

October 2026

The Presbyterian

Church Office
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THE VIEW FROM THE PEW

"Children of God"

We're now into the fall season, school has started up, and programs for them are going on everywhere. Sunday School has begun again here in church, and whether we have our own children in church or not, we can gratefully remember that we're all God's children.

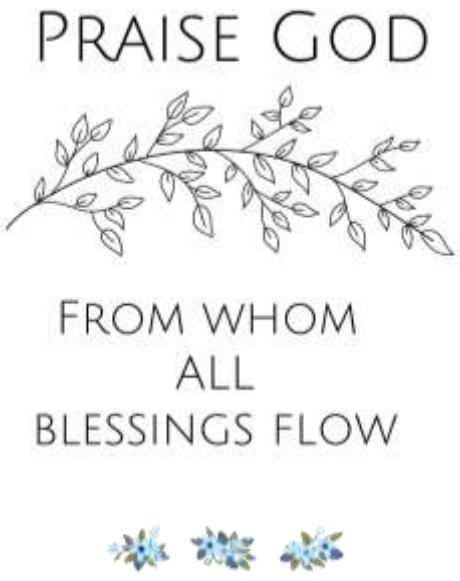
I once saw on a bulletin board in a Nursery some of the wisest sayings I've ever come across. Yes, it's for parents of children (or grandparents of grandchildren), but no, you don't have to have a "wee" one to appreciate the wisdom contained in the words. I think they're worth sharing here:

"How to Really Love a Child"

Be there.
Say yes as often as possible.
Let them bang on pots and pans.
If they're crabby, put them in water.
If they're unlovable, love yourself.
Realize how important it is to be a child.
Go to a movie theater in your pajamas.
Read books out loud with joy.
Invent pleasures together.
Remember how really small they are.
Giggle a lot.
Surprise them.
Say no when necessary.
Teach feelings.
Heal your own inner child.
Learn about parenting.
Hug trees together.
Make loving safe.
Bake a cake and eat it with no hands.
Go find elephants and kiss them.
Plan to build a rocket ship.
Imagine yourself magic.
Make lots of forts with blankets.
Let your angel fly.
Reveal your own dreams.
Search out the positive.
Keep the gleam in your eye.
Mail letters to God.
Encourage silly.
Plant licorice in your garden.
Open up.
Stop yelling.
Express your love.
A lot.
Speak kindly.
Paint their tennis shoes.
Handle with caring.
CHILDREN ARE MIRACULOUS
- Sark

And we can also keep in mind that our Heavenly Father treats us this way as well. Jesus said, "whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." May God bless all of us children.

Warmly,
Pastor Jeff



OCTOBER CALENDAR NOTES

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: You are invited to participate in this year's World Communion Offering on **Sunday, October 4th**, which supports the PC(USA)'s initiatives in racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. Special envelopes for the World Communion Offering will be available on October 4th.

Please give what you can to the World Communion Offering, for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. If donating by check, please make your check payable to "First Presbyterian Church of Freehold." *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 your check either of these causes.* Thank you for your generosity and support.



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.



COFFEE HOUR: Please join us on **Sunday, October 18th**, following worship for Coffee Hour in the auditorium. Coffee Hour is a wonderful 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!

Also on Sunday, October 18th in the auditorium following worship…



Presbyterian Women is sponsoring a **SOUP & BAKE SALE**. Soup makers and bakers are needed! If you are making soup and need soup containers, they are available in the kitchen located across from Room A/B. Anyone wishing to bake or make soup, or if you have any questions regarding the Soup & Bake Sale, please speak with Marie Schlechtweg or Linda Schmidt.





DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ends at 2:00 AM on **Sunday, November 1st**, when the clock will "fall back" one hour. Remember to adjust your clocks before calling it a day on Saturday, October 31st.



A MESSAGE OF THANKS



Thank you so much! To say I will miss all of you would be a serious understatement. All of you mean so much to me, it is hard to put into words how I feel. Whether you are someone I've known for many years or more recently, I treasure you! The hardest thing about moving to Georgia is leaving all of you. I grew up here and have shared life's ups and downs with many of you. Thank you for your cards and the generous gift you gave me, but more importantly, thank you for the friendship, love, kindness and encouragement.

Love,
Susan Croft

INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE



The Pastoral Search Committee continues its search for an Interim Pastor. While we have interviewed five candidates, we have not yet found the right match for our congregation.

