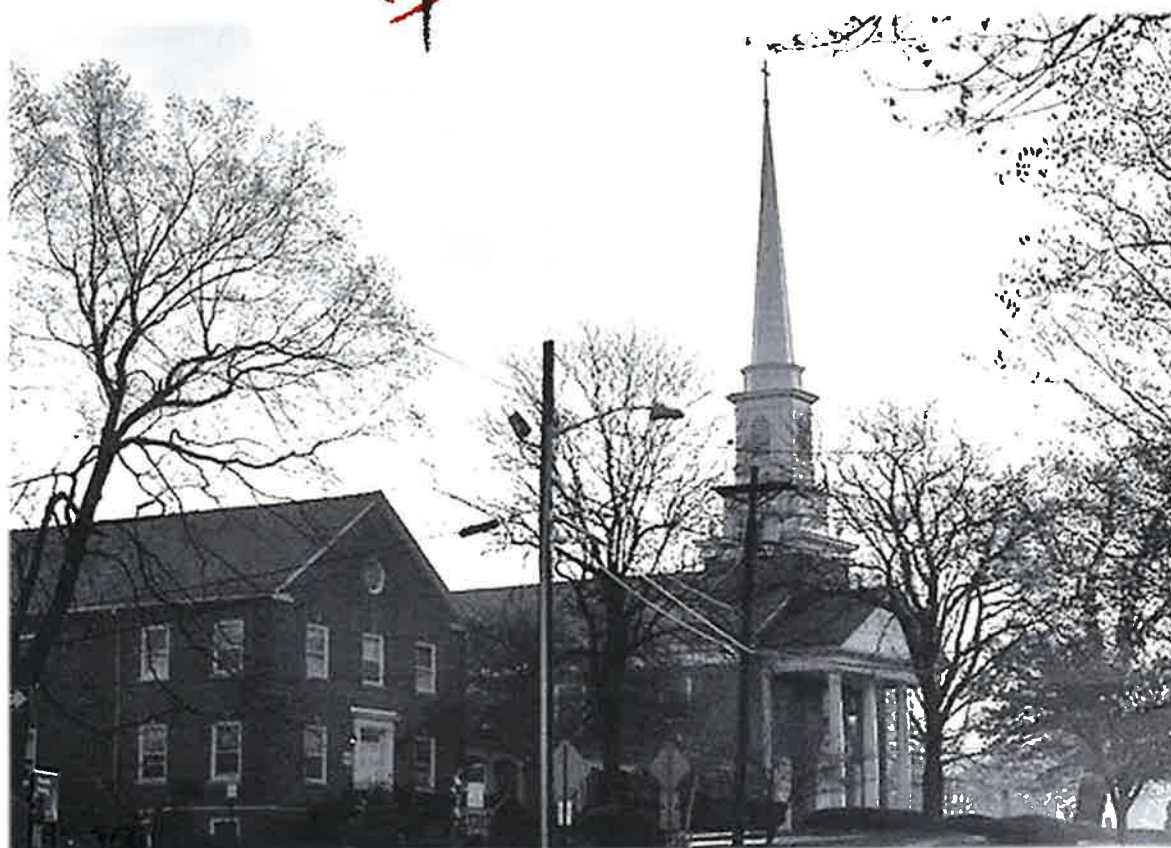




**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

VISION

To be an inclusive, connected, and loving community mobilized to serve Jesus Christ.

MISSION

We are a welcoming and diverse congregation that serves God by improving the spiritual, the mental and physical well-being of people in our community and beyond through worship, education, fellowship, music, and mission outreach.

January 28, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
4th Sunday After Epiphany

Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen



Senior Pastor and Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Robert A. Beringer
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas
Director of Music Ministries: Jordan Klotz
Minister of Music Emeritus: Brenda Arnold Day
Director for Christian Education: Nancy Leardi
Youth Director: Seminarian Hanna Halleck Richards

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 77:1-3,11-15

Pete Bellisano

Leader: I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that he may hear me.

In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.

