

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 17, 2024

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Pete Peterson

**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.**

MOMENT OF STEWARDSHIP:

Jan Swift & Gail Weber

\* SONG OF PRAISE: *No. 333 Seek Ye First*

*v. 1*

***Seek Ye First the kingdom of God, and His righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!***

\* CALL TO WORSHIP:

*Adapted from Psalm 51*

L: Create a clean heart in me, O God,

**P: And put a new and right spirit within me.**

L: Do not cast me away from your presence,

**P: And do not take your holy spirit from me.**

L: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

**P: and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

L: Come! Let us worship God!

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 391 Take My Life*

*vv. 1, 2, 5*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**God, forgive our doubting, questioning hearts. Like the scribes who witnessed Jesus' miracles of healing and heard his proclamation, yet rejected belief, we too have seen wonders, yet have hardened our hearts. We confess the many times that our pessimism has caused others to doubt themselves and your Spirit, the times that our criticism has wounded others, the times that our misery has dampened the enthusiasm of those inspired by your Word and work.**

**O God, forgive us and in your mercy renew us, that with open hearts we may believe and never pose an obstacle to the faith of others. Amen.**

\* *Please stand if you are able.*

## ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: This season of Lent, let us return to the Lord our God, and re-center our lives on God's grace and mercy.

**P: God who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, in Jesus Christ, has forgiven us. Thanks be to God!**

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

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks, because we're given Jesus Christ the Son.  
And now let the weak say, "we are strong"; let the poor say,  
"We are rich, because of what the Lord has done for us!"  
Give thanks.***

\* 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. 375 Lord of All Good* v. 1

***Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to You.  
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.  
Tokens of love and pledges brought anew.  
That our whole life is offered to Your will.***

## DECLARING GOD'S WORD

*Encountering Jesus Sermon Series: Deepening Our Faith through  
the Lives of Those Who Encountered Jesus First*

HEBREW LESSON: Isaiah 42: 14–20

GOSPEL LESSON: John 9: 1–12, 29–41

MUSICAL MEDITATION: *Be Thou My Vision*  
*Craig Evans, guitar | Brian Kathenes, banjo*

MEDITATION: *Jesus and the Man Born Blind* Melanie Williams

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**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 Jesus Christ, fully**

human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the broken hearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Amen.

\* HYMN: *No. 280*

*Amazing Grace*

*vv. 1–4*

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

## DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: *No. 332*

*Live into Hope*

*vv. 1–3*

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

\* CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION: *"Song of Peace"*

*(sung to the tune of "Edelweiss")*

***May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.  
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.  
Lift up your eyes and see God's face, and God's grace forever.  
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.***

POSTLUDE

*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 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**

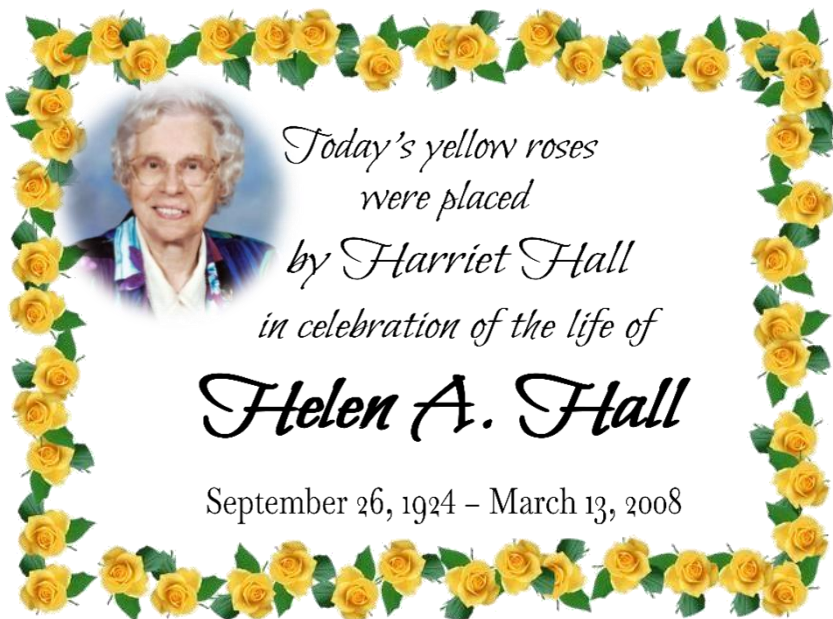
**Those in elected office:** The President, the Congress, State Assembly, Municipality officials

