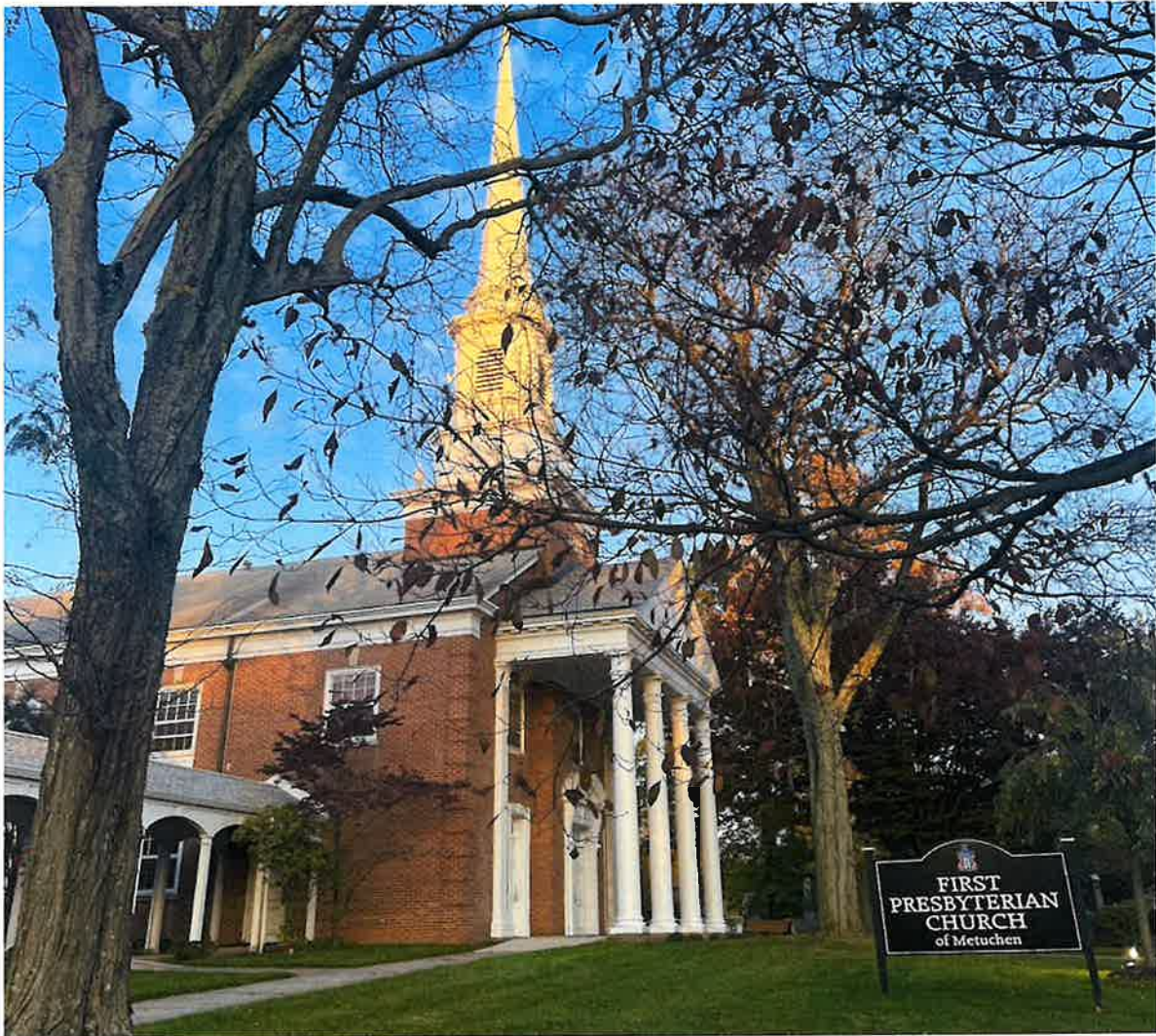




**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

September 14, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

14th Sunday After Pentecost

One Church Together: A Multi-Generational Worship Service

**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

GATHERING

ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

Helen & Anna Cackowski

Candles are lit to represent the presence of Christ, offering a moment to center ourselves to worship.

