

PASTOR'S PEACE by Rev. Justin Karmann

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In my five years here, I have supported and developed nine Youth Sundays. Some have been challenging in encouraging our Seniors what to say and how to say it while others have required minimal effort in guiding our preachers throughout their homily writing process. All that to say: I have seen it all. Or, at least I thought. This past Sunday's Youth Sunday showed me I have so much more to learn.

For those who either tuned in virtually or joined us in person, you may have been surprised to see two non-church attending Youth preaching that morning. Four other Seniors, whose religious affiliation is elsewhere, also assisted in leading the service. And you may have been startled to hear two of the Youth speaking openly about their disconnectedness, and even disenfranchisement from religion. From the pulpit, one felt safe enough to proclaim that he is currently an atheist.

I must admit that I was a bit nervous about his sermon. Not because of what he had to say, but, what pulpit allows someone to challenge religion from the very platform that proclaims religion?

Clearly, the answer is: our church's pulpit.

In other Houses of Worship across our country, they may have been mortified to hear this said from a Sanctuary. As if our faith is so fragile, we cannot reckon with the prospect of questioning or doubt. Silencing and fear would be their response. But not our church.

Our church has found a way to be the church regardless of expectation or commitment and I think this is a profoundly beautiful thing. What all four Seniors said from our pulpit that morning is that they are a part of a community, one that loves them unconditionally and accepts them for who they are. A community that challenges them to care for others as they are cared for, and to see the world through empathetic eyes. A community where inclusion and compassion are expected to be values that are taken beyond the four walls of Youth Group and this congregation.

As I sat with our Seniors and talked with them about their sermons ahead of Youth Sunday, they all acknowledged that what they appreciate often about Youth Group is that it isn't overtly religious. One may not think it is religious at all, one said. My response involved a glint in my eye and smirk on a face. What if our Youth Group is entirely religious in its implicit rather than its explicit, I asked. What if Youth Group maintains the values and expectations of the Christian faith without having to remind the community participants of it on a weekly basis? What if the love of God exists in every aspect of Youth Group and is being revealed in all of you? What if Youth Group is exactly what Christ calls our Beloved Community to be? All four rolled their eyes knowing I may be right whether they choose to admit it or not. But their vulnerability and comfort-ability to share their passion for our community of faith from the pulpit speaks volumes. We are a part of something bigger than ourselves.

I pray this church continues emulating Christ's Beloved Community, as we always have, in all that we say and do. The results are truly mystifying and beautiful.





Many years ago an old farmer, Bill Ritchie, taught me how to refinish furniture. There are a few tricks to this. First he said, “don’t bother with something that is painted; too much work.” Next he showed me his stash of old toothbrushes: “These are what you need to get to the cracks and crevasses.” He showed me the type of steel wool that works best, but then he said, “the real trick is ventilation. The stripper will burn out your brain if you breathe too much of this stuff.”

In the years that followed I have refinished a few pieces. Kathy has a mahogany dresser from the 1930s whose grain is clear and vibrant now that the old varnish is removed. Don’t fear if there is a voice welling up in you wanting to say, “you took off the patina.” Patina is when a piece of antique furniture has great value if you leave it as it was made. We own furniture that has old varnish which can be removed without lowering the value.

For the last few years, I have enjoyed a large wooden desk, the type built to last and weighing enough to challenge any desire to rearrange furniture in a room. The desk was the daily workstation of a lovely friend, Ann Tinsley. *When she died, it came to me.* Through its years of usage, as a desk often does, watermarks had been left here and there. A glass of water with ice in it leaves a very milky impression on varnish if left unattended. My hope was to remove the old varnish and refinish the desktop with polyurethane which doesn’t absorb water.

This last weekend I took the desk top out to the garage, opened all the doors, and applied the powerful sludge that dissolves the old varnish. Then I cleaned it again and again using the techniques Bill Ritchie taught me so long ago. Yet, as I worked I kept thinking of the varnish and its watermarks as memories. The marks and old varnish could no longer be seen by others, but I could see them. I remembered them.

Here is a poem that came to me as I recovered from the fumes of the varnish stripper. What I heard as I wrote it was the way grace removes our faults and failures, but we still see them in ourselves. Even when others can’t see them, the memories remain.

