



# First Presbyterian Church

600 Rahway Avenue

Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

Established 1675

*("The Historic Old White Church")*

[www.FPCWoodbridgeNJ.org](http://www.FPCWoodbridgeNJ.org)



APRIL 26, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER

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: Powerful God, because You made the world, and intended it to be a good place, and called its people Your children; because, when things seemed at their worst, You came in Christ to bring out the best in us; so gracious God, we gladly say: Goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness. Truth is stronger than lies. Amen.*

PRELUDE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MUSIC

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

*Ps. 23:1, 6*

**P: I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

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

*2 Thess. 3:18*

**P: And also with you.**



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter, his the  
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, here on earth our food, our  
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o - tent we



throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to -  
now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be - lies nor  
stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to you from  
own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your foot - stool,



ry a - lone! Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on  
ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him,  
day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,  
heaven your throne. As with - in the veil you en - tered,



Continued on next page

thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of  
 when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for -  
 earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the songs of  
 robed in flesh, our great high priest; here on earth both

ev - ery na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
 all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

*1 Pet. 2:24*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Lord, no day of our lives passes that does not prove us guilty in your sight. Our best services are filthy rags. All things in us call for our rejection. However, all things in Christ plead our acceptance. Grant us to hear your voice assuring us that by your wounds we are healed, that you were bruised for our iniquities, that you became sin for us that we might become righteous in you. Grant that by resting in your righteousness we may hereafter walk in newness of life and run hard after your commandments. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*2 Cor. 5:21*

\*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.**

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Matthew Barany

COLLECT OF THE DAY

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:42–47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: The word of the Lord.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE

*Ps. 23*

L: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

**P: he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.**

L: He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

**P: Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil,**

L: for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

**P: You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;**

L: you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

**P: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,**

**(Unison) and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.**

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:19–25

For it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L: The word of the Lord.

**P: Thanks be to God.**



1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.  
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.  
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



\*GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:1-10

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

**P: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

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



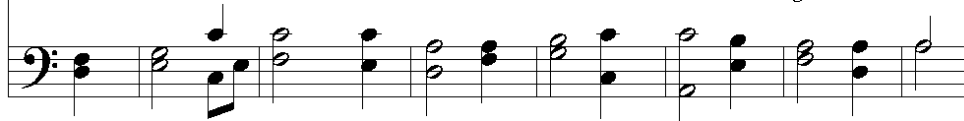
1 My shep-herd will sup-ply my need; Je-ho-vah is his name.  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;  
 3 The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me all my days;



In pas-tures fresh he makes me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.  
 one word of your sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.  
 O may your house be my a-bode, and all my work be praise.



He brings my wan-dering spir-it back when I for-sake his ways,  
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta-ble spread;  
 There would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;



and leads me, for his mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
 my cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows; your oil a-noints my head.  
 no more a strang-er, or a guest, but like a child at home.



\*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

Improvisation of Westminster Abbey

This is ***Least Coin Sunday***.

Our pennies combine with pennies around the world to heal hurts and encourage dialog  
for peace. The World Bank is in the Narthex.

*Peace in the World    Peace in the Home    Peace in the Heart*



# 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](mailto:slgh96@comcast.net). Please return by May 10th.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_





## ***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 14<sup>th</sup>.*

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

*Graduate's Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Name of School:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Degree:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Future plans?* \_\_\_\_\_

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

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*Questions, please contact Linda at 732-713-4155*



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](mailto: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:

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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  
April 26, 2026 – May 3, 2026

Today:	9:15 AM-10:00 AM	Sunday School
	10:20 AM -11:30 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Deacons' Meeting- Lounge
	6:00 PM- 8:00 PM	Youth Group- FH
Monday:	7:00 PM	HAWT- FH
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:	10:00 AM- 1:00 PM	Children's Clothes Closet- FH
Next Sunday:	9:15 AM- 10:00 AM	Sunday School
	10:20 AM- 11:30 AM	Worship and Communion

**Thoughts and Prayers**

Jim Dewitz, Diane Mohr, Linda Thorstensen, Sharon and Lisa Rosato, Greg and Ashlie Hanley, Lilly Villanueva, Betsy Christianson, The Hartnett Family, Michael Gilligan, Walter, Faith, Cheryl Vroom, Cheryl and Tom Abbatiello, Walter Loder, Stephanie Weber, Frank McCormack, Jo Ann Gursaly, Leela, Zeena, and Sophie C.

**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.