

# First+ Press

September 2025

A Publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights

28 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

Rev. Eliza C. Jaremko, Pastor  
fpchaddonheights.org



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'  
And I said, 'Here am I; send me!' [Isaiah 6:8]

When the Prophet Isaiah said "Here I am, Lord", God sent him out to do some hard work: to speak truth to power, to help those who were vulnerable, and "to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners; ... to comfort all who mourn" (Is.61-1-2). In short, Isaiah not only said, "Here I am" to God, but also to his community, his family, his people, his faith-family.

This Fall, we are also going to proclaim: "Here I am Lord," as we explore God's call to serve our communities in faith, justice, and mercy. Using the prophets as our guide, we'll discover how we can make a difference right where we are. The Prophets were super-heroes of the faith in their time, which means we can be super-heroes for the faith in ours. Join us in worship this Fall as we form our own 'Justice League' and impact our community together.

We hope you can join us every Sunday in September as we kick off the program year with special events:

## September 7

9:30am: Deacon's Pancake Breakfast in Social Hall

10:30am: Worship in Social Hall with new musical ensemble

## September 14

9:30am: Sunday School Kick Off!

10:30am: Worship with Chancel Choir and Holy Communion

## September 21

9:00am: Calvin Choir Rehearsal Begins

9:30am: Sunday School for ALL ages

10:30am: Worship with Chancel Choir

11:30am: Celebration for Pete Johnson's Praise Band Leadership

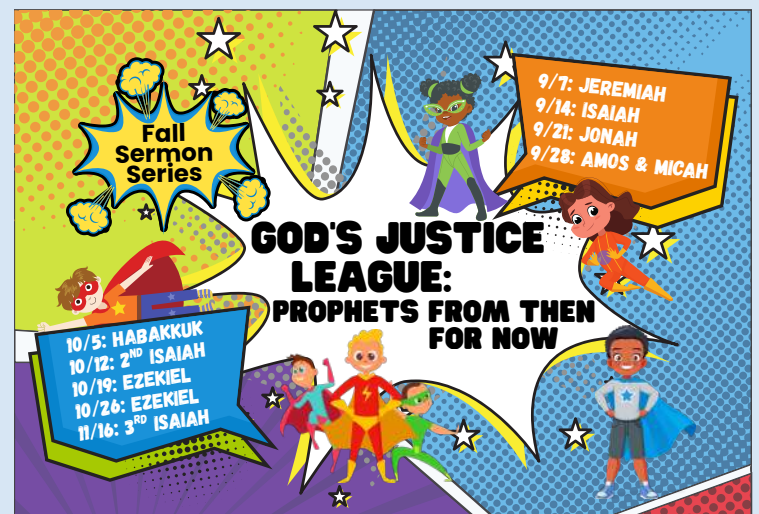
## September 28

9:00am: Calvin Choir Rehearsal

9:30am: Sunday School for all ages

10:30am: Worship & 2026 Stewardship Kick Off

11:30am: New Members Informational Meeting



*Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Eliza*



*From the Pastor's desk*



## Sunday School This Fall

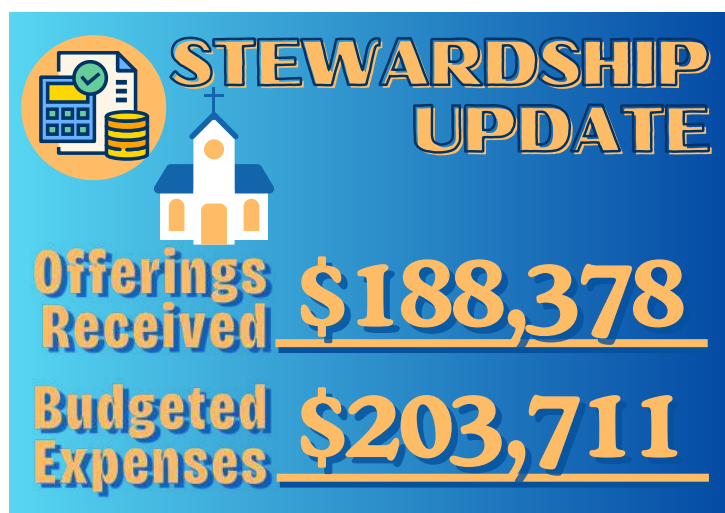
**September 14** is the first day of Sunday School; there will be 3 sections this year: Pre-K to 2nd grade, 3rd grade to 5th grade, and 6th grade to 8th grade.