REFINISHING

I stripped the top of an old desk, removing
the varnish applied a century ago to keep
the grain clear and free from damage,

the varnish that always succumbs to water
from glasses left too long, with ice
beading the base to leave a ghostly trace.

I don’t like these traces of beer and coffee,
wine and whiskey in highball glasses;
I don’t want them beside me each day

so I applied the pink sludge burning through
my brain and causing my eyes to ache
and dissolving memories I want to conceal.

The traces are gone but my memories remain;
I can see them, lingering and mildly unimpressed.

A GOTHIC CATHEDRAL WORKSHEET

A Reading for Meditation : Mark 14.3-9

And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. But there were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment thus wasted? For this ointment might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor." And they reproached her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you will, you can do good to them; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burying. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

A Gothic cathedral is an extravagant work of art and architecture. In terms of cost per square foot, no one could say, "this is practical." The soaring walls of glass, the elaborate stone trim, not to mention the enormous size, all chafe against our modern devotion of form following function.

Yet, to consider a Gothic cathedral from a practical vantage is to miss it entirely. Better to look at Gothic cathedrals as living examples of the anointing at Bethany, a beautiful thing done in devotion to Jesus.

The disciples were quite annoyed by the woman's extravagance. This was not needed to meet basic needs when so many people were hungry. Jesus casts these worries aside and speaks of beauty. And then, in one of his most cryptic yet powerful sayings, he lifts up her deed as a standard: wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her. In other words, her act of beauty is a guide, an example, a path to follow. Remember her!

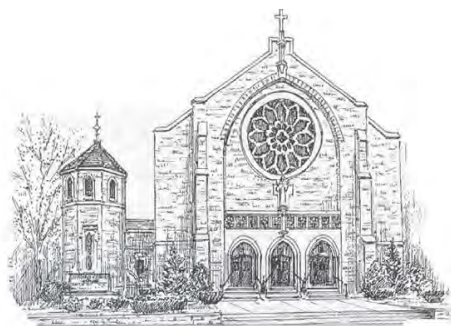
Beauty is one of the most challenging topics for Protestants. We get nervous when art comes into the church. The Protestant era was born smashing stained glass windows not praising their grandeur. This is a legacy of our tradition and a great challenge.

On May 26, Helen Burr-Cackowski and I will continue the conversation about Gothic cathedrals. There is a reminder of this discussion later in the newsletter complete with zoom link if you would like to attend remotely. In the meantime, though, here are a few steps you can do to see the unique features of Gothic art.

Step One: visit the cathedral of Metuchen, St. Francis. It is open most days. Walk in and take a look at the rose window above the entrance to the church. Let your eyes be lifted to the ceiling by the ribbed supports. Look to your left if you are facing the crucifix and ponder each of the seven windows representing an ancient sacrament. Notice the shape of the windows. Before you depart be sure to go across the street and look at the entire façade from the outside. Consider the difference of being inside versus outside.

Step Two: visit our sanctuary. It too is open most days, but it is best to visit after 3:00 pm or on Sunday morning! Notice the shape and texture of our windows. Follow your line of sight as you scan the chancel and the wall containing the organ pipes and the pulpit. Walk outside and look at the façade of the sanctuary. Notice the shape of the doors and how they match the architecture.

Step Three: google *American Gothic New Jersey*. See if you can find the examples that are not too far away. At some point take a drive past St. Luke's Episcopal Church here in Metuchen. Ask, is their sanctuary like ours or more like St. Francis?



Rev. Karmann's Reflections on Inter-faith Discussion on Racism and Racial Justice

A year after the death of George Floyd and the recent guilty verdict of Officer Derek Chauvin, our church finds itself in a unique position. Where do we go next? Following the murder of George Floyd, this community raised their voices demanding that we have a conversation regarding Racial Justice and that we commit ourselves to action. Our college youth initiated this call and our Elders of Session quickly followed. From there a Racial Justice taskforce was created followed by a stand-alone Racial Justice Committee. A Black Lives Matter statement was written, and a banner was hung. Vigils, panels, book discussions, interfaith conversations, and a virtual forum with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi all took place. And now, looking back at the work accomplished, is the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen more of an anti-racist church than before? I would like to think so, but I am truly not for sure. I believe the next racial injustice before us will be what reveals where we are and who we are. Will we continue the call while challenging current racist policies that exists around us or will be content with what we have already done?

