



September 20, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

17th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Taylor & BJ Welsh

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

PRELUDE Praeludium in C Major BWV 531

J.S. Bach

WELCOME & TIDINGS

Ellie Wilson-Newbury & Danni Newbury

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Freddie & Kristin Berman

Leader: Open the gate of your heart;

The Son of God is waiting.

All: Open the portal of hopeful prayer;

The Holy Spirit is waiting.

Leader: Open the eyes of your heart;

For the kingdom of God is within.

All: Come, let us worship our God.

Let our worship be a sacrifice of praise.

*HYMN 463 How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Maggie & Allison Brennan

We pray for peace and long for conflicts to cease;

We hope for enmity and strife to flee far from us.

But it is our path to make the peace;

It is our calling to give mercy and justice

So your kingdom will come.

Give us bread,

Forgive our debts,

Deliver us from evil

So we can make peace with one another,

And our peace will reign over all the earth. Amen.

*KYRIE

Lord, _____ have__ mer - - - cy up - on us.

Christ, _____ have__ merc - - - cy up - on us.

Lord, _____ have mer - - - cy up - on us.

Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by Peter DuBois

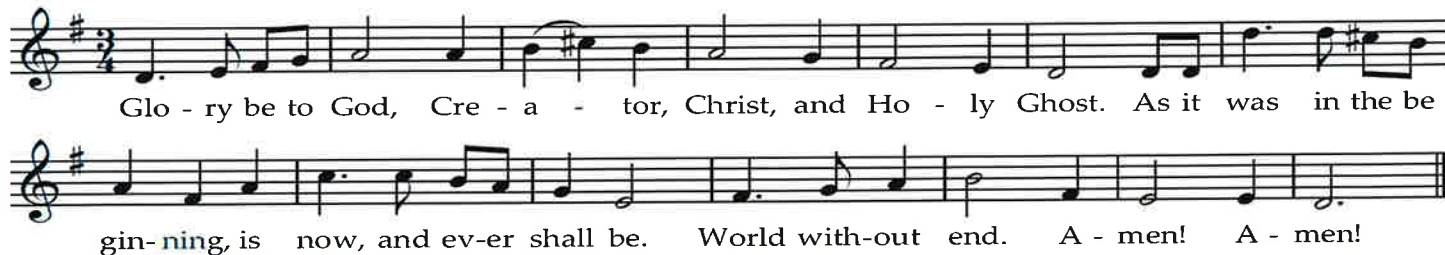
*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Rev. Khayla J. Henry & Nancy Leardi

This Rally Day, we will bless students' backpacks and recognize our Sunday GLOW volunteers. Nursery care is available in room 107. Children 4 years old to 2nd grade will exit to the GLOW Room for a puppet show and story. All children are invited after worship to the social center for games in the GAGA pit.

LISTENING

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 51:10-17 (Old Testament p. 520)

Eleanor & Grace Gribbin

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

ANTHEM A Welcome Place

Senior Choir

Joel Raney

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 20:20-26 (New Testament p. 84)

Julia Teti & Frankie Caliguiro

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

SERMON

What's in Your Heart?

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

RESPONDING

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN 442 Just as I Am, Without One Plea

WOODWORTH

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

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

Anna Cackowski & Helen Burr-Cackowski

OFFERTORY Berceuse

Louis Vierne

***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**

Cameron Hayes-Durina

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 620** Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CHORAL BENEDICTION Peace I Leave With You

Amy Beach

POSTLUDE All Glory Be to God on High

Michael Burkhardt

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Grace Hammesfahr in loving memory of
her daughter, Gracie, in her fourth year in heaven.*

*Our greeters this morning are the Kiru-Njuguna family and the ushers are Marty Brennan,
Shane & Heather Casey, Christian Jaramillo, Gilly McKie, Adlai & Orin Puniello,
Dyson Lesman & Fnu Soesanto, and June Young.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 51:10-17

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation, and my tongue
will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will
declare your praise. For you have no
delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a
burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a
broken spirit; a broken and contrite
heart, O God, you will not despise.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 20:20-26

So they watched him and sent spies who
pretended to be honest, in order to trap
him by what he said and then to hand him
over to the jurisdiction and authority of
the governor. So they asked him, "Teacher,
we know that you are right in what you
say and teach, and you show deference to
no one but teach the way of God in
accordance with truth. Is it lawful for us to
pay tribute to Caesar or not?" But he
perceived their craftiness and said to
them, "Show me a denarius. Whose head
and whose title does it bear?" They said,
"Caesar's." He said to them, "Then give to
Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to
God the things that are God's." And they
were not able in the presence of the
people to trap him by what he said, and
being amazed by his answer they became
silent.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

463

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against **shape note** music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

442 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
 4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

come to thee,
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!
 I be - lieve,
 thine a - lone,

SPANISH

1 Tal como soy de pecador,
 sin más confianza que tu amor;
 a tu llamada vengo a ti,
 ¡Cordero de Dios, heme aquí!

KOREAN

1 큰-죄에 빠-진 날 위해
 주보-혈 흘려주시고
 또-나를 오-라하시니-
 주께로 거-저 갑니다

When illness limited her involvement in a bustling household, the author wrote this hymn that helped her both to achieve and to express a renewed sense of worth grounded in Christ's self-giving. Its simple, direct, and deeply felt language has made it a source of comfort to many.

