



**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

March 30, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Our vision is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

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
Pastor 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 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded Carol Dunkin, flute
Jane Brown, piano

WELCOME/TIDINGS

Rev. Khayla Johnson

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Khayla Johnson

Leader: Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN #167** Forty Days and Forty Nights

AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH

***OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison**

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

***HYMN #577** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

KYRIE ELEISON

Dinah Reindorf (1938-2025) was a Ghanaian musician who wrote the "Kyrie" we are singing during this Lenten season. Her impressive career included serving as the first woman conductor of Ghana's National Symphony Orchestra, being a skilled music educator, and a published composer. "Kyrie eleison," which means "Lord, have mercy," is an ancient Christian prayer.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Confirmation Class - The Illuminators

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children Pre-K to 6th grade are welcome to join Amy Bertelsen Robles in the GLOW room for lessons on Mindfulness moments with Jesus. All other grades remain in worship.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 32

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

ANTHEM God So Loved the World Senior Choir John Stainer

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 15:11-24
This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Were You Looking for Me?" Rev. Khayla Johnson

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN #418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

CALL TO OFFERING Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OFFERTORY Jesus, I Will Ponder Now arr. Wilbur Held

*LENTEN DOXOLOGY

Praise God throughout these forty days, Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise,
And praise the Spirit who imparts God's love, through Christ, into our hearts. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

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 #440 Jesus, Lover of My Soul ABERYSTWYTH

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

During Lent, worship will end with the benediction.

In keeping with the pensive nature of the season, the congregation will exit without music.

Our greeter this morning is Heather Casey, and the ushers are Sandra Lалуw, Gilly Mckie, & Bill Volz.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Hank Frank, with love and in honor of Deb Teall's birthday, and
from the Senior Choir given with love and in honor of Brenda Day on her birthday.*

*The flowers in the Niche last Sunday were from Gilly McKie given in loving memory of
her parents, Bob and Marie Cochrane.*

The roses on the chancel rail are in celebration of the births of:

*Ella McQueeney born March 21, daughter of Matthew and Jacalyn McQueeney and the newest
granddaughter of Amy and Pete Bellisano, and*

*Alex Jerry Helmstetter born March 24, son of Christine and Craig Helmstetter, brother of Nathan, and
grandson of June Young.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord', and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

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

PEOPLE: *Thanks be to God.*

The New Revised Standard Version, copyright © 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America](#). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:11-24

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

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

PEOPLE: *Thanks be to God.*

March 30, 2024 WORSHIP HYMNS

(All rights reserved. Used by permission.
CCLI license numbers 20354270 & 20397330)

#167 FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS

1- Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

2- Shall not we your sorrow share
and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?

3- Then if Satan on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness,
grant that we not faint nor fail!

4- So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as served you faithfully.

5- Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

#577 LORD, HAVE MERCY UPON US

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

*Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf. Music Arr. © 2001 Faith Alive
Christian Resources. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
CCLI license numbers 20354270 & 20397330*

#418 SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING

1- Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2- Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? **[Refrain]**

3- O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. **[Refrain]**

#440 JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL

1- Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past.
Safe into the haven guide. O receive my soul at last!

2- Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee.
Leave, ah! leave me not alone;
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed;
all my help from thee I bring.
Cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

3- Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name;
I am all unrighteousness.
False and full of sin I am;
thou art full of truth and grace.

4- Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee.
Spring thou up within my heart.
Rise to all eternity.

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*)
Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)
James Angley (*Lynne Angley's son*)
The Bellini family (*friends of the Brennan's*)
John Bertelsen (*Brother of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
Pat Byrne (*Sue Harmon's brother-in-law*)
Anna Cackowski (*daughter of Al & Helen Burr-Cackowski*)
Dorothy Canary (*aunt of Sue Harmon*)
Cassidy family (*Marty Brennan's relatives*)
Natalie Charles (*cousin of Tom Messina*)
***Lois Crespy**
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*)
Marc Gale (*Marie Gale's husband*)
***Marie Gale**
Lane Gibson (*friend of Bill Nann*)
***Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)**

***Margaret Hathaway**
***Audrey Hausser**
Marion Kovacs (*friend of June Keehbler*)
***Susan Kozo**
Elaine LeSter (*Lorraine LeSter's sister*)
Patricia Maktal (*friend of Messina Family*)
***Bill Marquard**
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
Michael Murach (*Kristina Scoglio's cousin*)
Joan Murray (*Allison Brennan's mother*)
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Marilyn Rautio (*Karen Keithler's mother*)
Carol Roberts (*friend of Jane & Ed Meyer*)
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehbler*)
***Dave Ryder**
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
Karen Scoglio (*Kristina Scoglio's mother*)
***Bradley and Kira Shaver**
Sarah Abed Van Pelt (*Chris Van Pelt's daughter-in-law*)
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**

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, Philadelphia, PA (*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, MARCH 30

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.
 Confirmation Class – Room 203 10:30 a.m.
 After Worship Refreshments – Room 109 10:30 a.m.
 Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon
 Installation and Reception of Rev. Khayla Johnson
 Sanctuary and Chapel 3:00 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Jubilee Choir – Choir Room 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
 1st Tuesday – GLOW Room 4:30 p.m.
 Deacons Meeting – Chapel 7:30 p.m.
 AA Support Group – Room 109 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Pastoral Study: Pericopes of Luke – PW Lounge. . 10:30 a.m.
 Lenten Concert – Sanctuary Noon
 Westminster Choir – Choir Room 6:30 p.m.
 Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.
 Youth Group – Youth Room 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

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.
 Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Presby. Queer Fellowship – Hailey’s Pub. 7:00 p.m.
 Women’s AA Support Group – Room 109. . . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Indonesian Monthly Fellowship – Chapel 5:00 p.m.

