



**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

November 16, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

23rd 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

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

www.fpcweb.org

(732) 491-2300

GATHERING

ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

The Campbell Family

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

PRELUDE Meditation on "Beautiful Savior"

Covenant Ringers

Cathy Moglebust

WELCOME & TIDINGS

Rev. Dr. Fred. G. Garry

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Happy are those who turn from wrong;

Happy are those who abide with compassion.

All: Let us take delight in the wisdom of God;

Let us find the delight of your will.

Leader: May we be like oaks planted by streams;

May our hearts be rooted in kindness.

All: Let us worship the Lord our God.

***HYMN** 32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION - Unison

Rev. Khayla Johnson

God of mercy hear our prayer.

Give us eyes to see what is invisible;

Give us hearts to hear what is silent.

For your wisdom is found in the light of truth,

Your words are the still small voice of courage.

Let us lay aside the designs of pride;

Let us put down the intents of greed.

May we walk as your son walked the earth.

God of mercy hear our prayer.

Amen.

*KYRIE



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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

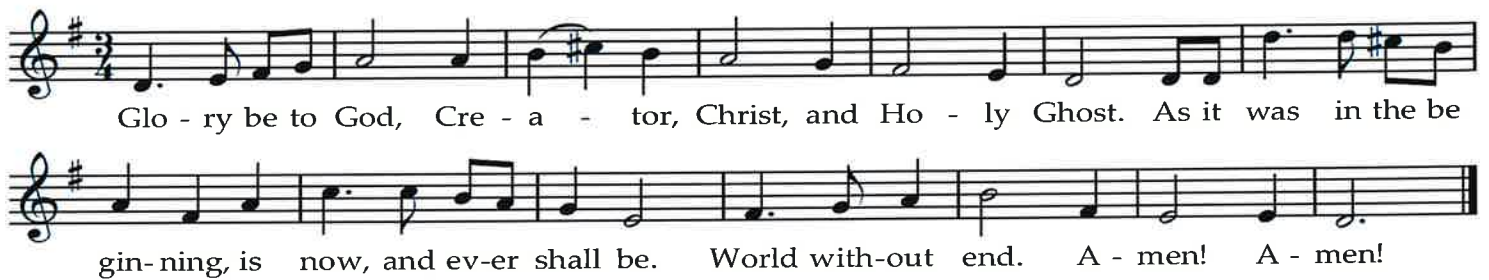
Rev. Khayla Johnson

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

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

*GLORIA



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

ANTHEM Whisper a Prayer

Carol Choir

Traditional

CHILDREN'S TIME

Christmas Pageant Skit

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Pre-K will be meeting in Room 108. Children in kindergarten and older will learn all about mission in the Food Pantry. Pick up will be in the GLOW room after worship.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Proverbs 1:1-9 (Old Testament page 584)
This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

Janet Aspinwall

ANTHEM Praise the Lord Westminster & Junior Choirs

Natalie Sleeth

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 13:6-9 (New Testament page 82)
This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"The Wisdom of Trees"

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN 347 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** (from the Brief Statement) – **Unison**

Rev. Khayla Johnson

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.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Sarah Teti

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Khayla Johnson

OFFERTORY Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Dray Sequeira, soloist

Carolyn Jennings

*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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Khayla Johnson

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

Roland Staal

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 291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

SPIRIT

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Prelude in C Major WV 402

Johann Krebs

*Our greeters this morning are Kim Ryder and family, and the ushers are Todd Ryder,
Bill Volz, and Sue West.*

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Grace Hammesfahr, in loving memory of Mom & Dad Hammesfahr.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 1:1-9

The proverbs of Solomon son of David,
king of Israel:

For learning about wisdom and instruction,
for understanding words of insight,
for gaining instruction in wise dealing,
righteousness, justice, and equity;
to teach shrewdness to the simple,
knowledge and prudence to the young—
let the wise, too, hear and gain in learning
and the discerning acquire skill,
to understand a proverb and a figure,
the words of the wise and their riddles.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of
knowledge;

fools despise wisdom and instruction.
Hear, my child, your father's instruction,
and do not reject your mother's
teaching,
for they are a fair garland for your head
and pendants for your neck.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

