



First Presbyterian Church

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

September 27, 2026; 10:00 AM | 18th 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 Largo - Elizabeth Stirling ~ Lucas Brown, organ

Opening Sentences (Psalm 95, selected verses)

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.

One: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep in God's hands.

* **Hymn** #403 "[Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty](#)"

***Invitation to Experience God's Grace** (Romans 3:23-24)

One: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession**

All: O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near.

Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

* **Silent Prayers of Confession**

***Declaration of Forgiveness** (Romans 8:6, 11)

One: If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

***Sharing the Peace of Christ** (Colossians 3:12-14)

One: As God's own people, be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind. Be always ready to forgive as freely as God has forgiven you. And, above everything else, be loving, and never forget to be thankful for what Christ has done for you. 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: Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

15 Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you — unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures ⁴and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Main Thing"

Rev. Don Painter

*** Affirmation of Faith**

"The Apostles' Creed," pp. 35 in *Glory to God*

GIVE THANKS

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer, pp. 35, *Glory to God*

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: "†Deep River" by P. Kitterman (Chancel Choir)

Doxology: #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

LEAVE TO SERVE

***Hymn** #441 "[Hear the Good News of Salvation](#)"

Charge and Benediction

Choral Amen

Sending Music Coronation March - Giacomo Meyerbeer ~ 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

† First Presbyterian's Session recognizes that throughout U.S. history African American composers have not been compensated equitably for the music they have created. To remedy this in "our little way," the congregation is invited to make a donation, using the QR code or link, <https://www.essenceofharmonycs.org/donate> whenever we sing an African American Spiritual hymn or choral anthem. Or mail a donation to: Essence of Harmony Choral Society, PO Box 811, Moorestown NJ 08057. Donations go to The Essence of Harmony Choral Society to assist them in purchasing music, supporting professional musicians, and paying venue fees. The Society focuses explicitly on celebrating the works of both classical and under-recognized African American composers.



† "Deep River," an anonymous African American spiritual, is a slow and haunting melody with emotion, hope and longing, expressing a desire for peace and freedom both in the present and in the afterlife. First mentioned in print in 1867 when it was published in the first edition of *The Story of the Jubilee Singers: With Their Songs* by J. B. T. Marsh, the song was popularized by Henry Burleigh in his 1916 collection *Jubilee Songs of the USA*.

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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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. 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 or Pete Hurd at phurd75@gmail.com.

THE FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are In memory of Allen M. given by Ginny Ritchie and in memory of Emma Gold given by Betsy Westermaier and family.

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 or message her at 609-230-4158.

New Member Class: Take the next step in learning more about our church! Happening for three Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, we'll be discussing different topics about our church's vision, history, and service. Classes start September 30th!



CHURCH PICNIC - Join us on October 4th after worship for a church picnic, hosted by the Deacons! It will be held outside in the playground courtyard, unless the weather is not great, then it will be moved into Fellowship Hall. Barbeque & side dishes will be coming from Whole Hog Cafe in Cherry Hill, but contributions of cornbread and desserts will be welcomed. No need to RSVP - just show up with your appetite.

EMBRACING RACE - The Conversation invites you to a Conversation with Rev. Dr. Robert Turner on **Thursday, October 8th, 7-8:30 pm in person at Hope Church, [700 Cooper Road, Voorhees Twp, NJ](#)**. Rev. Turner is the author of [Creating a Culture of Repair - Taking Action on the Road to Reparations](#). Whether you are all in for reparations, or you don't think this is the way to go, or you're somewhere in between --you'll want to be a part of this important Conversation!

Please pre-REGISTER HERE <https://forms.gle/yi1SmwNirZ3we7HQ9>. For more info contact embracing.race.conversation@gmail.com.

The Social Connection, our evening of fun and friendship for adults of all abilities, will meet Tuesday, Oct. 20, in the church Hospitality Room from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Our November meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 17. For more information, email Joyce Stout at billandjoyce1@aol.com or see Joyce, Peg Manochi, Katie Mueller or Deb Nussbaum at church. We always need gift cards for Bingo prizes.

Back by popular demand (and perhaps a second chance to claim the FPC Trivia champ title): Trivia Night sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee. Please join us on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 7 pm at P.J. Whelihan's 700 North Haddon Avenue location for a fun night of socializing and friendly competition, regardless of how much (or how little) trivia you know. Please RSVP to Vani Elgart at: velgart@comcast.net by October 19, 2026. Hope to see you there!

Coffee and Connection, our grief support group, will meet again on Saturday, November 7, in the church parlor from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Join us for a warm and welcoming conversation where you can speak or just listen as we talk about loss. You are not alone. Registration is not necessary. For more information, email Vani Elgart at velgart@comcast.net or Deb Nussbaum at debranussbaum1987@gmail.com.

Thank you so much to everyone who has and continues to donate puzzles. The ladies at the Camden County Jail (CCJ) truly appreciate receiving a puzzle. Unfortunately there are very few services available at the CCJ for the inmates so the puzzles offer a welcome distraction. We give out about 20-25 puzzles every other Friday so "keep them coming." It is our privilege to go into the jail and let the ladies know they are not forgotten, their past mistakes don't define them and that God is always with them and forgives them. We are in desperate need of others who would be willing to go into the jail on a rotating schedule on Fridays. We can work around your availability. Please let **anyone** (who you think might be interested in this ministry) know of this opportunity. We (Judy Blank, Karen Andres and Paul Nussbaum) would be happy to meet with anyone to explain what this ministry entails and of course all the rewards we experience by participating. Thank you again for your donations.

