

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 385, 1 Main Street, Blirstown, NJ

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

*184<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Sunday*



Est. 1840

## **Church Office and Food Pantry**

P.O. Box 385 (35 Main Street), Blirstown, NJ

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

**Church/Office:** (908) 362-5254    **Fax:** (908) 362-8060

**Food Pantry:** (908) 362-5254

**Email:** [fpcb@ptd.net](mailto:fpcb@ptd.net)

**Website:** [fpcb-nj.org](http://fpcb-nj.org)

**Pastor David G. Harvey**

*Bound Together By Faith*

10:00 AM

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Oct. 20, 2024

*\* Please stand if you are able.*

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE:

*"Chester"*

*Performed by Brass Trio & Field Drum | Composed by Bostonian William Billings*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Elizabeth Topolski

**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:

Elizabeth Topolski

L: Grace and peace to in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

**P: Almighty God, you built your church and this church especially upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone.**

L: You hold the heavens in your hand, the stars rejoice in your glory.

**P: Your voice comes in the thunder of the storm and the song of the wind whispers of your majesty.**

L: Accept us, your children, Eternal Father, that we may live eternally in your glory and bless your holy name.

**P: With great gladness, and gratitude, let us worship God!**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE: *"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"* led by the Hontz Family

*Author: Matthias Claudius (1782); Translator: Jane M. Campbell (1861)*

*Tune: WIR PFLÜGEN*

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

Pete Peterson

**O God, whose Son Jesus is the light and Savior of the world, we thank you for Jesus' abiding Spirit that has led us for one hundred and eighty-four years. We thank you for his promises that keep us on the right path. We thank you for hope that rekindles the love of your dear name. We thank you for Christ's grace, which awakens us to our sins and leads us back to your salvation.**

**Forgive us, we pray, when we wander off. Make us mindful of Christ's promises and your providence which inspire us to live faithful, impactful, and joyful lives individually and as a community of faith. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: In Christ, the mystery and the fullness of God's love is manifest. By Jesus' unconditional love, we are a new creation.

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

\* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *(v. 1, No. 582, GTG)*  
*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

\* EXCHANGE OF CHRIST'S PEACE:

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

L: Welcome one another with the peace of Christ.

MOMENT OF MEMBERSHIP: *Recognition of Carol Walker* Bill Olivier

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & OFFERTORY

\* DOXOLOGY: *No. 428* *Give Thee but Thine Own* *v. 1*

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Lisa Besser

**DECLARING GOD'S WORD**

HEBREW LESSON: Job 38:1-7 (Good News Translation)

Then out of the storm the Lord spoke to Job.

***The Lord***

<sup>2</sup> Who are you to question my wisdom with your ignorant, empty words?

<sup>3</sup> Now stand up straight and answer the questions I ask you.

<sup>4</sup> Were you there when I made the world? If you know so much, tell me about it. <sup>5</sup> Who decided how large it would be? Who stretched the measuring line over it? Do you know all the answers? <sup>6</sup> What holds up the pillars that support the earth? Who laid the cornerstone of the world?

<sup>7</sup> In the dawn of that day the stars sang together, and the heavenly beings shouted for joy.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 10: 35-45 (Good News Translation)

Jesus came to serve people and offer himself as a ransom for many.

<sup>35</sup> Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "there is something we want you to do for us."

<sup>36</sup> "What is it?" Jesus asked them.

<sup>37</sup> They answered, "When you sit on your throne in your glorious Kingdom, we want you to let us sit with you, one at your right and one at your left."

<sup>38</sup> Jesus said to them, “You don't know what you are asking for. Can you drink the cup of suffering that I must drink? Can you be baptized in the way I must be baptized?”

<sup>39</sup> “We can,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup I must drink and be baptized in the way I must be baptized. <sup>40</sup> But I do not have the right to choose who will sit at my right and my left. It is God who will give these places to those for whom he has prepared them.”