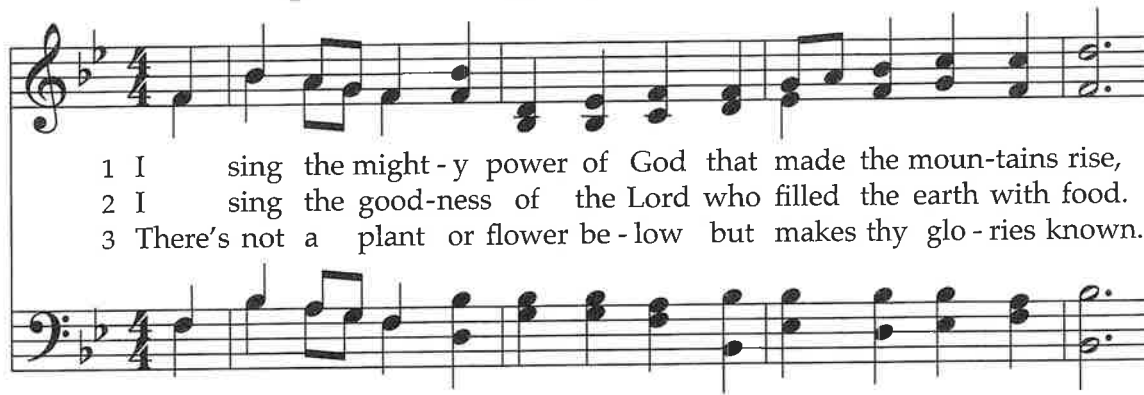
Luke 13:6-9

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

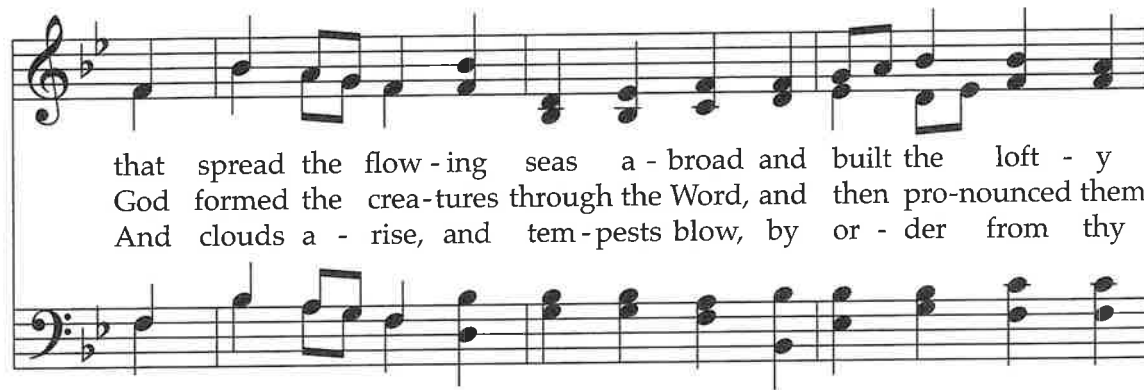
SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

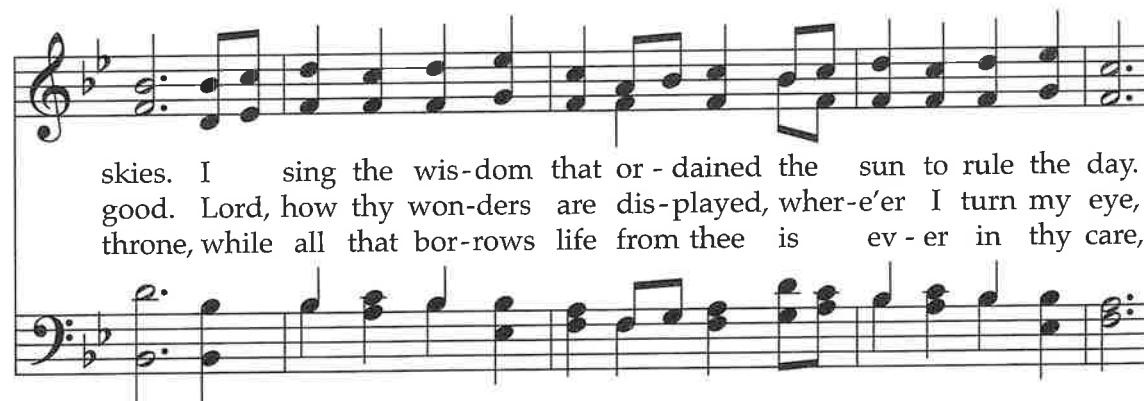
32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God



