

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

24th Sunday after Pentecost & Veterans Sunday

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Nov. 12, 2023

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Adagio in G minor by Albinoni*

07-47

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Tim Topolski

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 Ps. 78 1-3, 38

L: People of faith, listen and pay attention. I speak to you in poetry!

P: What we have heard and know, what our ancestors have told us.

L: We shall not conceal but tell to a generation yet to come!

P: We shall tell the praise of God and God's power.

L: We shall tell the wonderful deeds that God has done.

P: In compassion, God forgives guilt.

L: Instead of killing and rousing anger, God remembers, and God renews.

P: With great gratitude and gladness, let us worship God!

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 285 God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful God, as you have led your people through desert and danger, forgive us when we have not been inclined to follow. Forgive our sins. Make us aware of your compassion. Fill us with your presence that we may represent and present Your divine love in Jesus to the world. Bless, we pray, the work we do; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Friends in Christ, forgiven and freed, live your citizenship as people of God's kingdom.

People: As a people whom God has 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 AND OFFERTORY:

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

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON: Joshua 24: 1–15.

Joshua tells the sacred story and decrees to serve Yahweh, his God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25: 1–13

Jesus illustrates faithfulness to God.

HYMN: *No. 339 Be Thou My Vision*

vv. 1 & 3

MEDITATION: *Memories, Memorials, & Meaning*

Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *1 Thess. 4: 13–18: An Affirmation of Hope*

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, we who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 447*

Lead On, O King Eternal

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

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS

adapted from: The Book of Worship for United States Forces (1974)

(Use of this litany in congregational worship has been granted by *The Armed Forces Chaplains' Board, Washington, D.C.*)

OPENING REMARKS

Elder Gail Weber

Members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown, NJ
who served in the United States Armed Services

L: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

P: We give you thanks, O God. As we remember these your servant veterans, remembering with gratitude their courage, with awe their valor, with admiration their strength, we lift before you those who have served this country through the armed forces. Grant them peace knowing that they bravely risked their lives for the preservation of freedom, the continuation of our Constitution, the advocacy of families and kin. This we pray in Jesus' name, who in his living and in his dying showed us the true meaning of sacrificing one's life, so that we may live and truly be free. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 562 Eternal God, Strong to Save vv. 1-3*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION: *Song of Peace (tune Edelweiss)*
***May the Lord, mighty God Bless and keep you forever.
Give you peace, perfect peace. Courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face, and His grace forever.
May the Lord, mighty God, bless, and keep you forever!"***

POSTLUDE: *Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir*
(We thank you God we thank you) by J.S. Bach, BWV 29

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

TODAY'S WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSISTANTS

Greeter: Bill Olivier

Worship Leader: Tim Topolski

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Ministers: The Congregation

Coffee Hour: Kaye Evans

Usher: Chester Topolski

DLP: Jen Plut

Children & Worship: Joan Cameron

Lesson: *Ten Best Ways to Live*

Faith Works: Zach Burke; *Review*

Christmas Play/Make Thanksgiving Cards

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

The Human Family: Persons and individuals who struggle with food insecurity and homelessness, the people in the Ukraine and the Middle East; families and communities impacted by gun violence; those impacted by severe weather.

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

Those in elected office: The President, the Congress, State Assembly, Municipality officials

Healing for Friends & Families:

Cancer: Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, 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, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Peter Porzio, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Demares, Tracy, Valerie

Prayers of Condolences for the family of Norma Cowell, mother of church member, John Cowell

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH { Dates/times subject to change }

Sunday, Nov. 12

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Deacon Ministry Meeting

Monday, Nov. 13

Office closed

Tuesday, Nov. 14

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

3:30 PM Enduring Gifts/OC

Wednesday, Nov. 15

10:00 AM S&F/OC

1:30 PM BWC Ex. Board/OC

Saturday, Nov. 18

9:30 AM Food Pantry

10:00 AM Thanksgiving Box Distribution

Sunday, Nov. 19

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:00 AM (*approx.*) Fruit Trays for Shut Ins

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

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

Office/Pantry Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060

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

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study: Please join us for 10 AM bible study this Tuesday at the Outreach Center or via Zoom. Contact the church office to be added to our weekly bible study email reminders/updates.

Altar Flowers: Do you have a special occasion you would like to commemorate with altar flowers? There are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall. You may also sign up electronically through SignUpGenius which can be accessed through our website at <https://fpcb-nj.org/altar-flowers/>. Thank you, in advance, by providing altar flowers! The PW flower person of the month of November is Deb Albrecht.

Wish List for Thanksgiving Boxes: We are planning for 28 boxes from each Church. The distribution will take place at our church on Saturday, Nov. 18. Here's our current wish list: canned yams (30 oz), peaches (jars or cans), and canned jellied cranberry sauce. Also needed are cereals other than Cheerios and canned tuna in water. If you have any questions, please speak with Erika Wulster, Betsy Gervasi, or Judy Trigg.

Saturday, Nov. 25th - Jingle on Main: It's getting to be that time of year again. Jingle on Main is right around the corner and to have a welcoming presence in our community, FPCB and Membership and Fellowship Ministry will once again have a table set up in front of the Outreach Center offering coffee, hot chocolate, chili, hot dogs and bottled water, all for a freewill donation. We need help with setup, cleanup, people to take a 2 to 3-hour shift at the table, and some volunteers to make chili. If you can lend a hand, please sign up at the table in Fellowship Hall or give Jen a call at the Outreach center and let her know how you can help. Thank you in advance.

Sight and Sound Productions of Lancaster, PA is offering to the public the opportunity to stream "*Miracle of Christmas*" for \$19.99 sight-sound.tv. Anyone can view this production from the comfort of their home. If there is enough interest, FPCB is hoping to stream it on the big screen at the Outreach Center on Saturday, December 2, at 3:00 PM. Please contact Jen at the church office if you would like to see "*Miracle of Christmas*" with members and friends of FPCB at the Outreach Center.

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!

Shoe Box Ministry for College Students: Anyone with college students that wish to receive a Shoe Box full of goodies, please send the student's address to Deacon Stephanie Burke via email sburke11286@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Pocono Concert Chorale presents *A Ceremony of Carols* on Sunday, December 3 at 2:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church Stroudsburg, 575 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA. Admission \$10 *Announcements Cont'd.*

Dedicated to quality performances of outstanding choral music in the Poconos



James Maroney, *Artistic Director & Conductor* • Katherine Johnson, *Accompanist*

presents

A Ceremony of Carols

by

Benjamin Britten

with

Andrea Wittchen, *harp*

and other distinctive holiday selections

Sunday December 3 at 2:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church 575 Main St. Stroudsburg, PA

Admission \$10

Tickets available at the door or in advance from Pocono Concert Chorale members



HUGHES FOUNDATION, INC.

www.poconoconcertchorale.org

www.facebook.com/poconoconcertchorale



Messiah Sing!

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 3RD | 4PM

**Knowlton Presbyterian Church
3 Knowlton Rd. Columbia, NJ 07832**

A Free Concert!

**RSVP / MAPS / PARKING
www.knowltonpca.org/sing**

 *Refreshments Provided* 



FEATURING:
String Quartet

CONDUCTOR:
Eugene Sirotkine

HARPSICHORD:
Anastasia Dedik

SOLOISTS: Matthew Kidd / Sheldrake Lukas
Alexandra Lushak / Maggie Morokutti / Melissa Craig