St. Wilfrid's Update: Check our Newsletter for some questions answered by Paul Urian on what St. Wilfrids is, and what they do for the community! Any questions you can reach out to Paul, umanpaul@me.com.

The Open Door at St. Wilfrids is also accepting Christmas gifts! We need unopened/unused items for kids up to age 14. We value all contributions, especially gender-neutral options like games, crafts (playdoh, clay, art supplies), and sports equipment. Books are excellent choices too because many of the children have never owned one. There are links for Amazon and Walmart wishlists in the Newsletter, but they can also be bought elsewhere!

Items can be mailed or left on Corey Crumley's front porch at 40 Warwick Road, Haddonfield NJ 08033. For questions, email Corey at crumleyc@gmail.com or Larissa Willison at spiderquake@comcast.net.

Thank you for helping make Christmas special for these youngsters!

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. Registration opens October 1st.** 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 or **Linda** at: ljh23@aol.com

2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Pledge Giving:	346,662	Budget:	455,000
Non-pledge giving:	66,198	Budget:	120,000
Per Capita:	10,775	Budget:	9,000
Loose:	5,584	Budget:	9,000

LAST WEEK'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 151 in person and 13 online

Prayer List September 27, 2026

To add a request to the Prayer List please contact Rev. Marvin or email 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:
 - **Octavia:** Please pray that I can change for the better and prayers for my sister, Sakeeta who is ill and in pain. My prayers that we both can fight the issues in our lives with the help of God. Thank you for sending Judy and Paul here today.
 - **Tiffany R.:** Please pray for a safe and easy transition to prison, a fast release to halfway house and a successful journey. Please pray for continued communication with my children and for loving reunification with them. Please pray for my mother, Patricia, for sound mind and good health. Thank you for all your prayers during my 4 years here. May God bless you always. To the "Good Ladies" Judy, Karen, and Beth, and "Good Laddie", Paul. I love you. Continue the good work. God Bless You!
 - **Brittany:** Please pray for me and my family and allow God to show the judge my heart and give me the strength to walk through this temporary nightmare.

- **Nyasia:** Pray for protection and good health for me and my family. I pray for a new environment to grow and become a better person. Please pray for everyone that is at CCCF with me. Pray for strength for me to grow and leave my past behind and serve a good purpose in life. I pray that when I leave here, I find a career in life and keep it for a long time.
- **Karen:** I would like to ask if you can pray for me to go home. Please look out for my son and my dad as well.
- **Shauntae:** I pray for a court date, and that I get time served, so I can go home sooner. Thank you in Jesus' name. Amen
- **Tiffany J:** I want to thank God for being all powerful and loving, the holy spirit for being my comforter and giving peace and protecting my heart and mind. Thank you, Jesus, for being my savior and dying for my sins. Please continue to bless me, my mom, and my son, Mark, especially through his high school and teenage years. Please pray for his safety and discernment. Please continue to give me peace and patience as I run to the finish line.
- **Jaclyn:** Prayers for freedom soon and a good resolution to finally end my case. Pray for justice and that my innocence comes to light.
- **Desiree:** I was sentenced to 364 days in jail and will have served my time on 9/8/26. I also have to serve time in PA and pray that I can go home with time served.
- **Shiree:** Please pray for the Browning family
- **Rachel:** Please pray for my children and my upcoming release. That I stay strong and keep my faith. that I walk in his light more every day. That I stay on his path and keep evil from my life. That he may use me to help others and strengthen their faith as well as plant seeds in their hearts.
- **Morgan:** Prayers for courage, safety, health, salvation, happiness and success for my daughters, Willow and Ivy; my sisters Danielle and Ellen; my nieces and nephews and mother Laurie. Prayers for Officers Hilliard and Merrero, and my prosecutor Cynthia. Pray for my attorneys, Lora, Eric, James, Jack. Pray for justice in my case.
- **Nicole:** I would like prayers for my two boys, Nicholas and Tyler as well as my whole family. I am really struggling for another chance at freedom. Pray for my fear to dissolve. I want to gain strength to get my life together. I am trying really hard to stay positive.
- **Anonymous:** Praying for an easy transition between being in jail and getting my life back together afterwards including a place to live. I pray I can get the strength to stay sober.
- **Anonymous:** Please pray for me and my fellow inmates, the correction officers, and the judge. Please pray for my son, Dale, and my daughter Morgan as well as my AA friends and sponsor.
- Prayers for **Eilene** who is searching for a new retirement community that can accommodate for needs (9/17-J. Dowd).
- Please pray for **Karen** and **John**. Karen is suffering from a serious case of shingles (9/17-J. Dowd).
- We pray for **Al and Nancy Ruth Wainwright**, whose home was damaged by a lightning strike on September 1 (9/2-M. Lindsay).

- Please pray for **Courtney Liggera and her family**. Courtney's father, Bruce, passed away after a long illness. (8/30-C.Liggera).
- Remember Judy Rose and the family and friends of **Alan Mkitarian**, who died August 30.
- 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 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
 Peter Leibensperger, Minister of Music, Asst. Head of Staff – pleibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org
 Lucas Brown, Principal Organist – lbrown@haddonfieldpres.org
 Nancy Ruth Wainwright, Director of Children's Choirs – nrwainwright@haddonfieldpres.org
 Marisa McGovern, Preschool Director – preschool@haddonfieldpres.org
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 Délia Campos-Ferreira, Office Assistant – 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).