

First Press

DECEMBER 2025

A Publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Haddon Heights

28 7th Avenue
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

Rev. Eliza C. Jaremko, Pastor
fpchaddonheights.org



"THEN AFTERWARD, I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS."
JOEL 2:28

Do you have a dream? A question like that needs a little more context, because a dream could be many things: a great dream for the world, like world peace; an individual dream, like a better life circumstance; an ambition, like something to accomplish; a story in your subconscious while you sleep. A dream could also be a holy experience of God when angels appear – these, of course, are the rarest of dreams. No matter the scale of our dreams, an essential part of being human is the ability to dream. We dream when the world feels too weary, when we feel uncertain, when we experience heartache, when we long for justice, when we hunger for hope. And sometimes, some holy times, God shows up to make those dreams come true.

Each Sunday in Advent, we will explore the dreams that ushered in the birth of Jesus Christ. We'll see how the dreams of the prophets come true hundreds of years later in Christ, how a dream changes Joseph's mind (and life!), how an angel promises a dreamed-of baby to Mary and Zechariah, and how a dream saves the Magi's life.

Come dream with us this Advent as we dream dreams, see visions, and maybe even prophesy!

Join us for these special services and events this month!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Eliza

	DECEMBER 7 9:30 AM: <i>NO Sunday School or Kids Choir Rehearsals</i> 10:30 AM: <i>2nd Sunday of Advent (Mary and Zechariah's Dream); Communion</i> 11:30 AM: ADVENT SPECTACULAR! <i>Soup & salad lunch (Social Hall), Sing-along for adults (Sanctuary), Christmas games, crafts, holiday shop, and special visitor for kids!</i>	
	DECEMBER 14 9:30 AM: <i>Sunday School for Kids & Adults</i> 10:30 AM: <i>3rd Sunday of Advent (Joseph's Dream)</i> <i>Special Music Sunday, including: 7 & Green Band, Chancel Choir, & Cherub Choir</i>	
	DECEMBER 21 9:30 AM: <i>Sunday School for Kids & Adults</i> 10:30 AM: <i>4th Sunday of Advent (The Magi's Dream)</i> <i>Special Music Sunday, including: Covenant Ringers Chancel and Calvin Choirs Combined</i>	
	DECEMBER 21 2:00 PM: <i>Blue Christmas Service</i> <i>Audubon United Methodist Church</i>	
	DECEMBER 24 7:00 PM: <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship</i>	



From the Pastor's desk



“They Shall Dream Dreams” Advent Sermon Series 2025



November 30
Dreams of Dreams
The Prophets



December 14
Dreams of Change
Joseph



December 7
Dreams of Angels
Zechariah & Mary



December 21
Dreams of Warnings
The Magi



SPECTACULAR ADVENT WORKSHOP!

Our Spectacular Advent Workshop (aka Advent Happening) is **THIS Sunday, December 7**, immediately following the worship service.

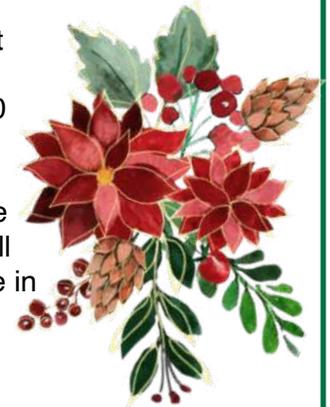
A festive lunch in the social hall will kick things off. Following lunch, the children will be able to visit our different stations for crafts, games, our Christmas Shop, and a special one-on-one visit with Santa (included as one of the stations this year).

While the children are rotating through their stations, interested adults can return to the sanctuary to sing Christmas Carols with our talented vocalists and musicians.

If you were not able to sign up in the parlor, please contact the church office to let us know you're coming. You don't want to miss it!

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

Time is almost up to submit your Christmas Poinsettia orders! A donation of \$5.00 (regardless of how many dedications you submit) is suggested to help cover the cost of the plants. Please fill out an order form (available in the narthex) to submit a dedication & return it by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**.



You can place your donation in the collection plate or mail it to the church office. Please write **“Christmas Flowers”** on your check or envelope.

Starting on Sunday, December 14, and remaining through Christmas Eve, the beautiful Poinsettia plants will grace the front of the sanctuary. The dedications will be listed in our bulletin on Sunday, December 21, as well as on Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve).