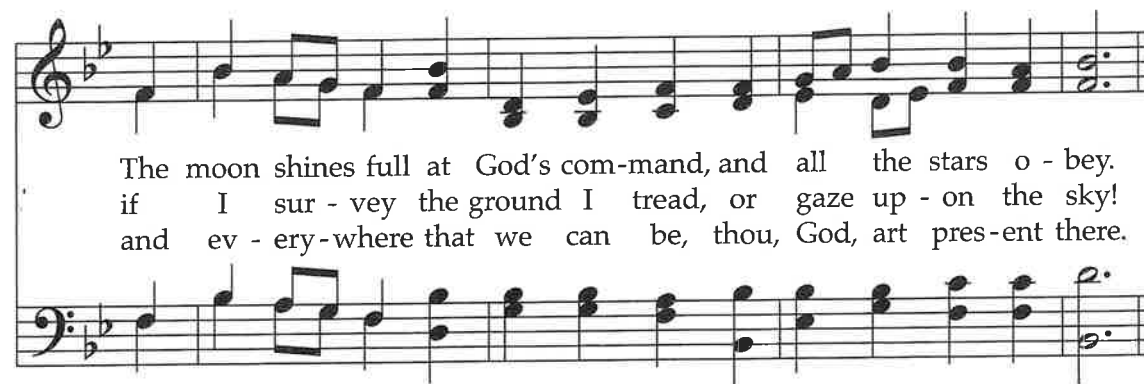
1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
 3 There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes thy glo-ries known.



that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
 And clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy



skies. I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.
 good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
 throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.
 if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!
 and ev-ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

With minimal revision this text brings together six of the eight four-line stanzas in an 18th-century hymn written for children and originally headed "Praise for Creation and Providence." The anonymous German tune provides a fitting sense of breadth and wonder.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 347

Capo 3: (Bm) Dm

(G) B $\flat$ (D) F (Bm) Dm (C) E $\flat$

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with

(G) B $\flat$ (F $\sharp$) A (G) B $\flat$ (D) F (Em) Gm

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man
 on the way, as the Light of light de -
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the

(Bm) Dm (C) E $\flat$ (G) B $\flat$ (D) F

mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
 ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
 pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,

(B) D (Em) Gm (Bm) Dm (A) C

Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may van - ish
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

(Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (F $\sharp$ m) Am (Bm) Dm

our full hom - age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly food.
 as the shad - ows clear a way.
 al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high!"

The flowering of English hymnody in the 19th century included the rediscovery, translation, and versification of ancient Christian hymns, such as this text from one of the earliest existing Christian liturgies. It is set here to an adaptation of a 17th-century French melody.

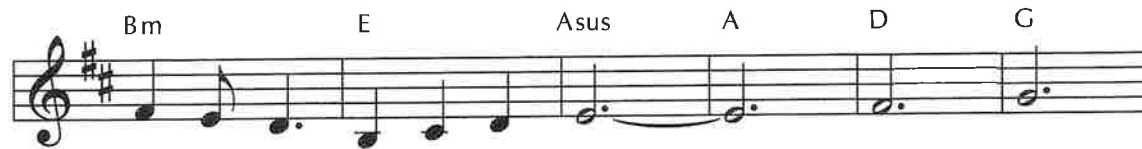
291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit

Refrain



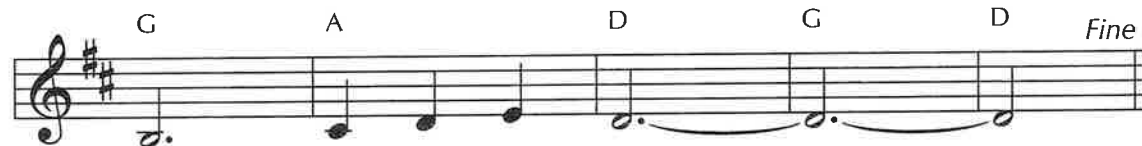
Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the



wil - der-ness, call - ing and free. Spir - it,



spir - it of rest - less - ness, stir me from plac - id-ness,



wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters; you called to the
- 2 You swept through the des - ert; you stung with the
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble; you cried from a
- 4 You call from to - mor - row; you break an - cient

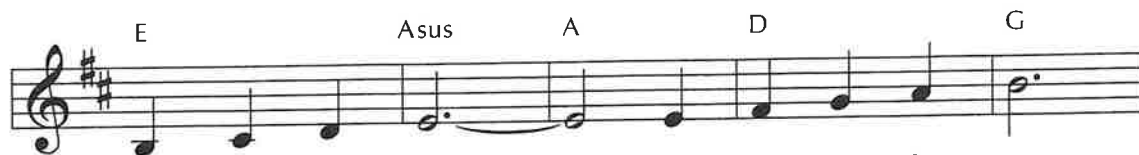


deep; then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the
 sand; and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a
 hill; then you whis-pered in si - lence when the
 schemes; from the bond - age of sor - row the

As the author/composer reminds us in the refrain, the Spirit is both gentle and restless. The stanzas reinforce a sense of the Spirit's activity through a wide range of verbs, initially in the past tense; but they become more urgent in the present tense of the fourth stanza.

