



# *First Presbyterian Church*

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

August 23, 2026; 10:00 AM | Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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**

### **Opening Sentences**

**One:** Blessed be the Lord, who has not forsaken us.

**All:** Our help is in the name of the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

**\* Hymn** #726 ["Will You Come and Follow Me"](#)

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

**One:** You call out to us, Lord, but we struggle to listen. As we come before you with our hearts open, quiet the noise of the world, of our pressing thoughts and fears, so that we may hear your Spirit fully.

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**All:** God of truth, like a moth that gnaws at wool, our brokenness eats away at our souls. We allow the siren songs of greed, selfishness, and apathy to drown out your voice. You call us to see the suffering in our world and respond to the needs of your children, but we do not look or listen. In our busy lives, we convince ourselves that there is no time to help, no space for prayer, and no need for us to do justice.

Forgive us. Remind us that only when we slow down and breathe deeply of your Holy Spirit and holy Word can our ears hear your voice. Inspire us to greater love for you and for one another. Amen.

### **\* Silent Prayers of Confession**

### **\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

**One:** We know love and forgiveness because God first loved us and has been calling out to us forever, "You are my beloved!" May we respond to such abundant grace with deep gratitude for God's unending forgiveness.

**All:** God loves me, heals me, strengthens me and calls me by name. Through Jesus I am made whole! Thanks be to God!

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

### **\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**One:** As God in Christ has forgiven us, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

### **Time with the Children**

### **Celebrating the Life of the Church**

## **THE WORD**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**All:** God of light, your wisdom is right here, speaking truth to us in love. We pray for you to open our eyes, our ears and our hearts so we may drink in all that you have for us to learn today.

### **Scripture Reading**

Matthew 16:13-20

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**One:** Happy are those who delight in God's Word.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### **Sermon**

"Who Is He?"

Rev. Marvin Lindsay

**\* Affirmation of Faith** (from "The Confession of 1967," inclusive language edition)

**All:** The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries.

The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail.

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

## **GIVE THANKS**

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**The Lord's Prayer**, pp. 35 in the *Glory to God* 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:** "Wie Melodien Zieht es Mir" by Johannes Brahms ~ Keenan Peet

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

\* **Prayer of Dedication**

### **LEAVE TO SERVE**

\* **Hymn #317** "[Fairest Lord Jesus](#)"

**Sending Music** God Is a Wonder to My Soul (Trad.)

*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 be photographed, please email [support@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:support@haddonfieldpres.org) to opt out of photographs for church communications.

## NEWS AND EVENTS

The Session has called a **congregational meeting for Sunday, August 30**, to act on a proposal to sell the Wezner House at 20 Chestnut St. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

**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**.

**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).

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

**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.**

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**Interested in membership at First Presbyterian Church?** We would like your input as we create a new member class for this fall. Would you take just a couple of minutes to fill out this short survey? We would appreciate it! Use the QR code or the link below. If you're already a member of First Presbyterian and know someone who is interested in joining our congregation, please share this link or the QR code with them!

<https://forms.gle/LjCXGQAHicaVK7YK6>

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**Philippians Bible Study, Sundays at 9:00am, Aug. 30–Sept. 20.** Paul's letter to the church in Philippi is a brief and warm expression of love and concern for a congregation he founded and continues to support him from a distance. Philippians has four chapters, and this study will last four weeks, a chapter per week! We'll gather in the first room on the right on Floor 2R.

**On Monday, August 24th at 3PM and on Wednesday, August 26th at 7pm on Zoom, the Stephen Leadership team will offer information sessions on our exciting and growing Stephen Ministry.** These sessions will provide an overview of this important Ministry and what is involved in becoming a Stephen Minister. Becoming a Stephen Minister is a life-transforming experience—an opportunity to serve God, help others, and grow in faith.

Our congregation is one of more than 13,000 worldwide, representing 160 Christian denominations that provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time through Stephen Ministry.

