

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 385, 1 Main Street
Blairstown, NJ 07825



Church Office and Food Pantry

P.O. Box 385 (35 Main Street), Blairstown, 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

Website: fpcb-nj.org

Pastor David G. Harvey

BOUND TOGETHER BY FAITH

** Please stand, if you are able.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Installation of Church Officers*

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Feb. 16, 2025

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Lux Aeterna" by Maurice Duruflé* (03-45)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Robin Kasprenski

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)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

* CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Sing to the Lord with joy, you people of God. Worship the Lord with gladness.

P: Let us come into God's presence with joy and thanksgiving.

L: Be mindful, we who gather in God's name, for the Lord is a gracious God.

P: Be mindful, for the Lord's mercy is everlasting.

L: Be mindful of God's saving love, for God's faithfulness extends to all generations.

P: With great joy and abundant praise, let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 285 God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *In silence then unison*

Almighty and merciful God, in whom we trust: When we have failed to trust and live into your will and neglected to follow your ways, forgive our pride and the way we have misappropriated your powerful presence in our daily lives. Make us mindful of your ways and grant us the grace of humility to ask your forgiveness and live better lives; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Friends and followers of Jesus, the redemptive grace of God comes to us anew each day. Through Jesus' death on the cross, we yield ourselves daily to God and strive to grow intimately and profoundly in Jesus' love. Therefore, let us seek God's face, grow in God's grace and living, knowing that by Jesus' love and forgiveness, we are forgiven and freed.

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Let us live reconciled to one another.

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 298* (v. 1)
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

* 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. 591*
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

HEBREW LESSON Jeremiah 17: 5–10
Jeremiah yearns for all God followers to trust in God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 6: 17–26
Jesus delivers his famous sermon on the plain.

MEDITATION: *Servant-Work* Rev. David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Litany of Our Baptismal Faith* (responsive)

L: O God of Abraham and Sarah, you have led your people in the past; lead us now.

P: Grant us the courage of Ruth to leave behind the old and familiar, the courage of Noah to risk laughter and scorn, the hope of Jeremiah to invest in the future, the unselfishness of Esther to take risks on behalf of others.

L: O God of Moses and Miriam, you delivered your people and led them through the wilderness, giving them food, protection, and guidance.

P: In the words of Miriam, we praise you: "I will sing to God, who has triumphed gloriously!"

L: O God of Deborah and Gideon, you have given us leaders to bring us back when we wander from you, and deliverers to lead us against oppression.

P: Give us leaders and deliverers and grant us wisdom and humility to follow them.

L: From the words of your prophets we have learned justice and mercy.

P: Help us to say, with Isaiah, "Here I am. Send me."

L: O God of James and John and Mary Magdalene, you have called us to follow Jesus.

P: Teach us how to work together in mutual responsibility, side-by-side, neither tagging behind nor shoving to the front.

L: O God of Paul and Priscilla and Aquila, who risked their lives for the sake of your church, fill us with their enthusiasm and passion.

P: Use us in the spreading of the church, in the building of its parts, in the joining together of its various congregations, and in ministry to the whole world.

L: O God of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself in love for the whole world, teach us to love you and one another.

P: By the power and might of your Spirit, O Christ, may we too, seek not to be served but to serve, in your name. Amen.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Being installed as ruling elders are Deb Albrecht & Amanda Macchia

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE:
1 Corinthians 12: 4–7, 27

President of the Corporation
& Elder, Chester Topolski

L: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

P: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

L: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

P: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

L: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

P: By the power and might of your Spirit, O Christ, may we too, seek not to be served but to serve, in your name. Amen.

STATEMENT ON THE GIFT OF INSTALLATION: Pastor David Harvey

PRESENTATION OF ELDERS TO BE INSTALLED: Chester Topolski

L: Mr. Moderator, Elders Deb Albrecht and Amanda Macchia, having been elected again to active service by the vote of this congregation, may now be installed to office.

QUESTIONS OF AFFIRMATION FOR OFFICERS

ALREADY ORDAINED:

Pastor David Harvey

L: Deb and Amanda, you have been called again to the position of servant leadership in and for this church. Do you welcome the work for which you have been chosen, and will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in God's promises through and in the name of Jesus, our Lord?

Officer(s): I do and I will.

QUESTIONS OF AFFIRMATION TO THE CONGREGATION: Chester Topolski

L: Do we, the members of the Church, accept these women as elders, chosen by God through the voice of the congregation to lead us in the ways of Jesus Christ?

P: We do.

L: Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

P: We do.