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

E Asus A D G



val - leys of sleep; and o - ver the e -
 law and a land. When they were con - found -
 whole world was still. And down in the cit -
 cap - tives dream dreams. Our wom - en see vi -

A G D



ons you called to each thing, "A -
 ed with i - dols and lies, then you
 y, you called once a - gain when you
 sions; our men clear their eyes. With

Bm G



wake from your slum - bers and
 spoke through your proph - ets to
 blew through your peo - ple on the
 bold new de - ci - sions your

A D G/A D A to Refrain



rise on your wings."
 o - pen their eyes.
 rush of the wind.
 peo - ple a - rise.

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*)
 Brad (*friend of Ingrid Hammond*)
 Pat Byrne (*Sue Harmon's brother-in-law*)
 Dorothy Canary (*aunt of Sue Harmon*)
 Luis Canton (*Laurie Toth's father*)
 Art Cabbage (*father of Laura Draper*)
 *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*)
 George Doerbecker (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
 *Ruth Endicott
 Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)
 *Marie Freeman
 *Judy Fuller
 Marc Gale (*Marie Gale's husband*)
 *Marie Gale
 *Doris Gulotta
 *Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)
 *Margaret Hathaway

*Ellen Haulenbeek
 Jay and Barbara (*friends of Ingrid Hammond*)
 Jan Johnson (*Gunsser's family friend*)
 Teresa Prete-Kaltenbach (*friend of the Hajjar family*)
 *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*)
 Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Dalila Robles and family (*Amy Bertelsen-Robles' sister-in-law*)
 Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehbler*)
 *Dave Ryder
 Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
 *Lorraine Sheaffer
 Karen Scoglio (*Kristina Scoglio's mother*)
 *Tomara Situmeang
 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 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, NOVEMBER 16

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

2nd Hour: 911 System - Chapel 10:30 a.m.

After Worship Refreshments - Deacons Room . . 10:30 a.m.

Indonesian Worship Service - Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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

Carol Choir - Choir Room 4:00 p.m.

Personnel Comm. - Office Conference Room . . . 7:30 p.m.

Social Justice - PW Lounge 7:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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

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

Finance Commission - Office Conference Rm. 7:00 p.m.

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

Youth Group - Social Center 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

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.

Junior Club - GLOW Room 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Trinity Ringers - Bell Loft 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, NOVEMBER 21

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

FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:

Scan the QR code or visit our website

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



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

COMING SOON

Nov 23 Baking with Chef Dan - Kitchen - 9:45 am

Nov 23 Youth Commission - PW Lounge - 10:30 a.m.

Nov 23 Family Advent Wreath - GLOW Room - 11:00 am

Nov 24 Packing of Thanksgiving Baskets - Auditorium
7:00 pm

Nov 29 Mission Volunteer Saturday - Auditorium - 9:00 am

Nov 30 Candlelight Concert: Peace on Earth - Sanctuary
7:00 pm

Dec 1 Horizon Bible Study - PW Lounge - 6:00 pm

Dec 2 1st Tuesday - GLOW Room - 4:30 - 5:00 pm

Dec 2 Deacons Meeting - Chapel - 7:30 pm

Dec 4 Local Mission Meeting - Auditorium - 11:00 am

Dec 4 Junior Club - Venue TBA - 5:30 pm

Dec 6 Holly Fair - Dining Room - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Dec 7 Community Dinner - Dining Room - 6:00 pm

Dec 9 PW Coordinating Team - PW Lounge - 11:00 am

Dec 9 Unicameral Board - Chapel/Zoom - 7:30 pm

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received November 9

Pledge	\$ 12,478
Non-pledge	\$ 1,371
Food Pantry	\$ 1,775
Deacons	\$ 305
Other Funds	\$ 170

TOTAL: \$16,059

OTHER RECEIPTS \$ 830

(Parking and Building Rental)

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!

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

Today's Second Hour:
911 System and Emergency Preparedness
10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

Join us for an important forum on emergency preparedness. Church member, JoAnne Bedenek, an experienced 911 dispatcher, will share Do's and Don'ts for communicating with 911 and emergency personnel—whether at church or at home.

The session will also include a brief review of our church safety procedures, so you'll leave feeling ready to respond in an emergency.

ADVENT LABYRINTH WALK



Experience beauty and peace this Advent through labyrinth walking.