You are welcome to take home one of the beautiful poinsettias after the Christmas Eve service is over.

Thanks from your Music and Worship Committee!

Blue Christmas

worship service

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 21 | 2:00 PM

Audubon United Methodist Church
314 West Graisbury | Audubon

Join churches in our community for a shared service as we lay down the grief we carry through this season & seek Christ's reassurance through lament, prayer, scripture & music.



Christmas Eve

candlelight service

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER **24**
at 7:00 PM

Join us in the parlor for cookies & wassail punch after worship.



DEACONS' FAMOUS

save the date!



Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, January 4th
in the Social Hall

☕ Coffee at 9:30am



Worship following at 10:30 in the Social Hall





New Member's Classes Ongoing

Five people are attending Pastor Eliza's New Member classes which will culminate in an appearance before Session requesting membership at FPCHH.

January 2026 Communion Change

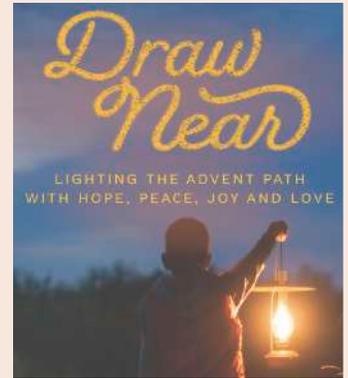
January communion has been moved to the 2nd Sunday of the month, January 11, to avoid conflict with the Pancake Breakfast.

Sunday School Christmas Tree

Our Sunday School students made snowman ornaments for the fundraising event at the Haddon Heights Library. Our Christmas tree, along with the other entries, is currently displayed at the HH Library—be sure to stop by and vote for your favorite tree!

Advent Devotionals Available

This year's devotional, provided by Presbyterian Outlook, offers an invitation for each day of Advent to draw near — to Scripture, to stillness, and to the heart of God. Following the traditional Advent themes, you'll light the way week by week with hope, peace, joy and love, preparing not just for Christmas, but for Christ's presence among us. The devotional is enriched by artwork from children — tender, honest interpretations of sacred texts that remind us what it means to receive the kingdom like a child. Printed copies are available at the Green St. sanctuary entrance and a digital copy is linked your weekly e-News.



Holiday Vacations & Office Closures

Pastor Eliza will be out of the office from **Thursday, December 25 through Thursday, January 1.**

Please contact Marci Spiegle, Clerk of Session, in a pastoral emergency.

The church office will be closed on both **Thursdays, December 25 & January 1**, in observance of Christmas & New Year's Day.



Holiday Staff Gifts



We're blessed to have an outstanding staff who work diligently all year long to make our worship experience meaningful & enjoyable.

Please remember to show your appreciation for all they do by contributing to a holiday staff gift for them! There's a large "stock pot" in the parlor to collect your donation, or you can mail a check (payable to FPCHH) with "Staff Holiday Gift" in the memo. The total will be divided among all our staff members. Thank you for continuing our tradition of generosity to make their holiday brighter.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE
 ... as of **Nov. 12, 2025**

Offerings Received	\$265,793
Budgeted Expenses	\$309,539

We're Climbing the PLEDGE Stairway to Heaven!



Even if you don't catch that reference to a famous Led Zeppelin song, it still has meaning. Many blessings have come from our pledge angels so far but we haven't quite made it to the pearly gates, aka pledge goal, yet. Your financial support gives wings to our church in so many ways:

- You show our staff members how much you value them.
- You show our children that their growth in faith is important to you.
- You show the many people who benefit from our missions that they are seen, heard & cared about.
- You show that you believe keeping our buildings and grounds in good repair is necessary to house a growing and thriving community of faith.

If you have not already pledged, you are requested to **prayerfully consider your commitment for 2026 and let us know as soon as possible**. You can submit your pledge online by scanning the **QR code** on the right, by **clicking the link [HERE](#)**, or by filling out a **pledge card** pictured below & located in the narthex. Help get us to the top of the stairway!

Thank you, from your Stewardship Committee



2025 Pledge Reminder!



Just a kind reminder that we're nearing the end of the 2025 pledge period. As we continue our ministry this season, we're inviting everyone to **catch up on their 2025 pledges before the end of the year**. If you have any questions regarding your contributions or your pledge status, please don't hesitate to reach out to Karen Reeves. Thank you for being such a meaningful part of our church family.

