening
in the coming weeks.



TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received January 5

Pledge	\$ 13,355
Non-pledge	\$ 1,377
Cash	\$ 310
Per Capita	\$ 160
Special Funds	\$ 639
Puppet Ministry	\$ 50
Food Pantry	\$ 75

TOTAL: \$ 15,966

OTHER RECEIPTS \$340

(Parking & Building Use)

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!


FREE COMMUNITY DINNER
Sunday, January 19th, 5:00 p.m.
Social Center Dining Room



Join us in community and fellowship as we feast on meatloaf (with a vegetarian option), mashed potatoes, green salad, bread and butter, and homemade dessert.

WE HAVE A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR YOU.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

If are interested to help in any and every way – we welcome the extra hands. Let us know if you can help with prep work, set up or clean up, serve, greet or usher, or donate a dessert.

You may email Gilly McKie, gilly@mckie.com or feel free also to call the church office.



Are you currently a knitter or crocheter - or have you always wanted to learn how?

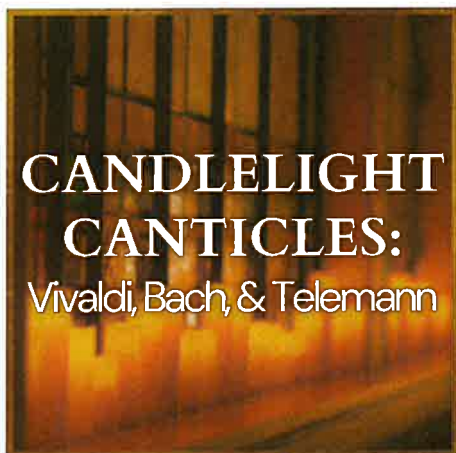
Come to the **Prayer Shawl Circle on January 15th Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, in the Session Room** for fellowship, knitting, and crocheting. Our goals are to create more beautiful shawls for FPC's Prayer Shawl Ministry - and to make new connections with our FPC community. Directions on how to make prayer shawls, yarn, and basic knitting and crocheting instructions will be provided. Bring your enthusiasm, current projects, as well as needles (sizes 9, 11 or 13) or hooks (sizes M, N, or P) to the meeting. The Prayer Shawl Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday monthly.

Questions? You may contact:

Gilly McKie gilly@mckie.com or

Jennifer Thompson jenni4_thompson@yahoo.com

Where every stitch is a stitch of love and prayers.



Come hear music for the historical Christian festival of "Candlemas."

The **Senior Choir, orchestra, and soloists** will be featured in the **Candlelight Concert on Sunday, February 2 at 6 PM.**

This performance is the cornerstone of this year's Candlelight Concert Series.

Candlemas: *An ancient Christian holiday commemorating the presentation of baby Jesus in the temple, a day when candles would be blessed for use in church during the coming year.*

Canticle: *Latin for "little song," this word refers to scripture-based songs, such as the Song of Mary in Luke 1:46-55.*

ENHANCE YOUR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Thank you to the Deacons for providing our congregation with hearing assistive devices! The devices are behind the piano, in the front corner of the Sanctuary, near the sound system. Please do not hesitate to ask an usher to guide you on how to use these devices. Please note that the manufacturer recommends that if you have a pacemaker, check with your doctor before using these devices.



The available device is pictured here, an ENERS UND R-100, should you need to speak to your doctor.



OUR BIGGEST ONE YET...
Join the Presbyterian Women
in a life-saving mission!

Build a nurse's house with us in Malawi. When completed, the government will open a clinic to provide critical health services and care to this underserved region of the country. All it takes is a donation from you, matched by PW!

\$12,000 builds a house in Malawi!

Donate a dollar, PW will match it. Donate \$50 and PW will match it. ALL donations, from the least to the largest amount, are welcome and will be matched. We are asking anyone who is called to be Jesus' hands in this effort to take part in this mission.

Move quickly with PW!

Malawi Member of Parliament Sam Chirwa will visit FPC Metuchen in February. During this visit, we would love to present a check for \$12,000 for this project. Because of your support, PW has accomplished many missions. **THIS IS OUR BIGGEST ONE YET!**

Donate YOUR way!

- You can write a check to the Presbyterian Women with "Malawi" in the memo line and drop it in the Sunday collection plate (Please use a pew envelope).
- Give your donation to a PW Coordinating Team member during Coffee Hour.
- Send it to the office by mail.
- You can donate cash the same way but don't send cash in the mail.
- You can donate online through our website fpcweb.org. On the fpcweb.org homepage, click GIVE, then click GIVE ONLINE. Look for the PW-Malawi fund account and enter your donation. Follow the rest of the instructions to complete your giving.



Questions?

Listen to Lori Kellner's Moment for Mission during the Sunday, January 5, 2025 livestream.

You may also email Lori Kellner (lgkellner@gmail.com) or Deb Teall (debteall@optonline.net)



The more of us who donate, the faster we'll reach our goal!
Thank you for all you do to support PW Missions –
and for making our biggest initiative a success!