PRELUDE How Fair and Pleasant Art Thou

Marcel Dupré

WELCOME/TIDINGS

Grace Ann & Caden DiGiovacchino

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 49, adapted

Brian & Julia Hajjar

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

All: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: This is the sanctuary of our God.

All: We gather to sing, to pray, to listen.

Leader: May we hear the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

All: May we find the courage of humility.

Leader: Let us live out the faith of generations past.

All: Let us be faithful for the generations to come.

*HYMN 267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION — Unison

Betty Kiru & Josiah Njuguna

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Our cup overflows; our tables are a feast.

Our homes are warm in winter, cool in summer.

When we are ill, there is healing.

When there is need, we strive to fill it.

As we attend to the body, let us attend to the soul.

When our hearts hear too much fear, teach us peace.

When our minds race, let us seek first to trust your will.

When our soul clings to dust, wash us with mercy.

Let us remember we are all beloved in your sight.

God of mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

*KYRIE

Lord, have mercy up on us.

Christ, have mercy up on us.

Lord, have mercy up on us.

Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by Peter DuBois

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Khayla Johnson

*GLORIA



Glo - ry be to God, Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be



gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be. World with-out end. A - men! A - men!

Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by James Kealey

CHILDREN'S TIME

RECOGNITION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS / BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Nursery care is available in room 107. Children will exit the sanctuary to the GLOW room for a puppet skit.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Scott & Myles Bourne

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23 (Old Testament page 615)

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

ANTHEM We Will Sing

Senior Choir

Penny Stone

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Beth Russian & Zach Bedenek

Luke 12:13-21 (New Testament page 74)

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

SERMON

"Generation Upon Generation"

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN 716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

CONFESSION OF FAITH *from the Brief Statement of Faith* — Unison

Wally Cook & Taylor Welsh

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Khayla Johnson

OFFERTORY Beach Spring

arr. Wayne L. Wold

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Brian & Sophia Smith

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

***RESPONSE**

Choir: All:

When they build walls we will build bridge-es, o - pen up a dif-f'rent way, — when they close their eyes, we will sing, — whe-ther you're a friend or a stran - ger, one world we're travel - in' through, whe - ther you're fear - ful — or in dan - ger, peace — be with you.

Written by Penny Stone (adapted)

ELDERS' PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER — Unison

Brian Smith

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 fall into into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

***HYMN 687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past**

ST. ANNE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Peace I Leave with You

Amy Beach

POSTLUDE The God of Abraham Praise

arr. Michael Burkhardt

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

Our greeters this morning are the Njuguna and Kiru families, and the ushers are Ronnie Kaminski, Mark Digiovacchino, Andrene Sinclair-Pennix, and Todd Ryder.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given:
in fond memory of Grace Hammesfahr Howe from the Herron family, Doris, Anne and Mary Beth, and in loving memory of Phyllis and Art Harmon from their grandchildren.*

September 14, 2025 WORSHIP HYMNS

(All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CCLI license numbers 20354270 & 20397330)

#267 COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING

1- Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!
2- Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!
3- Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

*Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.
Used by permission. CCLI license numbers 20354270 & 20397330*

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by Peter
Dubois All rights reserved. Used by permission*

GLORIA

Glory be to God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen! Amen!

*Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by James
Kealey. All rights reserved. Used by permission*

#716 GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO END

1- God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

2- Skills and time are our for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.

Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.
3- Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

*Text © 1961, ren. 1989. The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing
Co.) Music Harm. © 1958 ren. 1986 Broadman Press (admin.
Music Services) CCLI license numbers 20354270 & 20397330*

RESPONSE

When they build walls, we will build bridges,
Open up a different way,
When they close their eyes we will sing,
Whether you're a friend or a stranger,
One world we're travelin' through,
Whether you're fearful or in danger, peace be with you.

