

First Presbyterian Church



Hackettstown, NJ

May 2, 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

This is the day that the Lord has made,
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

HYMN **Blest Be the Tie That Bind**

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship our spirit finds is like to that above.

2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

3. We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

4. When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

5. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Changes make us sad or excited,
We have seen so many changes.
Changes are not abandonment,
They are different perspectives.
Changes themselves don't save.
You are the same yesterday, today, and forever,
And we can still learn something new.
We are grateful you are our guide,

In the midst of all changes. Amen
NURTURING FAITHFUL FRIENDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness,
Interceding with signs too deep for words.
Trusting God's grace, let us confess our sin.

CONFESSION

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,
and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to
change our lives and make us new, that we may know the
joy of the life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news of God's promise:
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God. Amen

GLORIA PATRI
SCRIPTURE LESSON

I John 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love^[a] because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters,^[b] are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister^[c] whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters^[d] also.

SERMON

True Love

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.

LITANY OF RELEASE

I thank you, the members and friends of *First Presbyterian Church* for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you.

I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.

I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to *minister elsewhere*.

We express our gratitude for your time among us.

We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.

Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.

I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

I release you from turning to me and depending on me.

I encourage your continuing ministry here

and will pray for you and for your new *pastor*.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting,

we give you thanks for cherished memories

and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions.

Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION/PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN Let Us Break Bread Together

1. Let us break bread together on our knees,

let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees,

let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

3. Let us praise God together on our knees,

let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN God Be with You Till We Meet Again

God be with you 'till we meet again.
By His counsels guide, uphold you.
With His sheep securely fold you.
God be with you 'till we meet again.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!

By order of the Session, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, NJ is called to meet on May 2nd, 2021, following worship, to conduct the following business:

- Elect one member to the Session, Class of 2023

No other business may be transacted at this meeting. Public notice of this meeting will be posted for two successive Sundays.

The Nominating Committee continues to meet throughout the year. Please let us know if you or someone you know has a calling to serve in any of our roles in the life of the church. These names will be considered, but may not be nominated for a variety of reasons. Please email your suggestions to the Nominating Committee Chair, Jen Aquino at Aquino.jennifer@hotmail.com

Church Re-Opening

To register for that Sunday's service for in-person worship
Please call the church office at 908-852-4011 Between 9am-12noon Mon-Thur
We will continue our live streaming of the Worship Service at 10am, on the
church Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/FPCHackettstown/>



MAY 8th DEACON'S CLOTHING DRIVE

It's that time of year again to think about spring cleaning and weeding through your closets to clear out old attire because the Deacons are planning to hold a clothing drive on **May 8, 2021. Drop off for clothing will be from 9-10am** with the truck scheduled to be there at 10am. Clothing can also be dropped off at anytime in the garage. Acceptable items that may be dropped off include **men's, women's and children's clothing; towels, linens, bed sheets; stuffed toys; belts, accessories, purses, shoes.** Please put all shoes in a separate bag. For more information, please contact one of the deacons.

As always, the Deacons thank you for your support in this endeavor

Adult Bible Study

SECOND WEDNESDAY NIGHT OF EACH MONTH, 7PM via ZOOM.

The ZOOM Meeting ID for this meeting is 728 059 2407

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12th.

We will be covering the parable of the workers in the vineyard from the gospel of Matthew. For more information, please contact Ryan Van Orden at

ryovie@aol.com

FYI-INFORMATION

4/25/2021	In-Person Attendance	20
	Virtual Attendance	180
4/25/2021	Weekly Offering	\$929.00

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at FPCH May 3-8, 2021

Monday-Friday	9am-12:00pm	Church Office <u>NO</u> visitors - staff only.
Monday -Friday	9am-12:00pm	Heaven Sent Nursery School

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES in our Chapel May 3-8, 2021

Sunday	Not Meeting at Chapel	Venture Crew
	Not Meeting at Chapel	AA Step by Step
Monday	Not Meeting at Chapel	Boy Scout Troop 158
	Not Meeting at Chapel	Girls Troop 143 Scout
Tuesday	Not Meeting at Chapel	NA Change or Die
Wednesday	Not Meeting at Chapel	AA Sober Living Book
	Not Meeting at Chapel	Stone Soup Symphony
Thursday	Not Meeting at Chapel	AA New Beginnings
Friday	Not Meeting at Chapel	Colonial Musketeers

FOR PASTORAL CARE, Call the church office at:
908-852-4011.

Or Rev. Brian Merritt: 703-801-7643

Email: fhprezpastor@gmail.com

Church Web Site: www.fpchackettstown.org.

Church's e-mail: fpchnj@gmail.com