## Celebrating Pete Johnson

A celebration for Pete Johnson's retirement as the director of the Praise Band will be held after worship on **September 21**.

## 2nd Sunday Ensemble

The *Praise Band* will be transitioning to a new, but similar, ensemble; the new name of the ensemble will be announced at the Pancake Breakfast on **September 7**.



## Christian Ed Needs YOU!

The Christian Ed committee is seeking **two additional committee volunteers** to help us plan our CE program throughout the year. We meet 5-6 times per year via Zoom and are responsible for planning curriculum; recruiting teachers; planning the first family session in September; organizing Very Big Sunday in June; organizing events for middle and high school students; ensuring that nursery services are available and of high quality; and, most importantly, keeping a joyful Christian education possible for our children!

Please join us! Contact Judy Wilson via text or email for more info. (Contact the office for Judy's contact info if needed).



## 2026 Stewardship Campaign Launches on September 28!

Yes, it's that time of year again: stewardship season is **descending upon us!** You have a whole month to **count your blessings** before we present our draft budget and ask for your prayerful consideration. The official launch will be **September 28 ... – for heaven's sake**, don't miss this exciting time!

*Your Stewardship Committee*

**Can YOU guess the theme for 2026?**



# Deacons' Famous Pancake Breakfast



**This Sunday!  
September 7**



**Coffee &  
pancakes  
at 9:30am**

**Worship at  
10:30am  
in the  
Social Hall**



**Fall  
Worship Time  
10:30am  
Starts  
September 7**

**AND ... the Deacons'  
Pancake Breakfast @ 9:30  
--worship in our Social Hall**

## Celebrating "Super Pete" Johnson

Please join us on **Sunday, September 21**, as we gather after worship to recognize and celebrate Pete Johnson's years of service and leadership as our Praise Band director.



Pete was a member of the Praise Band since it's inception over 25 years ago, and has served as it's leader for the past 10 years. During this time our church family has benefitted from his musical talents, and we are truly grateful to Pete, who has spent countless hours planning the music and preparing the equipment for worship on the second Sunday of each month. We hope you'll join us in honoring Pete for all he's done for our music ministry!

## Help Needed for Music Set-Up

**We're**

**HIRING!**



Interested in a bit of extra money? We are in need of someone to set up and breakdown the equipment for the new musical ensemble that will perform on the second Sunday of the month. Their practices will be on the Saturday before their Sunday performance, so the position will require setting up the equipment on Saturday morning before practice, or after worship on the Sunday before their next Saturday rehearsal. Set up time will be negotiable as long as it is ready to go for rehearsal. The salary is \$50 per event (which includes both set up and break down). The position also includes breaking down the tables and equipment for the bell choir, after worship, on the Sundays that they perform. If you think this is something you would like to do, please contact the church office or Al Andrews, Personnel Chair.





# Christian Ed update

sunday school + bible study + nursery



## Kids Sunday School

We're excited about our first day of Sunday School for the new year on **September 14**. We just know that this is the first set of commitments and plans you would like to make before your calendar fills! Your leadership as a Sunday School volunteer is so very important to our children and to our church!

This year we will have three levels of classes: PK-2nd grade; 3rd-5th grade; and 6th-7th grade. If there is a way for you to commit to 2, 3, or 4 consecutive weeks, the consistency is great for our children. But a single week helps, too! Class will start at 9:30 and end at 10:20. Our theme is **"Superheroes for God!"**. Assistance, curriculum, and snacks prepared for you! We hope that you are able to guide our children this year!

