

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

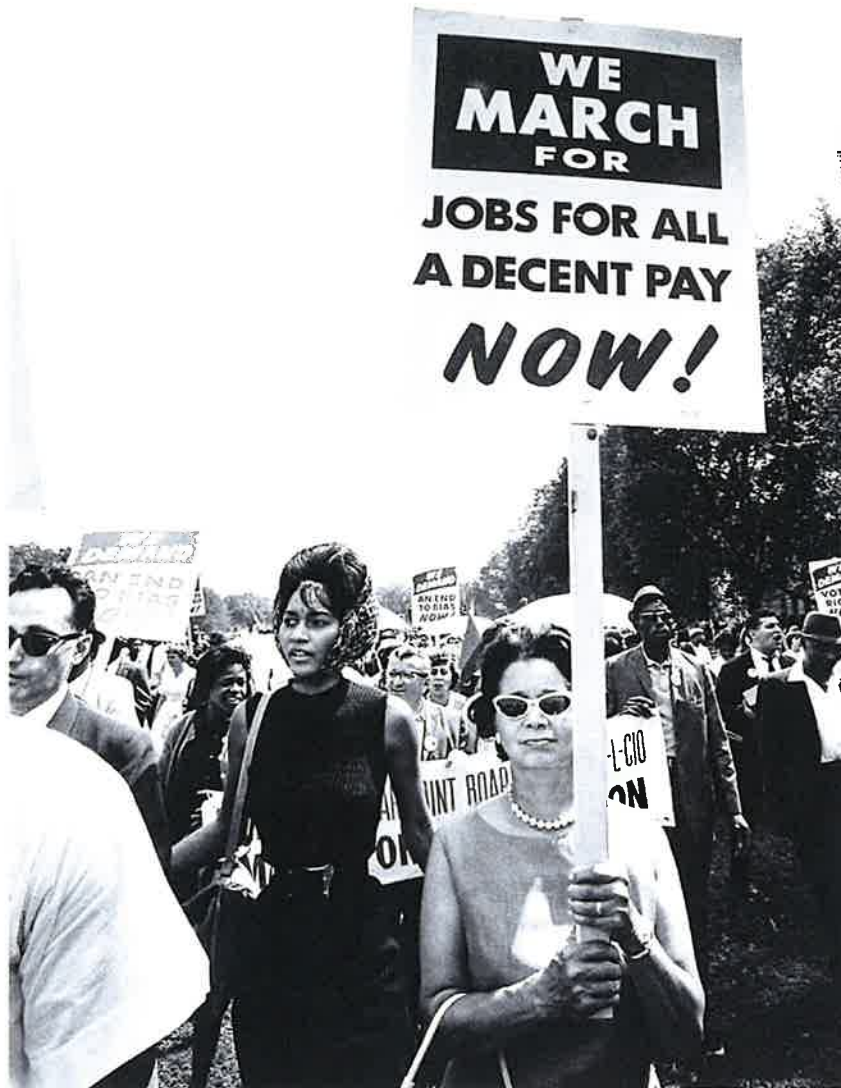


Photo credit: "The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom"
Chicago History Museum

January 18, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
2nd Sunday after Epiphany

**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

GATHERING

ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

The Burr-Cackowski Family

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

PRELUDE Prelude in a minor

Benedetto Marcello

WELCOME & TIDINGS

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 97 adapted

Leader: Let us enter the house of the Lord with joy;

All: Let the earth resound with praise and glory.

Leader: The heavens proclaim God's steadfast love;

All: May our worship join the proclamation of angels.

Leader: Fill our hearts with the light of truth;

All: Let us give our thanks and praise.

*HYMN 327 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

God of steadfast love, hear our confession.

Forgive us covering the image of God in us.

For the lack of wisdom,

For the trust of disdain,

For the forgotten joy being begotten,

Renew our hearts with gladness;

Restore your image in us.

God of steadfast love, accept our confession. Amen.

*KYRIE

Lord, have mercy up on us.

Christ, have mercy up on us.

Lord, have mercy up on us.

