

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Aug. 27, 2023

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: "Lord, You Teach Us to be Humble"
(C. W. Gillette / Nettleton / arr. Hontz) Hontz Family

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bill Olivier
We welcome Elder Mark Hontz and the Hontz Family.

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

As disciples of Jesus Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, we experience God's unconditional love, and we witness to others by discovering and sharing our gifts.

* CALL TO WORSHIP: *(from Psalm 138)*

L: I thank you, Lord, with all my heart.

P: I sing praise to you.

L: You answered me when I called to you.

P: With your strength you strengthened me.

L: Even though you are so high above,

P: You care for the lowly, and the proud cannot hide from you.

L: When I am surrounded by troubles,

P: You keep me safe.

L: Lord, your love is eternal.

P: Complete the work that you have begun.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: "Great God of Every Blessing" *No. 694 GTG*

***Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.***

***Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.***

***Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
Transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *First in silence, then spoken together* (from Harry Emerson Fosdick)

Eternal God, we turn to you from the perplexities of daily life, and pray for relief from disquieting and cowardly fears. Bewildered by the world's confusion, we lose certitude and stability. We are tempted by petty annoyances and great griefs, by despondency and doubt, and by the angry emotions of our time.

Restore to us, your servants, the sanity and courage we sorely need, and banish our evil by the expulsive power of new faith, new affections, and new desires. Grant us true penitence and sincere amendment of life. Help us to see the right and to live it. Fortify our decision to live with honesty, integrity, and unselfishness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Hear the good news: God's spirit is within us. Our eyes can see beauty, our hearts can feel love, our minds can discover truth, and our wills can find purposes that enable life:

P: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

No. 582 GTG

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P. And also with you.

Share Christ's peace by using the peace sign or by waving to those around you.

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY:

*Our God has blessed us, so let us extend God's Blessing
as we present our Tithes and Offerings.*

Offertory:

"Get Together" (Powers)

Hontz Family

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 592 Praise God*

***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. Amen.***

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 12: 1-8 Life in God's Service Good News Translation

MEDITATION: *Modest, Joined, and Skilled* Elder Mark Hontz

MUSIC: *"Will the Circle Be Unbroken" (Habershon & Gabriel / Hontz)* Hontz Family

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *from "A Brief Statement of Faith" (Presbyterian Church USA 1991)*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 422*

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

***God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.***

***Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.***

Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.

Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

***Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, OF THE PEOPLE, & THE LORD'S PRAYER

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 369*

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

"*Hammer Song*" (Seeger)

Hontz Family

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

Learn more about the Hontz Family of Fredon, NJ

Our worship today was led by the Hontz Family of Fredon. Mark is an elder law and estate planning attorney in Newton, a Certified Lay Servant in the United Methodist Church, and a Ruling Elder at Yellow Frame Presbyterian Church in Fredon. Stephanie teaches math and calculus at Kittatinny Regional High School. Nathaniel and Thomas are students at Boston University School of Law. Susanna is a Senior at Lafayette College, where this morning she is welcoming the international students to campus. You are invited to visit and subscribe to the "Hontz Family Band" *YouTube* page, which hosts some of the family's sacred and secular music performances. Nathaniel Hontz's sacred and secular musical arrangements, hymns, and compositions can be heard and seen on the "Nathaniel Hontz" *YouTube* page.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

The Human Family: Persons and individuals impacted by COVID-19; essential workers; the homeless; people of Afghanistan, Haiti, and the Ukraine; families impacted by gun violence; those impacted by severe weather; families and communities destroyed by the Maui fire. The pastor (Rev. Robin Curras) and people of the Montclair Presbyterian Church, whose building caught fire and burned down on Monday, 8/15.

Men & Women Serving in the Armed Forces & America's Veterans

Those in elected office: The President, the Congress, State Assembly, local community servants

Healing for Friends & Families with:

Cancer: Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Ann Fleming, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow and her family, Jay Ohland Jr., Bill S., Andrew Shan, Abbi Sparkman, Robert Talmadge, Tracy Wolfe, Molly Grace Young, Alicia, Audrey, Darlene, Eva, Gail, Liza

Illness & Injuries: Robert Benz, Sue Bonkowski, Joan Caldwell, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Demares, Tracy



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

Church Office: 35 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825

Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060

Food Pantry (908) 362-5769 Children's Center: (908) 362-7887

e-Mail: fpcb@ptd.net Website: fpcb-nj.org

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

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GTG: Glory to God the Presbyterian Hymnal



ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Today's altar flowers were placed by Kaye & Craig Evans,
in celebration of Faith's Birthday.*

Note of Thanks:

"Dear friends,

I wanted to thank you for all the beautiful words and cards my family and I have received. We are touched and blessed by the outpouring of love and support you have shown us since the death of Les, our much-loved husband and father.

