

First Reformed Church of Hasbrouck Heights

Church Profile Form – April 2026

Position to be Filled: Pastor

First Reformed Church of Hasbrouck Heights

300 Washington Place, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604

Ph: 201-288-1122 | Email: firstrefhh@optonline.net

Web: <https://www.hasbrouckheightsreformedchurch.com/>

Classis of Greater Palisades

Classis Supervisor: Pastor Imos Wu

263 Larch Ave., Bogota, NJ 07603 | Phone: 917-254-7784 | Email: imos13@gmail.com

Consistory Vice President

Stacey Kuhl | Phone: 201-638-9813 | firstrefhh@optonline.net

Search Committee Chair

Julie Morrow | Phone: 201-819-0806 | Email: morrowj@verizon.net

MEMBERSHIP: We are committed to growing both spiritually and numerically through outreach, hospitality, and discipleship.

Time of Worship	Five Years Ago	Today
Active Confessing Members	52	39
Inactive Confessing Members	96	46

Age of all Active members (Baptized and confessing)	
15%	0-20 years old
10%	20-34 years old
15%	35-49 years old
25%	50-64 years old
35%	65 years and old

Racial / Ethnic Composition of Congregation	
5%	African American
1%	Asian
90%	Caucasian
2%	Hispanic
2%	Other

WORSHIP: Worship is central to our identity. We seek meaningful, well-prepared, Christ-centered services that foster genuine encounters with God and unity within the congregation.

Worship Schedule (including adults and children)

- Sunday's 10:00 – 11:00 am
- Average Attendance 5 years ago: 28
- Average Attendance Today: 28

Order of Worship (Please see attached Bulletin)

- Organ Prelude
- Choir Introit
- Opening Prayer
- Hymn
- Call to Worship
- Call to Confession
- Assurance of Forgiveness
- Gloria Patri
- God's Way of Living
- Young Disciples Time
- Anthem
- Scripture
- Hymn
- Prayer of Illumination
- Sermon
- Communion first Sunday of Each Month
- Offering
- Doxology
- Our Life Together
- Prayers of the People
- Lord's Prayer
- Hymn
- Benediction



FINANCIAL: Stewardship is an important part of our church life, as we seek to faithfully care for the gifts of time, talent, and resources entrusted to us.

Financial	Five Years Ago	Today
Total RCA related contributions	\$4,331	\$4,700
Total other contributions	\$71,339	\$76,956

Financial Assistance: the church does not receive financial assistance beyond the congregation.

Fundraising programs that support the church: We have some long-standing programs that supports fellowship and outreach. These include our annual Rummage Sale. We also host dinners like our Roast Beef Dinner and Fish & Chips Dinner. In the past we have hosted an annual craft fair.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: Investing in children is a priority. We seek leadership that nurtures faith, builds strong foundations, and partners with families. We are seeking ongoing opportunities for Young Adult and Adult Christian education and spiritual growth.

Average Sunday School Attendance Five Years Ago	Average Sunday School Attendance Today
9	5

Children's Ministry: We provide Sunday School for Children 3 years old to 8th grade.

Confirmation: Confirmation Class is held for those in 8th grade.

Christian Education and Bible Study: We would welcome the return of Pastor-led Bible studies, as well as fellowship opportunities such as religious movie nights.

CHURCH GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS: We believe we are called to serve beyond our walls, and we strive to support local groups and organizations in ways that reflect Christ's love in our community.

Group or Organization	Frequency of Meetings	Attendance
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)	Weekly	15-20
Narcotics Anonymous (NA)	Twice Weekly	15-20
Gamblers Anonymous (GA)	Weekly	15-20
Vietnamese Baptist Church	Weekly	30-35
Yea Hyang Reformed Church	Weekly	20-25
Care on The Corner / New Arts	Monthly	10-15

BUILDINGS AND STAFF: Our church buildings and dedicated staff hold a special place in our hearts, reflecting our history and supporting a strong foundation for worship, learning, and community life.

Main Church (owned): includes sanctuary, fellowship halls, office, kitchen etc.

Young Peoples Hall (owned): currently we hold our rummage sale and necessity pantry from this location.

