



First Presbyterian Church

600 Rahway Avenue

Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

Established 1675

("The Historic Old White Church")

www.FPCWoodbridgeNJ.org

MAY 24, 2026

DAY OF PENTECOST

10:20 AM

**Please give the gift of silence to one another as we prepare for worship.
When the service has begun, let conversation be confined to the Foyer. In the
Sanctuary, let us follow the Biblical instruction "*Be still, and know that I am God.*"**

Centering Prayer: Lord, to come before Your presence is to be overwhelmed. We are weak; You are strong. We are filled with conflicts and doubts; You are a safe foundation. Do not leave us, Lord. Come to us. Let Your light shine. Love us, and do not let us go. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRELUDE

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MUSIC

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Remember the promises of God:

Acts 2:17

P: He will pour out his Spirit on all flesh.

2 Thess. 3:18

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN #289

On Pentecost They Gathered

289 On Pentecost They Gathered

1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, to wor - ship, sing, and pray.
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,
 What u - ni - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.
 O give us ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

This narrative and interpretive text was written to fill what the author perceived as an unfortunate gap in available hymns concerning the Holy Spirit in general and Pentecost in particular. The setting of a 17th-century German tune is from Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elisabeth*.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

John 7:37–38

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John 20:22–23

*GLORIA PATRI #581

Glory Be to the Father

*THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:1–21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was

spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

L: The word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Ps. 104: 24-34, 35b

L: O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

**P: There is the sea, great and wide;
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.**

L: There go the ships
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

**P: These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;**

L: when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**P: When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.**

L: When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

**P: May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—**

L: who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

**P: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

L: May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord.

**P: Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Praise the Lord!**

SECOND LESSON

1 Cor. 12:3b–13

No one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

L: The word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

*SEQUENCE HYMN #288

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God 288

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

KOREAN

살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
 빛으시고 채우소서
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서

SPANISH

*Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
 Tómame, cámbiame, lléname, úsame.
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.*

Both the words and the music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1-6; a friend helped him set them to music during an evangelistic meeting in Orlando, Florida, where the song was first sung.

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19–23

L: The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John,

P: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

P: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Charles Gillett

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY #606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #853

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen'kwenkhos'

Siyahamba khu-ken-yen kwen-khos,
Siyahamba khu-ken-yen kwen-khos,
Siyahamba khu-ken-yen kwen-khos,
Siyahamba khu-ken-yen kwen-khos.
Siyahamba hamba, Siyahamba hamba,
Siyahamba khu-ken-yen kwen-khos.
Siyahamba hamba, Siyahamba hamba,
Siyahamba khu-ken-yen kwen-khos.

We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God.

We are praying...

We are singing...

This lively Zulu/Xhosa freedom song originated in a Methodist young men's group in South Africa and has gone on to become popular in many other languages around the globe. Some additional stanzas are suggested, but others may be improvised as appropriate to the occasion

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL AMEN

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Jesus lives again, earth can breath again;
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breath again;
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

POSTLUDE

Intermezzi VI, Op. 9

Hermann Schroeder

SIGN UP FOR TEXT UPDATES!

If you would like to receive periodic updates on news and events here at First Presbyterian Church via text, we invite sign up with your smart phone.

*Just text **firstwoodbridge** to (762) 441-7331
or scan this QR Code:*



All text communication is coordinated through Clearstream, LLC. Clearstream does not sell, rent or lease its customer lists to third parties. More information available at clearstream.io/privacy-policy or by calling (917) 818-4557.



The flowers this morning are given to the honor and Glory of God and in celebration of Pentecost.

Today's worship assistant was Matthew Barany, Jr.



The Trinity

What is the Trinity?
Rose Publishing Pamphlet

PW Women's 2026 Spring Retreat

May 30, 2026 - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Hosted at the
First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge
in our Fellowship Hall**

The retreat is hosted by the Presbyterian Women of FPC of Woodbridge. All women are welcome to join us as we explore what the Trinity is and what it means for us," which is a pamphlet by Rose Publishing.

Please bring your Bible with you.

The retreat is \$15 per person, which includes breakfast and lunch.

Please mail the completed form and a \$15 payment to FPC of Woodbridge, 600 Rahway Avenue Woodbridge, NJ 07095 or email to Sharon Hanley at slgh96@comcast.net. Please return by May 10th.

