



August/September 2026

The Presbyterian

Church Office
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THE VIEW FROM THE PEW

What to Choose to Do?

Fall will soon be here, with its leaves, its football, its school days, and lots of opportunities for participation. As the calendar turns to September, there are all kinds of things members of our family can choose to do. For our kids there are sports teams to join (or drive them to), groups for them to join who do good (Scouts, 4-H, service clubs), musical opportunities (band, chorus, lessons) and after-school activities (cheerleading, clubs, etc.). For adults there are work obligations, committees/commissions, volunteer activities, entertainment options, and home repair or reno needs (with a house there is always something to be done). There are almost too many opportunities for kids and adults to choose from!

How to choose amongst all of the different alternatives out there? There is no getting around the need to prioritize – we have to make decisions, and almost all of them are worthwhile choices. So, I think some of our decisions come down to the essentials we want for ourselves or our family members. Will a group we sign our kids up for be a positive experience? Will it teach them valuable lessons along the way, like teamwork, commitment, hard work, and camaraderie? Will the time commitments we make preclude other options, and if so, is one commitment worthwhile enough to forego others?

One guideline we can try use in sorting our priorities is doing this:

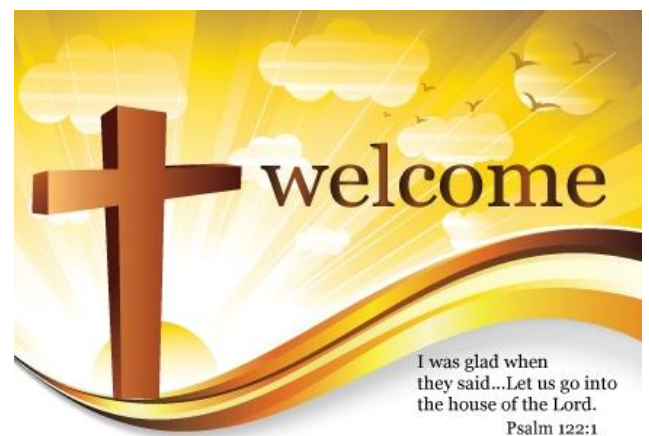
“When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place or drop out of our lives. Our love of the Lord will govern the claims for our affection, the demands on our time, the interests we pursue, and the order of our priorities.”

-Ezra Taft Benson

Church is one of the options out there, but it makes a unique claim along the way that it can be the one that informs all the others. Bringing a child to Sunday School informs them that faith is important to family. All that they'll learn there focuses on loving God and loving each other. It's the same for us in joining the Chancel Choir, attending a fellowship event like a church picnic, or participating in a class or on a commission. Attending worship helps us focus our priorities around the theme of “loving God and loving neighbor” like no other activity. And there's something to be said amidst all of our busy choices to stop and take a weekly Sabbath rest, worship, and re-focus on what is important.

So, when you're looking at all of the opportunities for you and your children to participate in this Fall, perhaps beginning with church as the primary priority will help all other choices fall in place. I hope to see you there!

-Pastor Jeff Hatch



*And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 3:17

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR NOTES

COMMUNION & CASA SUNDAYS: We'll be collecting non-perishable food items for *Casa Freehold* on the first Sunday of each month. Bring what you can for our neighbors in need. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

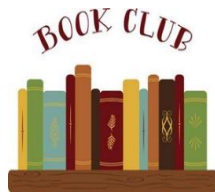
CHURCH OFFICE: The church office will be closed on **Monday, September 7th**, for Labor Day.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW): PW meets the second Tuesday of each month from September to December and from March to June. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 8th**. Join your sisters in faith and enrich your spiritual journey through bible study, support of our church's mission and service to our community. For more information about PW, please speak with Linda Schmidt; 732-870-7223.



Please join us on **Sunday, September 13th**, for our **ANNUAL PICNIC** following worship. This is a great opportunity to catch up with your church family; to spend time with old friends and get to know some new ones. We look forward to seeing you there!



The **FPC BOOK CLUB** meets the first Monday of each month from September to June at 10:00 AM in Room A/B. Since the first Monday in September is Labor Day, please join us on **Monday, September 14th**, for the next Book Club meeting. All are welcome! If you have any questions about the Book Club, please contact Robin Fox at 718-442-4985 or Beachwalker127@yahoo.com.



The **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** meets the second Monday of each month from September to June at 10:00 AM in Room A/B. We update each other on upcoming requests and needs for shawls in the community and outside it. We bring along our knitting and crocheting and show any new stitches we're working on. We are always excited to teach people who want to learn new skills or revamp rusty ones; we have the tools on hand. The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 14th**. For more information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry, please speak with Sandra Whitehill.