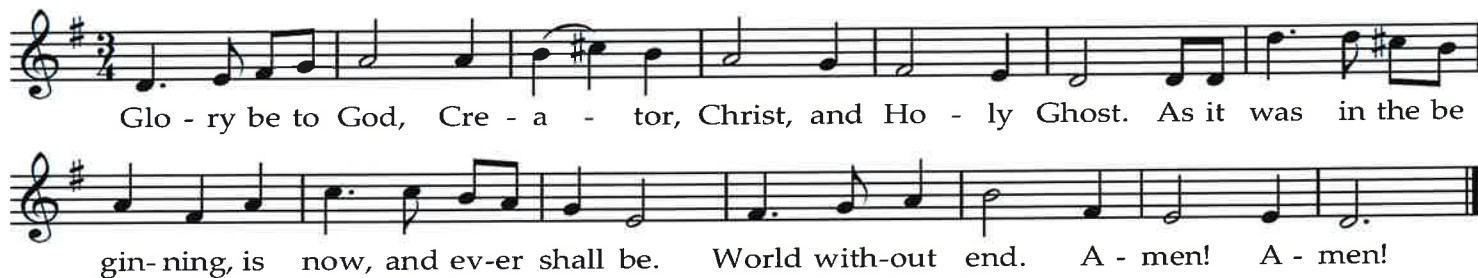
Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by Peter DuBois

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

All: Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA



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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Nancy Regan

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children will proceed to the GLOW Room for LEGO Sunday.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 9:1-6

Cameron Hayes-Durina

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

ANTHEM Here Am I

Senior Choir

Nolan Williams, Jr.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:15-24

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

SERMON

"Generosity Without Expectations Makes You Better"

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN 693 Though I May Speak

GIFT OF LOVE

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

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

OFFERTORY Sonata No. 4
II. Andante religioso

Felix Mendelssohn

*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

*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

Lori Kellner

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 339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation on We Shall Overcome

arr. Carl Haywood

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

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Grace Hammesfahr given in loving memory of her brother,
Col. David T. McKnight.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars.

She has slaughtered her animals; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

She has sent out her female servants; she calls from the highest places in the town, "You who are simple, turn in here!"

To those without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity and live, and walk in the way of insight."

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:15-24

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.' "

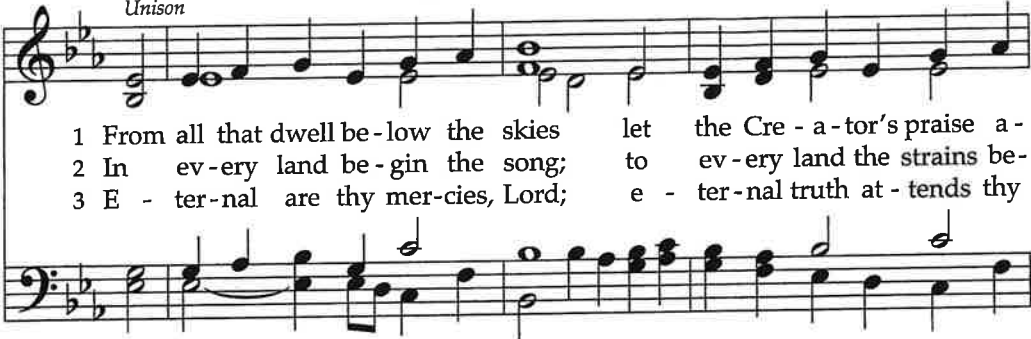
SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

327 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

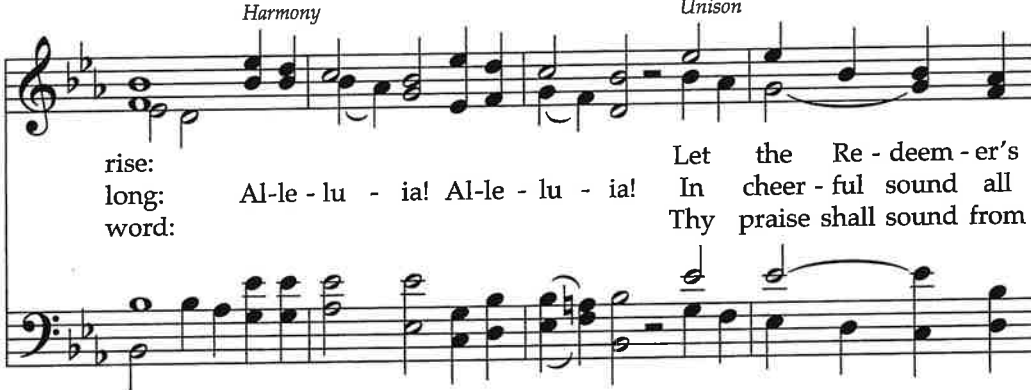
(Psalm 117)