**Healing for Friends & Families:**

**Cancer:** Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow and her family, Bill Salvadore, 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, Ashley Farhat, Anna Nagyhetenyi, Peter Porzio, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, Demares, Tracy, Valerie

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## THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

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### **Sunday, Mar. 17**

- 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Worship
- 10:15 AM Sunday School
- 11:15 AM Kindness Rocks!

### **Mon., Mar. 18** *Office Closed*

- 7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

### **Tuesday, Mar. 19**

- 10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
- 6:00 PM Lenten Reflections/OC

### **Wednesday, Mar. 20**

- 11:00 AM Qigong/OC
- 2:30 PM S&F/OC

### **Thursday, Mar. 21**

- 7:00 PM Session/OC

### **Friday, Mar. 22**

- 11:00 AM Qigong/OC
- 6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC

### **Saturday, Mar. 23**

- 9:30 AM Food Pantry/OC

### **Sunday, Mar. 24 Palm Sunday**

- 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 AM Deacons — Cookie Prep
- 10:00 AM Worship
- 10:15 AM Sunday School
- 11:15 AM Children's Choir
- 11:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt

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## ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

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**Greeter:** Judy Trigg

**Usher:** Gail Weber

**Worship Leader:** Pete Peterson

**Church Intern:** Melanie Williams

**Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey

**Choir Director:** Maggie Morokutti

**Sound System:** Theo Padavano

**DLP:** Jennifer Plut

**Ministers:** The Congregation

**Coffee Hour:** Deb Albrecht &  
Amanda Macchia

**Children & Worship:** Stephanie Burke; *Jesus the King*  
**Faith Works:** Lisa Besser; *Jesus Shows Love in the Garden*  
(Matthew 26: 31–58)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Children's Choir:** No Children's Choir today.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Thank you to all who donated to yesterday's Habitat for Humanity lunch! The lunch was greatly appreciated by the volunteers.

**Bible Study:** Please join us for 10 AM bible study this Tuesday, led by church intern, Melanie Williams, at the Outreach Center or via Zoom (Meeting ID: 698 984 3572 Passcode: 8MTq72). Contact the church office to be added to our weekly bible study email reminders/updates.

**Lenten Reflections:** The Lenten Reflections will be a 30-minute chapel-meets-Bible Study reflection on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM (at the OC or via Zoom: Meeting ID: 698 984 3572 Passcode: 8MTq72 through the Lenten season. Lent is a time when we prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus, but sometimes we forget that Jesus had an earthly ministry too. Join us as we meet some of the people who encountered Jesus and what their stories mean for us today.

**Book Club:** The next meeting will be held this Wednesday at 7:00 PM, hosted by Chris McGrath. We will discuss the book, [A Gentle Rain of Compassion](#) by David R. Shlim. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please speak with Teri Harvey or Kaye Evans.

**Loaves & Fishes:** ShopRite (\$25/\$100), Acme (\$25/\$100), Dunkin' (\$10), IHOP (\$10), Panera (\$10), and Starbucks (\$10) gift cards are available at the OC during office hours. See Gail Weber to order additional cards or if you have any questions about how to support this ministry!

**Cookies for the Truckstop:** Do you enjoy baking? The Deacon ministry is asking for cookie donations for next Sunday, Mar. 24 by 9 AM. These will be delivered to the Truckstop in Columbia.

**Joint Deacon and Session Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, April 14, after church. A light lunch will be provided.



**Worship Helpers:** You are invited to sign up online through Sign-Up Genius — pick a date that works for you! Visit [fpcb-nj.org](http://fpcb-nj.org) for the sign-up link.

