

# First Presbyterian Church



**Hackettstown, NJ**

**September 12, 2021**

**Vision Statement of First Presbyterian Church**

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

**PRELUDE**

**THE RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me. Jesus is waiting for us to reach out. Let us join together and reach out to our God.**

**\*HYMN #720 Jesus Calls Us: Verses 1, 2,4 Tune: Galilee**

1. Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, "Christian, follow me."
2. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."
4. Jesus calls us: by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**DEDICATION LITANY OF NEW BANNERS**

L: Today, we receive and dedicate the two new banners which adorn our sanctuary.

**C: May we rejoice in their beauty.**

L: They were purchased by our Board of Deacons, using money that had been donated to our Memorial Fund in memory of friends, family members and loved ones.

**C: May we give thanks for these gifts.**

L: We accept these memorial banners as a sacred trust and will guard and use them reverently in memory of those who have completed their journey here on earth, and are now reunited with our Heavenly Father.

**C: May we feel connected to those who have gone before.**

L: We dedicate these banners today, with the prayer that they bring joy, understanding, and comfort to all who gather here.

**C: May we feel happiness and comfort.**

Let us pray:

**Most loving God, without you no words or works of ours have meaning. Accept these gifts as symbols of our devotion.**

**Grant us your blessing, as we have consecrated these gifts to your glory, that they may be an enduring witness before all our people. AMEN**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess to God whatever has wounded us or brought injury to others, that we may receive mercy and become for each other Ministers of God's grace.

### **CONFESSION**

Merciful God, We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. Amen.

## **\*GLORIA PATRI**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON : Proverbs 1:20-33**

<sup>20</sup> Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.

<sup>21</sup> At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates

she speaks: <sup>22</sup> “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate

knowledge? <sup>23</sup> Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to

you; I will make my words known to you. <sup>24</sup> Because I have called and

you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

<sup>25</sup> and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none

of my reproof, <sup>26</sup> I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when

panic strikes you, <sup>27</sup> when panic strikes you like a storm, and your

calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come

upon you. <sup>28</sup> Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they

will seek me diligently, but will not find me. <sup>29</sup> Because they hated

knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, <sup>30</sup> would have

none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, <sup>31</sup> therefore they

shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices.

<sup>32</sup> For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools

destroys them; <sup>33</sup> but those who listen to me will be secure and will

live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

### **Mark 8 : 27-38**

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." 29 He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."<sup>[a]</sup> 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. 31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." 34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,<sup>[b]</sup> will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words<sup>[c]</sup> in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

## **SERMON**

**Rev. Jeanette Hile**

### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Apostles' Creed

*I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION/PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN #722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak**

1. Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone. As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.

4. O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

5. O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

### **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

## **CONGREGATIONAL NOTICE**

On July 4, 2021, our congregation approved the nominees for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) who would search for our new pastor. They began working with The Rev. Dr. Patrick Sileo who is their Committee on Ministry (COM) liaison from Presbytery. He trained the PNC and worked with them to complete the Ministry Information Form (MIF) which gives information about our Church and what we are looking for in a new pastor. Session approved the MIF at the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and Presbytery approved it shortly thereafter. It has been submitted to the Church Leadership Connection database, and is now online for possible candidates to respond. The PNC and Presbytery will review these candidates and interview those who might match our congregational needs. The process will continue until the PNC has a candidate to present to Session and then to the congregation. Please keep the members of the PNC in your prayers as their work continues.

## **The Nominating Committee of the Congregation wants YOU!**

We will be working over the next few months to find volunteers to lead our congregation in a variety of roles: Session, Deacons, Nominating and Personnel Committees. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving in any of these roles, please email the chair of the Nominating Committee, Jen Aquino ([Aquino.jennifer@hotmail.com](mailto:Aquino.jennifer@hotmail.com)). Names will be considered by the Committee.

### **NOTE: Sunday Worship Service** **Sunday service is now truly OPEN**

service will begin at **10 am**, with the live stream broadcast starting at **9:50 am**. The Session has approved the new **Sunday Service Policy** Worship Committee and the Presbytery has agreed.

The main points of the Policy are:

- The CDC, our Presbytery, and our Session recommend wearing masks indoors
- We will use the honor system. No judging,
- No preregistration.
- No temperature checks.
- The balcony is open to all.
- We will still have social distance seating.
- Communion will continue to be bring your own bread only.

For full copy of the policy please contact the church office

### **SHARE OUR SMILES**

One of the things that we've been missing lately is the opportunity to share our joys with each other, so we're adding that to our worship service and newsletter! During the announcements in church, we'll be sharing those wonderful events, milestones, achievements, and then we'll also add them to our monthly newsletter. Do you have a new job, a wedding, a graduation, a new baby or grandchild, an award that's been received by a family member? We want to let our church family know so that they can share in that joy, and honestly, couldn't we all use the happiness of hearing GOOD news?

If you have good news to share, send it to Pat Gohlich at [gohlich73@gmail.com](mailto:gohlich73@gmail.com) and let us all celebrate with you!

## FYI-INFORMATION

9/5/2021	In-Person Attendance	35
	Virtual Attendance	125
9/5/2021	Weekly Offering	\$685

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH Sept. 12-18, 2021

Monday-Friday	9am-12pm	Church Office
		Visitors must wear masks
Wednesday-Friday	9a,m-12pm	Heaven Sent Nursery School

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel Sept. 12-18, 2021

Monday	10:30-11:30am	AA Step by Step
	7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop 158
	7:00pm	Girls Troop 143
		Scouting BSA
Tuesday	7:30pm-9pm	NA Change or Die
Wednesday	Not Meeting at Chapel	AA Sober Living Book
	7:30-9:00pm	Stone Soup Symphony
Thursday	10:30-11:30am	AA New Beginnings
	6:30pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
		Masks please. Mus. Rm.
Friday	Storage use only	Colonial Musketeers

### FOR PASTORAL CARE,

Call the church office at: 908-852-4011.  
Church Web Site: [www. fpchackettstown.org](http://www.fpchackettstown.org).  
Church's e-mail: [fpchnj@gmail.com](mailto:fpchnj@gmail.com)

