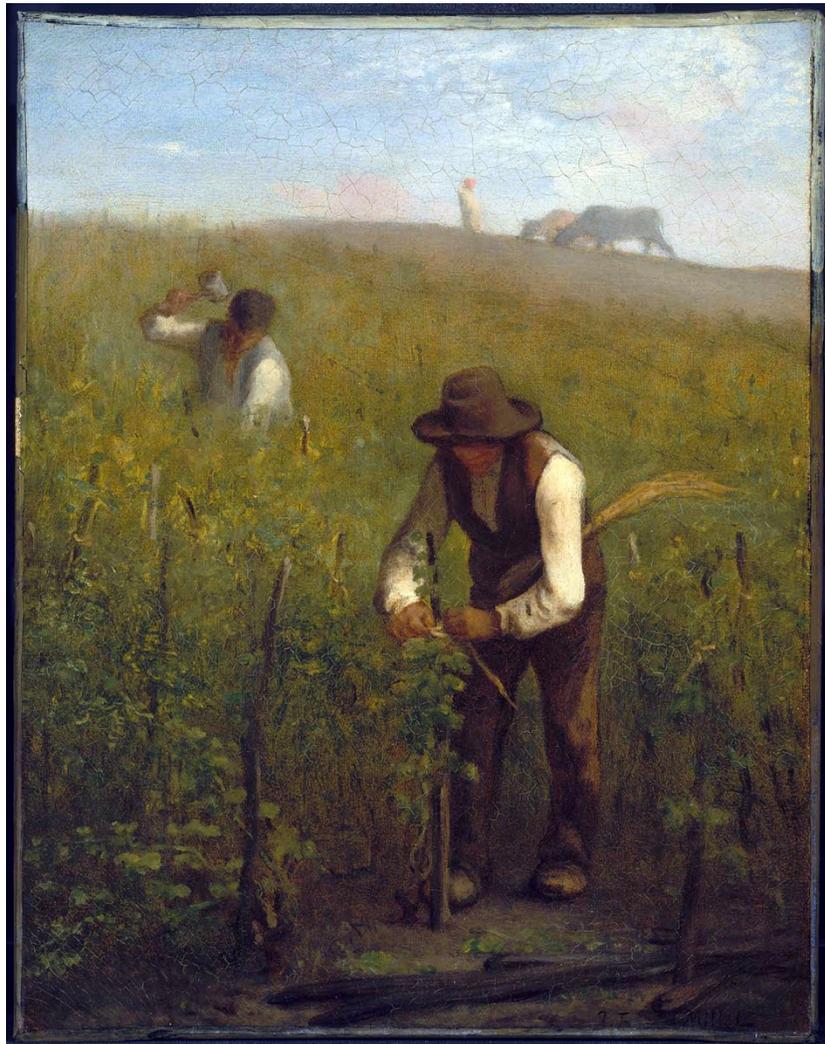


WELCOME TO
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF EAST HAMPTON



-SERVICE OF THE WORD-

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

PASTOR'S WELCOME



Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of East Hampton – an active worshipping community since 1648. While the world has changed greatly in our 376 year history, this community of faith has had the same mission since day one: to love God and our neighbor. We embody this mission through faith in action. Through feeding programs, bible studies, youth events, and service trips – we create space for God to work among us. We believe that who you are is a part of what you believe. That faith is a journey, not a destination. And that asking questions, having doubts, and being curious is part of living an authentic faith. God's call requires our full self: heart, soul, body, and mind.

I joined FPCEH as its pastor in January 2024. As a new resident of the East End, I've enjoyed soaking in the local culture and history. I'm a fan of gardening, movies, music, and my wife Alyson. When she isn't playing with our dog Sam, she serves as an oncology nurse. I look forward to getting to know everyone who comes through our doors.

Church Staff

The Rev. Jon D. Rodriguez, *Minister*

Jane Hastay, *Director of Music*

June Lester, *Church Administrator*

The Rev. Dr. John Ames. & The Rev. Dr. Fred Schulz,
Pastors Emeriti

120 Main Street, East Hampton, NY 11937
fpceh.org

Gathering in God's Name

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: How can we know the way of God?

People: Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Pastor: This is our new commandment in Christ:

People: As Jesus loves us, let us love one another.

Pastor: In the name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Let us worship God.

(* Please rise in body or in spirit. For hymns, stand when the choir stands.)

* HYMN 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Hymn to Joy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us of our sins. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

(Silence for personal reflection)

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Franz Schubert

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, thanks be to God.

