



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

August 31, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

12th Sunday After Pentecost

**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



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

WELCOME/TIDINGS

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 32

Leader: 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.

All: While I kept silent, 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.

Leader: 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.

All: 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.

*HYMN # 409 God is Here

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

God of mercy, hear our prayer. Let us rejoice in confession; let us find freedom in repentance.

For our sins entangle and trip; what we seek to conceal is a weight dragging behind us. What gain is there in pride; what end can outweigh freedom? Redeem us with mercy; restore the tears in the robe of glory you crafted to cover our soul. God of mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN # 583 Glory to God

GLORIA (TAIZÈ)

Nursery care is available in room 107.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

Virginia Shaw

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

ANTHEM Amazing Grace

Carol Dunkin, mezzo soprano
Jane Brown, piano

arr. Craig Courtney

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 12:1-3

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

SERMON

"O You Dissembler!"

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

***HYMN # 410** God Is Calling Through the Whisper

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

CONFESSION OF FAITH (from the Brief Statement, 1983)

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Clerk of Session Sandy Slobodien

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts, Creator Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

PASTORAL PRAYER 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 # 331** God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL HYMN

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

*Our greeter this morning is Tom Giordano, and the ushers are Joan Kenyon,
Gilly McKie, and Beth Russian.*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Heather Koball in loving memory of her parents,
Betty Hawkes Koball, and Walter Koball.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 12:1-3

Meanwhile, when the crowd gathered by the thousands, so that they trampled on one another, he began to speak first to his disciples, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, that is, their hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

August 31, 2025 WORSHIP HYMNS

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#409 GOD IS HERE

1- God is here! As we your people meet
to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2- Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit,
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

3- Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

4- Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

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#583 GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

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Inc.) CCLI license numbers 20354270 & 20397330*

#410 GOD IS CALLING THROUGH THE WHISPER

1- God is calling through the whisper
of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties
that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?

2- God is calling through the voices
of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
Strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?

3- God is calling through the music
through the hymns of earth and angels,
and the carols of our hearts.
Life of joy and gift of singing;
Days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling – and we hear!
God is calling – and we hear!

#331 GOD OF THE AGES, WHOSE ALMIGHTY HAND

1- God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

2- Thy love divine hath led us in the past.
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay:
thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

3- From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.
Thy true religion in our hearts increase.
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

4- Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.
Lead us from night to never-ending day.
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

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*)
John Bertelsen (*Brother of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
Pat Byrne (*Sue Harmon's brother-in-law*)
Dorothy Canary (*aunt of Sue Harmon*)
Luis Canton (*Laurie Toth's father*)
Sue Coyle (*friend of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
*Lois Crespy
Bruce Dangremond (*brother of Mary Kay Dangremond*)
*Mary Kay Dangremond
Jean Delancey (*friend of Nancy Leardi*)
*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*)
*Judy Fuller
Marc Gale (*Marie Gale's husband*)
*Marie Gale
*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)
*Margaret Hathaway
*Ellen Haulenbeek

Jan Johnson (*Gunsser's family friend*)
*Susan Kozo
Geraldine Leardi (*Mike Leardi's mother*)
Jetty Mailangkay (*wife of Rev. Herby Moningka*)
Dennis Maiuro (*Colleen Walker's brother-in-law*)
Patricia Maktal (*friend of Messina Family*)
*Ed Meyer
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
Michael Murach (*Kristina Scoglio's cousin*)
Irene Newman (*former CNS teacher*)
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Jeremy Njuguna (*Son of Loise Kiru and Joe*)
Marian Pflaumer (*Cook Family relative*)
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehbler*)
*Dave Ryder
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
Karen Scoglio (*Kristina Scoglio's mother*)
*Tomara Situmeang
Mary and Michael Thompson (*family of Jim & Jen Thompson*)
Crystal Smith Williams (*friend of the Food Pantry*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong

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. Dr. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Glory Thomas at (732) 589-3660. **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:

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

And by appointment for other times

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

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

Blood Drive – Dining Room 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

After Worship Refreshments – Room 109 10:30 a.m.

Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Deacons Meeting – Chapel 7:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Deacons and Elders Retreat – Social Center

. 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Indonesian Fellowship – Room 109/Chapel 4:00 p.m.

ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR:

To access FPC's website calendar for more details of what's happening in the coming weeks, please scan the QR code here or go to <https://bit.ly/4emWby6>



COMING SOON

- Sep 7 2nd Hour: Malawi – Chapel – 10:30 am
- Sep 7 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 5:00 pm
- Sep 9 PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge – 11:00 am
- Sep 9 Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
- Sep 10 Men's Breakfast – Dining Room – 7:30 am
- Sep 11 Concord Ringers – Bell Loft – 9:30 – 10:15 am
- Sep 11 Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft – 7:00-8:00 am
- Sep 11 Senior Choir – Choir Room – 8:00-9:30 pm
- Sep 14 Rally Day/ Blessing of the Backpacks
- Sep 16 Carol Choir – Sanctuary – 4:00 pm
- Sep 17 Westminster Choir – Choir Room – 6:30 pm
- Sep 17 Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft – 7:00 pm
- Sep 18 Junior Choir – Choir Room – 4:15-5:00 pm
- Sep 18 Joy Ringers – Bell Loft – 5:00-5:30 pm
- Sep 18 Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium – 7:00 pm
- Sep 20 Engagement Party – Dining Room – 2:00-4:00 pm
(See next page for details)

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received August 24

Pledge	\$ 3,837
Non-pledge	\$ 1,178
Cash	\$ 51
Per Capita	\$ 40

TOTAL: \$ 5,106

OTHER RECEIPTS \$ 388 (Miscellaneous)

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 direct you to the Vanco app to set up your donation, and simply follow the prompts.

Thank you for your generous support!



Join us in this special celebration where there will be a DJ playing Oldies (yeah, from the 80's), food stations, desserts from our Church bakers, and the centerpiece RED VELVET CHEESECAKE from Cheesecake Factory given with love by our Deacons.

RSVP is required by Friday, September 12.

Email pw@fpcweb.org with your name and all others joining you, and indicate if any are under 21 years old.

Important FINE PRINT:

To help offset the cost of their wedding trip, we plan on presenting to them a cash gift. If you wish to contribute an amount of your choice to the cash gift, please place your donation, either cash or check (made out to the Presbyterian Women with "Party" in the memo line) in the Offering plate, OR bring it to the Church office by Sunday, September 13.

We will present one check to the happy couple at the party!

We hope you can join us!

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

**Sunday
September 7
5:00 p.m.
Social Center
First Presbyterian
Church of Metuchen
270 Woodbridge Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840**



Our community dinner is back! Join us in community and fellowship!

Enjoy beef chili, summer veggie chili, corn bread, salad and a delicious home made dessert to end the meal.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

There is always a place at the table for you!

As always, we also welcome extra hands to help before, during and after the dinners. Ask our deacons about the volunteer opportunities.

Feel free to contact Gilly McKie - gilly@mckie.com

Deacons & Elders Retreat September 6th 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Social Center

If you are a deacon or an elder this program year, please be reminded to mark your calendars and come to the joint retreat. Meet the different commissions and committees, and share in the vision for the coming program year.



From last year's retreat, a productive and meaningful discussions between deacons & elders.



SEPTEMBER 14th SUNDAY



On Rally Day, children will be invited to come forward during Children's Time with their backpacks. We want to send our students and educators with our prayers and blessings as they go back to school.

Have you registered your child or youth? **REGISTER NOW!**

We are planning for a great year!

Whether you are signing up your child or youth for any of the programs – music and others, registration is easy! Use the QR code below. This will take you to the online form and when done completing all the needed information, simply click "Send."

You may also download the form and submit to the church office to register your child/youth. Go to:

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



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

PRESBYTERIAN PUPPETEERS



Upcoming Events

Rally Day	September 14
GLOW Puppets	September 28
Retreat	October 2



The Presbyterian Puppeteers perform during Sunday worship services and in the GLOW room. They also present shows at local nursing homes and during the annual Vacation Bible Camp.

Anyone who would like to join please contact Nancy Leardi at nleardi@fpcweb.org

AN INVITATION FOR CHILDREN'S TEA

Saturday, September 6, Noon to 1:30 pm

Jacob Morgan Hall

First Presbyterian Church of Avenel
(621 E. Woodbridge Ave. Avenel, NJ)



Bring your child for a sweet event hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel. A donation of \$15 for an adult and a child is requested. Each additional child is \$5, and additional adult is \$10. **RSVP is requested by Wednesday, August 27**, indicate how many are coming and who for proper planning of the event. Look for forms in the Narthex. Please contact Cindy Culton, (732) 634-1631 if you have any questions.