



# *First Presbyterian Church*

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

August 30, 2026; 10:00 AM | Fourteenth 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**

Peace - Horace Silver

**Opening Sentences** (Psalm 26, selected verses)

One: Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

**All: Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.**

One: O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides!

**All: Do not sweep me away with sinners nor my life with the bloodthirsty, those in whose hands are evil devices and whose right hands are full of bribes.**

One: But as for me, I walk in my integrity; redeem me and be gracious to me.

**All: My foot stands on level ground; in the great congregation I will bless the Lord.**

\* **Hymn** #826 ["Lift High the Cross"](#)

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

One: Sin casts us out into the cold, but the warmth of God's forgiveness welcomes us back. Trusting in God's love, let us confess our sins to God:

\***Prayer of Confession**

**All: Lord Jesus, you told your disciples plainly what it would cost you – suffering, rejection, death – and Peter, who loved you, refused to hear it. We are quick to do the same. We want a Christ who fits our expectations, a cross-less gospel, a comfortable Lord. We resist the hard truths of your call. We confess that we have gained small things and lost sight of our souls in the getting.**

**Forgive us. Turn us from the way of self-preservation to the way of the cross, that losing our lives for your sake, we might truly find them.**

\* **Silent Prayers of Confession**

\***Declaration of Forgiveness**

One: Friends, hear the good news! Even when we, like Peter, turn from the cross, Christ does not turn from us. Even when we set our minds on human things, God's mind toward us remains merciful. The one who set his face toward Jerusalem set his face toward us as well – bearing what

we could not bear, losing his life that we might find ours. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Alleluia! 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: Holy God, we give you thanks that you have spoken to us and revealed yourself to us through the gift of your Word. Help us to heed your voice, that we may follow you faithfully and honor your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 16: 21-28

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

27 "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

One: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

"What's in a Name?"

Rev. Marvin Lindsay

**\* Affirmation of Faith** (from "The Study Catechism" of the Presbyterian Church-USA)

One: Why did Jesus have to suffer as he did?

**All: Because grace is more abundant — and sin more serious — than we suppose. However cruelly we may treat one another, all sin is primarily against God. God condemns sin, yet never judges apart from grace. In giving Jesus Christ to die for us, God took the burden of our sin into God's own self to remove it once and for all. The cross in all its severity reveals an abyss of sin swallowed up by the suffering of divine love.**

## 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:** “Ut Vitam Habeant” ~ Women’s Choir

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

\* **Prayer of Dedication**

## LEAVE TO SERVE

\* **Hymn #718** “[Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said](#)”

**Sending Music** There's a Bright Side Somewhere - Margaret Jenkins

*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 today, August 30, after worship** 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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**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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**Rally Day** is September 13th, in the courtyard, following worship. Join us and learn more about our different ministries. To reserve a table for Rally Day please contact Rachel Davis at [racheldavis707@gmail.com](mailto:racheldavis707@gmail.com).

Come hungry — for food and for fellowship! This fall, we're launching **Dinner Church**, a new gathering for the whole congregation to share a meal and grow in faith together, all ages welcome.



Here's how it works: we start with dinner at **6:00pm**, then move into an **intergenerational worship and spiritual growth experience at 6:30pm**, wrapping up by **7:00pm** — easy on busy weeknight schedules.

**Cost:** \$8 per person, or \$20 per family. First Dinner Church is on September 16th! Use the QR Code for more information and to sign up!

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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)

#### **2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE**

|                    |         |         |         |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Pledge Giving:     | 314,405 | Budget: | 455,000 |
| Non-pledge giving: | 54,720  | Budget: | 120,000 |
| Per Capita:        | 8,695   | Budget: | 9,000   |
| Loose:             | 5,084   | Budget: | 9,000   |