To strengthen our efforts, we have expanded our search beyond the Church Leadership Connection (CLC), increased the salary range, and widened the geographic area for potential candidates. Although applications have remained limited, we are encouraged by these new opportunities and optimistic that they will help us connect with the right person for this important role.

We ask for your continued prayers for guidance, patience, and discernment as we move forward. We trust that God is leading this process and preparing the right pastor to serve our church community. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers.

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

SESSION

The Session continues to meet during our Interim Pastor search. The next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, October 20th**. 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.

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.

ANNUAL FALL CLEAN-UP



Our annual Fall Clean-Up will be held on **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!

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club meets the first Monday of each month from September to June at 10:00 AM in Room A/B, and our next meeting will be **October 5th**. Please join us for some fellowship and an always interesting discussion about the book we've read. All are welcome!

Here are our upcoming book picks:

- October: *John of John* by Douglas Stewart
- November: *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans
- January: *Life, & Death, & Giants* by Ron Rindo

If you have any questions about the Book Club, please contact Robin Fox at 718-442-4985 or Beachwalker127@yahoo.com.

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

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👍 **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.

Like us on facebook



ONLINE GIVING

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 **September 30, 2026**, a total of $59,400 has been pledged to the Capital Campaign and $50,300 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

MUSIC MINISTRY

A New Season of Music at FPC

There is something wonderful about this time of year at First Presbyterian Church. After the quieter pace of summer, our choirs and handbells are once again filling the church with music, and a new season of music ministry is underway.

The **Chancel Choir** has resumed its regular Thursday evening rehearsals at 7:00 PM and is singing each Sunday at the 10:00 AM worship service. As we begin the new season, we are also making a few adjustments to our Sunday morning routine and finding what works best for everyone. It has been good to have the choir back together and once again leading the congregation in worship through music.

Our handbell program is also returning to its regular schedule. The **Kirk Ringers**, our adult handbell choir, rehearse Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM, while our **Youth Bells**, made up of our teenage ringers, rehearse Sundays at 11:00 AM. It is wonderful to have both groups ringing again and especially exciting to see another generation of musicians learning, ringing, and becoming part of the musical life of FPC.

This year will also be particularly significant for our handbell ministry as we prepare for an important next chapter in the life of our instruments. You'll be hearing much more about that elsewhere in this newsletter.

And not all of our music ministry happens where you can see it.

Our **Sound Techs** continue to keep very busy with our weekly broadcasts. Much of their work happens behind the scenes, but every service that reaches someone watching from home—or from miles away—depends upon people making sure that cameras, microphones, sound, and streaming all work together. Their ministry has become an important extension of what happens inside our sanctuary each Sunday.

There are also many ways to share your musical gifts at FPC without making a regular weekly commitment. Throughout the year, we have opportunities for instrumentalists and solo singers to participate in worship. Perhaps you play an instrument, enjoy singing a solo, or have a musical gift that we don't even know about yet. Come talk with me. We can find an opportunity that fits you.



Something Special in October



For anyone interested in the organ—or in experiencing a little musical history—there is a special opportunity coming up this month. On Saturday, October 10th at 12:00 PM, the Central

New Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, in collaboration with the Princeton Garden Theatre, will present F. W. Murnau's 1926 silent film Faust.

The film will be accompanied live by theater organist Ian Fraser, who will improvise the musical accompaniment as the film unfolds. Following the screening, there will also be a brief demonstration of the theater organ.

It is a wonderful opportunity to experience the organ in an entirely different setting—and to hear the art of improvisation used in the tradition of silent film accompaniment. Seating is limited, so advance reservations are recommended.



And Looking Ahead to December...

There is something brand new on our own calendar this year.

On Sunday, December 21st, our FPC choirs and handbell ensembles will present a special joint holiday concert with the choirs of Freehold Township High School, right here at First Presbyterian Church.

This promises to be an exciting collaboration, bringing together our church musicians and young musicians from the community for an afternoon of holiday music. It will also give us a wonderful opportunity to welcome students, families, friends, and neighbors into FPC and share some of the music that is such an important part of our life together.

There will be much more information about the concert as December approaches, but for now, **save the date!**

As I look at everything happening this fall, I am reminded that a church music ministry is about much more than preparing music for Sunday morning. It is about people making music together. It is about teaching and learning, preserving traditions while trying new things, welcoming others into our church, and finding new ways for music to serve both our congregation and our community.