Written by Penny Stone All rights reserved. Used by permission

#687 OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

1- Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
2- Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm
alone, and our defense is sure.
3- Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.
4- A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
5- Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.
6- Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

To be added in the weekly Prayer List, individuals must give permission for their names to be included. 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, 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 and family (*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*)
 *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
***Fenner and Walter Family**
 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*)

Jan Johnson (*Gunsser's family friend*)
 *Susan Kozo
 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
Cindy 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

CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT

For the family of long-time member, and deacon Nikki Renee Walter who passed away September 4. There will be a Memorial Service on September 19 at 11:00 am here in FPC-Metuchen.

PASTORAL CARE:

If you or a family member is in the hospital, please contact Rev. Dr. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Khayla Johnson at (843) 312-7288. **Hospitals no longer contact clergy when a parishioner is admitted.** 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, SEPTEMBER 14

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

Blessing of the Backpacks

After Worship Refreshments – Social Center 10:30 a.m.

Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Carol Choir – Sanctuary 4:00 p.m.

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

Social Justice – PW Lounge 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

B & G Meeting – PW Lounge 8:00 a.m.

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 Commission – Office Conf. Room 7:00 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Concord Ringers – Bell Loft 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

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

Joy Ringers – Bell Loft 5:00 – 5:30 p.m.

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

Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Women's AA Support Grp – Deacons Rm.* 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Engagement Party – Dining Room. 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

* Deacons Room – Room 109

FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:

Scan the QR code or visit our website

<https://bit.ly/4emWby6>



COMING SOON

- Sep 20 Engagement Party – Dining Room – 2:00-4:00 pm
- Sep 21 Youth Commission – PW Lounge – 10:30 am
- Sep 24 Lunch and Games – Dining Room – 12:00 Noon
- Sep 27 Mission Volunteer Saturday – Auditorium -9:00 am
- Sep 28 Second Hour: Cathedrals – Chapel – 10:30 am
- Sep 28 Westminster Choir College Concert – Sanctuary 3:00 pm
- Oct 1 Youth Group BBQ Kickoff – Soc. Ctr. – 6:00 pm
- Oct 2 Health & Wellness Fair – Auditorium – 10:00 am
- Oct 4 Indonesian Fellowship – Deacons Rm – 4:00 pm
- Oct 5 Candlelight Concert – Sanctuary – 7:00 pm
- Oct 7 Deacons Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received September 7

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Pledge | \$ 14,452 |
| Non-pledge | \$ 270 |
| Cash | \$ 53 |
| Christian Ed | \$ 50 |
| Deacons Fund | \$ 415 |
| Food Pantry | \$ 175 |
| Special Funds | \$ 80 |

TOTAL: \$ 15,495

OTHER RECEIPTS \$ 908 (Parking & Bldg.)

PER CAPITA DRAWING IS TODAY!

Could you be the lucky one to be picked? Stay for the drawing after worship.

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.

Thank you for your generous support!

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor/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

2025/2026 Sunday GLOW Leaders and Assistants

Christian Education Director: Nancy Leardi

Christian Education Commission Chair: Helen Burr-Cackowski

Drama Consultant: Kat Davis

| Grades | Leadership | Assistants |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nursery - Pre-School Care team | Julia Hajjar Erika Knehans Caitlyn Sanger | Continued: Madison Garcia Carli James Lewis Brynn Gawronski |
| Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1 st & 2 nd Grades | Deb Teall Kelsee Young Mia Garcia Emma Staal | Betty Olivia Kiru Olivia Valeros Dray Sequeira |
| 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th and 6 th Grades | Bridget Sanger Bella Staal | Cameron Hayes Durina Johannes Staal |
| Lego Sunday | Laura Fischer | Kelsee Young Will Hajjar |
| Special Program Sundays | Dan Slobodien Amy Bertelsen-Robles | Jennifer O'Neill Casey Laura Pellicano Sean Casey |
| Recreation Team | Jack Thompson Alex Perez Cameron Hayes Durina | Continued: Myles Bourne Eli Bourne |
| Substitute Leaders | | |
| Andrene Pennix | Wally Cook | JoAnne Bedenek |
| Jennifer Thompson | Jim Thompson | Gertrude Kibiru |
| Allison Brennan | Melissa McCulley | MaryJane Palmeter |

A Note of Thanks

To Our FPC Church Family,

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, called us, and kept us in their prayers with the passing of our son-in-law and Ed's hospitalization and rehab. Our special thanks to Rev. Garry and Rev. Thomas, the Presbyterian Women, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the Deacons. Your kindness and caring are what makes FPC so special!

