



# First Presbyterian Church

CHRIST'S JOY, JUSTICE AND COMPASSION IN ALL, THROUGH  
ALL, AND FOR ALL

May 17, 2026; 10:00 AM | Seventh Sunday of Easter

Guest WiFi Network: FPCHGuest | Password: FPCHwifi@06

## GATHERING

**Handbell Chimes** – *The ringing of the chimes invites you to a time of Rest...Renewal...Hope*

**Prelude** Adoration - Florence Price ~ Lucas Brown

### Opening Sentences

Laura Lindsay

One: We gather today, aware of our weariness. We are wanderers and seekers, longing for a place where we are home.

**All: We gather, moved by the story of Ruth, finding our own stories in her journey of loss and redemption.**

One: We gather before the God of Creation, whose love defies all human borders, limitations, and biases.

**All: We gather to worship in the promise of that redemption.**

One: Let us lift our voices to the one who lifts us from the margins, emboldening us to be ambassadors of hope in this world, to the one who prepares a home and place for us at the table.

**All: May your presence in our lives allow us to be a presence of welcome in the lives of others.**

\* Hymn #35 ["Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"](#)

\***Invitation to Experience God's Grace**

### \*Prayer of Confession

One: Let us pray.

**All: Lord, notwithstanding your presence of hope in our lives, we acknowledge that we often ignore the cries of voices around us. We close our hearts and eyes to the pain of others. We feel exhausted and we disregard those who don't feel welcomed in our midst. Forgive us. Help us to be like Ruth, open to bonds beyond blood, to be like Naomi, determined and wise, and to be like Boaz, compassionate and just. May we lean into our call to embrace the most vulnerable among us. We pray this in the name of the one whose life embodied this commitment, Jesus of Nazareth. Amen.**

\* **Silent Prayers of Confession**

### \*Declaration of Forgiveness

One: Friends, God journeys with us in our wanderings and wonderings. God breaks down walls that separate us from one another. Our God meets us where we are and invites us into the story of

salvation. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are a forgiven people. Amen.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*We Celebrate God's Forgiveness #581 "Glory Be To the Father" (GLORIA PATRI)**

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**The Sacrament of Baptism**

- Callan Ryan Spearing, son of Ryan and Megan Spearing

**Time with the Children**

Sophia Durand Oswald

**Sunday School Teacher Recognition**

Deb Nussbaum, Lauren Sewall LaRosa

**Celebrating the Life of the Church**

## THE WORD

**Prayer of Illumination**

**All: Lord, we listen for your word to us this day.**

**Scripture Reading:**

Ruth 2:1-12

Anne Marie Naseef

2 Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.<sup>2</sup> And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter."<sup>3</sup> So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.<sup>4</sup> Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!"

"The LORD bless you!" they answered.

<sup>5</sup> Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?"

<sup>6</sup> The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi." <sup>7</sup> She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."

<sup>8</sup> So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. <sup>9</sup> Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."

<sup>10</sup> At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me – a foreigner?"

<sup>11</sup> Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband – how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to

live with a people you did not know before. <sup>12</sup> May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”

One: Holy wisdom, holy word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** “A Long Way From Home”

Loren Greer

\* **Affirmation of Faith** “The Apostles’ Creed,” pp. 35 in the hymnal

**Presbyterian Women Life Membership Award**

### GIVE THANKS

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Katie Mueller

**The Lord’s Prayer** pp. 35 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*

**Practicing Abundant Generosity**

*Please use this time to express your gratitude to God by using the offering plates or the online tools below to contribute to the needs of the Church and the world.*

<https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri11244/give/now>



**Offertory:** “The Gift of Love” arr. -Hal Hopson (Loren Greer, soloist)

\* **Hymn of Dedication:** #606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (DOXOLOGY)

**Prayer of Dedication**

Katie Mueller

God of welcome, receive these gifts as a sign of our commitment to one another and to you as we create spaces of hospitality toward the stranger and the most vulnerable in our midst. May we be bearers of gospel hope in spaces where the light of hope is but a distant dream. And may we march in your light!

### LEAVE TO SERVE

\***Hymn #853** [“We Are Marching in the Light of God”](#)

\* **Charge and Benediction**

Nancy Ruth Wainwright

One: May we march into the world remembering that the creator marches with us.

