



**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

February 16, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

**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



Senior Pastor and Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry
Associate Pastor: Rev. Khayla Johnson
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

ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD

*Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ TIDINGS

The Rev. Dr. Fred. G. Garry

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 148 adapted

The Rev. Dr. Fred. G. Garry

Leader: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

All: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

*HYMN 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

The Rev. Khayla Johnson

God of mercy, hear our prayer. Our mind is a wonderous thing, conceiving, believing, remembering, dreaming. Thoughts race and appear out of nowhere; a notion can be heard in our heart. We are in awe of your creation. Help us to remember how little we know of your design; how great is our grasp, but how delicate. Give us humility to ever call to mind how great our knowledge, but how much greater our blindness. God of mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD

ANTHEM Festival Alleluia Junior Choir

Allen Pote

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Nancy Regan

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children 4 years to 6th grade are welcome to the GLOW room for today's lesson. Older children remain in worship.

MOMENT FOR SAFETY

Pete Bellisano

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 8:1-6

Janet Aspinwall

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

ANTHEM Kum Ba Ya

Senior Choir

Douglas E. Wagner

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:43-48

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

SERMON

“Omens and Epitaphs”

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN 372

O For the World

AZMON

CALL TO OFFERING

The Rev. Khayla Johnson

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The Rev. Khayla Johnson

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ELDERS' 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.

*HYMN 673

Jesus, Light of Joy

LAUDA ANIMA

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Today's greeter is Wendy Kukowski, and the ushers are Ann Behrens, Maggy Cook, and Tom Giordano.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are in memory of Donald and Ruth Hume and in celebration
of their birthdays; this would have been Ruth's 100th.*

They are given with love from their daughters Linda, Carol, Kathy, and Amy and their families.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 8:1-6

At that time, says the Lord, the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its officials, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be brought out of their tombs; and they shall be spread before the sun and the moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and served, which they have followed, and which they have inquired of and worshipped; and they shall not be gathered or buried; they shall be like dung on the surface of the ground. Death shall be preferred to life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family in all the places where I have driven them, says the Lord of hosts.

You shall say to them, Thus says the Lord:

When people fall, do they not get up again? If they go astray, do they not turn back? Why then has this people turned away in perpetual backsliding? They have held fast to deceit, they have refused to return. I have given heed and listened, but they do not speak honestly; no one repents of wickedness, saying, 'What have I done!' All of them turn to their own course, like a horse plunging headlong into battle.

SCRIPTURE READER: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

PEOPLE: *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:43-48

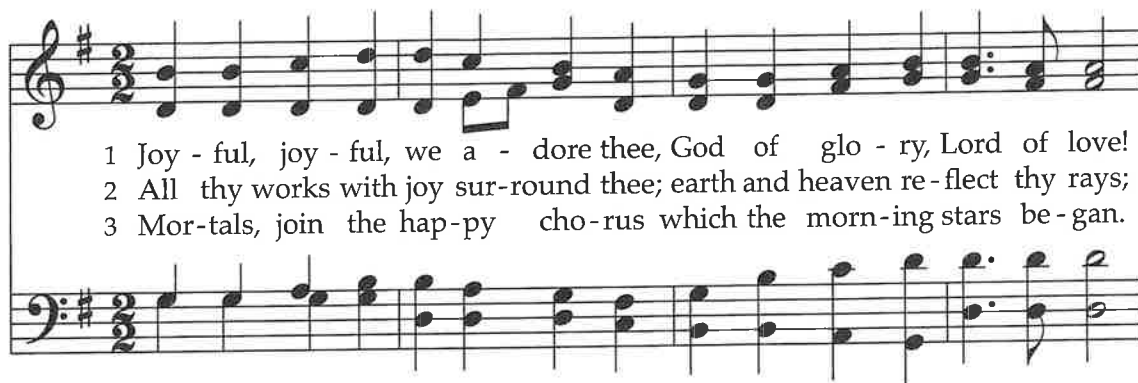
And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men." But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it. An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest."

