



Sunday, August 15, 2021 ~ Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (Miller Commons)

Way of the Week

11. MAKE OTHERS AT HOME HERE. Warmly welcome newcomers and visitors. Offer your name with a smile. Reach out and greet the person you don't know after worship, during Coffee Hour, in Youth Group or Sunday school. Show a genuine interest in others.

*"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
(Romans 15:7)*

Ideas for Action: Look for someone you don't know very well. Invite that person for coffee, a walk, or a meal and get to know them. Keep your eyes peeled for the guest or visitor at our church and offer your name and a smile of welcome. Pave the way for new friendships wherever you are.

Welcome and Work of God's People

Jenny Legath

Songs of Praise

Worship Team

Forever

Way Maker

Michael W. Smith

Prayer of Confession

Jenny Legath

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to You the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.

Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Jenny Legath

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting; and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Offertory

Peter Jonescu

Your giving dramatically impacts the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Your tithes and offerings allow us to fully support church operations and our work in the world. Our ministry continues every day. Those attending in person may leave an offering in the box by the doors. Electronic giving is here to stay! Sign up for this simple, secure [automatic withdrawal](#). Online gifts may also be made from the Church Center app on your smart phone.

Praise Song

Worship Team

Yahweh

Sermon

Peter Jonescu

In the Beginning, God Gathered

Scripture Text: [Genesis 1:1-10 \(NLT\)](#)

Sermon Series: Scatter...Gather

Closing Song

Worship Team

I Will Follow

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Peter Jonescu

Benediction and Going Forth

Peter Jonescu

11:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Audio Technician:	Taylor Adair
Visuals:	Alice Conley
Worship Team:	Martin Bass-Guitar; Christine Bass-Keys; Rebecca Neindorff-Piano; Don Stevens-Bass; Barry Overton-Drums
Vocals:	Sarah Bromke and Michelle Davis
Flower Arrangers:	Martha Derry and Karen Arsenault
Usher:	Greg Connlain
Trustee Greeter:	TBD

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Kim's first wife, Lois by Jane Murphy.

[Discipleship Study](#) - **Sundays 9:45 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall: Join Rev. Paul Ascitutto for a study of discipleship. Participants use the companion Workbook for the Discipleship Gospel. The study concludes on Aug. 15. *The study is offered both in-person and virtually via Zoom.*

Seven Essential Elements of the Gospel:

1. God's Kingdom is here.
2. Jesus is the Christ.
3. Jesus died for our sins.
4. Jesus was resurrected.
5. We repent of sin.
6. We believe the Gospel.
7. We follow Jesus.

The Definition of the Gospel: "The gospel is this: the Kingdom of God has come through Jesus of Nazareth. He is Christ, the King, God's one and only Son. He died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and was resurrected on the third day according to the Scriptures. In His great love and by His amazing grace, God, our Father saves everyone who repents of their sins, believes the gospel, and follows Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. When King Jesus returns on the last day, everyone who followed Him will enter the eternal kingdom of God."

Check-ins: Check-in has shifted to a self-check in only on your smart phone (no QR code to swipe). Volunteers remain available to assist. Please remember to check in from home when watching the live stream.

Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, August 29, 2021 for the purpose of voting on the call of Rev. Wes Allen as our Associate Pastor. Since it is a fifth Sunday, we'll gather in our Sanctuary for one Service at 9:30 a.m. when Wes will preach. The Meeting begins at the close of worship. The Worship Service and the Meeting will be live streamed. We'll provide a Zoom link with an option to vote for church members who'd prefer to stay at home.

In addition to considering the terms of call, we'll also act on a request from Session to amend our By-Laws to allow virtual meetings. Since the start of the pandemic, we've held four such meetings, including our Annual Meeting in February of this year. After we've worshipped and voted, we're planning a reception for the Allens outside. Do plan to join us for this momentous morning!

Away from Church: Pastor Spencer and his family are in Avalon from August 11-24. In his absence, Dr. Dick Herman will be available for pastoral care. Contact Jan Martin in the church office if you are in need of care. While there, Stuart preaches at the Wells Memorial Presbyterian Church, <http://www.wellspresbyterian.org/>, 126 9th St., Avalon, NJ 08202. The worship service is at 10:00 a.m.

Summer Offering Reminder: Please remember to stay current with your Pledge during the summer months, either through electronic giving or by mailing your check to the office.

P. O. Box Address: Effective June 2021, Post Office regulations stipulate that mail must be addressed to our **P. O. Box 868**. The street address 101 Bridgeboro Road may also appear on the address as this will be required for deliveries, event locations, etc. Please list the P. O. Box address first.

Outdoor Hymnsing: Join your Church Family as we gather safely outdoors to sing God's praises and offer our prayers. On **September 1 at 7:00 p.m.**, we'll meet in the courtyard (between the Commons Lobby and main parking lot). Bring your chair(s). Our Hymnsing includes lots of singing with a reflection on our Way of the Week and a time to share prayer requests. You need not wear a mask.

The Engagement Project – *Coming Sept. 15*: This 10-week study will meet Wednesday evenings at the church. When we draw near to God and contemplate His divine nature, it exposes us as it did Isaiah. It also awakens us to His Truth, which transforms us and calls us to engage the world around us. After we engage, we seek to restore the Truth of God in all areas of life. [Sign up online on our Events page.](#)

Deacons' Toiletry Drive: Visit our [online event page](#) for information about the Toiletries Drive to support the Moorestown Ministerium Food Pantry, which continues through September.

Fall Prayer Retreat, October 19–22: Pastor Spencer leads a four-day, three-night retreat at Holy Cross Monastery, an Episcopal community of faith. Join members from FPCM and friends from other churches for a study of the Lord's Prayer and lots of time for rest, reflection and renewal. See our Events page for additional details.