

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

25th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Nov. 19, 2023

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Toccata" by Charles Marie Widor* (5-47)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Mark Nelke

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 118:24, 98: 1-2*

Leader: This is the day the Lord our God has made

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it;

Leader: Give thanks to God; make a joyful noise to God;

People: Sing a new song to the Lord, for God has worked wonders, and shown justice to all the nations.

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

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *For the Fruit of All Creation* (No. 36, GTG)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(in silence then unison)*

O Talent-giving God, you entrust each of us with gifts beyond measure; too often the gifts given to us become more of a burden than a blessing, more of a reason to groan than give thanks, more of a cause for our griping than rejoicing.

Forgive us when we bury or are burdened by the gifts entrusted to us. May your Spirit fill us with gladness and remind us that you are the author of our time, our talents, and our treasures; in your Son, Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Leader: Baptized in Jesus' name and forgiven by Jesus, be kind in heart, and be blessed. Be humble in mind and willing to love and ready to forgive as Christ has first loved and forgiven us.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Let us forgive one another.**

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 304 Jesus Loves Me!*

* *Please stand if you are able.*

* 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*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*Being baptized today is Casey Michael Thornton, born April 27, 2023 to
parents Edward and Ashley Thornton.*

Sponsors: James and Corinne Thornton.

PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD:

Elder Mark Nelke

RENUNCIATION OF EVIL & AFFIRMATION OF GOD'S LOVE

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; and he ascended into heaven; he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life-everlasting. Amen.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Holy Lord, God almighty. We give thanks . . . now and forever. Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM & THE BLESSING

PRESENTATION OF CASEY MICHAEL THORNTON:

Jesus, Friend, So Kind and Gentle (v. 1) No. 451, The Hymnbook

***Jesus, Friend, so kind and gentle, little ones we bring to thee;
Grant to them Thy dearest blessing, let Thine arms around them be;
Now enfold them in Thy goodness, from all danger keep them free.***

Elder: Casey Michael Thornton, you are now received into the holy catholic church.

In baptism, God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the fellowship of Christ. I charge you, the people of this congregation, to nurture him, to love him, and to encourage him as he grows in the way of Christ. Let us affirm our commitment to this child of God.

People: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Casey Michael Thornton into the Body of Christ and the family of God. We promise to love him, encourage him, share the good news of the gospel with him and teach him the way of Jesus that he might grow in the full knowledge and truth of Christ's love. Amen.

* BAPTISMAL HYMN: *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry (No. 488, GTG)*

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1–11. We wait with hopefulness.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25: 14–30. Joy comes to those who trade.

ANTHEM: *"These Alone, O God Are Enough for Me"* Chancel Choir
by Dan Schutte | Willow Kessler & Frank Wilson, Soloists

MEDITATION: *Joyful Trading* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 554 Let All Things Now Living*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *"Sonata Da Chiesa" by Tomaso Albinoni (5-54)*

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 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, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Eva, Gail, Liza

Illness & Injuries: Robert Benz, Sue Bonkowski, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Marian Hillsdon, Peter Porzio, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Demares, Tracy, Valerie

TODAY'S WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSISTANTS

Greeter: Robin Kasprenski

Worship Leader & Elder assisting with Baptism: Mark Nelke

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Ministers: The Congregation

DLP: Jen Plut

Usher: Betsy Peterson

Children & Worship: Lisa Besser

Lesson: *How the Church Tells Time*

Faith Works: Deb Albrecht

Joseph's Story Matthew 1: 18-24

Read through the Christmas play

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

Sunday, Nov. 19

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Monday, Nov. 20 *Office closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers Rehearsal

Tuesday, Nov. 21

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

1:00 PM Library Book Group/OC

7:00 PM Thanksgiving Service

Thursday, Nov. 23

Office Closed

Friday, Nov. 24

Office Closed

Sunday, Nov. 26

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

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.

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, Dec. 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!

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Pocono Concert Chorale presents *A Ceremony of Carols* on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2:30 PM at the First Presbyterian Church Stroudsburg, 575 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA. Admission \$10

Messiah Sing! A Free concert featuring a string quartet on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4:00 PM at the Knowlton Presbyterian Church. Additional information at www.knowltonpca.org/sing. Refreshments provided.

Blair Vespers: Blair's Chamber Orchestra and Singers perform as part of this traditional holiday service on Dec. 8 at 4:30 & 7:00 PM in our Sanctuary.

Water Gap Singers Holiday Concert: Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 PM in our Sanctuary with a reception to follow. The program will include a variety of seasonal music, both sacred and secular. The Water Gap Singers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Funding has been made possible, in part, by the Warren County Cultural and Heritage Division. New members are always welcomed. There are no auditions. Visit their website for more information: <https://watergapsingers.org/>.

For your spiritual renewal and refreshment, consider attending some or all the activities below:



- ❖ ***Thanksgiving Service***
Nov. 21 7:00 PM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***Jingle on Main***
Nov. 25 All Day Main Street, Blairstown
Outreach Center
- ❖ ***Christ the King Sunday / Consecration Sunday***
Nov. 26 10:00 AM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***1st Sunday in Advent & Hanging of the Greens & Celebration of Holy Communion***
Dec. 3 10:00 AM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***PW Advent Wreath Making & Soup***
Dec. 4 5:30 PM Outreach Center
- ❖ ***Blair Academy Christmas Vespers***
Dec. 8 4:30/7:00PM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***2nd Sunday in Advent***
Dec. 10 10:00 AM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***Water Gap Singers Christmas Concert***
Dec. 10 4:00 PM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***3rd Sunday in Advent***
Dec. 17 10:00 AM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***4th Sunday in Advent & Children Christmas Pageant***
Dec. 24 10:00 AM 1st Presbyterian Church
- ❖ ***Christmas Eve Service***
Dec. 24 7:00 PM 1st Presbyterian Church



