



August 30, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
14th 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. Dr. Fred G. Garry

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls us to a house of mercy.

All: Let us walk unto grace.

Leader: God calls us to a house of justice

All: Let us walk without shame.

Leader: God calls us to a house where the least are the greatest.

All: Let us walk unto a new creation where we come as a child.

Leader: God calls us to worship today.

All: We walk rejoicing and glad in it.

*HYMN 687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

Leader: Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly.

All: We know what to do, but stumble.

Leader: Turn from anger and leave vengeance aside.

All: We believe, help our unbelief.

Leader: What good is it for you to love those who love you
if you fail to love the broken and those who broke you?

All: We trust in a love without contradiction;

We believe love can conquer all except what we hate.

Leader: Remove the hold of fear and live unto the kingdom of God.

All: We seek to be free; give us the courage to live what we seek. 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

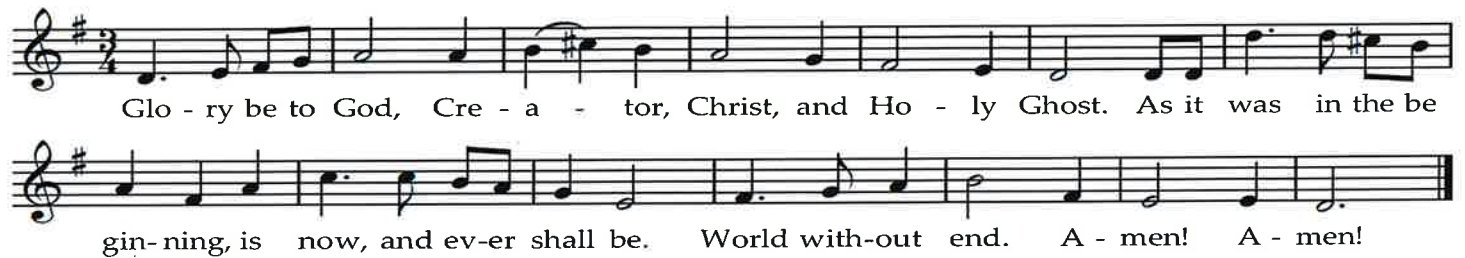
*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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 is available in Room 107.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

PRESENTATION

Charlie Day, Clerk of Session

Zoey Paige Slevin, daughter of Lark and Christopher Slevin

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

THE BAPTISM

HYMN 480 Take Me to the Water (verse 1)

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

LISTENING

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:21-26 (New Testament page 4)

Sue West

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 19:45-47 (New Testament page 83)

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

SERMON

Evil Eyes and Cold Shoulders Don't Work

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

RESPONDING

SETTLING OF THE WORD

***HYMN 769** For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** (from the *Brief Statement of Faith*)

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

*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

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

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 438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

TOPLADY

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please rise in body or spirit.

*The rose on the chancel rail is in celebration of Tyler Robert Casey born August 22nd,
to Jennifer (O'Neill) and Tim Casey. The proud grandmother is Cindy O'Neill.*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Heather Koball in loving memory of her parents,
Betty Hawkes Koball and Walter Koball.*

*Our greeter this morning is Fred Bergholz, and the ushers are Betty Kopetz,
Wendy Kukowski, and Beth Russian.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:21-26

"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder,' and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 19:45-47

Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there, and he said, "It is written,

'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him.