I hope we can do both. Feel pride for the work completed while looking ahead to the never-ending challenge of the disease of racism before us. Racism can be cured. The love of God and the resurrection of Christ reveals a world where there is no racism. Let us then reflect that coming world in the here and now. We have work to do. Let us continue.



The conversation has just begun and will continue. Members of Metuchen Edison Area Interfaith Clergy Association (MEAICA) shared their perspectives on racism and racial justice in a discussion held last month with the greater Metuchen community in attendance and participating in the conversation.

A warm welcome to Jennifer Ring



A summer Seminarian, Jennifer Ring, will be interning full-time with us starting May 25th through the first week of August.

Jennifer has been attending Princeton Seminary virtually from North Carolina and is now moving to New Jersey for her field education and upcoming academic year.

She's embarking on a second career, having already tried out finance and shifted course. She will be working with Merry Matlock on arranging summer pastoral visitations, and with Nancy Leardi on various Christian education programs including VBS, summer Sunday School curriculum, potential book group on social justice, and various adult and family education and fellowship opportunities. Jennifer will also be preaching every Sunday - here at FPC-Metuchen once, and twice at four other churches in the area that aren't able to sponsor Seminarrians.

Please join us in welcoming Jennifer to Metuchen!



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Every Sunday our Church provides a live stream of our 9:30 service which allows so many to join us when they can't actually be "in church."

But...for us to continue our Live Streaming, **we need more volunteers to operate our equipment on Sunday mornings.**

NO computer skills are necessary – operating the equipment couldn't be easier!! We'll train you, Nate is there to assist on Sunday if you need help, and, it's ***just one Sunday a month!***

Would you please consider joining the Live Stream Team so that we can continue to provide this important ministry?

Please contact:

Gail Stein
Jane Meyer

gailstein4@gmail.com or
jagmeyer@gmail.com



Music Ministry

Final Bell Rehearsals

This year, more than ever before, hearing the bells play in worship has given our congregants a small sense of normalcy. To see the bell stands around our beautiful balcony, and see people standing at each stand playing music has been a breath of fresh air during this difficult time. Many thanks to all of our bell ringers who made the decision back in the fall to join "in person" music making. Our last bell rehearsals for the Concord Ringers and Covenant Ringers will be Thursday, May 13. You will hear each bell choir play in worship one more time before the season ends. Next year, we hope to return to our "bell loft" when things feel safe.

Rediscovering a Hymn

As we were singing "Morning Has Broken" at the Easter Sunrise service in the cemetery a few weeks ago, I thought about the fact that many of us have grown up with this hymn and have been singing it for years.

Cat Stevens popularized it in 1971 by including it on an album. Many people thought Cat Stevens wrote it - in fact, the text was written in 1931 by Eleanor Farjeon and the music is an old Gaelic melody.

As we sing a familiar hymn over and over again, it is easy to sing by rote - sing the words with very little thought about their beauty or their meaning. So take a moment and read this beautiful poetry. Re-discover this wonderful old hymn:

*Morning has broken like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing, fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.*

*Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!*

Questions about the Music Ministry? Please contact Brenda Day: brendaday@fpcweb.org or (732) 491-2266

PUPPETEERS!



The puppeteers had so much fun presenting two puppet shows last month - one virtually for the zoom Sunday school children and one in-person on Easter Sunday. We are looking forward to puppet shows this spring and during Vacation Bible School in early summer.



The next meeting of the Puppeteers will be on **May 16 at 11:00 am. We will meet outside in Hale Garden** (on the left of the driveway to the Church parking lot).

New puppeteers are welcome - please RSVP to Kat Davis at kdavis@fpcweb.org so we know you are coming!

FPC Presbyterian Young Women



**Join the fun on Sunday, May 2nd
from 5:00 pm to 7:00pm.**

We will enjoy pizza and crafting. Let's learn how to make some necklaces, earrings and much more. Maybe even create a Mother's Day gift for mom or grandma.

Let's meet socially distanced in the dining room. Call Nancy Leardi with any questions.



We are God's children, fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14)

TUESDAY SONGS & GAMES (4 yrs thru 2nd Grade)

Tuesday, May 11 at 4:00 pm
Under the Tent

We look forward to seeing your child under the tent on May 11 for our final Songs and Games of the year. We welcome all children aged 4 through grade 2. We have had a wonderful time singing some songs outside masked and social distanced. We have also learned lots of fun games that we can play on the ball field and have done some crafts under the tent. Please join us!!

