

First + Press

JULY/AUGUST 2026

A Publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights

28 7th Avenue
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

Rev. Eliza C. Jaremko, Pastor
fpchaddonheights.org



"JESUS ANSWERED ... 'EVERYONE WHO BELONGS TO THE TRUTH LISTENS TO MY VOICE.'
PILATE ASKED HIM, 'WHAT IS TRUTH?'"

-JOHN 18:37-38

"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT ..."

-THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States and the 125th anniversary of our church family here at First Presbyterian Church, Haddon Heights. Our congregation has been preaching the Gospel here at the corner of 7th and Green for half of our nation's history. This summer, we will explore what it means to be both Christians who proclaim Jesus as Lord and Americans who trust in the founding principles of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

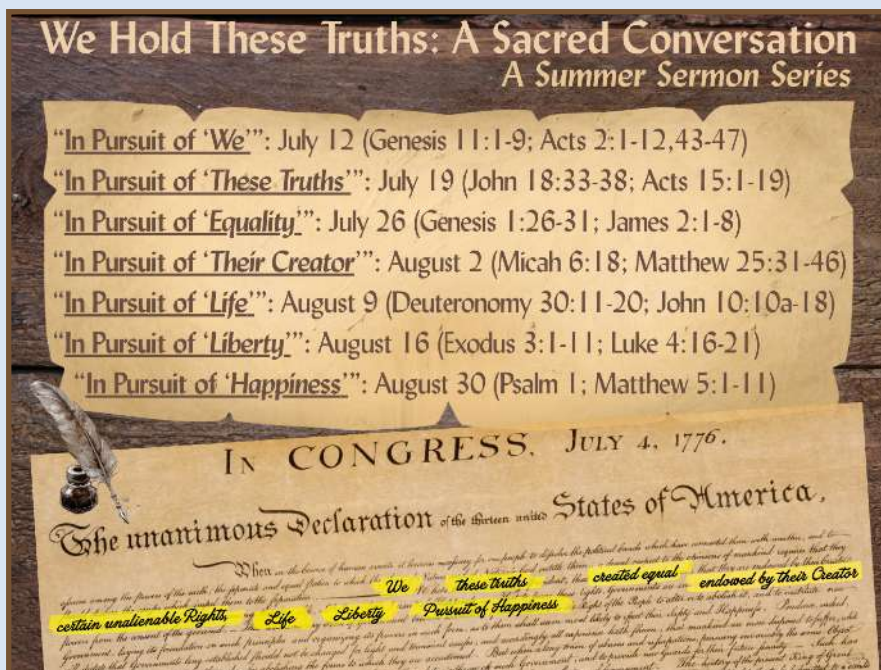
In this venture, we will place our American ideals in a sacred conversation with Scripture. How do we as Christians pursue "we", "truth", "equality", "our creator", "life", "liberty", and "happiness" today? Are those truths "self-evident?" How do these truths guide our lives?

We enter this conversation not from a place of Nationalism (nor Christian Nationalism), but to view our country's values from our particular lens of Christianity (with a recognition that our American friends of other faiths may understand those values differently) – because that is American also. How does our faith interpret those values as we put God and faith first?

We hope you will come along this journey as we explore how scripture interprets the values we as Americans both hold dear and continue to wrestle with 250 years in. We'll explore what the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15) has to do with self-evident truths, what our creation in God's image tells us about being created equal, and what Jesus' sermon on the mount instructs us about the nature of "happiness."

Worship with us every Sunday at
9:30am through Labor Day weekend.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Eliza



From the Pastor's desk



Men's Breakfast

All First Pres men, and their friends and neighbors, are invited to the monthly Men's Breakfast gathering!



We meet on the **last Wednesday of the month at 9:00am** in the church parlor. We eat, laugh, tell stories, reminisce, and try to tackle one thought-provoking question or idea at each gathering. A \$5 donation covers the cost of the meal and also goes toward an annual charitable donation. The best part? We share in a growing camaraderie and genuine appreciation for each other as we "travel this road" together.

This summer, the men **will NOT be meeting July or August**, but they'll be back in action again on **Wednesday, September 30**, at 9:00 AM in the parlor.

As always, please contact Rick Clark with any questions and to let him know if you'll be attending. Please call the office for his contact information if you don't have it.

Congratulations to Our Newest Members

On Sunday, June 14, we welcomed into FPCHH membership our newest confirmands, Diane Corso, Rachel Hirt, Nick Russo, & Mia Teti. Congratulations to these teens and their families!



