



**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

May 5, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

6th Sunday of Easter

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
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Robert A. Beringer
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas
Intern Pastor: Rev. Leksmana Leonard
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 De Profundis

Keith Chapman

WELCOME/ TIDINGS

The Rev. Dr. Fred. G. Garry

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 103

Rev. Leksmana Leonard

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits - who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

All: The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.
Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding,
obedient to his spoken word. Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.
Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

***HYMN # 305** Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

DARWALL'S 148TH

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

God of mercy, hear our prayer. Your son came to set captives free; forgive us for the forging of chains. Your Holy Spirit lifts the fallen; forgive us for causing others to stumble. Your creation is a gift sustaining all life; forgive us for hoarding and destroying. God of mercy hear our prayer.
Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children Pre-K to 5th grade will proceed to their classrooms after the baptism. Grades 6th and older remain in worship.

PRESENTATION OF BAPTISM

Clerk of Session Paul Gunsser

Austin Thomas Koehl, Son of Courtney and Thomas Koehl

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

THE BAPTISM

BLESSING AND WELCOME

*HYMN # 480 Take Me to the Water (Verse 1)

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

Take me to the water. Take me to the water. Take me to the water to be baptized.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:21-31

Pete Bellisano

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

ANTHEM Awake, My Heart

Senior Choir

Jane Marshall

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:42-44

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

SERMON

“The Good News of the Kingdom of God”

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN # 815

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

FESTAL SONG

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Meditation on “Beach Spring”

*DOXOLOGY #609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

A gluten-free option is available on the Communion table. Please ask a server for assistance.

COMMUNION HYMN #498

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

BEACH SPRING

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

***HYMN # 475** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE At the Lamb's High Feast

Paul Manz

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

The rose on the chancel rail is in celebration of the birth of Colette Catherine Ostermueller on April 28 to parents Dan and Fallon Ostermueller, and big sister Remi, and the 2nd granddaughter of Cathy and Gary Ostermueller.

Our greeter this morning is Nancy Regan, and the ushers are Heather Koball, Eli Duhme, and Yunus Ruhukay. Serving communion are Jen O'Neill-Casey, Claartje Ruhukay, Kristina Scoglio, Kevin Trolaro, Jennifer Thompson, Nikki Walter, and Sue West.

*The Sanctuary flowers are given by:
Elaine Hansen in loving memory of her husband Art,
Marion Guthjar in honor of her children's birthdays, Kenneth on May 17,
Richard on May 27 and Valerie on May 12, and
Linda and Joe Valeriani with love in celebration of the baptism of their grandson, Austin Thomas Koehl.*

The flowers in the niche are given in loving memory of Dee Bonner for her birthday from her family.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4: 42-44

At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, 'I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose.' So he continued proclaiming the message in the synagogues of Judea.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

May 5, 2024 WORSHIP HYMNS

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#305 COME SING, O CHURCH, IN JOY!

1- Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long.

Refrain:

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!

2- Long years have come and gone,
And still God reigns supreme,
Empowering us to catch the vision,

Dream the dream **Refrain**

3- Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the Crucified! **Refrain**

4- Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed over the ages long!

Refrain

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#582 GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

1- Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

2- World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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#815 GIVE TO THE WINDS THY FEARS

1- Give to the winds thy fears;
hope, and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;
God shall lift up thy head.

2- Through waves and clouds and storms
God gently clears the way.
Wait patiently; so shall this night
soon end in joyous day.

3- Leave to God's sovereign sway
to choose and to command.
So shalt thou, wondering, own God's way,
how wise, how strong God's hand!
4- Let us in life, in death,
thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our final breath
thy love and guardian care.

609 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

Praise God, from whom all blessings, flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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#498 LOAVES WERE BROKEN, WORDS WERE SPOKEN

1 Loaves were broken, words were spoken
by the Galilean shore.

Jesus, Bread of life from heaven,
was their food forevermore.

Chorus

By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

2 Loaves were broken, words were spoken
in a quiet room one night,

In the bread and wine you gave them,
Christ, you came as Light from Light.

3 Loaves are broken, words are spoken,
as in faith we gather here.

Jesus speaks across the ages:
"I am with you; do not fear!"

4 By the loaves you break and give us,
send us in your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger,
words that tell your love and care.

Refrain

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#475 COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

1- Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

2- Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3- O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

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.

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*)
Gerrie Bishop (*Cathy Ostermueller's mother*)
Alliyon Blair (*Marcia Archer's granddaughter*)
Anna Cackowski (*daughter of Al & Helen Burr-Cackowski*)
Natalie Charles (*cousin of Tom Messina*)
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*)
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
*Tara Jusinski (*Sue Harmon's daughter*)
Elizabeth Mack (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
Dennis Maiuro (*Colleen Walker's brother-in-law*)
Patricia Maktal (*friend of Messina Family*)
Michael
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
Ricardo Mollison (*Caitlin Mollison's brother*)
*Bill Nann
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehler*)
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
Paula Schwalje (*Mark Haulenbeek's sister*)
Robert (*son of Karen Sorensen*)
Sarah Abed VanPelt (**Chris VanPelt's daughter-in-law**)
Richard Watson (*Nancy Gurzo's friend*)
Ginny West (*related to June Keehler*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong
Michael Zambri (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT
to Tom and Kat Davis on the passing of Tom's
father, Stanley Davis, Jr. on April 28.