Unison



1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
 2 In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery land the strains be -
 3 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy

Harmony *Unison*



rise: Let the Re - deem - er's
 long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all
 word: Thy praise shall sound from




name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.
 voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

Harmony



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison

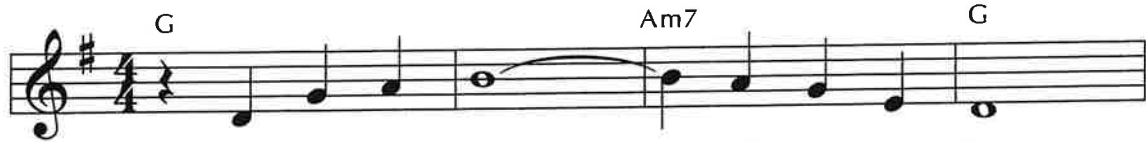


Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Though I May Speak

693

The Gift of Love



1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
 2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,
 3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;



and have the gift to all in - spire,
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
 our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love with - in,
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

As paraphrases of 1 Corinthians 13:1, 3 the first two stanzas here are in the first person singular, yet they lead into a plural prayer for the gift of such love, for it thrives in community. These words are especially poignant with this adaptation of an English folk melody.

339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

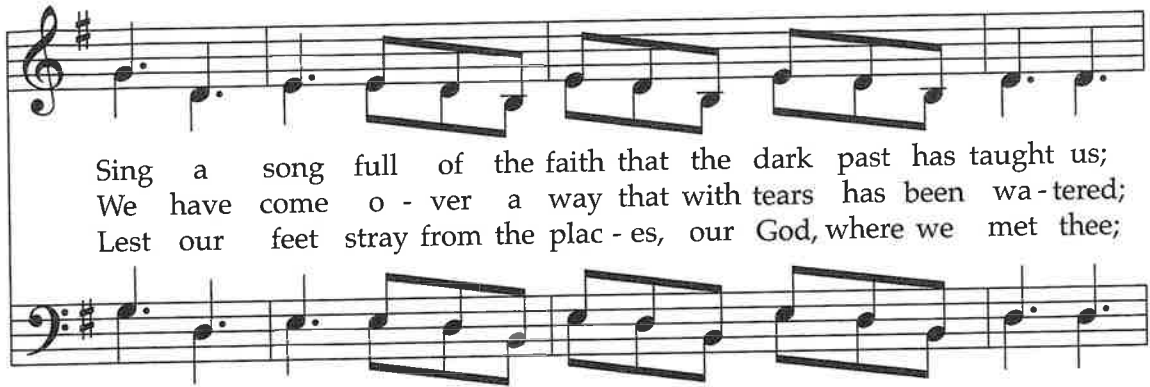
1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

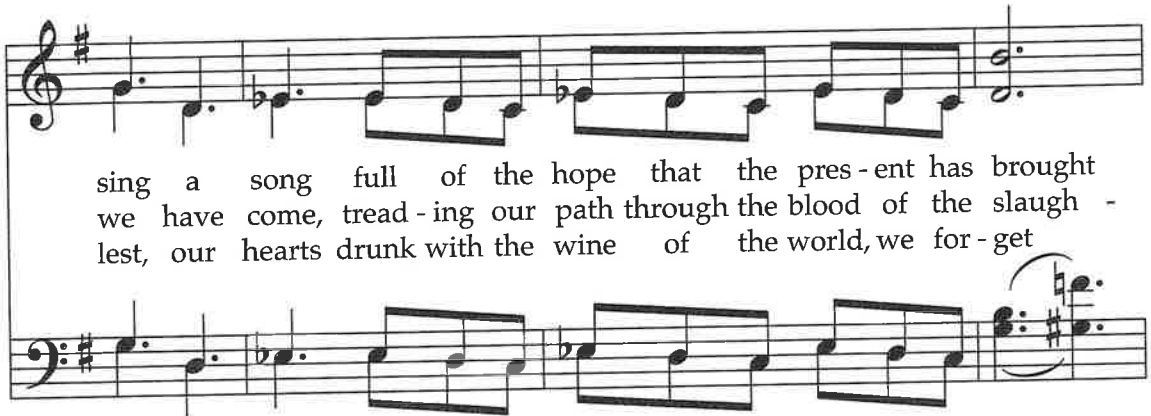
ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