SCRIPTURE READER: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

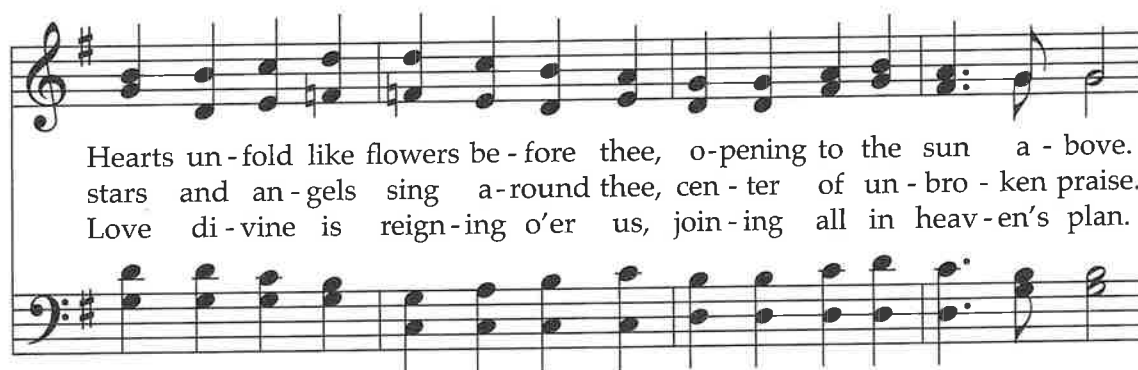
PEOPLE: *Thanks be to God.*

The New Revised Standard Version, copyright © 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America](#). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

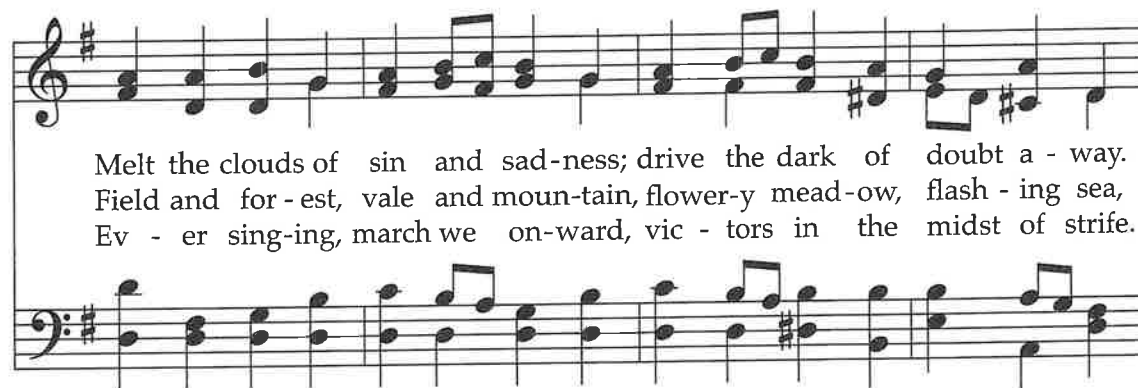
611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



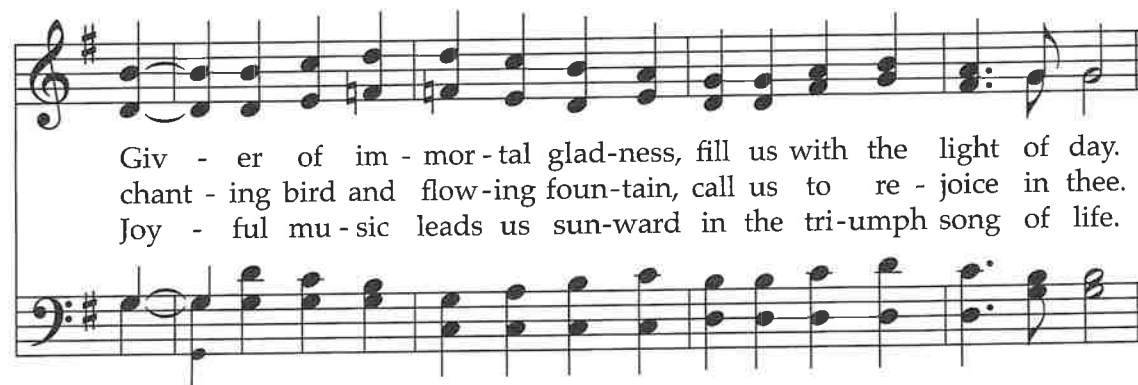
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-lect thy rays;
3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.