 Please **return this section** to the church office or to Leslie Clark, Stewardship Chair.
Envelope No. (if known) _____

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Financial Stewardship Commitment for 2026

Grateful for God's love in Jesus Christ, I (we) make the following commitment to support the mission of the church through our congregation.

\$ _____ per week month other: _____
(This commitment may be increased or decreased due to changing circumstances.)

I (we) wish to receive information about giving through Estate Planning.

Our 2026 Stewardship Commitment



Keep this portion as a record of your financial stewardship commitment for the year of 2026.

My (Our) financial stewardship commitment

\$ _____

per week month other: _____
(This commitment may be increased or decreased due to changing circumstances.)

 "But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift."
Ephesians 4:7

Personal Commitment Planner

Weekly amounts proportionate to income are shown in the adjacent chart, or you can use the Commitment Planner below to determine the amount of your gift based on a percentage of your income. Keep this portion for your records.

Proportionate giving decision: _____ %
(A)

Annual household income: \$ _____
(B)

Amount of annual gift: _____
(C)

_____ % \times \$ _____ = \$ _____
(A) (B) (C)

Amount of bi-weekly gift: \$ _____ (C) \div 26 = \$ _____

Amount of monthly gift: \$ _____ (C) \div 12 = \$ _____

Amount of quarterly gift: \$ _____ (C) \div 4 = \$ _____

Annual Income	Approximate Weekly Commitment Proportionate To Income						
	15%	10%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%
\$100,000	288.00	192.00	135.00	115.00	96.00	77.00	58.00
\$75,000	216.00	144.00	100.00	87.00	72.00	58.00	43.00
\$60,000	173.00	115.00	80.00	69.00	58.00	46.00	35.00
\$50,000	144.00	96.00	67.00	58.00	48.00	38.00	29.00
\$45,000	130.00	87.00	61.00	52.00	43.00	35.00	26.00
\$40,000	115.00	77.00	54.00	46.00	38.00	31.00	23.00
\$35,000	101.00	67.00	47.00	40.00	34.00	27.00	20.00
\$30,000	87.00	58.00	40.00	35.00	29.00	23.00	17.00
\$25,000	72.00	48.00	34.00	29.00	24.00	19.00	14.00
\$20,000	58.00	38.00	27.00	23.00	19.00	15.00	12.00
\$15,000	43.00	29.00	20.00	17.00	14.00	12.00	9.00

Christian Ed *update*

sunday school + bible study + nursery

Kids *sunday school*

Please note! There is **NO Sunday School on Dec. 7, 28 or Jan. 4.** (Come to the Pancake Breakfast on the Jan. 4th!) We hope to see everyone on Jan. 11 for a great winter session! **You are needed!** Find smiles, warmth, laughter and fun teaching a Sunday School class! We have three classes of children waiting for your leadership and care: PreK-Grade 2; Grades 3-5; and Grades 6-8. Give yourself the gift of service and love. A great New Year resolution would be to share your talents by teaching a class ... or 2 ... or 3! You can sign up on the board in the Parlor, by scanning the QR code below, or clicking the link **HERE** (& in your weekly e-News).

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



First Pres *YOUTH GROUP*

Our First Pres Youth Group holds social & service events for teens in grades 6-12 throughout the year.

We're excited to announce that our FPC Youth Group is liaising with FPC Haddonfield and Trinity Pres (Cherry Hill) to bring more opportunities for service & social activities to our youth.

Our youth were invited to attend a 2026 Summer Mission Trip in West Virginia hosted by Haddonfield Pres. They are currently looking for adult volunteers to attend the trip with them (and half of the \$600 cost will be covered by FPCHH!).

Adults interested in volunteering can scan the QR code here or reach out to Laura Masi for more info.



Please visit [page 14](#) for pictures from their **Feed My Starving Children MobilePack** service project that they participated in on November 22.

Wednesday *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. They are starting a new Advent study in December focusing on some of our favorite traditional Christmas movies.



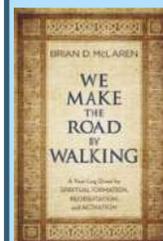
Please contact the office for more information & for the Zoom link to join.