The **UNITY CLUB** meets the third Thursday of each month from September to June at 12:30 PM. Please join us on **Thursday, September 17th**, for lunch and refreshments. It's a great time to meet other members for fellowship, friendship and good conversation. All are welcome! For more information about Unity Club, please speak with Marie Schlechtweg; 732-833-9076.



SUNDAY SCHOOL begins on **Sunday, September 20th**, for children ages 3 through high school. Classes are open to both FPC members and non-members' children. To register your children for Sunday School or if you have any questions regarding the Sunday School program, please speak with Samantha Daesener; 732-547-2551.



INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE

Continuing in Prayer and Hope

The Pastoral Search Committee continues its important work of seeking an interim minister to help guide our congregation through this season of transition. We are grateful for the trust you have placed in us and for the prayers and encouragement so many of you have offered along the way.

Over the past several weeks, the committee has prayerfully reviewed candidates and conducted five interviews. While each conversation has been meaningful and has helped us better understand what our congregation needs during this interim season, we have not yet felt led to recommend a candidate. We believe it is important not simply to fill the position quickly, but to seek the person whose gifts, experience, and pastoral presence are the right fit for our church at this time. We are continuing to lead this search.

We recognize that this process can feel long, and we understand the desire for clarity and forward movement. Please know that the committee is working diligently, thoughtfully, and faithfully. We are continuing to seek additional candidates and remain hopeful that God is preparing the right person to walk alongside us.

In the meantime, we ask for your continued prayers—for wisdom, patience, discernment, and open hearts. Pray for the committee as we make decisions, for the candidates who may be called to serve, and for our congregation as we continue to trust God's timing.

We are reminded that seasons of waiting are not seasons of standing still. God is present in the process, shaping us, guiding us, and preparing the way ahead. Thank you for your faithfulness, your patience, and your prayers as we continue this important work together.

Congregants are encouraged to share feedback or questions with any member of the Pastoral Search Committee:

- Berwin Guttormsen
- Sandra Whitehill
- Sue Stoia
- Sue Craig
- Julie Heinsohn
- Tammy Ciok

*Blessings,
Pastoral Search Committee*



*Liturgist Berwin Guttormsen & Pastor Jeff Hatch
August 2, 2026*

PRAYER REQUESTS



Your prayer requests are important. Please call or email the church office during the week to let us know of any requests for prayer you have.

If you have a prayer request on Sunday morning, please use the Prayer Cards in the narthex to write out your requests. A greeter or usher can assist you with any questions you may have. Thank you for helping us stay on top of your prayer requests.

*Therefore encourage one another
and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**Stay Connected with
First Presbyterian Church of Freehold!**

Want to stay up to date with the life of our church? "Liking" our Facebook page is a simple way to stay informed, inspired, and connected all week long! When you follow us on Facebook, you'll enjoy:

- ✓ **Photos** from recent church events and activities
- ✓ **Reminders** about upcoming services and special programs
- ✓ **Clips** from worship services and sermons
- ✓ **Music highlights** from our talented musicians
- ✓ A chance to **connect** with your church family throughout the week

👍 How to Like Our Page:

1. **Open Facebook** on your phone or computer
2. **Search for:** *First Presbyterian Church of Freehold*
3. **Click on our church's name** in the search results
4. Click the **"Like"** button (thumbs up icon) near the top of the page
5. Click **"Follow"** to see our updates in your News Feed

Let's continue to grow our online community and to share the love and life of our church with each other.

**ONLINE GIVING**

Scan the QR code to visit the First Presbyterian Church of Freehold donation page.

From your Vanco Online account, you can review your giving history, manage recurring donations or update payment information. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Canning or the church office for assistance.

**PER CAPITA**

Every Presbyterian Church is asked to make an annual contribution to its local presbytery, based on the number of members in the congregation. This donation is called a Per Capita offering and goes to support the administrative costs of our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.



The current amount is \$42 per FPC member. To our members who have already made a contribution to cover their Per Capita for our current budget year (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027), thank you!

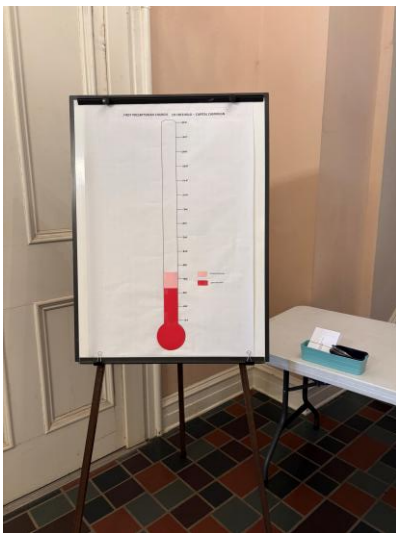
If you haven't yet made a contribution to cover your Per Capita, we urge you to consider doing so. Per Capita contributions may be made during the offering at Sunday worship, mailed to the church office, or online through the FPC website. Please indicate that your contribution is for "Per Capita."