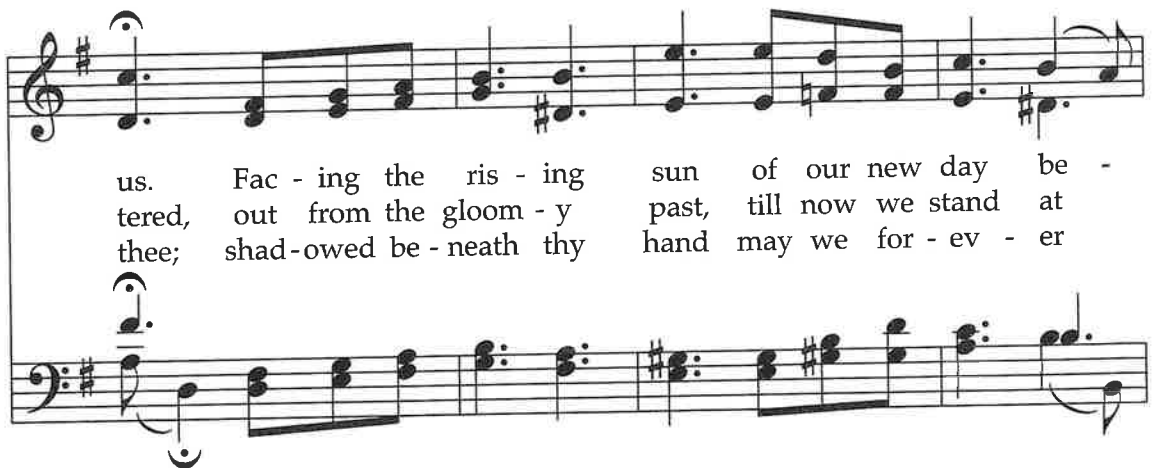
Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get



us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er



gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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.

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 Cubbage (*father of Laura Draper*)
*Mary Kay Dangremond
*Henry and Rita Dengah
Darla Dimatteo
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
Jay and family (*friend of Ingrid Hammond*)
Kalkan/Poandl family
Teresa Prete-Kaltenbach (*friend of the Hajjar family*)

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

*Susan Kozo
*Patricia Lagay
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*)
Maureen Muggeo (*Carla Trolaro's mother*)
Michael Murach (*Kristina Scoglio's cousin*)
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Linda Ngunda (*Malawian Matthew's wife*)
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehbler*)
*Dave Ryder
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
Cara Moskal Scacco (*niece of June Young*)
Karen Scoglio (*Kristina Scoglio's mother*)
*Lorraine Sheaffer
*Deb Sorensen
Katie Strittmatter (*friend of Kozo-Mollison family*)
Bud Wilson (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong

CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT FOR
Rosina Situmeang and family on the passing of
her husband Tom Situmeang on January 10. The
memorial and burial service was held January 17.

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:

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

And by appointment for other times

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Worship Service - Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.
After Worship Refreshments – Deacons Room . . 10:30 a.m.
Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF MLK Day

Hadassah Mitzvah Day – Social Center 9:00 a.m.
DBSA Support Group – Deacons Room 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Carol Choir – Choir Room 4:00 p.m.
Personnel – 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, JANUARY 21

B & G Meeting – PW Lounge 8:00 a.m.
Pastoral Bible Study – 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/Zoom . 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Shawl Circle – Session Room 7:00 p.m.
Youth Group – Room 201 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

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.
Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

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

Jan 28 Lunch & Games – Dining Room – Noon – 3:00 pm
Jan 31 Mission Volunteer Saturday – Auditorium – 9:00 am
Feb 1 Candlelight Concert – Sanctuary – 7:00 pm
Feb 2 Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge – 6:00 pm
Feb 3 Deacons Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
Feb 8 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 4:00 pm
Feb 10 PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge – 11:00 am
Feb 10 Unicameral Board – Chapel/Zoom – 7:30 pm
Feb 12 Local Mission -Auditorium – 11:45 am
Feb 12 Mission Commission – PW Lounge – 7:00 pm
Feb 19 Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium – 7:00 pm

