

November 8, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD
118 WEST MAIN STREET
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728
Pulpit Supply: The Rev. Dr. Jefferson Lee Hatch
Director of Music: John Cavicchio
Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Telephone: 732-462-0234
Email: fpcsecretary2@gmail.com
Web Page: http://www.fpcfreehold.org

***Please stand in body or spirit**

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude *Verso in E Minor*

Welcome and Announcements

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Call to Worship *based on Psalm 116*

Liturgist: The Lord hears us when we cry out.
All: Praise the Lord!
Liturgist: The Lord showers us with blessings.
All: Praise the Lord!
Liturgist: Let us lift up the name of Lord for all to hear!
All: Praise the Lord!
Liturgist: Let us sing of God's endless grace and compassion!
All: Let us worship God!

Hymn #353** ***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Call to Confession

We come before God who loves us with a love that surpasses understanding. Even when we struggle to forgive ourselves, God reaches out to us with grace and peace. There isn't anything that could take that love away. So, we come to God to name where we have failed, trusting in God's amazing grace. Friends, let us confess our sin, first together and then in silent personal prayer.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Loving God, we come with heavy hearts. We have not lived as you have called us to live. We give up too easily. We ignore our neighbor's cries for help and are silent in the face of injustice. We lose hope. We fail to see your blessings among us and are blind to the glimpses of the kingdom all around us. We are weak. Have mercy upon us. Shower us with your grace that we might be enlivened for service and for love. Lord, hear our prayer… Amen.

(Please take a moment for silent confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: Friends, God loves you. God wants to be in relationship with you. God allows nothing to come between you and God. Believe this and know that you are forgiven and freed to love and serve.

All: Alleluia. Amen.

***Gloria Patri** *(Hymn #581)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you.

A Time for Children *(Children are invited to the front pew for a message)* Pastor Jeff Hatch

Anthem *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* Chancel Choir

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*

God of joy and wonder, breathe your Spirit upon us. Open our hearts and ears to hear these ancient words and be surprised. Open our minds and our eyes to see our place in your living word today and every day. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 30:2-5 *(Old Testament pg. 505)*

2 O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
3 O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
4 Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
5 For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13 *(New Testament pg. 28)*

Sermon **"***Living Joyfully"* Dr. Jefferson Hatch

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn #707** ***Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

Affirmation of Faith: from the ***Heidelberg Catechism*** *(Question 21)*

Q. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace granted solely by Christ's merit. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Minute for Mission Yvonne Lindner

Minute for Mission Sandra Whitehill

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *More Love to Thee, O Christ* Chancel Choir

***Doxology** *(Hymn #606)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** *(unison)*

Generous God, how can we thank you for all that you have given us? We give back but a tiny portion in hopes that it may bless the world as you have blessed us. In the name of Jesus, our brother and our Lord, Amen.

Prayers of the People & Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(Hymnal pg. 35)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE GO TO LIVE GOD'S WORD

Hymn #688** ***Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

***The Holden Prayer** *(unison)*

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Benediction**

***Choral Response** *Lutkin* Chancel Choir

Postlude *There is None Like You*

We welcome back into the pulpit today the Rev. Dr. Jefferson Hatch.

Pastor Jeff is filling our pulpit today because our regularly scheduled Pulpit Supply is not feeling well. We thank him for filling in at the last minute. He and Kay are regular attenders of our worship after they retired a few years ago. Pastor Jeff was the pastor at a Presbyterian church in Branchville (Sussex County), Kay was the Music Director and Organist there, and they moved to this area to be near family. We are glad they are with us, especially while between called pastors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 11/8/26



WELCOME – We welcome you to our service of worship. We're glad we can be together, both in-person and online, and hope you find comfort, inspiration, and good fellowship in this service.



Please join us today for coffee hour following worship.
A time for fellowship and refreshments!
We look forward to seeing you there!



THE PROPERTY COMMISSION meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM via Zoom from November to February and in-person at the church office from March to October. The next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, November 10th** via Zoom. If you are interested in joining the Property Commission, please contact the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE: The church office will be closed on **Wednesday, November 11th**, for Veterans Day.