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.



COMING SOON

Apr 6 New Member Class – Chapel – 10:30 am
 Apr 6 Youth Commission – Office Conf. Room – 10:30 am
 Apr 6 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 5:00 pm
 Apr 7 Horizon Bible Study – P{W Lounge/Zoom – 6:00 pm
 Apr 7 Social Justice Com. – Office Conf. Room – 7:30 pm
 Apr 8 PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge – 11:00 am
 Apr 8 Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
 Apr 9 Men’s Breakfast – Dining Room – 7:30 am
 Apr 9 Confirmation Class Meeting with Session
 Chapel / Sanctuary – 7:30 pm
 Apr 10 Local Mission Meeting – Auditorium – 11:45 am
 Apr 10 Mission Comm. Meeting – PW Lounge – 7:00 pm
 Apr 12 Elijah’s Promise Sandwich Making – Auditorium
 - 9:00 am
 Apr 12 Care Team – PW Lounge – 11:15 am
 Apr 12 Community Cleanup – Greenway Entrance - Noon
 Apr 13 Music of the Passion – Sanctuary – 7:00 pm
 Apr 27 New Member Class – Chapel – 10:30 am

TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received March 23

Pledge	\$ 3,752
Non-pledge	\$ 2,051
Cash	\$ 84
Per Capita	\$ 773
Deacons	\$ 10
CWS Blankets	\$ 95
Interfaith Rise	\$ 100

TOTAL: \$ 6,765

OTHER RECEIPTS \$299 (Easter plants)

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, April 6th, 5:00 p.m.

Social Center Dining Room



We have a place at the table for you.

Join us in community and fellowship as we enjoy ham, mac & cheese, roasted sweet potatoes, green salad, rolls and butter, and a delicious dessert.

For more information, and if you are interested in helping, contact us in the church office: (732) 491-2300



Join Jordan Klotz, the FPC Choral Scholars, and Victoria Borrelli, Director of Music at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, for the final installment of the 2024-2025 Candlelight Concert Series: Music of the Passion. This concert will draw connections between the Passion of Christ and stories of contemporary hardship, suffering, and oppression. Following the events of Holy Week chronologically through the music of diverse genres, complete your Lenten journey with this stirring performance.

A pre-concert talk, explaining the repertoire in depth, will precede the concert at 6:30 PM. A light reception will follow in Room 109.

Tickets: \$22/adult , \$18/senior, 17 & under: Free

EASTER PLANT ORDERS

Help us decorate our church as we celebrate the joy of Easter on April 20. Honor your loved ones with your order of pink and yellow tulips, or white easter lilies. A listing of donors and those honored will be published in the Easter worship bulletin.

Get your order forms now from the Narthex, the church office, or our website:

<https://fpcweb.org/resources/forms>

Orders are due:
Sunday, April 6th



LENTEN CONCERT SERIES

WEDNESDAYS AT NOON
IN THE SANCTUARY

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| April 2 | Midnight on the Water
violin & cello |
| April 9 | Jordan Klotz, organ |

Refresh yourself with the music of these artists.
Join us for some peace and calm in your day.

Admission is FREE!

COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Please join members of the Mission Commission on Saturday, April 12 Noon at the Middlesex Greenway for fun and fellowship as we hunt for and remove litter! We will gather at the Greenway Park (691 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen) at the entrance behind the Whole Foods shopping center. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

For more information,
contact:
Dave Kozo at (201) 259-1848



April 6 & April 27
In the Chapel
After worship



Are you interested or have questions about becoming a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen?

Here's an opportunity to explore what it means to be Presbyterian, learn how to be part of the various ministries, and discover what mission projects and efforts are currently underway. Meet and hear also from some of our current Elders and Deacons.

Let us know in the church office if you would like to attend these classes facilitated by Rev. Garry and Rev. Johnson.

A reception to receive and welcome the new members will follow, the date of which is still being worked on and will be shared once it is finalized.

Call us in the church office for questions, or if you are able to join: (732) 491-2300

INSTALLATION & RECEPTION



Rev. Khayla Johnson
Associate Pastor

Sunday, March 30
3:00 pm
Sanctuary & Chapel

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen

Join us at 3:00 pm TODAY for the Service of Installation and Celebration of Rev. Khayla Johnson. The service begins in the Sanctuary at 3:00 pm, followed by a reception in the Chapel.

Presbyterian Women 2025 SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

April 25, Friday
4:00 – 8:00 PM



April 26, Saturday
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Start cleaning out your closets— it's time for the Spring Rummage Sale!

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

April 21-23 Monday & Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday only, 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

April 24 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 TO VOLUNTEER?

As with all rummage sales, volunteers are the heart of each and contribute to the success of each rummage sale.

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