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

On June 14, 2026 our one-year Capital Campaign began with a fundraising goal of \$150,000. The funds raised will be dedicated exclusively to the maintenance and repair needs of our beautiful, historic church building as well as our Christian Education building.



As of August 16, 2026, a total of \$46,700 has been pledged to the Capital Campaign and \$33,900 of the pledged amount has been received. To those who have already made a pledge, thank you! If you haven't yet pledged to the Capital Campaign, please prayerfully consider doing so. Every gift, large or small, helps strengthen our church for today and for future generations.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD

One-Year Capital Campaign Pledge Card

Thank you for supporting our one-year capital campaign to preserve and maintain our nearly 200-year-old Church and nearly 60-year-old Christian Education building.

Pledge Amount

Total gift: \$ _____

Gift Frequency

- ☐ One-time
- ☐ Monthly \$ _____
- ☐ Quarterly \$ _____
- ☐ Other: _____

Contact Information

Member # _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Payment Method

- ☐ Check (payable to First Presbyterian Church of Freehold)
- ☐ Online: fpcfreehold.org (Memo: Capital Campaign)
- ☐ Bank bill pay
- ☐ Other: _____

For gifts of stock or planned giving, please contact the church treasurer or church office. Pledge information is confidential. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Completed pledge cards should be given to Bill Canning or mailed to the church office.

We will continue to provide updates as the Capital Campaign progresses. You can also track our progress on the Capital Campaign thermometer located in the narthex.

Thank you for all that you do to help keep this beautiful house of worship in working order and a welcoming place to all. If you have any questions regarding the Capital Campaign, please contact Bill Canning or the church office.

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

Matthew 6:21

A NEW SEASON OF MUSIC BEGINS!

September brings the beginning of a new season of music at First Presbyterian Church, and after our summer break, we are looking forward to welcoming our choirs back — and hopefully welcoming some new members as well!

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir begins rehearsals on Thursday, September 3rd at 7:00 PM in the upstairs Choir Rehearsal Room. The fall choir season continues through December 27th.

The choir sings regularly at Sunday worship, gathering at 9:00 AM for warm-ups and a brief rehearsal before the service.

And there is always room for another voice!

You do not need to be a professional singer or have years of choir experience. If you enjoy singing, enjoy music, and would like to be part of a wonderful group of people helping to lead our congregation in worship, we would love to have you join us.



Diane Canto & Berwin Guttormsen
"We Gather Together", Duet
July 5, 2026



Larry Moran & Tony Sasso
July 5, 2026

Handbell Choirs

Our handbell choirs will also return this fall, with rehearsals held on Sundays following worship.

Beginning in October, the Kirk Ringers will normally ring in worship on the first Sunday of each month, while the Youth Ringers will normally ring on the third Sunday.



We would especially love to welcome some new ringers this season. Whether you have rung handbells before or would simply like to try something new, please consider joining us. You do not need to arrive already knowing how to ring — we'll help you learn!

Is This Your Year to Join Us?

Perhaps you've sat in worship and thought, "I'd enjoy singing with the choir," or watched the bells and wondered what it would be like to ring one yourself.

This could be the year to find out.

Our music ministry isn't simply about performing music. It's about making music together,

contributing to worship, enjoying fellowship, and sharing the gifts God has given us.

If you're interested in joining the Chancel Choir, Kirk Ringers, or Youth Ringers, please speak with John Cavicchio. Come make some music with us this fall. There's a place waiting for you!

John Cavicchio
Director of Music
Telephone: 732-558-7525
Email: cavicchiojohn@gmail.com



A QUIET MOMENT

Please check out our growing library of devotional reflections shared by members and friends of the FPC church family.

Each devotion offers a brief moment of pause—pairing scripture with music to create space for reflection, encouragement, and renewal during the week.

Scan the QR code to visit the
A Quiet Moment devotional library.



*I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim
your faithfulness to all generations.*

Psalms 89:1

WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

You are invited to participate in this year's **World Communion Offering on October 4, 2026**, which supports the PC(USA)'s initiatives in racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

On that day we will gather at Christ's table alongside Christians all around the world and receive the World Communion Offering. The prophet Micah's charge "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" is embodied when all around the world over join hearts and hands around Christ's Table of grace.

In a world that often feels divided, there is a song from the 1960s that perfectly represents what this Offering is all about. Written by Burt Bacharach and performed by Dionne Warwick, this reminder that we belong to one another.

