

# First Presbyterian Church



**Hackettstown, NJ**  
**October 10, 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**

L: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**P: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.**

L: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

**P: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**

L: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

**P: Let us worship God.**

**HYMN : #667 When Morning Gilds the Skies v.1, 2, 3**

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries, May Jesus Christ be praised. Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

The night becomes as day when from the heart we say, "May Jesus Christ be praised. The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear, May Jesus Christ be praised.

Ye nations of mankind, in this your concord find, May Jesus Christ be praised. Let all the earth around, ring joyous with the sound.  
May Jesus Christ be praised

**PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Dear Lord and Father, thank you for the promise us that where two or three are gathered, you are there in their midst. Lord we welcome you among us today and celebrate the gift of life that you have lavished upon each of us. We ask that you would open our ears so that we may hear your voice. Open our minds so that we may receive your eternal

wisdom. Open our spirits so that we may know your leading and guidance. And open our hearts so that we may receive your wonderful love. We ask all this in the name your son Jesus. Amen.

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Every week, as we worship together, we have the opportunity to admit to ourselves, to each other, and to God that we do not always live as we are called. In this time of confession, this time of opening our hearts, let us remember that God is merciful and just, eager to offer forgiveness and love. Let us pray, first together, and then in our own silent prayers. Let us pray.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

God our Father, hear our prayer. We would be saintlike-holy good, patient, loving.

But we end up feeling more like sinners-full of failures of morality, selfish, mean. Perhaps you see us simply as human, as beloved, and flawed, and trying, and failing, and succeeding. In all of this, forgive the wrong that we have done, and bless the good we have accomplished. Keep on loving us, and helping us, and molding us more and more into the image of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and are freed to love and serve. Alleluia! Amen.

### **GLORIA PATRI**

## **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Matthew 18: 21-35**

Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”

“No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven.

“Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

“But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

“But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

“When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

“That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

## **SELECTED VERSES FROM THE EPISTLES:**

**Ephesians 4: 32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**1 John 1: 9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**Colossians 3: 13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

**SERMON      AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS      Lorinda Ravo**

**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 #465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus, v. 1-2**

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer! O what  
peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear. All because  
we do not carry, everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged: take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer!

## **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **Ashley Farms**

**Today** is the last day for the Ashley Farms fundraiser. See Donna Erickson or call her at 908-303-1941.

### **The Blessing of the Animals**



As we continue to learn to

do old things in a new way, we will be holding a Virtual Blessing of the Animals at the conclusion of the October 17th worship service. All are invited to bring photos of their pet(s) and Rev. Hile will be blessing your furry family members virtually. Children can also bring a favorite stuffed animal to bring to Rev. Hile for a blessing.

### **Annual Roast Beef Dinner**



Our annual roast beef dinner will be held on Saturday, October 23rd, from 4 to 6 pm. at the Chapel. Unfortunately, because of the continuing pandemic, the dinner will be **TAKE OUT ONLY**. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$9 for children under age 12. Take-out meals will include roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, coleslaw, roll and butter and dessert. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Donna Erickson at (908) 637-6007 or (908) 303-1941, or can be purchased after worship at the rear of the Church. Anyone who can assist on the day of the dinner, or with selling tickets, please let Donna know.

### **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.

## **Bible Study**

Will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, October 13th at 7PM. We will be doing the parable of the wedding banquet found in Matthew, Chapter 22, versus 1 - 14. I will send link to videos and questions, with the ZOOM info.

## **NOTE: Sunday Worship 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:

- First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown Session requires wearing masks indoors
- 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!

## **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.

## FYI-INFORMATION

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10/3/2021	In-Person Attendance	51
	Virtual Attendance	176
10/3/2021	Weekly Offering	\$2,905

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH Oct. 11-16, 2021

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

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel Oct 11-16, 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)