Office Absences and Varying Hours



Please note the following dates:

Mary Johnson on Vacation:

Monday, August 3 through
Sunday, August 16

Pastor Eliza on Vacation:

Monday, August 17 through
Sunday, August 23

Please contact the office for assistance during office hours or Marci Spiegle, Clerk of Session, when the office is closed. There will be a pastor on call for pastoral emergencies when Pastor Eliza is out of the office (name will be provided soon).

A Special Cherub Performance

On Sunday, June 14, our Cherub Choir, led by director, Kim Muni, performed "My Mother's Love" by Tim Shelton for our worship prelude. Many thanks to all our kids, moms, and especially Kim Muni, for this special performance!



Class of 2029 Church Board Members Elected

At our annual congregational meeting on June 21, our congregation elected new members to our church boards and renewed existing members for a second term. On July 19 and July 26, the following first and second term members of the Class of 2029 will be commissioned and installed:

Elders

Al Andrews (2nd Term)
Kathy Mullan (1st Term)
Carmen Muni (2nd Term)

Deacons

Melissa Corso (1st Term)
Candy Frantz (1st Term)
Margie Kent (2nd Term)
Daniel Mullan (2nd Term)

Trustees

Bruce Erwin (1st Term)
Tony Masi (2nd Term)
Jeff Moon (1st Term)



Thank you to the outgoing members of the Class of 2026 for your faithful dedication and service:

Elders: Judy Wilson

Deacons: Anne Andrews, Janice Perry, & Ellie Wyckoff

Trustees: Cheryl Hauske & Mark Zimmerman



Finally, thank you to Al Andrews and the Nominating Committee for their hard work in finding candidates to fill these important roles.

	The Session	
CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028	CLASS OF 2029
Leslie Clark (2) Stewardship	Marci Spiegel (2) Clerk of Session	Al Andrews (2) Personnel & Nominating
Vicki Clarke (2) Outreach	Cheryl Walmsley (1) Care & Membership	Kathy Mullan (1) Christian Ed
Sharon Cole (2) Music & Worship	Hal Wyckoff (1) Missions	Carmen Muni (2) Fellowship

	The Board of Trustees	
CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028	CLASS OF 2029
Dan Mullan (2)	Will Burrough (1)	Bruce Erwin (1)
George Newnam (1)	Chuck Maienza (1)	Tony Masi (2)
Patti Pawling (2)	Cathy Zobel (1)	Jeff Moon (1)

	The Board of Deacons	
CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028	CLASS OF 2029
Bill Burrough (1)	Kate Colantonio (1)	Melissa Corso (1)
Tom Clarke (1)	Fred Heuser (1)	Candy Frantz (1)
Melanie Diven (2)	Ro Hudson (1)	Margie Kent (2)
Kelly Evans (2)	Suzanne Lange (2)	Daniel Mullan (2)
Kyle Jaremko (1)	Laura Masi (2)	



Manse Update

Good news! Our new tenants - Lauren & Vincent, and their 2-year old son, Adrien - have signed a 2-year lease and will be moving into the manse on August 1st. Lauren is the recently hired Director of Youth and Worship Arts at Moorestown Presbyterian Church. If you see them, please give them a warm welcome.



Summertime Fellowship Hour

As the Deacons have done in past summers, they will continue to serve snacks and cold drinks following Sunday's worship service. Coffee will return in September when we change back to our 10:30am worship time and the weather gets cooler.



Save the Date! *Deacons' World Famous Pancake Breakfast & Worship* in the Social Hall

Join us as we celebrate the end of summer and return to our 10:30 AM worship time!

Sunday, September 13 @ 9:30 AM

Breakfast at 9:30am

Worship at 10:30am in the Social Hall

SUMMER WORSHIP
through **September 6**
9:30am
Worship Time

10:30am Worship starts September 13



MISSIONS update



July & August

Missions Collection for July: Cleaning Supplies!

What do you use to clean your house? Please consider buying duplicates of what you use and donate to those who would love to have a clean house, but can't afford the items needed to do so.



Missions Collection for August: Peanut Butter & Jelly!



Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are nutritious and easy to make ... and eat, of course. When purchasing your groceries, think about the children who may go without lunch and pick up a jar or two of these staples. We know the children and parents will appreciate your generosity.

Project: Birthday Kits



What kid doesn't love birthday cake with candles, special plates and napkins?

