



September 13, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
16th 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: Come to the house of the Lord and sing.

All: Sing praises to the Lord for creation's glory.

Leader: Come to the hour of prayer with hope.

All: Here we will listen for the voice of God.

Leader: Come to the moment of peace.

All: This is where swords turn into plowshares.

*HYMN 20 All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

What is the purpose of our anger?

What is the hope of our disdain?

What do we dream up in our derision?

None of these build the kingdom of God,

Yet in all of these we feel righteous.

We claim a right to be angry.

We justify our ridicule as deserved.

We imagine the suffering of the enemy.

None of these proclaim the good news,

Yet in these we deem ourselves wise.

Forgive our days lost in intended vengeance. 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

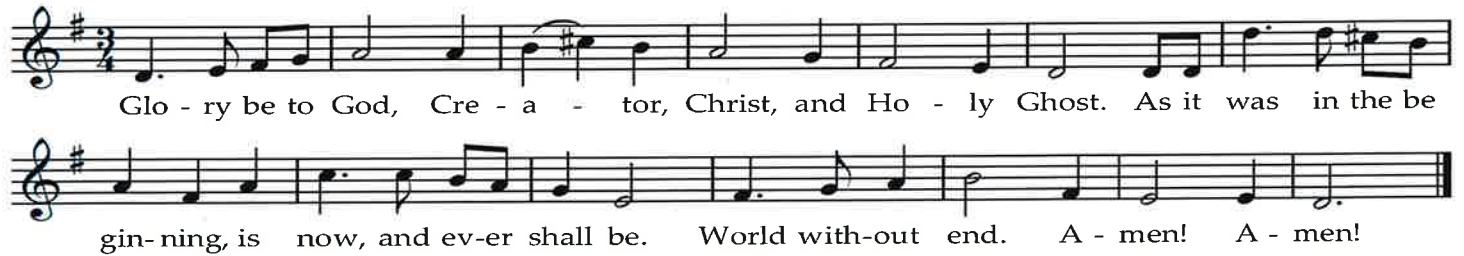
*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.

LISTENING

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 11:1-9 (Old Testament page 640)

Roland Staal

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 20:9-19 (New Testament page 83)

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

SERMON

A Beautiful Mess

Rev. Dr. Fred. G. Garry

RESPONDING

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN 15 All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*CONFESSION OF FAITH (The Apostle's Creed)

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

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

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ELDERS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lori Kellner

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 611 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given:

*in fond memory of Grace Hammesfahr Howe from the Herron family, Doris, Anne and Mary Beth, and
in loving memory of Phyllis and Art Harmon from their grandchildren.*

*Our greeter this morning is Tom Giordano, and the ushers are Wendy Kukowski,
Sandra Laluw and Jen Thompson.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 20:9-19

He began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard and leased it to tenants and went away for a long time. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants in order that they might give him his share of the produce of the vineyard, but the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Next he sent another slave; that one also they beat and insulted and sent away empty-handed. And he sent still a third; this one also they wounded and threw out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' But when the tenants saw him, they discussed it among themselves and said, 'This is the heir; let us kill him so that the inheritance may be ours.' So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Heaven forbid!" But he looked at them and said, "What then does this text mean:

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'?

"Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the scribes and chief priests realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to lay hands on him at that very hour, but they feared the people.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