Prayerfully consider attending an Information Session, hear from our Stephen Ministers about their experience, and learn how to become involved in this important ministry.

August 24th @ 3PM Stephen Ministry Office

August 26th @ 7pm via Zoom  
Please let one of us know if you plan to attend  
Lisa Hurd, Stephen Leader, ([lhurd330@gmail.com](mailto:lhurd330@gmail.com))  
Joyce Stout, Stephen Leader ([joyce.stout@jefferson.edu](mailto:joyce.stout@jefferson.edu))  
Donna George, Stephen Leader ([djheffel@icloud.com](mailto:djheffel@icloud.com))  
Want more information about Stephen Ministry?  
<https://www.stephenministries.org>

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**Our Music Programs start up again on September 16th!** From September to May, we offer choir rehearsals and opportunities for worship participation. Our music programs are open to everyone, from children to adults, regardless of your musical background or skill level. Check our newsletter or website for specific times for each program! Use the QR code to sign up or email Peter Leibensperger ([pleibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:pleibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org)) with any questions!

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**Coffee and Conversation about Grief will meet in the church parlor at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 19. No registration is necessary. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Vani Elgart at [velgart@comcast.net](mailto:velgart@comcast.net) or Deb Nussbaum at [debranussbaum1987@gmail.com](mailto:debranussbaum1987@gmail.com).**

**The Prison Ministry** is in need of some jigsaw puzzles for the ladies at the Camden County Jail. Please place them in the Prison Ministry closet or give them to Judy Blank or Karen Andres. We thank you for your generosity!

**St. Wilfrid's Update: Last Call for Summer Clothing Donations plus "WE NEED SIZE 4 DIAPERS"** Do you have any summer clothing you've barely worn this year? Then give yourself some closet space and drop those items off in the alcove closest to the playground. Our neighbors in Camden will be grateful. On another note, we are completely out of Size 4 diapers and we are wiped out of Baby Wipes. Both Mamas and Babies alike will thank you for your donation of these items.

Soon we'll once again have a chance to step up to the funnels & pack meals for some of the most vulnerable among us. **On November 13th & 14th, the Haddonfield Council of Churches will host its 11th Feed My Starving Children MobilePack.** We'll provide 100,000+ meals to feed 276 kids one meal every day for an entire year. To join our planning team or for more information contact: **Chip** at: [fmschaddonfield@hotmail.com](mailto:fmschaddonfield@hotmail.com) or **Linda** at: [ljh23@aol.com](mailto:ljh23@aol.com)

The nursery will be open and available every Sunday. If you would like to help with Children's Church some Sunday, please contact Lauren Sewall ([lauren1@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:lauren1@haddonfieldpres.org)) or Deb Nussbaum ([debranussbaum1987@gmail.com](mailto:debranussbaum1987@gmail.com)).

## **2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE**

|                    |         |         |         |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Pledge Giving:     | 295,516 | Budget: | 455,000 |
| Non-pledge giving: | 54,025  | Budget: | 120,000 |
| Per Capita:        | 8,615   | Budget: | 9,000   |
| Loose:             | 4,976   | Budget: | 9,000   |