*With appreciation,  
Judy Wilson and the CE Committee*

**Click here  
to sign up!**

Click here to volunteer for  
**Sunday School Sign Up**  
**School! Genius**



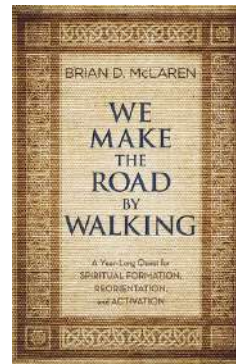
## First Pres YOUTH GROUP

Our First Pres Youth Group holds social & service events for teens in grades 6-12 throughout the year. Stay tuned for more information about specific outings and dates in the future.



## Adult Sunday School

Our Sunday School classes for adults will begin meeting again on **September 14** with two adult classes. The first class meets in Room 2, and their curriculum for this fall is still being finalized.



The Faith Walk class, led by Pastor Eliza, meets in the Nursery and will be reading the book, *We Make the Road by Walking*, by Brian McLaren. The book provides insight on what it means to live joyfully & responsibly in today's world as agents of God's justice, creativity, and

peace; it also includes discussion questions designed to encourage meaningful conversation.

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



## Wednesday on Zoom adult bible study

Our Wednesday Adult Bible Study meets weekly Wednesday mornings at 11:00am via Zoom to share in fellowship & prayer from the comfort of their own homes.

This fall they will begin a new study which is still being determined.

Contact the office for more information about what their new study topic will be, and for the Zoom link to join.





## Thank You!

School supplies, peanut butter, jelly!  
Wow, the Mission Committee asked for a lot in August and you all came through!



The Mission Committee thanks all of you who donated so many school supplies to our collection for local schools. With the many donations of supplies, supplemented by purchases made with committee funds, we delivered supplies to Lawnside School, Avon and Woodland Schools in Barrington, Sharp Elementary in Collingswood, and Seventh Avenue School in Haddon Heights. We give special thanks to a generous monetary donation made by the Session of Collingswood Presbyterian Church last year; the remaining funds were used this year. The schools were grateful to have these supplies for the children who come to school without the necessary supplies. Many thanks to all!

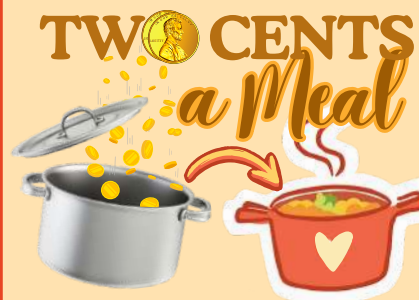
## Peace & Global Witness

During the month and into early October, envelopes will appear in the pew racks; please consider filling an envelope and placing it in the offering plate. How will your gift be used? Our congregation retains 25% to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Another 25% goes to Presbytery & Synod ministries of

peace & reconciliation and the remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice. The offering will be dedicated on **World Communion Sunday, October 5.**



As we've mentioned before, one of the most requested items at food pantries is RICE! So, rice (1lb. or 2 lbs. bags or boxes only) will be our targeted donation in September. Rice is a staple in many cultures. Please consider purchasing a bag or two of rice (1-2 pound bags/boxes) & placing them in the Mission Cabinet in the parlor. Thank you!



Well, as we have all enjoyed a 'break' from our routine, we hope you've been collecting your coins!

We will joyfully resume the **2 Cents a Meal** collection on **Sunday, September 14** and look forward to the sound of coins (and bills!) dropping in the large bucket. This money is used by the Mission Committee to purchase food for various local food pantries, which supply much-needed food to our neighbors. The food pantries we support are: Fellowship United Methodist Church (in HH); Oaklyn Food Pantry (run by churches in Oaklyn); Audubon Peer-to-Peer (in Barrington, & supplying food for families in various local towns); Your Food Shelf (Camden); Military Support Group (for military families – delivered by Mary Jane Lange); UrbanPromise Food Co-op (aided by Pete Johnson & Marci Spiegle on Saturdays); and the Collingswood Food Pantry.

*Thank you for always being generous!*  
*The Mission Committee*



## Men's Breakfast This Fall

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.

Their first fall meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 24, at 9:00am**. As always, please contact Rick Clark with any questions and to let him know that you are coming. Please call the office for his contact information if you don't have it.