<sup>41</sup> When the other ten disciples heard about it, they became angry with James and John. <sup>42</sup> So Jesus called them all together to him and said, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the heathen have power over them, and the leaders have complete authority. <sup>43</sup> This, however, is not the way it is among you. If one of you wants to be great, you must be the servant of the rest; <sup>44</sup> and if one of you wants to be first, you must be the slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people.”

ANTHEM: *Lord Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace* Chancel Choir  
by Stephen L. Lawrence Andrea Morokutti, Piano

SERMON: "184 Years of Humble Service" Mark Hontz

*Special Music: "Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service"*  
(Blayly 1961 / Beachspring 1844) Hontz Family

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Brief Statement of Faith, 1990* Erika Wulster  
L: Let us stand and affirm our faith, using the words from *A Brief Statement of Faith*:

**P. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**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!" Amen.**

\* HYMN: "O God Our Help in Ages Past" led by the Hontz Family  
Author: Isaac Watts (1719) / Tune: ST. ANNE / Glory to God #687

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

Deb Albrecht

## DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

\* HYMN: "What Will Your Harvest Be?" led by the Hontz Family  
Text: Johnson Oatman / Tune: Hamp Sewell (1914) public domain

\* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION: Jen McElroy

\* CHORAL BENEDICTION: Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE: "Saints Bound for Heaven" (early American hymn)  
Performed by Brass Trio & Percussion

*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, Chet, Eva, Gail, Liza, Joan, Michelle

**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



Today's Altar Flowers were placed by Carol Walker & her family in memory of Jerry Walker.  
"We thank Pastor Harvey and the congregation for your kindness."

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Presbyterian Women:

**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 at <https://fpcb-nj.org/altar-flowers/>. The October PW flower lady is Gail Weber.

**Learn About RAGBRAI:** Join us in Fellowship Hall following worship next Sunday, Oct. 27 for a presentation by Pastor David on RAGBRAI, (Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa), a non-competitive bicycle tour across the U.S. state of Iowa from the western to eastern border. This event has been organized by Presbyterian Women. There is a PW Schedule of Events sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall — we are looking for Hostesses/Helpers — please sign up if you are able!

- **Sun., Oct. 27: *David's Iowa Ride***  
Hostess(es): *Isaiah (& Amanda) Macchia; Judy Trigg*  
Devotion: *David Conrad*
- **Sat., Nov. 9: *Breakfast & Business Meeting; Seeing Eye Program***  
Hostess(es): \_\_\_\_\_  
Devotion: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Tue., Nov. 12: *Visit & Lunch with Carol McLain***  
*Depart Blairstown around 10 AM*
- **Sun., Dec. 8: *Lunch after Worship @ local restaurant***  
Hostess(es): \_\_\_\_\_
- **Sat., Jan. 11: *Breakfast & Reorganizational Meeting***  
***Let's Plan the New Year!***  
Hostess(es): \_\_\_\_\_ *Judy Trigg*  
Devotion: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Sat., May 10 or 17: *Gardening with Creek Bend Farm***  
Hostess(es): \_\_\_\_\_ *Judy Trigg*  
Devotion: \_\_\_\_\_

### Deacon Ministry:

**Wish List for Thanksgiving Boxes:** We are planning for 28 boxes from each Church. The distribution will take place at St. Jude on Saturday, Nov. 23. Here's our current wish list: canned yams (30 oz), peaches (jars or cans), and applesauce (jars). These items may be dropped off at the Outreach Center or brought to Fellowship Hall on Sundays. If you have any questions, please speak with Erika Wulster or Judy Trigg.

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## Membership & Fellowship:

**Square Dance:** Yeehaw! Saturday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> is less than a month away and you know what that means. Yes indeed, it's time for our annual square dance. Now if you've never attended, this is your golden corral opportunity, and if you've joined us in the past, you know it's tons of fun! Everyone is guaranteed a great time, and the evening comes with a double your money back guarantee. It doesn't matter if you have two left feet, two right feet, or one of each. Laughter will carry you through all the dance moves. We will have a live caller to guide us, and a delicious, covered dish supper will start the evening off. The best part is that all ages can participate. You can enjoy the evening from the sidelines or dance the night away, which ends at 8 PM. Please feel free to invite your friends. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or let Jen, in the church office, know you'd like to attend (908.362.5254 or fpcb@ptd.net). Your Membership and Fellowship Committee can't encourage you enough to join this family fun event, and we look forward to welcoming you, partner!