Adult *sunday school*

Our two Sunday School classes for adults began in September along with our children's classes.

The first class (in Room 2) is using **The WiredWORD™**

The Wired Word curriculum, which chooses a weekly current event and analyzes how it relates to Scripture, while encouraging thought-provoking discussions on how we can apply God's word to our everyday lives.



The Faith Walk class, led by Pastor Eliza, (in the Nursery) is 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, with discussion questions designed to encourage meaningful conversation. All adults are welcome — we hope you'll join us for either class!



MISSIONS update

Adopt-A-Class Christmas Gifts for the Staff

Please take a look at the poster in the parlor and choose which \$10 gift card you would like to purchase for the staff of "our" kindergarten class at Urban Promise's Camden Forward School. The Mission Committee is hoping to give the 3 staff members ten \$10 gift cards each for Christmas. Please help us spread a little Christmas joy.



Opportunities to Support Cathedral Kitchen

Missions Service Sunday on December 28

Please join the Mission Committee after the worship service on **Sunday, December 28**, to once again make utensil packets for Cathedral Kitchen. The previous times we have made the utensil packets, we made approximately 525 packets. To put this into perspective, Cathedral Kitchen is serving about 800 per day. So, please stay after the service on the 28th and let's see if we can beat our previous record.



January & February Volunteer Opportunities

Pre-pandemic, a group of six people from our church volunteered at Cathedral Kitchen once a month. Much has changed since then - including a recent drastic increase in the number of people using CK's dinner service. In 2026, the Mission Committee has decided to volunteer at/for Cathedral Kitchen in 2 ways: in January, we are looking for **4 people to volunteer for the Pre-Dinner Service from 1:00 to 2:30pm on Friday, January 9**; and in February (*date is still tbd*) we're looking for help in making the much-needed utensil packets one day during the week. ***If you are interested in volunteering on January 9, please see Marci Spiegle.***

Help Our Hat & Mitten Tree Grow



Look for this special tree in the parlor and decorate it with hats, mittens, scarves and all those wonderful things that help keep people warm in the cold, winter months. When shopping for your loved ones, remember the tree and pick up a small, warm item.

PC (USA) Special Offerings

Peace & Global Witness Offering



Twenty-five percent of the Peace & Global Witness offering stays with our congregation.

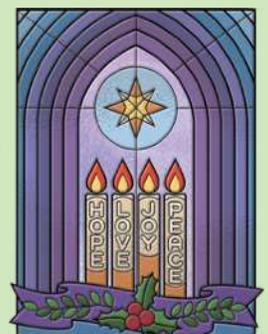
The Mission Committee decided to send our portion of the offering - about \$272 - to Iglesia Hispana Presbiteriana Bet-el in Vineland to help a family in need.

In a letter from the Clerk of Session of Bet-El, we were told about a church member who was detained by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The family, with 3 children, one on the Autism Spectrum, is in need of financial support. In her letter, the Clerk said " we often sing hymns like *Here I Am, Lord*, affirming our call to respond to God's people in need." This is our chance to live out those words and we did so through the Peace & Global Witness offering.

Christmas Joy Offering

Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering combine with gifts from thousands of congregations throughout our denomination to honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need.

This offering also honors and celebrates emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much. Please give generously to this offering.



MISSIONS UPDATE continued ...



**TWO CENTS
a Meal**

Thank you for your donations to the 2 Cents a Meal collection on November 9 — we raised a total of \$93.00. We purchased crackers, peanut butter & jelly, granola bars and brownie mixes for the Military Support Group of NJ, which supports military families in New Jersey, as their spouses are deployed.

Next Collection: December 14

Care Committee Has You Covered!

Having a bad hair day? Realize you forgot to put on deodorant before leaving the house? The Care Committee has you covered!



Baskets of toiletries and other last-minute items that you might find useful have been placed in each of the downstairs and the parlor bathrooms. The baskets currently include spray deodorant, Band-Aids, body spray, mousse, dry shampoo, hand sanitizer, lens wipes, lint rollers, pocket packs of tissues (please take one if you need it), etc. Please make use of the items as needed and let a Care Committee member know if an item needs to be replaced, or if you have a suggestion for another item to be placed in the baskets.

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. Their next gathering will be **Wednesday, December 3, at 9:00 AM** in the parlor, and the following month on Wednesday, January 28. As always, please contact Rick Clark to let him know you're coming so they can get an accurate head count. Hope to see you there!

