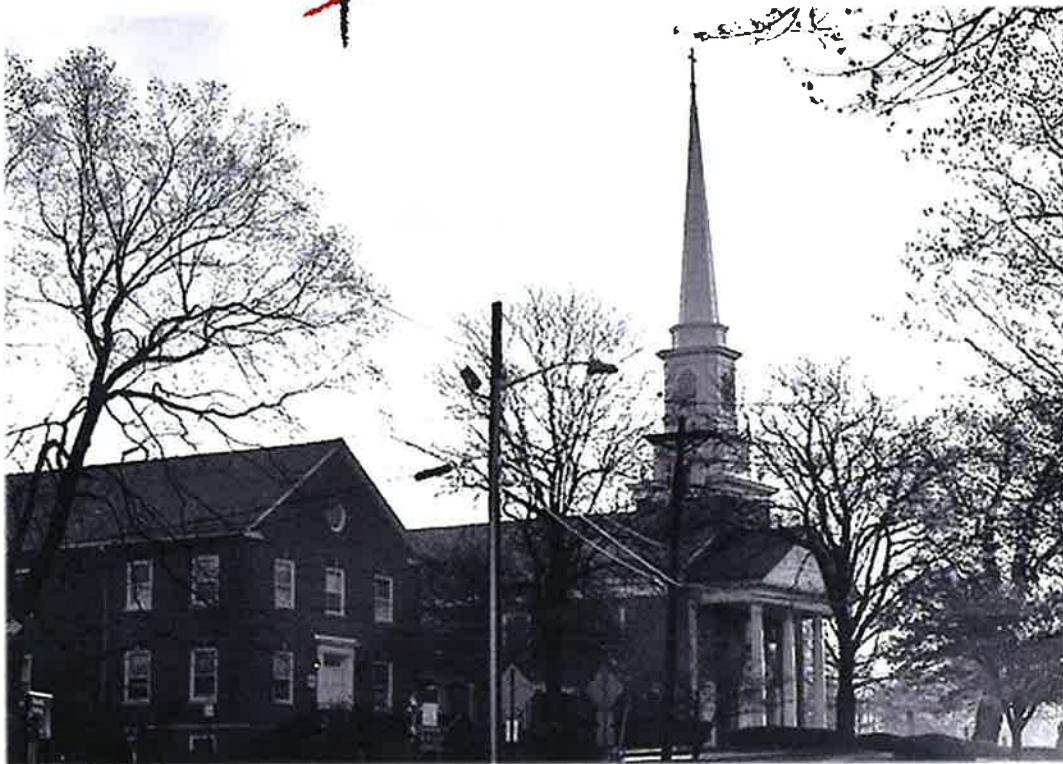




**First Presbyterian Church
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN

VISION

To be an inclusive, connected, and loving community mobilized to serve Jesus Christ.

MISSION

We are a welcoming and diverse congregation that serves God by improving the spiritual, mental and physical well-being of people in our community and beyond through worship, education, fellowship, music, and mission outreach.

**January 8, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.
Baptism of the Lord**

Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen



Senior Pastor and Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry
Interim Associate Pastor: Rev. Ashley Bair
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Robert A. Beringer
Director of Music Ministries: Jordan Klotz
Minister of Music Emeritus: Brenda Arnold Day
Director for Christian Education: Nancy Leardi
Seminarian Intern: Hanna Richards

ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD

*Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Intermezzo" Opus 116 No. 4

Piano: Jordan Klotz

J. Brahms

WELCOME/ TIDINGS

Rev. Ashley Bair

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 128

Leader: Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.

All: **You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.**

Leader: The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

All: **May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!**

***HYMN #667** "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

Laudes Domini

***OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION – Unison**

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

God of mercy, hear our prayer. For the days and decades we have lost to worry or fear:

God, have mercy on us.

For the days ahead where we will confuse patience with fear:

Christ, have mercy on us.

For the moments of this day we lay aside joy and fail to see beauty.