## Friendship Circle This Fall



Just a reminder that the Friendship Circle is starting up again this fall on **September 16**. They meet on the third Tuesday of the month (Sept - June) at 9:30am in the church Parlor.

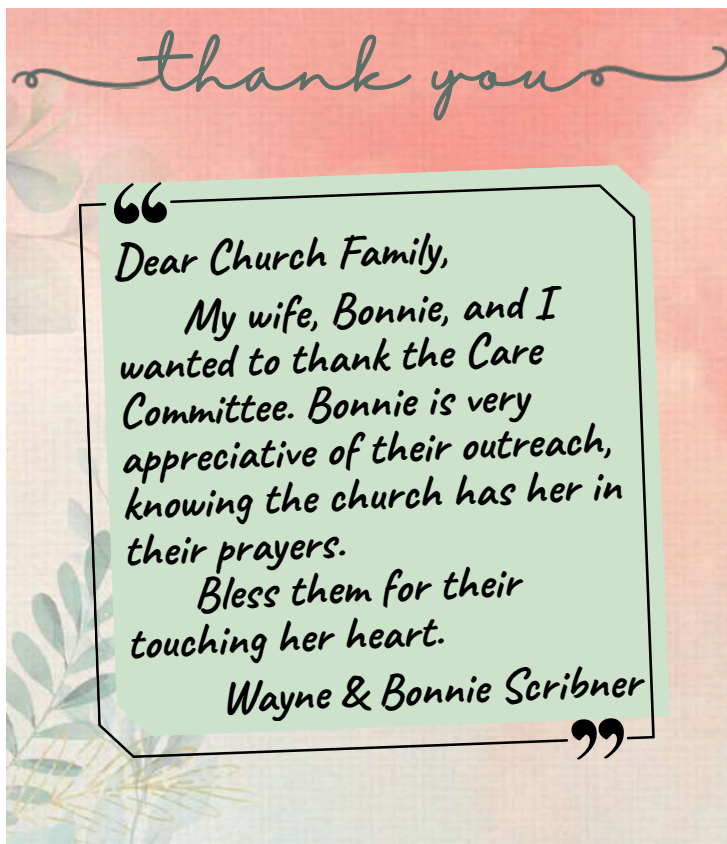
This fall they will be reading and discussing the book, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, by Rhashell D. Hunter, which is part of the PW Horizons Bible Study series.

The fall is a good time to attend if you haven't been before and just want to try out a visit. All women are welcome to join us for an enriching time of fellowship, food, and Bible lessons. We are usually finished by 11:00am.

## FPC Musicians Performing at Collingswood's Annual PorchFest



The newly named Celtic band *Swallowtail* with church members Bruce and Joanne Erwin, Polly Mitchell, and Douglas McVarish, as well as regular guest Julie Lyons, will be performing at the *Collingswood Porch Fest* on **Saturday, September 27th at 3pm**. The venue will be the Griffith family porch, 34 Hillcrest Avenue (the first block off Haddon Ave near the Collingswood Manor Methodist Home). Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and come listen to our talented FPCHH musicians!



“

Dear Church Family,  
My wife, Bonnie, and I wanted to thank the Care Committee. Bonnie is very appreciative of their outreach, knowing the church has her in their prayers.

Bless them for their touching her heart.

Wayne & Bonnie Scribner

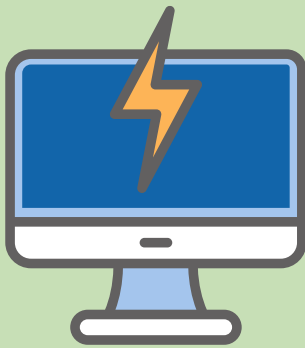
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# FROM OUR EARTH CARE COMMITTEE



## How to Reduce Your Computer Energy Usage and Save Money

by Marci Spiegle, for the Earth Care Committee

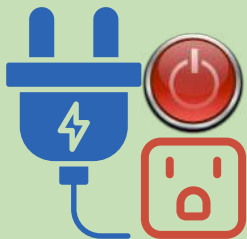


### **Which Consumes More Power, a PC or a Laptop?**

A desktop PC consumes significantly more power than a laptop. While laptops typically use 30 to 70 watts, desktops often draw 200 to 500 watts or more, especially with powerful GPUs or multiple monitors. The higher performance and constant plug-in design make desktops much less energy-efficient overall.

