



**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



**October 20, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
22nd Sunday after Pentecost**

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
 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

ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD

*Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Cello Suite No. 1, BWV 1007 : I. Prelude

J.S. Bach

WELCOME/TIDINGS

Rev. Khayla Johnson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

All: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Leader: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

All: shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

*HYMN # 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison

Rev. Khayla Johnson

God of life, we give thanks for the beauty and grace of Your creation. You created the vast skies, the deep seas, and the majestic mountains. Thank you for the sunlight that gives warmth, the rain that gives life to plants and animals, and the wind that breathes freshness into the air. O God, help us to protect and care for Your creation with love, the eyes to see the beauty in all living creatures, and the courage to live in balance with nature. Teach us to see Christ even in a piece of seed, which we often throw away and ignore in our food. God of life, hear our prayer. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN #654 In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

MOMENT FOR THANKSGIVING

ANTHEM God Is Here

Junior Choir

Helen Kemp

Congregation (Verse 3 only. See back page.)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Jen Thompson

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Children Pre-K to 6th grade will exit to their Sunday School classrooms. Older children remain in worship.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 8:1-3

Arthur Jemmy

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

ANTHEM Leaning on the Everlasting Arms Senior Choir Eric Nelson
SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 8:4-15
This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**
SERMON "Clumsy God" Rev. Leksmana Leonard

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

SETTLING OF THE WORD

*HYMN # 171 A Sower Came from Ancient Hills SEACHRIST

CALL TO OFFERING Rev. Leksmana Leonard

OFFERTORY Plowshare Prayer Spencer LaJoye

*DOXOLOGY # 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH

*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 Rev. Leksmana Leonard

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 # 36 For the Fruit of All Creation AR HYD Y NOS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Rev. Leksmana Leonard and Rev. Khayla Johnson

POSTLUDE Suite gothique V. Toccata Leon Boëllmann

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

*Thank you to Helen Burr-Cackowski, flute, Paul Vanderwal, cellist, and Olivia Dixon, soprano,
for their musical offerings today.*

Today's greeter is Sandra Lалуw, and the ushers are Gilly McKie, Beth Russian, and Jennifer Thompson.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Grace Hammesfahr in loving memory of her sisters,
Madeline Spargo and Grace McKnight.*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 8:4-15

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: 'A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.' As he said this, he called out, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that "looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand."

'Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

October 20, 2024 WORSHIP HYMNS

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#12 IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

1- Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2- Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3- To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

4- Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

#654 IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; Do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; The Lord is near.

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#171 A SOWER CAME FROM ANCIENT HILLS

1- A Sower came from ancient hills
and cast good seed abroad: his field, ten thousand
human hearts; his seed, the word of God.
And some who listened would not hear,
and some who heard forgot.
But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower
taught.

2- A Sower walked throughout the land and,
everywhere he trod, he sowed his life
because he was himself the Seed of God.
But then, atop a barren hill, beneath a darkening sky,
they threw God's seed on stony ground
and left it three to die.

3- The Seed was buried deep in death
beneath a blood red sky, and deeper still was buried
hope for those who watched him die.
But then, in Joseph's garden fair,
as dawn broke o'er the land,
the Seed, from three days' silent sleep,
awoke at God's command!

4- O Christ, you came among us still,
the Sower and the Seed.
As once you sowed the truth of God
in glowing word and deed,
implant your Word in waiting hearts,
and let it there take hold,
until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundredfold.

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606 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS

FLOW

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.

#36 FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION

1- For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
Thanks be to God.

2- In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
In our world-wide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

3- For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, 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 and Gemma Bertelsen (*Brother and sister-in-law of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)
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*)
Carol Franklin (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
*Marie Gale
Lane Gibson (*friend of Bill Nann*)
*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)
*Margaret Hathaway
Vera Koprowski (*mother of Cathy Wolpin*)
Marion Kovacs (*friend of June Keehbler*)
*Susan Kozo
Elaine LeSter (*Lorraine LeSter's sister*)
MacArthur family (*Allison Brennan's cousin and family*)

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

Elizabeth Mack (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)
Patricia Maktal (*friend of Messina Family*)
Chris McGrane (*friend of Sue Harmon*)
Patty Meyer (*Daughter-in-law of Jane and Ed Meyer*)
Michael
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)
Joan Murray (*Allison Brennan's mother*)
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehbler*)
*Dave Ryder
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
*Deb Sorensen
Lorenzo Soto (*Kristina Scoglio's cousin*)
Charlotte Spangler (*granddaughter of Sally Ayotte*)
Sarah Abed Van Pelt (*Chris Van Pelt's daughter-in-law*)
Richard Watson (*Nancy Gurzo's friend*)
Crystal Smith Williams (*friend of the Food Pantry*)
David Wong
*Lynn Hendricks Wong
Michael Zambri (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)

CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS OF COMFORT

For Marnie, Bill & Amy Jeney and family on the passing of William Keers, Marnie's husband and Bill's stepfather, on October 13.

MALAWI MISSION GROUP – OCTOBER 15 - 24

Let us continue to pray for Rev. Garry, Jen Edge, and Sarah Teti for traveling mercies, good health, and meaningful engagements with the Widows Fund and others for their time in Malawi.

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, OCTOBER 20

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.
 Refreshments – Room 109 10:30 a.m.
 Youth Commission – Office Conf. Room 10:30 a.m.
 Indonesian Worship Service - Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Westminster Choir – Choir Room 6:30 p.m.
 Trinity Ringers – Bell Loft 7:00 p.m.
 Youth Group – Youth Room (Rm. 211) 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

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.
 Mission Volunteer Night – Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
 Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

Fish & Chips Fundraiser Dinner – Parking Lot 6:00 p.m.
 Women’s AA Support Group – Room 109. . . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Mission Volunteer Saturday – Auditorium 9:00 a.m.

