

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN**

**March 15, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.**

**4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.fpcweb.org)**

**(732) 491-2300**

# GATHERING

## ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

Wendy Kukowski

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

**PRELUDE** Take It to the Lord in Prayer

Covenant Ringers

Sandra Eithun

## WELCOME & TIDINGS

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 103 adapted

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And all that is within me.

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And forget not all God's mercies.**

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And remember God's faithfulness.

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
So we may never forget our salvation.**

### \*HYMN 224 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ROCKINGHAM

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

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

God of steadfast love, hear our confession.  
Forgive our readiness to withdraw.  
For our flight from those in pain,  
For our deafness to those in despair,  
For our willingness to discard the broken.  
Gather us in prayer and purpose;  
Make us a community of friends.  
God of steadfast love, accept our confession. Amen.

### \*KYRIE

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have merc - - - cy up - on us.

Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have merc - - - cy up - on us.

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - - - cy up - on us.

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

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*During Lent, the Gloria is omitted as God's people reflect on the solemn, penitential nature of this season, in which we ask, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" The Gloria returns at Easter.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Pete Bellisano

*Nursery care up to age 2 is available in Room 107. Children 4 years to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be in Room 108 with Ms. Bridget, and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade will proceed to the GLOW Room.*

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Proverbs 2:1-11 (Old Testament page 585)

Janet Aspinwall

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

**ANTHEM** Give Me Jesus

Senior Choir

Craig Courtney

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 16:1-13 (New Testament page 79)

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

**SERMON**

"Friendship Makes You Better"

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

### SETTLING OF THE WORD

\***HYMN 697** Take My Life

HENDON

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

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

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** Jesu, Priceless Treasure

J. S. Bach

\***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 J. Henry

\***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 700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

I'M GONNA LIVE

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*In keeping with the season of Lent, the postlude is omitted and will return at Easter.*

*Our greeter this morning is Tom Giordano, and the ushers are Susan Hammer,  
Lori Kellner, and Wendy Kukowski.*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Helen Burr-Cackowski with heartfelt gratitude for  
the First Presbyterian Church music program.*

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

### Proverbs 2:1-11

My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding, if you indeed cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures— then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly, guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones.

Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path, for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; prudence will watch over you, and understanding will guard you.

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

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

### Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What

will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes."

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

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

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

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# 224 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This carefully crafted text from the beginning of the 18th century conveys much the same intensity and vividness as a miniature painting of Christ's crucifixion, and this lyrical and dignified tune reinforces the sense that time stands still while we share such meditation.

## Take My Life

697

1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in  
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -  
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -  
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as

cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.  
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne,  
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure store;  
 take myself and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee,  
 ever, only, all for thee.

This hymn of consecration radiates from the repeated word "take," resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person's attributes and possessions and giving weight to the "all" at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.

# 700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)  
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -  
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)  
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!  
 (an - y - time!) I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)  
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -  
 pray so (pray so)  
 sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!  
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

## 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*)

\*Lynne Angley

John Bertelsen and family (*Brother of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)

Linda Burr (*June Young's sister*)

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

Darla Dimatteo

George Doerbecker (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)

Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)

\*Judy Fuller

Marc Gale (*Marie Gale's husband*)

\*Marie Gale

\*Doris Gulotta

\*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)

\*Margaret Hathaway

\***Noah Haulenbeek**

Teresa Prete-Kaltenbach (*friend of the Hajjar family*)

\*Susan Kozo

\*Patricia Lagay Jetty Mailangkay (*wife of Rev. Herby Moningka*)

Dennis Maiuro (*Colleen Walker's brother-in-law*)

\*Ed Meyer

Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)

**Joseph Neupauer (*Marie Hoffsommer's brother*)**

**Alvin Newton (*Virginia Shaw's brother*)**

Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)

Lisa Qualben (*friend of Nancy Leardi*)

Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehler*)

\*Dave Ryder

Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)

Cara Moskal Scacco (*niece of June Young*)

\*Lorraine Sheaffer

\*Deb Sorensen

Katie Strittmatter (*friend of Kozo-Mollison family*)

Bud Wilson (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)

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 J. Henry 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:

**Jeremy B. – US Air Force, Currently deployed (*Son of Andrene Pennix's co-worker*)**

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 15

Worship Service - Sanctuary and Virtual . . . . . 9:30 a.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hour: A Fool's Boast - Chapel . . . . . 10:30 a.m.  
Youth Commission - PW Lounge . . . . . 10:30 a.m.  
After Worship Refreshments - Deacons Room . . 10:30 a.m.  
Indonesian Worship Service - Sanctuary . . . . . Noon  
Community Dinner - Social Center . . . . . 5:00 p.m.

