



**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

July 26, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

9th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & TIDINGS

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Julia Hajjar & Lucy Ongteco

Leader: Blessed be God whose word gives hope and shapes our dreams,

All: **Whose love has conquered death.**

Leader: Blessed be God who orders our way and guides our steps,

All: **Who leads us into life.**

Let us worship together.

*HYMN 386 Come, Worship God

O QUANTA QUALIA

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Taylor Welsh & Betty Kiru

God, we long to follow You,

to walk in the way that You have shown us.

But we confess that we are easily distracted,

lured away by our own interests and desires.

Forgive us.

Turn our eyes away from the things that distract us from you.

Give us a hunger for Your Word and Your ways.

Show us where true life and happiness are found,

in knowing and doing Your will. 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

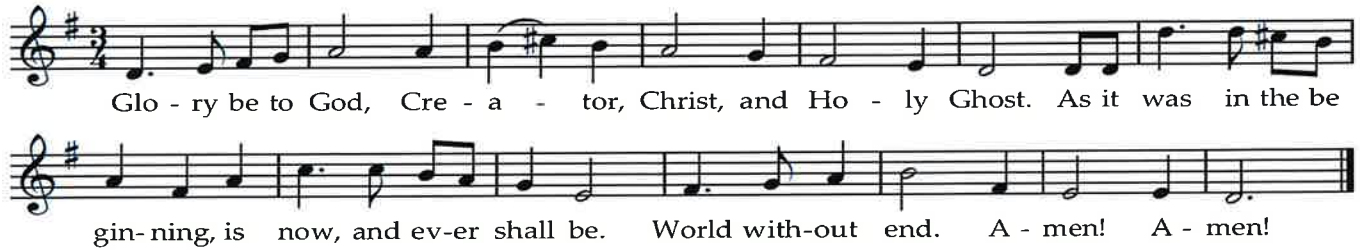
Myles Bourne

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

*GLORIA



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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Nursery care up to age 2 is available in Room 107. Children Pre-K to 5th grade will exit to the GLOW Room.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Don Wallace

LISTENING

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 119:129-136 (Old Testament page 569)

Wally Cook

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING 1 Kings 3:5-12 (Old Testament page 306)

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

SERMON

Who's In Charge?

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

RESPONDING

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN 721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

*CONFESSION OF FAITH (from the Brief Statement)

Beth Russian

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 true 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

Martin Brennan

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Jack & Julia Teti

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Jack & Julia Teti

The peace of Christ be with you . . . And also with you.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

William Hajjar & Eli Bourne

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.

SENDING

***HYMN 300** We Are One in the Spirit

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

*Our greeter this morning is Wendy Kukowski, and the ushers are Marty Brennan,
Betty Kopetz, Sue West, Ronnie Kaminski, Zachary Bedenek, and Owen Berman.*

The sanctuary flowers are given by Russ and Maggie Dickow given in honor of our Church family.

*The flowers in the niche are from Wendy Kukowski given in loving memory of Oscar Zanoni.
Happy heavenly birthday on July 29th!*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.

Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.

Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you."

And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

Come, Worship God

(Psalm 95)



1 Come, wor-ship God, who is wor- thy of hon- or;
 2 Ruled by your might are the heights of the moun- tains;
 3 We are your peo- ple, the sheep of your pas- ture;
 4 Now let us lis- ten, for you speak a- mong us;

en- ter God's pres- ence with thanks and a song!
 held in your hands are the depths of the earth.
 you are our Mak- er, and to you we pray.
 o- pen our hearts to re- ceive what you say.

You are the rock of your peo- ple's sal- va- tion
 Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
 Glad- ly we kneel in o- be- dience be- fore you;
 Peace be to all who re- mem- ber your good- ness,

to whom our ju- bi- lant prais- es be- long.
 God a- bove all gods, who gave us our birth.
 great is the one whom we wor- ship this day!
 trust in your word, and re- joice in your way!

Psalm 95, often called *Venite* from its first word in Latin, has long served as an opening canticle in the worship of Western Christianity. John Calvin found here two reasons to praise God: for sustaining the created world and for adopting the church into a gracious relationship.

721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Tú has venido a la orilla



1 Lord, you have come to the lake - shore look - ing
 2 You know so well my pos - ses - sions; my boat
 3 You need my hands, full of car - ing, through my
 4 You, who have fished oth - er o - ceans, ev - er



nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones; you on - ly
 car - ries no gold and no weap - ons; 7 you will
 la - bors to give oth - ers rest and con - stant
 longed for by souls who are wait - ing, my lov - ing



asked me to fol - low hum - bly.
 find there my nets and la - bor.
 love that keeps on lov - ing.
 friend, as thus you call me:

Refrain / Estribillo



O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while
 Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos, son - ri -



smil - ing have spo - ken my name; now my
 en - do has di - cho mi nom - bre, en la g -



boat's left on the shore - line be - hind me. By your
 re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca, jun - to g -



side I will seek oth - er seas.
 ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



