



**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



JESUS MAFA. The Pharisee and the Publican, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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 Ring a Joyful Sound Trinity Ringers Michael Helman

WELCOME/ TIDINGS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the sanctuary, God, the holy one, whose glory fills the whole earth, calls us.

All: Beside the sea, along ordinary paths, in our daily work, God calls us.

Leader: We respond with our whole heart, singing God's praise and giving thanks.

All: In steadfast love, God fulfills the divine purposes for our lives.

***HYMN 386** Come, Worship God O QUANTA QUALIA

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

O God, though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve and deliver us. Though our lips are not clean, and our hearts are not pure, you call us. Forgive us, we pray, when we wander away from you, lost and at risk. Forgive us when our lives do not reflect your glory and the purpose you intend. Help us to comprehend your ways in the world. We long to feel your grace and glory, for in you, Emmanuel, we can be healed and set free. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ANTHEM Trust in the Lord Jubilee Choir Ruth Schram

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE The Sunday School

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children 4 years to 6th grade are welcome to join the teachers in the GLOW room. Older children remain in worship.

MOMENT FOR JUSTICE Wendy Kukowski

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 138 Kevin Trolaro
This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Cantate Domino Westminster Choir Natalie Sleeth

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 18:9-14
This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “One of These is Not Like the Other” Rev. Khayla Johnson

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

***HYMN 769** For Everyone Born FOR EVERYONE BORN

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 772** Live into Hope TRURO

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

Today’s greeter is Heather Casey, and the ushers are Martin Brennan, Betty Kopetz, and Nikki Walter.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given: in loving memory of Dave West, from his wife Sue,
in loving memory of Carl Guthjahr, from Marion and their three children, Kenneth, Richard & Valerie, and
from Marie Hoffsommer, in loving memory of her mother, Susan, sister Evelyn, and son Erick.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

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

PEOPLE: *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

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

PEOPLE: *Thanks be to God.*

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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*)
*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*)
*Jan Margolis
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 Zanoni (*Mother-in-law of Wendy Kukowski*)

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

OUR CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT

for Amy Bertelsen-Robles and her family on the passing of her mom, Agnes Bertelsen, on February 3. Agnes joined the FPC-M in 2016.

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*)

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

And by appointment for other times

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.
2nd Hour: Facilities Master Plan – Chapel 10:30 a.m.
Confirmation Class – Room 203 10:30 a.m.
After Worship Refreshments – Room 109 10:30 a.m.
Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge 11:00 a.m.
Jubilee Choir – Choir Room 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel 7:30 p.m.
AA Support Group – Room 109 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Men’s Breakfast – Dining Room 7:30 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.
Youth Group – Youth Room 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Concord Ringers – Bell Loft 9:30 a.m.
Local Mission – Auditorium 11:45 a.m.
Junior Choir – Choir Room. 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Joy Ringers – Sanctuary 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Mission Commission – PW Lounge 7:00 p.m.
Covenant Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.
Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Care Team – Chapel 11:00 a.m.

ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Scan the QR code or click <https://bit.ly/4emWby6>

to access the FPC’s website calendar for more details of what’s happening in the coming weeks.



COMING SOON

Feb 16 Choir Soup Sale – Chapel – After worship
Feb 16 Youth Commission – Office Conf. Room – 10:30 am
Feb 18 Personnel – Office Conference Room – 7:30 pm
Feb 19 B & G Meeting – Office Conference Rm – 8:00 am
Feb 19 Finance – Office Conference Room – 7:00 pm
Feb 19 Prayer Shawl Circle – Session Room – 7:00 pm
Feb 20 Stewardship – Office Conference Room – 1:00 pm
Feb 20 Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium – 7:00 pm
Feb 22 Elijah’s Promise Sandwich Making / Youth Day of Service – Social Center – 9:00-11:00 am
Feb 23 Congregational & Corporation Meeting - Sanctuary After worship
Feb 23 Name Tag Sunday
Feb 26 Lunch and Games- Dining Room – Noon to 3:00 pm
Mar 2 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 5:00 pm

TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received February 2

Pledge	\$ 7,071
Non-pledge	\$ 315
Cash	\$ 175
Per Capita	\$ 140
Deacons	\$ 470
PW-Malawi Fund	\$ 105
PW-Malawi Fund	\$ 235

TOTAL: \$ 8,511

OTHER RECEIPTS \$295 (Parking)

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!

– NOTICE –

**Meeting of the
Congregation and Corporation (USN)
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.



Following worship, join us in a 2nd Hour with presenters Lori Kellner, Kevin Trolaro, and Heather Koball as they share the Facilities Master Plan which provides a framework for upcoming construction and renovation projects here at FPC. In addition, they will also talk about the funding sources for these projects, including the Preservation Fund and new grants.

**Choir Soup Sale
FUNDRAISER
Sunday, Feb. 16
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.

**WEDNESDAY, February 12
7:30 am in the Dining Room**

**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

**FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
AND GREAT CONVERSATION!**

In Need of a Ride?

Do you need transportation to an appointment? Call the church office a call **at least 3 days in advance**. The Deacons will make every effort to get you there.

Please tell us

- Where you want to be picked up
- Where you are going.
- What time you need to be there.
- Whether you need a return ride and when.
- Whether you have any mobility issues.



Psalm 146:9 tells us “The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.”

Interfaith-RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Services & Empowerment) is a multi-faith, multi-congregational, multi-racial organization committed to helping refugees and asylees, **who have already been granted permission to live in the United States**, to become self-sufficient and integrate into our community. Interfaith-RISE has long been supported by FPC Metuchen and relies on a mix of private donations and federal funding; **however, their federal funding is currently frozen, creating an immediate and devastating gap in services for refugees and asylees who are now stuck.** To help bridge this damaging funding gap, the Social Justice Committee is reaching out to the Congregation to ask for support of Interfaith-RISE. If you feel so moved, there are 4 ways to provide financial support:

1. Scan the QR code below to take you to the church donation page. Donate on the third line from the top, titled Interfaith RISE (No need to create an account to do this)
2. Click the word “Give” on the church website homepage. Then click on the box marked “Give Online” and look for the line marked “Interfaith RISE”
3. Make a check out to FPC with "Interfaith RISE" in the memo
4. Donate with cash, again indicating it is for Interfaith RISE



To learn more about Interfaith-RISE, visit their website at interfaithrise.org.

FPC Metuchen Youth Group presents FLASH FOOD DRIVE



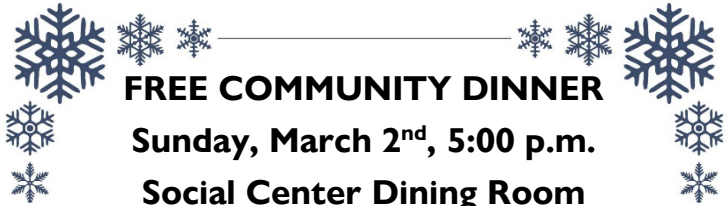
Saturday, February 22nd
9:00 am – 11:00 am

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!



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 in any and every way – we welcome the extra hands. Let us know if you can help with prep work, set up or clean up, serve, greet or usher, or donate a dessert.

You may email Gilly McKie, gilly@mckie.com or feel free also to call the church office.