*What the world needs now is love, sweet love,
It's the only thing that there's just too little of
What the world needs now is love, sweet love.
No, not just for some but for everyone ...*

Please give what you can to the World Communion Offering, for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. **When you contribute you can designate all, or a portion of what you give, to either "Local Mission" or "World Communion Offering" by writing on the memo section of the check either of these causes.**

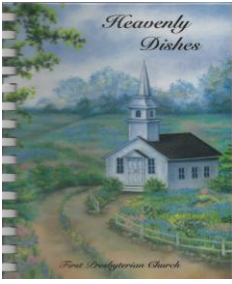
Special envelopes for the World Communion Offering will be available on October 4th.



WORLD COMMUNION



RECIPE CORNER



In 2011, Presbyterian Women published **Heavenly Dishes**, a cookbook dedicated to all FPC members past and present who so generously supported PW over the years. Here, we'll look to share a recipe or two from that cookbook. This month we shine the recipe spotlight on **Topsy-Turvy Apple Pie**. Enjoy!

TOPSY-TURVY APPLE PIE

$\frac{1}{4}$ c. packed brown sugar	$\frac{2}{3}$ c. sugar
1 T. butter, melted	2 T. flour
1 T. corn syrup, light or dark	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. ground cinnamon
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. pecan halves	4 c. thinly sliced, peeled apples
dough for 2 pie crusts	whipped cream, optional

Heat oven to 425°. In a 9-inch glass pie pan, mix brown sugar, butter, and corn syrup. Spread evenly in bottom of pan. Arrange pecans over mixture. Place bottom crust over mixture in pan. In small bowl, mix sugar, flour, and cinnamon. Arrange half of apple slices in crust-lined pan. Sprinkle with half of sugar mixture. Repeat with remaining apple slices and sugar mixture. Top with second crust; seal edge and flute. Cut slits in several places in top crust. Place pie on sheet of foil on middle rack in oven; bake for 8 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350°; bake 35-40 minutes longer or until apples are tender and crust is golden brown. Immediately run knife around edge of pie to loosen. Place serving plate upside down over pie; turn plate and pan over. Remove pan. Serve warm or cool with whipped cream.

Janice Mundy



July 2026 – Word Search Puzzle Solution

A	L	S	M	L	O	V	E	M	S	L	A
F	R	A	S	S	A	R	V	F	I	Z	N
F	T	L	D	E	O	R	E	D	T	E	E
A	E	X	L	P	P	L	R	X	E	A	V
I	J	S	E	D	V	A	Y	I	M	A	E
T	D	K	M	O	R	N	I	N	G	J	R
H	U	T	E	H	R	A	U	E	S	O	C
F	D	G	R	E	S	N	E	W	S	I	E
U	R	Y	C	M	O	I	U	N	R	E	A
L	O	T	I	I	A	S	R	G	D	C	S
N	L	W	E	H	R	T	Q	R	I	O	E
E	E	K	S	Z	W	Y	E	E	O	W	S
S	H	P	L	A	U	E	T	A	B	M	N
S	T	E	A	D	F	A	S	T	X	R	V

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



Welcome to our word search puzzle! Take a moment to read and reflect on the passage and then find the words on the list below the puzzle. The solution will be in the next newsletter. Enjoy!

Matthew 7:7-8

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.
⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

A	Z	B	W	I	L	L	B	E	Z	A	D
P	S	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	W	O	Q
L	E	K	A	S	J	E	Y	T	O	P	U
O	A	R	M	T	E	F	W	R	C	E	D
N	R	O	S	A	V	H	S	E	A	N	R
K	C	A	D	B	E	R	A	C	M	E	H
J	H	A	N	C	R	O	I	E	B	D	K
M	A	T	I	T	Y	M	O	I	D	N	N
P	L	X	F	Y	O	E	I	V	O	R	O
A	S	F	D	G	N	H	L	E	J	K	C
L	H	G	D	D	E	S	A	S	V	M	K
Q	P	N	W	O	R	I	T	U	O	P	E
X	I	C	V	B	N	K	M	J	F	H	E
F	G	O	G	I	V	E	N	I	R	D	W

ASK	GIVEN	SEARCH
FIND	KNOCK	DOOR
OPENED	EVERYONE	WHO
RECEIVES	FINDS	WILL BE



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD

SESSION

Bill Canning

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Samantha Daesener

Christian Education

Julie Heinsohn

Personnel Commission

Yvonne Lindner

Worship Commission

Larry Moran

Property Commission

Vera Musser

Mission/Outreach Commission

Susan Pascullo

Worship Commission

Nominating Committee

Chris Pilla

Property Commission

Chuck Stapp

Mission/Outreach Commission

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Berwin Guttormsen



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