

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF NEW VERNON



MORNING WORSHIP – FEBRUARY 2, 2025

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.”

-Frederick Buechner

WELCOME TO FPCNV

This week we hear the story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. The story of his experience can help all of us reflect on our own wilderness experiences, and how the things we are hungry for shape our choices and actions.

QUOTES AND QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What is something you are hungry for?

What is something that you've had more than enough of?

How is God inviting you to share what you have?

“An empty stomach is not a good political adviser.”

— **Albert Einstein**

“Loaves and Fishes” by David Whyte

This is not
the age of information.

This is *not*
the age of information.

Forget the news,
and the radio,

and the blurred screen.

This is the time of loaves
and fishes.

People are hungry,
and one good word is bread
for a thousand.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

GATHERING

Prelude "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" - Stuart Townend/arr. by Mark Hayes
"In Christ Alone" - Keith Getty & Stuart Townend/arr. by Mark Hayes

Welcome

Introit "O Taste and See" - Ralph Vaughan Williams

Call to Worship*

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
say to the Lord:

**All: My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.**

Leader: For God will protect us from evil and
commands angels to guard us in all our ways.

**All: God rescues those who love God
and is present with us in trouble.**

Leader: God answers when we cry out
and reveals our salvation to us.

All: Let us worship God!.

Hymn #621* "I Will Call Upon the Lord"

Call to Confession

Ever ready with cleansing love,
God invites our confession,
offering mercy and strength
so that we may start anew.

Prayer of Confession

As the future unfolds before us, great God,
we see how far we have to go to Jerusalem.

The road is long, our sins are many,
and our burdens are heavy.

We can't imagine new life, Easter life,
because our current lives are filled
with bad choices and failed efforts.

Meet us in our weakness.

Take up our sins.

Ease our burdens.

Carry us on the way.

Bring us to Jerusalem, at last.

Show us a love that is stronger than death,
a love no tomb can hold.

Assurance of Forgiveness

The love of God flows ceaselessly.

The mercy of God never ends.

This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Hymn 582* "Glory to God"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

**As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

Passing the Peace*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And also with you

HEARING THE WORD

Chat With the Children

Prayer for Illumination

O God, through your mighty acts
we receive grace upon grace.

From your fullness, feed us with your life-giving Word,
that our lives, like bread,
may feed a hungry world. Amen.

The First Scripture Lesson — Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Second Scripture Lesson — Luke 4:1-13

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn #166* “Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

Sermon

Offering and Offertory “Ave Verum” - W. A. Mozart

Hymn 606* Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of male and female.

We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.

He descended into the earth
to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb.

He ascended into heaven
to be everywhere present,

and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Words of Invitation & Institution

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy God of power and might
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

SENDING

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 712* "As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought"

Benediction*

Congregational Amen — John L. Bell

Postlude "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

Martin Luther/arr. by Carol Tornquist

LAST WEEK

ATTENDANCE: 52

	Last Week	Year to Date	Commitments for 2025
Annual Giving	\$1,800	\$128,160	\$425,474
Plate Offering	\$265	\$965	\$32,000

Children's Ministry

Our nursery, for children ages 2 and under, is located in Fellowship Hall and is staffed. Children can be dropped off before worship or at any point during the service.

After the Chat with Children in the sanctuary, children move to the Fellowship Hall for Sunday School.

We have 3 classes available:

Pre-K; ages 3-5

K-2nd grade

3rd grade and up

Children can be picked up from Sunday School after worship during coffee hour. If you have any questions, please talk to Rev Hayley.

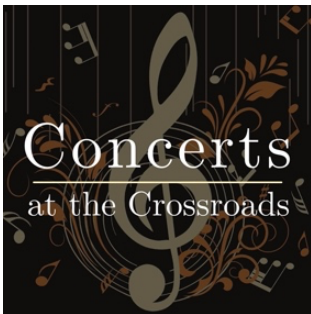


COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED!

Join in the fellowship by hosting a Coffee Hour after church. It can be a family activity or find a friend to partner with you.

Sign up on the Coffee Hour board in Fellowship Hall.

Jazz Cafe



Hear Jerry Vezza's Jazz Trio and enjoy refreshments and good company!

Sunday, Feb. 2, 5:00 pm

Register to attend at pcnv.org



Join us on **Sunday, February 9th**, after church, for a variety of delicious homemade soups!

A Free Will donation will be collected for the benefit of nourishNJ, formerly the Soup Kitchen. Soups can also be purchased to take home. If you

would like to contribute soup, chili and/or a simple dessert, please contact Barbara Gill at 973-538-8944.

OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM THIS SUNDAY

Liturgist

Aja Blanco

Ushers

Jack and Julia Nicholson

Coffee Hour

Barbara Gill, Lisa Chapman, Ellie Burd

Flowers

DEACONS ON DUTY

Coffee Hour

Craig Grant and Meg Richardson

Flower Delivery

Nancy Burrows and Barbara Gill



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. William Stone III, Pastor

Rev. Hayley O'Connor, Associate for Youth and Family Ministry

Stephen Fox, Director of Music Ministry

Rachael Gareau, Director of Children's Choirs

Faith Winow, Financial Secretary

Diego (Tony) Rodriguez, Church Custodian

CHURCH LEADERS

Session

Donna Miller, Clerk

Sarah Conine

Susan Fischer

Sam LaNasa

Robert Lecky

Brenda Myers

Scott Noyes

Don Richardson

Matt Taranto

Ben Thompson

Michelle Vince

Candace Weeks

Deacons

Lisa Chapman, Moderator

Ellie Burd

Nancy Burrows

Barbara Coe

Carol Conger

Sandy Finlayson

Barbara Gill

Craig Grant

Susie Morris

Meg Richardson

Randy Stodard

Twinkle Tong