Christmas Wishes for Our Homebound Congregants

The Care Committee has labeled Christmas cards (available in the pews) which can be mailed to our members & friends that are not able to worship in person with us. We encourage you to take one (or many!) to wish those who are homebound a Merry Christmas and to remind them of how much they're missed.



IFC Holiday House Tour Help Needed



Anyone interested and willing to be a docent for Interfaith Caregivers' Holiday House Tour should see Suzanne Lange or Judy Wilson. Suzanne & Judy are each chairing different houses on the tour and seeking people for 2-hour shifts of easy, fun service on **Thursday, December 11**, from 11AM to 9PM. Docents also get reduced price tickets for the this year's tour!



Friendship Circle

the circle connection

Thank YOU for Your Support

A special **THANK YOU** to all members of the congregation who contributed to our fundraiser for the MudGirls Studio. Friendship Circle announced its support of this non-profit organization in last month's newsletter. The Atlantic City-based organization provides opportunities in art and entrepreneurship to economically disadvantaged and at-risk women by providing training in the creation of unique and beautiful ceramic pieces. Our church's total donation to MudGirls — by means of individuals purchasing one or more of these unique ceramic items or by making a cash donation — was \$853!

Friendship Circle Meetings

The Friendship Circle is continuing their study of "Let Justice Toll Down" by Patricia Tull. They will meet next on **Tuesday, December 9**, at 9:30am in the parlor for their holiday gathering. The morning will include social time, holiday games, and festive refreshments. All women are welcome to join in the fun!

Friendship Circle met in the Parlor in November



Such a Special Fellowship Event!

At the **annual Thanksgiving Tea** after worship on Sunday, November 23, the Friendship Circle created a beautiful and meaningful gathering for our church family. We celebrated 14 years of Pastor Eliza as our spiritual leader and shared treats and fellowship for all. Following this tea, the Circle decorated their traditional Chrismon tree while the Deacons greened the sanctuary in preparation for Advent and Christmas. See [page 15](#) for more pictures from the Thanksgiving Tea.

Friendship Circle members decorating the Chrismon Tree



Coming Soon!



Plan on purchasing eco-friendly laundry sheets on **February 1, 2026**. We know many of you are anticipating the return of this popular product that raises funds for Friendship Circle projects.

Game Collection for UrbanPromise



We are sure that many of you recall the wonderful summer sermon series that Eliza had on the importance of board GAMES ("Faith on Board") and what they can teach us as we play.

Some of the games were *Monopoly, Life, Jenga, Clue* and *Candy Land*. We can all agree that playing games as a family can be educational, funny, competitive and also a little bit crazy at times. The Mission committee has come up with a plan to support Urban Promise families. We'd like to provide each student in grades Kindergarten-8th grade with a game that they can take home and play with friends and/or family. These games will be on the small scale (no large board games) and as reasonably priced as we can get. On December 28th we will have a poster, with slips of paper which will give you the name of a game. Please consider taking one or 2 slips of paper, purchasing the game and returning them back to church by **Sunday, January 25**. The students will all be given their games in February before a week break that they call "Family Week". Thank you for any help you can give us as we promote families 'playing' and learning together.



Supermarket Gift Card Program

As we enter the holiday season and are reminded of how much we have to be thankful for please consider purchasing Shop Rite or Acme gift cards supporting the 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.



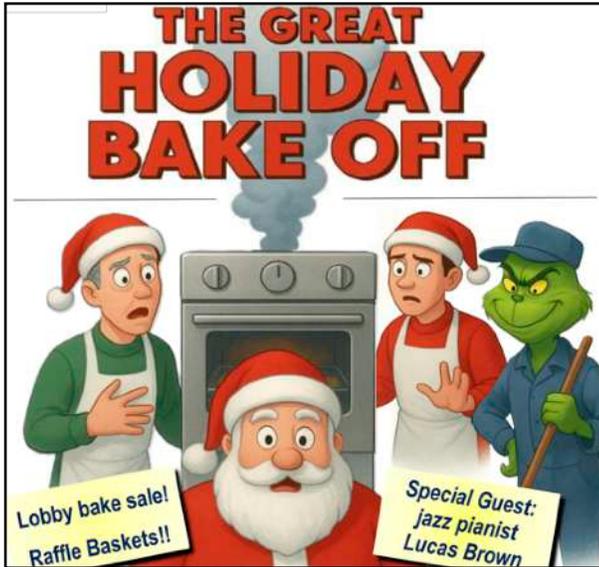
UP's "Night of Promise" Banquet

Laura, Maria, and Pat Masi attended UrbanPromise's *Night of Promise* on Thursday, October 30, in Collingswood. The inspirational evening included a family-style dinner, live music, & inspiring performances from UrbanPromise youth.