**LAST WEEK'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:** 74 in person and 20 online

#### **Prayer List August 30, 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:
  - **Lettie** - Pray for Lettie, Lettie's daughter and her family.
  - **Rachel** - Pray for my family and children. Prayers for my time to be used well and wisely and also go speedily so she can return to her children as quickly as possible. Pray for all the women who have recently left to continue on their right path and be healthy. Prayers for the ladies that are still here, pray for health and hopefully return to their families as quickly as possible.
  - **Nicole** - Pray for her family, especially for her boys. Prayers that Nicole will get a chance at life again.
  - **Hannah** - Pray for her grandma's financial situation. Prayers for her time, adjusting to prison and the new environment and going to the halfway house.
  - **Morgan** - Loving prayers for protection, peace, health, and comfort for her two daughters Willow and Ivy. Prayers for her mother, Lori, her sisters, Danielle, and Autumn and Ellen, her nieces, Jamison, and her nephew Jude. Prayers for her friends, Gia, Annamaria, Maryellen, Nicole, Becky, Jess, Jackie, Tiffany, and Christine. Pray for her prosecutor, Cynthia, her attorneys, Laura and Eric, and Judge Charney. Prayers for revelation of truth and justice for Morgan's daughters and herself.
  - **Jaclyn** - Pray for her trial on September 14. Prayers that her innocence comes to light and she gets freedom soon. Pray for Jaclyn's attorney, the prosecutor, and Judge Lee, her fiancé Justin, Ariana, Morgan, her family and Jesus R.
  - **Takia** - Thanks to God and prayers for protection for Takia's family and watching over her kids. Pray for a court date soon so she can be with her kids. Prayers for forgiveness. Pray for her mom and for her strength.
  - **Carmen** - "Where I'm supposed to be. I want to be, I just don't know how to take the first step. I believe: I'm strong. I'm beautiful. I'm educated. And I ask for forgiveness."
  - **Kamaiana** - Prayers that everything goes well in court. Pray that her grandma is OK and prayers for her partner and everyone around her.
  - **Joselyn** - "Thanks to the good ladies and to all that pray for us. We really appreciate everything you do for us." Pray for Jocelyn's sentencing and that she will be able to go home very soon. Pray for God's protection on the road she's about to be going down. Prayers that she stays on the right path and in God's light. Prayers for

guidance to make the right decisions and have better judgment. Pray that she is reunited with her family and children.

- **Tiffany** - "Thank you Lord God, Jesus and Holy Spirit. I love you so much and am thankful for all things. Thank you for the jail ministry. Thanks for never leaving my side." Prayers for peace, patience, and positivity each day at CCJ. Pray that Tiffany will stay positive and let your light shine through her to others while she's in jail. Bless her son with health and safety and happiness during the school year. Thanks for Janine and Samuel. Prayers that you will expand her heart and love for others. Prayers for clarity for her purpose and gifts and abilities and career choice. Pray that Brian will accept Jesus as his savior.
- **Nashia** - Pray for her tough times and her fight for freedom. Pray for her mother's health. Prayers for her family and friends and her relationship.
- **Ann** - Pray for Ann.
- **Shauntae** - Prayers for forgiveness for all Shauntae's sins. Pray for her release so she doesn't have to go to Salem County Jail.
- **Phillaina** - Prayers for her fiancé, Reginald, that he can get a vehicle so that he doesn't lose his job. Prayers for her kids and grandkids. Prayers that Phillaina will have a better relationship and get closer to God.
- **Taria** - Prayers for Terri and her fiancé who has brain cancer. Pray for their addiction and they will be able to move forward with their lives and finally get themselves together. Pray for Taria as she leaves the jail to go home.
- **Karen D.** - Prayers for her fellow inmates and staff. Pray for her kids, Dale and Morgan, pray for her sponsor and her husband and for Brenda and Kenney and her AA network.
- **Karen Q.** - Prayers of Thanksgiving for Karen's family and her child and for always having her back. Pray that Karen will be able to love the way that God wants her to. Pray for Karen as she goes home next month and for her part in the drug court program. Thanks for Patrick and for her cat. But most of all thanks for giving her a new life.
- **Brianna** - Thanks for Brianna's second chance. "In an odd way you (God) saved my life when my actions led me to ending up in jail. I pray that you continue to give me the strength to stay strong. I should be released next month. Please give me the ability to do right by you and to stay on this path once I am released."
- **Rosa** - "Prayers for me and my daughter who I love so much and am missing her. Pray for my court date and that I will be released."
- **Hastid** - Prayers that she continues to fight the urge to use drugs and alcohol once she is released next month. Pray she will continue to do the right thing and keep the relationship with her family..
- Please pray for the family and friends of **Charlie Bergdoll**, who died Wednesday, August 27.
- 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)  
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 Kyrlo 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>




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"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).