Capital Expenditure plans during the next five years:

- Renovation of lounge floor that is not level.
- Water remediation in ramp and lift area.
- Renovation and update to lower-level bathrooms and hallways to refresh and make ADA compliant.

Mortgage indebtedness: Our congregation is currently free from mortgage indebtedness.

Pastor's Study: is located in the main church.

Paid Staff in addition to the pastor:

Name	Position	Full Time / Part Time
John Vorhees	Sexton	Part Time
David Calabrese	Organist	Part Time



CONSISTORY MEMBERSHIP

Consistory members are selected through a consistory-to-congregation nomination process.

At present, our consistory is short two members due to illness and the passing of one member. As several potential nominees are currently serving on the pastoral search committee, we have chosen to maintain the current consistory membership until existing terms are completed.

Consistory Members

Elder or Deacon	Male or Female	Occupation / Name
Elder	Female	Ellen Connors
Elder	Female	Irene Happe
Elder	Female	Stacey Kuhl (Sr. Elder)
Deacon	Female	Joan Blendowski
Deacon	Female	Angela Sampson
Deacon	Female	Sara Vasquez

IN OUR CONGREGATION

Education	Few have...	Many have...	Most have...
Had up to twelve years of formal education.			X
Had some education beyond high school.		X	
A college degree.		X	
A graduate degree.	X		

Occupation	Few are...	Many are...	Most are...
Scientists & Engineers	X		
Business People		X	
Students & Teachers		X	
Industrial Workers	X		
Office Workers		X	
First Responders (police, fire, EMT)		X	

While we welcome all, English is the primary language spoken in our congregation and used in our services and programs.

COMMUNITY

Hasbrouck Heights is a small suburban borough of about 12,000 residents. It is a close-knit, family-oriented community in Bergen County, known for its small-town atmosphere and strong sense of civic pride. Located just a short distance from New York City, it offers a suburban setting with convenient access to major transportation, local businesses, and community events. The borough is rich in history, supported by good schools, and marked by a welcoming spirit where neighbors know and support one another.

Surrounding Communities: Hasbrouck Heights is bordered by several neighboring boroughs and towns in **Bergen County**, each with its own character and community feel. Immediately adjacent are **Hackensack**, the county seat with a larger urban feel; **Lodi** to the north; **Wood-Ridge** and **Moonachie** to the south and southeast; and **Teterboro**, known for its small size and airport. Nearby communities within a few miles include **Carlstadt**, **Little Ferry**, **Wallington**, **East Rutherford**, and **Rutherford**, offering a mix of suburban residential life, commercial amenities, and easy access to jobs and services in the region. These surrounding areas reflect the diverse and connected nature of the northern New Jersey suburbs just outside New York City.

School System: Hasbrouck Heights is served by the **Hasbrouck Heights School District**, a comprehensive public district educating students from **pre-kindergarten through grade 12**. The district includes four schools — two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school — and serves students from both Hasbrouck Heights and Teterboro. The total enrollment is around **1,600–1,700 students**, with a student-teacher ratio of about **12:1**. The district is classified in the mid-range of New Jersey’s socioeconomic groupings and generally performs at or above state averages in core academic testing.

Cooperative Ministry: Our congregation collaborates with other churches and local organizations, including The River Homeless Mission and Community Help Center (The River Mission), in support of outreach and community care.

Community Involvement: Our congregation has been involved in the following community programs and service initiatives:

- Necessity Pantry
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- Giving Tree – Monthly drives supporting various needs, including a Baby Drive, Women’s Shelter, Christian Overcomers Camp, and winter gear donations for The River Homeless Mission and Community Help Center.
- Friendly Neighbors
- Christian Overcomers Event

Income Level: Members of our congregation come from households with income levels that are typical for the surrounding community.