I think of God, and I moan; I meditate, and my spirit faints.

All: I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old.

I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds.

Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might among the peoples. With your strong arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

*HYMN #110 Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

God of mercy hear our prayer. We looked for answers in power, in fear, in wealth. We seek assurance in abundance and control. Forgive us for answers we keep without humility; forgive us for our faith in what is not trustworthy. Teach us to give without condition; to love without expectation; to become the least as your Son became. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN # 581 Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Gilly McKie

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

Nancy Regan

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children Pre-K to 5th grade will proceed to their classrooms after the children's message; Grades 6th-7th depart after the sermon to the library. Grades 8th and older will remain in worship.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5: 2-5a

Pete Bellisano

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

ANTHEM *Canon of Praise*

Senior Choir, Piano: Elaine Hansen

Natalie Sleeth

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7

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

SERMON

"The Outskirts of Town"

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

***HYMN # 146**

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

CALL TO OFFERING

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**

***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.

***HYMN # 666**

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

Today's greeter is Carol Carr, and the ushers are Ann Behrens, Gilly McKie, and Wendy Kukowski.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in loving memory of MaryAnn Dougherty
by her daughter Mindy Repke, and son David Dougherty, and their families.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, NJ has adopted a policy in compliance with the enactment of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) agreeing that a member has the right to have their health and personal information kept private and secure. This means that an individual must give permission to have their name publicly shared with the congregation. 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. If you wish to have a loved one on the prayer list for a longer time, please contact Vicky Lacson (vlacson@fpcweb.org) in the Church Office.

Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)
Peggy Anastos (*friend of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
James Angley (*Lynne Angley's son*)
Marilyn Avery
The Bellini family (*friends of the Brennan's*)
Gemma Bertelsen (*Sister-in-law of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
Abigail Bilworth (*Granddaughter of Marcia Archer*)
Alliyon Blair (*Marcia Archer's granddaughter*)
Natalie Charles (*cousin of Tom Messina*)
Pat Collelo (*friend of Elaine Hansen*)
Giovanni Colon and his family (*family of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
*Beverly Cummings
Bob Cushing (*friend of Cathy Wolpin*)
*Mary Kay Dangremond
Lisa De La Fuente (*friend of the Kozo/Mollison family*)
Robert Doeg (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)
*Tracy Donahue
*Ruth Endicott
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)
Carol Franklin (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
*Marie Freeman
Leah French (*Sue Harmon's cousin*)
Lane Gibson (*friend of Bill Nann*)
Garrett Glass (*Julie Bourne's brother*)
*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)

*Margaret Hathaway
*Michelle Karst
Liz Lee (*Larrie Servino's Sister-in-Law*)
Patricia Maktal (*friend of Messina Family*)
Michael
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
Ricardo Mollison (*Caitlin Mollison's brother*)
*Doris Moskal
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Geri Rinaldo (*friend of Carol Carr*)
Deanna Rogers (*cousin of Dawn Adam*)
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehler*)
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
*Rose Serio
*Lorraine Sheaffer
*Deb Sorensen
Cindy Thompson (*Jim Thompson's sister*)
Vince Tavormina (*friend of Elaine Hansen*)
Maureen Washington (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
Richard Watson (*Nancy Gurzo's friend*)
Megan Weingarten (*Bill Marquard's niece*)
Ginny West (*related to June Keehler*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Codyann Archer with the 215 peacekeeping soldiers in the Middle East (*Marcia Archer's daughter*)
MSgt. David Hansen, USAF (*son of Elaine Hansen*)
EM3 Cody Harmon, U.S. Navy, Hawaii (*Sue Harmon's nephew*)
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, USAF – Lakenheath AFB, UK (*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*)
First Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard (*Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew*)

January 28, 2024 WORSHIP HYMNS

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#110 LOVE HAS COME

1- Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

2- Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother.
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3- Love has come, and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

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#581 GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

#146 GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD

1- Gentle Mary laid her child
lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled,
to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
who have found his favor.

