

First Presbyterian Church



Hackettstown, NJ

January 29, 2023

Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church

Strengthening families;
Sowing friendships;
Serving community;
In the name of Jesus Christ

PRELUDE *Be Still My Soul*

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *adapted from Bruce Prewer*

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gathers the poor of the earth.

Glorious is our God, who wipes away the tears of sorrow.

*Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives inheritance
to the meek.*

Glorious is our God, who satisfies the hunger of the just.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives mercy to the merciful.

Glorious is our God, who gives vision to the pure in heart.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who adopts the peacemakers.

Glorious is our God, who lifts high the persecuted.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who finds the lost.

Glorious is our God, who awakens us to new life.

***HYMN #749 COME! LIVE IN THE LIGHT!**

Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,

to live in the freedom of the city of God.

REFRAIN: We are called to act with justice;

we are called to love tenderly;

we are called to serve one another;

to walk humbly with God.

**Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
So hatred and violence will be no more.
REFRAIN**

**Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.
REFRAIN**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

God of all compassion, we praise you for the amazing deeds you have done. We lift up your name that is above all names. May our worship be good and pleasing to you. As we lift up our hearts to you, point them to your kindness and mercy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**ANTHEM: Amazing Grace
Unity Chimes**

arr. Ravo

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tandi Tanga Jesus, Traditional Namibian

Little Lights Sunday School Choir

(Phonetic pronunciation)

Tondy, tonga yay-soos. Tondy, tonga, yay-soos.

Tondy tonga yay-soos moh moo-tee mah. (REPEAT)

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. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Cole Arthur Riley

Dear God of Compassion, some days we find ourselves tormented by our faults. Our worst choices, every action or failure to act, taunt us from the past. We silently critique ourselves, and we bar others from entering and holding in the dark corridors of our own hearts. Grant us a communal and self-compassion that releases us from the fear of being seen. Help us towards a forgiveness that isn't too quick or too slow, but that lives relentlessly at the site of our truth-telling. Remorse and repair. And as you forgive us guide us to a self-forgiveness that allows us to operate not out of guilt or terror, but out of a deep sense of belonging. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Our God is a God of grace and mercy and love;
know that our sins have been forgiven.
May we be strengthened in all goodness.
Since we have been raised with Christ,
let us seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
Thanks be to God, Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Micah 6:1-8

6:1 Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. 2 Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. 3 "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! 4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. 5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." 6 "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" 8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 5:1-12

5:1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SERMON

Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

HYMN #172 BLEST ARE THEY

Blest are they; the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.

REFRAIN:

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.

REFRAIN

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God.

REFRAIN

Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.

Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.

REFRAIN

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.

Rejoice, be glad; yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.

REFRAIN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Serenity*

***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**

DEDICATION OF COMFORT SHAWLS, LAP ROBES, POCKET CROSSES, AND BAPTISMAL BLANKETS

Leader: We come together as a people of faith to bless these shawls, lap robes, pocket crosses, and baptismal blankets made by hand with love.

People: Lord, bless them.

Leader: They are each a tangible sign of our caring for others.

People: Lord, let those who receive them feel our love.

Leader: The shawls and lap robes will be given to those who are in need. There are those who have lost loved ones.

People: Lord, give them comfort as they mourn.

Leader: There are those who have lost their health.

People: Lord, give them strength.

Leader: There are those who have suffered other losses in their lives.

People: Lord, give them peace.

Leader: The pocket crosses are small enough to fit in a pocket...

People: ...yet large enough to remind us of the steadfastness of God's love.

Leader: May each one be a tangible reminder that whatever road we travel, we have a companion with us.

People: God is with us always.

Leader: May each baptismal blanket be a reminder to the parents and child that their family also has a loving and giving church family.

People: May we be a positive influence on these new lives.

Leader: May each member of our congregation be blessed: in the making, in the giving, in the receiving.

People: We will look for opportunities to advance this ministry.

Leader: God is faithful. God will guide us.

All: May we all be blessed by God, the Great Healer and Comforter. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #707 TAKE THOU OUR MINDS, DEAR LORD**

**Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;
Give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
Teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
Grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.**

**Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;
Come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;
Help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
Use us to make the earth like heaven above.**

**Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
Have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
Guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
Guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.**

**Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
Through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee; time, talents, all;
We hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

RESPONSE #765 May the God of Hope Go with Us

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

POSTLUDE Savior, Again, to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Serving Our Congregation Today

Preaching: Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

Worship Leader: Pat Butts

Music Director: Lorinda Ravo

Greeting: Bruce & Ellen Bergman

***The cards this week on the piano for you to sign are for our
friends: The Risko family and Kim Miller***

SOUPEL BOWL OF CARING

On February 12, our church will participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring for the 23rd year. We hope you'll plan to participate by wearing attire from your favorite team: youth, high school, college, or pro, and by bringing at least one canned good for our Little Pantry. We'll also invite you, if you're able, to donate at least \$1 to the soup pots our Sunday School kiddos will be holding following worship. All donations will benefit our Little Pantry.

LEHIGH VALLEY PHANTOMS HOCKEY GAME

On February 19, we'll be making our annual trip to watch the Lehigh Valley Phantoms play the Hartford Wolf Pack at the PPL Center in Allentown, Pa. To make it even more fun, it's Melvin, the Phantom's mascot's birthday, so Melvin and many of his other mascot friends will be there to help him celebrate! Tickets are \$25, and to reserve your seat(s), please see Gabe or Chris Roguso.

ULTIMATE YOUTH NIGHT

TODAY! (Sunday, January 29, 3-5 pm)

We are blessed to partner with Johnsonburg Camp to host the Ultimate Youth Night. It is a two hour once a month program for youth ages 5th-8th grades. Johnsonburg staff will play games and create fun activities about faith with youth. It is open to any youth from our area. RSVP's appreciated not required at <https://forms.gle/tjwgmUPMeL5f2Y1E9>.

FYI-INFORMATION

1/22/2023	In Person Attendance	96
	Virtual Attendance	102
	Weekly Offering	\$4,931.53

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH Jan. 29- Feb. 4,2023

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
	11:10 am	Joyful Noise Bell rehearsal
	11:25 am	Unity Chimes rehearsal
Monday-Friday	9 am-12 noon	Church office open
Monday-Friday	9 am-12 noon	Heaven Sent Nursery School
Thursday	6:30-7:15 pm	FPCH Ringers rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Senior Choir rehearsal

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel Jan. 29- Feb. 4,, 2023

Sunday	4:00-9:00 pm	Venture Crew
	3:00-5:00 pm	Ultimate Youth Group
Monday	10:30-11:30 am	AA Step by Step
	7:00-9:00 pm	Jazz Band
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 158
	7:00 pm	Girls Troop 143 BSA
Tuesday	7:30pm-9 pm	NA Change or Die
Wednesday	7:30-9:00 pm	Stone Soup Symphony
Thursday	10:30-11:30 am	AA New Beginnings
Friday	Storage use only	Colonial Musketeers



FOR PASTORAL CARE,

Pastor Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook

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Church Website: [www. fpc hackettstown.org](http://www.fpc hackettstown.org).