



# First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:00 AM September 1, 2024

*\* indicates when to rise in body or in spirit*

## QUOTE FOR MEDITATION

“Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time.” – Oswald Chambers

“I wish not merely to be called Christian, but also to be Christian.” – Ignatius of Loyola  
(co-founder of the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuit order of priests)

## GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### PRELUDE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Summer wanes and autumn draws close to us.

People: **We want to be ready for opportunities of service.**

Leader: We have felt the refreshment of time away and a slower pace.

People: **We hope for spirits of joy for the times ahead.**

Leader: Come, let us celebrate God’s eternal presence and love.

People: **Let us open our spirits to receive God’s direction for our lives.**

\* HYMN PH #466 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Don't play games with God.

People: God knows us better than we think God does.

Leader: God is waiting for us to come into God's presence, honestly.

People: Let us be honest and share our lives with God.

Leader: Let us pray together...

## PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION (in unison)

God of mercy, you know us so well. We like to think that we can hide from You, but we are just kidding ourselves. You have offered to us new life, characterized by honesty, compassion, joy, and peace. You have invited us into ministries of peace and justice; but we have far too often turned our back on opportunities for service and witness to your transformational love.

Forgive us for our stubbornness. Help us to turn around and listen to your words of hope. Remind us again that you require compassion and mercy in all who serve you; that you will guide our steps and our lives. Give us courage to truly be your witnesses in this world.

*(A Moment of Silent Prayer)*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND GRACE

\* SONG OF JOY PH 455 "All Creatures of Our God and King" (vs. 5)

*And everyone of tender heart, forgiving take your part, O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on God cast your care!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

\* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

<h2>LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT'S WORD</h2>
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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Open our ears and help us to truly listen that we might become Christians.

## RESPONSIVE READING

## Psalm 15

Leader: O Lord, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**People: Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right  
and speak the truth from their heart;**

Leader: who do not slander with their tongue  
and do no evil to their friends  
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

**People: in whose eyes the wicked are despised  
but who honor those who fear the Lord;**

Leader: who stand by their oath even to their hurt;  
who do not lend money at interest  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

**ALL: Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

### SCRIPTURE READING

### James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of God's own purpose God gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved siblings: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not produce God's righteousness.

Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and - on going away - immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

**MESSAGE**                      How We Are to Live as Christians

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**                      Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.11, 8.14

**Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture,  
is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to  
trust and obey in life and in death.**

**As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins,  
so in the same way and with the same seriousness  
is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life.**

**Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance  
from the godless fetters of this world  
for a free, grateful service to his creatures.**

**\* HYMN**                      "Lord, Who May Dwell Within Your House" (Psalm 15)    See Insert

**CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**

**\* SONG OF GRATITUDE**

*TUNE: WIR PFLÜ-GEN*

All good gifts a - round us Are sent from heav'n a - bove; Then

thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love. A-men.

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and SHARING OF PRAYER JOYS and CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ending with the LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)**

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

<b>GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE OF HOPE</b>
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**\* HYMN PH #513**                    *“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**SHARING THE MEAL TOGETHER**

**UNISON PRAYER OF COMMUNION**

Most loving God, you have given a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us on with Christ. Help us to bring your salvation and joy to all the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

<b>GOING OUT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST</b>
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**\* HYMN PH #382**                    *“Somebody's Knocking at Your Door”*

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* POSTLUDE**

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**We thank our Worship Leader Alice Sharick,  
our Communion Server Donna Kronen  
and our Usher/Greeters Ron Hoffman and Blake Hoffman this morning.**

Liturgical Resources:  
Nancy C. Townley, Ministry Matters

## **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 make a donation through your smart phone. **OR**

Go to the church website, [fpcnewtonnj.org](http://fpcnewtonnj.org) and click on the **E-donate** button and sign up using your email and a password. 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!***

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON  
Week of September 1, 2024**

- Sun. 9/1      **9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer** (Adult Study Room)  
                 **10:00 am Worship with Communion** (Sanctuary)  
                 **11:00am Punch on the Patio**
- Mon. 9/2      **Office Closed**  
                 **NO Wired Word**
- Tues. 9/3      **1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Manna House Board Meeting (Parlor)**
- Wed. 9/4      **8:00 pm Midweek Vespers** (via Zoom)
- Fri. 9/6      **1:00 - 3:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group** (Adult Study Room)
- Sun. 9/8      **10:30 am Worship at Johnsonburg Camp**  
                 **immediately followed by the Church Picnic and a day of fun!**  
                 **Bucket Brigade:** (monthly loose change collection to support local mission)

\*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

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                                                                                 |

### First Presbyterian Church of Newton

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm;

Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Church Email Address: [admin@fpcnewtonnj.org](mailto:admin@fpcnewtonnj.org)

Church Telephone Number and Address: 973-383-4420

54 High Street, Newton NJ 07860

Church Web Site Address: [www.fpcnewtonnj.org](http://www.fpcnewtonnj.org)

[facebook.com/FPCNJ](https://www.facebook.com/FPCNJ)

[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")