What parent doesn't love to provide these things for their child? How does one weigh buying all these special items against nutritious food when they are food insecure? All good questions. The Mission Committee wants to provide "**Birthday Kits**" and we need your support. In July and August, we are asking the congregation to purchase a **cake mix** and a **can of icing** (or more). Our goal is to have 50 cake mixes and cans of icing by Sunday, August 23. Missions will purchase 50 each of cake pans, candles, plates & napkins to complete the kits. We'll also **match each and every birthday kit**, so that we will have 100 by the end of August. On August 30 (our Mission Service Sunday!), everyone is invited after worship to help us pack up the completed kits for a special birthday celebration for these families.

KEEP Stocking Up on School Supplies!

The Missions Committee is collecting school supplies to donate to local schools to supplement student resources. We'll be delivering supplies to the Haddon Heights Elementary Schools, Barrington Schools, Lawnside School and Sharp Elementary in

Collingswood. Donations should be brought in by **Sunday, August 2**, & can be placed in Room 2 and/or the Missions cabinet in the parlor. Below is a list of possible items to donate:



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| —#2 pencils | —post-it notes |
| —24-pack crayons | —notebook paper |
| —glue sticks | —packs of 3x5 index cards |
| —pocket folders | —pencil erases, cap & pink |
| —dry erase markers | —1" & 2" binders |
| —highlighters | —spiral notebooks |
| —composition books | —ball point pens |
| | (red, blue, & black) |



Thank you from the Mission Committee!

Thank you for helping us support local food pantries. On June 14 we collected \$223! This money was used for the Fellowship United Methodist Food Pantry in Haddon Heights. We bought cooking oil, condiments (ketchup & mustard), juice and jelly with this money.

The majority of coins came from a donation from Lois Noyes, who had been collecting them for years. Lois' family brought in her accrual to be added to our 2 Cents a Meal collection. Thanks to Lois & her family for this tremendous blessing!



Christian Ed *update*

sunday school + bible study + nursery



Kids Sunday School

We had a great time celebrating our youth and kids with games, crafts and outdoor worship at our Very Big Sunday (VBS) on Sunday, June 7! Thanks to all of our members and friends that were able to join in this special event with us.

We are so grateful for all of our Sunday School teachers who served this past year, as well as our dedicated SS directors and CE committee.

We encourage you to continue attending worship as a family throughout the summer months. In August, we'll begin requesting volunteers to teach our kids' Sunday School classes again, which will resume on **September 20**. Our CE Committee prepares everything for you beforehand, we just need YOU, and your faithful service, to mentor and guide our youngest disciples. If you have any questions about teaching or serving, feel free to reach out to Kathy Mullan.



Adult Sunday School

Our Sunday School classes (for both kids and adults) do not meet during the summer, but they'll gather again on September 20 at 9:30am.

We'll have two adult

classes — one, which meets in Room 2, and The Faith Walk class, led by Pastor Eliza, which meets in the Nursery. Their topics of study are not yet determined for the fall.

We hope you'll join us in September for either of these Adult Sunday School classes!

**SUMMER
BREAK**




Wednesday on Zoom Adult Bible Study



Our Wednesday Adult Bible Study meets weekly on **Wednesday mornings at 11:00am via Zoom** to share in

fellowship & prayer from the comfort of their own homes. This summer, they will be continuing their study of the prophet Isaiah, but only meeting once a month in July and August: **July 22 and August 12**. Please contact the office for more information and for the Zoom link to attend the study.




nursery



Our nursery is open and staffed by two adults each Sunday for our little worshippers in kindergarten and younger during the service.

Please reach out to one of our Deacons on Sunday morning for assistance in locating our nursery or for any other information you may need.



First Pres YOUTH GROUP

Our First Pres Youth Group holds social & service events for teens in grades 6-12 throughout the year. We encourage our teens (and their friends!) to join them in any upcoming events or service projects. As always, if you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Laura Masi.

On Sunday, June 7, our
Christian Ed Committee
& Deacons hosted our
annual...

Very Big Sunday & Deacons' picnic







Many thanks to both of these groups for hosting a wonderful day for our kids & congregation!

Friendship Circle End-of-Year Celebration



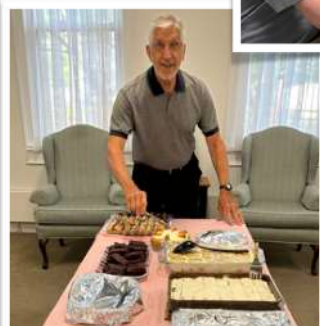
On Tuesday, June 9, the Friendship Circle held its end-of-year dinner in the church parlor. All FPCHH women and their female guests (sisters, daughters, friends) were invited. The women enjoyed a covered dish supper, good conversation and excellent musical entertainment. more than 30 people attended the evening.

