



**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

April 12, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Easter

**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

Helen Burr-Cackowski

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & TIDINGS

Rev. Leksmana Leonard

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 16 adapted

Leader: I keep my eyes always on the Lord;

All: With Him at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Leader: You will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

Nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

All: You make known to me the path of life;

You will fill me with joy in your presence.

*HYMN 248 Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

HYMN TO JOY

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

God of mercy, hear our honest confession.

Forgive us when we forget our calling as your beloved people:

Created in your image, yet often hesitant to see that in others;

Called to bring peace, yet afraid of conflict or discomfort;

Invited to live out our faith boldly, but too often hide in silence.

Renew our hearts and spirits with courage and creativity.

God of mercy, hear our honest confession. Amen.

*KYRIE



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

Glo - ry be to God, Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be. World with-out end. A - men! A - men!

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Nancy Leardi

Nursery care up to age 2 is available in Room 107. Children Pre-K to 5th grade are welcome to exit to the GLOW Room for a Bible story and activity.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 1:3-9 (New Testament page 232)

Jan Margolis

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

ANTHEM

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-31 (New Testament page 114)

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

SERMON

"Peace Be With You"

Rev. Leksmana Leonard

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

***HYMN 286** Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

***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

***DOXOLOGY 609**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus, fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Leksmana Leonard

***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)

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 234 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain**

ST. KEVIN

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Our greeter this morning is Deb Teall, and the ushers are Marty Brennan, Eli Duhme, Heather Koball, and Kristina Scoglio.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Gilly McKie in honor of the Community Dinner volunteers and our guests.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

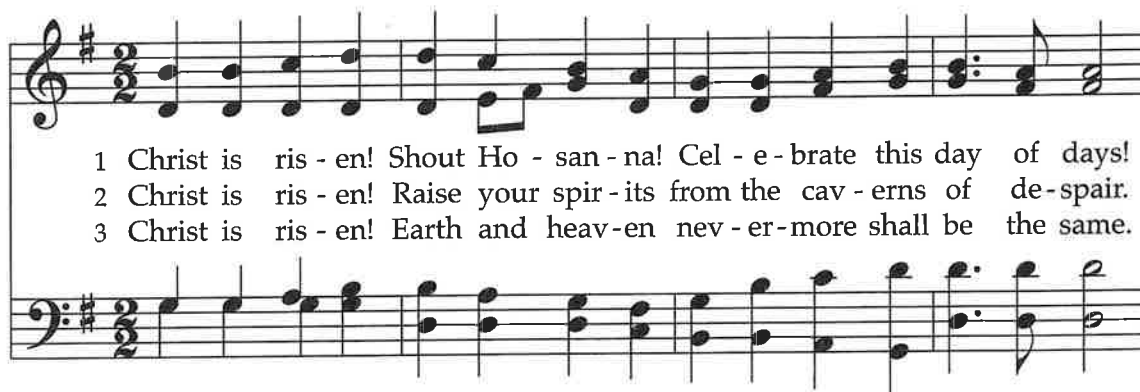
A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

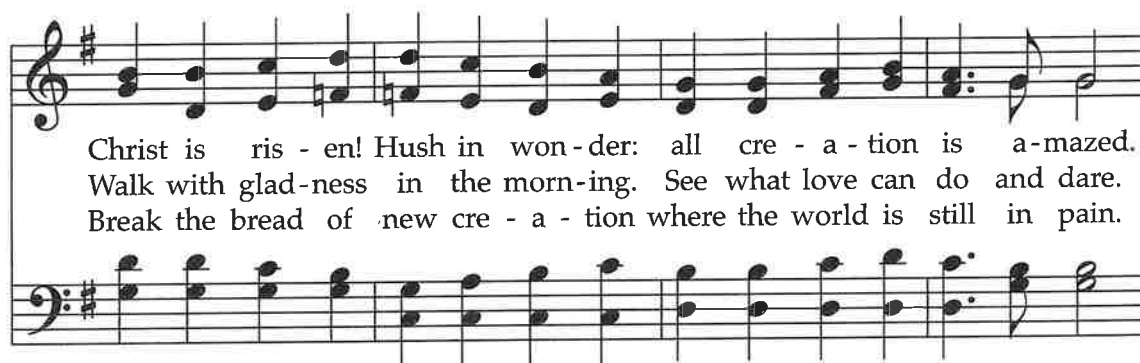
SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