Very gratefully, Tina Ashburner"

Grateful appreciation to church members and friends of the church: Mark Nelke for trimming the evergreen in front of the church last week; Zach Burke and Frank Wilson for installing the screen on the wall; Ryan, Hannah, and Ella Burke for their extraordinary supervisory skills, overseeing their dad and Frank install the screen on the wall; and Rich Wilburn for power washing our church sign and for starting to develop Betsy's Garden. He hopes to start the garden on Thursday.

The **Aug. 29 FPCB Book Club** will meet at 7 PM, hosted by Kaye Evans. We will discuss West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge, an emotional, rousing novel inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America. The Book Club meets every 6–8 weeks, and we read a variety of titles: fiction and nonfiction; mysteries and suspense. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions or would like a copy of our reading list, please speak with Teri Harvey or Kaye Evans.

Sunday School volunteers wanted! If you enjoy being with young children and would like to help shape their faith formation, we encourage you to volunteer in our Sunday School program. This year we are offering 2 classes: Children & Worship for Pre-K through grade 1 and Faith Works for grades 2 through 8. Classes begin Sept. 10 and will meet in Fellowship Hall during the worship service. We are looking for teen helpers and teachers. If you are interested, please contact Deb Albrecht at debalbrecht20@gmail.com / (908) 447-2112 or Zach Burke at zburke50@gmail.com / (862) 812-6271.

ShopRite (\$25/\$100), **Acme** (\$25/\$100), **Dunkin** (\$10), **IHOP** (\$10), **Starbucks** (\$10), and **Panera** (\$10) **gift cards** are available. See Gail Weber (or Jen Plut in the church office) to order additional cards or if you have any questions about how to support this ministry!

Ushers/Greeters/Worship Leaders are Needed! For anyone interested in trying out these easy (yes, really!) jobs for the first time, we provide instructions and training—and would love to have you involved. **Additionally, the worship team has projector/DLP openings.** Please consider volunteering for these important roles. Please contact the church office or speak with Bill Olivier if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Fish & Chips: Mark Your Calendars for our Annual Tastefully British Fish/Chicken & Chips Dinner which will take place on Friday, Oct. 6 at the Outreach Center! This will be a take-out only dinner! Tickets will be available soon! Volunteers will be needed! Please speak with Gail Weber or contact the church office if you will be able and willing to help!

Sharing - Fall Fun Day at Johnsonburg Camp: Oct. 15 from 1:00–6:30 PM. Enjoy fun activities for all ages, like zip-lining, apple roasting, and pumpkin bowling. End the day with a delicious hot meal spent in community with friends and family. Visit the camp's website at www.campjburg.org/events/fall-fun-day/ for more information or to register.

It's not too soon to mark your calendar for Membership and Fellowship's, ever popular, Fall Square Dance! Ed LaPlante will be returning to FPCB to be our live caller on Saturday, Nov. 4. We'll have a covered dish supper in Fellowship Hall from 5–6 PM and the square dance will run from 6–8 PM. It's a great evening out for all ages, and if by chance you're not up for dancing, you'll have a guaranteed good time laughing and watching the fun. Invite your friends! RSVP by calling the church office at 908.362.5254, email at fpcb@ptd.net, or sign up in Fellowship Hall.

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeter: Stephanie Burke
Worship Leader: Bill Olivier
Guests: Elder Mark Hontz & Family
Usher: Betsy Peterson
Ministers: The Congregation

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

{ Dates/times subject to change }

Sunday, Aug. 27

10:00 AM Family Worship
Guests: Hontz Family

Monday, Aug. 28

Office closed

Tuesday, Aug. 29

10:30 AM Bible Study/OC & Zoom
7:00 PM Book Club

Sunday, Sep. 3

10:00 AM Family Worship & Communion

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