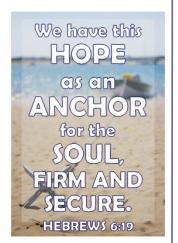




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Pastor's Peace by Rev. Fred Garry

For those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.



I asked my wife, "What do you write for the front page of the newsletter at a time like this?" Without blinking she said, "you write about beauty. Tell them about the peace you find in sunsets and the way they bring joy in the midst of chaos."

Seemed like good advice.

This last week I have lived each day waiting for the sunset. I was not waiting for the day to end or the work to be done. When I wait for a sunset, I am waiting for splendor. Splendor heals the soul: I believe this.

On a Thursday night I experienced this healing in a whole new way. I took my grandsons out into the sunset. When I photograph sunsets, I like to be in the water, to see the way the colors play on the ripples and waves - the way light and shadow reveal the shape of water; yet, mostly, I want to get as close to the surface as possible so my eye is "in" the ever changing play of the setting sun and the lake.

On Thursday I took Dmitri and Nikolai into the sunset. As we waded into the water farther and farther, there was silence. These are two very chatty boys (question upon question, story upon story), so the silence was odd. Yet, the silence was part of the splendor. I was watching them watch the sunset from the water, being in it. Just a few hours before I revealed to them that many of the rocks on the shore have fossils in them. Without delay they hunted for them examining stone after stone. I believed this prepared their eyes; they were attentive to where they were; there was something to see here.

On a Wednesday night, the sunset was happening in the rain. As I waded out into the water it was as if hundreds of small stones were creating rings all around me. They were like invisible lily pads. At one point I turned my camera up to exclude the water and capture only the sky. The beauty here was that the rain clouds were like a blanket of gray trimmed with incredible colors; it was as if the sky was overflowing at the horizon.

My first impulse for this newsletter article was to describe the piece of paper Dwight D. Eisenhower always carried in his pocket. On the paper was a saying about water and our place in the world. He kept this saying with him to remind him of what is important and what is not; to always keep his head on straight. It is a good lesson, but I'll keep it for another time.

Continued in page 2

PAGE 2 PARISH NEWS

Continuation of Pastor's Peace from Page 1



The water I need right now is not a lesson in humility, but the way water restores us, especially when combined with a setting sun. It took me a lot of years to appreciate the way moments of splendor heal what is broken in us, mend our hearts. For the first half of my life I was completely convinced that understanding is the way of healing, knowledge, the clarity of doctrine and philosophy are the true forces of life restoring the soul. Over the course of the next quarter century, I became completely convinced this was a bit of a miss shall we say, a very limited way of looking at life. To follow Jesus is not about knowledge or doctrine or understanding. I believe following Jesus is having eyes to see and ears to hear. To see splendor, to hear silence: that is the joy to be found in a sunset, and joy is the way unto peace.



It's been a long 18 months but we are finally ready to get back to shopping! The FPC Food Pantry will be welcoming back our clients for in-person shopping, client choice, starting August 25th! The client choice food pantry model reduces food waste by letting clients take only what they need, it allows us to get more information about who we are serving to help serve them better, and it restores dignity to the process. We will be allowing clients to come in to shop on Wednesdays once a month and we will continue to offer drive up on Thursdays for those not yet comfortable coming into the building.

Starting in September, we will also be offering a "Mission Volunteer Night" once a month for the congregation and the community looking to volunteer their time to help others. Our first volunteer night will take place on **Thursday**, **September 16th at 7:00pm**.

Stay tuned for more information!



- Architect Kurt Ludwig reported to Session and presented drawings for a possible expansion of the Food Pantry in the Social Center. Kurt was the architect for our current Social Center and Staff offices complex.
- The Trustees elected Elder Roland Staal as Vice-President/ Secretary of the Trustees. Last month, Elder Jim Krauszer was elected President of the Trustees. Both positions are for a one (1) year term retroactive to 1 July 2021. The Trustees extend their thanks and congratulations to both Jim and Roland.
- Session called for a Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, 22 August 2021 immediately following Sunday Morning Worship Service. The purpose of the meeting was to dissolve the Pastoral Relationship with Rev. Justin Karmann.
- Session reviewed 2021-2022 Commission assignments for Elders.