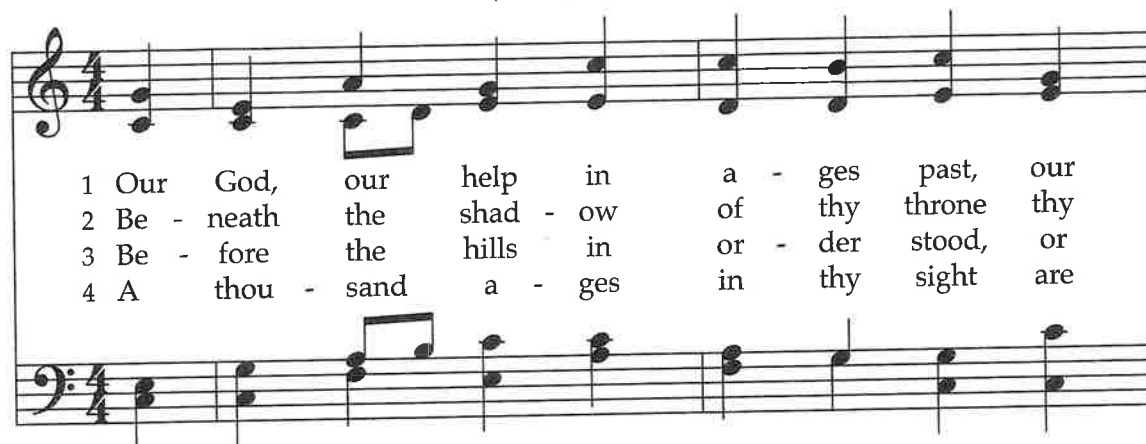
SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

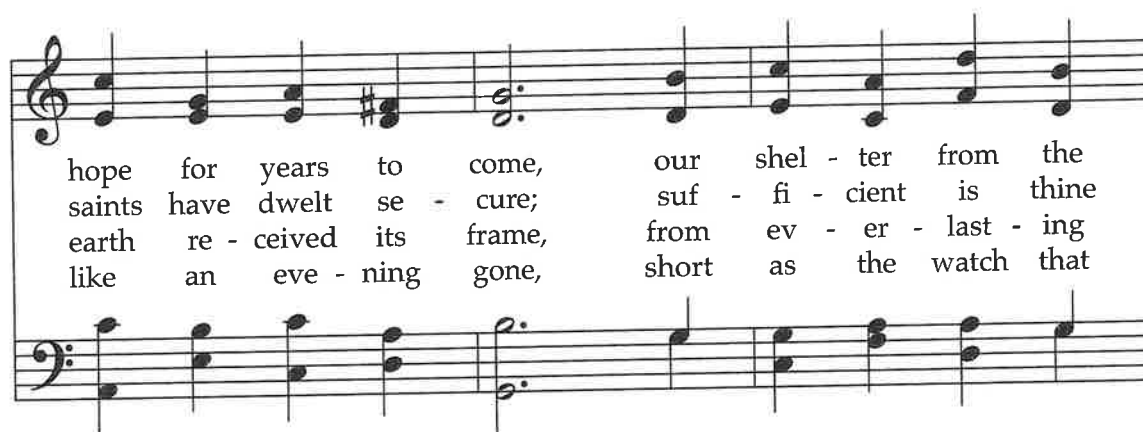
*New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021
National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used
by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.*

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

Take Me to the Water

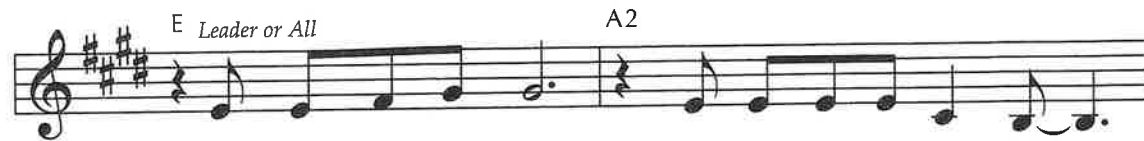
1 Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -
 2 I love Je - sus. I love Je -
 3 He's my Sav - ior. He's my Sav -
 4 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu -

ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
 sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.
 ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.
 jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

This African American spiritual sums up the commitment of a candidate for baptism: the request for the rite, an expression of motivation, and a succinct affirmation of faith. The widening melodic lines build anticipation and give weight to the final phrase of each stanza.