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*)
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*)
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 5

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.
 New Member Class – Library 10:30 a.m.
 After Worship Refreshment – Room 109 10:30 a.m.
 Walk Around – Meet in Narthex 10:30 a.m.
 Community Dinner – Dining Room 5:00 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 6

Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge 7:00 p.m.
 Youth Commission – Zoom 7:00 p.m.
 DBSA Support Group – Room 109. 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Jubilee Choir – Choir Room. 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
 1st Tuesday – Room 109 4:30 p.m.
 Deacons Meeting – Chapel 7:30 p.m.
 AA Support Group – Room 109 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Bible Study (Pericopes of Luke) – PW Lounge . . . 10:30 a.m.
 Walk Around – Meet in the Social Center 6:00 p.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, MAY 9

Concord Ringers – Bell Loft 9:30 a.m.
 Local Mission Meeting – Auditorium 11:45 a.m.
 Junior Choir – Choir Room 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.
 Joy Ringers – Bell Loft 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, MAY 10

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

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Mother’s Day Car Wash – Parking Lot 9:00 a.m. – Noon

COMING SOON

May 12 Youth Sunday
 May 12 New Member Class – Library – 10:30 am
 May 12 APNC – Room 204 – 10:30 am
 May 13 Social Justice – Office Conf. Room – 7:30 pm
 May 13 Habitat Meeting – PW Lounge – 7:30 pm
 May 14 PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge – 11:00 am
 May 14 Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 pm
 May 15 B & G Meeting – PW Lounge – 8:30 am
 May 15 Prayer Shawl Knitting Circle – Session Rm – 7:00 pm
 May 18 Elder Care Team – PW Lounge – 11:00 am
 May 19 Youth Commission – Office Conf. Room – 11:45 am
 May 19 Senior Choir Concert – Sanctuary – 4:00 pm
 May 21 CE Commission – Zoom – 7:00 pm
 May 22 Lunch and Games – Dining Room – Noon – 3:00 pm
 May 22 Finance Meeting – Office Conf. Rm. – 7:00 pm

TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received April 28

Pledge	\$ 3,080
Non-pledge	\$ 535
Cash	\$ 1,070
Special Offering	\$ 110
Special Funds	\$ 795

TOTAL: \$ 5,590

Other Receipts: \$770

(Flowers, Building Use & 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!

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 Thursday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, or by appointment.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 23 – 28, 2024

Mon—Thurs 9:00-11:45,
Fri 9:00-10:30 am

This summer, come for a week of fun, faith, and more in a cosmic space adventure. Invite friends to double the fun!

Volunteers are also needed. Make a difference by giving of your time – before, during, and after camp.

Use the QR codes for the forms to register your child or to sign up as a volunteer.



Campers Form:



Volunteers Form:



Questions? Contact Nancy Leardi
nleardi@fpcweb.org or call (732) 491-2264

FPC WALK AROUND

For Facilities Master Plan

TODAY, May 5th, After Worship

May 8th, 6:00 pm, Social Center

Help us formulate a three-year Facilities Master Plan by joining us in a Walk-around of our buildings and grounds. We have been blessed with a very generous contribution to our Preservation Fund and we are seeking to score the projects that we have identified. Your participation will be most helpful. **Join us today or Wednesday, May 8th, whichever is convenient.** We hope to see many join us.



Get your cars cleaned while supporting our youth as they fundraise for their Habitat trip this summer. See you in the church parking lot.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Today, May 5 and

May 12

10:30 am, Library



Here's an opportunity to know more about your faith, explore what it means to be Presbyterian, and be a church member. Meet with Rev. Garry and members of Session for an hour, and also get your questions answered.

New members will be recognized on May 19th followed by a reception to allow the church to meet and welcome the new members.



Enjoy a home-cooked meal on us!

TODAY, MAY 5, SUNDAY

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Social Center Dining Room

We have a place for EVERYONE!

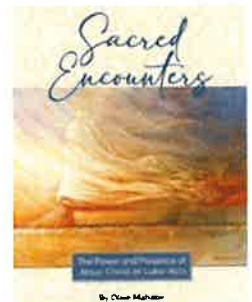
Join us in community and fellowship and enjoy crispy tacos with beef, chicken, or vegetarian options, all the toppings, and a strawberry dessert.

HORIZON BIBLE STUDY:
Sacred Encounters

Monday, May 6th

7:00 pm

PW Lounge & Zoom



AGES PAST & YEARS TO COME

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen
SENIOR CHOIR
in concert

MAY 19, 2024 | 4 PM

270 Woodbridge Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840

Tickets: \$15