20 All Things Bright and Beautiful

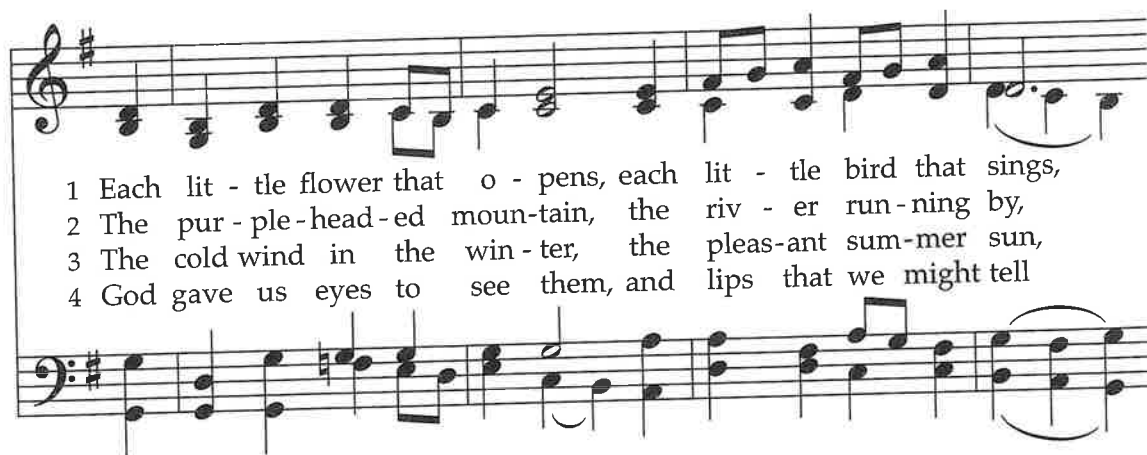
Refrain



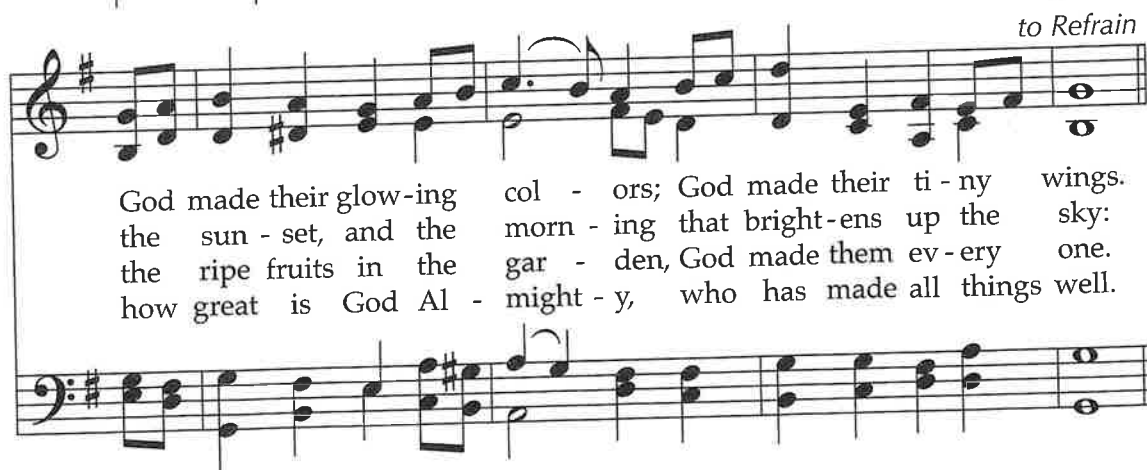
All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won-der - ful, the Lord God made them all. *Fine*



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple-head-ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



God made their glow-ing col - ors; God made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky:
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well. *to Refrain*

One of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, this text (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the text was later set to a popular tune from the age of King Charles II.

611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re - flect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan.

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, o - pening to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, join - ing all in heav - en's plan.

