

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

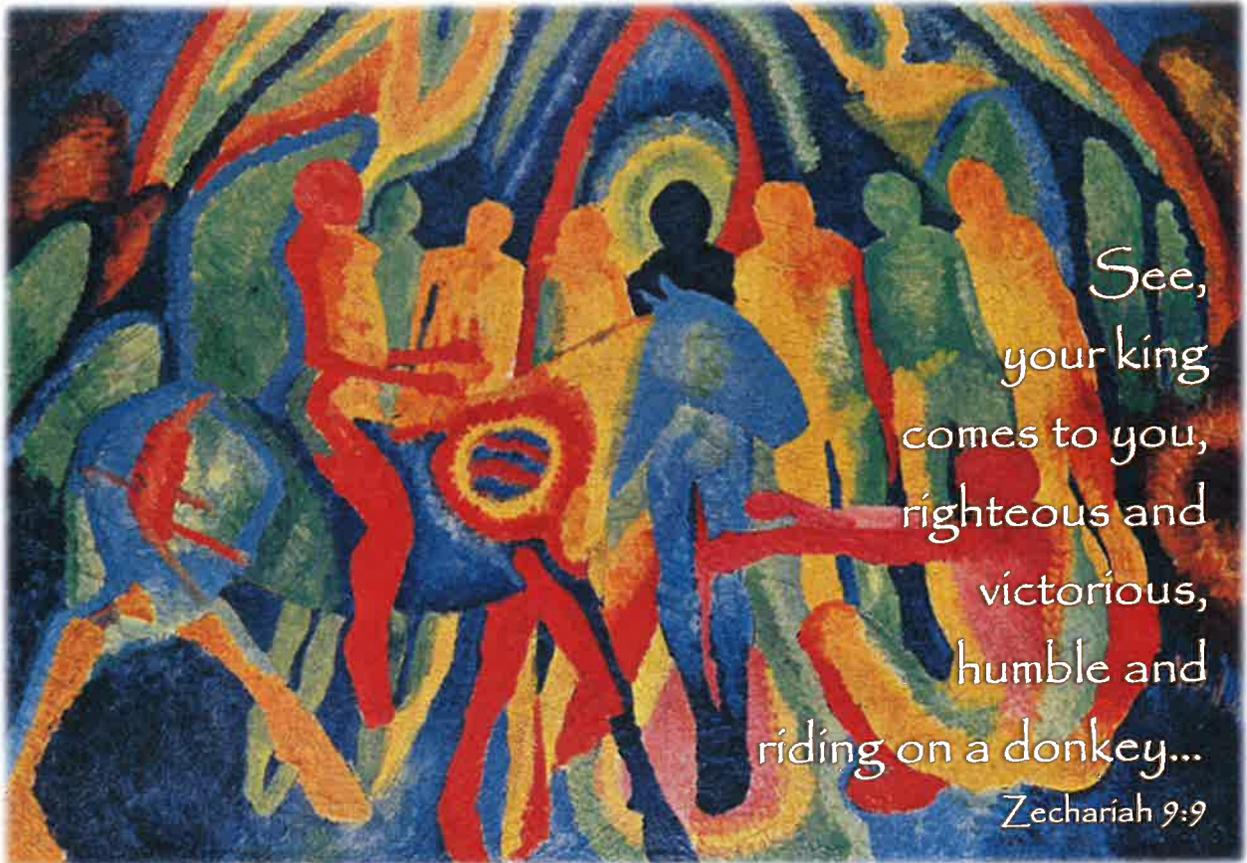


Photo credit: <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54247>

March 29, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday

One Church Together: An Intergenerational 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

The Berman Family

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

PRELUDE Hosanna, Loud Hosanna Concord Ringers

Cynthia Dobrinski

WELCOME/TIDINGS

Brian & Sophia Smith

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Garcia Family

Leader: Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

All: **Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!**

Leader: Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!

All: **Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!**

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: **Hosanna in the highest!**

*HYMN 196 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison Heather Koball & Eli Duhme

Lord Jesus Christ, how well you know our hearts, and still you love us; you have loved us to the end.

We have denied you, and we have denied our calling to serve one another.

We have betrayed you, and we have betrayed your commandment to love one another.

Pour out your Spirit of grace upon us.

Teach us to love and serve you faithfully;

and to love and serve one another by the example you have set for us;

in your holy name we pray. Amen.

*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

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Alicia & Carli James Lewis

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Presbyterian Puppeteers

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children 4 years to 2nd grade are welcome to join Lego Sunday in the GLOW Room with Ms. Fischer. All other ages remain in worship.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 118:19-29 (Old Testament p. 565) Jenna & Harley Connors

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

ANTHEM Walk in Jerusalem

Senior Choir

Rollo Dilworth

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 21:1-11 (New Testament p. 23)
This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

Nikolai Ratzkovich

SERMON

“What Do You Need?”

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN 197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna Verse 1, Freddie Berman , Verses 2-3, all

ELLACOMBE

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

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

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. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OFFERTORY Let This Mind Be In You

Senior Choir

Mrs. H.H.A Beach

Eleanor Rees, soprano & Kevin Catalon, baritone

*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

Laura & Charlie Pellicano

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Laura & Charlie Pellicano

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)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER – Unison

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

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 198 Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

ST. DROSTANE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Were You There Senior Choir African American Spiritual

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

A Choral Benediction will follow the Charge and Benediction, helping us to look to what lies ahead this Holy Week.