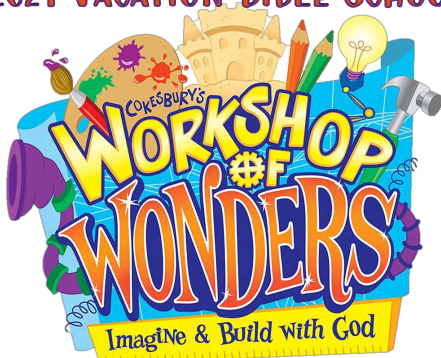
JUNIOR CLUB (For 3rd to 6th Grade)

Thursday, May 13 Under the Tent
4:45 - 5:00 pm (Those interested in handbells)
5:00 - 5:30 pm Fun and Games

Junior Club will have their final meeting of the year on Thursday, May 13 under the tent. Any students who are interested in playing choir chimes should come to the tent at 4:45 - we have music time until 5:00. Junior Club goes from 5 - 5:30 and includes games and crafts. Please join us - we would love to welcome you!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN **2021 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**REGISTER
NOW!**



**EXPLORE AND EXPERIENCE HOW THE ORDINARY
BECOMES EXTRAORDINARY WITH GOD!**

JUNE 28 TO JULY 1, 2021

MON.- THURS. 9-11:45 A.M.

OPEN TO CHILDREN ENTERING K TO 6TH GRADE



Cost : FPC Members \$25 per child,
Maximum \$50 per family
Non Members \$25 per child
Download a Registration form from
fpcweb.org/forms or pick up a copy from
the Church office in the Social Center.

Sign up now! There is a cap of 15 children per class, K to 6th graders. Covid safety guidelines will be implemented with masks required inside and outside. Drop off and pick up will be outside the building and no parents will be entering the sanctuary. Windows and doors will be open for ventilation.

Many volunteers are needed! Sign up to help 1 or all 4 days. Please contact Nancy Leardi for any concerns or questions.

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School resumes by Zoom virtually. Preschool to 4th grade classes continue to use the Growing in God's Love Story Bible. Faith Kits for virtual Sunday School are available for pick up at the Social Center Foyer. Virtual Sunday School will end May 23rd.

SUNDAY MOVIE NIGHT

May 23 AT 6:00 pm
Inside the Social Center



What is it that makes you—you? Find out in this family comedy how Joe, a middle school band teacher, discovers when he travels to another realm what it means to have a soul.

Covid safety protocols will be observed during movie night. If you have any questions, contact Nancy Leardi.

Questions? Contact our Christian Education Director, Nancy Leardi: (732) 491-2264 or nleardi@fpcweb.org



WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP

5:00 pm-6:00 pm	Jr. High
6:00 pm -6:30 pm	Jr. High Dinner (Tent)
6:30 pm -7:00 pm	Sr. High Dinner (Tent)
7:00 pm-8:15 pm	Sr. High

Last Youth Group traditionally would be middle of May, but we have decided to extend our program another month this year. We hope to see many of our Youth back at Youth Group ahead of the July 25-31st Youth Mission trip. Packets for that trip will be mailed out in coming weeks.

For the rest of the program year, Youth Group meals will be under the tent and discussions and games will alternate between inside the Social Center and outside under the tent as well as the field.

YOUTH SUNDAY



A huge thank you to our Youth Sunday preachers: Ethan Kozo, Noah Bilgrav, Bailey Shafer, and Mary Kate McCunney. They did an amazing job as well as our other Youth in leading worship on April 18th. Our apologies for the Live Streaming technical difficulties. The full service has been uploaded to our YouTube page—look for FPC Metuchen.

KRISPY KREME DONUT FUNDRAISER

Our Youth will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts **May 5th up to days prior to the June 19th Father's Day Car Wash**. Please consider purchasing these delicious goodies from our Youth in support of our 2021 Youth Mission trip.

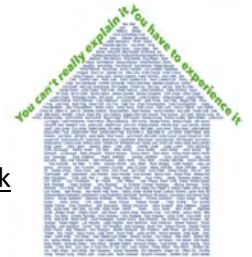


30th ANNIVERSARY YOUTH MISSION TRIP T-SHIRTS

We are finalizing designs of these T-shirts and intend on selling them soon. Names of all participants over the past 29 years are on the back. Be on the look out for sales to start beginning of May.