Pine Barons Holiday Show

You're invited to the Pine Barons Holiday show, *The Great Holiday Bake Off*, on **Saturday, December 6**, at 2pm & 7:30pm at St. Andrews United Methodist Church (327 Marlton Pike W, Cherry Hill). **Jeff Hudson will be selling tickets for \$10 each** (door price is \$20!). The tickets can be used for either show — but just once.



Seasonal Holiday Pops Concert

The Philharmonic of Southern NJ invites you to attend their traditional Holiday Pops concert — including classic holiday tunes, sing-alongs, and joy for all ages. Concerts will be held on **Saturday, December 6, at Washington Township High School**; and **Sunday, December 7, at Eastern High School in Voorhees**.

Click [HERE](https://www.psnj.org/concerts#block-yui31721-123456) or visit <https://www.psnj.org/concerts#block-yui31721-123456> for more info or to purchase tickets.



Village Playbox On Stage This Month

The Village Playbox of Haddon Heights invites you to attend our annual Christmas event, *Songs of the Season*, on **Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, 13 at 7:30pm at FPCHH**. Under the direction of John Demchak, the program spans cultures, traditions, and styles. From the sparkle of Mark Hayes' Shepherd's Joy to the breathtaking beauty of his Magnificat, the concert weaves together sacred, secular, and multicultural works—including pieces for Christmas, Hanukkah, and beyond.

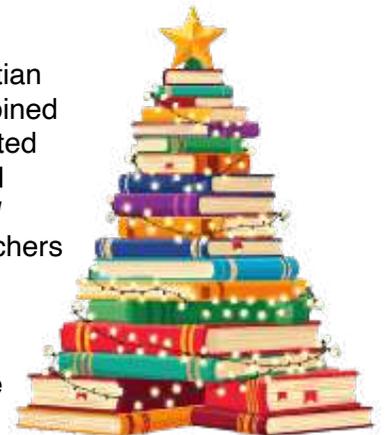
Featuring music by Mark Hayes, Greg Jasperse, Kyle Pederson, and more, plus featured soloists throughout, you'll experience everything from soaring anthems to quiet moments of candlelit reflection, with a few surprises along the way.

Bring family, friends, and neighbors—this is more than a holiday concert ... it's a celebration of music, light, and community. **Tickets are \$10** (\$5 for children under 12) and may be purchased at the door.



Heights Library Hosts FPCHH Christmas Tree

Our Outreach and Christian Education committees joined forces to place a decorated Christmas tree in the HH Library's annual *Festival of Trees*. Our kids & teachers did a great job creating adorable snowman ornaments. Be sure to stop by the library to see all the trees & consider putting your raffle ticket in our bucket!



All proceeds from the raffle support our library.

Mission Teens Update

Testimony



My name is Hanna Schildan. I am 19 years old and this is my story of what God has done for me.

I was born in Portland, Oregon on January 2, 2006. My parents were both addicts.

My mother was drinking and doing Heroin while she was pregnant with me. My father was a heavy drinker and went to prison for domestic violence, leaving my mother with me and my brother, who at that time was 1 month old. Fast forward 3 years, me and my brother went through 24 different foster homes in NW Oregon in one year. We moved into my adoptive parents' house in November of 2009. We were officially adopted in July 2015. It took 4 years of my adoptive parents fighting the state to adopt us, but God made a way and we were a family.

The next five years were a mess of mental health diagnosis, running away, suicide attempts, homelessness, ER visits etc. In 2021 I was diagnosed with Chronic PTSD. I had my first panic attack when I was 16, which was also the same day I tried to commit suicide. My parents were very confused as to why I was going through this. In their eyes, there was nothing wrong with me. I just needed to "suck it up and act normal."

