

JFIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

16th Sunday after Pentecost & Rally Day

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sep. 8, 2024

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Brandenburg Concerto BWV 1050 by JS Bach*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Erika Wulster

**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 FOR MISSION: *Peace & Global Witness Offering* Lisa Besser

CHORAL INTROIT:

Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP: adapted from *Psalm 146: 1-2, 5-7, 9-10*

L: Praise the Lord.

P: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

L: I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

P: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

L: Happy are they whose hope is in the Lord their God; who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

**P: Who gives justice to those who are oppressed and
food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.**

L: The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**P: The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion,
through all generations!**

L: With joyful hearts, grateful lives, praise and hope that fills the air, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 478 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* vv. 1, 3

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

O God, for placing us in covenant relationships, in homes and among friends, we thank you and give you praise. Forgive us when we have taken our vows and relationships lightly, when we have lived lives that diminish us rather than allow your divine Spirit to work through us, and when we have failed to listen deeply to those nearest us. Open us to your Spirit that your love may work through us; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

* *Please stand if you are able.*

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: By the grace of Christ's forgiveness, new life and abundant life comes to us through the power of Christ's name.

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

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

* 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 2: 1–17

The evidence of faith is more than belief.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 7: 24–37

Jesus heals a demonic man and deaf girl.

ANTHEM: *"Sing a Song of Thanks and Joy"* Chancel Choir
by Stan Petel

SERMON: *God's Generosity and Hospitality* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Adapted from the Confession of 1967 9.07*

"In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself." Jesus Christ is God with us. He is the eternal Son of the Creator, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission.

This work of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls us to be reconciled to God and to one another. Amen.

* COMMUNION HYMN: *For Everyone Born* vv. 1, 3–5 | No. 769 GTG

PASTORAL INTIMATIONS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

Deacon Erika Wulster

L: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

P: People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

L: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity.

P: God sent the whole world God's only Son. Since God loved us so much, we too, should love one another.

L: This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites all who are truly sorry for their sins and would humbly put their trust in him to come to the feast which he has prepared. Listen to the life-giving and life-empowering words of our Savior Jesus Christ:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11: 28-30

"This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."

John 6: 40

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open the door, I will come in to them and eat with them, and they with me."

Revelation 3: 20

Pastor David Harvey

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And with your spirit.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

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

P: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

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

Pastor: Holy Lord . . . as we pray together:

All: May we who have eaten the bread of heaven and consumed the cup of salvation live daily, nourished by the promises and presence of Christ, our Lord. Grant us grace to do Jesus' will and live as stewards of his compassion and kindness and his forgiveness and mercy. This we pray in his name and to his glory, singing: "Our Father who art . . . For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

OFFERING OF THE ELEMENTS: *Approach the Table, receive the bread, take the cup, and return to your pew.*

SHARING THE BREAD & DRINKING THE CUP

COMMUNION BLESSING: Deacon Erika Wulster
L: Let us pray together.

P: God of glory, in this holy feast you have made us one with Christ and one with the great multitude of the faithful. Awaken us to and lead us in the paths of your generous and hospitable grace, that your love may flow and flourish in our lives, and that we may sing your praises. This we pray in the name of the Lamb seated on the holy throne: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD’S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 332 Live Into Hope vv. 2–4*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: *"Adagio" by Arcangelo Corelli*

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

ASSISTING DURING TODAY’S WORSHIP

Greeter: Bill Olivier
Usher: Carol Walker
Worship Leader & Communion Assistant: Erika Wulster
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey
Communion Prep.: Joan Cameron & David Conrad

Sound System: Theo Padavano
MIDI: Frank Wilson
DLP: Jennifer Plut
Ministers: The Congregation
Coffee Hour: Joan Cameron

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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 McMorro and her family, Peter Porzio, 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, 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

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

Sunday, Sep. 8 Rally Day

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Family Worship
& Communion

11:15 AM Rally Day Brunch

Monday, Sep. 9 Office Closed

Tuesday, Sep. 10

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

12:00 PM PW Exec. Board/OC

6:00 PM NW Garden Club/OC

7:00 PM M&W and C.E./OC

(rescheduled from last week)

Thursday, Sep. 12

6:30 PM 4-H/OC

Sunday, Sep. 15

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship & Teacher
Commissioning

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Deacon Meeting

Tastefully British

FISH & CHIPS DINNER



Friday, October 4

5 PM to 7 PM

First Presbyterian Church *OUTREACH CENTER*
35 Main Street, Blairstown (next to the Post Office)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rally Day Brunch: Join us after worship today in Fellowship Hall for a delicious brunch and for a time of renewal.

Presbyterian Women Exc. Board: The next PW Exec. Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, Sep. 10 at the Outreach Center at approximately noon (following bible study). All are welcome to attend.

Peace & Global Witness Offering: Received during the Season of Peace, which ends on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 6. As we work to share Christ's peace with one another, let's share that peace with those beyond our doors, beyond our communities and beyond our borders.

Habitat for Humanity: Our church will be providing a hearty lunch for about 12 to 15 volunteers at their work site this 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.

(Community News) Pete's 5th Annual Speed Shop "Old & Muscle Car Show: this Saturday, Sep. 14, between 9 AM – 3 PM at 36 Mohican Rd. Donations are designated to the local food pantries including ours.

Sunday School! Classes begin Sep. 15 and will meet in Fellowship Hall during worship. We are offering two classes: Children & Worship for Pre-K–grade 1 and Faith Works for grades 2–8. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Albrecht at debalbrecht20@gmail.com / (908) 447-2112 or Zach Burke at zburke50@gmail.com / (862) 812-6271.

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

Fish & Chips: Mark Your Calendars for our Annual Tastefully British Fish/Chicken & Chips Dinner which will take place on Friday, Oct. 4 at the Outreach Center! This will be a take-out only dinner! Tickets will be available soon! Volunteers will be needed! Please speak with Gail Weber or contact the church office if you will be able and willing to help!

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 stipend per person towards the cost of the afternoon. Pricing is tiered. The regular cost is \$25 or you can opt to pay a lower amount of \$15. *The choice is yours.* Registration and payment are done online by each attendee at www.campjburg.org/events/fall-fun-day/. With Membership and Fellowship's \$10 stipend, the final cost to each attendee will either be \$5 or \$10. *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.