

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON



MORNING WORSHIP – APRIL 27, 2025

“Let everything that breathes praise the Lord”

Psalm 150:6

WELCOME TO FPCNV

Today is the second Sunday of Easter. Today we hear about how Jesus' disciples reacted to Easter—from their doubts about what really happened—to their confident preaching of the Good News.

Miracles are a hard thing to wrap your head around because—by definition—they don't make sense, and aren't "supposed" to happen. But what we notice again and again in the Bible is that the God we worship is always showing up in unexpected places and doing unexpected things--to help people find life in all of its fullness.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What makes something a miracle to you?

Do you think it is possible to believe in miracles and to believe in science?

Do you think it is (or ever will be) possible to know everything about our universe?

What do you think the Bible says about who is in control?

"Science without religion is lame,
religion without science is blind."

"God is a mystery. But a comprehensible mystery. I have nothing but awe when I observe the laws of nature."

--Albert Einstein

GATHERING

Prelude *The Lord Is My Shepherd*
Thomas Koschat/arr. by Marvin Goldstone
Testimony (I Know That My Redeemer Lives)
arr. by T. Charmain Evans

Welcome

Introit *Open My Eyes That I May See* – Clara Scott

Call to Worship*

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

All: Praise God in God's sanctuary!

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

**All: Praise God for God's mighty deeds!
Praise God according to
God's surpassing greatness!**

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

**All: Let everything that breathes
praise the Lord!
Hallelujah!**

Leader: Let us worship God!

Hymn #245* *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

Call to Confession

Before we call, God answers us.

While we are still speaking, God hears us.

Let us confess our sin to God,
who even now is waiting to say,
“I forgive you.”

* Indicates please stand in body or spirit

Prayer of Confession

O God, your love is boundless
and your grace exceeds our imaginations.
You keep finding ways to be among us,
even when the doors of our hearts are locked.
Graciously, you seek us out.
We cannot hide,
but we can confess that sin has us in its grip.
It has led us from your ways
and corrupted our best intentions,
tempting us to believe that you don't notice,
that you aren't even present.
Correct our vision.
Cleanser our hearts.
Create in us a place where we can welcome you
and receive the fullness
of what you have given us in Jesus Christ.

Assurance of Forgiveness

God calls to us from wherever we are.
God's love shines like a beacon.

God's voice echoes in our souls,
"You are forgiven!"

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

O Lord of light and salvation,
let these words of Scripture
live not only in our mouths,
but in our hearts,
that we will embody your truth
and confess with our lives
that Jesus is Lord. Amen.

The First Scripture Lesson — John 20:19-31

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Second Scripture Lesson — Acts 5:17-42

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn #817* *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

Sermon

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offering and Offertory *How Can I Keep From Singing* - Joyce Eilers

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 (from A Declaration of Faith -1977)

In forming his people and sending them into the world Jesus called individuals to be disciples. They were to share the joy of his companionship, to understand and obey his teachings, and to follow him in life and death.

We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship. Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God's undeserved gift to each of us. It is also God's demand upon every one of us, never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.

Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life. Amen.

SENDING

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #543* *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

Benediction*

Congregational Amen — John L. Bell

Postlude *My Savior's Love*

Charles H. Gabriel/arr. by Melody Bober

LAST WEEK

ATTENDANCE: 308

	Last Week	Year to Date	Commitments for 2025
Annual Giving	\$42,662	\$240,146	\$425,474
Plate Offering	\$1,461	\$6,580	\$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 7 | 3:00 pm **Mansion in May Afternoon Tea**

May 12 | 9:00 am **Mansion in May Private Tour & Lunch**

May 9 | 5:00 pm **Capital Campaign Reception**



Let Your Light Shine
2025 Capital Campaign
Learn more about how our church
is growing and how you can
support FPCNV's ministry today!

MANSION IN MAY:

Two opportunities to attend



May 12, 9:00 am

Private tour and lunch in the tent
\$130/person

May 7, 3:00 pm

Self guided tour and tea in the tent
\$150/person

Email hayley@pcnv.org to register

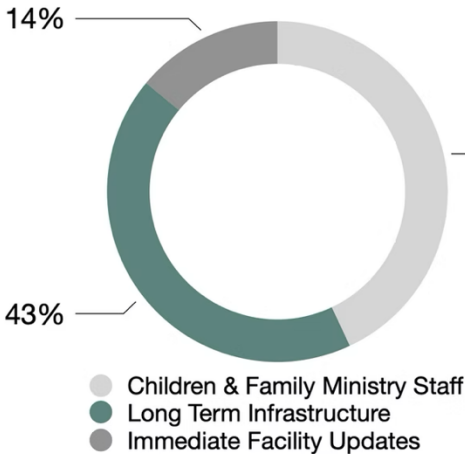
 WILDFAIR



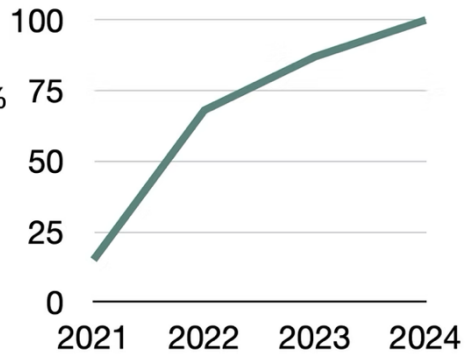
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

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

Zoe Stoddard

Ushers

Mia Mallen & Susan Yantis

Liturgist

Ewan Stone

Coffee Hour

The Finlayson Family

FLOWERS

Jane Coyle

In memory of my parents, Elaine & John Coyle

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