STEWARDSHIP 2021

It's time for all of us to think of how the church has helped us during this challenging year and how we can come together to continue God's work in our community. More to follow!

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.

- Proverbs 3: 9. NIV

ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

GOSPEL STORIES

A Weekly Bible Study Beginning September 15th 10:30 a.m. in the PW Lounge

Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

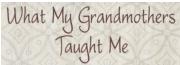
- Psalm I

To be devoted to the "law of the Lord" is a beautiful thing. For more than a decade now, I have dedicated myself to the teachings of Jesus; they are my delight.

The parables, the Sermon on the Mount, the teaching moments with healings, even the controversies with the Pharisees: they have all become a light upon my path.

Beginning this month, we will have a weekly pastoral bible study. The focus of the study will be the teachings of Jesus. Sometimes we will compare the different ways Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell the same story, but with a unique twist for each; other times we will look to the where and how the Gospel writers have placed and arranged the teachings of Jesus, but each and every time we will devote a little time to a specific teaching and ask: how are we to live this. The study will be held on **Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the PW Lounge.** I know that excludes people who are working. But for now it is a place to start. We will do our best to set up a "webinar" zoom so any and all can enjoy the study virtually or at a later date.

Coming in October: Horizons Bible Study



From the Gospel of Matthew, "we are invited into the family stories that helped shape Jesus and ... therefore shape us, too." Stories like those you might have heard from your own grandmother. The Horizon Study is for EVERYONE— all are invited! This monthly study will run from October through June with an option to join in-person or virtual by Zoom. If interested, call, text, or email Deb Teall and let her know what day and time are best for you!

Deb's info: (908)917-3990 debteall@optonline.net



September 15th at 7:00 pm In-Person in the Dining Room & by Zoom

The monthly Pastor's Study continues but will be renamed as ILLUMINATIONS.

The study on the Rise of the Gothic Cathedrals will continue with discussions in-person or virtually using the Zoom option.

For those joining in person, the meeting will be in the Dining Room. Below is the Zoom link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2757857260 Meeting ID: 275 785 7260

Questions? Please contact Helen Burr-Cackowski hburr12@gmail.com

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MANUEL N. H. M. C.

Patterns and Themes: An Exercise On Our Life Experiences

With Rev. Fred Garry and Laura Draper September 26, 10:45 am, Session Room

Rev. Garry and Laura Draper will lead folks in a small group exercise. The exercise requires some preparation, but the gathering is only for a few hours.

This is a fabulous exercise to remember the path our life has taken to this point. Consider doing the exercise and taking part in a small group discussion where 5-6 members will describe what they found. The discussion lasts a few hours, but it will be a gift you keep for long time.

There is a Parts of Our Lives Worksheet that will be emailed to you should you want to join.

Please email:

Laura Draper (draperfam44@gmail.com) or Nancy Leardi (nleardi@fpcweb.org) to receive the materials. Again, the preparation and the exercise is brief, but the value lasts a long time. PAGE 4 PARISH NEWS

FROM YOUR: **DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**



We are God's children, fearfully and wonderfully made.



September 12 9:30 am Service WHAT'S HAPPENING —

We will kick off Rally Day with a Blessing of the Backpacks. All children will be invited to come forward during Children's Time with their backpacks. We want to send our students and educators with our prayers and blessings as they go back to school.

After the blessing, the children will move to the Social Center to enjoy a puppet show, have time for fellowship and meet their teachers.

The 5th –7th graders will meet under the tent in the Social Center at 8:45 am for breakfast.

The Senior High composed of 8th –12th grade youth will likewise have breakfast together and will meet in the Senior High room at 8:45 am.

We are looking forward to returning to in person Sunday School beginning Rally Day. A virtual option by Zoom is available here so children may view the puppet skit. Join by Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87084300095

On Zoom app use meeting ID: 870 8430 0095

Please mark your calendars!