Ed and Jane Meyer



Hosted by the:

FPC Food Pantry &
Social Justice Committee

Thursday Oct. 2, 2025

10am – 1pm

The Fair will be in the Social Center.
EVERYONE IS INVITED!

A Note from Worship and Music Commission

The Worship and Music Commission has been exploring how to create new opportunities for folks to participate in worship.

As the prelude begins, each week a different family will light the candles placed on the communion table, providing a moment of centering and grounding, and a ritual as we begin to worship. Additionally, one person each week will carry the cross into the sanctuary as the choir processes in during the opening hymn. This represents the presence of Christ entering as we worship.

If you would like to participate in worship by lighting candles or carrying the cross, reach out to Gary Ostermueller by email:
gostermueller@gmail.com.

2025 PW Lifetime Achievement Honorarium Presented by Deb Teall, Co-Moderator PW Coordinating Team

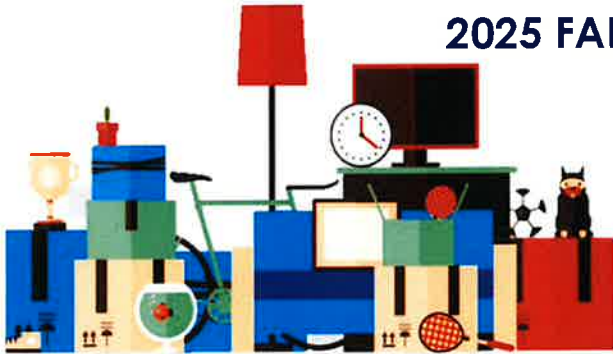
Lori Kellner is a vital member of the PW Team and the Church family. Everyone benefits in a million ways from her grace, her humor, and her wisdom. Most of all, we benefit from her vision, brought to life in the nurse's home in Malawi.

The 2025 PW Lifetime Membership Honorarium was presented to Lori to express our love and gratitude for all she does, and our hope is that she will continue to share her vision with us for years to come.



Thank you, Lori and Sarah, for letting me crash Children's Time. The PW Coordinating Team was thrilled to get the NEWEST news from Malawi and are so glad you were able to go and see the nurse's home we all helped to build.

Presbyterian Women 2025 FALL RUMMAGE SALE



October 17, 4:00 – 8:00 PM
October 18, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Social Center

Start cleaning out your closets—
it's time for the Fall Rummage Sale.

DROP OFF OF DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED:

Monday, Oct. 13th through Thurs., Oct. 16th
from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

***WEDNESDAY, Oct. 15**
Drop off extended till 7 PM

Call for Volunteers: Volunteers are needed Monday to Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm to receive donations, sort and set up, and during sale hours on Friday night and Saturday. All volunteers are invited to a Friday dinner at 3 pm before the sale begins. Saturday our traditional Hot Dog Lunch will be served! If you never "worked" the Rummage Sale, it's a great time to serve and fellowship!

Volunteer Perks: Purchase in advance before we open to the community! Our volunteers will again enjoy perks such as:

- Snacks provided during the set up
- Dinner before the Friday sale, and the traditional hotdog lunch for Saturday, and
- Be entered in a drawing of our Tricky Tray of prizes including a couple of gift cards!

Questions? Contact Cindy O'Neill mimabook@aol.com
or Lori Kellner lgkellner@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP & JUNIOR CLUB

BBQ

KICKOFF



SOCIAL CENTER



**1ST OF OCTOBER
6 PM**

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of the year with food, fun and fellowship! For more information contact Nancy Leardi or Rev. Johnson.



JOIN THE SOUP MINISTRY!



Do you like to make soup? Maybe you would be willing to deliver soup?

Soup is delivered once a month from October through March, and in between as needed. Sign up today to help make soup for members in need or become a delivery driver. Use the qr code below to sign up.



For more information, contact Rev. Johnson
kjohnson@fpcweb.org