Front



Back

UPCOMING YOUTH MISSION FUNDRAISERS

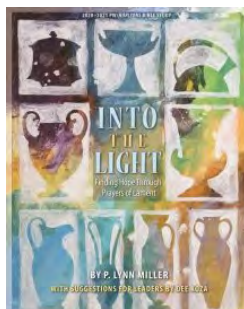
Mark your calendar for two Youth Mission trip fundraisers. We will be hosting two car washes before our July trip. The first car wash will be a **Mother's Day Car Wash on Saturday, May 8th** and a second one a **Father's Day Car Wash on Saturday, June 19th**.

YOUNG ADULT/CONGREGATIONAL MISSION TRIP

We have an Adult mission trip schedule for May 23rd to May 28th to a familiar place: Roanoke, Virginia. Yes, after almost ten years of service there with our high school trip, we are offering an additional trip this year for our college youth, young adults, and congregants. If Habitat is near and dear to your heart or if you have always wanted to attend this trip but have unable to, this trip is for you. Work will be new construction and a remodel in Roanoke neighborhoods.

We are aiming to fundraise the cost of the entire trip and we anticipate that it will cost \$200 per person to participate. Please email Rev. Karmann at jkarmann@fpcweb.org if you are interested in attending.

ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



INTO THE LIGHT

Finding Hope Through
Prayers of Lament

Lesson Eight: May 6

6:00-7:00 pm

By Zoom

The May study will be about God Laments, with scripture references from Hosea 11:1-9, Luke 19:41-44 and Matthew 23:37-39. Deb Teall will be leading.

A link to the lesson may be found through the church website— <https://fpcweb.org/dev/get-involved/presbyterian-women/>

Click on the link for Horizon Bible Study Lesson. *This study is for everyone!*

Join our Zoom Meeting Hosted by Deb Teall and PW:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86590898594?pwd=VFdOMjk4U2laOEhjcXJvZWsySUxTQT09>

Call, text or email Deb for a Study Guide: (908) 917-3990 or debteall@optonline.net OR jump on the Zoom even without a Study Guide!

THE RISE OF THE GOTHIC CATHEDRALS

MAY 26TH at 7:00 pm

**In-Person in the Chapel and
Virtually by Zoom**



Join Rev. Garry and Helen Burr Cackowski for another unique “Gothic Experience” study which explores the three avenues for understanding the rise of the Gothic Cathedrals.

For this study we encourage you to explore the images of Chartres, Amiens and Notre Dame that can easily be found online.

The study is a hybrid of meeting in-person in the Chapel, and a virtual option by Zoom.

Below is the Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96831468129>
Meeting ID: 968 3146 8129

Patterns and Themes: An Exercise On Our Life Experiences by Rev. Fred Garry

Although our life can feel like a long thread, continuously being drawn, our experience of life is really a series of parts that are woven together, held together. There are obvious parts like childhood and adolescence. We could think of life in terms of decades, “that was my 20s.” But we begin to see the meaning of our time when we can find the parts where there was change, gain and loss, beginnings and ends. Better still, we gain a strength when our memories work with the patterns these parts form.

Some parts are better than others:

I called my Aunt Noreen on the phone a number of years ago. I wanted to ask her about her memories. She was married to my Uncle Fred for 10 years, from 1973 to 1983. When I asked her a question, she paused and said, “I try not to remember that part of my life.”

Some parts seem like they lasted forever, but were brief:

I can remember the times I gathered with family for Thanksgiving when I was young. Those gatherings loom so large in my memories. Yet, when I sat down and did the math, there were really only five times with the all of my family.

Some parts are consistent:

When I look back over the course of my life, each major

change was unexpected; it was not what I planned. That my life turned out much better than I planned is a wonderful thing. But the consistent element of each part was the unexpected.

Beginning in June, Laura Draper and I will lead folks in a small group exercise. The exercise requires some preparation, but the gathering is only for a few hours. There is a wonderful tool that helps us organize and categorize the parts of our life into a pattern. What that pattern tells us is often quite surprising. This exercise works best with 5 to 7 people who come prepared to speak to the parts of their life and to hear the parts of the others.