Name _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Home Church _____

Reverend Earl H. Devanny Student Loan Fund
and
The First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund

The Rev. Earl H. Devanny Student Loan Fund was started in 1960 as a memorial to Pastor Devanny who was the pastor of our church from 1933 to 1958. Income for the fund is derived from the contributions of the congregation in the special white envelopes every communion Sunday which are shared with the Committee for Christian Concern, from special donations and from students repaying their loans.

When the fund was first established over 50 years ago it only had a small amount of money to lend out for text books. Since then it has grown and currently provides low cost loans to active Church members who are continuing their post-high school education by attending college or other graduate school. Loans of up to \$1,000 are available each year up to a maximum of \$4,000 for full time students. Loans for part time students are pro-rated. Loan repayment begins four years after the loan is made or once the student's studies are complete, whichever comes first.

Thanks to donations from Church members the Student Loan Committee has been able to establish the First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund for active Church members who are students in an accredited secondary program.

If you would be interested in a loan or scholarship, you can contact Bob Stephan, or you can fill out the slip below and leave it in the Student Loan mail box number 48 outside the church office, or you can send us an email at office@FPCWoodbridgeNJ.org indicating you would like to speak to someone about a loan or scholarship. Someone will contact you and go over the application with you. The deadline for applying is June 1.

I am interested in obtaining a Student Loan or Scholarship

Name:

Address:

Phone:



2026 Graduate Recognition

Help us to recognize those individuals in our congregation who have graduated high school, college, graduate school, specialized schools, etc. on Sunday, June 14th.

Please complete the following form and turn in to the church office, no later than Sunday, June 7th.

Graduate's Name: _____

Name of School: _____

Degree: _____

Future plans? _____

Name/Phone of Person Submitting Name (in case of questions):

Questions, please contact Linda at 732-713-4155

The PW is sponsoring the ***Blanket + Tool Offering*** that will run from Mother's Day through Father's Day. There are envelopes in the pews for your donation. Please complete the form below if you wish to donate in memory of, in honor of, or in appreciation of a loved one. Checks should be made payable to Presbyterian Women. Donations can be placed in the offering plate. An acknowledgement of all donations will be in the bulletin after Labor Day



Blanket + Tool Offering

Given by _____ Env. # _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Appreciation of _____

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH
May 24, 2026 – May 31, 2026

Today:	9:15 AM-10:00 AM	Sunday School
	10:20 AM-11:30 AM	Worship
Monday:		Memorial Day
Tuesday	6:30 PM	Cub Scout Pack 148
	7:30-9:00 PM	Scouts BSA Troops 143
Wednesday:	7:00 PM	Bible Study- Lounge
	7:30 PM	AA - FH
Thursday:	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal- RR
	7:00 -8:30 PM	NA-FH
Saturday:	9:00 AM-4:00 PM	PW Retreat- FH
Next Sunday:	9:15 AM- 10:00 AM	Sunday School
	10:20 AM- 11:30 AM	Worship

Thoughts and Prayers

Jim Dewitz, Diane Mohr, Linda Thorstensen, Sharon and Lisa Rosato, Greg and Ashlie Hanley, The Hartnett Family, Michael Gilligan, Walter, Faith, Cheryl Vroom, Cheryl and Tom Abbatiello, Walter Loder, Stephanie Weber, Frank McCormack, Theresa Loder, Jo Ann Gursaly, Leela, Zeena, Andrew Fedor, Nancy Teal, Jill Eger, Diane Malone, Bob Glinecki, The Bradford and Edinger families, Audrey Superior, Richelle, and Tom Walsh

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Charles Gillett – Pastor 480-686-4500
Karl Hedrick – Director of Music 732-634-1024 (Office)
Tammy DaRocha – Church Secretary 732-634-1024 (Office)
Linda Thorstenson – Church School Supt. 732-713-4155 (Cell)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flower calendar for 2026 is hanging outside the church office.

The sanctuary flowers will be provided by Floral Expression. For those dedicating flowers, please indicate the reason for the dedication, the person being honored/remembered and whether you will be bringing the flowers or having the office order them for you. Please remit \$40 directly to the church prior to dedication date as the church is billed directly. Checks should be made payable to FPC Woodbridge. You may place payment in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or put it in mailbox 1. Please write "flowers" on the memo line. Thank you.