### MONDAY, MARCH 16

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

### TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Carol Choir - Choir Room . . . . . 4:00 p.m.  
Social Justice - PW Lounge . . . . . 7:30 p.m.  
AA Support Group - Deacons Room . . . . . 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Pastoral Bible Study - PW Lounge . . . . . 10:30 a.m.  
Lenten Concert - Sanctuary . . . . . Noon - 12:30 p.m.  
Westminster Choir - Choir Room . . . . . 6:30 p.m.  
Trinity Ringers - Bell Loft . . . . . 7:00 p.m.  
Finance Comm. - Office Conference Rm . . . . . 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Shawl Circle - Session Room . . . . . 7:00 p.m.  
Youth Group - Room 201 . . . . . 7:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Concord Ringers - Bell Loft . . . . . 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.  
Crafty Ladies - PW Lounge . . . . . 1:00 p.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, MARCH 20

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 J. Henry

**Pastor Emeritus** Rev. Robert A. Beringer

**Parish Associate** Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas

## COMING SOON

Mar 22 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour: Psalms - Chapel - 10:30 am  
Mar 25 Lenten Concert - Sanctuary - Noon - 12:30 pm  
Mar 25 Lunch & Games - Dining Room - 12:30 - 3:00 pm  
Mar 29 Open Font Baptism - Sanctuary - 8:30 - 9:30 am  
Palm Sunday Service - Sanctuary - 9:30 am  
Apr 2 Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae  
Sanctuary - 7:30 pm  
Apr 5 Easter Sunrise Service - Cemetery - 7:00 am  
Easter Worship Service - Sanctuary - 9:30 am  
Easter Egg Hunt - Front Lawn - After worship  
Apr 6 Horizon Bible Study - PW Lounge/Zoom - 6:00 pm  
Apr 7 PW Coordinating Team - PW Lounge - 11:00 am  
Apr 7 Deacons Meeting - Chapel - 7:30 pm  
Apr 9 Local Mission - Auditorium - 11:45 am  
Apr 9 Mission Commission - PW Lounge - 7:00 pm

### TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received March 8

Pledge	\$ 6,674
Non-pledge	\$ 495
Loose Plate	\$ 232
Per Capita	\$ 789
Deacons	\$ 580
Other funds	\$ 185

**TOTAL: \$ 8,955**

**OTHER RECEIPTS \$758**  
**(Building Rental and Parking)**

### HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

**Direct** Cash or check in the plate are always welcome!  
**Online** From our website [fpcweb.org/give](https://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



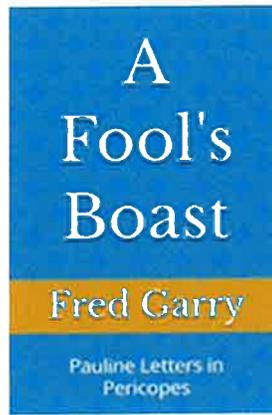
**FREE COMMUNITY DINNER  
TODAY, MARCH 15, 5:00 PM**

**SOCIAL CENTER DINING ROOM**

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and enjoy our menu of corned beef and cabbage, vegetarian shepherd's pie, salad, rolls and butter, and homemade dessert! Join us in community and fellowship.