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received January 11

Pledge	\$ 17,855
Non-pledge	\$ 465
Initial	\$ 105
Loose Plate	\$ 60
Other funds	\$ 144

TOTAL: \$ 18,629

OTHER RECEIPTS \$1,409

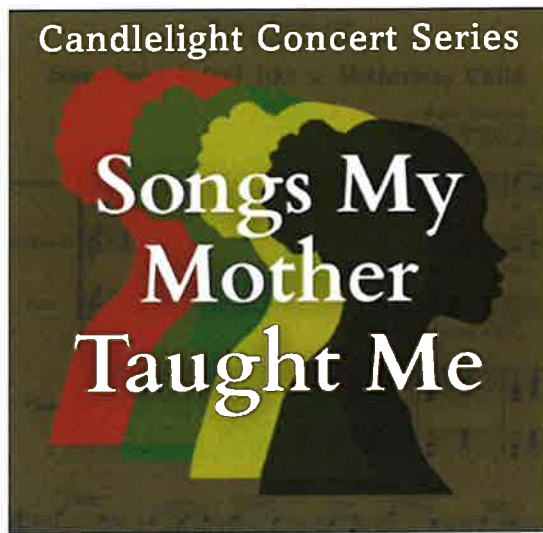
(Building Rental & Parking)

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



February 1st, at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Our next Candlelight Concert will tell the stories and legacies of African-American spirituals. Join the Music Ministry and Social Justice Committee as we kick off Black History Month with this special performance. Singing at this concert is baritone Jonathan Walker-VanKuren who will be accompanied on the piano by Tyler Canonico-Dilley. Tickets are available at the door.

MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

You may have noticed this year that you have a new envelope number. That was intentional. With more people using our online giving portal, this has cut down the use of pre-printed envelopes. In order to reduce costs, we have scaled down our print order which required us to reassign certain numbers. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our treasurer, Kevin Trolaro, by email: ktrolaro@fpcweb.org or (732) 491-2303 during office hours. Thank you!

Youth Group & Junior Club

TOPGOLF PARTY

Don't miss the chance to play golf, chat, eat great food and enjoy a great time together.

Wednesday, January 28

6:30 - 8:30 PM

TopGolf Edison

Scan to RSVP



FOR YOUTH GROUP AND JUNIOR CLUB!

Join us for a night of wintry fun! There will be food and drinks provided during the 2 hours of play time. The cost is \$10 per person, and an RSVP is required. Please use the above QR code to reserve your spot. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact JoAnne Bedenek (732) 692 - 3339 or Jen O'Neil Casey (732) 887 - 9536.

Join **MENCH Hadassah, First Presbyterian
Church of Metuchen, and Congregation
Neve Shalom** at our 21st annual
MITZVAH DAY

In loving memory of Judy Tabak
Monday, January 19, 2026, MLK, Jr. Day
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Social Center
First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen

Sign up by January 16th, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/yc646yvu>

This event fills up quickly - don't wait!

(We may not be able to accommodate walk-ins.)

Questions? Contact Wendy Hurwitz Kushner at
whkushner@gmail.com.



**Mitzvah Day is an opportunity to
give back to our community
through a variety of projects.**

- *Help prepare meals for residents of local shelters.
- *Create cards for kids and staff in hospitals.
- *Assemble platters of baked goods to deliver to local first responders.
- *Donate hygiene products and travel sized toiletries for local shelters.
- *Donate ingredients or money to offset the cost of food preparation.

Please bring canned goods and individually wrapped baked goods to donate. Thank you!

It will be a Super Bowl Tailgate!

**FREE COMMUNITY DINNER
EARLY KICKOFF**

**SUNDAY, | 4:00
FEBRUARY 8 | PM**

SOCIAL CENTER DINING ROOM
270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

Gear up for game day with food, friends, and fun!
This month's Community dinner will feature tailgate fare!
**So you can be home in time for Superbowl, we are serving dinner
an hour earlier, starting at 4:00 PM.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!
We have a place for you.

Questions? Call the Church office (732) 491-2300

Expect a good spread of tailgate food as we kickoff another year. However, it is the energy and eagerness to serve which our volunteers bring that make each a success.

If you can spare some time to volunteer, please let the committee know as they finalize plans.
Email Gilly McKie: gilly@mckie.com