

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

March 22, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

5th 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

(732) 491-2300

GATHERING

ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

The Kibiru Family

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

PRELUDE Spiegel Im Spiegel

Arvo Pärt

WELCOME & TIDINGS

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 105 adapted

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, call out to God.

All: We will sing to the Lord, sing praise to God.

Leader: Glorify the Lord your God with all your heart;
Glorify God and seek God's presence always.

**All: The Lord has promised good to us;
Let our worship be an act of thanks and praise.**

*HYMN 215 What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDRIOUS LOVE

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

God of steadfast love, hear our confession.

Forgive our refusal of grace,

For the gift turned aside,

For the cup of cheer untasted,

For the kindness shunned as unneeded.

Give us the courage to accept love;

May we give and accept compassion.

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 merc - - - 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*HYMN 482 Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

PRESENTATION

Peter Joshua Clemente, son of Christine and Frank Clemente

Charlie Day, Clerk of Session

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

Rev. Khayla Johnson

THE BAPTISM

BLESSING & WELCOME

HYMN 480 Take Me to the Water (verse 1)

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa McCulley

Nursery care up to age 2 is available in Room 107. Children will proceed to the GLOW Room.

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.**

Gary Ostermueller

ANTHEM God So Loved the World Senior Choir

John Stainer

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 16:14-18 (New Testament page 79)
This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Delight Makes You Better"

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

***HYMN 728** Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

SOMEBODY'S KNOCKIN'

***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 Cello Suite No. 5 in C Minor, BWV 1011
IV. Sarabande

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)

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Russ Dickow

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER - Unison

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 840** When Peace Like a River

VILLE DU HAVRE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

*Our greeter this morning is Mark Haulenbeek, and the ushers are Gilly McKie,
 Andrene Sinclair-Pennix, and Yunus Ruhukay.*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of Jerry Young from June, Christine, and Richard,
 and from Gilly McKie in loving memory of her parents, Bob and Marie Cochrane.*

We thank cellist Paul Vanderwal for joining us this morning.

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 16:14-18

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they ridiculed him. So he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of others, but God knows your hearts, for what is prized by humans is an abomination in the sight of God.

"The Law and the Prophets were until John came; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is being proclaimed, and everyone tries to enter it by force. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter in the law to be dropped.

"Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and whoever marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery."

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

What Wondrous Love Is This 215

Dm C Dm C Dm Am

1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing

Dm C Dm C

soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and

Dm Am B^b Gm Am Em

won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful

G Dm C Am C Dm Am

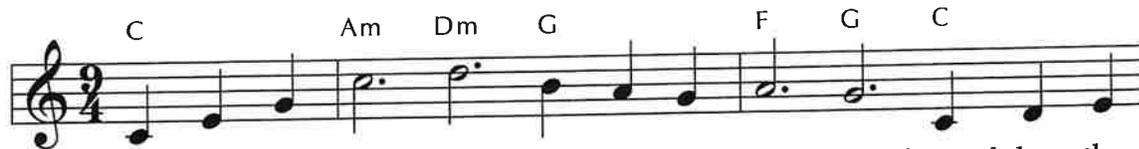
bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing

Em Am C Dm Am C Dm

soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

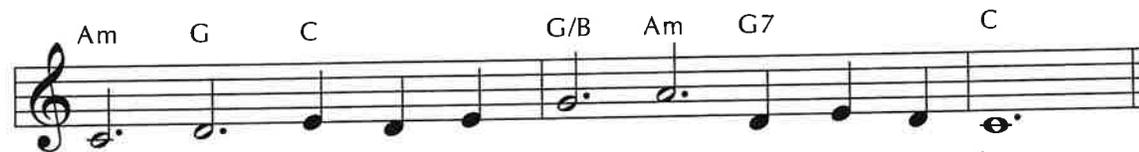
Baptized in Water



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the
 tomb with Christ our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

Each stanza of this compact and carefully constructed text about baptism begins with allusions to John 3:5 and Ephesians 1:13. The interplay of constant and changing lines accentuates each added image. It is set here to a Gaelic tune first transcribed in the 19th century.

728 Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door; some - bod - y's

knock-ing at your door; O sin - ner, why don't you

an - swer? Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door.

1 Knocks like Je - sus.
2 Can't you hear him? Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your
3 An - swer Je - sus.

The description of the Son of Man as standing at the door and knocking (Revelation 3:20) has given rise to many visual and verbal representations of that figure. This African American spiritual uses its repeated phrases to imitate knocking and to give immediacy to this encounter.

door. Knocks like Je - sus.
 Can't you hear him? Some-bod - y's
 An - swer Je - sus.

knock-ing at your door. O sin - ner, why don't you

an - swer? Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door.