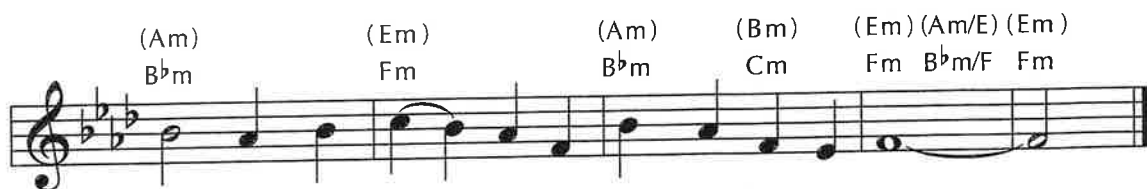
we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

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*)
*Helen Burr-Cackowski
Dorothy Canary (*aunt of Sue Harmon*)
Luis Canton (*Laurie Toth's father*)
Diane Cassidy (*Susan Kozo's cousin*)
Sophie Culton (*friend of the Reed family*)
*Mary Kay Dangremond
George Doerbecker (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)
*Judy Fuller
*Doris Gulotta
*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)
*Margaret Hathaway
*Noah Haulenbeek
Teresa Prete-Kaltenbach (*friend of the Hajjar family*)
*Brad Keller
*Susan Kozo
Jetty Mailangkay (*wife of Rev. Herby Moningka*)
Dennis Maiuro (*Colleen Walker's brother-in-law*)
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
Joseph Neupauer (*Marie Hoffsommer's brother*)

Alvin Newton (*Virginia Shaw's brother*)
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Marian Pflaumer (*Relative of Dan & Maggy Cook*)
*Javier Robles
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehbler*)
*Dave Ryder
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
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

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT TO

Virginia Shaw, her son Jackson, and the Shaw family on the sudden passing of her husband, Reynolds Shaw, on the afternoon of July 21. The burial and memorial service is planned for July 31; details will be shared as soon as it's finalized.

PASTORAL CARE: If you or a family member is in the hospital, please contact Dr. Rev. 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, Stationed in Arkansas (*Son of Andrene Pennix's co-worker*)
PFC Daniel Eide, stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona (*grandson of Mary Ann Eide*)
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, Chicago, IL (*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, JULY 26

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

Sunday Book Club – Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

After Worship Refreshments – Chapel 10:30 a.m.

Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, JULY 27

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

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

TUESDAY, JULY 28

Support Group – Chapel 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

Pastoral Bible Study – PW Lounge. 10:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

FRIDAY, JULY 31

Women's AA Support Grp – Chapel 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:

Scan the QR code or visit our website

<https://bit.ly/4emWby6>



COMING SOON

Aug 10 – 14 FPC Choir and Music Camp

Aug 22 Blood Drive – Dining Room - 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Aug 29 Joint Elders and Deacons Retreat – Social Center
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

will return next week.

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



August 10-14, 2026



There are some spots still available! Give your child a week of exceptional, and joyful music-making program this summer. Choose from:

Young Voices Track **Entering Grades 1 – 3**
 9:00 am – 1:00 pm \$75/child, includes snacks
 After Care 1:00 – 3:00 pm \$75/child (on request)

Choir and Bells Track **Entering Grades 4 – 10**
 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (Mon. – Thurs.), 1:00 pm (Fri.)
 \$150/child, includes lunch and snacks

Families registering more than one child receive a discount.

A faculty of music professionals, teachers, and dedicated volunteers will lead the camp. Pick up a brochure to learn more. Registration is still open.

Scan the QR code above to register.

MISSION POSSIBLE

NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

SUMMER ISSUE 2026



WHAT'S INSIDE

Mission News

Updates on Makul
 State

And more...



Sarah Telt
 Director of Mission

Message from the Director

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Reflecting on the incredible impact we made together fills my heart with deep gratitude. Thanks to your unwavering support, our mission work continues to serve as a vital lifeline in our local community and across the globe. Here is a look at what our dedication has accomplished and the exciting journey ahead:

- **6,000 Lives Impacted:** In 2025, our food pantry directly served 6,000 individuals across Metuchen and Edison. We are on track this year to exceed 8,000.
- **Bountiful Harvest:** Our community gardeners have started another exceptional year of cultivating fresh produce for our clients. We extend a special thank you to our partners at Grow for the Hungry for providing their invaluable expertise.
- **The Inaugural Missionfest:** We recently hosted our very first Annual Missionfest! It was a beautiful celebration honoring the diverse community groups and congregational ministries that partner with us daily.
- **Journey to Mission:** Looking ahead, I am eager to lead our next mission trip to Makul, alongside dedicated congregational members whose leadership remains integral to our global partnerships.

Every hour volunteered, seed planted, and dollar donated strengthens this mission.

With profound gratitude,
 Sarah Telt, Mission Director

Read the latest news and updates from Mission with their summer issue of Mission Possible. Scan the QR code to read, or pick up a copy from the Narthex or Social Center.



Donate Blood

IN HONOR OF NOAH

Celebrate life and make a difference. Blood is needed for many; it could be a young child with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, or a friend in a car accident. Please schedule an appointment to donate at this special blood drive. Feel good knowing you have helped change the lives of patients in need.

BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, August 22, 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

Enter: FPCM to schedule an appointment

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 and save up to 15 minutes by using RedCrossBlood.org/Rapid Pass. 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



Donors receive a \$20 Amazon gift card by email.



Questions? Contact Deacon Wendy Kukowski