Join us in the Social Center on the first and third Wednesdays for meditative evenings with live music, and on the second Wednesday for a Family Labyrinth Night with a create-your-own labyrinth craft and lesson. And food will be provided!

- **Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7:00 - 8:30 pm Labyrinth Walk** featuring reflective music by Eleanor Rees, soprano
- **Wednesday, Dec. 10, 6:00 - 7:30 pm Family Labyrinth Night**
- **Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7:00 - 8:30 pm Labyrinth Walk** featuring reflective music by Karen Stern, harpist



From the Sanctuary Committee

Deck the hall with boughs and holly...
November 23, After Worship

All are invited to help embellish the Sanctuary in preparation for Advent.

Grab a cup of coffee and come back in here to help hang garlands, wreaths and our new Advent banners! Maggy Cook will provide the directions.

Thank you for starting off the Advent season with beauty for our worship space!



Church and CNS families are welcome to participate in our annual Christmas Pageant. To participate:

- Children must be 4 years old or older by Oct. 1
- Children must attend rehearsals at the church on Sundays, December 7, 14, and 21, from 10:45 to 11:45 am, and the dress rehearsal on Dec. 23 at 4:00 pm.
- Adult volunteers are needed as well; please sign up to help!

Scan the QR code to sign up.

Questions? Email fpcpageant@gmail.com



Advent will soon be here!

Help us prepare for the Advent season through:

The Advent Angel Tree will be up on November 23. Let us bless our neighbors with simple gifts.

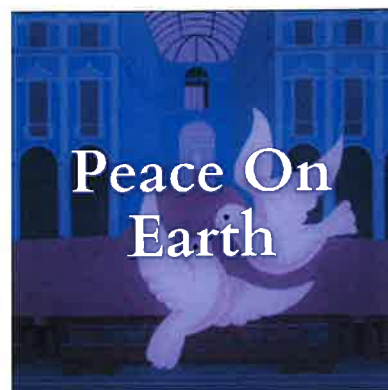
Poinsettia orders. Help us prepare the sanctuary in time for Lessons and Carols with your poinsettia orders while honoring your loved ones.

Luminary orders. Initiated by our Deacons as a fundraiser, the luminaries and votives will brighten our walkways and shine through the night on Christmas eve. Loved ones will also be honored with your orders.

Order forms for the Poinsettias and Luminaries are now available in the Narthex.



**November 30
Sunday at 7:00 pm
Sanctuary of the
First Presbyterian
Church of Metuchen**



The Candlelight Concert Series continues with a musical celebration of all that brings us together during the holiday season. Hear each of FPC's adult and youth choirs, bell choirs, instruments, and more!

Tickets by suggested donation:

\$22/Adults \$15/Senior 17 and under/Free

Scan the QR code to get your tickets.



As we prepare for Advent, the Christian Education is offering an advent craft for the whole family.

Each family will work on their wreath and get to bring this home. Throughout Advent, use this wreath in your homes as we anticipate the coming of Christ. Learn what each candle means, and why we light one each week.

Let us know if you wish to participate. We want to make sure we have enough supplies for every family.

Email or call Nancy Leardi

nleardi@fpcweb.org | (732) 491-2264

Reminder from the STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Inside your Stewardship letter, you'll find a ribbon. After making your pledge, please tie your ribbon on the Giving Tree as a visible sign of our shared commitment to this church and its mission. If you need an extra ribbon, they are available in the Narthex.



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
presents**

HOLLY FAIR / BAKE SALE Volunteer Bakers

You are the icing on the cake!

Our Coffee Bar and Bake Sale was so successful last year that we are showcasing it at the Holly Fair on December 6.

You are welcome to drop off your baked goods between November 26th to December 2nd in the Social Center kitchen, and marked "PW." Also, please remember to sign on the Bakers Sign In sheet.

For the month of November, bakers are invited to stop by The Deacons Room during Coffee Hours to pick up FREE decorative boxes and bags for your baked goods.

NEW A special gift awaits each baker as a thank you for their donation.

2025 HOLLY FAIR

Saturday, December 6th 9 AM - 2 PM

Picture/Gift with SANTA! 11:30 AM - 1 PM

Social Center Dining Room

Gourmet Bake Sale * Café Coffee Bar * Jewelry Galore
New & Vintage Purses * Scarves, Accessories and more!

VISIT OUR BOUTIQUE!

For yourself or for gift giving, check out the extensive holiday merchandise, and the array of pocketbooks, new and gently used! Enjoy the teas and hot cocoa at the Café.

Donate new or gently used vintage and contemporary jewelry only. **You may drop off your donations at the Church office until NOVEMBER 25th!**

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