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.

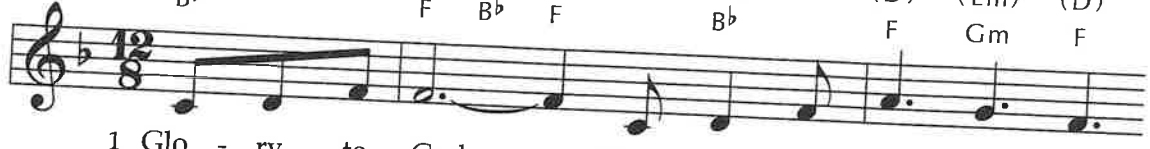
Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G)
B \flat

(D) (G) (D)
F B \flat F

(G)
B \flat

(D) (Em) (D)
F Gm F



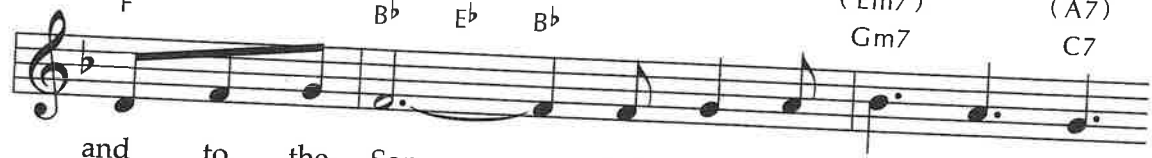
1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D)
F

(G) (C) (G)
B \flat E \flat B \flat

(Em7)
Gm7

(A7)
C7



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7)
C7

(D)
F

(F#) (Bm)
A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D)
Dm7 F

(Bdim7)
Ddim7

(Em7)
Gm7

(Dm)(A7) (D)
Fm C7 F



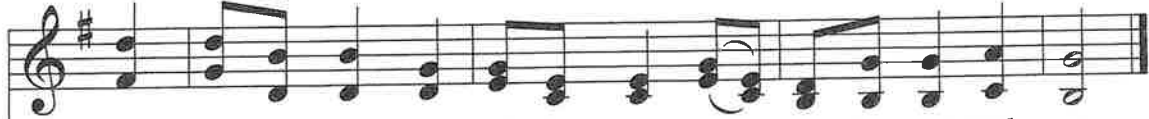
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

O for a World

372



- 1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
- 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
- 3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
- 4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
- 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.



Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Text © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters

AZMON
CM

673

Jesus, Light of Joy

1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did
 2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning
 3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,

glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,
 has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,
 God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,

heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,
 bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,
 sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.
 al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.
 al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

And by appointment for other times

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.
 Confirmation Class – Room 203 10:30 a.m.
 After Worship Refreshments – Room 109 10:30 a.m.
 Choir Soup Sale – Chapel 10:30 a.m.
 Youth Commission – Office Conf. Room 10:30 a.m.
 Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF HOLIDAY

DBSA Support Group – Room 109. 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Jubilee Choir – Choir Room 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
 Personnel – Office Conference Room 7:30 p.m.
 AA Support Group – Room 109 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

B & G Meeting - Office Conference Room 8:00 a.m.
 Pastoral Study: Pericopes of Luke – PW Lounge. . 10:30 a.m.
 Westminster Choir – Choir Room 6:30 p.m.
 Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.
 Finance Commission - Office Conference Rm 7:00 p.m.
 Youth Group – Youth Room 7:30 p.m.
 Prayer Shawl Circle – Session Room 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Concord Ringers – Bell Loft 9:30 a.m.
 Junior Choir – Choir Room. 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
 Joy Ringers – Sanctuary 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
 Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.
 Stewardship – Office Conference Room 1:00 p.m.
 Junior Club – Social Center 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
 Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
 Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Women’s AA Support Group – Room 109. . . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Youth Day of Service – Social Center 9:00 a.m.

ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Scan the QR code or click <https://bit.ly/4emWby6>
 to access the FPC’s website calendar for more



COMING SOON

Feb 23 Congregational & Corporation Meeting - Sanctuary
 After worship
 Feb 26 Lunch and Games- Dining Room – Noon to 3:00 pm
 Mar 2 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 5:00 pm
 Mar 2 Name Tag Sunday
 Mar 4 Deacons Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
 Mar 11 Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel/Zoom-7:30 pm

TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received February 9

Pledge	\$ 5,402
Non-pledge	\$ 708
Cash	\$ 133
Deacons	\$ 42
Food Pantry	\$ 65
Interfaith RISE	\$ 95

TOTAL: \$ 6,445

**OTHER RECEIPTS \$1,830 (Parking and
 Building Use)**

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.
- Text** Text to give using this number: (855) 964-5393, and follow the prompts.

Thank you for your generous support!

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen has adopted a policy that individuals listed must grant permission for their names to be included on the weekly prayer list. PLEASE 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 and then be removed unless requested to keep for a longer period.

Dey Adam (*Dawn Adam's sister*)
Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)
James Angley (*Lynne Angley's son*)
Marilyn Avery
The Bellini family (*friends of the Brennan's*)
John Bertelsen (*Brother of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
Pat Byrne (*Sue Harmon's brother-in-law*)
Anna Cackowski (*daughter of Al & Helen Burr-Cackowski*)
Cassidy family (*Marty Brennan's relatives*)
Natalie Charles (*cousin of Tom Messina*)
*Beverly Cummings
Bruce Dangremond (*brother of Mary Kay Dangremond*)
*Mary Kay Dangremond
*Henry and Rita Dengah
Lisa De La Fuente (*friend of the Kozo/Mollison family*)
Darla Dimatteo
Robert Doeg (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)
*Ruth Endicott
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)
*Marie Gale
Lane Gibson (*friend of Bill Nann*)
*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)
*Margaret Hathaway

*Audrey Hausser
Marion Kovacs (*friend of June Keehbler*)
*Susan Kozo
*Donald Lambdin
Elaine LeSter (*Lorraine LeSter's sister*)
MacArthur family (*Allison Brennan's cousin and family*)
Patricia Maktal (*friend of Messina Family*)
Michael
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
Joan Murray (*Allison Brennan's mother*)
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Carol Roberts (*friend of Jane & Ed Meyer*)
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehbler*)
*Dave Ryder
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
*Deb Sorensen
Sarah Abed Van Pelt (*Chris Van Pelt's daughter-in-law*)
Crystal Smith Williams (*friend of the Food Pantry*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong
Sylvia Zaroni (*Mother-in-law of Wendy Kukowski*)

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 the pastors: Rev. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Khayla Johnson at (843) 312-7288. **The hospitals no longer contact clergy when a parishioner is admitted, nor do they keep a list of patients by denomination.** The only way the pastors will know if you or a loved one are in the hospital is if you contact us. 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:

David Garry, Coast Guard Cutter Bear, Portsmouth, VA (*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*)
Major Matthew McQueeney, Pilot & DO, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho (*Son/Stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano*)
LT John Alexander Petr, U. S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Pennix Family 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*)