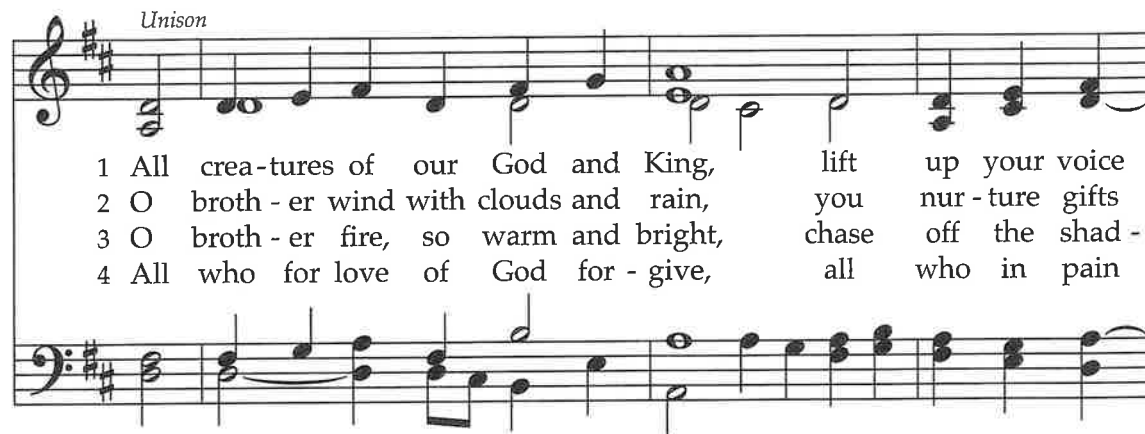
Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.

Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

15 All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison



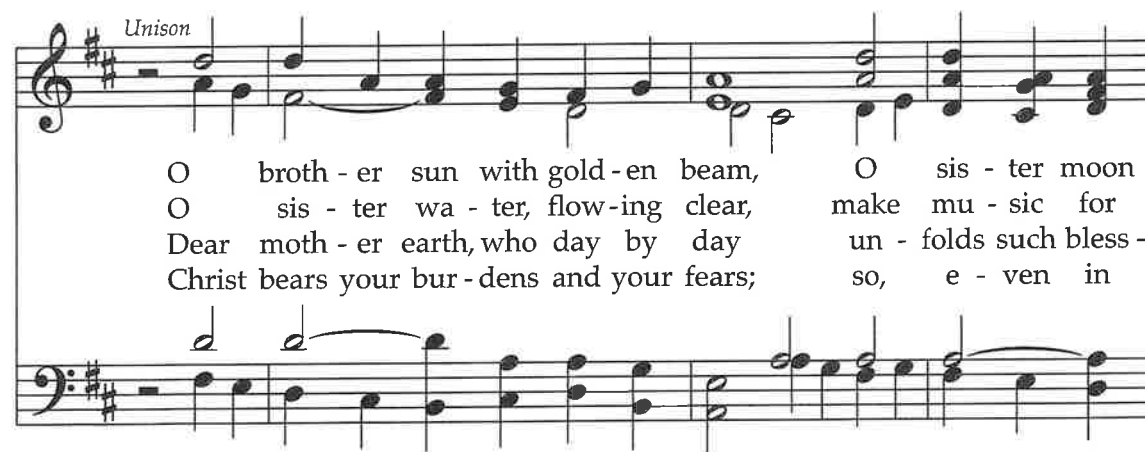
1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
 2 O broth - er wind with clouds and rain, you nur - ture gifts
 3 O broth - er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad -
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain

Harmony



and with us sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 of fruit and grain. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ows of the night. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 or sor - row grieve, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



O broth - er sun with gold - en beam, O sis - ter moon
 O sis - ter wa - ter, flow - ing clear, make mu - sic for
 Dear moth - er earth, who day by day un - folds such bless -
 Christ bears your bur - dens and your fears; so, e - ven in

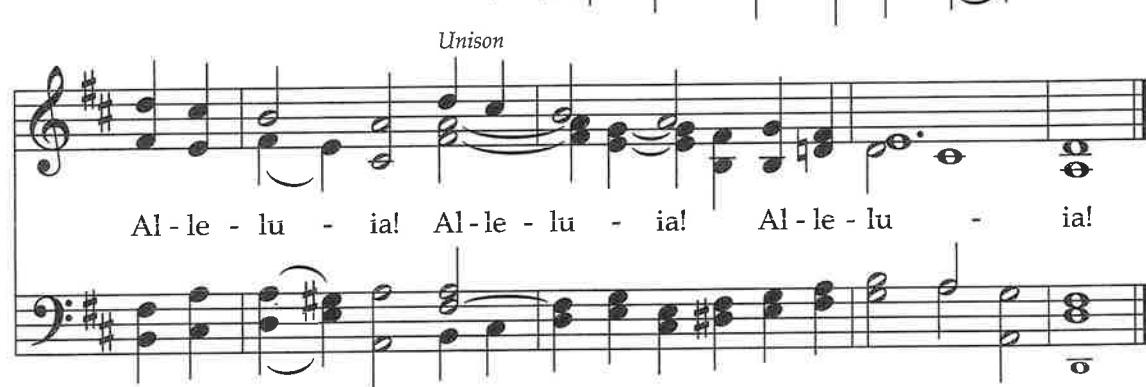
Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."

