

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

18th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sep. 22, 2024

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Concerto for Trumpet in D Major,* (07-02)
Opus 6 No. 7 by Tomaso Albinoni

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.**

CHORAL INTROIT: Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP: *(adapted from Psalm 56: 1 & 4; Psalm 57: 1 & 5)*

L: Be gracious to us, O God, be gracious.

P: In God I trust and am not afraid.

L: Be merciful, O God, be merciful,

P: For in you my soul takes refuge.

L: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.

P: Let your glory shine over all the earth.

L: With gladness and gratitude, let us worship God!

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 263 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (vv. 1-3)*

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

**Merciful God, in the wrong we have done and in the good we
have not done. We confess that we have sinned. We have sinned
in ignorance, and we have sinned in weakness; we have sinned
through our faults and through our failures. Confiding in your
grace, we repent and seek your forgiveness. Restore us, we pray,
to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: As God's own children, be merciful in action, kind in heart, humble in
mind. Be ready to forgive as freely as God has forgiven you. And above
everything else, be loving and grateful, for what Christ has done for us,
in us, and among us.

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

* Please stand if you are able.

* 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 AND OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *No. 577 Glory Be to the Father*

~ Children may go downstairs for Sunday School ~

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: James 3: 13–4:3 James defines authentic wisdom.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 9: 30–37 Jesus welcomes the little children.

ANTHEM: *"Offertory" by John Ness Beck* Chancel Choir
(Don Nicholls, Soloist)

SERMON: *Wisdom of the Wise* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Philippians 2: 3–10*

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though, he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human likeness, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 191 God Is Our Refuge and Strength*

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 210 O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (vv. 1, 3-5)

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: "Preghiera" by Cesar Frack (01-57)

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 McMorro and her family, Peter Porzio, Monica Salvadore, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Addie Wasserman, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Chet, 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

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Judy Trigg

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Sound System: Theo Padavano

Worship Leader: Pete Peterson

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Ushers: Kelly McElroy & Jen McElroy

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

DLP: Jennifer Plut

Altar Flowers: Jennifer Plut

Coffee Hour: Joan Cameron

Faith Works: Lisa Besser: "*Hannah Prays; 1 Samuel 1:1-28*"

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

Sunday, Sep. 22

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Monday, Sep. 23 *Office Closed*

Tuesday, Sep. 24

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Thursday, Sep. 26

2:00 PM BWC/OC

7:00 PM 4-H Club/OC

Sunday, Sep. 29

10:00 AM Worship

11:15 AM Sunday School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Information about the 2024 General Assembly of the PC USA

which took place in June–July of this past summer is available on the Communications table in Fellowship Hall or from the church office. It gives a brief summary of the work of the GA and actions of the denomination taken there.

Children's Choir is Back! Choir members Doris Sless and Maggie Morokutti will lead our Children's Choir again this year. Short practices of about 15 min will be held after worship in the Sanctuary at 11:15 (after the kids have had a snack in FH!) Let's encourage the children to make a joyful noise!

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is 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.

FALL FUN DAY at Camp Johnsonburg: 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 <https://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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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9th Annual Tastefully British

FISH & CHIPS

TAKE-OUT DINNER



Fri., Oct. 4



5 – 7 PM



First Presbyterian Church

OUTREACH CENTER

35 Main Street, Blairstown (next to the Post Office)

Dinner Tickets are available from church Deacons, Elders, or at the Outreach Center — tickets may also be purchased at fpcb-nj.org//fish-chips or scan the QR code below.

Helpers Needed with this event; there is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Attention Bakers! We are looking for volunteers to provide brownies for the Oct. 4 dinner! If you are interested in baking, please contact the church office or sign up in Fellowship Hall. Brownies should remain "intact" (i.e. uncut, in a carrier, etc.); they will be plated as individual servings. Desserts should be dropped off at the Outreach Center by 2 PM on Friday, Oct. 4!

Sponsor a Pie! (Suggested amount: \$15) In lieu of baking, monetary donations for baked goods gratefully accepted! (Please mark "pies" in check memo area, on envelope, or in notes area if donating online. Thank you!