All: **May we remember that Jesus redeems our stories with his life, death and resurrection.**

One: May we remember that the breath of heaven binds us in love, encouraging us forward.

All: **May we remember and go in peace. Amen.**

**Sending Music** Toccata on Meadville - Brenda Portman ~ Lucas Brown, organ

*Please use the Sending Music time and music to reflect on today's worship experience and how it will support you in the week to come.*

*\* Please stand, in body or in spirit*

## WORSHIP NOTES

**WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!** It is good to have you here in person or online. Please be in touch if you have news to share or would like more information or to talk to a pastor. Staff contact information is below. Read full announcements in our weekly [email newsletter](#), available on the church website. Subscribe on the [Contact Us](#) tab.

**NURSERY** care is available during worship (9:30 - 11:15) for those with young children. The nursery is located in Preschool Hallway 1R, Room 103.

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Today's worship service may be livestreamed, recorded, or photographed for church communications. If you do not wish to appear on camera, please be seated in a pew under the balcony. If you do not wish to be photographed, please email [support@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:support@haddonfieldpres.org) to opt out of photographs for church communications.

## NEWS AND EVENTS

**TO REQUEST A RIDE TO WORSHIP**, call the church at 856-429-1960, ext. 103. Leave a message(including your phone number), and a deacon will call you back regarding your request. **Transportation requests must be received no later than the Tuesday prior to the Sunday when the ride is needed.** Questions? Call **Sophia Oswald** at 856-528-6856 or email her at [sophiadurand@gmail.com](mailto:sophiadurand@gmail.com). **You can also sign up to be a driver [HERE](#).** You can also click the link in the weekly newsletter under **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**.

**Care and Share** continues to be a valuable ministry for our congregation. If you are in need of meals or know someone who is, email [pegmanochi@gmail.com](mailto:pegmanochi@gmail.com) or message her at 609-230-4158.

**THE FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary are in memory of Kathryn and Russell Glaesser, given by their daughter, Kathi Bell.

**REMINDER: [PER CAPITA is due.](#)** For 2026 Per Capita is \$40.00 per confirmed member.

Children's summer church will begin Sunday, June 14 and run through Sunday, August 9. The nursery will be open and available every Sunday. If you would like to help with Children's Church some Sunday or with Vacation Bible School from July 27-31, please contact Lauren Sewall ([laurenl@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:laurenl@haddonfieldpres.org)) or Deb Nussbaum ([debranussbaum1987@gmail.com](mailto:debranussbaum1987@gmail.com)).

If you or someone you know is navigating a significant life crisis or difficult transition, a Stephen Minister might be right for you. Please reach out to either Lisa Hurd or Donna George to have a confidential conversation about what a Stephen Minister can do for you.

Lisa Hurd [lhurd330@gmail.com](mailto:lhurd330@gmail.com) 856 220-7363

Donna George [djheffel@icloud.com](mailto:djheffel@icloud.com) 856 857-7795

**Social Connection, our ministry for special needs adults and friends, will meet Tuesday, May 19, in the Hospitality Room from 6:30 to 8 p.m.** We will have crafts, bingo and games. **Our last get together before we re-start in the fall will be dinner at The Bistro on Monday, June 8, at 5 p.m.**

**St. Wilfrids Update:** We're now accepting warm weather clothing donations! We've distributed all of your generous winter clothing donations and now have the space to accept warm weather clothing. We need donations for people of all genders, sizes, and ages. (No used underwear or socks please). Please ensure that the clothing you donate is clean and in good condition. You can place your donations in the alcove closest to the playground doors.

Our stockpile of toiletries is running low, and we urgently need your help to replenish our supply. Our clients require essential items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, and soap, which are currently unavailable from the Food Bank. By donating these items, you'll not only provide our clients with health benefits but also help them save valuable money.

**After-worship hospitality** is enjoyed by all. Volunteers make coffee and tea and provide cookies, crackers, pastries and other treats. You can sign up using the link under "Volunteer Opportunities " in the weekly newsletter and the bulletin. Questions? Contact Joan Fiorella at [jmfiorella@gmail.com](mailto:jmfiorella@gmail.com) or Pete Hurd at [phurd75@gmail.com](mailto:phurd75@gmail.com).