Local Denominations and Religious Communities (within three miles):

- Methodist
- Lutheran
- Catholic
- Baptist
- Transformation
- UCC
- Russian Orthodox
- Hindu
- Albanian Mosque
- Zion
- Jewish
- Jehovah's
- ICA
- Presbyterian
- Pentecostal
- Episcopal
- Eastern Orthodox

Outreach: Strategy to Reach Unchurched Community Members

Our church actively seeks to connect with unchurched members of our community through a variety of welcoming events. We host **rummage sales** to raise awareness of the church, and **community dinners** that are open to all. In the past, we have participated in **town days**, greeting neighbors and inviting them to visit. Additionally, we have held **worship services and picnics on our front lawn** to engage community members in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

REFLECTIONS

Mission: Our mission is to follow Christ and proclaim His Word in a lost and broken world so loved by God.

Core Ministry Priorities: After thoughtful reflection, we have identified six core areas that are essential to the health, growth, and spiritual vitality of our congregation:

- 1. Preaching:** We place a high value on biblically grounded, Spirit-led preaching that is faithful to Scripture and relevant to daily life—teaching, challenging, and encouraging people of all ages.
- 2. Conducting Worship:** Worship is central to our identity. We seek meaningful, well-prepared, Christ-centered services that foster genuine encounters with God and unity within the congregation.
- 3. Membership Growth:** We are committed to growing both spiritually and numerically through outreach, hospitality, and discipleship.
- 4. Children's Ministry:** Investing in children is a priority. We seek leadership that nurtures faith, builds strong foundations, and partners with families.
- 5. Church Administration:** Strong organization, clear communication, and responsible stewardship are essential to sustaining effective ministry.
- 6. Spiritual Leadership:** We seek a pastor who models Christ-like character, provides vision, and fosters a culture of prayer, unity, and discipleship.

Key Congregational Ministries: The following ministries reflect the heart of our church.

- **Youth and Children's Ministries:** Sunday school, children's messages, and faith development for young people.
- **Christian Education and Bible Study:** Ongoing opportunities for learning and spiritual growth.
- **Fellowship and Family Life:** Meals, gatherings, and events that build strong relationships.
- **Mission and Outreach:** Giving tree, food pantry, and community meal programs.
- **Care for the Elderly:** Support and connection for older members.
- **Church Traditions:** Rummage sale and long-standing programs that support fellowship and outreach.

Our Call to Community Service

Guided by our mission and vision, we are committed to deepening our presence in the community through compassionate service and meaningful outreach. Our efforts focus on supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, families in crisis, people with special needs, abused women and related charities, local schools and organizations, food pantries and shelters, and elderly individuals.

We seek to meet these needs through initiatives such as developing a necessities pantry, providing meal donation programs including Thanksgiving and other holidays, and expanding outreach opportunities as resources allow.

Our congregation actively engages the community through donations of food and clothing, hosting community meals and events, participating in local celebrations and gatherings, and partnering with other churches and organizations.

Through these efforts, we aim to reflect Christ's love, provide practical support, and build strong, lasting connections with our neighbors.

Sunday Worship Leadership

We value worship that is thoughtful, inclusive, and spiritually enriching.

- **Unity of Theme:** Cohesive and well-planned services.
- **Children's Inclusion:** Opportunities for participation and engagement.
- **Meaningful Prayer:** Lifts up the needs of people, community, and world.
- **Respect for Diverse Perspectives:** Fosters unity while honoring differences.
- **Authentic Leadership:** Creates a welcoming and meaningful worship experience.

Pastoral Care Priorities

We seek a pastor who nurtures a compassionate and connected community.

- **Approachability:** Easy to talk to; fosters trust and openness.
- **Availability:** Present during life's most important moments.
- **Care and Counseling:** Provides spiritual guidance and support.
- **Energy for Growth:** Brings ideas and enthusiasm for the future.
- **Engagement with Children and Families:** Builds relationships across generations.
- **Self-Care:** Maintains personal and spiritual well-being.
- **Commitment to Education:** Supports faith formation for all ages.

Previous Pastors

Name	Dates
Pastor Debbie Rundecker	2014 to 2025
Pastor Diana Smith	2005 to 2011
Pastor Fred Diekman	1988 to 2003

Strengths of Our Church

During our time without a pastor, our congregation has gained a deeper appreciation for the behind-the-scenes work required to run a church. We can offer a new pastor a community that **loves to worship together** and **works collaboratively** to accomplish the practical and ministry needs of the church. Our members enjoy one another's company and are eager to share this warm, supportive, and engaged community with a steady pastor.

