



Ministry General Information

Ministry Name	Presbytery	Synod
First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge	Coastlands	The Northeast
Email	Preferred Phone	Website Address
office@FPCWoodbridgeNJ.org	732-634-1024	www.fpcwoodbridgenj.org
Mailing Address	Alternate Phone/Email	Community Type
600 Rahway Ave, Woodbridge, NJ 07095-3530		Suburban
Congregation or Organization Size	Curriculum	Average Worship Attendance
101-250 members	Cokesbury and Topical Bible Readings	55
Church School Attendance		
10		
Intercultural Composition		
White: 90%, Black/African American/African: 5%, Hispanic/Latinx: 3%, Middle Eastern/North African: 1%, Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian: 1%		

Information about the Position

Position Requirements

Position Type(s)

Solo Pastor: Installed

Language Requirements

English

Experience Required

No Experience/First Ordained Call

Statement of Faith required?

Yes

Specify Title / PT Work Hours (if applicable)

Pastor

Are you open to a clergy couple?

No

Employment Status

Full-time

Ministry Requirements

Church Mission/Vision Statement

As a long standing community of faithful Christians, our mission is to invite all to join us as followers of Jesus Christ who, with the Holy Spirit, commissions us to love one another, save the lost, help to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, help the helpless, comfort those in their moments of pain, teach our children the ways of the Lord and share the Good News with all the world. May His loving light and saving grace be our guide and strength in this calling.

Tasks, expectations, duties, supervision, assignments, and responsibilities for the position

- Lead regular Sunday worship in coordination with the organist/choir director.
- Prepare sermons through prayerful study and contemplation of scripture that expound God's message for our congregation.
- Administer the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and baptism.
- Provide counseling and duties related to marriage and memorial services.

- Plan and lead special seasonal services during the church year and represent our church in local ecumenical and community events.
- Provide care for members in need through hospital/home visitation, phone calls, and administering the Lord's supper in collaboration with our deacons.
- Be available to provide spiritual counseling and guidance to members.
- Organize and lead classes for new members.
- Facilitate youth programs in conjunction with the youth leaders.
- Maintain and strengthen educational programs.
- Teach and lead confirmation classes in collaboration with the youth leaders.
- Moderate monthly session meetings and congregational meetings as they are called.
- Advise and assist the session, deacons, and committees.
- Supervise our church staff.
- Organize weekly staff meetings.
- Maintain regular office hours and handle the day to day business of the church.
- Represent our church at presbytery meetings.

Compensation & Housing

Minimum Effective Salary

64050

Housing Type

Manse

MDP - Narratives

How would you describe the congregation's/organization's specific vision for ministry? How will this vision impact the community? Is the congregation part of a ministry vision or program?

We have an active slate of programs for youth, worship, and outreach that involve many people

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through committed lay leadership.

Our youth programs minister to 30+ young people.

We have an active Sunday school program (pre-K through 8th Grade).

Our youth group meets twice a month.

Friday Fun Night (ages 4-10) meets twice a month for activities, crafts, and fellowship.

VBS is attended by 30 children many from the community at no cost.

Our youth attend retreats and the social justice cohort at Johnsonburg Camp.

Each week we worship as a church family with those we have known for years and those who

are new to us, looking forward to hearing the Word proclaimed in a coherent manner that

teaches, informs, and nourishes our lives.

Our music director / organist works closely with our pastor to complement the Message with

music.

The Benevolence Committee conducts mission work that impact our community on a local,

national, and international level.

Our food pantry serves 40 families monthly with the help of 6 volunteers.

The children's clothes closet sells low-cost used clothing.

We recently chartered a Scouts BSA, Boy Troop and Girl Troop.

Our buildings host community groups such as AA, NA, and Woodbridge Historical Society

During the year we donate items to support the service personnel at Naval Weapons Station Earle

and honor those patriots who are buried in our historic cemetery hosting Wreaths Across America.

What is the nature and context of the community in which your congregation lives out its mission/vision? How will you address the emerging needs that are impacting your community?

We, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge, NJ, established 1675, want to

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honor our history and traditions but not live in the past. Our desire is to find new ways to embrace our Lord's in-breaking reign, advancing and exploring new ways to glorify and serve God.