**LAST WEEK'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:** 81 in person and 15 online

**Prayer List**  
**August 23, 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:
  - **Karen Q.** – Prayers that Karen will be able to go home after her court date. Pray for Karen's dad, son, Angel, and boyfriend, Patrick.
  - **Hannah** -- Prayers for her court date, her grandma, her release date and her soul.
  - **Rosa** -- Prayers for her daughter who she constantly thinks about. Pray that she will be released to be with her daughter and her family.
  - **Brianna** -- Prayers that she will stay sober and continue to think straight with life on the outside of jail.
  - **Annie** – Prayers for Annie.
  - **La Shanda** – Prayers for her family, children and her mother's health. Pray for La Shanda's health and her upcoming court date. Pray for her release and return to her family.
  - **Tiffany**– Prayers of gratitude for all the things and love she experiences. Pray for her son, Mark, and his peers as they begin the football season. Keep them safe during practice and the games. Thanks for Tiffany's mother and Mr. Sam. Give Tiffany patience. Pray that her work credits and good time count towards her release.
  - **Takia** –Prayers that she will be with her children soon.
  - **Alisha** – Prayers for her family and loved ones. Pray for a court date to be scheduled soon and the verdict to be in her favor.
  - **Karen D.** –Prayers for her children, Dale and Morgan, and for her whole family, friends and fellow inmates.
  - **Desiree** – Prayers for her release and transition back home.
  - **Chanelle** - Pray for Caine who's going through a hard battle of depression. Pray she will not lose herself but that God will touch her and clear her mind and take away the pain.
  - **Rachel** – Prayers for her children and family. Pray her time in the jail will pass quickly so she can return to her family. Prayers that her time at CCJ will be useful and helpful as possible.

- Prayers for **Kamaiaha and Joselyn**.
- Remember **Dana Sewall Zahler**, cousin of Lauren Sewall and Lindsey Peterson, in your prayers. Dana continues to live with a stage four glioblastoma (8/17-L. Sewall).
- Continued prayers are asked for **Gene** whose cancer treatments are ongoing. He appreciates the prayers (8/17-R. Wright).
- Please hold **Margie Groeling** in your prayers. She has recently started treatment for cancer (8/17-R. Wright).
- Please pray for **Alan Mkitarian** and his family. Alan is under hospice care after a hospital stay during the week of August 10 (8/14-J. Rose).
- Remember **Peter Leibensperger and his family** in your prayers. Peter's grandmother Miriam died after a lengthy illness (8/2-P. Leibensperger).
- Please remember **Donna** and **Bruce** in prayer as they await a diagnosis and treatment plan (7/17-C. Carty).
- Keep **Marie** and **Steve** in your prayers as they discern the plans to repair a hip after several hip revisions (7/17-C. Carty).

#### 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)  
 Lauren Sewall LaRosa, Director of Family Ministries- [lauren@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:lauren@haddonfieldpres.org)  
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 Travis Bogetti, Building Manager - [tbogetti@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:tbogetti@haddonfieldpres.org)  
 Délia Campos-Ferreira, Office Assistant - [dcamposferreira@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:dcamposferreira@haddonfieldpres.org)  
 Kyrylo Chastukhin, Sunday Caretaker

**CHURCH OFFICERS**  
The Session  
(David Stedman, Clerk)

| Elders, Class of 2026 | Elders, Class of 2027 | Elders, Class of 2028 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Vani Elgart           | Kristin Carberry      | Rebecca Earnhardt     |
| Lee Federline         | Lisa Hurd             | Katie Nelson-Mueller  |
| Lexa Liggera (youth)  | Rich Kouhoupt         | Mark Oswald           |
| Brian McGlade         | Deb Nussbaum          | Steve Pazan           |
| Margaret O'Neil       | Peter Seibert         | Betsy Westermaier     |
| Gene Spinelli         | Maggie Sell           | Barry Wilhjelm        |
| Rich Woodland         |                       |                       |

**The Board of Deacons**

| Class of 2026          | Class of 2027   | Class of 2028           |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas Andrews (youth) | Kathi Bell      | Terry Carpenter (chair) |
| Michael Liggera        | Joan Fiorella   | Pete Hurd               |
| Peg Manochi            | Jim Groeling    | Jack O'Malley           |
| Liz Olson              | Pat MacCluen    | Cheryl Federline Peric  |
| Sophia Oswald          | Janet Shoemaker | Larry Rugen             |
| Finnley Ritter (youth) | Judy Sikora     | Jeremy Scott            |
| John Wackes            | Diane Thorne    | Alan Stedman            |
|                        |                 | Sally Seddon            |



**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).