

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF NEW VERNON



Welcoming  
Sinners

MORNING WORSHIP — SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

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“Never once did Jesus scan the room for the best example of holy living and send that person out to tell others about him. He always sent stumblers and sinners.”

Nadia Bolz Weber - *Accidental Saints*

# WELCOME TO FPCNV

This Fall we are thinking all about welcome. Something I hear over and over again when people talk about FPCNV is how welcome they feel here—and that is something we have all worked hard to cultivate.

This Sunday we are thinking about how Jesus welcomed sinners, and how we are invited to do the same in our lives today.

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“Sin matters, and forgiveness of sins matters, but they matter because sin, flowing from idolatry, corrupts, distorts, and disables the image-bearing vocation, which is much more than simply “getting ready for heaven.”

An over-concentration on “sin” and how God deals with it means that we see things only with regard to “works,” even if we confess that we have no “works” of our own and that we have to rely on Jesus to supply them for us. (Equally, an underemphasis on “sin” and how God deals with it is an attempt to claim some kind of victory without seeing the heart of the problem.)

The biblical vision of what it means to be human, the “royal priesthood” vocation, is more multidimensional than either of the regular alternatives. To reflect the divine image means standing between heaven and earth, even in the present time, adoring the Creator and bringing his purposes into reality on earth, ahead of the time when God completes the task and makes all things new.

N.T. Wright *The Day the Revolution Began*

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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GATHERING

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Prelude

Welcome

Introit

**Call to Worship\***

Leader: We gather here in your presence, God.

**All: In our need, and bringing with us  
the needs of the world.**

Leader: We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,

**All: And you know by experience  
what human life is like.**

Leader: We come with our faith and with our doubts;

**All: We come with our hopes and with our fears.**

Leader: We come as we are,

because you invite us to come;

**All: And you have promised never to turn us away**

**Opening Hymn\*** Come People of the Risen King

**Call to Confession**

Leader: As we try to grow in life and in faith, we present ourselves to God in a spirit of honesty, naming where we fall short and miss the mark.

## Prayer of Confession

Sometimes it sounds too hard:  
deny ourselves, take up our crosses,  
lose our lives?

Forgive us, Savior,  
but we'd rather you do it for us.

Forgive us, Christ,  
but we are overwhelmed  
with what you ask of us.

We long to see you come in glory,  
but fear the road we must take.

Have mercy on our weakness.  
Be patient with our stumbling.  
Do not leave us behind,  
even when we are slow to follow,  
and lead us in your ways of peace.

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Scripture is clear: everyone who calls on the name  
of the Lord will be saved. God draws us together,  
offering salvation, forgiveness, and new life to all.

All: Thanks be to God.

## 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

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## HEARING THE WORD

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## Chat With the Children

## Prayer for Illumination

Leader: For the word of God in scripture,  
For the word of God among us  
For the word of God within us

All: Thanks be to God.

## The First Scripture Lesson: *Hosea 5:15-6:6*

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

## **The Second Scripture Lesson: *Matthew 9:9-16***

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn #665\* As Morning Dawns

Sermon

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### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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Offering & Offertory "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

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.

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us affirm our faith together.

Women We believe that God creates all things,  
renews all things and celebrates all things.

Men We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred  
planet filled with God's presence, a home for us  
to share with our kin.

Women We believe that God became flesh and  
blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being  
called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and  
spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross,  
for all human beings and for all creation.

**Men** We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

**Women** We believe the Spirit renews life in creation groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

**All: Together** We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation

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SENDING

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**Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**

**Closing Hymn 318\*** In Christ there is no East or West

**Benediction\***

**Congregational Amen** — John L. Bell

**Postlude**

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The session of FPCNV has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, October 13th immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect two members of the congregation to the 2024-2025 nominating team.

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## 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" during worship, 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 in Fellowship Hall (during coffee hour). If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Hayley.

