

**BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS**  
**PROCLAMATION**  
*125th Anniversary of the*  
**First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights**  
**1901 – 2026**

**WHEREAS**, the First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights traces its origins to the year 1900, when two visionary Haddon Heights families — the Gosserts and the Wallaces — came together to discuss the formation of a Presbyterian Mission in this community; and

**WHEREAS**, by November 1901, through the dedication and faith of its founding members, the congregation was officially incorporated, firmly planting the roots of Presbyterian worship in Haddon Heights; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1902, the congregation constructed its first house of worship — a small, wood-framed, gabled-roof chapel — which was dedicated in May of that year, and installed its first pastor, the Reverend J.S. Rusbridge, a native of England who was raised in the Buffalo, New York area; and

**WHEREAS**, as the congregation grew in faith and fellowship, a new permanent church was designed in the distinguished Shingle style by Philadelphia architect Richard Conover Loos; this magnificent structure was dedicated in January 1909 and featured exquisite stained-glass windows designed and fabricated by the renowned German-born artist William Rieth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Church has served its congregation and the broader Borough of Haddon Heights with steadfast devotion through the decades, adapting to the needs of each generation, including significant renovations in the 1950s and the construction of a Christian Education building in 1960; and

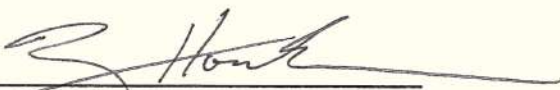
**WHEREAS**, for 125 years, the First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights has remained a vital spiritual, educational, and community anchor, enriching the lives of countless families and individuals, offering worship, Christian preschool education, Bible study, and service to neighbors in need; and

**WHEREAS**, the Church continues to proclaim its mission as "a vital Christian community," welcoming all to worship and serving as a beacon of faith, hope, and love in the heart of Haddon Heights;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haddon Heights, Camden County, New Jersey, do hereby extend our deepest congratulations, honor, and gratitude to the **First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights** on the magnificent occasion of its **125th Anniversary**, and do recognize its enduring contributions to the spiritual, cultural, and civic life of our Borough; and

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that the Mayor and Council encourage all residents of Haddon Heights to join in celebrating this momentous milestone, and we extend our warmest wishes to the congregation, staff, and friends of the First Presbyterian Church for continued blessings and service for generations to come.

*PROCLAIMED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2026*

  
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Mayor, Borough of Haddon Heights

