

## Interesting Historical Facts

1710 - A few families removed from Newark and Elizabeth, etc., and settled in an area on the west side of the Passaic River, which is now Morris County. The settlement of Hanover gave name to the whole region and the county was comprised of one township.

1718 - A building for divine worship was erected on the present site of the cemetery in Whippany, adjacent to Route 10.

1738 - An act creating the county of Morris was passed by the legislature. Colonel Lewis Morris was the Governor.

1747 - The residents of South Hanover (now Madison) erected a separate meeting house and withdrew from the Hanover congregation.

1750 - The oldest grave, of Ruth Bumet, is only one of many historic grave sites. There are 52 soldiers buried in the cemetery: 38 from the Revolutionary War; three from the War of 1812; eight from the Civil War; one from World War I; and two from World War II.

Five ministers are buried in the cemetery; Rev. Jacob Green, who was the Chairman of Provincial Congress that formed the New Jersey Constitution; Rev. Aaron Condit, Rev. John Pierson, Rev. James Tuttle and Rev. Oliver Chapin.

Other important burials are Astronomer and Mathematician David Young, who wrote *The Farmers Almanac*, and Aaron Kitchell, the first New Jersey Congressman, Paymaster for the Army as well as a US Senator.

1755 - A new house of worship was erected by the Hanover congregation on or about the site of the present building. Another house of worship was erected at Parsippany for a small part of the congregation. This was called Hanover Second Church.

1757 - The church voted to build a parsonage (this building still stands across from the present manse).

1776 - Rev. Jacob Green was chairman of the committee that drafted the first constitution for the State of New Jersey.

1780 - Rev. Jacob Green, with several of the neighboring pastors, withdrew from the Synod and Presbytery of New York, and formed a Presbytery which they called "The Associated Presbytery of Morris".

1835 - The old church building, which had stood for 80 years and was torn down and the present edifice was erected.

1842 - The present parsonage property was bought and a manse erected. This manse is now being used as our parish house.

1890 - The current 97 captain chairs were purchased for the balcony area.

1912 - Current Moeller pipe organ was purchased.

Kerosene lighting was replaced with electricity when several villagers agreed to install electric lights at the same time as the Church building, persuading the electric company to extend lines into the area.

1952 - The present manse was erected on the southerly piece of the property.

1959 - Water was piped to the building for the first time and the pew cushions from 1896 were replaced. These 1959 cushions are currently in the pews.

1967 - Gas furnace replaced old coal burner.

1977 - Placed on New Jersey (June 6, 1977) and National (November 10, 1977) registers of Historic Places.

\*\*Reference #77000896 and ID# 2116\*\*

2005 - Restoration Project began: repair documents as well as fund raising plans were put into motion. New gas furnace installed, replacing 1967 unit.

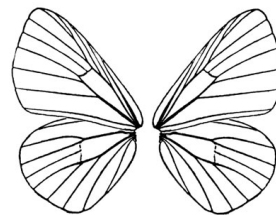
2007—Phase One, restoration of all four roof levels (slate and copper) as well as the entire bell tower completed.

Phase Two, repair documents for front and east side of building were completed.

2008—restoration of front and east side was completed

2009—Phase three, repair documents for the rear and west side of the building were completed.

2010—Completion of church exterior.



Happiness is like a butterfly. The more you chase it, the more it will elude you, but if you turn your attention toward God, it comes softly and sits on your shoulder.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP Historic Landmark (founded 1718)



## *First Presbyterian Church*

**Mount Pleasant Avenue**  
at the Intersection of Hanover Road  
East Hanover, New Jersey

Phone—973-887-0298

Fax—973-887-7671

Email—[firstchurchhan@verizon.net](mailto:firstchurchhan@verizon.net)

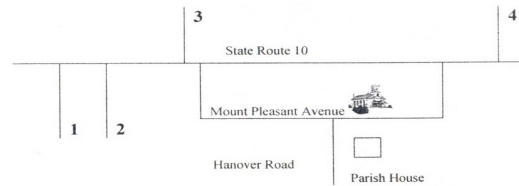
Website—[www.firstchurchhan.org](http://www.firstchurchhan.org)

# First Presbyterian Church

## A Warm Welcome to All

**Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.**  
Summer Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. (July & August)  
Special Service held for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas  
Call 973-887-0298 for dates and times

Our pastor joins us in hoping you enjoy your visit and will know the richness that this church family can add to one's life.



