

Introducing Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook



Pastor Erin grew up in Port Murray, New Jersey. While there she spent her days with family and friends exploring the woods, reading, and using the wonderful imagination one develops when one is an only child. Her weekends were spent at a small Baptist Church a few miles from home. In the search for the perfect college she found Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania. When she visited the school she fell in love with the way they approached education through the liberal arts lens. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Religious Studies.

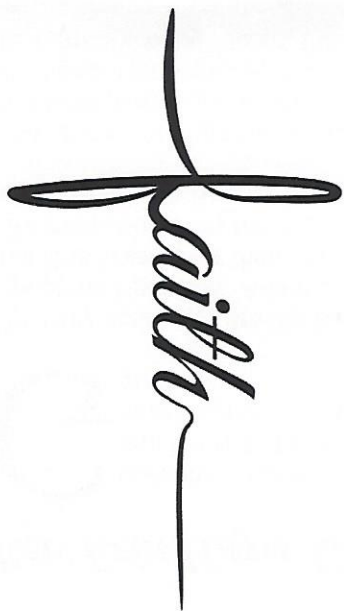
During her college years, Pastor Erin sensed a call to ministry which was affirmed by her home church. Right after college Pastor Erin said yes to the adventure of Princeton Theological Seminary. After graduation in 2005, with prayer and discernment she joined the PCUSA and immediately began the tract to ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. She completed her ordination requirements and was ordained by the Presbytery of Donegal in 2013.

Since 2005 she has served churches in New Jersey and Pennsylvania as a Director of Christian Education, Director of Youth Ministries, and Solo Pastor. Each context of ministry was unique and gave her joy to discover to the challenge and hope of each community.

Having been blessed to lead worship in the woods at Johnsonburg, on the platform of Montreat Conference center, and various Christian churches, she finds joy in leading worship in creative ways. She has served the presbytery in various roles and believes in the power of a connectional church.

Because of her bi-racial identity, Pastor Erin leads from the middle which makes her aware of the middle places in all our lives. She enjoys serving communities that are diverse in more ways than one.

Lawrence and Pastor Erin have been married since 2016. They welcomed their daughter Arden into the world in June 2019. You will find Pastor Erin always looking for a good cup of coffee and a welcoming table. Both she and her husband have been active athletes for most of their lives.



Our December 5th Service will be broadcasted through Zoom instead of Facebook and the Zoom will be sent to Congregation Members ONLY

All members will receive an email to link to Zoom prior to the special 2:00 service and to cast their vote online. If more than one member resides in the home please login using your personal email in order to cast each vote.

Please join us in person or by Zoom
Sunday, Dec. 5th, 2021 at 2:00pm

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook: Statement of Faith

God is the creator of the earth and of humanity and exists as one equally in the Holy Trinity known as Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. We know the Holy one as a Mother who gathers her children in her arms, a Father who fashioned humans out of dust, and as the one who hears our cries of distress through the Holy Scriptures. God is love eternal.

The Holy Scriptures are the foundation of life and faith for the church. We learn the story of Adam and Eve, created in the image of the Holy One. Adam and Eve were charged with freedom, free will, and care of the earth, but while living in the garden that God created for them they chose to disobey God. Because they sinned they were banned from perfect union with God. Like them, humanity has the nature to turn away and wander from our Creator. The result of sin is in the brokenness of our relationship with God and each other.

God continued to gather us as a people. God's covenant established a nation by calling many like Abraham, Sarah, the prophets, judges, kings and queens to follow God. Despite the call, humanity fell short and broke covenant with God over and again. God loved us and desired to fix the broken covenant. So in the fullness of time, Jesus, chose to come to earth in the form of a baby. Jesus, the word of God, was born to Mary and Joseph. Jesus came as a prophet to declare the kingdom

of God. He came as a priest to stand in the presence of God for the world. As a King Jesus came to rule with love, grace, and justice. While on earth He healed the sick, raised the dead and declared salvation for all. Jesus is a friend to us and offered his life on the cross. Because he laid down his life in place of ours we are free from judgment and forgiven by the grace of God. Christ died and rose again so we can live life eternally with God. Upon his resurrection Jesus appeared to his faithful disciples to prove that he lives again. When Jesus left the earth he gave his followers the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus charged them to continue to heal the sick, baptize, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit.

As our guide and comforter the Spirit creates, transforms, and renews our minds. It was by the Spirit of God that the Christian church came into being on the day of Pentecost. The Spirit joins all saints together in the sacraments of baptism and communion. The Spirit was present at Jesus' baptism and the creation of the world. In the baptismal waters we are joined into the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and claimed as children of the promise. At the table we are reminded of God's infinite love manifest in Jesus' act of self-sacrifice for the entire world. By sharing the bread and cup we commune with Christ and all saints by the power of the Spirit. We are sent from the communion table to do the reconciling, redeeming and healing work of love until Christ comes again. Being spiritual food for the journey, the celebration of the Lord's supper call us to repentance, while nourishing and sustaining us until the day of the Lord comes.

The Christian Church was instituted by God through the power of the Holy Spirit and the teachings of Jesus. Bound together by the Holy Scriptures the Holy catholic church is a group of ordinary people of faith called by an extraordinary God. The church exists to further the reign of God. We do this by standing for God's justice, feeding the hungry, healing the sick all the while pointing to the forgiving, reconciling work of Jesus Christ. We do this confident that Jesus will gather us as one and we will live fully in the presence of God.



The First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown,
Pastor Nominating Committe has requested your presence
either in person or virtually through Zoom to cast your vote

Please Join Us
Sunday, Dec. 5th, 2021 at 2:00pm

“Candidate Sunday”