Roderick and Erwin Meyer, grandsons of Joanne and Bruce Erwin, entertained the crowd. Roderick performed vocal selections from *Beauty and the Beast* ("Evermore") and *Hamilton* ("You'll be Back"). Erwin played his violin ("Happy Farmer" by Schumann). Erwin also led a "Name That Tune" game with the women, playing the beginnings of several songs on the piano.



Year-End Choir & Bells Dinner

On Thursday, June 11, our Chancel & Bell choirs gathered in the parlor for their annual year-end dinner.. The dinner celebrated nine months of practice, creativity, worship, hard work and collaboration. It also brought their families & friends into the FPCHH music family. Everyone enjoyed LOTS of good food, fellowship and fun!



Summer Youth Mission Trip

Ian Blair (and three grandchildren of Al and Anne Andrews) attended the youth mission trip to West Virginia during the week of June 21 - 27. Many thanks to these dedicated youth who served faithfully & shared God's love with this community.



Village Playbox's 'Guys & Dolls'



Village Playbox will be performing the hit musical, *Guys & Dolls*, by Frank Loesser. Come out and support VP in this fast-paced romantic comedy!

Show Dates: July 31; Aug. 1, 7, 8 @8:00pm
August 2 & 9 @3:00pm

All shows are held in our Social Hall. Visit <http://villageplaybox.org/guysanddolls.htm> for ticket information.

POOL Party

Our Youth Group and Sunday School families wrapped up the school year with their end-of-year Pool Party at Haddon Glen Swim Club on June 14. They'll break for the summer & start up again in the fall. Stay tuned for more info!



Our "Special Music" groups performed during worship throughout the summer. Thank you to these wonderful musicians for blessing us with their talents!

On June 28, Douglas McVarish (right) and Mike Rugge (below) performed while Gloria Swiecicki (bottom-right) lead us in worship.



Haddon Heights 4TH OF JULY PARADE!

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH

Many thanks to Vicki Clarke for her hard work in preparing & planning our participation in this year's Fourth of July Parade!



George Newnam stands next to his convertible before the Haddon Heights 4th of July parade.

Saluting Those Who Served

On **Sunday, July 5**, we honored our military members and their service to our country. Six members of our congregation shared about their experiences during and after their time in the armed forces. Many thanks to these gentlemen for their tie and service, and to our Music & Worship committee for planning and preparing this service.



FPCHH Members, (Al Andrews, Hal Leadbeater, Tony Logandro, Tony Masi, Wayne Scribner, & Mark Zimmerman) shared stories & memories of their military service on Sunday, July 5. (left)



Evelyn Miraglia (right) provided the Children's Sermon about her relative, John Jacob Mickley, who helped move the Liberty Bell from Philadelphia to Allentown to hide it from the English during the war.





MISSION TEENS

Testimony

I was Never the Same.

Hello my name is Rodney Bennett. I graduated from Mission Teens in 2001.



Rodney Bennett & his wife, Thilana.

Previous Mission Teens resident and author of "Overcome Your Adversity Rebuild Your Hope"

My life before "The Mission" was a whole hot mess. I was staying off and on in the worst parts of Camden and Philly. I got saved in 1990, but when Jesus called my name I came out of the grave bound, hand and foot, with multiple strongholds.

I battled with alcohol, weed, PCP, porn, fornication, gangs, incarceration, street hustling and finally landed in the vice grip of crack cocaine addiction. All stemming from being sexually molested as a child I was hopeless, broken, and empty. I remember seeing the sign when I came into Mission Teens that said, "Once you come through these doors you will never be the same". That is my story.

After finishing my Senior Staff commitment as Overseer I returned home. I had a newfound hunger for Jesus! I loved to pray in the morning and at night and still do. I also realized now I was a leader.

I joined a ministry in 2004 called Victory Outreach International. I was transferred to the Wash. DC branch. I became the youth leader. The youth started a rap ministry, drama team, dance team, praise and worship team and their own band! I also became active in the pulpit ministry. I prayed and felt led to return to NJ In 2010.

