

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON



MORNING WORSHIP — SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

“As G. K. Chesterton once wrote, Your religion is not the church you belong to, but the cosmos you live inside of. Once we know that the entire physical world around us, all of creation, is both the hiding place and the revelation place for God, this world becomes home, safe, enchanted, offering grace to any who look deeply. I call that kind of deep and calm seeing ‘contemplation.’” —Richard Rohr

WELCOME TO FPCNV

We are so glad to have you worshiping with us. We are a historic congregation of the PC(USA), and have been serving this community since 1833. Our mission statement—**Inspiring our community to grow in faith and service**—informs all that we do.

Our core values are:

Mission and outreach

Worship that is inspiring

Intergenerational relationships

Spiritual growth

If you are new, or visiting, we invite you to fill out one of the **connect cards** located in the pews and place it in the offering plate. You can learn more about FPCNV and upcoming events on our website pcnv.org. You can also subscribe to our weekly eNews emails (on our website or by checking the box on your connect card).

We have ZOOM welcome sessions for those interested in joining the church on the third Thursday of each month at 8:00pm. To sign up for the next one, or arrange a private conversation about membership at a more convenient time, contact Rev. Stone at william.stone@pcnv.org.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to FPCNV we accept both cash and checks. You can also donate with a credit card, or via Venmo using the QR codes below.

Discover how you can plug into our congregation by taking a short survey at bit.ly/FPCNV (all caps)



Credit Card / ACH

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GATHERING

Prelude

“Hymn of Nature” arr. by Jon Schmidt

Welcome

Introit

“When Morning Guilds the Skies”

Call to Worship*

Leader: Gathered together--
the familiar and the unknown,
residents and visitors,
for the first time, or the umpteenth time.

All: Come, Holy Spirit

Leader: Gathered together--
not knowing what we have in common,
not sure, perhaps, why we are here,
unable to read God's mind

All: come, Holy Spirit

Leader: To open doors, dispel fears,
establish friendships,
reveal what is in us,
and bring us closer to Christ,

All: come, Holy Spirit
Meet us here.

*INDICATES PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

Opening Hymn Bless the Lord O My Soul

Call to Confession

Leader: As bearers of God's image
 we come to be reshaped;

All: Dependent on God's mercy
 we ask to be made new.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: For the right roads we avoided traveling,
 and the kindly words we refused to share;
 for the false gods who received our worship
 and the true selves we have starved of love...

All: God by your grace, forgive us.

Leader: For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly,
 and the promises which we never kept;
 for the careless use of our time and money
 and the lame excuses we should
 never have made,

All: God by your grace, forgive us.

Leader: For all we should be and all we can amend,

All: God in your love, renew us.

For all you have in store for us
and all you may demand of us,

All: God in your love, prepare us.

Leader: For the life of the world
 and the love of its people,

All: God in your love, commit us.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear and believe these words of Jesus:

Your sins are forgiven.

Go in peace.

Come and follow me.

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

Leader: Let us share with one another
a sign of God's peace.

HEARING THE WORD

Chat with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Faithful God, how blessed are those
who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit
so that we may glorify you
in the company of the faithful;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The First Scripture Lesson — *Psalm 29*

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Second Scripture Lesson — *Genesis 1:20-25*

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn 23* God You Spin the Whirling Planets

Sermon

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offertory “All Good Gifts” from Godspell

Stephen Schwartz/arr. by S. Fox

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 (read in unison)

We believe that God is present in the
darkness before dawn; in the waiting
and uncertainty where fear and courage
join hands, conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God who sits
down in our midst to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond
the safe place: into action, into vulnerability,
and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit for
God's new community of hope. Amen.

(from the Iona Community)

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

SENDING

Closing Hymn 526*

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Benediction*

Congregational Amen* — John L. Bell

Postlude “Joyful Day” by Mark Hayes

OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM THIS SUNDAY

Acolyte

Olivia LaNasa

Liturgist

Sam LaNasa

Ushers

Matt and Brenda Myers

Coffee Hour

Nancy Burrows and Carol Conger

Flowers

Edna Conway

In honor of the young children of our church

Nursery Volunteer

Sunday School Teachers

DEACONS ON DUTY

Coffee Hour

Ellie Burd and Nancy Burrows

Flower Delivery

Carol Conger and Susie Morris

LAST WEEK

ATTENDANCE: 110

	Last Week	Year to Date	Commitments for 2023
2023 Pledges	\$2,400	\$256,017	\$342,000
Plate	\$438	\$19,100	\$28,000

Starts
Sep. 13

NEW!
drop-in
playgroup



Toddler Time

Every Wednesday
9:00 - 11:00AM

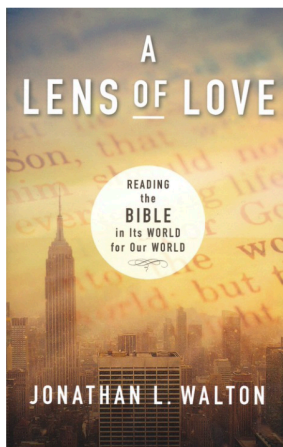
4 Lee's Hill Rd, Fellowship Hall

Are you at home with little ones?

*Are you looking for a place to connect
with other parents and caregivers?*

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon is excited to host
Toddler Time: a play group for children under 5.
Toddler Time is free and no church connection is required.
Email hayley@pcnv.org for more information.

Book Group with Rev. Stone

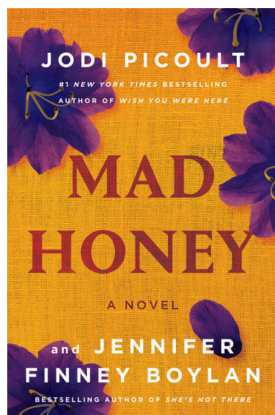


Wednesdays at 10:00 am beginning Sept. 13th

You are invited to join Rev. Stone reading *A Lens of Love: Reading the Bible in its World for Our World*. This book was written by Jonathan Walton, the new president of Princeton Seminary while he was serving as a professor and minister at the Memorial Church of Harvard University.

Our hope is for this to provide us with insight and inspiration for a fresh look at familiar passages. You can order the book on [Amazon](#), or from your favorite local bookstore.

Faith and Society Book Group



The Faith and Society Team will host a discussion of the book *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan on September 22 at 7:00 pm.

Picoult is known for compelling fiction that explores the moral aspects of complicated social issues, a feat she and Boylan also accomplish in *Mad Honey*. Their novel reflects movingly, on gender, relationships and abuse, telling the overlapping stories of two women who escaped abuse by moving to a small New Hampshire town.

As such, Picoult herself indicates that *Mad Honey* is about “authenticity, identity, and the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become our true selves.”

The book discussion will be hosted by Candace Weeks at her home, beginning at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Depending on the number interested in attending, we will offer a second opportunity later in the fall. The book is available at local bookstores, Amazon and area town libraries. Please [RSVP to Candace](#).



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

Adam Green, Virtual Office Assistant

Diego (Tony) Rodriguez, Church Custodian

CHURCH LEADERS

Session

Donna Miller, Clerk

Sarah Conine

Martha Coy

Susan Fischer

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