

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON



MORNING WORSHIP – MAY 18, 2025

“So if God gave them the same gift he gave us
who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ,
who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”

Acts 11:17

WELCOME TO FPCNV

This morning we are hearing a passage from Acts that give us a peek at conflict in the early church. Their big problem was Gentiles—people who were not Jewish—wanting to join. Some people said these Gentiles had to convert to Judaism before they could join. Others said they were fine just as they were.

While it might seem trivial to us, back then this was a big debate, and it led to shouting, fights and several strongly worded letters from the Apostle Paul (now a part of our Bible).

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Think of the last time you joined a group or club.

What was the process like?

In what ways is the church like other clubs and groups?

In what ways is it different?

Peter and the early church eventually decided to welcome people from any background without requiring them to become Jewish first. How might things have been different today if they hadn't?

I refuse to join any club
that would have me as a member.— **Groucho Marx**

EASTER V

GATHERING

Prelude *Tell All the World About Love*
 arr. by Fred Bock
 A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief
 arr. by Jon Schmidt
 Shall We Gather At the River
 arr. by Mark Hayes

Welcome

Introit *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

Call to Worship*

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise God on high!

All: Praise God, sun and moon.
 Praise God, all you shining stars!

Leader: Praise God from the earth,
 you sea monsters and ocean depths!

All: Mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars,
 praise the Lord!

Leader: Kings and all peoples of the earth,
 princes and all rulers of the earth,
 praise the Lord!

All: Old and young together;
 all people praise the Lord!

Leader: Let us worship God!

Hymn #301* *Let Us Build a House*

* Indicates please stand in body or spirit

Call to Confession

Because we are loved,
we are called to turn to God in humility.
We fall short of who God calls us to be,
but we are never forsaken.
In faith and with confidence as beloved children,
let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
you command us to love one another,
yet we hold grudges
and refuse to work for peace.
You command us to care for all of creation,
yet we neglect the earth
and abuse nature through carelessness.
You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus,
yet we too often walk our own way.
Forgive us, O God.
Guide us as we work toward
a new heaven here on earth.
Lead us to reconciliation
and a vision for your beloved community,
as we share your love
with your people everywhere.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Believe the good news:
Jesus loves us and forgives us and sets us free.
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. Amen.

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

Gracious God, Living Word,
as you revealed yourself to Mary
that Easter morning,
so reveal yourself to us.
By the power of your Spirit,
give each of us faith,
that hearing your Word

we, too, may proclaim,
“I have seen the Lord!” Amen.

The First Scripture Lesson — Psalm 148

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Second Scripture Lesson — Acts 11:1-18

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn #505* *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

Sermon

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offering and Offertory *Footsteps* - by Craig Courtney

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 (The Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

SENDING

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #317* *In Christ There Is No East or West*

Benediction*

Congregational Amen — John L. Bell

Postlude *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* - Traditional
folk song/arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram

LAST WEEK

ATTENDANCE: 110

	Last Week	Year to Date	Commitments for 2025
Annual Giving	\$1,710	\$247,097	\$425,474
Plate Offering	\$624	\$8,201	\$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.

Upcoming Events

May 21 – 12:00 pm **Let's Do Lunch**

May 28 – 10:00 am **Private Tour at Cross Estate
And Lunch at Grain House**

Private Tour at Cross Estate Gardens followed by Lunch at The Grain House

**Wednesday, May 28
10am - 1:00pm**

Join FPCNV for as we explore a small, hidden garden in our own backyard. Afterwards we'll head to The Grain House for lunch.

Space is limited.

Email hayley@pcnv.org to register.

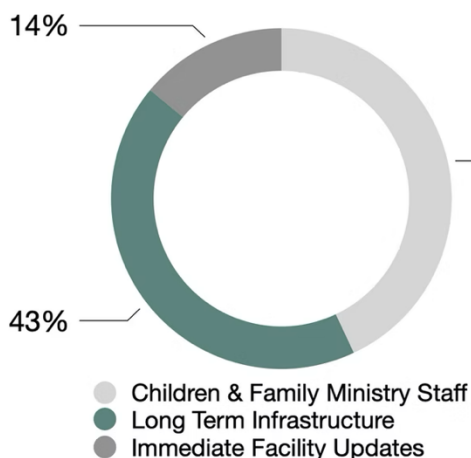




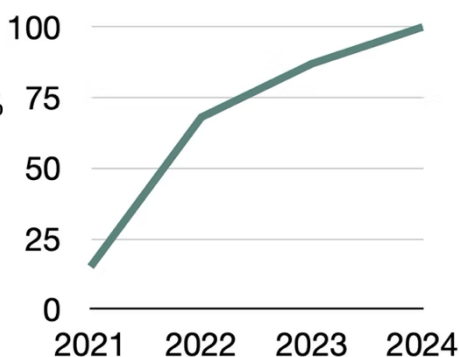
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

FPCNV 2025 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

What does my gift support?



— Children at FPCNV



Specific needs we hope to meet in the next year:

- Finishing the sanctuary basement to provide additional storage space
- Refreshing our spaces with new paint and door hardware
- Clear signage to make our spaces visitor friendly
- New tables and chairs for children in classrooms and large hall
- Reimagining seating in main hall (tables and chairs)
- Updating the library to become a multipurpose meeting space
- Updating screens and virtual meeting technology in meeting spaces
- Updating the nursery with improvements in safety and seating
- Implementing energy saving measures
- Updating trash cans / recycling bins
- Updating the kitchen

OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM THIS SUNDAY

Acolyte

Ushers

Bret Fischer

Liturgist

Susan Fischer

Coffee Hour

Courtney & Dan Vince

FLOWERS

Given by the Weeks Family

In memory of Susie Carman Loyet

DEACONS ON DUTY

Coffee Hour

Barbara Coe, Melissa Ramsey,

Randy Stodard, Twinkle Tong

Flower Delivery

Susie Morris, Elizabeth Califano, Christine Taranto



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, Office Administrator

Diego (Tony) Rodriguez, Church Custodian

CHURCH LEADERS

Session

Donna Miller, Clerk

Sarah Conine

Susan Fischer

Sam LaNasa

Robert Lecky

Hunter Lostan

Don Richardson

Kreamer Rooke

Matt Taranto

Ben Thompson

Michelle Vince

Candace Weeks

Deacons

Meg Richardson,

Moderator

Nancy Burrows

Elizabeth Califano

Barbara Coe

Carol Conger

Craig Grant

Susie Morris

Melissa Ramsey

Meg Richardson

Randy Stodard

Christine Taranto

Twinkle Tong