## LAST WEEK

ATTENDANCE: 105

	Last Week	Year to Date	Commitments for 2024
2024 Pledges	\$690	\$275,019	\$377,000
Plate	\$600	\$11,815	\$30,000



Credit Card / ACH



## Upcoming Events

Sept 29th | 3:00 - 4:00 pm Concert at the Crossroads

October 1 | 7:00 pm The Impact of Screens & Social Media

October 2 | 9:00 - 11:00 am Toddler Time

October 6 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm Join or Die Movie

October 11 | 4:00 - 6:00 pm TGIF (for elementary aged kids)

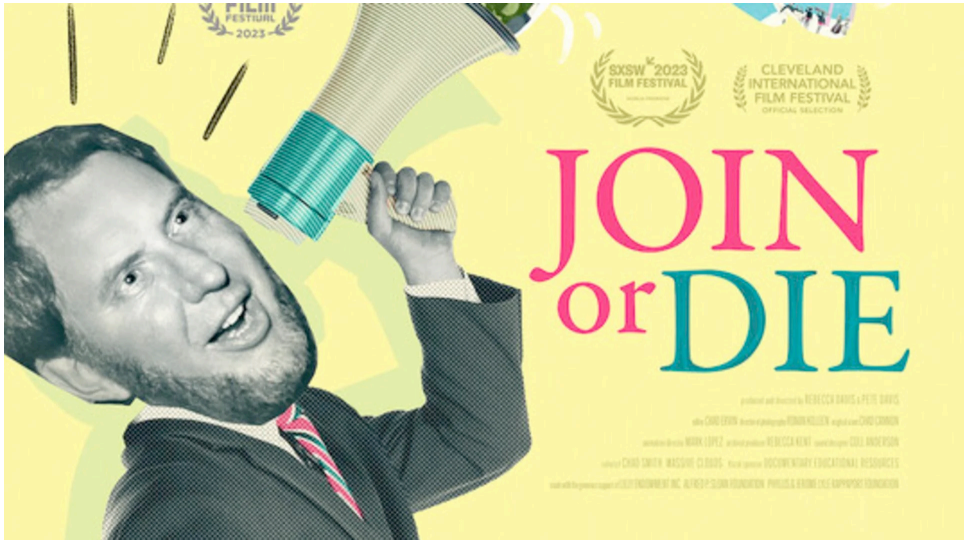
October 16 | 12:00 pm Let's Do Lunch

October 20 | 4:00 - 6:00 pm Fall Festival



### THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

Download FPCNV's new app! You can access a member directory, manage your donations, sign up to volunteer, and view upcoming events on the church calendar.



## A +More Perfect Union Event

Supported by our Faith and Society Team

At Bernardsville Cinema

October 6, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Free of Charge, register online



FPCNV PRESENTS



**OCTOBER 1, 7:00 PM**  
AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF NEW VERNON  
4 LEES HILL RD  
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM  
**RSVP AT [PCNV.ORG](http://PCNV.ORG)**

## THE IMPACT OF SCREENS & SOCIAL MEDIA

WHAT ALL PARENTS  
MUST KNOW (AND DO)

A MUST-SEE:  
PRESENTED  
100+ TIMES  
AT N.J.  
SCHOOLS



PRESENTED BY:  
LAUREN MURIELLO, LPC

*Founder of Well Being Therapy Center  
Licensed Psychotherapist  
Mother of Two: Gen Z & Gen Alpha*



Join FPCNV for our

# FALL FESTIVAL

PUMPKIN CARVING • PETTING ZOO  
FACE-PAINTING • WOOD-FIRED PIZZA



Sunday October 20th, 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
At the Conine-Carifa Home

# OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM THIS SUNDAY

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## **Acolyte**

Cash Blanco

## **Liturgist**

Matt Taranto

## **Ushers**

The Vince Family

## **Coffee Hour**

## **Flowers**

Barbara Gill

*In memory of Ed. Jr.*



# 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

Michele Smith, 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 Finlyason

Barbara Gill

Craig Grant

Susie Morris

Meg Richardson

Randy Stodard

Twinkle Tong