



# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

Sunday, September 8, 2024  
Welcome Back Sunday  
10:00 A.M.

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**Prelude**

Shenandoah

arr. James Erb

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Jesus invites us to make our home in him as he makes his home in us.

People: *For he is the solid rock, in whom we place our hope and find our strength.*

Leader: Together, we give thanks for the assurance of our faith.

People: *And the sure and certain knowledge that in Christ, we are never alone.*

Leader: We are freed to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, and minds,

People: *And to love our neighbors as ourselves.*

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

People: *...and also with you.*

**\*Processional Hymn 301**      Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Confession**

\*Indicates that the congregation will please rise, in body or in spirit.

**Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

Beth Merrill Neal

*Holy and gracious God, at times we feel so frail and fragile, getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own short tempers and failings. You call us to hold fast to what is good, but too often we flounder, unable to find that solid thing that will center us again. Help us, we pray. Help us to see you as our center, and to cling to the good that you create in the world. Help us to set aside all our jealousies and prejudices, all of our betrayals and lies, all that adds to the world's hurt. Help us to grow even more into Christ's likeness, that we will bear his love and truth to the world. We pray in his name, Amen.*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Hymn 581**

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)

*Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.*

**Message For All God's Children**

Yvonne Anderson  
Director of Family Ministries

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Lesson from the Hebrew Bible:** Jeremiah 29: 11-14

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**Anthem**

Creation of Peace  
Chancel Choir

Mark Miller

**Lesson from the Gospels:** Matthew: 7:24-27

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**Sermon** "Count Me In!"

The Reverend Thomas A. Brown

**\*Hymn 686**

God of Our Life

SANDON

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (in unison)

Rev. Margaret Weis

*The church is not a place; it is a people.*

*The church is not only a steeple above the treeline, streets, and cars. Rather, it is a people proclaiming to the world that we are here for the work of healing and of justice.*

*The church is not walls built stone upon stone, held together by mortar but rather person, linked with person, linked with person: all ages and genders and abilities – a community built on the foundation of reason, faith, and love.*

*The church is not just a set of doors open on Sunday morning, but the commitment day after day, and moment after moment, of our hearts creaking open the doors of welcome to the possibility of new experience and radical welcome.*

*The church is not simply a building, a steeple, a pew. The church is the gathering together of all the people, and experiences, and fear, and love, and hope in our resilient hearts; gathering, however we can, to say to the world: welcome, come in, lay down your heartache, and pick up hope and love.*

*For the church is us—each and every one of us—together, a beacon of hope to this world that so sorely needs it.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

### **The 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.*

### **Call to Offering**

**Offertory**            My Shepherd Will Supply My Need            arr. Matthew Zabiegala

### **\*Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **\*Hymn 353**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

### **\*Benediction**

### **\*Choral Benediction**

### **Postlude**

Marche en rondeau from Te Deum

Marc Antoine Charpentier

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Today's worship leaders are Pastor Thomas A. Brown  
and Elder Steve Tompson.

Thank you to all of our ushers this morning.

Special thanks to Lisa Duke, Craig Duke, and Lynn Apolinaro  
for their technical assistance today.

**THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: September 9 - 14, 2024**

**Monday**

11:30 am A New Day, Halldorson Hall

7:00 pm Session, Halldorson Hall

Deacons, Theos

Boy Scouts, Mulford Hall

7:45 pm Joint Session/Deacons,

Halldorson Hall

**Tuesday**

10:00 am Presbytery Meeting

**Wednesday**

10:00 am Staff Meeting, Halldorson Hall

6:00 pm Dinner Church, Mulford Hall

**Thursday**

6:45 pm Sanctuary Ringers, Bell Room

8:00 pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room

**Friday**

5:00 pm Cub Scouts, Mulford Hall

**NEXT SUNDAY, September 15, 2024**

9:00 am Orientation with Confirmands, Halldorson Hall

10:00 am **Worship**, Sanctuary; Nursery, Room A-9

**Commissioning of Confirmands**

10:15 am Church School & Breakfast Club

11:00 am **Parent & Children Meet & Greet, Lower Lobby**

Coffee & Fellowship, Mulford Hall

11:15 am Pastor in the Pews Planning Mtg., Staff Conf. Rm.