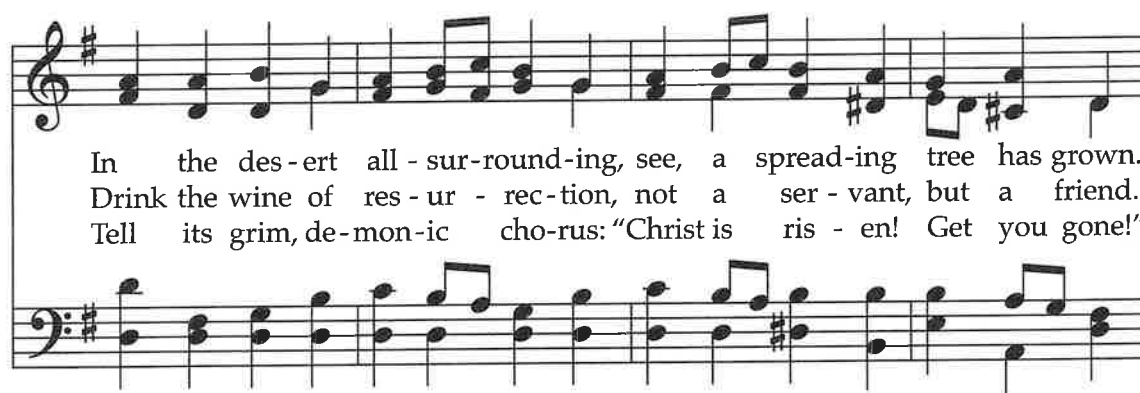
Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248



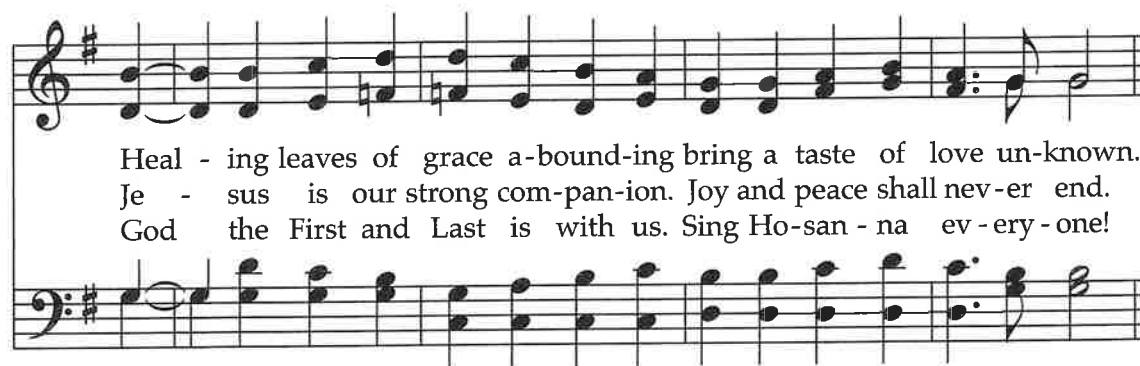
1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - er - y - one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

