



August 16, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD

118 WEST MAIN STREET
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Pulpit Supply: Elder Charles Versfelt

Director of Music: John Cavicchio

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 AM -12 PM

Telephone: 732-462-0234

Email: fpcsecretary2@gmail.com

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

***Please stand if you are able**

Prelude

In Babilone

Welcome and Announcements

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Call to Worship

Liturgist: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Liturgist: Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord—

All: outsiders and insiders, old-timers and newcomers, the young, old and the in-between.

Liturgist: Come as you are, for this is God's house—a house of prayer for all people, and God welcomes each one who comes.

All: Let us praise God together!

***Hymn #265**

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Call to Confession

Because God is our refuge and strength, we can acknowledge our weakness and confess our sins before Him.
Because He is our fortress, we know we are secure in His grace and mercy.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy and gracious God, I confess that I am spiritually blind, for I am by nature sinful and have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Open my eyes to Your grace that I might walk in Your ways and bring glory to Your name.

(Please take a moment for silent confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: Be still and know the Good News: God has not forsaken or forgotten you but has redeemed you through the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has forgiven your sins and removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

All: **Thanks be to God. 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**

Minister: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: **And also with you.**

A Time for Children

(Children are invited to the front pew for a message)

Elder Charles Versfelt

Anthem

From All that Dwell Below the Skies

Matthew DeMarco

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Lord, let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

As we hear the reading of your word, open us to greater understanding.

In the name of our Lord Jesus, we pray, Amen.

Scripture Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 (*New Testament pg. 160, 161*)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 15:21-28 (*New Testament pg. 17*)

Sermon

*“Even the Dogs eat the Crumbs:
Accepting Outsiders into God’s Kingdom”*

Elder Charles Versfelt

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***Hymn #754**

Help Us Accept Each Other

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (*unison*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

O God, Show Mercy to Us

Matthew DeMarco

***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.**

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 #765**

May the God of Hope Go with Us

***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**

Postlude

Church United

We welcome back into the pulpit today Elder Charles Versfelt.

Charles Versfelt is a student minister attending New Brunswick Theological Seminary and serves as an elder and Classis/Middle Assembly representative for the Bradley Gardens Reformed Church in Bridgewater, NJ. He lives with his wife in Raritan, and has served his church as a preaching elder for the last 15 years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

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

SAVE THE DATE: 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!



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 contact Samantha Daesener.

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.



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.

Welcome

We're Glad You're Here!

First Presbyterian Church of Freehold – August 16, 2026

LITURGIST	Sue Craig
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	Rick Baptista & 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!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD

SESSION

Bill Canning

Samantha Daesener

Julie Heinsohn

Yvonne Lindner

Larry Moran

Vera Musser

Susan Pascullo

Chris Pilla

Chuck Stapp

CLERK OF SESSION

Berwin Guttormsen



BOARD OF DEACONS

Judi Cavicchio

Barbara Jean Keune

Carol Matino

Nicole Reese

Linda Schmidt