In July 2023, I had my 2nd suicide attempt. I was homeless in SE Portland. My Dad got me into a program called *New Avenues for Youth*. I finished this program and went home. I was still doing the same things. This is where my journey with NWBTC (Northwest Bible Training Center in Beavercreek, OR) and Mission Teens began. I entered the mission on July 28, 2023, at 17 years old. I was baptized on March 17, 2024, and I proclaimed my belief in Christ and was saved. I graduated from the residential program and high school in 2024. I left NWBTC in January 2025 in my flesh — and ended up homeless in Portland.

I then started smoking weed every day. I had also gotten black-out drunk while in a sober-living program and after going to the ER 3 times, I decided to come back to the mission.

So, on July 3, I cried out to God and I put in an application and four days later, I was back in the Lord's house. I am a Resident Trustee, and God has been working with me on my patience, my trust and my confidence. 2 Timothy 1:7 states that "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind." I lived my whole life in fear! I am learning now that I don't have to do that anymore! I praise God for NWBTC & Mission Teens!



Hannah Schildan, a Resident Trustee at the Beavercreek, Oregon Mission Teens Center.

Mission Teens Christmas Gift Collection

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate gift items for the residents and staff of Mission Teens to give to their loved ones.

The deadline to drop off your gifts was Monday, December 1, but you can also financially bless the MT staff who work long hours loving and disciplining those in the program, all without a paycheck. They do this to give back what they themselves have freely received — a new life in Christ! Checks can be made out to *Mission Teens Inc.* (P.O. Box 131, Glendora, NJ 08029); or given to Pat by Christmas Eve. You are very much appreciated for many years of sharing your blessings with Mission Teens!



Performances by our Youngest Musicians

On November 2, the Calvin Chimes (pictured below), led by Dr. Chris Thomas, performed "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" during worship.



On November 16, our youngest choir, the Cherub Choir (pictured below), performed "Saying Thank You" during worship. The Cherub Choir is directed by Kim Muni.



Many thanks to all of these children and their directors for sharing their time and talents with us!

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 Presbyterian Mission Committee; all the tabs are donated to the Ronald McDonald House to support their mission.

History of Our Special Nativity

The "Mummy Babies" Nativity displayed in our parlor was created by Jean Parks in 1991. Each figure in the "cave-stable" is made of copper wire and wool. The camel has real camel's hair on its body. The copper wire skeletons are wrapped like mummies (hence the nativity's name), dyed in Kool-Aid, then placed in the washing machine to shrink the wool and finalize the figures.

The cave (approximately 36"L x 16"W x 18"H) is made of galvanized chicken wire covered with felt and the stable is made of wood. The manger lies at the center of the display, with three felted angels hovering above. The scene is completed with shepherds, the three Wise Men, and many animals.



Youth Group Service Project

Our FPCHH Youth Group (and families) participated in the *Feed My Starving Children MobilePack* Event at Haddonfield Middle School on Saturday, November 22. They joined volunteers of all ages & backgrounds to help pack life-saving meals for those in need.



Thanksgiving Sunday



On Sunday, November 23, we celebrated Thanksgiving Sunday with music from the Covenant Ringers, a joint performance by our Chancel and Calvin Choirs, and a special presentation from our middle school youth.

Following worship, the Friendship Circle provided refreshments for their annual Thanksgiving Tea. Thanks to everyone who contributed and attended!



The middle school youth memorized all the books of the New Testament and recited them during worship! (above)



Our Thanksgiving Tea "Set-Up Crew" (right)

On November 30, we celebrated the start of the Advent season with a series of reflections and scripture passages on the dreams of the prophets.

Thanks to our many members who participated in this special service.



Cameron & Jackson Morgan lit the "Hope" Candle, the first of the five candles in the Advent wreath.



Ruth Gallagher, Reader



Jack Powers, Reader



Laura Masi, Reader



The children's message was provided by Pastor Eliza.



MISSION Service Sundays

On Sunday, November 30, after worship our congregation gathered for this month's Mission Service Sunday (the 5th Sunday of the month) to tie no-sew blankets and assemble utensil packets for Cathedral Kitchen. Thanks to everyone who joined us in serving our community!



JAN/FEB Newsletter Articles
Due on Monday, January 5th



Note that the January/February 2026 Newsletter will be distributed in mid-January.

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!

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.





Church Directory Available!