620 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his
 3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be -

feet your trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for -
 peo - ple in dis - tress; praise him still the same as
 fee - ble frame he knows; in his hands he gent - ly
 hold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be -

giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!
 ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!
 bears us, res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

This free paraphrase of Psalm 103 gains much energy and conviction by including the double "Alleluia!" before the final line of text. That repeated four-note figure descending from the tune's highest note gives voice to the praise that the rest of the hymn evokes.

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*)

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

*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

CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT

For the family of Doris Younken who passed away on September 16. The funeral service will be here at FPC Metuchen on September 24 at 10:00 am, followed by a repast after the burial.

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 20

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

Rally Day/ Blessing of Backpacks

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

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

Youth Commission - PW Lounge 10:30 a.m.

Indonesian Worship Service - Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

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

Personnel Meeting - Zoom 7:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

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.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Junior Choir - Choir Room 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Mission Volunteer Saturday - Auditorium 9:00 a.m.

FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:

Scan the QR code or visit our website

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



COMING SOON

- 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
Oct 10 Metuchen Empty Bowls Fundraiser - Social Center
Between 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Oct 13 Unicameral Board - Dining Room/Zoom - 7:30 pm

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received September 13

Pledge	\$ 5,562
Non-pledge	\$ 427
Cash	\$ 212
Other funds	\$ 184

TOTAL: \$ 6,385

OTHER RECEIPTS \$800

(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.

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



A warm FPC welcome to all our families!

As our program year kicks off, we gather to bless backpacks, honor our Sunday GLOW volunteers, and share family fellowship. Join us in the Social Center after worship for a special coffee hour hosted by Mission Commission, plus games in the gaga pit!

Sunday GLOW Leaders and Assistants

Christian Education Director: Nancy Leardi

Christian Education Commission Chair: Helen Burr Cackowski

Drama consultant: Kat Davis

Photographer: Jack Teti

Nursery

Erika Knehans
Julia Hajjar
Madison Garcia
Carli James Lewis
Brynn Gawronski

Age 4-Grade 2

Deb Teall
Mary Jane Palmer
Mia Garcia
Betty Kiru
Dray Sequeira
Maddie Bersch

Grades 3-6

Bridget Sanger
Gertrude Kibiru
Johannes Stall
Daisey Ames

LEGO Sunday

Laura Fischer
Will Hajjar
Eli Bourne

Special Program Sundays

Dan Slobodien
Amy Bertelsen-Robles
Allison Brennan
Jennifer Casey
Laura Pellicano
Shane Casey

Confirmation Class

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry
Pete Bellisano
Charles Hedrick

Recreation Team

Jack Thompson
Myles Bourne

Alternate Leadership

JoAnne Bedenek
Wally Cook
Melissa McCulley
Jennifer Thompson
Jim Thompson
Andrene Pennix

The Fall Adult Education series begins today!

Discovering Devotional Classics Together

**TODAY, September 20, After worship
in the Office Conference Room**

Come one Sunday—or join us for the whole series!

Adult Education invites you to gather for a journey through *Devotional Classics*, exploring a wide range of spiritual voices including Augustine, Julian of Norwich, Francis of Assisi, C.S. Lewis, and many others. Each selection connects the writer's reflections with Scripture and offers opportunities for meditation and discussion.

Join Maggie and Russ Dickow today for a discussion on Martin Luther. Next month, join Gilly McKie for reflections on Scottish theologian, John Baille.

METUCHEN EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER

Proceeds to benefit FPC Food Pantry



Saturday, October 10

**Come by anytime between 1:00 – 4:00 pm
FPC Social Center**

Your \$50 ticket includes FPC Metuchen's famous soup, salad and bread, a handcrafted ceramic bowl to keep, and live music. PLUS, explore a selection of artwork available for purchase. Scan the QR code to buy your ticket.



Questions? Email info@friendsofmetuchenarts.org



**Presbyterian Women's
International
Fall Potluck**

**Sunday, September 27
5:00 p.m.
FPC Social Center**

Please RSVP to: pw@fpcweb.org
or scan the QR code below.

*Building community,
one plate at a time.*

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Potluck Sign Up

Make your evening more memorable by attending the
Candlelight concert immediately after dinner!

AN EVENING OF BAROQUE FLUTE AND HARPSICHORD

The first of the Candlelight Concert Series returns on
Sunday, **September 27 at 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary.
Join Michael Alampi, altus flute, and Jordan Klotz,
harpsichord, for a program featuring music of lesser
known baroque composers.

Tickets are available by suggested donation at the
door or by scanning the QR code.



General: \$22

Senior: \$15

17 & under: Free

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT SERIES



**FPC METUCHEN
YOUTH
MINISTRY**

Volunteer Now

We are looking for youth leaders! Join our team and
make a difference in our youth program! Volunteer
once a month or every week or join our Habitat
planning team. Explore how you can help and
make a difference among our youth!

**For more information, contact Rev. Khayla Henry at
Kjohnson@fpcweb.org**

YOUTH GROUP & JUNIOR CLUB

BBQ KICKOFF



**7th OCTOBER
6:00 PM**



SOCIAL CENTER

Join us as we celebrate
the beginning of the
year with food, fun and
fellowship! For more
information contact
**Nancy Leardi or
Rev. Johnson.**