The Presbyterian Young Women gathered this month in the Social Center for pizza and painting. The ladies had a chance to relax, pick up a paintbrush and chat away.

This group meets monthly and welcomes young women from ages 14 and up.

Questions or ideas for projects? Contact Nancy Leardi



PUPPETEERS PIZZA PARTY
September 7, Tuesday
5:00- 7:00 pm, Social Center Auditorium

Would you like to be a puppeteer? Puppeteers perform skits for Sunday School and other events. It's fun and each performance shares a positive message!

Come and join us in our Pizza Party as we welcome back our old puppeteers and those interested or new to being a puppeteer. Learn what we do as we rehearse a few new skits. Kids in 7th grade and up are welcome!

Please RSVP by September 5 to Kat Davis: Katddavis@gmail.com

Coming soon in October— please hold the date!

This energetic group of 4 year old's to 2nd graders will meet once a month beginning **October 5**th **from 4:30 to 5:00 pm.**

Junior Club

Our 3rd to 6th graders will meet under the tent on **October 7 and 21st.** We meet twice a month on **Thursdays from 5:30pm to 6:15pm.**

Adult and youth volunteers are greatly needed for both groups. Your time and support of our children's programming is a gift to the church and a joy received back to you. Please contact Nancy Leardi for more questions and consideration.



YOUTH GROUP EVERY WEDNESDAY BEGINS SEPTEMBER 15TH!

5:00 pm-6:00 pm Junior High in Social Center Field *

6:00 pm-6:30 pm Junior and Senior High Dinner (\$3)

7:00 pm-8:00 pm Senior High in Social Center Field *

* In case of inclement weather, this will be in the Social Center Building or tent.

PARENTS Q & A WITH YOUTH LEADERS AND YOUTH COMMISSION Wednesday, September 8th at 7:30pm virtually (RSVP required)

To join in this Q&A, a ZOOM link will be emailed to everyone interested and we ask that you contact Vicky Lacson (vlacson@fpcweb.org) in the Church Office to let her know that you will be participating.

FPC YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF PARTY

Combined Junior & Senior High

Wednesday, September 15th, 6:00—8:00 pm in the Social Center Ball Field

Come eat, play, hang out and catch up. There will be barbecue, volleyball, spike ball, gaga, music and so much more. Cost is \$3 per person. *Please note that this Kickoff Party will be replacing the previously scheduled Slime Fest*.

.....AND THEN YOUTH GROUP CONTINUES EVERY WEDNESDAY!

As we all navigate the coming months in regard to Covid-19, our goal is for Youth Group to be a constant safe place where community is continually fostered and developed. Our intentions are to offer a Youth Group experience that closely reflects Youth Group as it has always been to the best of our ability.

Our goal is to again hold Youth Group in the Social Center Field whenever the weather permits. When we are not on the field, we will either be in the large tent or inside the Social Center.

We will maintain our guidelines of physical distancing and mask-wearing will continue where Youth Group left off at the end of June. We will also require Youth group participants to sign new Covid-19 waivers. With a very fluid Covid-19 situation, we remain committed to respond and give a safe environment to our youth groups and leaders.

The plan for now is to hold Junior High Youth Group from 5-6 pm, with a combined dinner with Senior High group from 6-6:30 pm. Senior High Youth Group will follow from 7-8:00 pm. We will be monitoring the Covid-19 situation closely and may alter our plans and keep families updated.

Westminster Choir and Handbell rehearsals for Junior and Senior High will begin on September 22nd. Details may be found in the Music Ministry page provided by our Music Minister, Brenda Day.

As with everything else taking place, Youth Group is ever-evolving to adapt to our current world, including state and local guidelines, and we are grateful for our Youth Leaders' dedication to our Youth.

We are very excited to be offering this ministry to our church and community for the 2021/2022 program year.