- NOTICE -



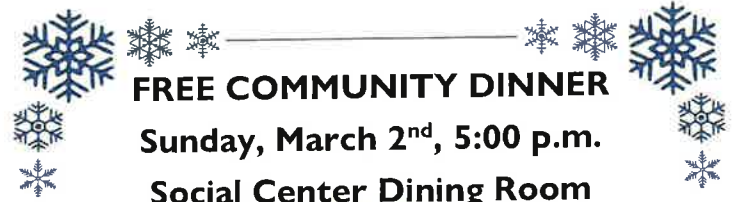
**Meeting of the
Congregation and Corporation
First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen
(FPC-M)**

23 February 2025

Immediately following Sunday morning

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Receive the Annual Financial and Calendar Year Reports for 2024.
- Receive the 2025 FPC-M Operating Budget.
- Approve the proposed amendment to the current FPC-M Bylaws to include The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen Baptism of Minors Policy.
- Approve the Annual Terms of Call for the Senior Pastor.
- Act on any other business that may properly come before such a meeting.



FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

**Sunday, March 2nd, 5:00 p.m.
Social Center Dining Room**



Join us in community and fellowship as we feast on meatloaf (with a vegetarian option), mashed potatoes, green salad, bread and butter, and homemade dessert.

***WE HAVE A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR YOU.
ALL ARE WELCOME!***

If are interested to help, we welcome the extra hands. Please email Gilly McKie, gilly@mckie.com or call the church office.

**Choir Soup Sale
FUNDRAISER
Sunday, TODAY!
in the Chapel
After the service**



Prices:
**\$8 / 32 oz
container**
**\$15 / 2x 32 oz
containers**

Delicious containers of homemade soup!
Vegetarian and vegan options will be available, and the ingredients of each soup will be listed. Payment options are cash, credit card or check.

Join the Prayer Shawl Circle!

Are you a knitter or crocheter, or interested in learning? Join the Prayer Shawl Circle! Enjoy fellowship, knitting, and crocheting as we create beautiful shawls for FPC's Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Date & Time: Feb. 19, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Location: Session Room

What to Bring: Current projects, needles (sizes 9, 11, or 13), or hooks (sizes M, N, or P)

Directions for making a prayer shawl and yarn will be provided. The Prayer Shawl Circle meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Contact: Gilly McKie: gilly@mckie.com or Jennifer Thompson: jenni4_thompson@yahoo.com



*Where every stitch is a stitch
of love and prayers*



NAME TAG SUNDAY

March 2

Here's an opportunity to greet one another and learn each other's names. You will receive a name tag as you arrive. Come also to Coffee Hour for fellowship and refreshments.

Join us for some



Mindfulness is focusing on what is happening in the present moment. It helps calm our minds and bodies, by noticing how we feel and what we are experiencing.

*Mindful Sunday Schedule:

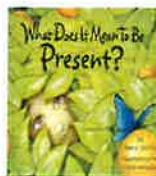
October 27 January 26
December 15 February 23
March 30

***For K-6th graders**

**In the Glow Room during Sunday School Hour
First Presbyterian Church, Metuchen**



Amy Bertelsen-Robles is a retired elementary school counselor. She will lead the Mindful Sunday classes through exploring the five senses. Each week, children will make crafts that engage their senses. During the first Mindful Sunday class, Amy will read the book, *What Does It Mean to Be Present?* She will also refer to the messages in the book during the subsequent classes. If you would like to purchase the book for your home library, it is available online at <https://www.amazon.com/What-Does-Mean-Be-Present/dp/0984080686>



FPC Metuchen Youth Group presents FLASH FOOD DRIVE



**Saturday, February 22nd
9:00 am – 11:00 am
FPC Metuchen Social Center**

As part of the FPC Youth Group Day of Service, we're asking people to flood the Social Center with cars filled with donations for the Food Pantry!

Every car gets an entry to guess the total weight of food donations collected over the hour - winner gets a gift card to a local business!

**What are you waiting for?
Start shopping!**

JOIN THE FUN!

Lunch and Games

Wed, Feb 26

Noon to 3:00 pm

**Social Center Dining
Room**

Bring a brown bag lunch, beverage, and your favorite game. If you need a ride, please call the church office