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VBS is back! **Join us July 27th-31st from 9:00 AM-12PM, for a fun week!** Get ready to turn your summer into an unforgettable adventure with Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS 2026! We invite your kids to an exciting winter sports event, where they become Challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith. If you are interested in helping with VBS two, three or five mornings that week, email Lauren LaRosa Sewall at [lauren@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:lauren@haddonfieldpres.org) or see Rachel Davis or Deb Nussbaum at church. We need adults to work in outdoor recreation, Bible story time, science, crafts and snack time. We also need teen helpers (6th to 12th grade) for the week. If you are available that week, please contact Eric Walker: [ewalker@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:ewalker@haddonfieldpres.org).



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## 2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Pledge Giving:	196,757	Budget:	455,000
Non-pledge giving:	39,352	Budget:	120,000
Per Capita:	7,495	Budget:	9,000
Loose:	3,307	Budget:	9,000

**LAST WEEK'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:** 123 in person and 13 online

**Prayer List**  
**May 17, 2026**

To add a request to the Prayer List please contact Rev. Marvin or email [support@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:support@haddonfieldpres.org). When requesting prayers on behalf of others, obtain the permission of the person needing prayer. The requestor will have their name printed as the originator of the need. Prayers will be on the list for 30 days. After 30 days please contact Rev. Marvin or the support account for its continuance.

**Please pray for these individuals and situations throughout the week:**

- We pray that First Presbyterian Church will be a vibrant, engaged, financially stable church community, living into our vision of Christ's joy, justice, and compassion in all, through all, and for all.
- Please pray for a just and lasting peace wherever there is war and violence, especially in **Ukraine** and the **Middle East**.
- We pray for **liberty and justice for all**.
- Prayer requests from the Good Ladies visit to Camden County Jail:
  - **Sheriee:** I want to pray for the goodness of God & thank Jesus for Easter. I would like you to pray for my peace of mind and to strengthen my faith. I would like to pray for my family and the human race, to cease war all over the country. I also want to pray for all the churches, including yours.
  - **Noell:** I pray that we all find safety within Christ Jesus' promise. I pray that we give him a chance to be God. I pray that we find love in him when we cannot find it in anyone else. Hallelujah Amen.
  - **Ashley:** Heavenly Father, I ask that you keep me protected, focused, sane, and my intuition on point. I ask you to keep my kids protected and angels near us fighting for us, and a circle of fire around us. Take this confusion away from me and show me what you need of me by our personal signs. Thank you in advance. I love you.
  - **Tracie:** I am asking you to pray for my children, their home & my husband. Please pray that the Lord will be with me on April 20th. Also pray that the prosecutor will allow me home & accept my counter offer. Please pray for my loved ones who are sick. Thank you; God bless you.
  - **Brandi:** My charges have been downgraded and now I ask that the judge rule in my favor for probation and time served so that I may go home. Thank you all for praying for me. I feel truly blessed.
  - **Dana:** Just allow me to thank you, Father, once again for another day in your world. I would like to ask you, Father, for deliverance & to grow closer for you & obey you & do as you want me to do & my son. I pray for strength and wisdom on my journey. Thank you. Amen.
  - **Janet:** I would appreciate a prayer for the Lord to continue to wake me up everyday so I can reunite with my children. Please pray that I am released from jail, so I can return to my children. Please pray that I will be healthy and safe, and have a happy home. Please pray that I will resolve all of my legal issues so I will never return to jail. Please pray for my children to remain safe, healthy, intelligent, and happy. Please pray for my family, friends, and everyone who is standing in the need of prayer. Thank you!