769

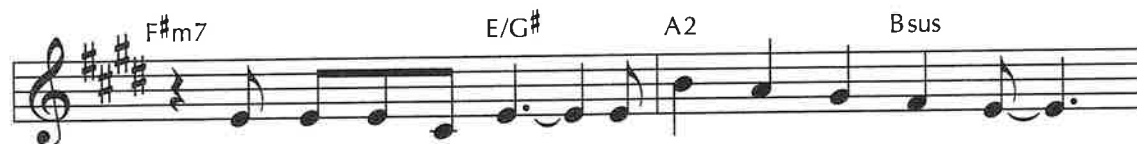
For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

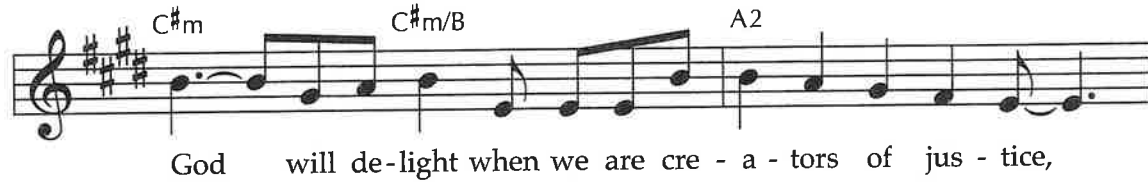
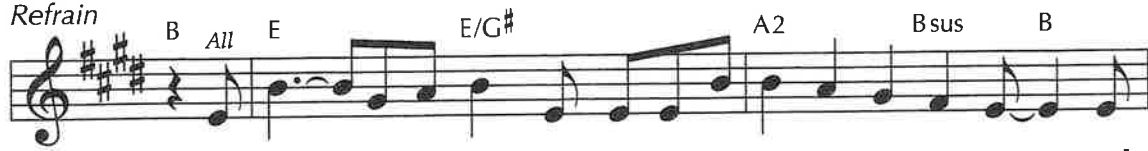


for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

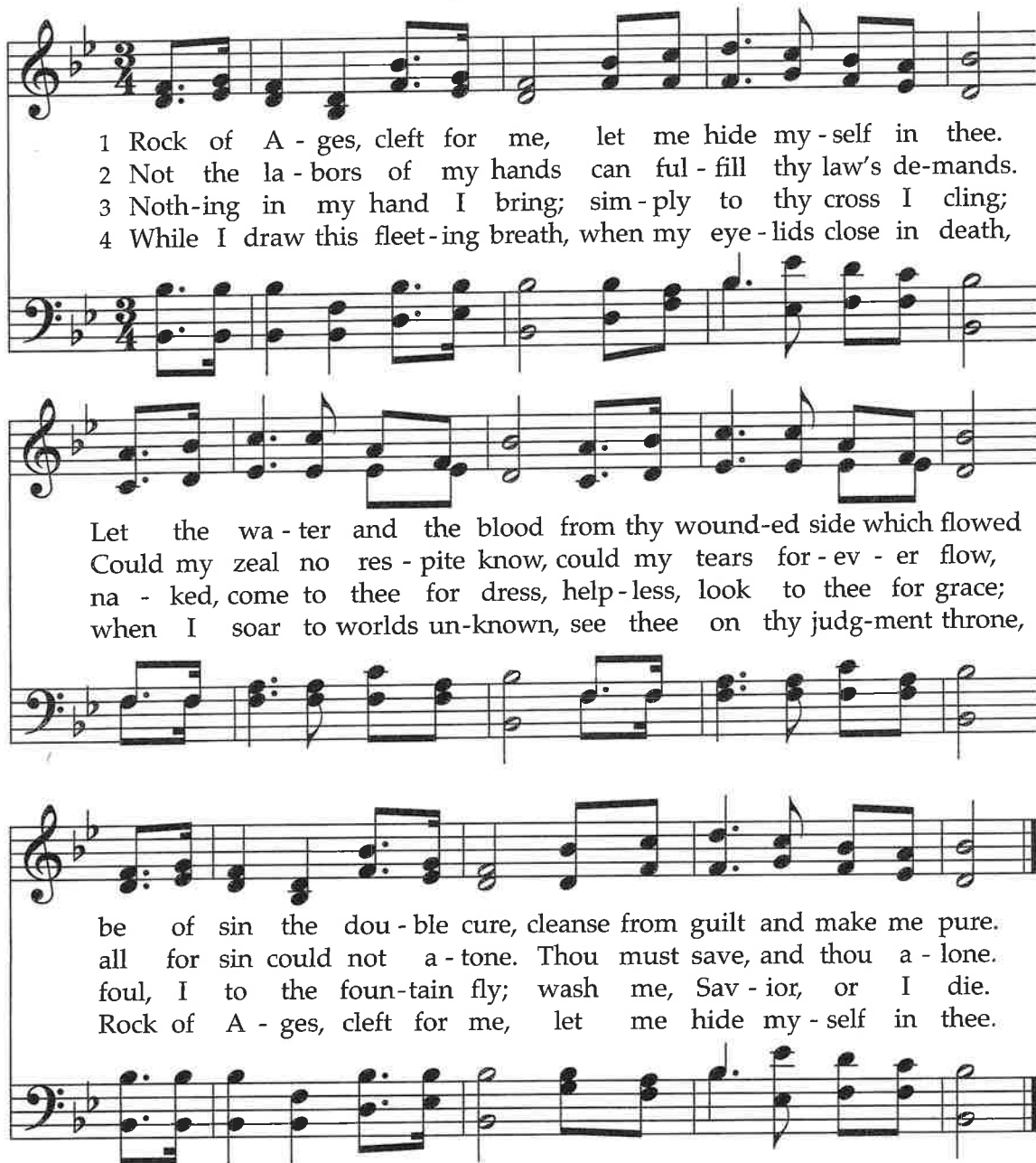
This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Refrain



