



June 21, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD

118 WEST MAIN STREET
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Pulpit Supply: The Rev. Dr. Byron E. Shafer

Director of Music: John Cavicchio

Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9am-12pm

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*Please stand if you are able

Prelude

Ich halte treulich still, J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Call to Worship

Liturgist: We have come to worship God,
the Creator of Life and Source of Being.

**People: We have come to learn of God,
the Word in Flesh, our Brother Jesus.**

Liturgist: We have come to experience God,
the One among Us, Brooding Spirit.

**All: We have come to sing the praise of God—
Who is Mother, Brother, Holy Partner,
Father, Spirit, Only Son.**

*Hymn #370

This Is My Father's World

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Three-times holy God, even our best parenting
is but a shadow of the quality of Your giving and caring for us.
Our devotion to brothers and sisters can hardly be compared
to the self-giving love of Jesus Christ, our Brother.
The most understanding and forgiving family spirit we share
is hardly comparable to the unity in love which is Your nature.

We are lost if we flee Your loving discipline.
We are estranged if we stray from Your Son Jesus.
We are orphaned if we are not bound to You by the Spirit.

Forgive us, O God,
and keep us in Your family,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

(Please take a moment for silent confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: Friends, hear the good news! God is our loving Father.
People: **All of us who are moved by the Spirit of God are children of God.**
Minister: Friends, believe the good news!
All: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.***

*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

Minister: 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)

Vera Musser

Anthem

I Walked Today, Where Jesus Walked

Matthew DeMarco, soloist

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*

God, our helper, by Your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the Scripture is read and Your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into Your truth and taught Your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:32-36 *(New Testament pg. 52)*

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:14-17 *(New Testament pg. 158)*

Sermon

"Abba's Children"

Dr. Byron E. Shafer

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*Hymn #169

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Affirmation of Faith: *from A Brief Statement of Faith (unison)*

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

**In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

O God, Show Mercy to Us

***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**

**Liturgist: Abba, Father, out of joy that we are joint heirs
with Your Son, Jesus Christ,**

**People: we give these tokens of our love that they may
be used for the well-being of all Your family.**

All: Amen.

Prayers of the People

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 #39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Benediction

Postlude

The River is Here

We welcome back into the pulpit today the Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer.

The Reverend Dr. Byron E. Shafer has taught Biblical Studies at Fordham University in New York City from 1968 to the present day, full-time until 1996 and part-time since then. He is also the emeritus Pastor of the Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York City. From 2007 through 2010 he spent four academic terms as a Visiting Professor of Old and New Testaments at the United Theological College in Bangalore, India.

Dr. Shafer has been active on many levels in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He was a member of the Committee of 15 that reviewed and edited that denomination's "A Brief Statement of Faith," part of its Book of Confessions. And in 1993, he served as Moderator of the Presbytery of New York City. He currently serves on the Presbytery of the Coastlands Commission on Preparation for Ministry.

Between 1985 and 2003, Dr. Shafer served as the Protestant host of "Religion on the Line," a three-hour Sunday-morning interfaith call-in program on WABC Radio in New York City. Dr. Shafer received his B.A. in History from the College of Wooster in Ohio (1960), his M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago (1963), and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in the History, Religion, and Literature of Ancient Israel (1968).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OFFICE: The church office will be closed Friday, July 3rd for Independence Day (observed.)



LEMONADE ON THE LAWN: Please join us for Lemonade on the Lawn on Sunday, July 5th following worship. A time for fellowship and refreshments! We look forward to seeing you there!



THE PASTORAL SEARCH STEERING COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO MEET to support our congregation's pulpit and pastoral needs. We are pleased to share that we completed the required Ministry Profile and the Interim Minister position has now been posted through the Church Leadership Connection. We are now receiving and reviewing resumes for the Interim Minister role. The committee expects to begin interviewing candidates and will continue to provide updates as the process moves forward. Congregants are encouraged to

share feedback or questions with any member of the Pastoral Search Steering Committee: Berwin Guttormsen, Sue Craig, Sandra Whitehill, Julie Heinsohn, Sue Stoia, and Tammy Ciok.

We are grateful for the guest preachers who have blessed us in recent months and invite ordained elders to consider helping with pulpit supply. If interested, please contact the church office to discuss availability and worship-planning details.



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.



DIANE WILL BE ON VACATION July 20th through July 27th. Assistance is needed with covering the church office during this time. Tasks include answering the telephone, responding to emails and reviewing incoming mail. If you are able to help with this, please call or email the church office. Thank you for your support. It is very much appreciated.



A QUIET MOMENT - WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL RECORDINGS: 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.

VANCO ONLINE DONATION WEBSITE: The Vanco Online eGiving platform will soon be changing their web address for the donation form, and a redirect has been put in place from the old page to the new one. Vanco will let us know soon what the new web address will be so that our online donation portal can be updated on the FPC website. You can also use the QR code below 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, FPC Treasurer.



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

Welcome

We're Glad You're Here!

First Presbyterian Church of Freehold – June 21, 2026

LITURGIST	Diane Canto
USHERS	Mike Mancuso & Carol Matino
Next Week	Charlie Lloyd & Tom Morrice
OPENER	Chris Pilla
Next Week	Pat Kirk
CLOSER	Chris Pilla
Next Week	Charlie Lloyd
COUNTERS	Bill Canning & Kevin Truex
Next Week	Barbara Lloyd & Tom Morrice



Today's Guest Musician:
Matthew DeMarco, Soloist



Stay Connected with First Presbyterian Church of Freehold!
Follow Us on Facebook!



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

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