### **FPCB ANNUAL SQUARE DANCE**

**Saturday, November 2 - Fellowship Hall**

**5:00-6:00 PM Covered Dish Supper**

**6:00-8:00 PM Square Dance**

**Pack up some vittles to donate to our Food Pantry**



- We'll be rounding up donations of non-perishable food items and paper products for our Food Pantry. Please give as generously as you can.
  - Transportation is available for those who prefer not to drive after dark. If you're interested in roundtrip transportation, talk to Pete Peterson on Sunday, call or text 908.798.7164, or email ppeterson459@gmail.com.
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### **Community News:**

**Blairstown Rotary Blood Drive:** Saturday, Oct. 26 between 9 AM and 3 PM at the Knowlton Lion's Den, 505 Rt. 94. For more information and to register (recommended), please visit [www.blairstownrotary.org](http://www.blairstownrotary.org).

**Explore Warren — History Trail:** Many of Warren County's historic sites will again participate in the annual self-guided county-wide tour, with family activities at each location, scheduled this year for the weekend of November 2–3, 2024. Each stop along the trail offers something different and exciting for the whole family. Each site will open 10<sup>AM</sup>–4<sup>PM</sup> on either Saturday or Sunday. The Blairstown Historic district (Main Street) will be a part of the tour on Nov. 1. Visit [WarrenHistoryTrail.org](http://WarrenHistoryTrail.org) for additional information or check out the map on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

**Blair Woman's Club Silent Auction:** Thursday, Nov. 7 at Brook Hollow Winery beginning at 6PM. A \$10 pre-registration is required by Oct. 28. More info at <https://sites.google.com/view/blairwomansclubnj>; send registration fee to Blair Woman's Club, PO Box 341, Blairstown, NJ 07825 (or give to Jen Plut in the church office). Wine tasting will be available. Proceeds benefit education, service projects, and charitable donations.

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## ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

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**Greeter:** Robin Kasprenski  
**Choir Director:** Maggie Morokutti  
**Sound System:** Theo Padavano  
**Worship Leader:** Elizabeth Topolski  
**Additional Participants:** Deb Albrecht,  
Lisa Besser, Jen McElroy, Bill Olivier,  
Pete Peterson, Erika Wulster

**Ushers:** Deb Albrecht &  
Chester Topolski  
**Guest Preacher:** Mark Hontz  
**Ministers:** The Congregation  
**MIDI:** Frank Wilson  
**DLP:** Jennifer Plut  
**Coffee Hour:** David Conrad

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

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**Sunday, Oct. 20** *Anniversary Sunday*  
*Special Guests: Hontz Family Band*

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Family Worship

**Monday, Oct. 21** *Office Closed*

**Tuesday, Oct. 22**  
10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

**Thursday, Oct. 24**  
7:00 PM Session/OC

**Sunday, Oct. 27**  
8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Worship  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
11:15 AM Children's Choir

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## Learn more about The Hontz Family Band

*Mark Hontz, Stephanie Hontz, Nathaniel Hontz, & McGinnis Miller*

**T**he Hontz Family Band performs for worship services, community events, and charitable concerts. Mark Hontz is an estate planning, estates, trusts, and elder law attorney in Newton. Stephanie Hontz teaches Calculus at Kittatinny Regional High School. Nathaniel Hontz is a newly minted attorney practicing in Newton. McGinnis Miller is an engineer with Raytheon. Nathaniel and McGinnis recently moved to Sussex County and will be married next March. You are invited to enjoy the live performances of the Hontz Family Band on the YouTube channel for "Hontz Family Band". You may also enjoy the sacred and popular musical compositions and arrangements of Nathaniel Hontz on his "Nathaniel Hontz" YouTube channel. Family members Thomas Hontz, Susanna Hontz, and Grecia Hernandez are in Boston and New Haven completing their graduate degrees.

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