7:00 pm Compassionate Friends, Halldorson Hall

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**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP**

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# 301

## Let Us Build a House

### All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)  
 C7 F C F B<sup>b</sup> C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can  
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)  
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell  
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek  
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground  
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,  
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)  
 Gm C7 B<sup>b</sup> F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)  
 Gm C F B<sup>b</sup>




vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we  
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us  
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

THE CHURCH

*Refrain*

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)  
 F B<sup>b</sup> A7 Dm Gm Dm



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;  
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)  
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

## God of Our Life

686

1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in thee.  
 2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us a - bide.  
 3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known we fol-low thee.

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.  
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land. Be thou our guide.  
 When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone. Our ref - uge be.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,  
 With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,  
 Be thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,

we own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.  
 and faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.  
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

This text was created for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by its pastor. He wrote these words especially for this tune, originally composed for John Henry Newman's text "Lead, Kindly Light."

TEXT: Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916, alt.

MUSIC: Charles Henry Purday, 1860; harm. John Weaver, 1986

Text © 1928 F. M. Braselman, ren. 1956 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education  
 (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

Music Harm. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

SANDON

10.4.10.4.10.10

## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 353

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and  
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -  
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the  
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

righ - teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but  
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my  
 whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he  
 him be found, dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

*Refrain*

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all  
 then is all my hope and stay. less to stand be - fore the throne.

oth - er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

This hymn develops the imagery of Jesus' remark (Matthew 7:24-27/Luke 6:47-49) that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 8, 2024

We are delighted you've chosen to worship with us today. Please let an usher or the minister know if we can assist you in any way. Our Sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop system for those with hearing difficulties.

### TODAY AT CHURCH

#### Welcome Back Sunday

10:00 am Worship, Sanctuary; Nursery Care A-9

11:00 am Welcome Back Picnic



### CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of all those who died 23 years ago on 9-11 and in honor of all those whose lives were changed forever on that day, by Joslin and Jack Ruffle.

### COUNT ME IN!



A new chapter is waiting to be written this fall and there are more reasons than ever to get engaged in the many ways we are changing lives and supporting one other along life's journey. As seasons change in your own life, with a recent retirement or an empty nest, the conclusion of other volunteer commitments, or simply from a renewed interest, please consider making a renewed investment of your time and energy in this beloved congregation. With a broad range of volunteer spots needing to be filled, we can find something to do for just about anyone. Scan the QR Code to find the Count Me In! Interest Form online – it takes just a couple of minutes to complete.



### WELCOME BACK SUNDAY AND CHURCH PICNIC: Today!

Today is our annual kickoff to the program year. Join us after a special worship service for a picnic on the front lawn. Reconnect with church family and friends over a lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs, and experience the joy of children enjoying games, face painting, and a bouncy house. There's so much to look forward to! *If you're not wearing your name tag, please grab it as you head out to the picnic!*

### **DINNER CHURCH BEGINS NEXT WEEK**

**Wednesday, September 11, 6:00 - 7:15 pm, in Mulford Hall**

Join us for an informal, all-ages worship service to be held on occasional Wednesday evenings. Come as you are for a casual dinner and time to center your week around the sustaining presence of God. This month's theme, "Cast your Cares upon the Lord" acknowledges the anxieties each of us carries, with a special focus on those starting back to school and facing new challenges. Through prayer, music, and a brief message, we'll together seek to relieve some of the burdens we are carrying through the week. There is nothing you need to bring. Expect to be fed in body, mind, and spirit and to be on your way home no later than 7:15 pm. Please sign up on the board in the Upper Lobby or online.

### **CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS: September 15 at 10 AM**

Join us during our regular worship to celebrate the start of the Church School year with the commissioning of Confirmands. Afterwards, please stay for our Parent and Children Meet & Greet in the Lower Lobby with coffee and donuts. Hope to see you there! *For more information about Church School and Confirmation as well details about Sunday worship, please go to our website at [pcct-nj.org](http://pcct-nj.org) You can also register your child online for church school this fall by filling out the form on Breeze via our website.*

### **A NEW DAY Widows' Group: Monday, September 9, 11:30 am in Halldorson Hall**

Please join us on September 9 for fellowship and discussion as we make plans for the Fall Season. Watch for news of a new group venture for mature women of various life experiences. We meet on the first Monday of each Month (except when preempted by a Holiday) Please bring your lunch—Beverages and Dessert will be provided. For further information please contact Coordinator: Ann Meyers ([jmandah@aol.com](mailto:jmandah@aol.com))

### **THE NEXT ACT: Monday, September 16, 9:30 am in Theos**

Please join us as we navigate the next phase of our lives through prayer, fellowship, discussion, and healthy doses of laughter. This group also occasionally does church-sponsored mission projects. Coordinators: Deb Ahsler and Lisa Boles. Contact the church office for additional information.

