

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

Second Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Mar. 16, 2025

* Please stand if you are able

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *"Cello Concerto in C Major, G:477: Largo"*
by Luigi Boccherini (6-22) BT

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, &

AFFIRMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Deb Albrecht

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: *(Psalm 27: 1-2, 4, The New Living Translation)*

L: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

P: So why should I be afraid?

L: The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger,

P: So why should I tremble?

L: One thing I ask of the Lord most, one thing I seek of the Lord most.

P: To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

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

* HYMN OF PRAISE: *No. 442 The Church's One Foundation* *vv. 1, 3-5*

CALL TO CONFESSION: Because we are citizens of Christ's righteous reign, we approach God with humble confidence, repenting of our sins, focusing our faith on the cross of Christ, finding in God our refuge and strength. Let us confess our sins before God and our neighbor, first in silence and then together.

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

Merciful God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Forgive our sins, we pray, and create in us new and contrite hearts, that we may truly acknowledge our brokenness and obtain from you, our God of mercy, full pardon and forgiveness. This we pray through in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Savior, who makes us citizens in heaven by his saving work on the cross. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

P: Because of Jesus' death on the cross, I am forgiven!

* CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS: *No. 304 Jesus Loves Me!* 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; what-e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord from Thee***

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 3:17–4:4

Rejoice that we are citizens in heaven.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 13:31–35

Jesus confirms the violence he will undergo in Jerusalem.

ANTHEM: "Come Unto Me" (*Bist Du Bei Mir*) Chancel Choir
Attrib. J. S. Bach

SERMON: *Citizenship of Heaven* Pastor David Harvey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Contemporary Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God who places joy in our souls, dancing in our toes and songs in our hearts. I believe God wanted gladness to flow like a river, so the Good Lord created a bountiful earth with plenty for all to share.

I believe in Jesus, who turned water into wine, partied with outcasts and sinners, and touched the broken so they could leap and dance. I believe Jesus opened the doors and set an extra place so we could feast.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who prompts us to smile, who sends us invitations to come and dine, who nudges us to openness and tenderness. I believe the Spirit is present every time we gather to break bread and stirs within us the desire to live joyfully, to walk hopefully, and to enact justice boldly. Forever, I will live in the embrace of God and be a witness to Christ's resurrection joy. Amen.

* HYMN: *No. 332* *Live Into Hope* vv. 1, 3, 4

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

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

- * HYMN: *Christ Be Beside Me* No. 702, GtG
- * CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION
- * CHORAL BENEDICTION
- POSTLUDE: "Concerto Grosso in D Major, Opus 6, No. 1: IV Allegro"
by Arcangelo Corelli (1-13) BT

Our Worship has ended — our Christian Witness begins!

ASSISTING DURING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeter: Theo Padavano **Ushers:** Betsy Gervasi & Teri Harvey
Worship Leader: Deb Albrecht **Sound System:** Theo Padavano
Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti **DLP:** Ryan Burke
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey **MIDI:** Frank Wilson
Ministers: The Congregation

Children & Worship: Joan Cameron; *The Good Samaritan*
Faith Works: Lisa Besser; *Jairus' Daughter* (Mark 5: 21–24, 35–43)

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

THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH

Sunday, Mar. 16

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 | Seasons 3 & 4

Monday, Mar. 17 *Office Closed*

7:00 PM Water Gap Singers

Tuesday, Mar. 18

10:00 AM Bible Study/OC

Wednesday, Mar. 19

11:00 AM S&F/OC

Thursday, Mar. 20

7:00 PM Session/OC

Fri, Mar. 21

6:30 PM 4-H Club/OC

Sunday, Mar. 23

8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Sunday School
11:15 AM Children's Choir
11:30 AM AED-CPR Class/OC
4:30 PM Conf. Class/OC
5:45 PM Lenten Study/OC
The Chosen | Seasons 3 & 4



*Today's altar flowers were placed
in memory of Jean Belcher
July 14, 1937 – February 27, 2025
by Pete & Betsy Peterson on behalf of
the First Presbyterian Church of
Blairstown, NJ congregation*

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*

Submitted by Jan Swift

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Church Office: 35 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, 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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Christian Education DVD Series "The Chosen": Join us on Sunday's from about 5:45–7:00 PM (following Confirmation class) at the Outreach Center for our Lenten Study using *The Chosen* (Season 3 & 4).

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.

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.

AED/CPR Certification Class: Mark your calendars for AED/CPR training with Chris Trigg on Sunday, Mar. 23 at 11:30 AM at the Outreach Center. The American Red Cross CPR/AED course trains participants to give CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED) until EMS arrives. The cost is \$25, and participants will receive certification. If you plan on attending, please sign up in Fellowship Hall or email the church at fpcb@ptd.net.

Habitat for Humanity: Our church will be providing a hearty lunch for about 12 to 15 volunteers at their work site on Sat., Apr. 5. 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 Apr. 5. 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.

In Concert – Bret Vernon & Sam: Join us on Friday, Apr. 4 at 6:30 in our Sanctuary for a mix of energetic, hope-filled songs and stories including an appearance by ventriloquist figure Sam--a hit with kids of all ages! A special event for the whole family!

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.

Altar Flowers: Do you have a special occasion you would like to commemorate with altar flowers? Flowers can be cut or potted; from your garden, a store, or even delivered from a local florist! Please let Jennifer in the church office know if you'd like to provide flowers! You may sign up in Fellowship Hall or even sign up electronically through SignUpGenius which can be accessed through our website at <https://fpcb-nj.org/altar-flowers/>.

Pedals for Progress/Sewing Peace, in its continuing effort to recycle unwanted items properly, is having a used bike and sewing machine collection sponsored by Blair Academy. Anyone with an adult or child's bicycle in repairable condition is urged to donate their bike to this worthy cause. They do not accept "bikes for parts" or disassembled bikes. They also accept working portable sewing machines and sewing notions (no fabric, please). Bikes and sewing machines can be dropped off rain or shine: Sunday, Apr. 6 at Blair Academy, 2 Park Street between 11 AM and 2 PM. Questions? Speak with Kaye Evans.

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.

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

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. Envelopes are in the narthex and by the elevator entrance.



Repairing the breach
ISAIAH 58

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY—
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

PAUL JERRY

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT
MARCH 5 - APRIL 20, 2025