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria (Taizé)



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

SUMMARY OF GOD'S LAW

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

* GLORIA PATRI



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Proclaiming God's Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ³⁷³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 4:7-21

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8

¹⁵ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

SERMON

Claimed By Love

Responding to God with Thanksgiving

* HYMN 824

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest

Mc Afee

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God accept these gifts, and with them our lives, to be used in your service; that they may be a living and holy sacrifice, to the glory of your name. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

*** HYMN 300**

We Are One in the Spirit

Peter Scholtes

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Danish Amen

A - men. A - men. A - men.

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders

- Minister:* The Rev. Jon D. Rodriguez
- Music:* Jane Hastay, Chancel Choir
- Elder of the Month:* Andrea Cooper
- Deacon of the Month:* Christine Martin
- Reader:* Alyson Rodriguez
- Ushers:* Chase Siska, Brighton Lys, Jack Cooper, Nick Cooper

Session

Moderator: The Rev. Jon D. Rodriguez

Clerk: Mary Siska

Members: Class of 2024: Kim Borsack, David Filer, Michelle Grant, Paul Vogel; **Class of 2025:** Andrea Cooper, Barbara D'Andrea, Harriet Edwards, Pember Edwards; **Class of 2026:** Bruce Siska, Barbara Borsack, David Cataletto, Wendy Mott

Board of Deacons

Co-Moderators: Nancy Pearson & Joy Anne Dixon

Members: Class of 2024: Kristine Eberhart, Christine Martin, Nancy Pearson; **Class of 2025:** Fran Chapman, Joy Anne Dixon, Suzanne Nicoletti, Carol Sigler; **Class of 2026:** Greg Eberhart, Gabby Miller, Heddie Edwards, Leslie Clarke

The Life of the Church

The congregation congratulates **Deacon Gabby Miller** on her graduation from the LPN program at Eastern Suffolk School of Practical Nursing on April 11. She will continue her studies toward a BSN at Bryant and Stratton College in Syracuse, NY this fall.

Please pray for the following friends: Lee Andrews, Ian Birla, Liz Dayton, Heddie Edwards, Robert Fariel, Gordon Grant, Kayla Kearney, Dana Lester, Gus Lockwood, Leslie, Lowery, Jake Ogden, Bill Stafford, Jane Talmage, Jeff Yusko, the family of Gregory Lutz, Our Sister Church in Guines, Cuba and their pastor & his family.

A **New Member's Class** will be held in the Session House following worship today. This class is for anyone who wants to learn more about the church's history, beliefs, and mission. Please RSVP to Pastor Jon (jdr@fpceh.org) to reserve your spot and ensure there is enough food for everyone.

Pastor Jon's **Service of Installation** as the church's twenty-second minister will be held in the sanctuary on May 5 at 3pm. Guests from throughout the presbytery and beyond will join. The service will be followed by a meal and reception in the Session House. If you plan to attend the reception, please RSVP to the church office by May 1st.

You are invited to **Marvelous Mothers Cabaret** on May 10 at 6 pm, featuring the musical talents of local musicians Rob and Salli-Jo Borden, and Maeve Nelson. Tickets are \$20 per person and dinner is included. RSVP to the fellowship committee by May 3.

East Hampton Food Pantry serves our community by collecting food and distributing it to those in need. This week's item of the week is canned meat.

VBS Volunteers needed! The Christian Education committee is seeking adults (18+) to volunteer their time and talents to growing our children in the faith. VBS will take place from July 21-25

from 5 – 7 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kim Borsack or notify the church office.

Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God from the Deacons Flower Fund. To offer flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, contact Summer Borsack, summerborsack@gmail.com

This Week at FPC

Sunday, April 28

10 am | Worship – Sanctuary
11:15 | Session House – New Members Class
3 pm | Earth Day Concert - Sanctuary
4 pm | Porch Musicians – Session House

Wednesday, May 1

Thursday, May 2

12:30 pm | Al-Anon – Session House
3:30 pm | Chancel Choir rehearsal

Monday, April 29

9 am | Prayer Group – Session House
12:30 | Al-Anon – Session House

Friday, May 3

Saturday, May 4

Tuesday, April 30

7:30 am | Breakfast Club – John Papas
1 pm | Prayer Shawl Knitting Group – Off Site
(contact admin@fpceh.org for more information)
7 pm | Session Meeting – Session House

