



**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

May 17, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

7th Sunday of Easter

**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

The Njuguna Family

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

PRELUDE Morning Prelude

Akira Russell, piano

WELCOME & TIDINGS

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 27, adapted

Leader: This is the house of the Lord.

All: We have come to worship the Lord, our God.

Leader: Let us seek wisdom and courage;

All: Let us find compassion and mercy.

Leader: May our prayers become a gift to God;

All: May the gifts of grace be found herein.

***HYMN 405** Praise God for This Holy Ground

HEYMONYSTRAAT

***OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison**

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

What is the spirit we possess?

Do we have a spirit of holiness?

Do we have a spirit of joy and delight?

Are we filled with the spirit of compassion;

Are we overflowing with a spirit of love?

Give us a loving spirit; give us you Holy Spirit.

Abide in us so we trust what is good more and more.

God of grace, hear our prayer. 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



Glo - ry be to God, Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be. World with-out end. A - men! A - men!

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Khayla J. Henry & Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

PRESENTATION

Charlie Day, Clerk of Session

Timur Zoe Poetica Leonard, son of Isabella Novsima and Rev. Leksmana Leonard

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

THE BAPTISM

BLESSING & WELCOME

HYMN 480 Take Me to the Water (verse 1)

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Kings 5:1-6 (Old Testament page 307)

Charles Hedrick

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

ANTHEM Fear Not For Tomorrow

Westminster Choir

Natalie Sleeth

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 17:11-19 (New Testament page 80)

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

SERMON

“Being Thankful Makes You Better”

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN 39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

*CONFESSION OF FAITH (from the Brief Statement) – **Unison**

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

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

OFFERTORY Stand Up and Bless the Lord Trinity Ringers

Anna Laura Page

***DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus, fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Khayla J. Henry

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

***RESPONSE HYMN 399** God Welcomes All (*sing twice*)

THEMBA AMEN

ELDERS' PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER – Unison

Gary Ostermueller

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 240** Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

ALLELUIA NO. 1

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE HYMN 765** May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA

POSTLUDE

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

The sanctuary flowers are given by Sally Ayotte with gratitude to God and this Church family, and in loving memory of her husband Ted; and by Rev. Leksmanna Leonard and Isabella Novsima in loving memory of their first child, Eneng Poetica Leonard, and in honor of their second child, Timur Zoe Poetica. Eneng was due May 17, 2025, and is remembered today during Timur's baptism. Our greeters this morning are Jim and Jen Thompson and the ushers are Tom Giordano, Beth Russian, and Reynolds Shaw.

Praise God for This Holy Ground 405

Capo 2: (D) E (G) (A) (Bm) A B C#m

1 Praise God for this ho - ly ground,
 2 Praise God in whose word we find
 3 Praise God who through Christ makes known
 4 Praise God's Spir - it who be - friends,
 5 Though praise ends, praise is be - gun

(Em7) (D/F#) (Em7) (Asus4) (A)
 F#m7 E/G# F#m7 Bsus4 B

place and peo - ple, sight and sound.
 food for bod - y, soul, and mind.
 all are loved and called God's own.
 rais - es, hum - bles, breaks, and mends.
 where God's will is glad - ly done.

Refrain (D) (G) (Em7) (A) (F#7) (Bm)
 E A F#m7 B G#7 C#m

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

(D) (Em7) (A7) (D)
 E F#m7 B7 E

God's good - ness is e - ter - nal.

Although several passages in the Psalms come close to the wording of this refrain, none matches it exactly. The refrain serves as a summation of the stanzas, each of which is filled with multiple instances of God's providential mercy, and all of them are worth pondering.

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.

39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

(A7) (G7) (D)
C7 Bb7 F

like pre-cious oil, like fresh morn - ing dew. We

(D) (G) (F#) (Bm)
F Bb A Dm

gath-er here to - geth-er with our hearts and voic-es raised to

(G) (D) (A7) (D)
Bb F C7 F

God, who's the cen-ter of our u - ni - ty and praise!

God Welcomes All

399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Refrain E C#m F#m B

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -

al - le - lu - ia! Praise to his name.

E C#m F#m B E

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

E C#m F#m B

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.

- 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
- 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
- 4 Come let us praise the liv - ing God,

E C#m F#m B to Refrain

He is the King of cre - a - tion.

Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
 Now we shall live for - ev - er.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

This text and tune were created together in the context of an ecumenical, charismatic, missionary Christian community in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their energy and emphasis center in the opening and closing refrain's "Alleluia"—the essential Easter word of proclamation.

brace us. Have mer - cy, Lord! come, Ky - ri - e - le - i - son!
 tei - ro. Tem com - pai - xão! nos! Ky - ri - e - le - i - son!

May the God of Hope Go with Us 765

Song of Hope / Canto de esperanza

May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our
 ¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en

lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us
 cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -

on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.
 nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.

Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;
 O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.

work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.
 Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.

This Argentine folk melody sets Spanish and English words, both created by a PC(USA) missionary with much Latin American experience. The two versions complement each other: the Spanish text offering a prayer to God, and the English one providing inspiration for the singers.