**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS):** Your gift to the Special Mission offering, *One Great Hour of Sharing*, enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. We will receive the OGHS Special Offering through Easter, Mar. 31. You may contribute to OGHS electronically on the church website: [fpcb-nj.org](http://fpcb-nj.org) (donate through "PC(USA) Special Offerings") or by sending your offering to the church.

**PW Bakeless Bake Sale:** *No fuss, no muss! No haste, no waste! Not even a pound to gain!* Make your list of ingredients, and instead of driving to the store to buy those special items, sit back and relax. Instead of shopping and baking, a monetary donation is so much simpler, and you'll know your contribution will be supporting Presbyterian Women (PW) mission projects such as PW of the Highlands Presbytery, St Jude's Children Hospital, camperships to deserving young people of our church to attend Johnsonburg Summer Camp, and many other worthwhile endeavors. Contribute to the PW Bakeless Bake Sale online at [fpcb-nj.org](http://fpcb-nj.org), mail a check payable to "Presbyterian Women" to P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825, or leave a contribution in the offering plate on Sunday. Please be sure to specify it's for the "bakeless bake sale"! Thank you for your support!

**Johnsonburg Summer Camperships:** The Presbyterian Women support children from our church who are interested in attending Johnsonburg summer camp. Any child interested in attending should write a letter to Presbyterian Women indicating their reason for wanting to attend camp. Letters should be in the church office by April 30. More information may be found at [fpcb-nj.org/summer-camperships](http://fpcb-nj.org/summer-camperships). Check out the summer camp options at [campjburg.org/summer-camp](http://campjburg.org/summer-camp).

### **Community News:**


**Blood Drive:** Saturday, April 6 between 9 AM and 3 PM at the Lion's Den, 505 Rt. 94, Columbia, NJ. For more information and to register (recommended), please visit [blairstownrotary.org](http://blairstownrotary.org). Blood drive is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Blairstown.

**Clothing Drive:** Cleaning out your closets? The NWR girl's lacrosse team is hosting a clothing drive Apr. 6–16 at the back parking lot of the high school. For details, visit [facebook.com/NWRLadyPatriotsLax](https://facebook.com/NWRLadyPatriotsLax) or speak with Lisa Besser or Jen Plut.

# Easter Flower Dedications



Continuing with the tradition of placing Easter flowers *in memory, in honor, or in celebration of*, you may do so by returning this order form and payment Sunday's offering plate or by mailing it to the church office. The cost of each plant this year is \$12, and donations should be made to "Presbyterian Women."

Easter flower dedications may also be ordered at our website. Simply visit [fpcb-nj.org](http://fpcb-nj.org) and select  (or scan the QR Code below); contribute through "Presbyterian Women" and leave your dedication in the Notes section!

**The deadline is Wed., March 27.**

**\$12 PER EASTER FLOWER DEDICATION**  
(checks payable to PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN)



- A. In Honor of      B. In Memory of  
C. In Celebration of      D. Other (specify)

(A., B., C.,  
or D.)

Dedication

*Please print clearly. Thank You!!*

Name of Contributor: \_\_\_\_\_

-----For Office Use Only-----

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ By EFT ☐ By Cash ☐ By Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Palm Sunday, March 24 Worship:**

Church Sanctuary at 10:00 AM

*Easter Egg Hunt for Sunday School Students following worship*

**Combined Maundy Thursday / Good Friday Worship:**

**Thursday, March 28:**

Church Sanctuary at 7:00 PM

**Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunrise Worship:**

Blair Lake at 7:00 AM

**Sunday, March 31 Easter Worship & Communion:**

Church Sanctuary at 10:00 AM

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.  
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.  
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.  
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.  
Fast from worries and have trust in God.  
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.  
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.  
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.  
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.  
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.  
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*

Submitted by Jan Swift

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**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](mailto:fpcb@ptd.net) Website: [fpcb-nj.org](http://fpcb-nj.org)

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

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