2- Angels sang about his birth;
wise men sought and found him;
heaven's star shone brightly forth,
glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night;
all the hills were ringing.

3- Gentle Mary laid her child
lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled,
but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth,
beautiful the story;
praise his name in all the earth;
hail the King of glory!

#666 O SPLENDOR OF GOD'S GLORY BRIGHT

1- O Splendor of God's glory bright,
from light eternal bringing light;
O Light of Light, light's living spring,
true Day, all days illumining:

2- Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
rain down your radiance from above,
and to our inward hearts convey
the Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.

3- O joyful be the passing day
with thoughts as clear as morning's ray,
with faith like noontide shining bright,
our souls unshadowed by the night.

4- O Lord, with each returning morn,
your image to our heart is born;
O may we ever clearly view
our Savior and our God in you.

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.
After Worship Refreshments – Room 109 10:30 a.m.
Youth Commission Meeting – Church Office 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Book Club – PW Lounge. 11:00 a.m.
Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

Bible Study (Pericopes of Luke) – PW Lounge . . . 10:30 a.m.
Westminster Choir – Choir Room 6:15 p.m.
Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 6:45 p.m.
Youth Group – Room 201 7:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Concord Ringers – Bell Loft 9:30 a.m.
Junior Choir – Choir Room 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.
Joy Ringers – Bell Loft 5:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Junior Club – Auditorium 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.
Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.
Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Youth Day of Service – Social Center 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Flash Food Drive – S.C. Parking lot 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

COMING SOON

Feb 5 Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge – 7:00 pm
Feb 6 1st Tuesday – Room 109 – 4:30 – 5:00 pm
Feb 6 Deacons Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
Feb 7 Chancel Com. Meeting – PW Lounge – 1:30 pm
Feb 8 Local Mission Meeting – Auditorium – 11:45 am
Feb 10 Orientation for Community Dinner – Social Center
Kitchen – 9:00 am – Noon
Feb 11 Lego Sunday – 9:45 am - Room 109
Feb 13 Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Service – Sanctuary – 7:30 pm
Feb 15 Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium - 7:00 pm
Feb 18 2nd Hour: Lent in Plain Sight – Chapel – 10:30 am
Feb 18 Blood Drive – Social Center – 9:00 am- 2:00 pm
Feb 21 Lenten Bible Study – PW Lounge – 7:00 pm
Feb 25 Mom's Pour and Paint – Dining Rm 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Feb 26 Men's Breakfast – Dining Room – 7:30 am
Feb 28 Lenten Concert Series – Sanctuary – 12:00 pm
Feb 28 Lunch & Games – Dining Room – Noon – 3:00 pm
Mar 3 Baking Through the Bible – Kitchen – 9:45 am
Mar 3 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 5:00-6:00 pm

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received January 14 & 21

2024 Pledge	\$ 14,042
Non-pledge	\$ 2,430
Initial	\$ 535
Cash	\$ 658
Special Funds	\$ 412

TOTAL: \$ 18,077

Here are ways to give your offerings.

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!



PASTORAL CARE:

If you or someone you know needs our support, or is in the hospital, please feel free to contact Rev. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours: Monday to Friday: 8:30 am -4:30 pm.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



Junior Club

February 1 & 15
5:30 – 6:15 pm, Auditorium

1st Tuesday

February 6
4:30 - 5:00 pm, Room 109

Our Jr. Club and 1st Tuesday members will share love messages to residents of Parker Nursing Home by making Valentine's cards.

Lego Sunday

February 11
Room 109

Bake Through

March 3

the Bible, Gr. 3-6 9:30 am, Social Center Kitchen

From the Mission Commission:

We are pleased to share that through your support and participation, we were able to donate 451 pairs of socks to the University Behavioral Health Care Homeless Outreach Support during our Sock Drive. In addition, Jersey Cares was able to distribute over 1,700 winter coats donated by this church and community members to various churches and charities. Thank you for your participation in these projects.

