

First Presbyterian Church

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost October 29, 2023, 10:00 AM

# GATHERING

# Handbell Chimes – The ringing of the chimes invites you to a time of Rest... Renewal... Hope

**Prelude** There is a Happy Land - George Shearing Lucas Brown, organ

**Opening Sentences** 

All: Eternal God, neither death nor life can separate us from your love. Grant that we may serve you faithfully here on earth, and in heaven rejoice with all your saints who ceaselessly proclaim your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

\*Hymn #526 "For All the Saints"

# \*Invitation to Experience God's Grace (Hebrews 4:14-16)

One: Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

# \*Laying Down Our Burdens

All: Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid.

In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*Silent Prayer

# \*Declaration of Forgiveness

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. All: Amen.

\* We Celebrate God's Forgiveness Hymn #579 "Gloria Patri"

#### \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Thomas Sherrerd Memorial Choir "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel" -arr. Roger Emerson

Reception of New Members and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Celebrating the Life of the Church

**Stewardship Testimony** 

# THE WORD

#### **Prayer for Illumination:**

All: Lord, in the stories of your Scripture, give us truth to cling to; help us hear your still, small voice. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

34 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, 2all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, 3the Negeb, and the Plain – that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees – as far as Zoar. 4The Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."

5Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. 6He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. 7Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. 8The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

9Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. 10Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. 11He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, 12and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

One: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

#### Sermon

\*We Affirm our Faith

#### from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

# **GIVE THANKS**

Practicing Abundant Generosity <u>https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri11244/give/now</u>



Offertory: "Prayer of St. Francis" - Allen Pote, Chancel Choir \* Doxology #592 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" \* Prayer of Dedication

# LEAVE TO SERVE

Hymn #527 "Near to the Heart of God"

#### **Charge and Benediction**

Choral Amen, Chancel Choir

Sending Music Postlude in Canon on SINE NOMINE -Thomas J. Crawford Lucas Brown, organ

*Please use the Postlude time and music to reflect on today's worship experience and how it will support you in the week to come.* 

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**WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!** It is good to have you here in person or online. Please be in touch if you have news to share or would like more information or to talk to a pastor. Staff contact information is below. Read full announcements in our weekly <u>email newsletter</u>, available on the church website. Subscribe on the <u>Contact Us</u> tab.

**NURSERY** care is available during worship (9:30 - 11:15) for those with young children. The nursery is located in the Preschool (level 1R) in the Red Balloon Room near the Preschool office.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Parents, please register your preK-5th graders for Children's Church using the QR Code. PreK-Kindergarten must be signed out from the Sunday School room. First-fifth graders will reunite with their families in the Bean Parlor after worship.

# NEWS AND EVENTS

**NEW BIBLE STUDY:** Violence and Nonviolence in the Bible: A Short-Term Study We live in violent times. More than a year-and-a-half has passed since Russia invaded Ukraine, and the war grinds on. The horrific attacks on Israel by Hamas have provoked a severe Israeli counterattack and have raised fears of a regional war. What guidance do the scriptures give about how to live faithfully in a violent world?

Join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays from **November 1 through November 15** as we read and discuss a sample of scripture passages related to violence and peacemaking.

•November 1: Crime, war, and peace in select Old Testament passages (Exodus 21:12-27, Deuteronomy 20, Isaiah 2:2-4)

- November 8: Loving enemies Jesus's Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:38-48)
- November 15: Vengeance is mine (and the government's?) the Apostle Paul on revenge and respect for authority (Romans 12:14 13:10).

To register and get the Zoom link use the QR code:

**HOSPITALITY:** Calling all who anticipate and appreciate after-service social time! The Hospitality Committee is soliciting volunteers to provide snacks and to host the hospitality table on Sunday mornings. As we continue to offer this ministry of camaraderie and connection in our beautiful parlor, we will have a sign-up sheet on which folks can volunteer for any Sunday of their choice. Please consider this easy and fun way to connect with old and new friends. If you would like to help us develop additional ways to serve, we would also be happy to welcome you as a member of the Hospitality Committee. Please contact Joan Fiorella at <u>imfiorella@gmail.com</u> or 856 889-9185 for more information.





# TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY: Need a ride to and from worship?

We have a **new procedure** to ask for a ride, beginning in November. To request transportation to worship, call the church at 856-429-1960. When you hear the auto attendant message, press 103 and **you will go directly to the deacon voice mailbox.** Leave a message and a deacon will call you back regarding your request.

<u>Transportation requests must be received no later than the Tuesday prior to the Sunday when the</u> <u>ride is needed.</u> Make sure to leave your phone number and a convenient time to call. Please take note: if you call later than Tuesday at 4 p.m., there may not be a deacon or church member available to drive you. This procedure will efficiently simplify the needs of our members. We look forward to seeing you in worship! Questions? Call the church office, or Joan Fiorella at 856 889-9185.

**The Porch Bible Study** lunch on November 14 at noon will be held at the Legacy Diner on the White Horse Pike. Our November study is online, November 7 at 7 p.m. In December, the Porchers online study will be Tuesday, December 12 (Zoom) at 7 p.m. We will do a special Advent study that evening. For information, call the church office, contact Jill Mascena or Deb Nussbaum at church or email Deb at debranussbaum1987@gmail.com.

**CHERISHED women of First Presbyterian!** If you're looking for a Bible study, a walking group, a quilting group, or any number of things, click her to check out the fall activities that Presbyterian Women are offering: at <u>www.haddonfieldpres.org/presbyterian-women</u>.

**WALKING GROUP**: The Slow and Steady Walkers will meet at Crows Woods Nature area this Tuesday (10/31) at 10 am for a leisurely walk around the paved track. Meet Linda Hess at the 2nd driveway near the small maintenance building.

**SAVE THE DATE: The Advent Festival will be Sunday, December 3rd from 11am - 1pm:** We are changing things up and having the festival after church, but the format will be the same...soup, sandwiches, desserts and crafts. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Cheryl Tarditi: <u>cheryltarditi@gmail.com</u>.

JUSTICE AND ADVOCACY: With Election Day coming up on November 7th, it is critical that all those eligible are encouraged to participate in our democracy by voting. The Justice and Advocacy Committee is supporting non-partisan efforts to get out the vote sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Camden County. Please consider joining Lesley Kirsch, as well as LWV staff and volunteers, in an upcoming "Lit-Drop" in Pennsauken on Saturday, October 28th from 10am-Noon. You will be distributing door hangers to educate voters about early in-person voting and the VOTE411 nonpartisan information source. You will not be knocking on doors. The LWVNJ office has identified Pennsauken as a redistricted town with a history of low voter turnout, so **please reach out to Lesley by 10/25 if you would like to participate. You'll meet in the parking lot at 9:30am. She can be reached at 856.904.9944 or Lesley@lesleykirsch.com.** For more information, please visit the League of Women Voters of Camden County website at Get Out the Vote: Lit Dropping - Events - League of Women Voters of Camden County, NJ (lwvccnj.org).

**STARTING October 1,** you can have your blood pressure taken in the Bean Parlor following morning worship. Screenings will occur monthly. If any medical professionals are interested in

supporting this ministry, please email Linda O'Neill at <u>ElonMail@yahoo.com</u> or Bonnie Manskopf at <u>BonnieManskopf@yahoo.com</u>.

**CPR classes** are available for anyone in the church who would like to become certified. Marsha Reed will be teaching a class that takes about 3 hours and is being offered at no charge. If you would like a Certification Card, the cost is \$20. Once we know how many of us are interested, we can decide on a date. Class will take place on Sundays, most likely in the afternoon. Please contact Joan Fiorella at jmfiorella@gmail.com or Marsha Reed at marsbarr83@gmail.com if you are interested.

**CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CLASS** - Our 34<sup>th</sup> Year Learning about Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church through an in-depth study of Church history, theology, art, music – and (sometimes!) pilgrimage travel. Topic for Fall 2023: Jesus and His Followers. All are invited to join Church historian David Stedman after worship!

October 29. Mary Magdalene: The New Eve. Part 2 *Dulcis Amica Dei*. The Magdalen's Veneration in Popular Religion and Art. St. Mary Magdalene could play a part in popular religion that the Virgin Mary, raised to divinity as Queen of Heaven between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, could not. While the sinless Virgin was the antithesis of Eve, the Magdalen – as a repentant sinner – represented sexual femininity redeemed: the New Eve. *Illustrated lecture*.

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN:** On Friday, November 17 and Saturday, November 18, 2023, the Haddonfield Council of Churches will host a foodpacking event at Haddonfield Middle School. Volunteers of all ages will pack a combination of soy, rice, dehydrated vegetables, vitamins and minerals to be sent to children in developing nations who are suffering from starvation and malnutrition. Scan the code to sign up to pack and/or donate here.



**MISSION GRATITUDE**: \$10,579 and 2,239. What do these numbers mean? They reflect the Thanksgiving generosity of this congregation over more than 20 years, expressed in cash and frozen turkeys! Once again, on **November 19th beginning at 9:00 am until noon**, we will be in the parking lot, whatever the weather, collecting frozen turkeys and cash donations to aid Your Food Shelf (a Presbyterian based and funded food pantry). Please remember to drive carefully when entering the parking lot.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 10/22/23: 149 in person and 32 online.

**2023 CHURCH OFFERING UPDATE** – Please note that target numbers on the right now represent a 12-month budget.

	Received to date	<u>Twelve-month budget goal</u>
Envelope Giving:	\$ 467,071.00	\$ 570,270.00
Loose Offering:	\$ 8,410.00	\$ 12,000.00
Per Capita:	\$ 9,321.00	\$ 16,000.00

# CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these individuals and situations throughout the week. If you would like to add a personal prayer request, please contact one of the pastors. In making requests on behalf of others, please obtain the permission of the person needing prayer. The requestor will have their name printed as the originator of the request. Pastors will revisit these requests every 30 days.

# Prayers for the Church

- Pray for the victims, family members, friends, and all first responders of and for the mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine. Lord Have Mercy, and hear our prayer.
- Pray for the people, government, and country of **Ukraine** as war continues.
- Pray for a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Please pray for Emily as she begins a long recovery (10/20-P. Woodland)
- Prayers for Pete S. on his recovery from a serious lung condition (10/20-J. Shoemaker).
- Joe and Jackie continue to benefit from your prayers as their conditions continue to deteriorate (10/20-P. Woodland)
- Please be with the **family and friends of Susan Blackwood** as they grieve for their dear, Susan, as she has been embraced in heaven by our Lord and Savior **(10/15-C. Carty)**
- Please pray for Linda's brother Roy as he continues chemotherapy treatments for cancer (10/10-L. O'Neill)
- Pray for the Fitzgerald family who are living through the midst of so much. Pray specifically for Karen, her husband, and their three young adult children who are in college- each with their own challenges (10/10-T. Adkins)
- Please pray for Jeff who is living with cancer, and pray also for his wife Wanda (10/9-Seddon family)
- Please pray for Tai-Nisha's freedom and her children's safety (10/6-G. Ladies)
- Please pray for Michele's family, all the ladies at the Camden County Jail, and pray for Michele's enemies that they will find their way (10/6-G. Ladies)
- Pray for Morgan and her two daughters, Willow and Ivy, that they are protected and safe. Pray also for her sister Ellen that she would be set free from addiction (10/6-G. Ladies)
- Pray that **Carlie** will be released from jail, and that she and her fiance John have a peaceful rest of their lives together. Pray also for **John's health (10/6-G. Ladies).**
- Please pray that **Summer** will be released to her children: Lucas, Jonah, Genesis and Jordan (10/6-G. Ladies).
- Pray for Enza to be back with her daughter Adline (10/6-G. Ladies).
- Pray for **Tamiyah** that she will be reunited with her children and overcome the current situation. Give her strength, guidance and healing **(10/6-G. Ladies)**
- Please pray for physical and mental healing for Raj (10/4-R. Prasad)
- Continue in prayer for Isabel Pross as she continues cancer treatment (10/4-pastors)
- Pray for the **family and friends of Asher Barkan**, who passed suddenly. He is missed **(10/4-N. Passante)**
- Please keep **Connie Reeves** and her family in your prayers as they grieve the sudden death of John, son, father, and brother **(10/2-C. Carty)**
- Pray for **Ginny and the entire Ritchie family** on the death of Al (10/1-pastors)
- Pray for **the family of Luke Watson** who passed suddenly. Luke was a freshman at Rowan and a 2023 graduate from Haddon Township **(9/28-T. Adkins)**
- Keep Nancy in your prayers as she continues cancer treatments (9/27-C. Carty)
- Please pray for Jean Yount, her medical team, and her family (9/27-C. Yount)

Dear friends in our Family of Faith,

Thank you very much for your expressions of sympathy, notes of remembrance and especially your prayers for my family and me following the death of Al. We appreciate your care and concern for us. I am comforted in knowing that my dear Al is safely in the hands of God in the Church Triumphant.

In Christ's love, Ginny Ritchie

Make Your Pledge Online:



## CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Marvin Lindsay, Ph.D., Senior Pastor and Head of Staff - <u>mlindsay@haddonfieldpres.org</u>
The Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante, Associate Pastor - <u>npassante@haddonfieldpres.org</u>
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