This is not as invasive as it sounds. In fact, it is quite opposite. People who have known others for years walk away with a wonderful appreciation. There are people you have sat near on Sundays for decades and probably don’t really know. This exercise is a wonderful way of becoming a stronger community of faith and friends.

If you would like to join in, please contact Nancy Leardi at nleardi@fpcweb.org. We will send you the materials and then find a time for you to enjoy a small group. Again, the preparation and the exercise is brief, but the value lasts a long, long time.

Good news from the
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN !!

RUMMAGE
SALE

SPECIAL OUTDOOR EDITION

June 5th Saturday ONLY | 9 am – 3 pm

DROP OFF: JUNE 1st, Tuesday – JUNE 3rd, Thursday

Rain Date: June 12th

Start cleaning out your closets! PW is bringing back their much sought rummage sale with a Special Outdoor Edition Rummage Sale.

PW is looking for donations of adult and kids apparel, shoes, accessories (belts, bags, scarves, ties, hats, etc.), bed/ bath/ kitchen linens/curtains, toys/ puzzles/games, frames/ baskets, household items/ electronics/ rain-proof outdoor items.



Meantime, please hold off the following for the Fall Rummage Sale: furniture, bulky items, stuffed animals, books/magazines, records/ tapes. Donated items are subject to PW

acceptance. Also, please limit donations to one car trunk load per family as there will be limited space.

Covid safety protocols will be strictly observed, with masks and social distance. Indoor facility and bathrooms are not available.



And make a difference!

PW organizes, and the volunteers make the rummage sale happen. The success of the rummage sale depends on those who help sort, price, sell and cleanup after the event. Please consider giving your time for another successful event so PW can continue their support of all the programs that benefit from the proceeds of the rummage sale. Here are ways you can volunteer:

June 1-3 /Tues.—Thurs., 1-6 pm: Receive and sort donations
June 4 / Fri. 9 am– 4 pm: Sort and price donations. We are not receiving any more drop offs.

June 5 / Saturday

- 8 am Set up
- 9 am—3 pm Help at check out / cashier
- 3-4 pm Breakdown and clean up

We need many hands for this to be a success. If you cannot do a day, please consider a smaller shift, a couple of hours each day will also go a long way. Thank you!!

Please email Cindy O'Neill mimabook@aol.com if you have any questions.



April was an exciting month for CNS! We were able to have our annual Chick Hatching Project again and the students loved it! They learned about the life cycle of a chick and saw how the chicks grow very quickly from when they hatch until the farmer comes to pick them up.



With the weather getting warmer our classes have been spending more time outside.

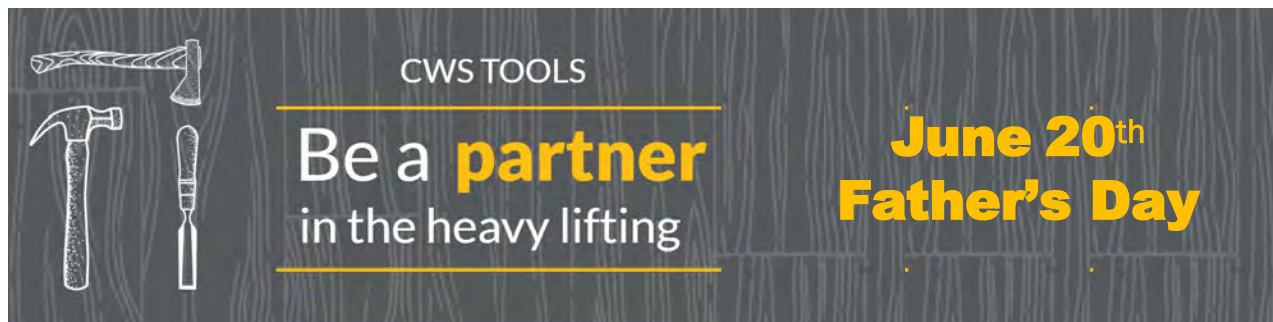
The students enjoy playing in Hale Park and on the playground and the field. Registration for the 2021/2022 school year is ongoing. CNS offers classes for Young Learners (2.5 years old), Pre-K3s, Pre-K4s and a half day Wrap Program for kindergarten students in both the morning and afternoons. Visit www.communityns.org or call 732-491-2240 for additional information or to schedule a visit. FPC church members receive a 5% discount on tuition.