It is a new year, and the Mission Commission is looking for creative individuals interested in furthering the mission projects of our church. If you are interested please contact Russ Dickow: mdickow151@aol.com

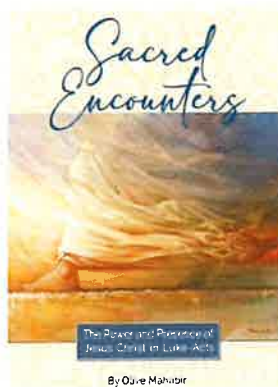


This is YOUR year to serve our church.

Do you see yourself serving as an Elder, Deacon, Audit Committee, All Church Nominating Committee (ACNC), Community Nursery School Board, Youth Elder, Youth Deacon, or on any one of our many Commissions or Committees?

The ACNC is beginning the search to fill many positions in our church and we need your help. We need your voice, and we need your God-given gifts. How do you see YOUR year?

For more information or to volunteer, contact the church office or Carol Carr (908) 930-6748.



HORIZON BIBLE STUDY

**Monday,
February 5
7:00 pm
PW Lounge
And Zoom**

In Lesson 5, we will discuss the encounter of the leper with Jesus, as narrated in Luke 17:11-21. Mary Kay Dangremond will be facilitating the discussion.

Join us in person or by Zoom using the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86310280966?pwd=NjdYSXMyMWZNUGFEdENZRUNuRlF3dz09>

Meeting ID: 863 1028 0966 Passcode: 575169

The lesson is available from the church website:
<https://fpcweb.org/ministries/presbyterian-women/>

Look for Horizon Bible Study and click on Lesson 5.

Questions? Contact Deb Teall at
debteall@optonline.net or (908) 917-3990



Give yourself a break, and enjoy some homemade soups especially prepared by our church members. **The Senior Choir will be selling soup after worship on Sunday, February 4th.**

Soups are priced at: \$8/quart or

\$15/two quarts

If you would like to donate homemade soup, please contact Laura Draper:
lauracubbagdraper@gmail.com

COMMUNITY DINNERS ARE BACK!

The Deacons are delighted to re-launch our *FREE* community dinners starting in March.

Enjoy a home-cooked meal.
Gather in community fellowship.

Once a month on
Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m.
Social Center Dining Room
March 3 | April 7 | May 5

We have a place for **EVERYONE!**

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Here's where we can use your help:

- Room and table set up
- Greeters/Hosts
- Food and Beverage servers / Dessert crew
- Clean up crew

Please email: Gilly McKie gilly@mckie.com or call (908) 405 2299. Also, feel free to call the church office.



BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, February 18, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Social Center Dining Room

SIGN UP NOW at www.rcblood.org/heart

Maximize your donations; help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B- or A- donor, consider making a Power Red donation.

Save time and streamline your donation experience by using the Rapid Pass on the website. To schedule:

- Call 1-800-733-2767 (RED CROSS)
- Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: FPCM for this blood drive
- Use the QR code above

Donors will receive a \$20 Amazon.com gift card by email.

Questions? Email Jen O'Neill jenoneill06@gmail.com



FPC Metuchen Youth Group presents

FLASH FOOD DRIVE

ONE AMAZING HOUR OF FOOD COLLECTION POWER!



Saturday, February 3rd
10am – 11am
FPC Metuchen Social Center

As part of the FPC Youth Group Service Day, 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!

Community Garden Plots

Ah, spring is right around the corner! That means the Community Gardeners are looking at seed packets and planning their garden layout for the upcoming season. The Community Garden boasts of 21 garden plots that people use to grow their own produce.

In true form, this community of gardeners is composed of diverse individuals from many walks of life sharing a common passion. Over half of our gardeners have been with us since the garden's inception in 2018. Others have joined through word of mouth and some people even share plots between them.

Popular crops include tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, lettuce, kale, basil, eggplant, broccoli, beans, peas, and zucchini, just to name a few.

If you have an interest in learning more about the Community Garden or want to sign up for a plot, please reach out to Jenny Messina at:

messinajenn@gmail.com