About the Artist



Jean François Millet (1814-1875). Jean-François Millet was born in 1814 in the Norman village of Gruchy, the eldest child in a large, closely knit family of farmers living in modest prosperity on their own land. His parents, religious and patriarchal, saw to it that he received a good education, which gave him a knowledge of Latin and a lifelong interest in literature. Having shown early signs of talent, the youth was sent to Cherbourg in 1833 to work with a local portrait painter, Bon Dumouchel. In 1837, provided with a stipend by the city of Cherbourg, Millet went to Paris, to enroll at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts as the pupil of the history painter Paul Delaroche, then at the height of his celebrity. After two unhappy years of study, Millet competed unsuccessfully for the Rome Prize, left his teacher, and lost his stipend. Back in Cherbourg, he set himself up as a portrait painter. Millet decided to seek better luck in Paris, where he established himself with his wife, the frail Pauline-Virginie Ono, barely twenty years old. While he struggled for a livelihood, his wife contracted tuberculosis and died. Millet returned to Cherbourg in 1844 and here took as his companion a servant girl of eighteen, Catherine Lemaire. Sensing the disapproval of his Cherbourg relations, he moved with his mistress to Le Havre and thence to Paris.

Millet took no active part in the Revolution of 1848. At the unjuried Salon of that year, he exhibited *The Grain Sifter*, one of his earliest scenes of farm labor, which met with a favorable critical reaction. An outbreak of cholera in Paris prompted Millet in 1849 to join his new friends at Barbizon. From this time on, he devoted himself mainly to subjects from rural life. Millet and his family lived as frugally as their neighbors. In 1863 Catherine gave birth to their ninth child. His breakthrough to success came at the Salon of 1864, where the youth and near prettiness of his *Shepherdess Guarding Her Flock* won the hearts of the public who concluded that he had at last overcome his addiction to scenes of misery and discovered charm. He was awarded a first-class medal. Landscape, which had played a minor role in his work, now came to dominate it.

In his rural seclusion at Barbizon, Millet still maintained lively intellectual contacts with literary and artistic friends, read the classics, advised his friend and later biographer Alfred Sensier on questions of art, and formed a collection of engravings, medals, and ceramics. At the Paris Universal Exposition of 1867 he was impressively represented by nine paintings, among them *The Gleaners* and *The Angelus*, which had earned him the cross of the Legion of Honor in 1865. When war with Prussia broke out in 1870, he found refuge in his native Normandy, waiting out the siege of Paris and the civil war that followed. Childhood memories, refreshed by impressions of his wartime stay in Normandy, furnished him material for many of the landscapes that he completed after his return to Barbizon. Among his projects of the postwar years was the completion of a landscape cycle, begun in 1868, representing the seasons of the year in their natural and agricultural aspects. One of his last finished works, *The Bird Nesters*, was a nocturnal vision of torch-lit, violent action that contrasted strangely with the stillness of his earlier paintings of rural life. Ailing in 1875, he married his common-law wife in accordance with the rites of the church (a civil wedding had been performed in 1853). He died on 20 January and was buried in the churchyard at Barbizon, beside Théodore Rousseau.

Excerpt – The National Gallery of Art | nga.gov
Cover Art | Millet, Jean François, 1814-1875. In the Vineyard, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

M e m b e r s h i p

Whether you've been a Presbyterian your entire life or you are still deciding whether church is right for you, you are welcome here. If you are interested in exploring more about Christianity and what it means to follow Jesus, we invite you to join a new member class. Classes are typically held on select Sundays after worship. Contact Pastor Jon for more information –

jdr@fpceh.org

G i v i n g

Stewardship is really about discipleship—following Jesus as Lord in every aspect of our daily living. Stewards are those who care for things that belong to another and have been entrusted to them for safe-keeping. Christian stewardship begins with the recognition that everything in our lives comes from and belongs to God and has been given to us for the purpose of not only serving, but more important, glorifying God as we seek to follow Jesus Christ as his faithful disciples. Contact Pastor Jon for more information.

C o m m u n i c a t i o n s

Once a week we distribute our newsletter, *News From the Pews*, to keep our community informed about upcoming events and important information about the life of the church. To sign up, contact the Church Office –

admin@fpceh.org

P r a y e r L i s t

Pastoral Care is provided in a variety of ways at FPCEH. Our pastor is available for pastoral conversations when members and friends of the church are struggling with difficult life situations or wrestling with faith questions and dilemmas. The pastor also visits and reaches out to members who are hospitalized, ill or who have suffered a recent loss. If you would like to speak with our pastor, call and make an appointment. He will do his best to see you as soon as possible. Contact the Church Office for more information –

admin@fpceh.org

fpceh.org | 120 Main Street, East Hampton, NY 11937