



74 South Martine Avenue | Fanwood, NJ 07023  
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Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday | 9 AM to 1 PM

FanwoodPres@gmail.com | FanwoodPCPastor@gmail.com  
Facebook.com/FanwoodPres

#### STAFF

**Rev. Dr. Stacy C. Smith** | Interim Pastor  
**Rev. Dr. Kenneth J. Macari** | Volunteer Mission Pastor  
**Alexa Teebo** | Director of Music Ministry  
**Luyang Liu** | Organist and Pianist  
**Jason Curtis Rivera** | AV Director and Musician  
**Kim Russo** | Director of Westminster Preschool  
**Michelle Howell** | Co-Director of Children's Ministry  
**Jessica Miller** | Co-Director of Children's Ministry  
**Kathy Church** | Finance Administrator  
**Lindsay Clark** | Church Administrator



SEPTEMBER 21, 2025



Service of Worship for the  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**FANWOOD**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO WORSHIP at

# FANWOOD

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Our usher team this morning is Barry Gustafson and Todd Moyle. Our music team is led each week by Alexa Teebo, Luyang Liu, and Jason Rivera, and our guest musician is Brody Brown. AV support is provided by Chris Mallari and our service is streamed at [Youtube.com/@FanwoodPresbyterianChurch](https://www.youtube.com/@FanwoodPresbyterianChurch) and at [Facebook.com/FanwoodPres](https://www.facebook.com/FanwoodPres).

AROUND THE CHURCH BUILDING

Restrooms are available on the ground floor of the sanctuary building, and can be accessed using the staircases at the parking lot entrance or the back of the sanctuary.

WORSHIPING WITH CHILDREN

All of God’s children are welcome to worship at Fanwood Church. Sunday School is available for elementary-aged students, and meets on the ground floor of the church building. A nursery for small children or babies is available downstairs for parents.

WAYS TO GIVE

If you would like to make a monetary donation to Fanwood Church, you can use Zelle ([fanwoodpcfinance@gmail.com](mailto:fanwoodpcfinance@gmail.com)) or the QR code to link to our online giving platform.



REFERENCES

Our music service is provided under the CCLI Copyright License 11039447, CCLI Streaming License 20099016 and CVLI Video License 504049131.

SCAM COMMUNICATIONS

Neither the Fanwood church office nor any Fanwood staff will ever ask for an urgent favor, the purchase of gift cards or other financial instruments. If you are ever concerned or confused about a communication from the church, please reach out to staff directly.

*\* indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit*



**OPEN HOURS**  
**WITH PASTOR STACY**

COME BY TO TALK, PRAY, SING,  
DRINK COFFEE, WALK AROUND, WHATEVER!

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24**  
1-3 PM @ FANWOOD SCOTCH PLAINS YMCA  
5-7 PM @ FANWOOD CHURCH

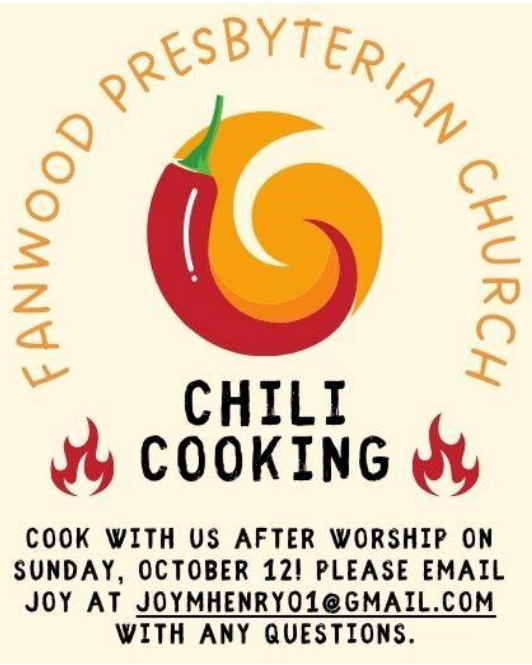
**THURSDAY, SEPT. 25**  
9-10 AM @ BAGEL CAFE NJ