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*)
*Fred Bergholz
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*)
Sophie Culton (*friend of the Reed family*)
*Mary Kay Dangremond
Darla Dimatteo
George Doerbecker (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
Cheryl Doering (*friend of the Gunssers*)
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)
*Judy Fuller
Marc Gale (*Marie Gale's husband*)
*Marie Gale
*Doris Gulotta
*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)
*Margaret Hathaway
*Noah Haulenbeek
Teresa Prete-Kaltenbach (*friend of the Hajjar family*)
*Abby Kozo
***Brad Keller**

*Susan Kozo
*Patricia Lagay
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*)
Diane Riddle
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehler*)
*Dave Ryder
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
Cara Moskal Scacco (*niece of June Young*)
Johanne Servil (*friend of Margo Gunsser*)
*Lorraine Sheaffer
*Susan Short
*Deb Sorensen
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

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, Currently deployed (*Son of Andrene Pennix's co-worker*)
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, MAY 17

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

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

2nd Hour: Capital Campaign – Sanctuary. 10:30 a.m.

Indonesian Worship Service - Sanctuary. Noon

MONDAY, MAY 18

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

TUESDAY, MAY 19

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

Social Justice Meeting – Zoom 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

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

Westminster Choir – Choir Room 6:30 p.m.

Youth Group BBQ – Ballfield. 6:30 p.m.

Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.

Finance Comm – Office Conference Rm. 7:00 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Concord Ringers – Bell Loft 9:30 -10:15 a.m.

Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Mission Volunteer Night – Social Center. 7:00 p.m.

Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

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

SATURDAY, MAY 23

COMING SOON

May 27 B & G – PW Lounge – 8:00 am

May 27 Lunch and Games – Social Center – 12 pm

May 28 Mission Commission – PW Lounge – 7PM

May 30 Coastlands PW – Social Center – 9 am

May 30 Gender Affirming Closet – Social Center – 2 pm

May 31 Gender Affirming Closet – Social Center – 12 pm

June 2 Deacons meeting – Social Center – 7:30 pm

June 7 Church Picnic – Ballfield – After church

June 7 Mission Fest – Social Center – after church

June 7 Music Ministry Silent Auction – Social Center – after church

June 9 Unicameral Board – Social Center – 7:30 pm

June 10 Habitat Parents’ Meeting – Social Center – 7 pm

June 14 Community Dinner – Social Center – 5 pm

TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received May 10

Pledge \$ 6,360

Non-pledge \$ 1,704

Cash \$ 249

Memorial Music \$ 150

Other funds \$ 163

TOTAL: \$ 8,626

OTHER RECEIPTS \$650

(Parking and Bldg. 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!

FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:

Scan the QR code or visit our website

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



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

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of
2026

**A special note to the Class of 2026:
Congratulations on your achievement!**

We will recognize all high school, college, and graduate-school graduates in worship on June 7.

Graduates will be listed in the next *Parish News*. Please email **a photo** and the following details by June 1 to Heather Koball (hkoball@fpcweb.org) or Vicky Lacson (vlacson@fpcweb.org):

- graduate's name,
- degree/program completed,
- school,
- and future plans.

PRESBYTERY OF THE COASTLANDS & HIGHLANDS

PW SPRING GATHERING

Saturday May 30

9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., FPC Social Center

Dimensions of Women's Wellness

Learn how a Wellness Recovery Action Plan can help you create the life and wellness you want. Discover simple, safe, and effective tools to create and maintain wellness. Gain support and stay in control, even in crisis.

Light breakfast, luncheon, doors open at 9 a.m. RSVP by May 25 to pwcoastlands@gmail.com or 908-432-6252, \$10 suggested donation.



August 10-14, 2026

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

Register by May 15 to enjoy a \$25 early-bird discount. Families registering more than one child also receive a discount.

A faculty of music professionals, teachers, and dedicated volunteers will lead the camp. Pick up a brochure to learn more of what this camp has to offer.

Registration is open. Simply scan this QR code to register.



Catch the bug this summer!

2026 Vacation Bible Camp



JUNE 29 to July 3, 2026

9:00 to 11:45 am

For children K to 6th Grade (by Fall 2026)

Summer will soon be here, and so will our VBC! Registration is now ongoing. Scan the QR code to sign up your kids!



FUN

FOR EVERYONE



ALL CHURCH PICNIC

FOOD. GAMES. MUSIC. FELLOWSHIP

MUSIC MINISTRY SILENT AUCTION



FUND RAISER



MISSION FEST

LEARN ABOUT FPC's COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Sunday, June 7, 10:30 a.m.
SOCIAL CENTER & BALL FIELD

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN
270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840



"In Their Words"

Cemetery Tour

Sunday, May 31st, 11 am (rain date: June 14th)

Join Laura Draper for another walking tour of our historic cemetery where we will more hear stories of some of the remarkable people interred here. Grab some coffee after worship and meet in the Narthex.

Johnsonburg
Camp & Retreat Center

**Nancy's
Camperships**

The Presbyterian Women are again offering Nancy's Camperships for FPC youth entering grades 1-12 who plan to attend Camp Johnsonburg this summer. Camperships are given in memory of Nancy Blomn-Kipnis, an advocate for Camp Johnsonburg. Applications are available in the Narthex, church office, or at fpcweb.org/resources/forms.

Forms are due **Wednesday, May 27**. To learn more about the 2026 summer camp, visit campjburg.org/summer-camp.

Pride Flowers in June 🌈

The Social Justice Commission invites you to honor Pride Month by donating a flower arrangement for the Niche on one of the Sundays in June (the 7th, 14th, 21st, or 28th). These flowers serve as a visible sign of our church's welcome, love, and commitment to inclusion for all of God's children.

To donate an arrangement or reserve a date, please call, text, or email Deb Teall at **908.917.3990** or **debteallditor@gmail.com**. Thank you for helping us make our church a place of beauty and belonging.