Our **ANNUAL FALL CLEAN-UP** will be held this **Saturday, November 14th**, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (rain date of Saturday, November 21st.) There are leaves to rake and brush to clean up, as well as some indoor tidying. We appreciate any time that you can give us. Please bring your rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows and whatever else you think may be helpful. Thank you from all of us on the Property Commission. We look forward to seeing you there!

THE SESSION CONTINUES TO MEET during our Interim Pastor search. The next scheduled meeting is **Wednesday, November 18th**. We are grateful to Rev. Robin Palmer-Burton, pastor at Old Tennent Presbyterian Church, for serving as our temporary moderator for our meetings. If you have any questions, please see an elder. You can also reach out to the church office for assistance.



2027 WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT: For those attending the women's retreat, the final retreat payment is due by **Wednesday, November 18th**. If paying by check, please make your check payable to *First Presbyterian Church of Freehold* and indicate *2027 Women's Retreat* on the memo line. Payments may be mailed to the church office or given to Robin Fox. If you have any questions regarding the May 2027 Women's Retreat, please contact Robin Fox.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DECORATING: We will be decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas on **Sunday, November 22nd** , following worship. We appreciate all the help we can get. Thank you from all of us on the Worship Commission. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Greater Freehold Clergy Association is sponsoring an **INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE** on **Sunday, November 22nd,** at 3:30 PM, and it will be held at Old Tennent Church, which is located at 448 Tennent Road in Manalapan. All are welcome!



CHURCH OFFICE: The church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 26th** and **Friday, November 27th**, for Thanksgiving.

NEW MEMBER INQUIRIES: If you are interested in becoming a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Freehold, please contact the church office at telephone number 732-462-0234 or email address fpcsecretary2@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS: 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. Your prayer requests are important. Thank you for helping us stay on top of your prayer requests.



ADOPT-A-BELL UPDATE



In 1980, a set of handbells was purchased with some church funds and contributions from generous donors. Over the years, the handbells have been played by many people during many worship services here at FPC. While bells do not have to be tuned as frequently as other instruments, periodic refurbishing is needed to help maintain the sound quality and mechanical function of each handbell, and to extend their lifespan. It is now time to refurbish the bells for our two Handbell Choirs, the Kirk Ringers and the Youth Ringers. **To date, $2,550 of the $2,600 needed to refurbish the 60 Malmark handbells has been received.** We're nearly there! Please consider a donation toward this Adopt-A-Bell. Donations may be made during the offering at Sunday worship, mailed to the church office, or online through the FPC website. Please indicate that your donation is for *Adopt-A-Bell: Handbells*. Thank you for your generosity and support.

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.

This campaign is not just about bricks and beams—it's also about mission. By investing in our buildings today, we help safeguard the ability of future generations to worship, learn, serve, and gather within these cherished walls. We also strengthen our role as a welcoming presence in the wider community, ensuring that First Presbyterian Church of Freehold continues to be a place where faith is nurtured and lives are touched.

As of **November 1, 2026**, a total of $76,229 has been pledged to the Capital Campaign. Of this pledged amount, $67,579 has been received plus $1,051.19 in additional donations. This brings the total amount received for the Capital Campaign to $68,630.19 through November 1st. 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, makes a difference and helps strengthen our church for today and for future generations.

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.



First Presbyterian Church of Freehold – November 8, 2026

LITURGIST	Sue Craig
USHERS **Next Week**	Bill Canning & Samantha Daesener Mike Mancuso & Carol Matino
OPENER **Next Week**	Samantha Daesener Chris Pilla
CLOSER **Next Week**	Property Commission Chris Pilla
COUNTERS **Next Week**	Bill Canning & Bob Musser Rick Baptista & Kevin Truex

Today's Guest Musician: *Matthew DeMarco*

ONLINE GIVING

You can use the QR code
to automatically connect to our church's Vanco online portal.

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.

Scan the QR code to visit the
A Quiet Moment Devotional Library.

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.