Challenges Facing a New Pastor

Our congregation faces the ongoing challenge of **growing our membership**, as our numbers are not increasing as much as we would like. Many people in our surrounding community are unchurched, and we are eager for **fresh ideas and strategies** to engage them, invite them into our fellowship, and help them experience the life and love of our church.

PASTORAL COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Annual Salary: \$38,400

This is a part-time position compensated at \$40 per hour, based on 80 hours per month, with pay distributed bi-monthly. As finances allow, the position may transition to full-time, as has occurred previously.

Annual Vacation: Four Weeks

Parsonage: The church does not provide a parsonage, and a housing allowance in lieu of a parsonage is not offered.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

- Annual Consistorial Report for year ending December 31, 2025
- First Reformed Church Hasbrouck Heights Proposed 2026 Budget
- Worship Bulletin

RELEASE STATEMENT

We, The First Reformed Church of Hasbrouck Heights, acknowledge that the information in this Church Profile is accurate and complete. We authorize the Office of Ministry Services (OMS) to release this profile to designated recipient(s) seeking positions as ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament, including posting of this profile on the RCA website.

Signature of Search Team Chairperson or Designated

Date

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

***Hymn Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim**

Hymnbook #477

***Benediction**

Sung Benediction

Threefold Amen

**Please stand as you are able*

Should the need arise, please feel free to contact any of the consistory members listed below. This includes physical as well as spiritual help.

Elders

Ellen Connors 201-707-9801

Don Daume 201-836-8979

Irene Happe 201-247-2367

Stacey Kuhl 201 638-9813

Deacons

Joan Blendowski 201-310-4021

Beverly Johnson 551-238-9108

Angela Sampson 201-906-9830

Sara Vasquez 201-310-2606

Your offering, your way



TRADITIONAL
OFFERING PLATE

Traditional giving,
Just place your offering in the
plate during service.



ONLINE OFFERING
WITH  Tithe.ly

Mobile giving with **Tithe.ly**.
Scan the QR code to make your
online contribution.



Remember to visit us on Facebook and our website – hasbrouckheightsreformedchurch.com



CHRIST IN GETHSEMANE

Our Lord at prayer in the garden reminds us that by prayer, all of life is hallowed and sanctified. Through prayer we share all our burdens and joys and hopes with God, and God shares His life and strength with us.

The First Reformed Church of Hasbrouck Heights

Believe. Belong. Become.

January 11, 2026

10:00 a.m

You

Ministers of Reconciliation

David Calabrese

Organist/Music Director

Rev. Dr. Stephen Giordano

Guest Preacher

WE APPROACH GOD

Organ Prelude
Chimes

Choir Introit *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Opening Prayer

***Hymn** **Take My Life** **Hymnbook #391 (verses 1,2,5 &6)**

Call to Worship

What are human beings that You think of us? Mere mortals that You care for us so deeply and graciously?

And yet you have made us only inferior to Yourself and crowned us with honor and glory!

You have appointed us as rulers of all that You have created. You have placed us as the Stewards of Your Creation!

O Lord, our Lord, Your creation's beauty is seen throughout Your world and we praise Your Holy Name.

Call to Confession

O Lord, Psalm 8 reminds us that You have blessed us and called us to be the Stewards over Your entire creation and yet we have not fully embraced this calling and as a result we face concerns and challenges throughout Your creation. We hear words like: Global Warming, Poverty of spirit and resources and droughts and have not responded passionately to these challenges that place Your creation in peril! Forgive us for those times when we fall short in our efforts to strive to care for and renew Your awesome creation. Take our lives and let them be instruments of Your grace, who

share a commitment to serve as we can as Stewards and Guardians of Your good and blessed earth today and always. Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Gloria Patri**

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.

God's Way of Living

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Young Disciples Time

Anthem *Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us*

Scripture Mark 1:29-39

Hymn **What a Friend We Have in Jesus** **Hymnbook #403**
(English Verse 1-3)

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon *"Take All of It to the Lord in Prayer and Confidence"*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering **Offertory**

***Doxology** **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen, amen!

Our Life Together
Prayers of the People