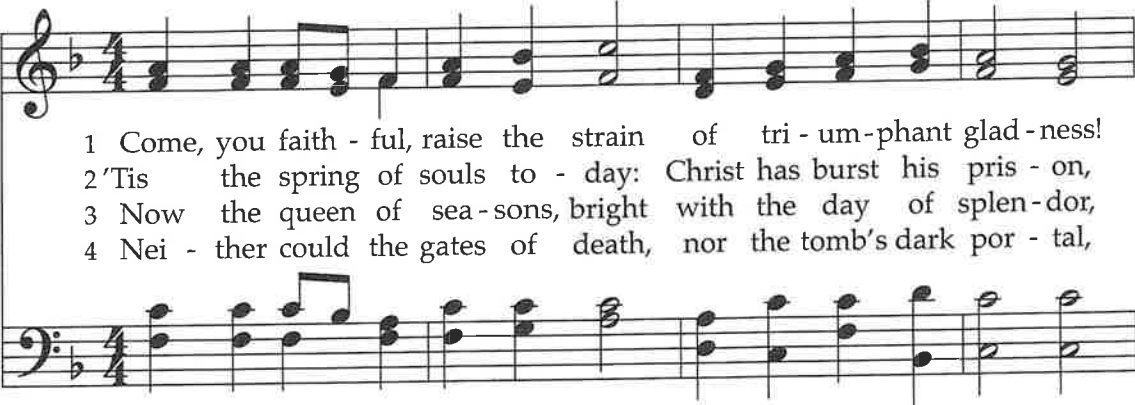
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

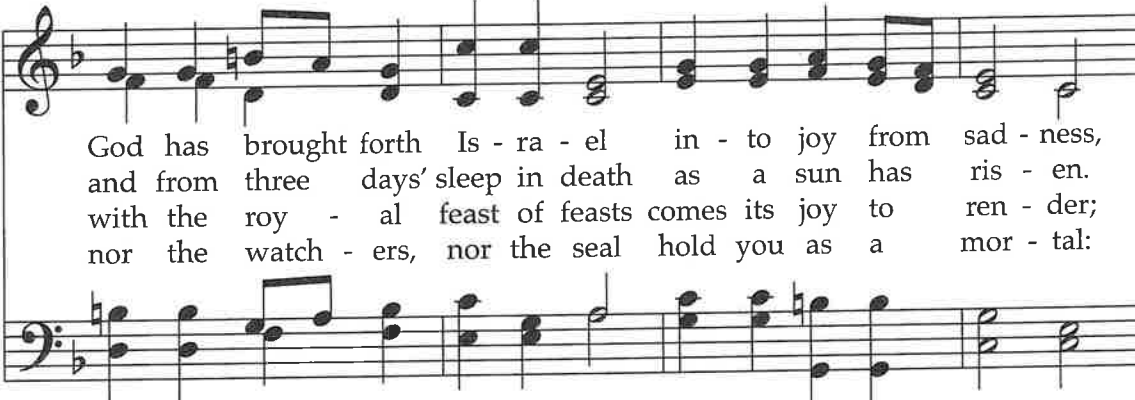
TEXT: Edwin Hatch, 1878
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
SM

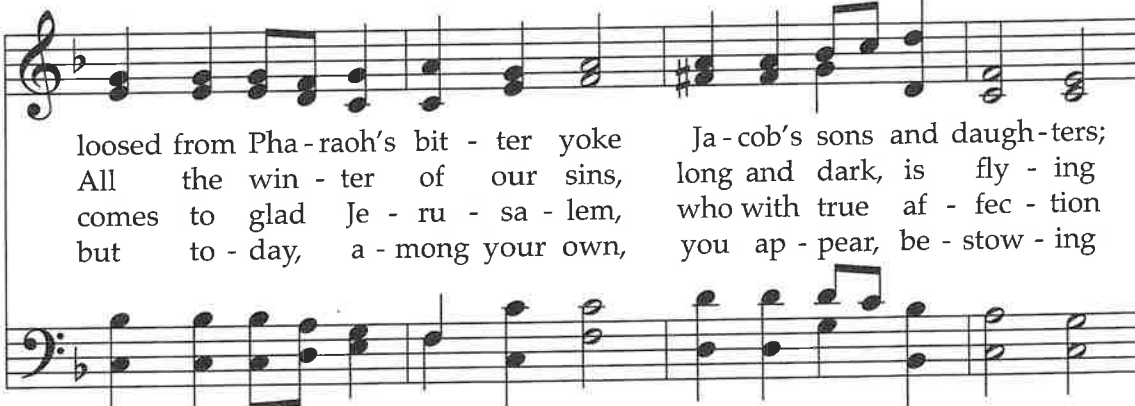
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain 234