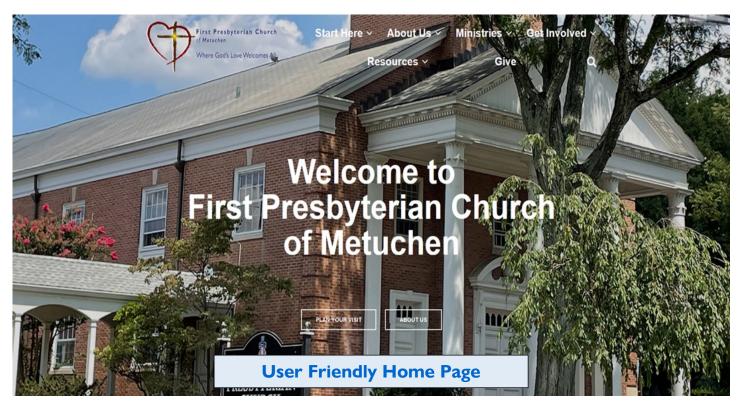
- The Youth Commission and The Youth Leaders

PAGE 6 PARISH NEWS

A Newly Revamped, Reimagined Church Website!

www.fpcweb.org

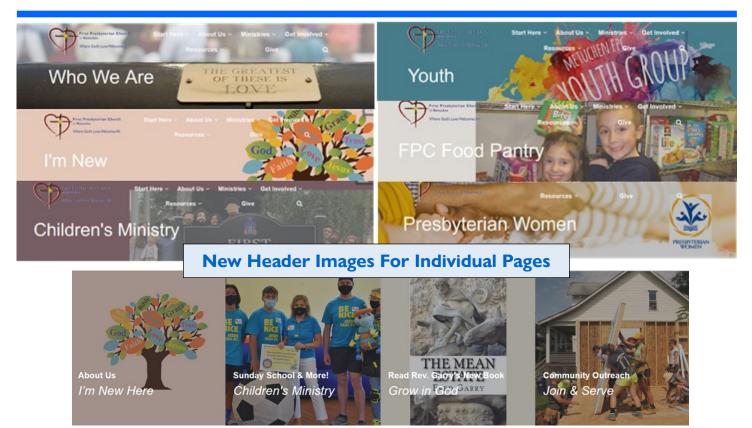
Over the past year our Communications Committee has been leading the charge to update and redesign our church website. The new site will express the welcoming energy, inclusiveness, and dynamism of FPC Metuchen for our congregation and the community at large.



When our new site "goes live" in mid/late September it will feature:

- A bright, clean, and inviting format with simple-to-use navigation.
- A welcoming place where visitors can quickly and easily learn about our church and sign up for new member classes.
- Quick-click access to Live Stream Worship hosted right on the website.
- One location for all Zoom links for classes, meetings, and other online events.
- An electronic, searchable Church Directory with "Members Only" access that includes each family's church profile.
- A current calendar of events.
- Easy online forms for class registration, documents, baptism, everyday giving, and stewardship pledging.
- A library of sermons to listen, watch or read.
- An online version of each month's Parish News, as well as a library of previous issues.
- Easy access to information on Community Outreach, Ministries, Choirs, Indonesian Fellowship, Community Nursery School, Adult Enrichment, and so much more!

Watch for launch date announcements in mid/late September via an email blast and Son-Day Paper notices!





Worship Service Live In 05DAYS: 20HRS: 13MINS: 30SECS



Livestreaming Directly From Our Website

Events

Featured Events
See What's
Happening at FPC

FULL CALENDAR



User Friendly Navigation To Find Out What's Happening at FPC





Link to Servant Keeper Family Profile and Church Directory: https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal //pcmetuchen

Our private, password-protected database allows you to securely view your Family Profile online and find contact information for FPC members via the Church Directory. To get started, (1) follow this link: Manage My Family, (2) create a password, and (3) log into your Profile. Once logged in, you will be able to view and edit your family and individual profiles. Be sure to bookmark this page for easy access to your family profile anytime.



Dedicated Web Page For Searchable Church Directory

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MUSIC MINISTRY

The plan for the Jubilee Choir, at least for September and possibly until the weather gets cold, is to meet on the front porch of the sanctuary building. We were encouraged as we had a very successful music classes for VBS on the porch. There is plenty of room, we are shaded from the sun, and it's protected in the event of rain.

