

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 18, 2024

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *O Lamm Gottes unschuldig - BWV656 by JS Bach (07:07)*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &
AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

**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.**

- * SONG OF PRAISE: *No. 333 Seek Ye First*
- * CALL TO WORSHIP: *Adapted from Psalm 111: 1, 3-4, 9b (NRSV)*
L: Praise the Lord.
P: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.
L: In the company of the upright, with mind, heart, and soul,
P: Praise the Lord, give thanks to the Lord, remember the Lord.
L: Remember, God is full of honor and majesty, renowned by his wonder
deeds;
**P: God has commanded his divine covenant forever. Holy and
awesome is God's name.**
L: With joyful praise in our lives, let us worship God!
- * HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 285 God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**O God, eternal, almighty, and merciful, you of all beings are our
ultimate concern, and you only are worthy of our thoughts and
praise. In your presence, we confess our failure to be what you
created us to be. In wandering from your ways, in wasting our
gifts, in forgetting your love, we estrange ourselves from your
eternal and all-embracing love.**

**Forgive us when we are blind to your love and negligent of
living into your blessing. By your loving mercy, lead us into your
love and grant us grace to walk in your ways; in the name of your
Son and our Savior, Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

* *Please stand if you are able.*

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Friends — hear, believe, and receive the life-transforming good news of the gospel, and live into the joy of Christ's kingdom on earth.

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

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S LOVE: *No. 466* *v. 1*
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

L: The peace of Christ be with you. **P: And also with you.**

Welcome one another with Christ's peace.

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

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

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW LESSON: 1 Kings 2: 10–12, 3: 1–15. Solomon becomes king.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 6: 44–59

Jesus declares himself the living bread of life.

MEDITATION: *Creeds, Confessions, & Catechisms: Pastor David Harvey VII. The Barmen Declaration: Witnesses of the Word*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Barmen Declaration, (8.11–8.14, 16)*

We believe Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to bear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation.

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to all Christ's creatures.

"Rather speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him which is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body is joined and knit together" (Eph. 4: 15-16). Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 423 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* *vv. 1, 2, 3, 5*

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 281 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Nachklang* (02:02)

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: Stas Czarnuciewicz, Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow and her family, Peter Porzio, Monica Salvadore, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Addie Wasserman, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Eva, Gail, Liza, Joan

Illness & Injuries: Robert Benz, Sue Bonkowski, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Ashley Farhat, Anna Nagyhetenyi, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Gail Weber, Betty Ann Weir, Ed Williams, Ann, Carter, Demares, Evelyn, Michelle, Tracy, Valerie, Messina Family

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, Aug. 18

10:00 AM Family Worship

Monday, Aug. 19 *Office Closed*

Tuesday, Aug. 20

1:00 PM Library Book Group/OC

Saturday, Aug. 24

8:30 AM Church Work Day

Sunday, Aug. 25

10:00 AM Family Worship

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter(s): -

Usher(s): -

Worship Leader:

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Sound System: Theo Padavano

MIDI:

DLP: Jennifer Plut

Ministers: The Congregation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 lady of the month of August is Deb Albrecht.

Worship Helpers: You are invited to sign up online through Sign-Up Genius — pick a date that works for you! Visit fpcb-nj.org for the sign-up link. There is also a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School volunteers wanted! If you enjoy being with young children and would like to help shape their faith formation, we encourage you to volunteer in our Sunday School program. This year we are offering 2 classes: Children & Worship for Pre-K through grade 1 and Faith Works for grades 2 through 8. Classes begin Sept. 15 and will meet in Fellowship Hall during the worship service. We are looking for teen helpers and teachers. If you are interested, please contact Deb Albrecht at debalbrecht20@gmail.com / (908) 447-2112 or Zach Burke at zburke50@gmail.com / (862) 812-6271.

The next **FPCB Book Club** discussion will be at 7 PM on Wednesday, Aug. 28 hosted by Jen Plut. We will be discussing The Moonshiner's Daughter by Donna Everhart, a compelling coming-of-age novel set in 1960s North Carolina. It follows the story of sixteen-year-old Jessie Sasser, who is determined to escape her family's moonshining legacy. The Book Club meets every 6–8 weeks and reads a variety of titles: fiction and nonfiction; mysteries and suspense. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions or would like a copy of our reading list, please speak with Teri Harvey or Kaye Evans.

Habitat for Humanity: Our church will be providing a hearty lunch for about 12 to 15 volunteers at their work site on Sat., Sep. 14. The deacons are asking for donations of fruit, iced tea, water, sandwiches, chips, and some baked goods to be dropped off at the Outreach Center no later than 10 AM on Sep. 14. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for those who would like to donate. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Cameron at (908) 459-9068. The lunch is greatly appreciated by the Habitat volunteers so any assistance would be greatly welcomed.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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