

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

First Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Mar. 9, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Brandenburg Concerto BWV 1050 by JS Bach* (05-23)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Bill Olivier

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 Psalms 25: 1-2; 32: 8,11; 91:2)*

L: To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls. O my God, in you I trust.

P: Teach us your ways, O Lord; show us your paths, and lead us into deeper knowledge of your grace and truth.

L: Trust in God, who will not put you to shame; be glad in the Lord.

Declare about the Lord together:

P: My God, my refuge and strength, in whom I trust!"

L: Shout and sing for joy, all you upright in heart!

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

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 151 Crown Him with Many Crowns*

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

God of mercy, we confess Jesus as Lord without giving serious thought to the potency of that confession. We look for power in the wrong people and places. We fail to let Christ rule and have dominion in our lives. Increasingly, we forget the humility of Jesus' conflicts with the way we prefer to live.

Forgive us of our sins. Help us to turn away from all that keeps us from centering our lives on Jesus' Lordship. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Friends — hear, desire, grasp the good news of God's magnificent and magnanimous love for you.

P: Because of Jesus, I am forgiven! You are forgiven. We are forgiven!

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 280 Amazing Grace* v. 1

* 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. 428*

v. 1

We Give Thee but Thine Own

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 10: 8–13 St. Paul

The confession of our faith is, 'Jesus is Lord.'

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 4: 1–13

Jesus is tempted and resists temptations.

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

Chancel Choir

SERMON: *Dueling with the Devil*

Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Deuteronomy 26: 5–10, 13 (responsive)*

L: When you . . . make this response before the Lord your God.

P: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God.

L: ¹³ then you shall say before the Lord your God, 'I have removed the sacred portion from the house, and I have given it to the Levites, the resident aliens, the orphans, and the widows, in accordance with your entire commandment that you commanded me; I have neither transgressed nor forgotten any of your commandments:

* HYMN: *No. 276*

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

vv. 1 & 3

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN: *No. 309 Of the Father's Love Begotten* vv. 1 & 2

* CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION

God bless each step that you take today, whether that road is rough or smooth. And in God's strength step out in faith, step out in love, step out in peace, and bless this world with God's presence in and through your life. Amen. Go in Peace.

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Adagio" by Arcangelo Corelli (BT)

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; 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, Trisha Lenarze-Garmoe, Troy Lutz, Caitlyn McMorrow & 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

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Stephanie Burke

Worship Leader: Bill Olivier

Pastor: Rev. David Harvey

Ministers: The Congregation

Ushers: Mandy Burke & Joan Cameron

Sound System: Theo Padavano

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti

DLP: Ryan Burke

MIDI: Frank Wilson

Children & Worship: Teri Harvey; *The Good Shepherd and The Wolf*

Faith Works: Deb Albrecht; *Jesus Calms the Storm* (Mark 4: 15–41)

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, Mar. 9

- 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Worship
- 10:15 AM Sunday School
- 11:15 AM Children's Choir
- 11:15 AM M&F/FH
- 4:30 PM Conf. Class/OC
- 5:45 PM Lenten Study/OC
The Chosen | Season ¾

Monday, Mar. 10 *Office Closed*

- 12:00 PM PW Planning Meeting
- 7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tue, Mar. 11

- 10:00 AM Bible Study/OC
- 6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC

Wed., Mar. 12

- 1:15 PM BWC Exec. Board/OC

Fri, Mar. 14

- 6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC

Sat., Mar. 15

- 1:00 PM Andrea's Piano Recital

Sunday, Mar. 16

- 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Worship
- 10:15 AM Sunday School
- 11:15 AM Children's Choir
- 4:30 PM Conf. Class/OC
- 5:45 PM Lenten Study/OC
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When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!
Please support One Great Hour of Sharing



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blirstown, NJ 07825
Church Office: 35 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blirstown, NJ 07825
Office/Pantry Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060
e-Mail: fpcb@ptd.net Website: fpcb-nj.org
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
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 GIVE NOW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Membership & Fellowship Ministry will meet at 11:15 in Fellowship Hall today. Anyone who is interested in planning events for our church is welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Deb Albrecht at (908) 447-2112 or debalbrecht20@gmail.com.

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.

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

PW Lunch & Meeting: Presbyterian Women will be having lunch and a planning meeting at Buck Hill at noon on Monday, Mar. 10. There is a sign-up sheet downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

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



AED/CPR Certification Class: The Deacon Ministry has scheduled an AED/CPR class following worship on Sunday, Mar. 23. If you plan on attending, please sign up in Fellowship Hall or email the church at fpcb@ptd.net.

Church Banner Creation: A group is being formed to make a Communion banner for our church. The hope is to have it ready to be hung for Easter - if not before! No special skills are needed. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mandy Burke (862) 812-6273 or mandyburke19@yahoo.com.

Adult Christian Education DVD Series "The Chosen" is scheduled for today beginning at 5:45 PM at the Outreach Center.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS): Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent. We will receive the OGHS Special Offering through Easter, Apr. 20. You may contribute to OGHS electronically on the church website: fpcb-nj.org or by sending your offering to the church.

Johnsonburg Summer Camperships: The Presbyterian Women support children from our church who are interested in attending Johnsonburg summer camp. Any child interested in attending should write a letter to Presbyterian Women indicating their reason for wanting to attend camp. Letters should be in the church office by the end of April. More information may be found at fpcb-nj.org/summer-camperships.

PW Spring Gathering: On Saturday, Mar. 22 from 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM, the Presbytery of the Highlands will be co-hosting a Spring Gathering for Presbyterian Women (PCUSA) at the Kingston, NJ Presbyterian Church. The program, *"Rewilding Faith: Tending Creation and Tending Soul"* includes worship, learning, lunch, fellowship and hands-on activities. There is a sign-up sheet downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

**Presbyterian Women (PCUSA)
Spring Gathering
Presbyteries of the Coastlands and Highlands**

**"Rewilding Faith:
Tending Creation & Tending Soul"
Caring for the Earth, Community, and Self**

**Date: March 22, 2025
Time: 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Kingston Presbyterian Church,
4565 NJ-27, Kingston, NJ 08528**

**Registration is at
9:00am and an
offering will be
taken.**

Join us for a day of reflection, renewal, and action as we explore ways to care for ourselves, our communities, and God's creation. Together, we will engage in meaningful conversations, workshops, and worship centered on stewardship and faith in action.

Highlights Include:

- Keynote Speaker: Lissette Gonzalez Sosa, MDiv, MTE
- Learn about eco-spirituality, sustainable living, and self-care
- Worship and fellowship with Presbyterian Women across our Presbyteries
- Hands-on Bokashi Composting activity to nurture both soul and soil

Registration: PWCoastlands@gmail.com
For more information, contact Carol Hecky at
Ewing Covenant Presbyterian

**"The earth is the Lord's,
and everything in it." - Psalm 24:1**

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