I got married and joined a church in Burlington, called Wayside Community Church, where I was ordained I started a ministry in that church called "The Cure." With a team of 8 we started a support group, street outreach, discipleship, detox and rehab placement. I also wrote a book, "Overcome Your Adversity Rebuild Your Hope." The book became an International Bestseller!

As The Cure ministry grew, my wife decided this wasn't the life she wanted. She was advised that she had no reason to but, in 2018, she filed for divorce. I was crushed but resolved. I was never going back to my old life. All the while, the principles I learned at Mission Teens were growing inside me. The Word, still following Jesus!

After losing both my parents and a season of transition and healing, I found the love of my life, Thilana. We were married on April 17, 2021. Today we have a blended family 7 children and 9 grands and 1 on the way!

At Victory in Christ Christian Center, in Westville, NJ, I am the Director of The Men's ministry of about 800 men. I am now a Certified Stronghold coach and working on my second book. Lastly, my wife and I, after being trained by our Bishop and Pastor, have launched our own "Gathering": Believe 365 Gatherings!

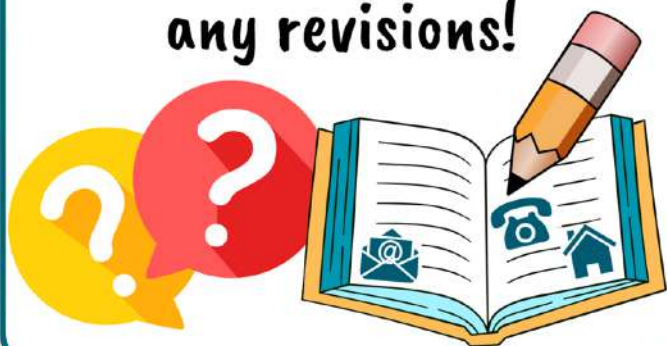
None of this would have been possible without Mission Teens in Norma, NJ.

2026 Church 2027 Directory

Coming in September!

Did you ditch your old landline? Or start using a new email address?

Please check our current church directory to make sure your info is correct & contact the office with any revisions!

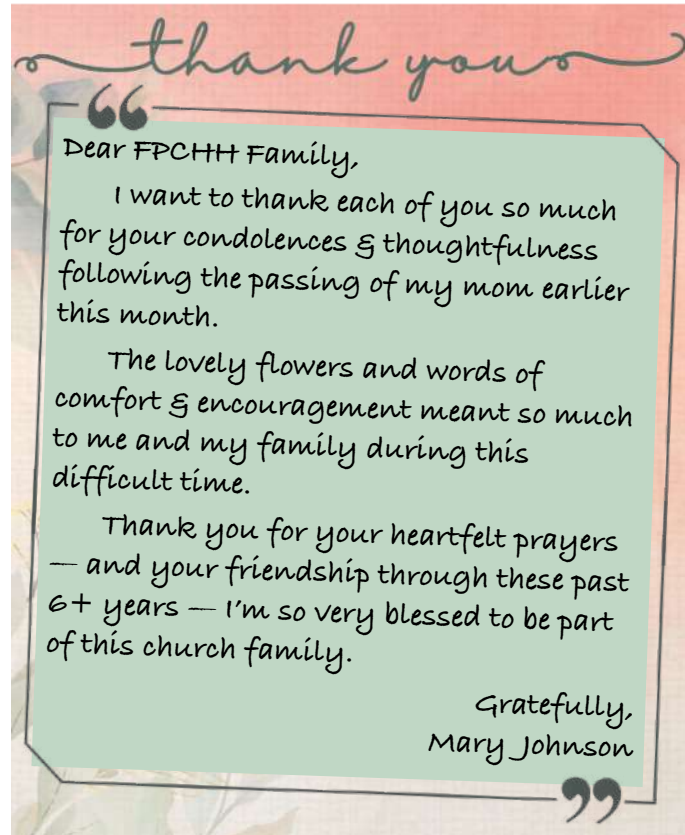


Did You Hear the Good News?!

We have four hearing assist devices, located in the narthex (between the parlor & sanctuary) for use on Sunday mornings for those who have trouble hearing the sermons. Our Deacons can assist you in operating them.



There are two types: one fits over your ear, and the other goes around your neck with a speaker that your hearing aid can pick up (for those who use hearing aids). We hope this makes your worship experience more enjoyable.



Supermarket Gift Card Program

Don't forget that we continue the Supermarket Gift Card program throughout the year! Please consider purchasing Shop Rite or Acme gift cards supporting IHOC. The gift cards come in amounts of \$25, \$50 and \$100 to either store. Acme & Shop Rite donate 5% to IHOC when you purchase a gift card. Contact Cheryl Hauske to buy a gift card or to learn more about this program.



Worship Greeter Schedule

Be sure to check your mailbox and inbox for our next worship greeter schedule coming out in mid-August. The greeter schedule will resume on **Sunday, September 20**. Please note that this schedule is for greeters who are positioned at the **Seventh Ave. doors** (not the Green St. exit, where Pastor Eliza meets attendees after worship). If you need to change your assigned date, please swap with another greeter on the schedule, and contact the office to let us know about the change. Thank you!



September Newsletter Articles

**Due on
Thursday,
August 20**

Don't forget to send in your news, events & pictures by August 20th for the **September 2026 Newsletter!**



Tithes & Offerings

Use our PayPal Giving link:
www.fpchaddonheights.org/online-giving/

or scan the QR code to submit your offering when you're not able to attend worship.



PUZZL-EXCHANGE

Puzzles are located in Room 2!

Don't forget to pick up a puzzle (or two!) to work on at home, or drop off a puzzle that you've finished. The puzzles are in Room 2 and displayed on the shelves like books on a library shelf. Hope you enjoy them!

Pull-Tab Collection

Don't forget to save your pull-tabs (from cans of soda, soup, etc.) & place them in the tab container located in the narthex the next time you're at church. We inherited this project from the Collingswood Pres; all the tabs are donated to the Ronald McDonald House to support their mission.



**Sundays after
worship in the
Parlor!**

FELLOWSHIP *hour*

get connected! ONLINE JOYS & CONCERNS OF FPC

Join our Facebook Group **Online JOYS and CONCERNS of First Presbyterian Church** to interact with your fellow church members, request prayers, or announce joyful praise. Use this URL to find the group (you must request to join as it's a private group):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/232637437886538/>

Church Directories

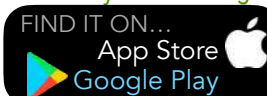
The 2025-2026 Church Directories are available in the narthex & church office. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the office.



Please call or email the office if your contact info changes!

My Church App by ChurchSpring

- ✓ View upcoming events
- ✓ Listen to a past sermon
- ✓ Submit your online giving



Enter First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights in the search box to connect to our church.

2026 July

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Pastor Eliza on Vacation - Monday, June 29 through Sunday, July 5			
... Pastor Eliza on Vacation SUMMER WORSHIP 9:30am			1	2	First Press Articles Due for July/August 3	Fourth of July Parade! 4
5	6	7	National Raspberry Day 	9	National French Fry Day 	11
12	13	14	15	National Cherry Day 	17	National Caviar Day 
19	20	21	22	National Lemon Day 	24	25
26	27	28	29	National Chili Dog Day 	31	
SUMMER WORSHIP 9:30am Elders & Deacons Installed; Trustees Commissioned	SUMMER WORSHIP 9:30am Deacons Installed; Trustees Commissioned	National Waterpark Day 	Zoom Bible Study, 11am	Upcoming Events in August!	Village Playbox, 8pm, FPCHH 	Last Day of Summer Worship: Sept. 6!
pantry	target item for JULY: Cleaning Supplies!					

2026 August

First Presbyterian Church
of Haddon Heights

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	 target item for AUGUST: Peanut Butter & Jelly!					Village Playbox, 8pm, FPCHH  1
SUMMER WORSHIP 9:30am Village Playbox, 3pm, FPCHH  2	Mary Johnson (Admin) on Vacation: Office hours may fluctuate. National Coast Guard Day  3	target item for AUGUST: Peanut Butter & Jelly!	Mary Johnson (Admin) on Vacation: Office hours may fluctuate. Zoom Bible Study, 11am Session Meeting, 7pm in the Parlor 12	6	Village Playbox, 8pm, FPCHH  7	Village Playbox, 8pm, FPCHH  8
SUMMER WORSHIP 9:30am Village Playbox, 3pm, FPCHH  9	National S'mores Day  10	11	12	13	14	National Creamside Day  15
SUMMER WORSHIP 9:30am 16	17	18	19	20	21	22
SUMMER WORSHIP 9:30am 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
SUMMER WORSHIP 9:30am 30	31	Upcoming Events in September!	September 7, Office Closed 	Fall Worship Time 10:30am Starts September 13	September 13, Deacons' World Famous Pancake Breakfast & Worship in our Social Hall	