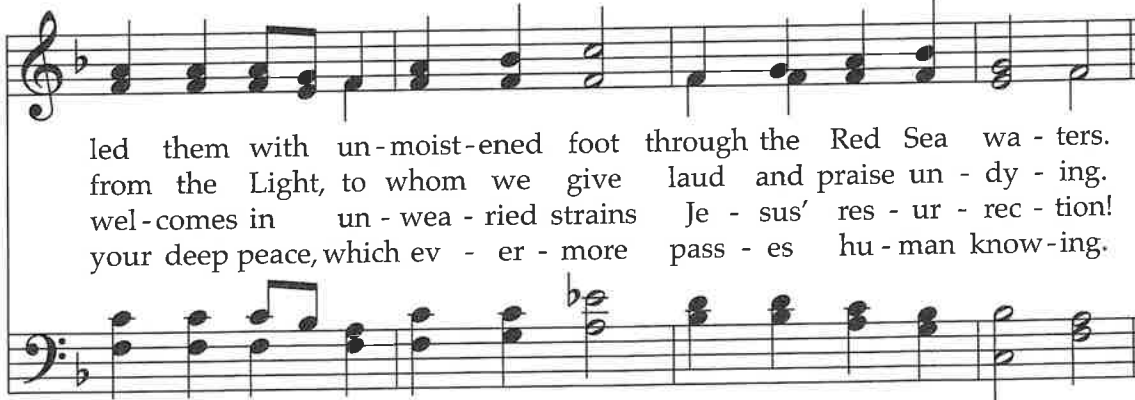
1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal:



loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

One of the many ancient hymns translated into English in the 19th century, this 8th-century Eastertide hymn was originally part of a longer Greek liturgical text. This tune was created for this text by a church organist who later rose to fame as a composer of operettas.

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*)
***Abby Kozo**

*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*)
Johanne Servil (*friend of Margo Gunsser*)
*Lorraine Sheaffer
*Deb Sorensen
Katie Strittmatter (*friend of Kozo-Mollison family*)
Art Wegg
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 us in the Church office and we will arrange for either Rev. Glory Thomas or Rev. Leksmana Leonard to visit, or offer prayers for you. You may call (732) 491-2300 during office hours, Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

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*)
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, APRIL 12

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

2ND Hour: Disability and Bias – Chapel 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, APRIL 13

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Carol Choir – Choir Room 4:00 p.m.

Personnel Commission – Zoom 7:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

B & G – PW Lounge 8:00 a.m.

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

Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.

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

Youth Group – Room 201 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

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

Local Mission – Auditorium 11:45 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 - 6:15 p.m.

Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

Mission Commission – PW Lounge 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, APRIL 17

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

Apr 19 Youth Commission – PW Lounge – 10:30 am

Apr 19 Midnight on the Water – Sanctuary – 7:00 pm

Apr 21 Unicameral Board – Chapel/Zoom – 7:30 pm

Apr 21 Social Justice – Office Conf. Room – 7:30 pm

Apr 20-23 Spring Rummage Sale Set-up – See flyer

Apr 24 Spring Rummage Sale – Social Center
- 4:00 to 8:00 pm

Apr 25 Spring Rummage Sale – Social Center
- 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Apr 28 CARE Team – Office Conference Room – 3:00 pm

Apr 29 Lunch and Games – Dining Room – Noon to 3:00 pm

PER CAPITA UPDATE: As of last week, we have only received per capita payments from 36% of the congregation. If you have not paid your per capita of \$42 per member, there is still time! Please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received April 5

Pledge	\$ 5,443
Non-pledge	\$ 1,278
Loose Plate	\$ 772
Deacons Fund	\$ 315
Easter	\$ 1,765
Other funds	\$ 324

TOTAL: \$ 9,897

OTHER RECEIPTS \$195

(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

TODAY'S 2ND HOUR:

Unconscious Bias and Disability In the Chapel, After worship

Come and join facilitators, Amy Bertelsen-Robles and Javier Robles, at this fun and interactive Second Hour Forum.