Spirit, have mercy on us. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***HYMN #583 "Glory to God" (Sing twice)**

Gloria

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

Abby Thompson

Nursery care is available in Room 107. Lego Sunday for Pre-K through Grade 6 will be in room 109 following the Children's Message. Grades 7 through 12 remain in worship.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Baptismal Lesson: Matthew 3: 13-17

Abby Thompson

This is the Word of the Lord . . . Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Set the Sun Dancing"

Junior Choir, Piano: Elaine Hansen

Helen Kemp

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SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:33-46

This is the Word of the Lord . . . Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Three Billboards Being Born Anew"

The Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**SETTLING OF THE WORD**

*HYMN #480

"Take Me To The Water"

Take Me to the Water

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

OFFERTORY "Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

Senior Choir

Geoffrey Ainger

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Piano: Elaine Hansen

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***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**

Rev. Ashley Bair

PASSING OF THE PEACE**The Peace of Christ be with you . . . *And also with you.PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and let us not fall into temptation but deliver us from evil.****For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*HYMN #834

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Precious Lord

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

Fanfare on "Personet Hodie"

Today's greeter is Linda Boughton, and the ushers are Lorraine LeSter, Beth Russian and Mike Draper.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Merry Matlock
given in loving memory of her father, Gustaf Aaron Johnson*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:13-17

The Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:33-46

'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son."

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

SCRIPTURE READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

January 8, 2023 WORSHIP HYMNS

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#667 WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES

1- 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!

2- Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

3- Let earth's wide circle round
in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
from depth to height reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

4- Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

#583 GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

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#480 TAKE ME TO THE WATER

1- Take me to the water.
Take me to the water.
Take me to the water
to be baptized.

2- I love Jesus.
I love Jesus.
I love Jesus,
yes, I do.

3- He's my Savior.
He's my Savior.
He's my Savior,
yes, he is.

4- Glory hallelujah.
Glory hallelujah.
Glory hallelujah
to be baptized.

#834 PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

Precious Lord, take my hand;
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

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OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

The First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, NJ has adopted a policy in compliance with the enactment of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) agreeing that a member has the right to have their health and personal information kept private and secure. This means that an individual must give permission to have their name publicly shared with the congregation. PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE – 732-491-2300 to add a person to the prayer list. Persons requested to be on the prayer list will remain for one month and then be removed. If you wish to have a loved one on the prayer list for a longer time, please contact Vicky Lacson (vlacson@fpcweb.org) in the Church Office.

Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)
Agnes Bertelsen
***Bob Beringer**
Dorothy Canary (*Sue Harmon's Aunt*)
Judy Coffey (*mother of Tracy Donahue*)
***Arnold Csipo**
***Beverly Cummings**
***Mary Kay Dangremond**
Revere Diehl (*Brenda Day's brother-in-law*)
***Ruth Endicott**
Lisa De La Fuente (*friend of the Kozo/Mollison family*)
***Julia Delahunty (*Jonathan Miller's mother*)**
Diane (*a friend of Brennan's*)
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)
***Marie Gale**
Lane Gibson (*friend of Bill Nann*)
Eleanor D. Gunsser (*Mother of Paul Gunsser*)
Joseph Hansen (*son of Elaine Hansen*)
Maisie Hayden (*mother of Andrene Sinclair-Pennix*)
***Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura*)**
***Eileen Harkless**
***Mikayla Keating, 5 months (*Rosko family*)**
***Ruth Knoll**
Vera Koprowski (*Cathy Wolpin's mother*)
***Susan Kozo**

