

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ**

*15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sep. 10, 2023

**GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

PRELUDE: *Cantata BWV 29 by JS Bach* (3-55)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Emily Arena

**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.**

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song! On this day, I woke up,

**P: On this day, I woke up, we woke up!**

L: This is God's gift to us. We woke up, and we are here.

**P: Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord; sing a new song to God!**

L: By sheer grace, God has bought us and brought us here.

**P: God is good, good and faithful. God is worthy of praise.**

L: With gladness and gratitude, let us worship God!

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 229 All That Dwell Below the Skies*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**All-powerful and all-present God, Author of all life, giver of all grace, abundant in steadfast love and mercy, in Jesus we are called from our personal isolation into faith and a faithful community, when we have wandered away and not wondered about your presence in our lives, we pray for humility to seek your forgiveness.**

**Grant us the grace needed to live reconciled and restored lives that in our daily life we may reflect the life and love of your Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ, in whose name, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: By Christ's forgiveness, barriers are broken down, new friendships are formed; a new community, demonstrating the new life we have in Christ's name, is created.

**P: Happy day! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**Let us forgive one another.**

\* *Please stand if you are able.*

\* CELEBRATING CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *Give Thanks* (No. 647 GTG)

\* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

*Welcome one another with Christ's peace.*

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERTORY:

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

COMMISSIONING OF 2023–24 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS,  
YOUTH WORKERS & CHOIR DIRECTORS

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

(Matthew 28: 18–20)

Here also these words of Holy Scripture:

*"As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."*

(Galatians 3: 27–28)

The opportunity to teach our children and youth the love and forgiveness, the peace and justice of Jesus is a privilege, a joy, and a responsibility. Sunday school teachers, youth workers, and choir directors for the 2023–2024 school year, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling, because it is God's grace. As God has called you to this particular teaching ministry of our church family, please respond by affirming the following questions:

Affirmation of the Sunday School Teachers, Youth Workers,  
& Choir Directors:

A. We are grateful for your willingness to teach the faith to our children and ask: Do you accept the opportunity to serve Jesus in our Sunday school program this year, and will you be faithful in your instruction of the faith to our children?

**Q. I do and I will with Christ's help.**

A. Will you serve Christ with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and trusting the power of the Holy Spirit in your teaching ministry?

**Q. I will with Christ's help.**

Affirmation of the Members of First Presbyterian Church, Blairstown, NJ:

A. Do you, the members of this church family, promise to pray for and support our Sunday school teachers, youth workers, and choir directors as they labor in love, teaching the way of Christ to our young people?

**Q. We will with Christ's help.**

COMMISSIONING PRAYER AND BLESSING

\* RALLY DAY COMMISSIONING HYMN: *No. 304 Jesus Loves Me!*

~ *Children may go downstairs for Sunday School* ~

## DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 13: 8–14 (*NRSVUE*)

Paul teaches to love one another and behave with decency.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 18: 15–22 (*The Revised English Bible*)

To forgive is to live Godlike.

ANTHEM: *Come Sing unto the Lord by Joseph Martin* Chancel Choir

MEDITATION: *Forbidden & Forgiven* Pastor David Harvey

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Vision Statement of the First Presb. Church*

**As members of the First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown, New Jersey, we believe that our church is a caring community. The foundation of this church is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**Our church seeks to be a center for Christian values, spiritual growth, social awareness, human service, and fellowship; ministering to and with all people in our congregation and community, to strengthen one another. Amen.**

\* HYMN: *There Is Now a New Creation* (*vv. 1, 2, 4, 5 - No. 774 GTG*)

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

## DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: *No. 367 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* (*vv. 1–3*)

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDECTION

\* CHORAL BENEDICTION:

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *Er ist das Heil und kommen her* by JS Bach

(2-09)

*Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!*

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## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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**The Human Family:** Persons and individuals who struggle with food insecurity and homelessness, the people in the Ukraine; families and communities impacted by gun violence; those impacted by severe weather; families and communities destroyed by the Maui fire. Schools within our community and country as they resume.

**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, 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

**Prayers of Condolences** for the family of Steve Terwilliger. Messages of love and sympathy may be sent to the family at: Marsha Terwilliger, 1819 Sanibel Court, The Villages, Florida 32162-7684.

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## THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

{ Dates/times subject to change }

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**Sunday, Sep. 10**

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

**Monday, Sep. 11**

*Office closed*

**Wednesday, Sep. 13**

2:30 PM S&F/OC

**Saturday, Sep. 16**

9:30 AM Food Pantry/OC

**Sunday, Sep. 17**

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

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## TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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**Greeters:** Bill Olivier

**Choir Director:** Maggie Morokutti

**Worship Leader:** Emily Arena

**Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey

**MIDI:** Frank Wilson

**Ministers:** The Congregation

**Usher:** Mark Nelke

**DLP:** Jen Plut

**Children & Worship:** *Orientation*

**Faith Works:** Deb Albrecht

Lesson: *The Baby in the Basket*

*Exodus 1:8-14, 2:1-10*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Deacon Meeting:** The rescheduled Board of Deacons meeting will be held Sunday, Sep. 24 after church in Fellowship Hall.

**Movie Night:** Come Join us on Saturday, Sep. 30 at 6 PM for a youth movie night! We will be showing *The Incredibles* at 6 PM at the O.C. There will be pizza, snacks, and games! All church youth are invited to attend and bring a friend. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. For more information, see Stephanie Burke. See you there!



**The Peace & Global Witness Offering** is received during the Season of Peace, which ends on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 1. As we work to share Christ's peace with one another, let's share that peace with those beyond our doors, beyond our communities and beyond our borders.

**Fish & Chips:** Mark your calendars for Friday, Oct. 6 when we will host our eighth annual Tastefully British Fish/Chicken & Chips Dinner. If you would like to help out with planning or assisting with this event, there is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are available from most church Deacons, Elders, or at the Outreach Center — tickets may also be purchased at [fpcb-nj.org](http://fpcb-nj.org)! Additionally, tickets will also be available in Fellowship Hall after today's service of worship – see Gail Weber. Thank you in advance for your participation!

**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/](http://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](mailto:fpcb@ptd.net), or sign up in Fellowship Hall.

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Tastefully British

# FISH & CHIPS

## TAKE-OUT DINNER

**Friday, October 6, 2023**  
**5 PM to 7 PM**



**First Presbyterian Church \*OUTREACH CENTER\***  
**35 Main Street, Blairstown (next to the Post Office)**

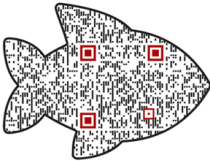


*Take Out Menu:* Fresh Cod Filet **OR** Chicken Breast with  
French Fries, Coleslaw, & Dessert  
(Apple pie, pumpkin pie, brownie)

### Ticket Prices

Adults	Children (10 & Under)
\$18 advance sale \$20 at the door	\$10 advance sale same at the door

**TAKE OUT  
ONLY!**



Dinner tickets may be purchased **online** at **FPCB-NJ.ORG**  
**OR** inside the FPC Outreach Center (side entrance) at  
35 Main St., Blairstown (next to the post office) between  
9:30 AM and 1:00 PM, Tue. thru Fri.  
~(908) 362-5254, email [fpcb@ptd.net](mailto:fpcb@ptd.net)~