As human beings, we all make unconscious assumptions and associations, but what do we do with them? Together, we will explore the meaning of bias, the connection between our brains and bias, and leave with positive strategies to address our own biases, particularly those focusing on disabilities.

Grab some coffee and snacks at Coffee Hour, and bring them to the chapel for this Second Hour Forum. See you there!



Mother's Day, May 10

Honor your loved ones this Mother's Day with a gift to Church World Service (CWS) Blankets program. Your gift of a CWS Blanket brings comfort, care and hope to someone facing a difficult moment. Your generosity makes this possible. Every blanket you share tells a neighbor, "You're cared for."

Our Presbyterian Women are spearheading this year's CWS Blankets fundraiser.

Those being honored will receive a card by mail in time for Mother's Day. The donors' names and the people they are honoring and remembering will be in the Mother's Day worship bulletin.

Forms are now available in the Narthex and from our website: <https://fpcweb.org/resources/forms/> We ask that you observe the deadline so we can be prompt with our mailing of cards.

FORMS AND PAYMENT ARE DUE APRIL 26th

4+

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

TODAY, APRIL 12 @ 5:00 PM

SOCIAL CENTER DINING ROOM





Join us in community and fellowship today. Enjoy a meal with an Asian twist. There will be Asian BBQ chicken, vegetable stir fry, rice, crisp Asian slaw, and a homemade dessert.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

We have a place for you.

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Catch the bug this summer!

2026 Vacation Bible Camp



JUNE 29 to July 3, 2026

9:00 to 11:45 am

For children K to 6th Grade (by Fall 2026)

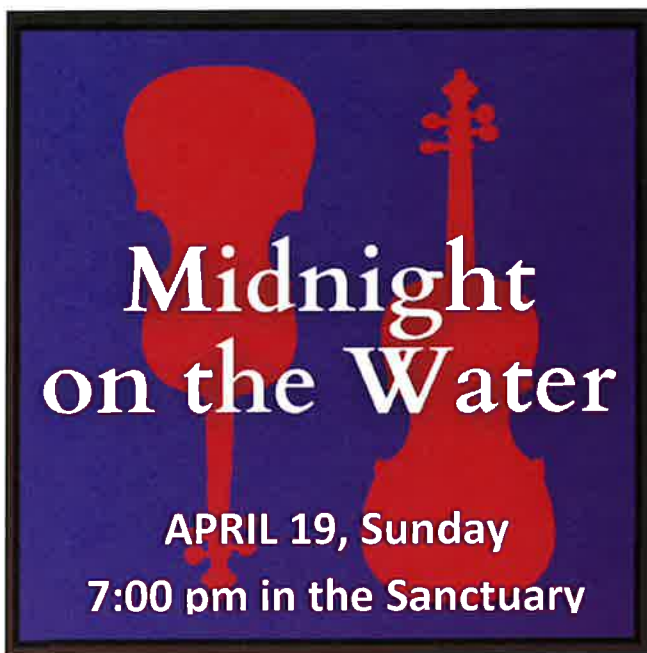
Registration is now ongoing. Scan the QR code to sign up your kids!



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.



Two events from our Music Ministry that you don't want to miss.

The final offering in the Candlelight Concert Series is next week with a performance by a string trio. Secondly, save the date for what will be a very special evening planned by our Music Ministry.

**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 DONATIONS 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 Igkellner@gmail.com

