

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Sep. 1, 2024

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Arioso, BWV 156, by Johann Sebastian Bach*

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.**

\* SONG OF PRAISE: *Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)* No. 701 GTG

\* CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 90: 1-2, 16-17*

L: Lord, you have been our dwelling places to all generations.

**P: Before the mountains were brought forth,**

L: Or ever you had formed the earth and the world.

**P: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

L: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

**P: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—**

L: O prosper the work of our hands.

**P: With praise on our lips and rich joy in our hearts,  
let us worship God!**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 288 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* vv. 1, 2

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

**Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and with a passionate will to serve you and to do your work. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconsistent, and obedience incomplete. In your tender mercy, forgive us when we fail to do your work and to grow in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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.**

\* *Please stand if you are able.*

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

\* 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

EPISTLE LESSON: James 1: 17–27

James lists ways to do God's work.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 7: 1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Jesus explains how things defile us.

MEDITATION: *Doing God's Work*

Pastor David Harvey

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human and 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 brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks, and to live holy and joyful lives even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

\* HYMN: *No. 355 Here the Good News of Salvation*

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

## DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: *No. 335*

*Though I May Speak*

*vv. 1, 2*

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

*Zipoli – Offertorio*

*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:** Stas Czarnuciewicz, Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorro 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, Thomas Cheevers, 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

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### ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

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**Greeter:** Elizabeth Topolski

**Ushers:** Betsy Gervasi; Chester Topolski

**Worship Leader:** Pete Peterson

**Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey

**Sound System:** Theo Padavano

**MIDI:**

**DLP:** Jennifer Plut

**Ministers:** The Congregation

**Coffee Hour:** Wilson Family

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### THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

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**Sunday, Sep. 1**

10:00 AM Family Worship

**Monday, Sep. 2** *Office Closed*

**Tuesday, Sep. 3**

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

7:00 PM M&W-CE/OC

**Thursday, Sep. 5**

6:30 PM 4-H/OC

**Sunday, Sep. 8** *Rally Day*

10:00 AM Family Worship

& Communion

11:15 AM Rally Day Brunch

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Altar Flowers:** This morning's altar flowers have been placed by Lily Wilson in loving memory of her sister, Rebecca Ho, who recently passed.

**Holy Communion** will be served next Sunday, Sep. 8.

**Rally Day Brunch:** Join us in Fellowship Hall for a delicious brunch and fellowship as we come together after worship and communion for a time of renewal after church on Sunday, Sep. 8. If you can, please consider bringing a quiche or breakfast casserole, baked items or fruit.

**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. We offer two classes: Children & Worship for Pre-K through grade 1 and Faith Works for grades 2 through 8. Classes begin Sep. 15 and will meet in Fellowship Hall during worship. We are looking for teen helpers and teachers. If you are interested, please contact Deb Albrecht at [debalbrecht20@gmail.com](mailto:debalbrecht20@gmail.com) / (908) 447-2112 or Zach Burke at [zburke50@gmail.com](mailto:zburke50@gmail.com) / (862) 812-6271.

**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.

**Deacon Ministry:** The next Deacon Ministry meeting will take place Sunday, Sep. 15 following worship.

**FALL FUN DAY at Camp Johnsonburg:** Now here's a fantastic opportunity for our church family! Enjoy a fall afternoon at Camp Johnsonburg on Oct. 6, from 1:00–6:30 PM. Weather dependent, all activities will be available, and dinner is included. Membership and Fellowship is pleased to be able to offer a \$10.00 stipend per person towards the cost of the afternoon. Pricing is tiered. The regular cost is \$25.00 or you can opt to pay a lower amount of \$15.00. *The choice is yours.* Registration and payment are done online by each attendee at <https://www.campjburg.org/events/fall-fun-day/>. With Membership and Fellowship's \$10.00 stipend, the final cost to each attendee will either be \$5.00 or \$10.00. *What a day, what a deal!* Please mark your calendar and plan on joining in on this opportunity for fun and fellowship! Pete Peterson will be in touch with you after Fall Fun Day for reimbursement or feel free to contact him before Oct. 6.

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### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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