

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

16th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sep. 17, 2023

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Brandenburg Concerto BWV105 by JS Bach*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Erika Wulster

**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:

adapted from Psalm 103: 1-3

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

P: And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

P: And forget not all God's benefits.

L: Good News, godly news: God forgives. God heals.

P: God transforms with steadfast love.

L: Bless God's holy name.

P: Bless God, praise God's holy and precious name.

L: With unbridled joy in our hearts, and passionate praise from our lips,

P: Let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 181 Come Sing to God*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings,
you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement
plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in
arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather
than working through it.**

**Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in
relationships, be transformed through your steadfast love, and
accept that we belong to you. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

(James 5: 15-16)

L: The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

Anyone who has committed sins, our sins are forgiven.

P: 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.*

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 577 Glory Be to the Father*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 14: 5–12

St. Paul says to live forgiven is to live as a child of God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 18: 21–35

Jesus tells the danger of withholding mercy.

ANTHEM: *In Your House, O Lord* by Jay Turner Chancel Choir

MEDITATION: *The Danger of Withholding Mercy* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *adapted from Romans 8: 37–39*

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 261 God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us*

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 298 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *Sonata da Chiesa* by Tomaso Albinoni

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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 McMorro 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 Cuiipa, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Demares, Tracy

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

{ Dates/times subject to change }

Sunday, Sep. 17

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Monday, Sep. 18

Office closed

Tuesday, Sep. 19

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Thursday, Sep. 21

7:00 PM Session/OC

Sunday, Sep. 24

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Deacon Ministry/FH

TODAY'S WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSISTANTS

Greeters: Bill Olivier

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

Worship Leader: Erika Wulster

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

MIDI: Frank Wilson

DLP: Jen Plut

Ministers: The Congregation

Usher: Robin Kasprenski

Children & Worship: Joan Cameron

Lesson: *The Good Shepherd &*

The Lost Sheep

Faith Works: Deb Albrecht

Lesson: *The Burning Bush*

Exodus 2:11-3:22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!



8th Annual Tastefully British
FISH & CHIPS
TAKE-OUT DINNER

 Fri., Oct. 6  5 – 7 PM 

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

FISH/CHICKEN & CHIPS TAKE-OUT DINNER – FRI., OCT. 6

Dinner Tickets are available from church Deacons, Elders, or at the Outreach Center — tickets may also be purchased at fpcb-nj.org/fish-chips or in Fellowship Hall today!

Helpers Needed with this event; there is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Attention Bakers! We are looking for volunteers to provide dessert items (10" apple pie, 10" pumpkin pie, and/or brownies) for the Oct. 6 dinner! If you are interested in baking, please contact the church office or sign up in Fellowship Hall. Desserts should remain "intact" (i.e. uncut, in a carrier, etc.); they will be plated as individual servings. Desserts should be dropped off at the Outreach Center by 2 PM on Friday, Oct. 6!

Sponsor a Pie! (Suggested amount: \$15) In lieu of baking, monetary donations for baked goods gratefully accepted! (Please mark "pies" in check memo area, on envelope, or in notes area if donating online. *Thank you!*)

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.