438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands.
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eye - lids close in death,

Let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side which flowed
 Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.
 all for sin could not a - tone. Thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Though scholars discredit the story that this hymn was written when the author found shelter under a large rock during a thunderstorm, the popular appeal of that conjecture perhaps lies in the energy of this plea and the vividness of its imagery drawn from many biblical sources.

TEXT: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776, alt.
 MUSIC: Thomas Hastings, 1830, alt.

TOPLADY
 7.7.7.7.7.7

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

Christine Whalen Bender (*friend of Allison Brennan*)

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*)

Diane Cassidy (*Susan Kozo's cousin*)

Michael Cook (*Dan Cook's brother*)

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*)

Ed Kopetz (*Betty Kopetz's brother*)

*Susan Kozo

Jetty Mailangkay (*wife of Rev. Herby Moningka*)

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

Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)

Jean Miller (*Allison Brennan's aunt*)

Joseph Neupauer (*Marie Hoffsommer's brother*)

Alvin Newton (*Virginia Shaw's brother*)

Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)

Joan Niederer (*friend of the Gunsser's*)

Dorothy Pennix (*Mother-in-law of Andrene Sinclair-Pennix*)

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*)

Janice Wojcik (*sister of Karen Keithler*)

David Wong

*Lynn Hendricks Wong

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT

- For the family of Brad Keller who passed away on August 25. Brad had been an active member for over 50 years. The funeral service and committal will be on September 11 at 11:00 am here at FPC Metuchen, followed by a repast in the Social Center.

- for Janel Aspinwall and family on the passing of her brother, Bill on August 24, in Colorado.

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, Commander, Kadena AFB, Okinawa (*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, AUGUST 30

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

New Member Class – Session Room 10:30 a.m.

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

Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

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

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Deacons Meeting – Dining Room 7:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

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

Sep 6 Confirmation Class Parent Orientation

Senior High Room – 10:30 am

Sep 10 Local Mission Meeting – Food Pantry – 12:00 pm

Sep 13 First Meeting of Confirmation Class

Sep 13 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 5:00 pm

Sep 15 PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge – 10:00 am

Sep 15 Sanctuary & Sacraments – Session Rm – 7:00 pm

Sep 15 Social Justice – PW Lounge – 7:30 pm

Sep 16 B & G – PW Lounge – 8:00 am

Sep 16 Finance Commission – Office Conf. Room – 7:00 pm

Sep 17 Mission Commission – PW Lounge – 7:00 pm

Sep 17 Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium – 7:00 pm

Sep 20 Rally Day / Blessing of the Backpacks

Sep 27 PW Fall Potluck – Social Center – 5:00 pm

Sep 27 Candlelight Concert – Sanctuary – 7:00 pm

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received August 23

Pledge	\$ 4,876
Non-pledge	\$ 461
Cash	\$ 203
Other funds	\$ 255

TOTAL: \$ 5,795

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



FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, September 13

5:00 p.m.