Arlene McMinn (*friend of the Gunsser's*)
Michael
***Doris Moskal**
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)
Judy Orr (*sister of Rob Orr*)
Paige (*friend of Marnie Hanley*)
***Tracy Regan**
Deanna Rogers (*cousin of Dawn Adam*)
Franny Romero (*Bill Marquard's sister*)
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)
Glen Sheaffer (*son of Lorraine Sheaffer*)
***Michael Skibo**
Karen Smith (*Marnie Smith's daughter in law*)
***Marnie Smith**
***Deb Sorensen**
Dr. Jenny Smith Stolin (*Marnie Smith's granddaughter*)
Janet Vallese (*Kellie Davideit's mother*)
Richard Watson (*Nancy Gurzo's friend*)
Megan Weingarten (*Bill Marquard's niece*)
Ginny West (*related to June Keehbler*)
Winter Family (*friend of Izzy Garcia*)
***Lynn Hendricks Wong**
Jerry Young

Names highlighted in boldface were recently added

*Members of the church

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

MSgt. David Hansen, USAF (*son of Elaine Hansen*)
EM3 Cody Harmon, U.S. Navy, Hawaii
CPL Edward Leitner, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (*Sue Harmon's cousin*)
MC3 Kevin Leitner, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Sue Harmon's cousin*)
Lt. Cmdr. Krista Marquard, U.S. Public Health Service, Lawrence, KS (*Bill & Susan Marquard's daughter-in-law*)
Major Matthew McQueeney, Pilot, USAF – Lakenheath AFB, UK (*son/stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano*)
***Andre Pangkerego, U.S. Navy – U.S.S. Philippine Sea (*son of Meity Peleh*)**
LT John Alexander Petr, U. S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Pennix Family friend*)
CPT Julia Harris Switzer, MD USAF (*granddaughter of Grace Hammesfahr*)
***CPT Bradley Shaver, U. S. Army – Ft. Carson, CO (*brother/son of Greg and Julie Walton Shaver*)**
First Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard (*Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew*)

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY. 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Worship Service – Sanctuary and Virtual 9:30 a.m.
Lego Sunday – Room 109 9:45 a.m.
Confirmation Class – Library 10:30 a.m.
Refreshments – Room 109 10:30 a.m.
Indonesian Fellowship Service – Sanctuary Noon

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

Puppeteers Meeting – Chapel 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
Habitat Com. Meeting – PW Lounge 7:30 p.m.
DBSA Support Group – Room 109 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

PW Coordinating Team – PW Lounge Noon
Jubilee Choir – Choir Room 4:00 p.m.
Unicameral Board – Chapel/Zoom. 7:30 p.m.
AA Support Group – Room 109 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Pastoral Bible Study – PW Lounge/Zoom 10:30 a.m.
Junior High – Senior High Room 6:00 p.m.
Westminster Choir – Choir Room 6:45 p.m.
Good News / Chapel Ringers – Sanctuary 7:15 p.m.
Senior High – Senior High Room 7:45 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Concord Ringers – Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.
Junior Choir – Choir Room 4:15 p.m.
Joy Ringers – Sanctuary 5:00 p.m.
Covenant Ringers – Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.
Senior Choir – Choir Room 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Women's AA Support Group – Room 109. 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.



PASTORAL CARE: If you or someone you know needs our support, or is in the hospital, please feel free to contact Rev. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590 or Rev. Ashley Bair at (989) 859-2083. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 Monday to Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

COMING SOON

| | |
|--------|--|
| Jan 16 | Mitzvah Volunteer Day – Dining Room – 10:00 am |
| Jan 18 | Men's Breakfast – Dining Room – 7:30 am |
| Jan 18 | B & G Meeting – PW Lounge – 8:30 am |
| Jan 18 | Finance Meeting – Office Conf. Room – 7:00 pm |
| Jan 19 | Junior Club – Room 109 – 5:30 pm |
| Jan 22 | Egypt Trip Meeting – Chapel – 10:30 am |
| Jan 22 | Sunday Book Club – PW Lounge – 11:00 am |
| Jan 25 | Christian Ed Meeting – TBD – 7:00 pm |
| Jan 29 | Habitat Breakfast – Social Center – 10:30 am |
| Feb 4 | Youth Day of Service |
| Feb 5 | Joint PW/Deacon Brunch – Dining Rm - 10:30 am |

TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received January 1

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2023 Pledge | \$ 4,920 |
| Non-pledge | \$ 155 |
| Cash | \$ 321 |
| Special Offerings | \$ 478 |
| Special Funds | \$ 4,000 |
| TOTAL: | \$ 9,874 |

Other Receipts: \$425 (Flowers & Parking)

Here are ways to continue with your offerings.