Our congregation's demographic does not match the changing demographic of the surrounding community of Woodbridge Township. The overall race, country of birth, and education level our church is markedly different from that of the surrounding area, and we are challenged to bridge that gap.

Our membership and attendance decreased after the pandemic, but our foundation remains strong, so we are willing and eager to integrate creative ways to re-engage people who have drifted away as well as spark the interest of those who are outside the church. A part of this is the need to expand and deepen our presence in our changing community, not just programmatically, but by being an example of God's people among them.

We are grateful to those who went before us, building and reflecting the Christian heritage, which is its foundation, and eagerly look forward to opportunities that continue to share and build upon this foundation.

How will this call help complement the responsibilities of other staff/volunteer positions, and the life of the congregation/organization, so that you may accomplish your short and long-term goals for ministry?

We are a flock of 204 active members hoping to find a shepherd who will lead us to grow in our faith, apply Christ's teachings, and to accomplish our part in the great commission.

Without a shepherd the sheep are scattered A called pastor will offer a fresh perspective, discern the value in existing programs, recognize where effort needs to be better directed and plan new strategies

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and solutions, he or she will take ownership of such projects, guiding them through to completion.

Like Josiah we would envision a called pastor to renovate the call of the congregation through the scriptures and their study knowing that they contain the words of life. She or he would mine the riches of our reformed tradition providing an opportunity to experience the grandeur of service to the Living God.

A called pastor will help focus our ministry, outreach, and programs serving as the relational, most focal face of our ministry.

Provide a description of the skills, gifts and training the person you hope will become a part of your ministry must have, to lead the congregation towards the vision and mission established.

We are seeking a pastor who will preach Christ and Him crucified as a radical and rational alternative to this broken world in a way that is relevant for today. We seek a Pastor that will embrace the responsibility to continue the mission of FPC to be the "City on a Hill" to the Woodbridge area that our forebearers have so faithfully labored for the past 350 years. He or she needs to be dynamic, forceful, and grounded in the word of God, expounding its matchless treasures to show God's love to those who are estranged from their creator and to strengthen the saints for work of the kingdom. She or he should be instructed by the wisdom of Reformed Theology and the historical confessions. A pastor who encourages all age groups to grow in their faith, apply Christ's teachings, and glorify God will be a welcome addition to our church. We need not only someone who can preach and teach, but someone who is open to trying new things and who listens to and respects the opinions, wants, and needs of others. The needs of the people, both

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of our congregation and of our community, are of utmost importance. Our new pastor must have a heart for community outreach programs and ministries that cover a multicultural demographic and a heart for all people, not just a chosen few. Jesus said He came to serve; our new pastor should reflect all that He taught and carry out His mission in our church.

What areas of ministry do you expect the person called to be responsible for? Share specific tasks, assignments, and programs.

Worship

We expect our pastor to celebrate the eighth day of creation proclaiming the fullness of the gospel in Word and Sacrament. He/she should exegete scripture, order worship, and work with our music director

to draw people into Christ's presence and send them out in the power of the Spirit. A Shepherd well-versed and well-grounded that can mine the limitless depths of the treasures of Scripture will be

fundamental to our success in achieving that goal.

Education

Our next pastor will actively supervise our youth programs working with our youth leaders to provide a strategy for this important ministry. We seek to restore the ministry we have long enjoyed with our

beloved children. There is an opportunity to re-energize Adult Education.

Bible Study and Thematic

studies are venues that we would expect our Pastor to lead or coordinate.

Member Care

The role of the Shepherd is to care for the sheep. She/he should care for the members of the

congregation and provide counsel and consolation. This will involve working in collaboration with our

cadre of loving, caring Deacons to facilitate hospital and home visitation.

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Conducting funeral and burial services that offer consolation to the family and an evangelical opportunity to the mourners will be a prime responsibility of our Called Pastor.
Outreach
We would expect our next pastor to help supervise our outreach programs and advance plans to create a presence and impact in our community inviting all to the marriage feast.
Amen

Optional Links

Candidate Welcome Page - Welcome and introduction for prospective candidates - <http://www.fpcwoodbridgenj.org/candidates/>

References

Reference #1	Reference #2	Reference #3
Rev. Shelley Gardner	Robert Stephan	Rev. Marie
Prior Associate	Treasurer	Bacchiocchi
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