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Monday, September 16, 7:00 pm in Griswold Parlor**

Calling all knitters and crocheters – beginners, experts, and anyone in between are welcome! The prayer shawl ministry will be meeting in Griswold Parlor on Monday, September 16 at 7 pm. Refreshments will be provided, so we can sip, stitch, chat, and learn to knit. Yarn and needles will be provided if you're a beginner or don't have a project in the works. Please contact the church office for details.

**PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday Morning 9:30 am, beginning September 18**

Members and friends interested in an opportunity for regular bible study are invited to an organizational meeting on Wednesday, Sept 18 at 9:30 am in Halldorson Hall. We'll discuss format, topics, and planning for the fall. Led by Pastor Tom, this group will meet regularly on Wednesday mornings.

**FAITH FORWARD: PCCT Financial Update**

**Sunday, September 22, 11:00 am, Halldorson Hall**

As part of its ongoing efforts at transparency and keeping the congregation informed, Session members will share a financial update to the congregation in early September followed by a special Faith Forward presentation on Sunday, Sept 22. Topics will include a report on current year finances, a preview of the 2025 Stewardship Campaign "Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow" and financial goals for 2025, and plans for addressing significant building infrastructure needs over the next 6 to 9 months. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

**CHATHAM COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT CUMC**

**During the month of September**

PCCT will be collecting food quarterly for the Food Pantry housed at the Chatham United Methodist Church. We will be collecting food throughout September. Please place your donations in our "Food Collection Bin" in the Upper Lobby or bring to church with you on Sunday, September 29. Bags and a list of most wanted items will be available inside the glass entranceway. Future collection dates will be communicated through weekly eblasts and bulletin announcements.

**MARKET STREET MISSION COAT COLLECTION: September 6 – October 23**

PCCT will be collecting gently used coats and homemade or new hats/gloves/scarves to be distributed to those in need in our community and surrounding area. Donations will be accepted at PCCT from Sept. 8 through October 23. The big collection box will be in the upper lobby.

**PUMPKIN PATCH DELIVERY AND SET-UP: Sunday, October 13**

The pumpkins are coming! The pumpkins are coming! And we need all hands on deck! Sunday morning after worship we need help unloading the truck and setting up the tent. The Pumpkin Patch is a major mission fundraiser with 100% of the proceeds going to local hunger relief efforts. Additional details and timing will be shared in e-blasts and other announcements – stay tuned!

### INTERFAITH DIALOGUE TO BEGIN THIS FALL

Do you like talking with people of different faiths? Are you interested in dialogue with your neighbors? PCCT is starting a new interfaith partnership for discussion, learning, and growth with members of Congregation Beth Hatikvah, a Reconstructionist Synagogue with several ties to our church. As a first step, we are looking for anyone who might be interested in joining a small group meeting later in the fall to meet with Pastor Tom and Rabbi Allyson Zacharoff to talk about the project and get to know members of the other community. Please hold the evening of Saturday, Nov 16, as a likely first gathering and email Pastor Tom by Sept 15 if you are interested, regardless of availability for that particular date.

### CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY CONCERT!

**Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm! Help Needed!**

Join us for our "Caring for the Community Concert" on the lawn to be held on September 21st with music provided by Blue Soul, a beloved local band that will play a two-hour concert from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The event is free of charge and we will be grilling hotdogs and offering chips, water, and ice cream. Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets, and your favorite picnic foods, or appetizers and BYO beverages of choice. We want to celebrate our community, and especially lift up a mission partner that cares for the community with us. To this end, all attendees are encouraged to bring a donation item for the Helping Hands of Chatham non-profit charity that stores its donated goods in our church (see below for a list of most needed items). We are grateful to the anonymous donor that made this concert possible, and for all of our volunteers who will be helping that night. Please sign up to be part of the helping team on our sign-up genius link on our website at [pcct-nj.org](http://pcct-nj.org).

### HELPING HANDS OF CHATHAM

Since its inception in March of 2020 Helping Hands, NJ has been and continues to be a community of "neighbors helping neighbors" committed to ending food insecurity and supporting self-sufficiency. *Donations Needed: 1. baby wipes, 2. Shoprite gift cards, 3. toiletries, 4. toothpaste, 5. toilet paper/paper towels*



### SPECIAL OFFERING

In the pews this morning, you will see an envelope for the Peace and Global Witness Offering. This will be collected on World Communion Sunday, October 6.