- 1 Court Yard by Marriott
- 2 Homestead Inn
- 3 Ramada Inn
- 4 Westminster Hotel



## A Brief History of our Church

In 1718 the Hanover Presbyterian Church was formed, twelve years after the First Presbytery of New Jersey started its formation in Freehold in 1706.

The earliest record of the church is a deed dated September 2, 1718, from John Richard, "Schoolmaster," for three and a half acres of land adjoining the Whippany River,

*"in consideration of ye love, good will, and affection which I have and do bear towards my Christian friends and neighbors in Whippany," "and especially of those who shall or may mutually covenant by subscription to erect a decent and suitable meeting house for the public worship of God."*

in Whippanong Township, name changed two years later to Township of Hanover, County of Hunterdon, which included at that time, much of present Morris County. The first building, a shingle thatched spireless meeting house, was located on the banks of the Whippanong, now known as the Whippany River, in the tract given by John Richards.

Population increases resulted in the formation of our "sister churches": Morristown, Madison, and Parsippany. The Hanover Church was rebuilt in 1755 near its present site. This building stood slightly east of the present one and parallel to the roadway and served as a hospital during the American Revolution when an epidemic of smallpox broke out among the soldiers quartered in and around Morristown.

In 1745 the Rev. Jacob Green was one of the most colorful figures in the history of New Jersey. He was a member of the first Provincial Congress and chairman of the committee that drew up the first Constitution of New Jersey.

Rev. Green's salary was seventy pounds a year in money and produce. Because of his inadequate salary as pastor, he had to engage in some secular pursuits. In 1774 he built a schoolhouse, taught several languages and mathematics, was partner in a gristmill, a joint owner in a distillery, practiced medicine for thirty years, and was legal adviser of his people, drawing their wills etc.

Summing up the man as a whole, the remark has been handed down through history that "*he was as righteous a man as lived on the face of the earth*". It is said that Washington and his staff occupied, at one time, the manse, which, now remodeled, still stands a bit beyond and across the street from the present manse.

In 1835 the present church building was constructed from timbers from the old building and oak trees cut from the surrounding church property.

Some of the old timbers in the edifice bear the marks of the hooks which suspended the cots when it was used as a hospital during the Revolution. The belfry was constructed in accordance with a design by the noted architect, Sir Christopher Wren.

A unique feature of the building construction is the variation in the treatment of the inclines of the floor sloping gently downward toward the pulpit. The aisles, and the various pew blocks are at different incline angles designed to give aid in vision to the congregation during services. The pews were fitted with hinged doors which still exist today and were meant to close the worshipper out from the rest of the world while at Sunday Service.

In 1874 the plan of selling the church pews to the highest bidder at the annual parish meeting was abandoned and the trustees were instructed to assess the pews at a sufficient valuation to meet the annual expenses. This method of raising funds, of course, has been replaced by the yearly pledge and weekly envelopes.

At first the "new" Church interior was apparently of rectangular design. In 1871 a pulpit alcove was added. At that time "Amen pews" flanked this alcove facing the pulpit from either side. A hand pumped organ was installed in the gallery at the other end and the choir had its position there. In 1912 the pulpit end was again remodeled. A modern, for that time, electric organ with choir space was placed behind the pulpit and an atmosphere of spaciousness added to the sanctuary.

It is interesting to note that in the excavation for this addition of the pulpit end, old uniform buttons of the Continental Army were found indicating the probable site of a common burying ground for the Revolutionary soldiers who died when the church was used as a hospital.

In the early years the gallery on each side and across the back of the church was supported by the conventional pillars which are still at the rear. Those on the side, however, interfered with the view of the pulpit; they were replaced by hangar elements of metal rods supported by the timbers above. In the early 1900's this church was the center of much of the community's activities and social programs; it is currently the centerpiece of the Township of East Hanover's Historic District.

Today this Church stands within a developed community, a major highway with shopping districts, movie theatres, restaurants, hotels and yet we still stand with our doors wide open to welcome all, both from surrounding communities as well as the passing traveler who wishes to worship with us and visit this cherished historic site.