INSTALLATION BLESSING:

Pastor David Harvey

* HYMN FOR CHURCH OFFICERS: *No. 367* (vv. 1, 2, 4)
Jesus, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 434 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Preghiera" by Cesar Franck* (01-57)

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Deb Albrecht

Ushers: Elizabeth & Chester Topolski

Worship Leader: Robin Kasprinski

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Sound System: Theo Padavano

DLP: Jennifer Plut

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Coffee Hour: Joan Cameron & David Conrad

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; by severe weather; and those affected by airline disaster

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: Judy Dales, Gordon Dugan, Samantha Elwell, Noah Haiduc-Dale, Olivia Hollis, Adam Hubble, Tracy Lance, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorro & her family, Henry Parsons, Peter Porzio, Andrew Shan, Robert Talmadge, Addie Wasserman, Molly Grace Young, Audrey, Chet, Eva, Gail, Liza, Joan

Illness & Injuries: Emily Arena, Robert Benz, George Burke, Derek Cameron, Elaine Canonico, Kyle Canonico, Lucy Cuipa, Christine Hengel, Jan Smith, Margaret Stephens, Betty Ann Weir, Ann, Carter, David, Evelyn, Tracy, Valerie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mobile Phone Bluetooth: – If you are able, please turn off the Bluetooth on your electronic device(s). Thank you.

Gift Cards! Dunkin Donuts, ShopRite, ACME, Panera, and Starbucks cards are available. See Gail Weber to order or to learn more about Loaves & Fishes!

Bible Study: Join us for 10 AM bible study Tuesdays at the Outreach Center or via Zoom. Contact the church office to be added to our weekly bible study email reminders/updates.

Deacon Meeting: Today following the service of worship.

Stewardship & Finance Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 18 following bible study.

Presbyterian Women: Following worship on Sun., Feb. 23, Angelina Plut will present "Learn About My Rotary Trip to Japan" followed by a church balcony clean up—volunteers welcome!

Book Club: The next meeting of the FPCB Book Club will be held at 7 PM on Thu., March 6, hosted by Carol Troxclair. We will discuss the book, The Secret Keepers by Kate Morton. The Book Club meets every 6–8 weeks, and we read 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.

Cont'd.

Recital: Andrea Morokutti, pianist, will perform in our Sanctuary on Sat., March 15 at 1 PM. Donations will be collected for the Food Pantry. Refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the program.

Worship Helpers Needed: 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 on the home page.

Note of Gratitude



Heartfelt gratitude to everyone who recently took part in surprising me for my years of working at the church office and the beautiful flowers, the card and monetary gift, and of course, the delicious cake! I appreciate all the kind notes inside of the card and yes, I had no idea this was happening!
Gratefully, Jennifer / Church Administrator

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, Feb. 16

- 10:00 AM Family Worship
- 11:15 AM Deacon Ministry Meeting/FH
- 4:30 PM Conf. Class Orientation/OC

Monday, Feb. 17 *Office Closed*

- 7:00 PM Water Gap Singers
- 6:30 PM BEC/OC

Tuesday, Feb. 18

- 10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
- 12:00 PM S&F/OC
- 1:00 PM Library Book Group/OC

Thursday, Feb. 20

- 7:00 PM Session/OC

Friday, Feb. 21

- 6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC




Sunday, Feb. 23

- 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Worship
- 10:15 AM Sunday School
- 11:15 AM PW Meeting & Balcony Clean-Up

SESSION		
CLASS OF 2026 Mark Nelke Gail Weber Elizabeth Topolski ²	CLASS OF 2027 Lisa Besser Donald Nicholls Open	CLASS OF 2028 Deb Albrecht Amanda Macchia Bill Olivier
BOARD OF DEACONS		
CLASS OF 2026 Kelly McElroy Angelina Plut ¹ Judy Trigg Maggie Wilson	CLASS OF 2027 Betsy Gervasi Teri Harvey Erika Wulster Open	CLASS OF 2028 Mandy Burke Robin Kasprenski Open Open

¹ One-year, unexpired term; ² Two-year, unexpired term

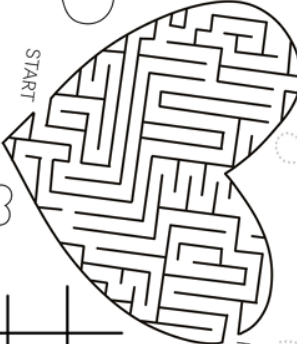

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JESUS 
LOVES 
HOME 

THINGS I LOVE...

H	Z	F	N	C	O	Q	N	A	Y
E	P	R	O	Z	J	Q	E	K	H
A	R	J	E	C	J	L	V	L	K
R	T	Y	S	G	O	O	L	I	N
A	B	U	J	E	L	L	O	C	S
H	N	S	O	E	N	T	S	L	E
J	U	R	E	F	F	S	L	E	S
T	W	X	H	L	L	L	N	A	E

- REJOICE
- HEART
- LOVE
- FOLLOWS
- ANGEL
- HOPE
- GENTLE
- JESUS
- KIND
- JOY

START  FINISH 



SPY...

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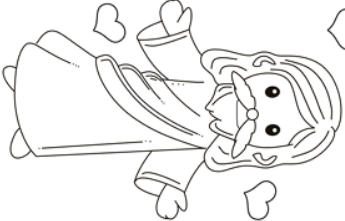
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How many can you find on the page?

- a. 12
- b. 14
- c. 9

AS THE FATHER HAS 
LOVED ME, 
 SO HAVE I LOVED YOU.
 NOW REMAIN IN **MY LOVE.**

John 15:9, NIV



COLOR THE BOOKMARK & THEN CUT IT OUT.

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 GIVE NOW