Jubilee Choir will begin rehearsing on Tuesday, Sept. 14 from 4:00 – 4:30 pm. I hope you will bring your 4 year old through 2nd grader to choir – we have lots of fun singing and learning basic music skills – marching and clapping on a beat, singing together, and playing some rhythm instruments.

The Junior Choir will have their first rehearsal on Thursday, Sept. 16. The plan is to start the year rehearsing on the front porch, similar to the Jubilee Choir. We rehearse from 4:15-5:00 pm. For those interested in learning to play handbells, our rehearsal is from 5-5:30 pm, immediately following Junior Choir. Because of the set up for bells, rehearsal will be in the sanctuary. It is not possible for bells to rehearse outside.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord...

The Westminster Choir will have their first rehearsal on Wednesday, Sept. 22 from 6:30-7:00 pm in the Sanctuary immediately following Youth group dinner. Junior Highs are invited to Chapel Ringers from 7-7:30 pm. Good News Ringers (grades 9-12) rehearse following Senior High Youth Group.

Senior Choir will begin rehearsing on Thursday, Sept. 9. In order to maintain a safe distance, we will rehearse in the sanctuary. It will be wonderful to have a chance to sing together again. If you love to sing and would like to join us, we welcome you!

The Concord Ringers and Covenant Ringers will have their first rehearsals on Thursday, Sept. 16. Concord Ringers practice in the morning from 9:30 to 10:15 am and Covenant Ringers in the evening from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

Singing together is one of the great losses of these many months of Covid. PLEASE encourage your child to come back to choir or "try out" choir if they have never participated before. I look forward to welcoming all children, youth and adults back to our very vital music ministry at our church. For everyone's safety, we will be singing with masks but will adjust as the Covid situation improves.

Questions about Music Ministry? Please feel free to contact Brenda Day brendaday@fpcweb.org



Meet Our Seminarian Intern:

KRISTY WOODROW

Kristy Woodrow is our Seminarian Intern from Princeton Theological Seminary for the year 2021-2022. Kristy is in her final year at PTS. She had her undergraduate degree in Social Work from Centenary University. Kristy writes that she chose to attend Seminary because of her passion for children's and youth ministries as well as for children and youth themselves. During her time at seminary, Kristy is keen to learn more about God, the Bible, and how people worship and practice faith in different ways (and still do). Once she has completed her studies she's looking forward to being ordained as a youth and children's pastor once she graduates. Not one to shy away from the question "why," Kristy says "I absolutely love to learn new things. I am excited to have my second internship be with you all! "

Please extend a warm FPC welcome to Kristy.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Church World Service has been responding to recent events around the globe, including the earthquake in Haiti and the refugee situation in Afghanistan. If you would like to learn more about how they are assisting, please visit their website at:

cwsglobal.org/learn/disasters/active-responses/

The Mission Commission will be making a donation from First Presbyterian Church. If you would like to include a donation along with ours, please send to the office by September 20 and note Church World Service. You may also donate directly to Church World Service by visiting the link above.



We have one goal: building a world where there is enough for all.





SATURDAY, September 25th

Hours: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Mark your calendars and start cleaning out your closets in preparation for the Fall Rummage Sale.

PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES WHEN DONATIONS MAY BE DROPPED OFF:

Monday, Sept. 20th through Thursday, Sept. 23rd, from **9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m**. at the Social Center.

On Tuesday, Sept. 21st, donations will be received until 8:00 p.m.

Needed at every sale are hangers, shopping bags, and your donations. Old TVs and computers will **NOT** be accepted at the Rummage Sale. Please contact your local Department of Public Works for correct disposal.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:

Volunteers are needed Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday night and Saturday during sale hours. All volunteers will be invited to a Friday Pizza and Salad dinner at 4 p.m. before the sale begins. Saturday our traditional Hot Dog Lunch will be served! If you never "worked" the Rummage Sale, it's a great time to serve, and have much needed fellowship!

Please email Cindy O'Neill (mimabook@aol.com) or call the church office if you are interested in volunteering.