Note of Thanks

*To all concerned and caring members of
 FPC Congregation,*

Thank you for the healing prayers, soup and beautiful "Painted Desert" prayer shawl. Your prayers and kindness has brought me continued strength in my recovery and recent return from a hospital stay.

From Karen Keithler



Christ's love offers strength in hard times. This Father's Day, share that love with others through CWS Tools. CWS Tools builds a stronger future for families where their safe places weather storms to come. Consider honoring your father with a gift that builds sturdy foundations and unshakeable futures. Your partnership with CWS Tools will help even more families rebuild and repair. Won't you join us by making a gift today?

Please return the completed form along with your contribution to the Church Office. Checks may be made payable to: *First Presbyterian Church*, and indicate "*Tools of Hope*" on the memo line. The Mission Commission will send an acknowledgment note to the person you are honoring and the list of donors will be posted along with our Worship Bulletin on Father's Day, June 20th.

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION (\$5.00/ Tools) _____ PLEDGE ENVELOPE NO.: _____

INFORMATION FOR BULLETIN INSERT & ACKNOWLEDGMENT

GIVEN IN HONOR OF : _____

HONOREE'S ADDRESS: _____

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF: _____

RETURN THE FORMS NO LATER THAN: **Thursday, June 3rd**



BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock;
when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it,
because it had been well built.

- LUKE 6:48 NRSV

First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen
CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

CLERGY

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Rev. Justin Karmann732-491-2260
Associate Pastor jkarmann@fpcweb.org
Rev. Robert A. Beringer, Pastor Emeritus

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COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

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Colleen Smith732-491-2242
Head Teacher csmith@fpcweb.org

**FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM THE
 CHURCH OFFICE**



Thank you everyone for your continued support during this time.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

YOUR GIFT, YOUR CHOICE

DIRECT

Cash or check donation into the plate are always welcome!

ONLINE

Please click here to donate now:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8ffksu4>

TEXT TO DONATE Make a donation via Text message!
 Simply text to: **732-479-8245** an amount (no dollar sign needed) to this number and follow the prompts to complete your donation!

GIVE+ APP Search "Give Plus Church" in your phone App Store, download the app and find Church name by zip code 08840.

Thank you for your generous support!

**INDONESIAN FELLOWSHIP
 PULPIT SUPPLY FOR MAY**

May 9	Rev. Henderika J Wattimena
May 16	Rev. Ferdinanda Pattipeilohy
May 23	Rev. Richard Lintjewas
May 30	Pulpit Exchange of NCP

All Indonesian Worship Services will continue to be streamed live through Facebook. In-person worship service in Indonesian language will begin May 9 at Noon in the Sanctuary of FPC, with strict observance of all Covid protocols such as mask wearing, social distance and contact tracing. Contact Norma Tambingon or Sandra Laluw if you have questions.

**"Sungguh, Allah itu keselamatanku;
 aku percaya dengan tidak gementar,
 sebab TUHAN ALLAH itu kekuatanku
 dan mazmurku, Ia telah menjadi
 keselamatanku."
 Yesaya 12:2**

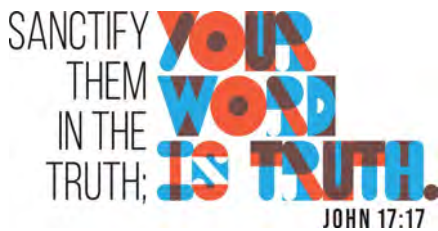
MAY 2021 PARISH NEWS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN
270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

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Stay up to date with just one click!

We are now using Mail Chimp to bring to you the latest church happenings. Sign up to make sure we have your correct email address.

Visit the church website, send an email to fpc@fpcweb.org or use your cell phone to go directly to the link using this QR code.

We promise not to spam you!



First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Parish News Submission

To submit an article for the Parish News, email vlacson@fpcweb.org or see us at the church office. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month.

Church Office

270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840
Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 4:30pm
Telephone: (732) 491-2300 Email: fpc@fpcweb.org

Sunday Worship Service

(By Reservation only) 9:30 am

Online Sunday Morning Worship : 9:30 am

Livestreamed on FPC Metuchen Facebook