Social Center Dining Room

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840



Join us in community and fellowship as we feast on roast BBQ pork, mac and cheese, coleslaw, green salad, and a delicious homemade dessert.

WE HAVE A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR YOU.

The Deacons are excited to bring back the free community dinners. If you would like to help in any way – before, during or after the dinner – please let us know. Call or email the church office: (732) 491-2300 and fpc@fpcweb.org

Metuchen Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Benefiting the FPC Food Pantry

Saturday, October 10th

1:00 – 4:00 p.m., in the Social Center

Tickets: \$50.⁰⁰ *



*covers the soup meal and a handmade bowl from local ceramic artisans that you get to bring home. Children under 16 years are free.



Art partners support community!

A group of artists are coming together to create an art event that will feed the soul and, literally, feed the body, too.

Your ticket allows you to choose a handcrafted ceramic bowl, enjoy the church's famous soup complete with bread, salad and dessert, and keep the bowl as a reminder of food insecurity. There will also be live music, and an art fair designed to provide another opportunity to help the cause with the purchase of other artworks.

Use the QR code to get your tickets through Eventbrite.



Metuchen
Empty Bowls



Family at First Pres

September 20 at 9:30 am

Join us for intergenerational worship, blessing of the backpacks, gaga pit, and family fellowship over coffee hour in the Social Center.

AN EVENING OF BAROQUE FLUTE AND HARPSICORD

The first of the Candlelight Concert Series returns on September 27, Sunday, at 7:00 pm in the church Sanctuary.

Join Michael Alampi, altus flute, and Jordan Klotz, harpsicord, for a program featuring music of lesser known baroque composers.

Suggested donation: General Admission \$22

Seniors: \$16

17 & under: Free

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT SERIES

Donate Blood IN HONOR OF NOAH

A special thank you to all of our Church members and friends of FPC who came to donate. We had a very successful American Red Cross Blood Drive last week in honor of Noah which resulted in 26 units of blood donated.

We also want to thank Mark Haulenbeek and Mary Ann Eide for volunteering to work alongside me to greet & register the donors.

Wendy Kukowski, CARE Ministry

Something for everyone!

Start date:

First Tuesday (K - 2 nd)	Oct. 6, 4:30 – 5:00 pm
Junior Club (3 rd – 6 th)	Oct. 15 5:30 – 6:15 pm
Youth Group (7 th – 12 th)	Oct. 7 6:00 pm
	Barbeque Kick-off
Carol Choir (Age 4 – 2 nd Gr.)	Sept. 15, 4:00 - 4:30 pm
Junior Choir (3 rd - 6 th)	Sept. 17, 4:30 - 5:00 pm
Joy Ringers (3 rd - 6 th)	Sept. 17, 5:00 - 5:30 pm
Westminster Choir (7 th - 12 th)	Sept. 16, 6:30 - 7:00 pm
Trinity Ringers (7 th – 12 th)	Sept. 16, 7:00 - 7:30 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME BECAUSE ALL BELONG.

**Presbyterian Women's
International
Fall Potluck
Sunday, September 27
5:00 p.m.
FPC Social Center
270 Woodbridge Ave., Metuchen, NJ**

**Please RSVP to:
pw@fpcweb.org
and let us know what you're
bringing.**

**Let's make it a night to
remember!
SEE YOU THERE!**

Come share a meal, a smile, and a story with your church family! Bring your favorite dish – homemade or store-bought, savory or sweet - and let's enjoy a feast together. Let's continue to build community, one plate at a time. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME – families, friends, and new faces!**