VOLUNTEER PERKS:

Our volunteers get to enjoy shopping in advance before the sale opens to the community! See you then! The Presbyterian Women are partnering with the local Green Drop Charitable Donations. At the end of the sale, all charitable donations will be delivered to benefit the National Federation of the Blind.

RUMMAGE SALE IMPACT:

While the Rummage Sale is widely popular for the joy it brings to our many shoppers, it also allows our Presbyterian Women to support various church ministries and programs. Whether you're donating goods, shopping or helping in every possible way, your involvement goes a long, long way to impact others. Thank you in advance!



Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

Any questions, please email Cindy O'Neill mimabook@aol.com or call the Church office (732) 491-2300.

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After a successful pilot for a Soup Ministry last winter, we are looking at interest in continuing the program from October to March. Containers of soup would be delivered to congregants who are homebound, recovering from medical issues, working on the frontlines in health care, or feeling isolated.

Why soup? Soup is warm and comforting. Soups can be made ahead of time and reheated. Most soups can be made simply and fairly inexpensively and divided into quart containers which can be left safely on a porch for congregants.

If you know someone who could use some "soup love" or are interested in helping with this ministry – donating a pot of soup, delivering soup to a doorstep, making phone calls or in some other way – please contact: Laura Draper (draperfam44@gmail.com).



Our Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator reported that thanks to the drive held last August 15 in the Social Center they generated 3 power red and collected 20 precious pints. This translates to about 60 lives saved!

More blood drives are in the works and the American Red Cross is grateful for our partnership!



STAFF TRANSITIONS



Congratulations to **Vicky Lacson**, who has served as our Office Assistant since 2017, and was promoted last month to be our full-time *Administrative and Communications Coordinator*.

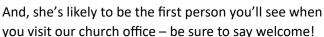
In her new role, she is coordinating our church calendars, as well as managing content, design and production of our

Parish News, Worship Bulletin and Sonday Papers, special event flyers and other communications tools. In addition, she provides administrative support and record keeping for our pastors, staff, commissions, and committees as needed. Vicky brings a wonderful creative and caring approach to our ministries and communications.

Whenever you have something to add to our calendar or our Parish News, be sure to reach out to Vicky!

The part-time *Office Assistant* role has been taken on by longtime member, **Colleen Walker**.

Colleen has been helping with technology support, database entries and reports, registration forms, check-writing and many other things. Colleen has already become central to the smooth operations of our church.





First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen

CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

C	LE	R	G	γ

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

MUSIC MINISTRY

SUPPORT STAFF

Head Teacher

Dir. of Operations & Finance. sharmon@fpcweb.org ihollenbeck@fpcweb.org Facilities Manager boconnell@fpcweb.org Facilities Assistant Admin. & Comm. Coordinator . . vlacson@fpcweb.org Nick Spadavecchia 732-491-2305 Comm. Consultant. . . nspadavecchia@fpcweb.org Nate Brown nbrown@fpcweb.org Technician and Sound Design Consultant Senior Services Coordinator. . . mmatlock@fpcweb.org Office Assistant cwalker@fpcweb.org Food Pantry Coordinator foodpantry@fpcweb.org **COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL**

csmith@fpcweb.org

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Church Office will be closed September 6
in observance of Labor Day.

Regular Office Hours resumes after Labor Day:

Monday through Friday: 8:00 am—4:30 pm

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 September

September 12 Rev. Henderika J. Wattimena

September 19 Local Pastor

September 26 Rev. Ferdinanda Pattipeilohy

In-person worship service in Indonesian language is back and will be at Noon in the Sanctuary of FPC. All covid safety protocols such as mask wearing, social distance and contact tracing will continue to be observed. The Worship Services will continue to be streamed live through Facebook as well. If you have questions you may contact Norma Tambingon or Sandra Laluw.

SEPTEMBER 2021 PARISH NEWS

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

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The information contained herein is for Church use only. Individuals using this information must receive permission of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, NJ.

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!



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 Office Hours: Monday– Friday 8:00 am to 4:30pm Telephone: (732) 491-2300 Email: fpc@fpcweb.org

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am
Online Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 am
Livestream on FPC Metuchen Facebook