- **Jamie:** I ask for you to pray for my son Nicholas, and my husband David and my family, the Morrisseys.
- **Jaleesa:** I ask for prayer for my whole family, prayer for myself to help understand the things I cannot change, also for the reason some things happen for whatever reasons. For my new bestie Michelle, and her family, that she is safe and is doing okay.
- **Veronica:** Lord, I give you thanks for bearing what you have given me. Lord, I ask you to take care of my children, guide them on a good path. I ask you for my father and the people around me who are always looking out for me, do not leave me alone on my way, accompany me wherever I go. In the name of your Son Jesus, Amen. This Monday I have my last court where they let me go, but immigration will detain me. I thank you for everything.
- **Jaclyn:** Needing prayers for a court date of May 8th. That I am released & my innocence comes to light. I crave justice & freedom. Also, prayers for my family & my fiancé, that they are safe, healthy, happy.
- **Morgan:** Prayers for recovery for my sister Ellen. Prayers for salvation and a change of heart for my sister Danielle. Prayers for strength, bravery, and reunification with my daughters Ivy and Willow. Prayers for my lawyer Eric for strength and perseverance. For discernment to my Judge Booth. For honesty from my prosecutor. Thank you, Jesus! Prayers for my friends Gia, Ammamaria, and Maryellen.
- **Anonymous:** I pray that I will be released on house arrest on the 17th, three weeks from now.
- **Quandaijah:** Pray for my family, my son Jaami, my mom Alverna, my cousin Destiny, my child's father Jamaal, my dad Quan, my sister Ashley, and Ms. Tanya. Thank you.
- **Anonymous:** Pray over Dr. Ferguson, over the things she does and is going through physically and mentally, that she only talks to God about. Pray over Nahmir, his health and safety while I am away, and over the ones who keep him while I'm away. Lastly, pray over Superior Judge Ridgeblue and speak grace into her heart over my case and others.
- Pray for **Kathy**, a former HMHS teacher who has been battling cancer and recently suffered a stroke (05/09-D. Hagy).
- Remember **Allison MacDonald** who was hospitalized this week to treat an infection (5/06-A. MacDonald).
- Pray for **Fannie**, who is being treated for uterine and stomach cancer (5/04-T. Adkins).
- Remember **Steve Pazan** in your prayers as he awaits test results (5/4-S. Pazan).
- Pray for **Kathleen Federline** who was diagnosed with breast cancer (5/04-L. Federline).
- Please pray for **Dan Eckert**, a police officer injured in a plane crash as the pilot lost control and collided into a tree. Dan is a Haddon Township graduate (5/01, B. Sewall).
- Continued prayers are asked for **Gene** whose cancer treatments are ongoing. He appreciates the prayers (5/1-R. Wright).
- Thank you for your prayers for **Grace**, her husband, **Bob**, and her parents, **Sue** and **Tad**. Grace had a seizure Feb 28th, and has been in ICU at Penn since then. She is showing improvement. (5/01-B. Bell).
- Pray for **Olivia Bowerman**, age 17, who was severely injured in a car accident on April 24, along with the driver, **Aleeha** (4/26-T. Adkins).
- We ask for prayers for **John Lindsay**, Rev. Marvin's brother, who had a procedure to treat

glaucoma (4/23-M. Lindsay).

- Please pray for **Bud Miller**, who is recovering from open heart surgery (4/16-M. Lindsay).
- Prayers are asked for **Isabel Pross** who continues to be treated for cancer (4/8-W. Pross).
- Pray for **Carolann**, who is being treated for cancer (4/7-J. Fiorella).

#### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Marvin Lindsay, Ph.D., Senior Pastor - [mlindsay@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:mlindsay@haddonfieldpres.org)  
Peter Leibensperger, Minister of Music, Asst. Head of Staff - [pleibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:pleibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org)  
Lucas Brown, Principal Organist - [lbrown@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:lbrown@haddonfieldpres.org)  
Nancy Ruth Wainwright, Director of Children's Choirs - [nrwainwright@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:nrwainwright@haddonfieldpres.org)  
Marisa McGovern, Preschool Director - [preschool@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:preschool@haddonfieldpres.org)  
Eric Walker, Youth Director - [ewalker@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:ewalker@haddonfieldpres.org)  
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Délia Campos-Ferreira, Office Assistant - [dcamposferreira@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:dcamposferreira@haddonfieldpres.org)  
Kyrylo Chastukhin, Sunday Caretaker

#### CHURCH OFFICERS

For a list of elders who serve on the Session (the church's governing board) and members of the Board of Deacons (who care for members of the congregation), go to:

<https://www.haddonfieldpres.org/leadership-policies>



**First Presbyterian Church**  
OF HADDONFIELD



STEPHEN  
MINISTRY

(856) 429-1960 <https://www.haddonfieldpres.org/>

"The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church's membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, geography, or theological conviction." (*The Book of Order* F-1.0403).