COMING SOON

- Oct 27 Kirkin’ O’ the Tartan Service – Sanctuary - 9:30 am
- Oct 27 Sunday Book Club – Sanctuary – 11:00 am
- Oct 27 Hauntings at the Organ Concert – Sanctuary
6:00 pm
- Nov 1 Presbyterian Queer Fel. – PW Lounge- 7:00 pm
- Nov 3 New Member Class – Session Room - 10:30 am
- Nov 3 Community Dinner – Dining Room – 5:00 pm
- Nov 4 Horizon Bible Study – PW Lounge – 7:00 pm
- Nov 4 Social Justice Com.- Office Conf. Rm – 7:30 pm
- Nov 5 Deacons Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 p.m.
- Nov 10 New Member Class – Session Room - 10:30 am
- Nov 12 Unicameral Board Meeting – Chapel – 7:30 p.m.
- Nov 24 New Member Reception – Room 109 – 10:30 am

For more details of what’s happening in the coming weeks and months, check out the church calendar on the website. Scan this QR code to access the mentioned calendar.



TREASURER’S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received October 13

Pledge	\$ 7,124
Non-pledge	\$ 600
Cash	\$ 171
Per Capita	\$ 160
Special Funds	\$ 100
Food Pantry	\$ 20
Special Offerings	\$ 365

TOTAL: \$ 8,540

Other Receipts: \$130 (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 or Rev. Khayla Johnson at (843) 312-7288. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours: Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, or by appointment.





November 3 and 10

Session Room, After worship

Interested or have questions about church membership?

Explore what it means to be Presbyterian, the opportunities available to be part of ministry, and what mission projects and efforts are currently underway. Sign up now if you would like to attend these classes that will be led by Rev. Garry, and Rev. Johnson. Contact us in the church office. Call: (732) 491-2300 or email: fpc@fpcweb.org

A reception welcoming the new members will be held on November 24th. We hope you will join now!



STEWARDSHIP 2025

The PW's semi-annual rummage sale just concluded this weekend, and each year PW raises about \$20,000 from these sales.

The Presbyterian Women use these funds to help our church in many ways, such as providing financial support for children to attend VBS, the Habitat mission trip, and Camp Johnsonburg; providing financial support for the choir tour; beautifying church rooms; and helping repair broken items in our kitchen. FPC is so blessed to have such a generous group of Presbyterian Women. However, the money PW raises does not pay for the operations of the church. Our Stewardship campaign is to raise funds for the church operations, such as the salaries of church staff and the utilities to light and heat FPC buildings.

With your pledge, you participate in the heart work of the church. Your generosity means a lot, and it goes a long way.

Pledge now by calling the church office, email our church treasurer Colleen Walker at cwalker@fpcweb.org, or use this QR code to pledge online. **THANK YOU!**



Candlelight Concert Series

Hauntings at the Organ
October 27, 6:00 pm
Sanctuary

Brenda Day and Jordan Klotz are sure to haunt you with both sacred and secular organ music specifically selected to add terror to the Halloween season. This event is the first of the Music Ministry's new Candlelight Concert Series— evening performances by candlelight—and is also being co-sponsored by Rise Up Community Arts.

Ticketing is being handled by Rise Up Community Arts and can be purchased at riseuparts.org or at the door.

For more information, scan this QR code.



FROM THE DEACONS OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

**FISH* & CHIPS
DINNER**
***CHICKEN OPTION**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
6:00-7:30 PM
SOCIAL CENTER

Come for a delicious dinner of fish (or chicken), chips, coleslaw, and a cold drink. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help fund the Deacons' initiatives.

Tickets: Adults \$25 | Kids \$15
12 & under

Get your tickets from the Church office, from the Deacons. or use this QR code for Eventbrite. (Additional fees apply.)



Kirkin' o' the Tartan

October 27, 2024



Get your tartans ready to march with the beadle and bagpiper for our fun service of the Kirkin. The Kirkin o' the Tartan reminds us that we are a community of believers woven together by the faith of centuries. **We will meet around 9:15 am at the corner of Laureldale Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue.** On the bagpiper's cue, we will march together to the Sanctuary. Please give yourselves time and plan to arrive early.

God is Here!

Verse 1 (Choir)

God is here! God is here! God is here!

As we your children meet to offer praise and prayer may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

A Rose in Remembrance



November 3

Remember your departed loved ones by placing a memorial rose in the Sanctuary at the worship service on November 3rd. The names will be listed in the worship bulletin, and roses may be brought home by the donor.

Get your form from the Narthex, church foyer or download one using the QR code.

Return the form with your payment by OCTOBER 28 to the church office.



Verse 2 (Choir)

Here are symbols to remind us of our life-long need of grace.

Here are table, font and pulpit: here the cross has central place. Here in silence, as in speech, here in newness and renewal,

God the Spirit comes, God the Spirit comes, God the Spirit comes to each and all.

Verse 3 (Choir & Congregation)

Here we chil - dren find_ a wel - come in the
Shep - herd's flock_ and fold. Here, as bread and
wine_ are tak - en, Christ sus - tains_ us as_ of
old. Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion,
all we have_ to give, re - ceive: We,_ who can - not
live_ with - out you, We_ a - dore_ you! We be - lieve!

Choir: God is here! God is here!