Drastic changes are not needed to lower your computer's energy consumption; just a few smart habits will help. Whether you're trying to save on electricity costs or reduce your environmental impact, these tips will help you get started.

- **Lower Screen Brightness**: reducing your monitor's brightness, especially for large or high-resolution displays, can noticeably cut power usage during long sessions.
- **Enable Power-Saving Modes**: activate your computer's energy-saving settings to scale down performance when full power isn't needed, such as when browsing or document writing/editing.
- **Sleep or Hibernate When Idle**: Set your device to sleep after a short period of inactivity to avoid unnecessary energy draw when you step away.
- **Unplug Unused Peripherals**: Printers, speakers, webcams, and USB hubs continue to consume power even when idle. Disconnect them when they're not in use.



- **Track Usage with Smart Plugs**: use a "smart plug" with energy monitoring to get a real-time look at how much power your workstation consumes and identify where you can cut back.

These steps are easy to implement and make a noticeable difference, especially for those who use their systems daily.





## On Stage for Village Playbox



The 2025-2026 season of the Village Playbox is already in full swing. Rehearsals are underway for the **One-Act Play Festival on September 11, 12, and 13**, featuring the original works of area playwrights.

First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights' own **Jenni & Chuck Maienza and Diane & Chal Gallagher** will be on stage, so you don't want to miss them!



Single tickets are \$10, but \$25 will buy you a weekend pass good for all three nights. Curtain is at 8:00pm each night and tickets are available at the door, or can be purchased in advance at [www.villageplaybox.org](http://www.villageplaybox.org).



In October, Giant Grasshopper Theatre returns with a new production, *The Room on the Broom*, a tale about a witch and her cat, who fly about the forest picking up animal hitchhikers along the way. But with too much

weight on the broom, they take a tumble and come face to face with a hungry dragon--and then real the fun begins!

There will also be an encore of last year's popular play, *The Gruffalo*.

Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the door or online. Shows are **October 11 (at 1:00 and 3:00pm)** and **October 12 (at 2:00pm)**.

**October  
Newsletter  
Articles**

**Due on  
Saturday,  
September  
20th!**

**First Press**

Don't forget to send in your news, events & pictures for the **October 2025 Newsletter!**

## Bathroom Renovations

The first floor bathrooms are finished and open for use!

**RESTROOMS  
ARE OPEN!**



(At the time of this writing, the second floor bathroom is still under construction, but should be completed soon.)

The pictures below show the progress and transformation throughout the renovations. Many thanks to our trustees and our talented guys (Kevin, Billy & Danny), for their hard work in updating these facilities for our church.





## UrbanPromise Mission Day



### ***Come build and lift with us!***

Gather your church, family, and friends for UP Mission Day 2025 on **Saturday, October 4**, as we serve side-by-side to refresh our classrooms, gardens, and sacred spaces. Be encouraged by stories from our leaders and staff, and let your hands be part of the hope that strengthens our campus and our community.

This year's theme:  
*Building Up to Lift Up:*

*Strengthening the Mission of UrbanPromise  
one act of service at a time.*

**When:** Saturday, October 4, 2025  
8:30am – 1:00pm

**Where:** UrbanPromise Main Campus  
3700 Rudderow Street  
Pennsauken, NJ 08110

**Who:** Everyone is welcome!  
Churches, families, individuals!

Our Youth Group Coordinator, Laura Masi, is unable to attend this event due to a previous commitment. However, if you are interested in participating, please visit the website below for more info and to register:

<https://urbanpromiseusa.org/events/mission-day/>

You can also contact the church office for additional information or if you have any questions.



## Mission Teens Update Testimony

My name is Shelby Peel. I'm 40 years old & was born in Flint, Michigan. As early as I can remember, I felt bad, dirty, and broken. After learning about Jesus when I was 8, I believed in Him but thought I was going to hell because of my secret sins & trauma that I had experienced.