Direct Cash or check in the plate are always welcome!

Online From our website fpcweb.org/give, click on the **Give Online** button. This will redirect you to the Vanco app to set up your donation.

Donate Text only the amount (no \$ sign) of your giving to: **732-479-8245** and follow the prompts to complete.

Give+ App From your App store, download and use the app "Give+Church"

Thank you for your generous support!

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO WORSHIP.

Effective November 8, 2022, per the Unicameral vote, masks are no longer required in the balcony.

First Presbyterian Church
270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ
January 8, 2023 Son Day Paper



Parents, grab some refreshments before picking up your child/children from Lego Sunday in Room 109.



If you could spare some time immediately after worship and after fueling with refreshments, we could use some hands to bring down and store the decorations. Join us here right after worship!

Please look for Deb Teall or any of the Sanctuary and Sacraments Committee members. Thank you!

Join Fred Garry

Splendors of Egypt

In the Footsteps of Moses, Joseph & the Holy Family

February 14 - 24, 2023

Egypt Trip Meeting
January 22 at 10:30 am
Chapel and by Zoom

Please join Rev. Garry for the latest reflection and information session on the trip to Egypt. Come in person or use the Zoom link below:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2757857260>
Meeting ID: 275 785 7260

Church Office: (732) 491-2300
Church Website: www.fpcweb.org
<http://www.facebook.com/FPCMetuchen>



Start the year fresh by getting into the study of God's word; there's always room in the weekly studies with Rev. Garry. Join us in person or by Zoom using the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84711673419>

Meeting ID: 847 1167 3419



The men's breakfast resumes and will meet on a Wednesday. Don't miss out on the breakfast prepared by Rev. Garry, and the great conversation and time of fellowship that happens around the table. The meal and the fellowship are filling in every way. Hope you can make it!



Join us for our first Mission Volunteer Night of 2023. We will be packing hygiene kits to be handed out through the homeless outreach of Social workers we work with.

Please sign up using the [signup.com](https://www.signup.com) link on our Facebook event!

A reminder that Mission Volunteer Night is every third Thursday of each month from January until May! Follow FPC Food Pantry on Facebook for more info.



Deacons Charlie Day and Don Wallace, along with Jonathan, spared no time loading the truck to bring joy to the children of Elizabethport Presbyterian Center just in time for Christmas. A huge thank you to all of you who supported the Advent Angel in fulfilling the children's wishes.



**ARISE,
SHINE;
FOR YOUR **LIGHT**
HAS COME,
AND THE **GLORY**
OF **THE LORD**
HAS RISEN
UPON YOU.**

ISAIAH 60:1, NRSV



MITZVAH DAY/DAY OF SERVICE

In loving memory of Judy Tabak

Join MENCH Hadassah, First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, and Congregation Neve Shalom Tikkun Olam

Mitzvah Day is an opportunity to give back to the community through a variety of projects such as:

- Help prepare meals for residents of the Ozanam Family Shelter.
- Deliver cards and crafts to JFK Johnson Rehab. in Edison.
- Create cards for kids in the hospital and design valentines for veterans.
- Assemble platters of baked goods to deliver to local first responders.
- Donate hygiene products and travel sized toiletries for local shelters.
- Donate ingredients or money to offset the cost of food preparation.

PLEASE BRING CANNED GOODS AND INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED BAKED GOODS TO DONATE.

Questions? Email Wendy Hurwitz Kushner
whkushner@gmail.com

WHEN: Monday, Jan. 16th

10:30 am - 12:00 noon

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen Social Center

SIGN UP: by January 13th using this link -
<https://tinyurl.com/r6j4cvj>

This event fills up quickly—don't wait to sign up to make sure that you're accommodated.