**THRIFT SHOP**

**20** **25**

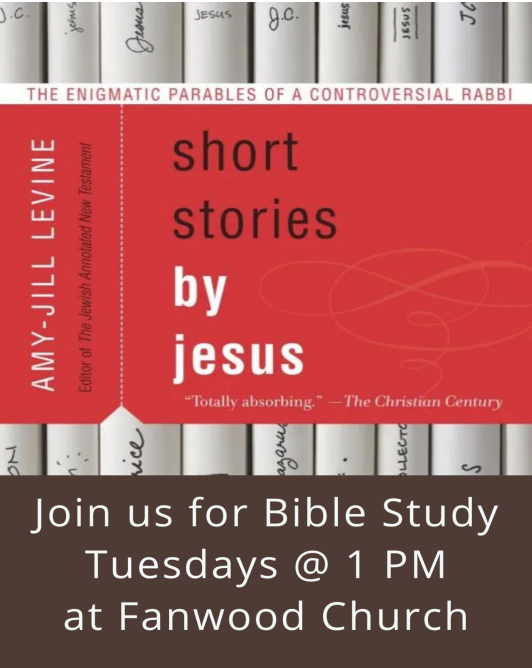
**OPEN WEDNESDAY**  
**10AM- 3PM**



**FANWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**CHILI COOKING**

**COOK WITH US AFTER WORSHIP ON**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12! PLEASE EMAIL**  
**JOY AT [JOYMHENRY01@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JOYMHENRY01@GMAIL.COM)**  
**WITH ANY QUESTIONS.**



**AMY-JILL LEVINE**  
Editor of *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*

**short stories by jesus**

*"Totally absorbing." —The Christian Century*

**Join us for Bible Study**  
**Tuesdays @ 1 PM**  
**at Fanwood Church**

# GATHERING

PRELUDE

Luyang Liu

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG “Everyone (Praises)” Brody Brown, Alexa Teebo

*Praises to the one who saves us  
Through his blood he gave us life  
And now we come, everyone!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the earliest days of the church,  
the people gathered together to learn, to pray,  
to eat together, and enjoy each other’s friendship.

**All: They were filled with awe at the wisdom of God.  
They shared what they had,  
so that none were left out.**

One: Today, we come with questions, doubts, and wonder.  
We come to be taught by Christ,  
shaped by the Spirit, and renewed in hope.

**All: Let us come together in awe and in joy.  
For God is still teaching, still guiding,  
still making all things new.**

One: God is doing a new thing among us—  
let us stand in awe and worship with joy!

**All: Let us worship God!**

OPENING HYMN #339 “Be Thou My Vision” (vs. 1 & 2)

CALL TO CONFESSION & SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of wisdom and wonder, we confess that we do not always come eager to learn. We prefer easy answers over deep listening, and we resist lessons that challenge our comfort. We turn away from teachings that call us to justice, and we forget that divine wisdom grows in community.**

**Forgive us, Holy Teacher. Open our hearts to awe and our minds to curiosity. Teach us again the way of Christ, that we may walk in love, share what we have, and delight in the mysteries of Your grace. To you, God of Wisdom, we offer these prayers. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* RESPONSE “Awesome God”

*Our God is an awesome God  
who reigns in heaven above,  
with wisdom, power, and love,  
our God is an awesome God!*

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

# PROCLAMATION

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Build My Life” Alexa Teebo

SCRIPTURE READING from Matthew 13: 1-13, 18-23

MESSAGE “Filled with Awe: Teaching” Rev. Dr. Stacy C. Smith

# RESPONSE

OFFERTORY “Homeward Bound” by Marta Keen  
Brody Brown, Alexa Teebo

\* AFFIRMATION OF COMMUNITY from *First Congregational, Memphis*

We will be together.  
We will stand as brothers and sisters given life by one God.  
We will be together.  
We will watch out for one another.

We will listen to what needs to be said in a spirit of compassion.  
We will respect the power of silence.  
We will wait for the slowest.  
We will sooner or later catch up with the fastest.  
We will dry the tears of those who are weeping,  
and know that they will dry ours when the time comes.  
We will let ourselves begin to feel at least a little of the pain  
of those we have considered our enemies.  
We will entrust our stories to each other.  
We will not be skeptical that peace can come.  
We will not forget the joy of life. We will not forget to be grateful.  
We will do our best to stir in each other hope, courage and faith. Amen.

\* DOXOLOGY #592 “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

*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!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

# SENDING

CLOSING HYMN #339 “Be Thou My Vision” (vs. 1 & 3)

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Spark of Creation” Luyang Liu