I rebelled - I used alcohol, drugs & people to try and make myself feel better, but nothing worked, it only destroyed my life. I tried secular rehabs 17 times; but they couldn't fix me. Only Jesus can.

God called me to the Mission in Roscommon, Michigan to break the habitual sin pattern in my life and to help other people also overcome their addictions. I am learning to trust God and let Him take His rightful place on throne of my heart. The sanctification process is painful but God is here & He will never leave me or forsake me.

I am grateful He hasn't given up on me and for His love, grace, and mercy. I look forward to living His purpose for my life.

### ***Boscov's Shopping Day***

Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" discount shopping day is **Wednesday, October 22**.



Please see Pat Masi to purchase a discount certificate for only \$5 each (100% of your donation for these certificates supports Mission Teens); the certificates give you **25% off of your in-person & online purchases** for the day at Boscov's. Your participation over the years has greatly benefitted Mission Teens – thank you in advance!



## IHOC Dine & Discover Evening



### October 7th

IHOC will be holding an informational dinner gathering in our parlor at FPCHH on Tuesday, October 7. The gathering will give attendees the opportunity to meet some of the men who are part of IHOC's transitional housing program and learn how this program helps them achieve a renewed life & purpose.

#### A Little Bit About IHOC ...

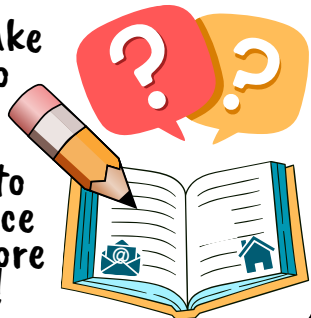
IHOC's Transitional Housing Program offers a supportive and structured environment for homeless men who have completed rehabilitation programs and are on the path to securing permanent housing.

The program operates out of two well-maintained homes designed to provide a safe, stable, and nurturing space where clients can focus on rebuilding their lives. Each resident is offered individualized support, including case management, life skills training, and access to community resources, to help them transition smoothly into independent living.

The ultimate goal of the program is to empower participants to regain their independence, secure stable employment, and obtain permanent housing, thereby breaking the cycle of homelessness and paving the way for a brighter future.

## 2025 Church Directory 2026 Coming This Month!

Have you checked to make sure your contact info listed in our current church directory is correct? Don't forget to contact the church office to update your info before we print the new one!



## News from the Paganos

Dear Praying Friends,

We are so blessed to have you in our lives, sharing in the work of the Gospel. Your prayers and support are deeply appreciated. Thank you for responding when there are special needs. May God bless you for all you do for us.

Tito will be 79 this month (don't tell him I told you!) Needless to say, we are very grateful for fairly good health to keep ministering to our small church communities. What a privilege it is when we see God stirring up hearts and moving in the lives of His people to go forward in the faith.

On July 27 we rejoiced as 4 of our congregation and 6 from Iglesia Biblica La Verdad (our daughter Andrea & her husband, Sergio are planting a church in their neighborhood), were baptized, giving a clear testimony of their new life in Christ. It was a joyous time of fellowship together and giving God the glory for what He is doing. Three of those being baptized were our grandchildren, which made it all the more special!

Please pray:

for wisdom; for opportunities to reach others with the Gospel; for men leaders to step up, find time to study & become rooted in the Word & sound doctrine.

Alberto & JoAnn Pagano are a missionary family with church plants in Blackwood and Vineland.

The Paganos were previously supported by Barrington Presbyterian Church.

Closing thought - we long for His appearing, but... we praise Him for His promises we claim now. That "He will be with us always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:20.

Gratefully in Him,  
Alberto and JoAnn



# FAITH ON BOARD

## WHERE GAMES MEET GOD

**Pastor Eliza's "Faith on Board" Sermon Series featured many of our childhood (and adult!) boardgames and how they help us relate to God's Word and his commands.**

### July 13- "Your LIFE, God's Way"

July 13, 2025



Kim and Carmen Muni perform during the Offertory while Mike Rugge accompanies on the piano.



### July 27 - "Do Not Pass GOD"

July 27, 2025



Joanne Erwin sings "There Is a Balm in Gilead" while Mike Rugge accompanies her on the piano.