840 When Peace like a River

It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul;
 It is well with my soul;

This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

it is well; it is well with my soul.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Trusting in the Promises of God". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics "it is well; it is well with my soul." are printed below the treble staff. The music ends with a double bar line.

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*)

*Fred Bergholz

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 Cubbage (*father of Laura Draper*)

Sophie Culton (*friend of the Reed family*)

*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*)

Diane Riddle

Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehbler*)

*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 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, MARCH 22

Worship Service - Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.
 2nd Hour: Book of Psalms – Chapel 10:30 a.m.
 After Worship Refreshments – Deacons Room . . . 10:30 a.m.
 Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, MARCH 23

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Carol Choir – Choir Room 4:00 p.m.
 AA Support Group – Deacons Room 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Pastoral Bible Study – PW Lounge 10:30 a.m.
 Lenten Concert – Sanctuary Noon – 12:30 p.m.
 Lunch and Games – Dining Room 12:30 p.m.
 Westminster Choir – Choir Room 6:30 p.m.
 Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.
 Youth Group – Room 201 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

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 27

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>



COMING SOON

- 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
- Apr 12 Community Dinner – Social Center – 5:00 pm
- Apr 14 Unicameral Board – Chapel/Zoom – 7:30 pm

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received March 15

Pledge	\$ 8,059
Non-pledge	\$ 280
Per Capita	\$ 983
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 265
Easter	\$ 100
Other funds	<u>\$ 285</u>

TOTAL: \$ 9,972

OTHER RECEIPTS \$160

(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!

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

Indonesian Pastoral Supply Rev. Leksmana Leonard

Director of Music Ministries Jordan Klotz

Minister of Music Emeritus Brenda Arnold Day

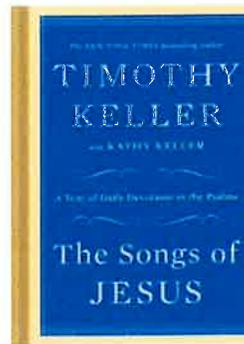
Director for Christian Education Nancy Leardi

An Invitation
OPEN FONT
Baptism
Palm Sunday
March 29
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
In the Sanctuary

all things have become new.
 2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV



We offer to the community an open font baptism this Palm Sunday. 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.



2nd HOUR:
The Songs of Jesus
Conversation on Psalms
10:30 am
in the Chapel
with Helen Burr-Cackowski

This 2nd Hour is a continuing study on the book of Psalms, to find inspiration each day from one of the most beloved books in the Bible.

LUNCH AND GAMES
Wed., March 25
12:30 – 3:00 PM
Social Center
Dining Room



Come and enjoy some time of fun fellowship. Bring a bagged lunch and your favorite board or card game. **This event is open to everyone.** We thank our deacons for hosting Lunch and Games.

Holy Week Schedule



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

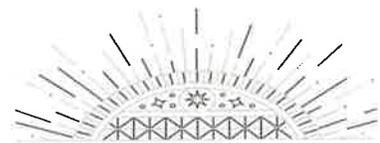


SPECIAL OFFERINGS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING AND FISH BANKS



As we anticipate Palm Sunday next week, we want to remind EVERYONE to bring their envelopes, and for the children their Fish Banks, for the special offering through the **One Great Hour of Sharing. The envelopes you received by mail, and Fish Banks will be collected next week, March 29, Palm Sunday.**



LENTEN CONCERT SERIES

WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

IN THE SANCTUARY

March 25 Eleanor Rees, soprano

Come to the final offering in the Lenten concert series, and be refreshed by the beautiful music from our soprano choral scholar, Eleanor Rees.



EASTER PLANT ORDERS

FINAL CALL TODAY, March 22nd



Celebrate the glory of Easter morning and honor your loved ones this April 5th 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 or offering plate by today. 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.



**FPC Food Pantry
Easter Packing
Tuesday, March 31
@ 7:00 pm**

Social Center Auditorium

Join us for our holiday packing event where we will bag Easter holiday food for 100 people! This is a great activity for kids of all ages!

Kids under 8 should BYOA (Bring Your Own Adult).

Scan the QR code to sign up. Spots are filling fast!



This is YOUR year!



Could 2026 be YOUR year to serve our church?

Do you see yourself serving as an Elder, Deacon, Audit Committee, All Church Nominating Committee (ACNC), Youth Elder, Youth Deacon, or on any of our many Commissions and Committees?

The ACNC is beginning the search to fill many positions within our church and we need your help. We need your voice, and we need your God-given gifts to continue our impact in the community, and grow our outreach. Are you ready to lend your time and talents to serve our church? We would love to hear from you.

Contact the church office or Carol Carr (908) 930-6748 for more information or to volunteer.

Give hope this spring.

Give blood.



BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, 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 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



Save the date!

Children entering grades 1-10 are invited to attend FPC's first ever Summer Choir and Music Camp, Monday, August 10 to Friday, August 14. More details to come.