We're only a few weeks into the new season, and already there is a great deal happening.

I can't wait to hear where the music takes us next.

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.
Psalm 89:1

HANDBELLS - A WONDERFUL MINISTRY!

In 1980, a set of handbells was purchased with some church funds and donations from some generous donors. Since that time, the handbells have been played by many people ranging in age from 4 years to those in their eighties.

At the beginning of a worship service, you will often hear the Chiming of the Hour. Our Kirk Ringers and Youth Bells also play during worship, with some special favorites played during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

Besides church, our handbell choirs have played in festivals in Freehold and at Rider College, as well as outreach concerts at Applewood Estates, Allaire Healthcare and others. Our handbell choirs have also played at Freehold's Got Talent and participated in a Christmas concert at the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank.

Unlike learning to play other instruments, it is not a requirement to take private lessons or practice every day at home with handbells. It is truly a team effort where players practice together, creating rich melodies and harmonies and unique sounds. Bells do not have to be tuned as frequently as other instruments, but periodic maintenance is necessary. It is now time to refurbish the bells and we need your help. Please consider donating to the Adopt-a-Bell for this worthy program.

Blessings,
Susan Croft



ADOPT-A-BELL



Our Music Ministry needs to have the handbells refurbished for our two Handbell Choirs, the Kirk Ringers and the Youth Ringers, and we need your help to pay for the refurbishment. This periodic maintenance helps to improve the sound quality and mechanical function of each handbell, and to extend their lifespan. We currently have 5 octaves of Malmark handbells. Each octave contains 12 bells for a total of 60 handbells.

Session has approved a request from the Worship Commission for an Adopt-A-Bell to help fund this project. We are looking to raise $2,600 toward the cost of refurbishing the 60 Malmark handbells. **As of September 30, 2026**, $675 of the $2,600 has been received. 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.

Adopt-A-Bell

We are looking to raise $2,600 towards the cost of refurbishing our 60 handbells for our Handbell Choirs.

Thank you for your contribution in the amount of:

_____ $25
_____ $50
_____ $75
_____ $100
_____ Other

Name _____ (optional)

Please deposit in offering plate with check made out to First Presbyterian Church of Freehold, and indicate "For Handbells" in the memo line.

CHURCH PICNIC SNAPSHOTS



After worship on September 13th, we headed to the auditorium for a picnic lunch. It was the second year in a row the weather did not cooperate. It was still a wonderful day of food, fun and fellowship! Thank you to everyone who grilled, brought a side dish or dessert to share, and helped out in other ways!


















EXIT























Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

Faith & Fellowship













Faith & Fellowship

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 ***Rich Crab Bisque***. Enjoy!

RICH CRAB BISQUE

3 T. butter
½ c. minced green onion
¼ c. minced celery heart
1 T. peeled and minced carrot
1 tsp. minced garlic
1 tsp. peeled and minced fresh ginger
3 T. flour
1¼ c. milk
1¼ c. chicken broth
dash of freshly grated nutmeg
dash of cayenne pepper
½ tsp. salt
½ c. light cream
3 T. sherry, cream or dry
1 lb. picked crab meat

In a saucepan over low heat, melt the butter. Process the green onion, celery, carrot, garlic, and ginger in the food processor until very fine. Add the vegetables to the butter and cover the pot. Simmer over low heat until the vegetables are tender, about 3 minutes. Add the flour and whisk and cook for 2 minutes. Whisk in the milk and the broth. Bring to a boil, whisking occasionally. Remove from the heat and add the remaining ingredients.

Janice Mundy



August/September 2026
Word Search Puzzle Solution

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

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!

Psalm 46:1-3

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
Se'lah

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

GOD	NOT FEAR	SHAKE
REFUGE	EARTH	WATERS
STRENGTH	CHANGE	ROAR
HELP	MOUNTAINS	TREMBLE



Soup & Bake Sale



Sunday, October 18th

11am-12:30pm, CE building



homemade soups

$13 a quart, cash or check

cookies & cakes



And join us for Coffee Hour



Everyone is welcome

sponsored by Presbyterian Women

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD

SESSION

Bill Canning
Finance Commission

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

CLERK OF SESSION

Berwin Guttormsen



BOARD OF DEACONS

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