August 10, 2025



Margaret Westfield, accompanied by Fred Heuser on guitar, sings "One Day at a Time."

### August 10 - "Words on the Cross"

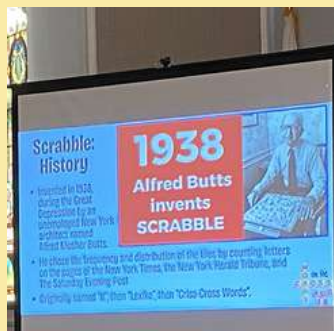
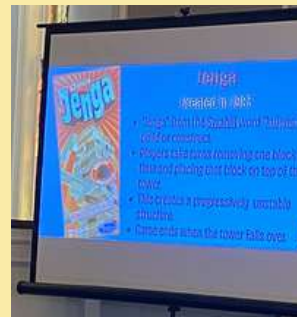


### August 17 - "Stack Up the Stories"

August 17, 2025



Pamela Myers sings "In the Garden" during the offertory.





*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/>

## Tithes & Offerings



**Did you know...**

You can use our **PayPal** giving link at [www.fpchaddonheights.org/online-giving/](http://www.fpchaddonheights.org/online-giving/)

or scan this QR code to submit your offering when you're not able to attend worship?!



## Pull-Tab Collection

Don't forget to save your pull-tabs (from cans of soda, soup, etc.) and place them in the "Tab Container" located in the narthex when you're at church.

We inherited this project from the Collingswood Presbyterian Mission Committee; all the tabs are donated to the Ronald McDonald House to support their mission.



## Supermarket Gift Cards

**Our supermarket gift card program supporting IHOC continues all year round!**

Are you a regular shopper at Acme or ShopRite? Or are you looking for a way to show your appreciation for someone special or help someone in need? Think about purchasing a Shop Rite or Acme gift card! The Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council (IHOC) sells these gift cards in \$25, \$50, and \$100 denominations, & they receive a 5% donation from Acme & ShopRite for each purchase, while you still get the full value of your purchase! It's an easy way to support IHOC, and doesn't cost you anything extra. IHOC has supported homeless men in our area for over 30 years, helping them rebuild their lives and return to self-sufficiency. Please contact Cheryl Hauske if you are interested. Thank you!



## 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!



## September Birthdays

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1...Marie Guerra        | 14...Tori Davis       |
| 2...Lynn Bogina         | 14...Mary Gallagher   |
| 2...Carmen Muni         | 14...Dan Mullan       |
| 3...Kameron Evans       | 15...Ann Williams     |
| 4...Harlan Blackiston   | 17...Karen Mazak      |
| 4...Jeffrey Moon        | 20...Sharon Cole      |
| 5...Eliza Jaremko       | 21...Emmett Blair     |
| 7...James Collotti      | 21...John Borden      |
| 7...Bruce Kent          | 22...Desema Johnson   |
| 7...Laura Wilson Colony | 22...Grace Teti       |
| 8...Jeff Moon           | 24...Jeff Hirt        |
| 12...Nancy Collotti     | 26...Molly Callahan   |
| 12...Lila Mahaffy       | 28...Riley Mullan     |
| 12...Grayson Thomas     | 28...Lillian Smentek  |
| 12...William Wood       | 29...Douglas McVarish |
| 13...Emily DeShantz     |                       |
| 13...Brooke Truong      |                       |

## September Anniversaries

- |                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3...Margaret & Michael Westfield      | 14...Justin and Kate Colantonio |
| 4...Marina and Timothy Packwood       | 14...Joseph & Marie Guerra      |
| 5...Chal & Diane Gallagher            | 16...Al & Anne Andrews          |
| 5...Brooke & Thai Truong              | 24...Beck & Bob Costello        |
| 7...Sandra Coursen & Michael Sabolcik | 24...Donna & Tom Gilden         |
| 8...Emily & Louis DeShantz            | 26...Michael & Phyllis Bozek    |
| 12...Donna & Jeff Joss                |                                 |
| 12...Ellie & Hal Wyckoff              |                                 |