**ALL ARE WELCOME!  
WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU!**



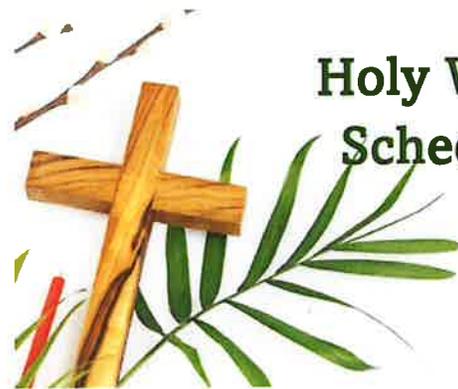
**2<sup>nd</sup> HOUR:  
A Fool's Boast  
10:30 am in the Chapel  
with  
Rev. Fred Garry and  
Helen Burr-Cackowski**

Rev. Garry's new book is offered as a Lenten devotional with hopes to build you up and mend what has been torn down. These letters of the Apostle Paul to churches presented in pericopes are to be "read with appreciation and care, with caution and trust, with devotion and critique," to bring peace.

Join Rev. Garry and Helen for an insightful look and discussion. There are just a few copies left in the church office and the Narthex.

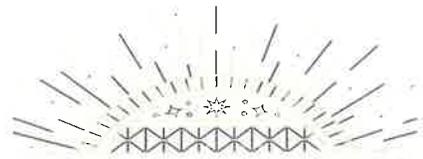


We offer to the community an open font baptism this Palm Sunday. All are welcome, adults and children alike. No church membership or donation is required as we extend this invitation. Feel free to call the church office if you or someone you know is interested to be baptized.



**Holy Week  
Schedule**

- March 29 Palm Sunday  
8:30-9:30 am Open Font Baptism Chapel  
9:30 am Multi-generational Sanctuary Worship Service
- April 2 Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae  
7:30 pm in the Sanctuary
- April 3 Indonesian Fellowship Good Friday Service  
7:30 pm in the Sanctuary
- April 5 Easter Sunrise Service  
7:00 am in the Cemetery  
Easter Worship Service  
9:30 am in the Sanctuary



## LENTEN CONCERT SERIES

WEDNESDAYS AT NOON  
IN THE SANCTUARY

March 18 Lyndon Ji, piano  
March 25 Eleanor Rees, soprano

Join us for some peace and calm in your day, each Wednesday of Lent. For only half an hour, refresh yourself with beautiful music for quiet reflection.



### EASTER PLANT ORDERS

Due next week, March 22nd

Celebrate the glory of Easter morning and honor your loved ones this April 5<sup>th</sup> with your Easter plant orders. Choose between white lilies, yellow tulips and pink tulips. To participate, fill out a form from the Narthex or the Social Center foyer, and return with your payment **to the Church Office by Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please note lilies and tulips have different prices. You are welcome to bring home your plant order, or if you choose not to, our deacons will deliver them to those who can be blessed with these.



For those attending Camp Johnsonburg this summer, PW is again offering Nancy's Camperships for FPC youth in grades 1 to 12 in the Fall. Camperships are given in memory of Nancy Blomn-Kipnis, an advocate for Camp Johnsonburg. To learn more about the 2026 Summer camp offerings, you may visit <https://www.campjburg.org/summer-camp/>.

As you plan for summer camps, take advantage of Nancy's Camperships by filling out a form available in the Narthex, Church office, or download from our website <https://fpcweb.org/resources/forms/> and look for the application for campership.

**FORMS ARE DUE ON MAY 27, Wednesday.**



Give hope this spring.

Give blood.



### BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, April 4

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

FPC Social Center Dining Room  
SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW!

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: FPCM

We invite you to donate if you are able. Maximize your blood donation and help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B- or A- donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component. Streamline your donation experience to save up to 15 minutes by using [RedCrossBlood.org/Rapid Pass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass). Use the QR codes below to schedule your appointment and use Rapid Pass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history.



Scan to Register

Scan for RAPID PASS



Sign up early so you can choose the time that is best for you. The spots fill up fast. Thank you!

**Questions?** Contact: Wendy Kukowski  
(732) 983-2457 [wkukowski14@gmail.com](mailto:wkukowski14@gmail.com)



### Save the date!

Children entering grades 2-9 are invited to attend FPC's first ever Summer Choir and Music Camp, Monday, August 10 to Friday, August 14. More details to come.