Harmony



with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 Sing praises! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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*)
*Jan Margolis
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*)
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 Sinclair-Pennix family on the passing of Dorothy Pennix, mother of Michael Pennix, on September 7.

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, SEPTEMBER 13

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

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

Confirmation Class - Senior High Room 10:30 a.m.

Indonesian Worship Service - Sanctuary Noon

Community Dinner - Dining Room 5:00 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

PW Coordinating Team - PW Lounge 10:00 a.m.

Carol Choir - Choir Room 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Sanctuary & Sacraments - Session Room 7:00 p.m.

Social Justice - PW Lounge 7:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Bldgs. & Grounds - PW Lounge 8:00 a.m.

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

Westminster Choir - Choir Room 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Ringers - Bell Loft 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Finance Commission - Office Conf. Room 7:00 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Local Mission Meeting - Food Pantry 12:00 p.m.

Junior Choir - Choir Room 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Joy Ringers - Bell Loft 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Support Group - Chapel 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Mission Commission - PW Lounge 7:00 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

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 20 Rally Day / Blessing of the Backpacks
 Sep 20 Youth Commission - PW Lounge - 10:30 am
 Sep 26 Mission Volunteer Saturday - Auditorium - 9:00 am
 Sep 27 PW Fall Potluck - Social Center - 5:00 pm
 Sep 27 Candlelight Concert - Sanctuary - 7:00 pm
 Sep 28 CARE Team - Office Conference Room - 3:00 pm
 Sep 30 Lunch and Games - Dining Room - Noon-3:00 pm
 Oct 4 Community Dinner - Dining Room - 5:00 pm
 Oct 5 Horizon Bible Study - PW Lounge/Zoom - 6:00 pm
 Oct 6 PW Coordinating Team - PW Lounge - 11:00 am
 Oct 6 1st Tuesday - GLOW Room - 4:30-5:00 pm
 Oct 6 Deacons Meeting - Dining Room - 7:30 pm
 Oct 7 Youth Group BBQ Kick-off - Ball Field - 6:00 pm

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received September 6

Pledge	\$ 5,222
Non-pledge	\$ 360
Deacons	\$ 276
Cash	\$ 167
Other funds	\$ 221

TOTAL: \$ 6,246

OTHER RECEIPTS \$590

(Parking & Building Rental)

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.

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



TODAY, 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.
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Family at First Pres

Sunday, 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. **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.



On Rally Day, children will be invited to come forward during Children's Time with their backpacks. We want to send our students and educators with our prayers and blessings as they go back to school.

After the blessing, the children will move to the Social Center to enjoy a puppet show and have time for fellowship.



**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

Let us know what you're bringing
by scanning the QR code below.

*Building community,
one plate at a time.*

SEE YOU THERE!

Share a meal, a smile, and a story with your church family! Bring your favorite dish – homemade or store-bought, savory or sweet so together we can enjoy a feast. **Everyone is welcome!**

Scan the QR code to sign up for the potluck.

Make it even more memorable by
attending the Candlelight concert
immediately after the dinner.

Details are found below.



Potluck Sign Up

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.

Questions? Contact our Director for Music Ministries,
Jordan Klotz jklotz@fpcweb.org / (732) 491-2266



Suggested donation: General Admission	\$22
Seniors	\$16
17 & under:	Free

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT SERIES

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

