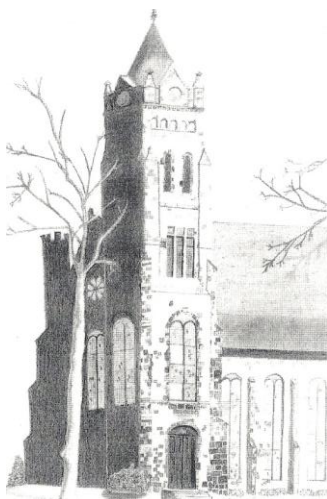




October 26, 2025 - 10:00 AM
20th Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD

118 WEST MAIN STREET

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Rev. Dr. Alan Olson, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jefferson L. Hatch, Pulpit Supply

Director of Music: John Cavicchio

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

Telephone: 732-462-0234

Email: fpcsecretary2@gmail.com

Web Page: <http://www.fpcfreeshold.org>

Please stand if you are able, **BOLD words are the congregation saying or singing*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Refiner's Fire

Welcome and Announcements

God's People Gather

Call to Worship

LEADER: The beginning of wisdom is to hold the Lord in awe, and to know him is to have true understanding.

PEOPLE: **He gives us the days of our years, the days in which we are to know him and live according to his commandments.**

LEADER: He does not remember our sins against us.

PEOPLE: **His compassion comes speedily to meet us.**

LEADER: Praise the Lord, mighty in his holiness,

PEOPLE: **Praise the Lord, steadfast in his justice and mercy.**

***Hymn #33**

Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

When it comes to your will, Lord, it isn't that we can't see it,
or hear it, or don't know what it is.

We confess now that we know we haven't done what we see should be done.

We haven't stayed obedient to the Word we have heard,
and we haven't acted as we know we are fully capable of.

Forgive our carelessness, our mistakes, and our ill will.

Through your Son's grace and help, may we do better.

(Please take a moment for silent personal confession)

Assurance of Pardon

PASTOR: Hear the Good News! ...

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

PEOPLE: 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**

Pastor: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

Time with the Children *Children are invited up front to meet with the pastor for a message,
after which they'll be dismissed to Sunday School*

Anthem

Abide With Me

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

God of light, illumine our minds, souls, and hearts with your Word today. Help us hear
your message with openness so that your seeds of love and kindness might be planted
in us today and blossom this week in each of us, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 119: 97-104

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law!

It is my meditation all day long.

⁹⁸ **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is always with me.**

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your decrees are my meditation.

¹⁰⁰ **I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.**

¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.

¹⁰² **I do not turn away from your ordinances,
for you have taught me.**

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ **Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.**

Scripture Lesson: Luke 15:1-10 (*New Testament pg. 78*)

Sermon

Persistence, with a Twist

Dr. Jefferson L. Hatch

We Respond to the Word

***Hymn #728**

Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

Minute for Mission

Sandra Whitehill

Offering and Offertory

To Bless the Earth

***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 Thanksgiving**

We give our thanks through our talents, our time, and our treasure.

Thanks be to God; whose love creates us!

Thanks be to God; whose mercy redeems us!

Thanks be to God; whose grace leads us into the future! Amen.

Statement of Faith – From A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH – Part 3 – Holy Spirit

In life and death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,**

**we trust in the one true God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

**sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and
neighbor, and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

The same Spirit

**who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,**

feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we confess that nothing in life or death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and the Lord's Prayer

*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 #542**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Lord, Reign in Me

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome to Worship! We're so glad you can be with us for worship today. Pastor Alan is away this week for continuing education and we're pleased to welcome Pastor Jeff Hatch back into the pulpit. We hope that this service is inspiring and uplifting to you, and that you'll join us again soon.

Parking Lot Update: The work on the parking lot began on October 6th and it is expected to be completed by the end of this month. The parking lot will continue to be unavailable for use during construction and the surrounding sidewalks may also be closed off. Thank you for your continued patience while we make these improvements. We will provide updates as they become available.



Communion & Casa Sundays: We'll be collecting non-perishable food items for **Casa Freehold** on the first Sunday of the 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.

Fall Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, November 8th from 9 AM to Noon (rain date of Saturday, November 15th.) 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!



Calendar Note: Pastor Alan will be away through November 1st. If you have a pastoral emergency while Pastor Alan is away, please contact the church office.

WESTMINSTER HANDBELL CHOIR TO PERFORM AT FPC



Mark your calendars! On **Saturday, December 6th at 7:30 PM**, the renowned Westminster Handbell Choir will be performing their traditional Christmas concert program in our sanctuary. What a great way to "ring in" the Christmas season with one of the most prestigious handbell choirs! They will be ringing over 100 handbells and chimes throughout the evening; ringing traditional and contemporary Christmas carols. After the concert, attendees will get an opportunity to ring some of the bells and chimes!



Tickets for this event must be purchased online. You may order tickets through the FPC website using link <https://www.fpcfreeshold.org/events>, or by scanning the QR code. There will be a limited number of seats available at the door the night of the concert if the concert does not sell out with online ticket sales. If you have any questions regarding the concert, please speak with Bob DiSogra or contact the church office.

Give the gift of music this Christmas to your family and friends!



First Presbyterian Church of Freehold – October 26, 2025

LITURGIST	Linda Schmidt
USHERS Next Week	Charlie Lloyd & Tom Morrice Mike Mancuso & Bob DiSogra
OPENER Next Week	Pat Kirk Pat Kirk
CLOSER Next Week	Charlie Lloyd Samantha Daesener
COUNTERS Next Week	Barbara Lloyd & Tom Morrice Beth Nadolny & Samantha Daesener



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

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 grow our online community and share the love and life of our church with each other—
like us today!***



We are a member church of the Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination