



**First Presbyterian Church
of Newton**

10:00 am August 25, 2024

QUOTE FOR CONTEMPLATION

**“God is at home,
it’s we who have gone out for a walk.”**

Meister Eckhart

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 139*)

Leader: How lovely, Lord, how lovely is Your abiding place.

People: My soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon Your grace.

Leader: The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;

People: And so Your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

*** HYMN PH #441** “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND HOPE (*from Harry Emerson Fosdick*)

Eternal Spirit from whom we come, to whom we belong, and whose fellowship is our peace, we worship you. You are never far from us but often we are very far from you. From the tumult of the world and the preoccupation of its many tasks, from its noise and strife, our spirits turn again for peace, insight, power, to the quiet of your sanctuary. If we have sinned against those who trust us, if smoke from our lives has clouded another sky, if by careless temper and unhappy word we have made it harder for others either to do good or to know joy, forgive us. If amid the noises of the world the calm voice of whatever is excellent and true and good has been difficult to hear, now in the quiet of your sanctuary, speak to us. Make our hearts a shrine. Build in our hearts your altar. Kindle in our hearts your fire.

(A Time of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION (*from Harry Emerson Fosdick*)

Leader: Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many rooms.... And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

People: Thanks be to God.

*** SUNG RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS** Refrain from PH #279

*Your grace surrounds us all our days--
For all your gifts we bring our praise.*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PSALM 84: 1-4; 10 (MEV)

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts! ² My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my body cry out for the living God.

³ Yes, the sparrow has found a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even at Your altars, O Lord of Hosts, my King and my God. ⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they continually praise You. Selah....

¹⁰ For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

GOSPEL READING John 6: 53-60 (MEV)

⁵³ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on Me also will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven, not as your fathers ate manna and died. He who eats this bread will live forever.”

⁵⁹ He said these things in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When they heard this, many of His disciples said, “This is a hard saying. Who can listen to it?”

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Gather Us In” (*Marty Haugen*)

Hontz Family

TIME WITH CHILDREN

MESSAGE

Dwelling Place

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

God has endowed humans with capacities to make the world serve their needs and to enjoy its good things. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. People are free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD WITH OUR LIVES

CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "A Mighty Fortress" (*M. Luther; arr. N. Hontz*)
Hontz Family & Friends

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN PH#207 "How Lovely, Lord, Is Your Abiding Place"

SHARING OF PRAYER JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ending with the LORD'S PRAYER (NIV)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST

HYMN PH #417

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Let the River Run”

(Carly Simon)

Hontz Family & Friends

~~~~~

**We thank the Hontz Family for their participation in worship this morning  
and our Ushers/Greeters Jody and Tom McNulty.**

*Our worship today was led by the Hontz Family of Fredon. Mark is an elder law and estate planning attorney in Newton, a Certified Lay Servant in the United Methodist Church and Ruling Elder at Yellow Frame Presbyterian Church. Stephanie teaches algebra and calculus at Kittatinny Regional High School. Nathaniel and his fiancée, McGinnis, are moving to Sussex County in September, when Nathaniel begins work as a Law Clerk in Newton. Thomas is entering his final year at Boston University School of Law. Susanna has begun her Master’s Degree studies at Boston University. You are invited to visit and subscribe to the “**Hontz Family Band**” youtube page, which hosts some of the family’s sacred and secular music performances, including some at First Presbyterian in Newton. Nathaniel Hontz’s sacred and secular musical arrangements, hymns, and compositions can be heard and seen on the “**Nathaniel Hontz**” youtube page.*

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON  
Week of August 25, 2024**

- Sun. 8/25    **9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer** (Adult Study Room)  
                  **10:00 am Worship** (Sanctuary)  
                  **11:00 Punch on the Patio**
- Mon. 8/26    **10:00 am Wired Word** (via Zoom)
- Wed. 8/28    **8:00 pm Midweek Vespers** (via Zoom)
- Fri. 8/30     **1:00 - 3:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group** (Adult Study Room)
- Sat. 8/31     **10:30 am Funeral of Dr. William C. Gray** (Sanctuary)
- Sun. 9/1      **9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer** (Adult Study Room)  
                  **10:00 am Worship (Communion)** (location depending on weather)  
                  **11:00 Punch on the Patio**

Our service can also be found on our YouTube channel sometime after 3 pm.  
Go to: [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search for: fpcnewtonnj

**Our Staff**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Interim Pastor:<br>Heather Morrison-Yaden<br><a href="mailto:heathermorrisonyaden@gmail.com">heathermorrisonyaden@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Associate for Family Nurture:<br>Colleen Duffy<br><a href="mailto:colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org">colleen.duffy@fpcnewtonnj.org</a> |
| Office Administrator: Janet Lasko<br><a href="mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org">admin@fpcnewtonnj.org</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Treasurer: Jane MacDonald<br><a href="mailto:treas@fpcnewtonnj.org">treas@fpcnewtonnj.org</a>                                      |
| Organist: Ann Socha                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Bell Choir Director: Melinda Kline                                                                                                 |
| Choir Director: Cate Pasculli                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Child Care Provider: Heather Woods                                                                                                 |
| Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm;<br>Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm<br>Church Email Address: <a href="mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org">admin@fpcnewtonnj.org</a><br>Church Telephone Number and Address: 973-383-4420<br>54 High Street, Newton NJ 07860<br>Church Web Site Address: <a href="http://www.fpcnewtonnj.org">www.fpcnewtonnj.org</a><br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/FPCNJ">facebook.com/FPCNJ</a><br><a href="http://www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a> (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj") |                                                                                                                                    |

## **E-Giving - *It makes giving easy!***

**E-Giving** is a convenient way to support our ministries. Here's how:



*Scan Me*

Scan the QR Code to donate through your smart phone.

**OR**

Go to the church website, [fpcnewtonnj.org](http://fpcnewtonnj.org) and click on the **E-donate** button and create an account. You can make a one-time donation or sign up for automatic recurring donations.

**More comfortable using a check?** No problem, just drop a check in the mail.

***As always, we thank you for your generosity and support!***