The new 2025-2026 Church Directory is available in print if you haven't picked one up yet; copies are available in the narthex and the church office. If you would like a directory mailed or delivered to you, please contact the office.

As always, please contact the church office if you have any updates or revisions to your contact information.







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/>

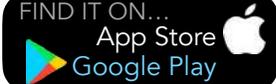
Sundays after worship in the Parlor!

FELLOWSHIP hour



My Church App by ChurchSpring

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

FIND IT ON...



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

December Birthdays

Claire Hagenbucher	1	Cael Vrooman	14	Jake Whitman	24
Emory Vrooman	1	Tony Masi	15	Elizabeth Smith	25
Brenna Breyer	3	Pat Thompson	15	Daisy Goswick	26
Bob Thompson	3	Susan Berra Palmer	17	Mia Teti	26
Bill Hawco	4	Wendy Van Fossen	17	Aiden Williams	26
Gail Balint	6	Cathryn Maienza	18	Sydney Williams	26
Brooke Robinson	6	Paige Tursi	18	Nancy Celebre	27
Tom Spina	6	Kim Muni	19	Kelsey Diven	27
Will Burrough	7	Julia Moon	20	Carole Leadbeater	27
Sue Hawco	7	Ginny Knoettner	21	Jack Robinson	27
Dorothy Spina	7	Peter Robinson	22	Charles Teti	27
Sean Diven	9	Helen Davis	24	Fleur Johnson	30
Bill Burrough	10	Emma Whitman	24	Candy Vrooman	30
Joe Wood	13				
Christopher Hauske	14				



December Anniversaries

Candy and Paul Frantz	8
Alison Miller and Robert Smentek	14
Carole and Hal Leadbeater	23
Norman and Wendy Van Fossen	31



2025 December

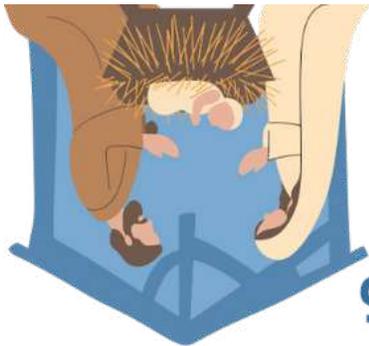


SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Chancel Choir-10:10am Worship - 10:30am</p> <p>Advent Happening -11:30am</p>	1	2	<p>Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM in the Parlor</p> <p>Zoom Bible Study, 11am</p>	<p>Covenant Ringers 6:45pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm</p>	5	<p>St. Nicholas Day</p>
<p>Sunday School for ALL ages-9:30am Calvins-9am; Chancel Choir-10:10am Worship - 10:30am</p> <p>Two Cents a Meal Collection</p>	8	9	<p>Zoom Bible Study, 11am</p> <p>Session Meeting, 7pm in the Parlor</p>	<p>Covenant Ringers 6:45pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm</p>	12	<p>SONGS OF THE SEASON Village Playbox, 7:30pm, FPCHH</p>
<p>National Cupcake Day</p>	15	16	<p>Zoom Bible Study, 11am</p>	<p>Covenant Ringers 6:45pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm</p>	19	<p>National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day</p>
<p>Sunday School for ALL ages-9:30am Calvins-9am; Chancel Choir-10:10am Worship - 10:30am</p> <p>Christmas Joy Offering</p> <p>BLUE CHRISTMAS Worship Service 2 PM @ Audubon Methodist</p>	22	23	<p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 pm Cookies & Wassail Punch, after worship in the Parlor</p>	<p>MERRY CHRISTMAS Office Closed</p>	26	<p>National Fruitcake Day</p>
<p>Pastor Eliza on Vacation; please contact the office or Marci Spiegle (Session Clerk) in an emergency.</p>						
<p>Worship - 10:30am</p> <p>MISSION Service Sundays After worship</p>	29	30	31	<p>2025 January Office Closed 1 2 3</p>		
<p>Deacons' Annual Pancake Breakfast, 9:30am, in the Social Hall</p> <p>Worship, 10:30am, in the Social Hall</p>	5	6	<p>Zoom Bible Study, 11am</p>	<p>Covenant Ringers 6:45pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm</p>	8	10



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

28 Seventh Avenue
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035
www.fpchaddonheights.org



First + Press
December 2025