The Liturgical Shift: About Today's Offertory Anthem

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant,
and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man,
he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

This passage, Philippians 2:5-11, is one of the assigned Epistle reading for today, known in the liturgical calendar as "Palm/Passion Sunday." In the latter part of the 20th century, liturgical scholars discovered ancient Christian liturgies of "Palm/Passion Sunday," rather than "Palm Sunday" only. As we recreate the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, Philippians 2:5-11 helps mark a shift as we turn toward the week ahead and Christ's Passion.



Today's offertory is a setting of this text by the first American woman composer to be widely known and published, Mrs. H.H.A. Beach (1867-1944). Despite attaining considerable fame during her lifetime, her husband required her to limit her public performances to two a year. So, she devoted herself to composition, in which she was mostly self-taught; her husband did not approve of her studying with a teacher.

The Amy Beach setting of "Let This Mind Be In You" has become a favorite for church choirs to help mark this liturgical shift on the unique day that is Palm/Passion Sunday.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Hank Frank, with love and in honor of Deb Teall's birthday,
and from the Senior Choir, with love and in honor of Brenda Day on her birthday.*

*Today's greeters are MaryAnn Eide and Carli James Lewis,
and the ushers are Joanne and Zoltan Bedenek, Tom Giordano, and Wendy Kukowski.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 118:19-29

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang,
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! 198

1 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the
 2 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
 4 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur -
 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs
 an - gels in the sky look down with sad and
 pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to

sues its road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
 now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 mor - tal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

This 19th-century Palm Sunday text is better understood as the reflections of someone standing outside the event rather than as coming from those participating in the actual procession. This poignant text is set to a tune written especially for it later in the same century.

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*)
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

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

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 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*)
Art Wegg
Bud Wilson (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong

OUR CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT

To Laura Draper and her family on the passing of her father, William Arthur Cabbage, Jr., on March 20. Internment was held privately by the family.

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 Andre 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*)
Lt. Col. Matthew McQueeney, USAF, Pilot and D.O., deployed (*Son/Stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano*)
LT John Alexander Petr, U. S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Pennix Family friend*)
Mark Robinson, 82nd Airborne Division, deployed (son of Steve and Moggie Davis's 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 29

Open Font Baptism – Sanctuary 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

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

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

Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, MARCH 30

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

CARE Team – Office Conference Room 3:00 p.m.

Carol Choir – Choir Room 4:00 p.m.

Food Pantry Easter Packing – Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

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.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

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

Maundy Thursday Service – Sanctuary 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Indonesian Good Friday Service – Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Blood Drive – Social Center Dining Rm 9:00 a.m.–2:00 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

- 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 2nd Hour: Disability - Chapel – 10:30 am
- Apr 12 Community Dinner – Social Center – 5:00 pm
- Apr 14 Personnel Comm – Zoom – 7:30 pm
- Apr 15 B & G – PW Lounge – 8:00 am
- Apr 15 Prayer Shawl Circle – Session Room – 7:00 pm
- Apr 16 Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium – 7:00 pm
- Apr 19 Midnight on the Water – Sanctuary – 7:00 pm
- Apr 21 Unicameral Board – Chapel/Zoom – 7:30 pm

TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received March 22

Pledge	\$ 6,326
Non-pledge	\$ 1,911
Loose Plate	\$ 208
Per Capita	\$ 218
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 310
Other funds	\$ 248

TOTAL: \$ 9,221

OTHER RECEIPTS \$927
(Grant Income 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, 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

Holy Week Schedule



- 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

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.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING AND FISH BANKS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The envelopes you received by mail, and the Fish Banks you brought home will be collected today. Please put them on the offering plate
Let's be generous in sharing to others.



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



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.



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.

**Presbyterian Women
2026 SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**

**April 24, Friday
4:00 – 8:00 PM**



**April 25, Saturday
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Start cleaning out your closets— it's time for the Spring Rummage Sale!

WE WELCOME YOUR DONATIONS! PLEASE NOTE THE DROP-OFF TIMES WHEN THEY WILL BE ACCEPTED:

**April 20-22 Monday & Wednesday
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Tuesday only, 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

April 23 Thursday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM ONLY

PLEASE NOTE: Old TVs and computers will **NOT** be accepted; please contact your local Department of Public Works for correct disposal. We welcome hangers and shopping bags.

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO VOLUNTEER?

As with all rummage sales, volunteers are the heart of each and contribute to the success of the rummage sale.

Volunteers are needed Monday-Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm to receive donations, sort and set up and during sale hours on Friday night and Saturday. Friday dinner will be provided to all volunteers at 3 pm before the sale begins. Saturday our traditional Hot Dog Lunch will be served!

Volunteer Perks: Purchase in advance before we open to the community!



PW is partnering with Help Others Mission, a local non-profit, and PICKUP PLEASE. At the end of the sale, all charitable donations will go to Help Others Mission, to benefit the Metuchen Fire Department, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

CONTACT US: Cindy O'Neill mimabook@aol.com or Lori Kellner lgkellner@gmail.com

